

The Livingstone biWeekly

6 September 2019

Dear All

So many power cuts. Now, at 8 hours every day, things just don't get done.

Zambia to tap water from Congo River

Minister of Energy Mathew Nhkuwa has disclosed that government is exploring various measures aimed at mitigating the energy crisis that the country is facing.

Mr Nhkuwa noted that the current electricity deficits caused by the low water levels in most hydro generating water resources is an indication that the country needs to explore and tap into other potential energy sites.

He told ZANIS in an interview in Lusaka today, that to this effect plans are underway by government, to start tapping water from the Congo River, through the Zambezi River source, using canals, into the Kariba, Itezhi-tezhi and Kafue gorge hydro power stations among others. ...

G: According to expert environmentalists it is unwise to take water from one river basin to another. Each river basin has evolved given the water available – water is life. So an area with abundant water will have different flora and fauna compared with that with less water.

The other week I published an article about why our rivers are reducing in their flows. The causes are the destruction of the environment along the river banks including deforestation, bushfires and human encroachment. Were we to spend money on planting trees, stopping fires and educating people we would have a lot more water in our rivers without taking that which rightfully belongs to the Congo River Basin.

I realise that Mathew Nhkuwa is the Minister of Energy and is considering the power problem we now all face but surely this crisis should be pointing us to look at alternative energy sources.



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS



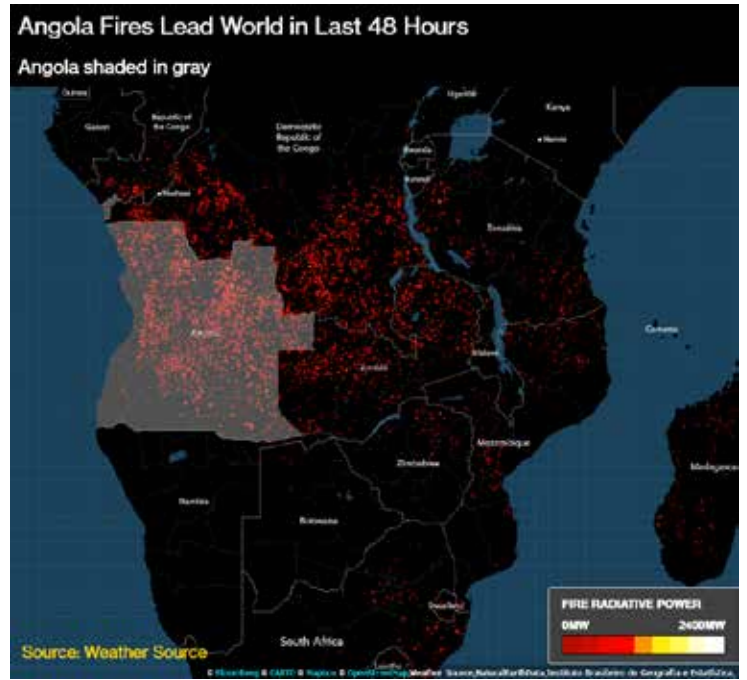
More Fires Now Burning in Angola, Congo Than Amazon: Maps
Bloomberg

Blazes burning in the Amazon have put heat on the environmental policies of President Jair Bolsonaro, but Brazil is actually third in the world in wildfires over the last 48 hours, according to MODIS satellite data analyzed by Weather Source.

Weather Source has recorded 6,902 fires in Angola over the past 48 hours, compared to 3,395 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 2,127 in Brazil. It's not an uncommon phenomenon for Central Africa.

According to NASA, which operates the Aqua satellite, over 67,000 fires were reported in a one-week period in June last year, as farmers employed slash and burn agriculture to clear land for crops.

Over the last 48 hours, Zambia placed fourth on the list, while Brazil's neighbor in the Amazon, Bolivia, placed sixth.



VANDALS DESTROY A 330KV TRANSMISSION LINE TOWER BETWEEN KABWE STEPDOWN SUB-STATION AND LUANO SUB-STATION
Mwebantu

A 330 KV transmission line tower has been brought down in an act of Sabotage between Kabwe stepdown sub-station and Luano Sub-Station. The 330 KV transmission line is part of the a 250km stretch transmission line supplying bulk power to Copperbelt and Northwestern Province. The cost of damage is K1.3 million.
(Images by Henry Kapata)



UK IS CONCERNED ABOUT WRONG DIRECTION ZAMBIA IS CURRENTLY TAKING

Zambian Watchdog

... Outgoing British High Commissioner Fergus Cochrane-Dyett says he is departing Zambia with a sense of unease about the direction Zambia is headed. ...

See full statement below:

STATEMENT BY OUTGOING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, MR FERGUS COCHRANE- DYETT OBE, 27 AUGUST 2019, BRITISH RESIDENCE LUSAKA

At the end of my tenure as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia, I am grateful to His Excellency the President for his accessibility and cooperative approach during my time in Lusaka. I believe he values the relationship with Britain, appreciates our development support and commercial investment, and understands that Britain wants the best for Zambia and the Zambian people.

There is a misconception within certain other parts of the Zambian establishment about the role of ambassadors like me. We are obliged to be non-partisan and totally unaligned to any political parties. But in pursuit of our own countries' interests it is part of our job sometimes to speak candidly in both private and in public. Just as foreign ambassadors in London talk openly to the UK media, so I am required to communicate clearly in defending the substantial development and commercial investments that Britain has made in Zambia over many decades as this country's oldest friend. When I speak, I speak on behalf of the British Government.

It is not right, therefore, that we ambassadors are maligned in some quarters – as demonstrated by the threats of expulsion directed at me during 2018 when I spoke out against corruption. Expelling an ambassador is a very serious matter, even more so a high commissioner.

You see it is a convention that ambassadors exchanged by Commonwealth nations are styled as “high commissioners” to convey that special Commonwealth friendship. Hence, it is almost unknown for a British High Commissioner to be expelled, ever, anywhere in the world. Indeed there is probably only one example: Malawi, where then President Bingu Mutharika expelled the British High Commissioner in April 2011. The UK's reaction was swift. Malawi's High Commissioner in London was expelled, Malawi was disinvited from the Royal Wedding, and the UK's aid programme was drastically curtailed. The bilateral relationship went into deep-freeze until well after Mutharika's death the following year. This is a subject on which I am an expert – since I was that same British High Commissioner who, with my wife, crossed the border at dawn from Malawi to recuperate at this British Residence here in Lusaka. I believe the late President Sata and I were declared persona non grata by Malawi at around the same time, hence I was in good company.

Britain is a true friend of Zambia and I personally love this country. Having served in Lusaka previously in 2004-7, when my youngest son went to school here, I have spent almost 6 years in this beautiful and potentially wealthy country achieving an understanding better than most foreign diplomats. There is much of which you Zambians should be proud. Unbroken peace since independence. Extending hospitality to huge numbers of refugees from neighbouring conflicts. Twice passing power from one political party to another through democratic elections – something few other countries have achieved in this region.

Yet I depart with a sense of unease about the direction this very special country is headed. Let me be frank about the UK's concerns and pose some questions.

- 1) Debt. Given that in 2005 Zambia's national debt was wiped clean by creditors like the UK, why has it soared again to an unsustainable level? What does it mean for spending on social sectors like health and education when servicing that debt is costing a huge share of government expenditure? Can the well-regarded new Finance Minister implement measures announced by his predecessor and as a prerequisite for IMF support?
- 2) Corruption. What should we make of persistent reports about rampant corruption? What can be done to reassure donors and foreign companies forced to withhold aid and investment due to obstacles caused by corruption? Corruption kills as surely as any gun, depriving Zambians of life-saving government resources, water-preserving forest, internationally-renowned wildlife, and jobs that foreign companies would otherwise provide.
- 3) Political dialogue. Has the National Dialogue Forum done anything to foster reconciliation and reduce political tensions ahead of the 2021 elections? Or is the proposed legislation only generating further controversy? The proposal to empower the Executive to dismiss judges would have precisely what implications for the rule of law?
- 4) Drought caused by climate change. Neighbouring counties have declared food security emergencies. Why hasn't Zambia? It's estimated that 2.5m Zambians will soon be in crisis. Declaring an emergency would unlock international humanitarian assistance that donors can't otherwise provide. People will undoubtedly die from malnutrition compounded

by disease. Maybe Zambians and outsiders who deny the need for an emergency should examine their consciences.

5) Freedom of media and expression. Is Zambia becoming more free or less? Are Zambian journalists and editors inclined to exercise self-censorship over fears that their licences might be suspended?

6) Poverty. Above all, why is it that 60% of Zambians live in poverty, the same proportion as when I first moved to Lusaka 15 years ago? That's 7 million poor Zambians in 2004, 11 million today, and 25 million by 2050 when the country's population is projected to reach 42 million. Is this poverty caused by internal conflict? No. Is the gap between haves and have-nots growing wider? Yes. Does the broad Zambian elite really care at all about these millions of have-nots beyond their own extended families and networks? What does this mean for Zambia's future stability?

I offer these questions in a spirit of great respect with the humble intention of promoting constructive debate. If some respond with personal slurs against my person - instead of engaging with the substance of my comments - that will say more about them than me!

Outside Britain, I can think of nowhere I feel more at home than Zambia. There is much that we in the UK can learn from Zambians' joyful approach to life and religion, your respectful treatment of the elderly, your prioritisation of human relationships and community. You deserve so much better. God bless you all and God bless Zambia.

G: Wow. Rather a sad departing salvo from the British High Commissioner. And, you might ask, what has all that got to do with my newsletter which concentrates on tourism and conservation? Well, not a lot, really. What interested me was all the comments on Facebook under this article. They were 50-50 – 50% agreeing with Mr Cochrane and 50% commenting that he was wrong and that he had no right to say such things about Zambia.

Actually, we are really quite lucky to have a British High Commissioner because Zambia almost became a Portuguese Colony. During the Scramble for Africa, Portugal had many claims to our country. See the map drawn by the Portuguese around 1880. Had it not been for the intervention of Cecil Rhodes we would have been Portuguese. It was emissaries from Cecil Rhodes, with the help of some missionaries following in David Livingstone's footsteps, who organised treaties between Britain and chiefs around the country.

Had Zambia been Portuguese we may well have had the same histories of Angola and Mozambique.

Mozambique: War of Independence: 1964-1974.

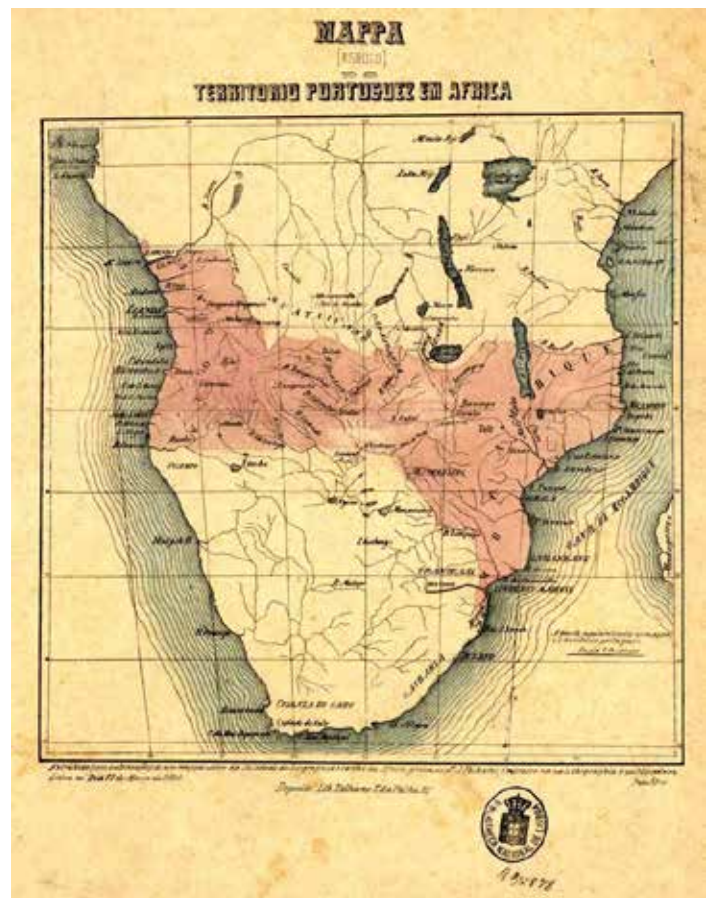
Independence: 1975. Civil War: 1977-1992.

Angola: War of Independence: 1961-1974. Independence:

1975. Civil War: 1975-2002

Zambia: Peaceful transition to Independence: 1964. No Civil War.

We have a heritage from being under British administration for 65 years. The British do not mince words – they say it as they see it. I think many Zambians are like that too.



SIAME IS 200m AFRICAN CHAMPION.
Zambia Amateur Athletic Association - ZAAA

Sydney Siame was crowned African 200m Champion, after minting a Gold in the men's 200m at the on going All Africa Games, in Morocco, Nigerian Oduduru, ran the first 120m and quickly caught up with Zambia's Sidney Siame in the 200m bend, but Siame with his exotic energy, opened up and increased the his speed which saw saw him, later pull away from him to win GOLD, crossing the line in 20.34s ...

*G: We all love Sydney in Zambia. He is our hero!
But let's see what we all got in the way of medals.*

NOC Overview - Botswana

MEDALS			
Athletics			
	SCOTCH Leungo	Men's 400m	
	BOTSWANA	Men's 4x400m Relay	
	MOROKO Galefele	Women's 400m	
	BOTSWANA	Women's 4x400m Relay	
Boxing			
	MAHOMMED Raja..	Men's Fly (52kg)	
	KENOSI Keamog..	Women's Feather (57kg)	
	KASEMANG AraL..	Women's Light (60kg)	
Karate			
	BAKWADI Ofent..	Kata Individual Men	
	BOTSWANA	Kata Team Men	
	BOTSWANA	Kumite Team Men	
	BOTSWANA	Kata Team Women	
Swimming			
	RUELE Naomi Q..	Women's 100m Backstroke	
	RUELE Naomi Q..	Women's 50m Backstroke	
Taekwondo			
	KULA Karabo	Women's Under 46kg	

NOC Overview - Zimbabwe

MEDALS			
Chess			
	ZIMBABWE	Mixed Team Event	
Swimming			
	LEE Robyn Sta..	Women's 200m Backstroke	
Triathlon			
	BROWN LaurelL..	Women's	
	KUIPERS Andie..	Women's	

NOC Overview - Namibia

MEDALS			
Archery			
	NAMIBIA	Mixed Teams Recurve	
Boxing			
	JONAS Jonas J..	Men's Light (63kg)	
Cycling Mountain Bike			
	DE LANGE Tris..	Men's Cross-country	
	DE LANGE Tris..	Men's Cross-country marathon	
	MILLER Alexan..	Men's Cross-country	
	MILLER Alexan..	Men's Cross-country marathon	
Cycling Road			
	ADRIAN Vera	Women's Individual Time Trial	
	ADRIAN Vera	Women's Road Race	

NOC Overview - Zambia

MEDALS			
Athletics			
	SIAME Sydney	Men's 200m	
Badminton			
	MULENGA Kalom..	Men's Singles	
Boxing			
	MULENGA EverL..	Men's Feather (57kg)	
Chess			
	MWANGO Makumb..	Women's Rapid Individual	
Swimming			
	PALIK Tiika	Women's 50m Breaststroke	

Bhejane Trust

The Upper Zambezi - the battle to save the fish and associated wildlife and birds from being wiped out!! A small anti-poaching team, funded by concerned private individuals, is patrolling the Zambezi River day and night in Zambia about 100km above the Falls, to try and slow down the massive fish poaching. The (photo) shows one net 200m long and 10m wide made up of mosquito nets joined together - it was so heavy it had to be pulled out the river by a vehicle. This net was one of ten, total 2,4 km, recovered in one day! Unfortunately this is an all too common outcome of mosquito nets donated in good faith! One hates to even think of the devastation these nets bring to the river!!

G: This is from Bhejane which operates in Victoria Falls Town. Is Bhejane actually saying nice things about us-Zambians!

I am told that the net was removed by Shackletons Tiger Fishing Camp. They have set up a patrol to assist the Dept of Fisheries to monitor the activities along their stretch of the river.

Another group is working downstream around Mambova and is also being very successful there.

Sikunga Guards operating from Namibia have been mentioned plenty of times in this newsletter. I know too that the tour operators around Impalila Island are very strict and allow no illegal fishing around there. So, all in all, we are getting there.

This year is going to be tough. The drought has hit us badly and people will be going to the river to get food as their crops have failed.



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle
Workshop

BDF officers shoot and kill two rhino poachers in the Okavango Delta

Botswana Safari News

Two suspected rhino poachers were allegedly killed in fire exchange with the army officers in the Mombo area of the Okavango Delta.

Four Botswana Defence Force (BDF) reportedly shot and killed the suspected poachers on Sunday.

According to the information from Maun Police, the four officers were on patrol and saw the poachers' tracks. Shortly they heard a gunshot in the distance. Moving the direction of the sound, the officers saw a female black rhino with a young one in flight. The mother rhino had evident gun wounds and was running from the poachers. The officers lay in wait knowing the poachers will be following it. True to their suspicions the poachers appeared. Once seeing the officers the poachers did not waste time as they shot at the BDF officers who in retaliation killed them in the fire exchange. The rhino was later found dead a short distance away leaving its young one.

The bodies of the suspected poachers are currently at Letsholathebe II in Maun for investigations. The army discovered a .375 rifle in possession of the deceased poachers. The nationalities of the suspected poachers are still unknown but there are suspicions they may be Namibians.

G: There was another article in New Era a few days later which stated that the poachers were not Namibians. They were, instead, the usual culprits - Zambian! I lost the article in a power cut.

NAMIBIA

Minister of Environment & Tourism Namibia

On Friday (30 August) I visited the Zambezi Region to assess the situation of the hippos that were reported to be stranded in a mud pool of the drying Chobe river in the area of Mutikitila.

I was very happy to observe that the interventions that were made to save hippos are working so well. The drilled borehole is filling up the pond. I am happy to report that the looming disaster has been averted.

However the Ministry will continuously monitor the situation and put in necessary measures to ensure the well being of the hippos.

I was also happy to observe that the pool is used by other animals including livestock as source for drinking water.

The borehole was drilled at a cost of N\$70 000, implemented by the Ministry with the assistance of the Salambala Conservancy.



TONGABEZI

SPAR 



WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
15°C (59)	32°C (90)

Best time of year - chilly in the morning
and hot in the day

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K13.10
	P10.93
	Nam\$14.85
	Zim\$13.30

A SMILE



Have a good two weeks

Gill



SAFREA
Southern African Freelancers' Association