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Nkwazi

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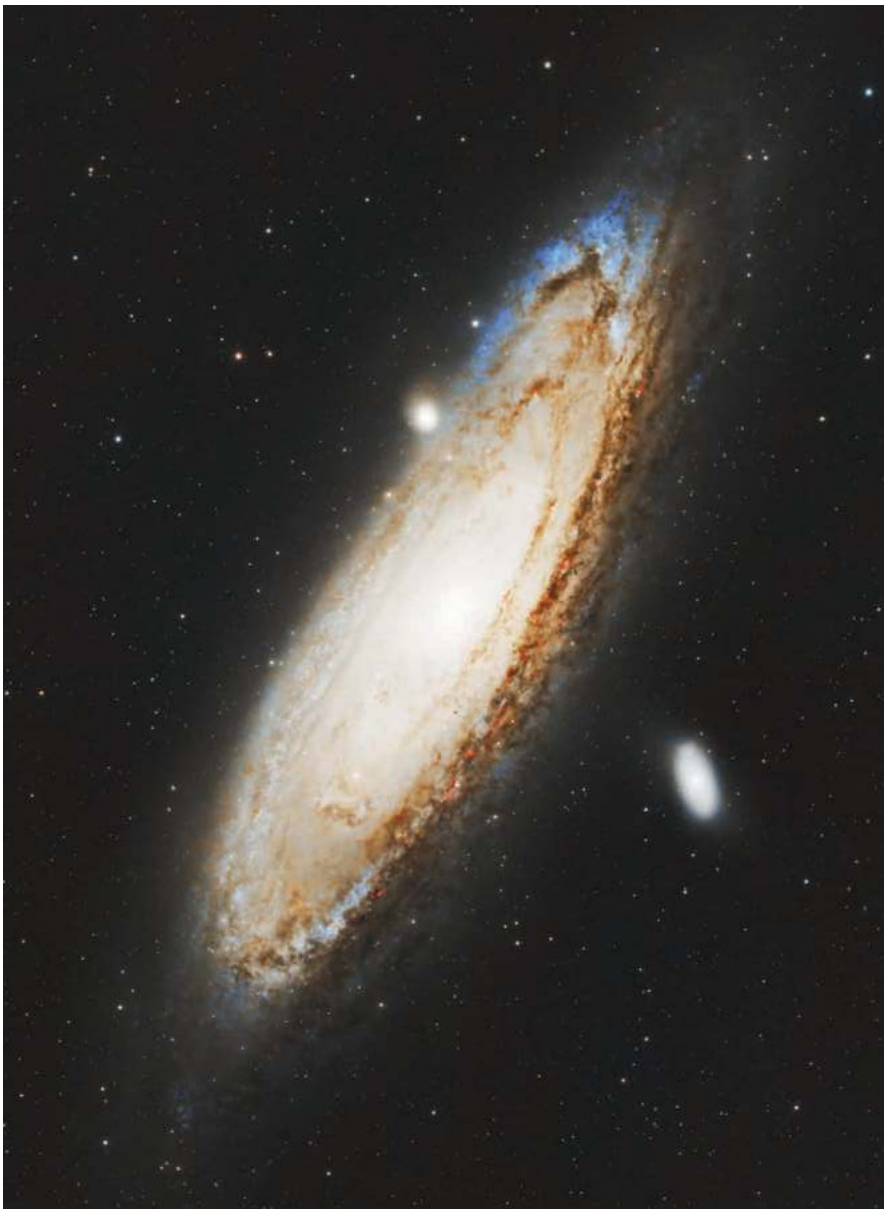
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COVER STORY:

The Andromeda Galaxy as captured by Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe. Largely self-taught, Dr Mwanakatwe has developed his astrophotography skills over the last three years. He unlocks secret celestial worlds through his lens and bridges the gap between art and science. Learn more about his journey on page 56.

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WANDERLUST CHRONICLES

“Travel writers are writing history.” These were the words of Mulenga Kapwepwe at the start of a travel writing workshop I recently attended. Ms Kapwepwe is, among many other things, a co-founder of the Women’s History Museum of Zambia, the organisation that had organised for myself and 11 other women travel writers to attend a multi-day workshop in the picturesque Lower Zambezi. Ms Kapwepwe’s words stayed with me even after the workshop ended.

Travel writing is not just lighthearted fluff pieces (though they do have their place and time). It is a personal history but also a history of the places we visit. It has the power to shape our collective understanding of the world, of places near and far. Travel texts become part of the historical narrative of the sites they discuss. Think of them as a time capsule, written testimonies that immortalise moments, traditions and destinations for generations to come. Travel writers and even travel photographers weave their works into a tapestry of human experiences, preserving and commemorating our diverse stories.






When we embark on our journeys and immerse ourselves in new environments, we become witnesses to history in the making. Every encounter, conversation, and exploration can shape our understanding of a place and contribute to the historical record. Travel writing allows us to capture these moments, freeze them in time, and share them with the world.

But travel writing is not limited to grand narratives or world-altering events. It is also found in the small details—the taste and scent of a local delicacy, the sound of haggling in a bustling market, and the wonder of viewing captivating natural landscapes.

Nkwazi has published numerous travel articles in the decade that it has existed, contributing to Zambia and Africa’s historical narrative, and this edition is no different. I invite you to go on a work trip-cum-adventure to North Luangwa National Park in Zambia’s Muchinga Province (page 68) or the Elephant Coast in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa (page 80). You can venture to South Luangwa National Park and learn about the Three Rivers Camp (page 24), a place you won’t regret making your home away from home should you visit the park. And if you live in Lusaka or any other city, travel doesn’t always have to mean going far from home. Discover a creative hub in Lusaka, Atelier Camario (page 28) and support local artisans selling work there. You can travel through the cosmos by simply looking up at a clear night sky. Explore further with a simple pair of binoculars or a telescope like Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe, an astrophile and avid astrophotographer. He often captures high-definition images of celestial objects, which can be seen gracing this edition’s cover. You can learn more about a love affair with astrophotography and see more of his work on page 56.

As you flip through the pages, remember that you, too, are a part of this grand narrative. Your experiences, encounters and discoveries are all threads that contribute to the fabric of our shared history. Enjoy the journey.

Jolezya Adeyemo,
Editor

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Dear Proflight Customer,

“How come I can fly from London to Budapest on Ryan Air for £29, and it costs me K6000 to fly to Mansa?”

We hear such comments regularly. Comparing Zambian domestic air travel with Ryan Air is understandable but misses some key considerations, and we want to give some of the reasons why. In 2022 Ryan Air flew 160 million passengers. The EU is a vast single market of 448 million citizens with an average GDP per Capita of \$38,000. The size of the market and the economies of scale available are immense. In addition, airport costs are a significant cost for any airline, which means short routes are more expensive than long routes. The unit cost will be high if we have short routes combined with small aircraft. That is also why the average seat price between Lusaka and Johannesburg seems high compared to Johannesburg London. When a large aircraft flies long distances at high altitudes, the cost per seat is as low as the industry can achieve.

The aviation industry can offer Zambia much in the way of time efficiencies. Still, we are a very long way from aviation being a standard means of travel for the majority of our citizens. We need our economy to grow significantly before that can happen. We do have a very dynamic coach industry. The width of the network and the prices charged are most impressive. This is the mass market, and the Airline Industry must hope that a portion will move from coach to airline over time. However, the current average ticket price gap between surface travel and air is enormous. There is much dialogue between the government, the Zambia Airports Corporation, The Zambia Civil Aviation Authority and the airlines to reduce air travel costs, but there is no silver bullet.

We remain confident that the number of citizens choosing to travel by air will continue to grow yearly, but Ryan Air-like fares are a long way off for Zambia's airline industry.

Having said that, The GBP 29 one-way fare from London to Budapest is special, not the norm. At Proflight, we continue to offer our flash fares to allow more people to experience air travel. This is important to the entire Proflight family, and these are eagerly anticipated every week.

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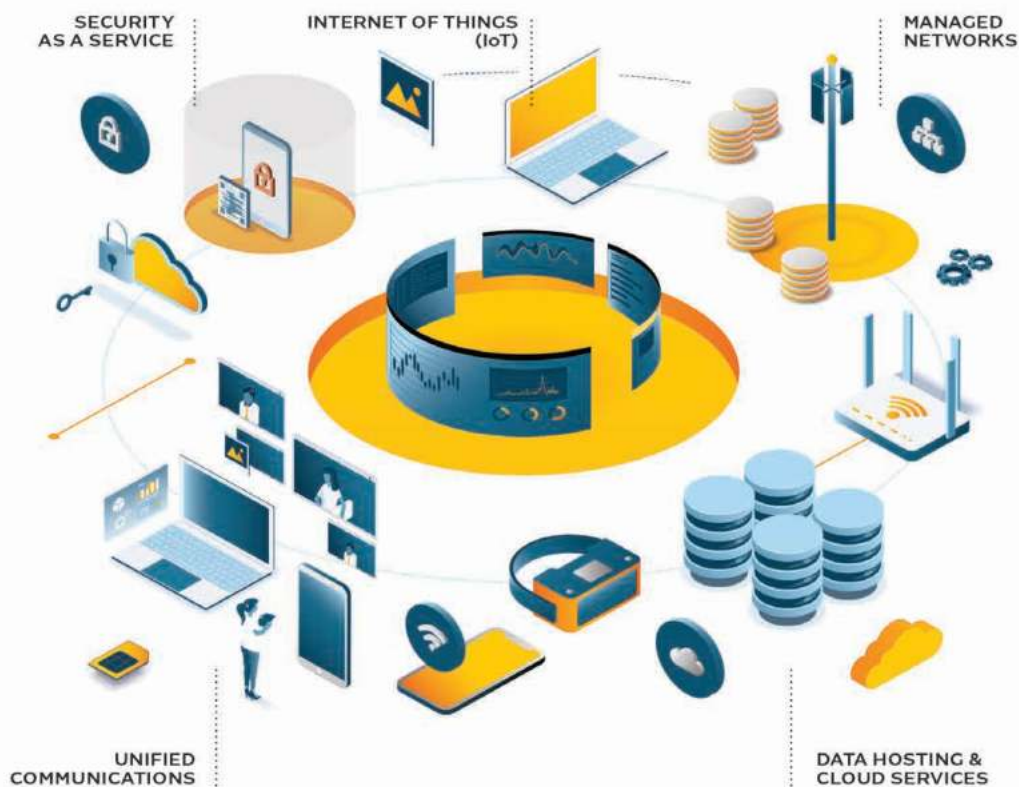


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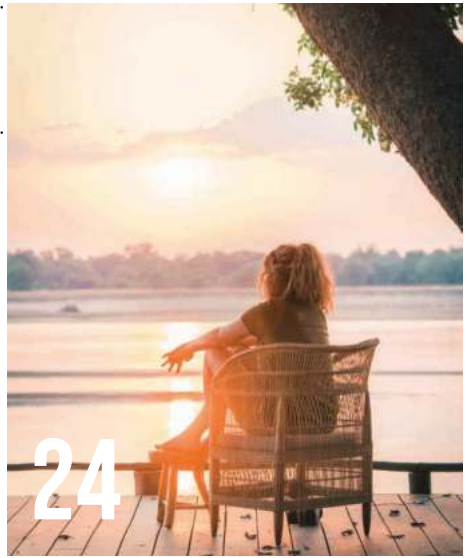
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Dr Godwin Beene is a seasoned mining industry veteran currently serving as the country manager for FQM Zambia. Delve into his career journey on page 36.

PLAN

JULY | AUGUST 2023



EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 25 - 26 August
Location: Sun Exhibits, GrandWest,
Cape Town
Tickets: TBA

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EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 2 & 4 July
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UMUTOMBOKO CEREMONY

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 29 July
 Location: Mwanabombwe
 District, Luapula Province
 Tickets: N/A

The Umutomboko Ceremony Celebrates the migration of the Lunda people to Zambia from Kola in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the victories they recorded over other tribes as they travelled. The day's events culminate with the performance of a victory dance, the Mutomboko, by His Royal Highness Mwata Kazembe XIX of the Lunda people. This year's Ceremony marks 25 years on the throne of His Royal Highness Mwata Kazembe XIX. (Image: Beautiful Zambia)



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EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 15 July
 Location: Musebe Ranch, Mkushi
 Tickets: TBA



HILTON ARTS FESTIVAL

This is one of South Africa's biggest theatre festivals and has been taking place for over 30 years, attracting around 25,000 people annually. The event has left an indelible mark on the South African theatre, music and arts landscape.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 11 - 13 August
 Location: Hilton College, KwaZulu-Natal
 Tickets: TBA



FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

Festival of Motoring Johannesburg 2023 is not your average motoring event. The world-class motoring event allows petrolheads to view and experience the latest vehicle models and has a strong family appeal.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 25 - 27 August
 Location: Location: Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit
 Tickets: TBA

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THREE RIVERS CAMP

UNSPOILED SOUTH LUANGWA

Words by Isabelle Defourny
Images courtesy of Kafunta Safaris



Tucked away in one of the remote areas of South Luangwa National Park, Three Rivers Camp is the most recent addition to Kafunta Safaris' exceptional range of accommodations. The camp is situated at the junction of three rivers: the Luangwa River, Kapamba River and Lusangazi River - which inspired the name - and comprises five elegantly designed tents. Three of these tents offer an exquisite view of a grassy oxbow lagoon bustling with wildlife, including impalas,

pukus, waterbucks, zebras, giraffes and elephants. The remaining two tents are situated right on the banks of the Luangwa River and offer the perfect spot for observing the playful antics of the resident hippos.

The heart of the camp boasts a lounge and dining tent, complete with a spacious deck shaded by a magnificent century-old sausage tree. This area is only a stone's throw away from a waterhole regularly visited by elephants, baboons and giraffes. Needless to say, the game

viewing begins right from the comfort of the camp!

Each luxurious tent has a spacious sleeping area that seamlessly connects to a private deck. The semi-open ensuite bathroom is furnished with both indoor and outdoor showers. However, what truly distinguishes these tents from the rest is the remarkable star beds atop a three-metre-high platform directly adjacent to the tents. Every night, guests have the option to sleep "in" or "out" under the mesmerising African

sky. Regardless of the choice, the beds are exceptionally comfortable and equipped with mosquito nets to ensure undisturbed rest.

Despite being powered by solar energy, the camp deliberately avoids providing cellular phone reception or internet access. This carefully crafted absence of technology ensures an uninterrupted opportunity for guests to immerse themselves fully in the natural world without the distractions of the modern world. It allows guests to truly connect with nature and each other in a deeply meaningful way, fostering a sense of genuine presence and promoting quality time that is often elusive in our fast-paced, screen-oriented society.

The camp lies at the edge of the unspoiled south-eastern park region, a wildlife oasis. The area is teeming with a diverse array of



creatures, including Thornicroft giraffes, impalas, puku, waterbucks, Cookson's wildebeests, Crawshay zebras, elephants, buffalos, hippos, and apex predators like lions, leopards and wild dogs. For the keen birdwatcher, the park also serves as a sanctuary for over 400 bird species. With



minimal human interference, the area remains wild, presenting rare opportunities to observe animals in their original and unadulterated natural habitat.

To fully experience the vast and untamed wilderness, guests can embark on two exhilarating game-viewing activities daily, led by a team of exceptional safari guides, widely regarded as among Africa's most accomplished. This duo of experiences - thrilling game drives and bush walks - provides a truly immersive and multifaceted way to engage with the environment and wildlife.

WHERE?

Discover the stunning Three Rivers Camp in South Luangwa National Park, where three rivers converge. Open from May 25th to October 31st, it can be combined with Kafunta River Lodge for the ultimate safari experience. For more adventure, book the rustic Island Bush Camp. Contact Kafunta Safaris or your travel agent to plan your dream trip. We'll help you create the trip of a lifetime.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Experience the ultimate luxury on an elevated platform with star beds, surrounded by the African wilderness.
- Experience the wildlife on safari and bush walks with expert guides. Observe animals at the meeting point of three rivers and a nearby waterhole while enjoying a cosy camp stay.
- Completely and deliberately immerse yourself in nature and escape our screen-obsessed world without cell reception or an internet connection.
- Escape to Three Rivers Camp for a luxurious nature retreat with stunning river views and unforgettable candlelit dinners.

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BO'JANGLES, THE QUBE AND THE GREAT ESCAPE

ZAMBIAN HOSPITALITY AT ITS FINEST

Words by Sow Communications
Images courtesy of Lamba Zambia Group



Discover the ultimate destination for a novel, bold, and flavourful experience at Lusaka's exquisite entertainment hub. Situated at Longacres Mall, these venues are firmly established as must-visit locations, captivating patrons from across Zambia and beyond. The range of venues caters to all tastes and preferences.

Choose to indulge in the jazz-inspired and budget-friendly restaurant, Bo'Jangles, where everyone can enjoy delightful meals; or opt for a premium nightclub experience at The Qube. If you are more of a thrill seeker, immerse yourself in The Great Escape, a state-of-the-art two-story gaming centre complete with a bowling alley, perfect for children, young adults, and the young at heart.

Bo'Jangles

Experience elaborate cuisine with exceptional delivery at Bo'Jangles, Lusaka's premier culinary hotspot. The best part? You don't have to wait until dinner to savour their menu. Bo'Jangles is dedicated to serving impeccable food, starting bright and early at 7 am daily!

What's more, be serenaded by the soulful sounds of local and international musicians on selected evenings. From soothing jazz melodies to soulful acoustic performances and energizing ensembles, there's something to appeal to every musical preference. Combining the joy of delicious food with the magic of live music, Bo'Jangles is the place where delectable flavours and captivating melodies intertwine.

MORE ON BO'JANGLES

Bo'Jangles first opened in Ndola and has since expanded its offering to Lusaka – Be sure to see both Jazz-inspired foodie venues for a great meal and value for money!

MORE ABOUT THE QUBE

Bo'Jangles first opened in Ndola and has since expanded its offering to Lusaka – Be sure to see both Jazz-inspired foodie venues for a great meal and great value for money!

MORE ABOUT THE GREAT ESCAPE

At Great Escape, you can pay on-site or subscribe to a membership package for unlimited access to these fantastic facilities. Learn more about Great Escape and secure your slot by visiting www.bojangles.life

HOW TO GET THERE

Proceed via a dual-carriageway from Great East Road to Longacres Mall; the Qube nightclub is next door to Bo'Jangles, while The Great Escape is above the Bo'Jangles restaurant.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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www.bojangles.life



The Qube

The Qube is Lusaka's top tier entertainment nightclub and music hub providing a complete night-out experience. This venue boasts contemporary ambience with top-notch fittings and fixtures, making it the ultimate destination for partygoers in the city. If you love to revel in late-night dancing, savour premium quality beverages, and relish tasty food until the break of dawn, The Qube is your scene.

Begin your evening by indulging in a delightful dining experience at Bo'Jangles, then continue to dance the night away in the electrifying nightclub while being mesmerised by beautiful, patterned light shows accompanied by crystal-clear sound. Whether you are planning a private function or a corporate event, The Qube is the perfect setting to

create unforgettable memories with friends, business associates, and colleagues.

The nightspot is open Wednesday through Sunday, starting at 20:30 and entry is restricted to patrons aged 21 and above. It offers a variety of plush seating areas, accommodating up to 250 guests. Additionally, exclusive VIP and VVIP areas are available upon prior arrangement.

The Great Escape

Be engulfed by The Great Escape, the ultimate destination for family fun and entertainment, located above the Bo'Jangles restaurant.

Gaming Area: Experience a one-stop family entertainment centre with an ultra-modern gaming area. From the latest games to an arcade and a delightful candy store, this out-of-this-world space keeps you and your family coming back to create memories and improve your gaming skills whether you're a beginner or a pro.

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Bowling Alley: Revel in an action-packed night at our 6-lane bowling alley and lounge. Perfect for individuals and large groups, this amenity features a private bar, lounge, and diner-style food.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships are at the heart of the Bo'Jangles ethos; they aim to leverage collective strengths, ideas, and resources to achieve common goals. Collaborating with tour operators to reach broader markets, increase revenue, and enhance our brand image. Led by hospitality veterans, their exceptional teams are dedicated to uplifting Lusaka's entertainment standards and showcasing incredible talent.

With unparalleled leadership skills, they have assembled a top-notch front and back-of-house team with extensive hospitality experience. By employing nearly 170 local support staff, they actively contribute to the growth of the hospitality and tourism sectors in the country.

The Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA) has affirmed its commitment to the business and the visibility of its tourism enterprises through strategic meetings. In return, Bo'Jangles is dedicated to employing and training unskilled youths, empowering them to build successful careers in the sector.



Proflight operates regular flights into Lusaka from Johannesburg, Durban, Livingstone, Ndola, Mfuwe, Solwezi, Kalumbila and Mansa. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



ATELIER CAMARIO

HOME OF UPCYCLED FASHION, FURNITURE, AND ART

Words by Samm Tembo
Images by Kalichi Pictures



In the vibrant city of Lusaka, a treasure trove of beautiful spaces are continuously emerging, each with a delightful discovery waiting to be made. Whether it's restaurants, pubs or art galleries, there is always something to entice the discerning crowd. And among these emerging havens, one has captured the imagination of all who seek creative inspiration.

Welcome to Atelier Camario, an artistic space nestled in the heart of Woodlands, Lusaka. With its Insta-worthy aesthetic, this haven of creativity, founded in 2021, has quickly become the talk of the town, its allure spreading like wildfire across social media. Atelier Camario is a well-thought-out, bespoke

free-thinking sanctuary that attracts creatives and fashion lovers.

At first glance, Atelier Camario may appear unassuming, a humble structure blending seamlessly with its surroundings. Yet, beneath its understated facade lies a world of creative marvels waiting to be explored. Step inside, and you will discover a realm of minimalistic splendour that transcends the ordinary.

The metallic white walls of this artistic sanctuary serve as a canvas for a symphony of visual wonders. Photo prints, ornaments, paintings, and meticulously handcrafted baskets adorn every inch. Mwape Fundanga, the visionary behind Atelier Camario, guides me through the space while imparting her wisdom. "You can never have too many baskets," she declares, a testament to her passion for the intricate craftsmanship that adorns the space. Every design choice within these walls is the result of deliberate planning. From the precise placement of furniture to the carefully selected plants and awe-inspiring artworks, every element harmoniously coexists, breathing new life into what was once a neglected structure.

Atelier, the French word for a workshop, signifies the essence of this space—a place where creativity thrives, and imagination flourishes. But what about "Camario"? Ah, that is where the essence of Mwape's heritage intertwines with her artistic vision. Derived from her parents' names—Caleb and Rosario—this name encapsulates inspiration and passion that permeates every corner of Atelier Camario.

Mwape's educational journey took her from Switzerland, where she dabbled in architecture

FAST FACTS:

- Atelier Camario is a free-thinking, creative space that stocks art, clothing, furniture and baskets, among other things.
- It was founded in 2021 by Mwape Fundanga, an artist, interior designer and graphic designer, and promotes the production and sale of indigenous made products and brands.
- Atelier Camario works with local artisans and local materials to bring its creative vision and products to life.
- More than just a shop, the space invites creatives to collaborate in various artistic domains.
- It is open Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm.



Proflight operates regular flights into Lusaka from Johannesburg, Durban, Livingstone, Ndola, Mfuwe, Solwezi, Kalumbila and Mansa. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



before embracing her passion for interior design. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, she ventured to Paris, immersing herself in the world of project management and interior architecture for her master's degree. The influence of her diverse background is apparent in her attention to detail.

After graduating and returning to Zambia, Mwape defied conventional paths, opting to freelance primarily in graphic design before eventually developing her visionary space. "Being a fresh graduate, whenever I approached people to collaborate, they'd always be sceptical and often questioned my knowledge. So birthing the Atelier was the best way to achieve my goals and avoid frustrating situations. Atelier Camario became a vibrant haven where the fusion of fashion, photography, graphics, and artistry thrives. In this place, the tribe of creatives finds solace, united by a shared vision", she added.

With every brushstroke of her university projects, Mwape knew her destiny was to shape her homeland with fresh perspectives and innovative endeavours. She added, "As an artist and a designer who has always been interested in the Zambian heritage, I always found it surprising that we didn't value our crafts and culture enough, at least not as much as foreigners do. I aim to change that!"

Mwape's philosophy thrives on collaboration and a shared commitment to utilizing local resources. Atelier's devotion to this principle is evident



through partnerships with brands like Kontama, Finders Keepers, and Salenipo. These brands, owned and operated by talented Zambians, embody the spirit of upcycling and thrifted fashion, showcasing the incredible potential of local materials.

Mwape's focus remains on the store, but in the future, she envisions Atelier's involvement in construction projects. She harbours aspirations of venturing into the realm of home and office design, carrying forward the narrative of supporting local artisans and utilizing locally sourced materials and labour. "You don't always have to import prefabricated items for building projects. Instead, I urge people to find locally made products made with indigenous resources. I want office spaces and homes to foster the same atmosphere as my store."

Atelier Camario is open six days a week, from Monday to Saturday. It is not just a shopping and dining destination. But it's a thriving hub for local artisans, art lovers, and creative minds who frequently visit the space for inspiration and collaboration. Items on sale include furniture, baskets, graphic design prints, artworks and clothing, both second-hand and upcycled. The versatile studio space is available for rent, perfect for fashion shoots, product photography, commercials and interviews, and more. Immerse yourself in this creative environment and connect with others looking for inspirational items to elevate their spaces.





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PLUSH PONCHOS

A WRIGHT HOUSE-NYEMBA TRADE CENTRE COLLABORATION

Words by Anja Kleeman-Wright
Image by Patrick Bwalya



At the heart of the Wright House Company's extraordinary ventures, a single garment reigns supreme—the poncho. While renowned for their bespoke furniture and lifestyle projects, the poncho captivates with its unrivalled allure.

Collaborating with the Nayamba Trade Centre (NTC) in Chisamba, Wright House channels its passion into empowering women through spinning, weaving, and sewing. The skilled hands of these artisans, working on local looms and sewing machines, meticulously craft each poncho from cotton or bamboo fibres. These energy-efficient workshops, bathed in natural

light, are a testament to their dedication to sustainable practices.

The women of NTC continuously push boundaries, expanding their expertise to include natural dyes sourced from indigenous plants. This commitment to innovation will be showcased in the upcoming winter collection of 2023, where a myriad of white, yellow, orange, red, and brown poncho combinations will be available.

Furthermore, the women of Wright House and NTC warmly welcome visitors to their enchanting workshops in Chisamba, where they can witness the mastery and artistry of creating each extraordinary poncho.

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PONCHO STYLE TIPS

As we enter winter, ponchos are a practical and stylish wardrobe item.

- Voluminous ponchos pair well with skinny jeans or slim-cut trousers to form a balanced silhouette.
- For a more defined waistline in your poncho, wear it with a belt.
- Wear your poncho with leather – the contrasting textures and fabrics will give your outfit added visual appeal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Instagram:
@wrighthouseco,
@nayambatradecenter

Contact: Anja Wright
+260967047217

To purchase the ponchos, visit the Wright House at the Barnyard (Ciela Resort), Artisan Designs and the Lusaka Collective.

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WE CELEBRATE OUR IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023 WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

"As we gather here at the International School of Lusaka to celebrate the graduating class of 2023, I stand before you on this momentous, inspirational occasion, representing the collective voice of our extraordinary class.

As we reflect upon our journey at ISL, we cannot overlook the incredible bond that also exists within our student community. Together, we experienced laughter, shared dreams, overcame challenges, and celebrated victories. I know my friends particularly recollect the rising laughter from the common room at break time, playing ping pong like champions, simply lying on the freshly-cut grass outside the math class, and rushing to the next class after break. Each of us has contributed, in our unique ways, to the vibrant cultural tapestry of our school. From classrooms to the sports fields, from cultural events to community service initiatives; we have truly exemplified the spirit of unity and teamwork.

As we move into the world of higher education and employment, let us carry this spirit within us, cherishing the memories we have created together at ISL.

ISL has equipped us, not just with knowledge but also the skills and values to navigate the ever-changing landscape of life. It has nurtured in us a global perspective, a curiosity to explore, and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Through our journey as IB students, we gradually became true learners, exploring global issues and seeing the problems that the future may hold for the world.

This means that it is even more relevant that on the IBDP course, we have had to discover the importance of owning our own knowledge and reflecting critically upon it: We only learn from what we ultimately do by ourselves, and that way, as independent thinkers and knowers, we can never lose our knowledge or become compromised. This ability will be with us forever, wherever we go.

To the exceptional educators who have dedicated their professional lives to nurturing our minds and igniting our passion for knowledge: Thank you for the dedication, joy, laughter, and energy and for bringing the real world into the classroom. You all embarked on this noble profession with a profound dedication to shaping the leaders of tomorrow - after all, at ISL, we are learning today, leading tomorrow. Your commitment to excellence, patience, and constant belief in our abilities has inspired us to keep trying, even when IBDP became hard. You spent countless hours preparing lessons, imparting knowledge, and offering us moments of guidance and encouragement.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our parents and guardians, who have been pillars of support throughout our academic journey and whose unconditional love, sacrifice, and guidance have helped shape us into the individuals we are today and continue to become. You believed in us when we didn't believe in ourselves, and you celebrated our successes with joy. Today, we proudly stand before you as graduates, a testament to your loving faith in our potential.

Thank you for being our steadfast support system. Thank you for understanding. Thank you for all the drop-offs and pick-ups.

As we bid farewell to the International School of Lusaka, we do not say goodbye to our cherished memories, but rather carry them with us as we embark on new adventures. To my fellow graduates, I am proud of your accomplishments, your friendship, your dreams, and the incredible potential that resides within you. Let us embrace this moment as a stepping stone towards our future, filled with endless opportunities. Together, let us seize the world and leave our mark upon it. Let us remember the lessons we have learned on this campus. Let us embrace diversity, for it is through understanding and embracing our differences that we can truly foster a world of compassion and unity. Let us be courageous, for it is through taking risks that we discover our true potential. Let us be resilient, for it is through perseverance that we overcome the inevitable challenges that lie ahead.

And above all, let us be compassionate, for it is through acts of kindness and empathy that we create a better world."

Thank you all very much!



Chino Hirayama



The Class of 2023 pose for a graduation photo in true ISL style.



DR GODWIN BEENE

A MINING INDUSTRY STALWART

Words by Royd Kapesa
Images by Teddy Mweemba





Serving as the country manager for the leading mining operation in Zambia is no easy feat but this task currently lies in the formidable hands of Dr Godwin Beene, the country manager of First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Zambia since January 2023. FQM boasts an expansive presence in Zambia's North-Western Province, operating three prominent mines: Kansanshi in Solwezi, Trident in Kalumbila, and Enterprise, a dedicated nickel mining operation in Kalumbila. Notably, FQM is Zambia's largest taxpayer, having made remarkable contributions that have surpassed an impressive \$5.7 billion.

Taking on the critical role of country manager, Dr Beene is responsible for overseeing FQM's interactions with the Zambian government and its affiliated agencies, enabling the mine leadership to concentrate on their core operational endeavours. In this multifaceted position, Dr Beene adeptly navigates the complex landscape of macroeconomic influences that challenge business operations. Moreover, he is the conduit for effectively communicating FQM's activities to the general public and investors. Reflecting on his responsibilities, Dr Beene explains, "I am entrusted with addressing matters that directly concern our operations in Zambia and

managing the crucial connection with the government. When issues warrant attention from government ministries, I promptly address them through escalation or resolution. Additionally, I diligently ensure that the media and wider stakeholders accurately portray our company, guarding against misrepresentations." This comprehensive summary encapsulates the vital role Dr Beene plays within FQM.

Born and raised in the remote Makala Village in Monze District of Southern Province, Dr Beene experienced the challenges of poverty first-hand. He vividly recalls attending school without shoes and writing on the ground in the early 1960s. However, his determination to overcome adversity led him to pursue higher education. After completing national service, Dr Beene was sponsored by a mining firm to study chemical engineering in the United Kingdom, commencing his bachelor's degree at the University of Wales, University College Swansea in 1978. He thus feels greatly indebted to the mining industry. In 1984, he returned to his alma mater and enrolled for a master's degree and ultimately obtained a PhD by studying the behaviour of natural mineral systems and clays and developing a model to predict the behaviour of mineral systems under



THE MINING SECTOR IS AN EXCITING WORKPLACE BECAUSE IT PROVIDES A WIDE CAREER DEVELOPMENT WINDOW. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CANNOT DO IN MINING.

- Dr Godwin Beene
FQM CEO

specific environments, specialising in surfaces and colloids.

Dr Beene has significantly contributed to Zambia's mining industry throughout his illustrious career. He began working at the Nchanga Tailings Leach Plant in 1981, the largest hydrometallurgical plant in Africa at the time. During the time of privatisation of the mining industry by the MMD government, he was manager - metallurgy at Nkana Mine and crossed over to Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) under Anglo American Corporation as manager - technical services. Later, he returned to Nkana Mine to oversee the construction of a leach plant worth \$40 million, demonstrating his expertise and commitment to the industry. In addition to his accomplishments in the mining sector, Dr Godwin Beene made notable contributions in the realm of public service. He assumed the role of permanent secretary of the Ministry of Mines, serving under late President Rupiah Banda for three years. Following a change of government, he ventured into private consultancy until he joined FQM in 2019.

"The investment in the extension of S3 is to increase the life of the mine and continue offering direct employment to Zambians for the next 20 years," says Dr Beene, commenting on FQM's landmark \$1.25 billion investment to prolong operations at Kansanshi Mine. "As mining progresses and gets deeper, the grade of the ore reduces. The investment will increase the tonnage of the copper ore produced to compensate for the loss in grade, essentially preserving the quantity of copper produced at Kansanshi."

As Zambia aims to diversify the economy from copper mining, Dr Beene emphasised FQM's

commitment to investing a further \$100 million to boost operations at Enterprise. The nickel mine in Kalumbila District will be the largest nickel mine in Africa. "The mining sector is an exciting workplace because it provides a wide career development window. There is nothing you cannot do in mining," Dr Beene comments. He notes that the industry requires not just miners, engineers and geologists but also accountants, administrators and so many other professionals.

Shifting focus to community impact, Dr Beene shares that FQM's dedication to the communities surrounding its mining operations is evident through its sustainable development initiatives. "The focus has always been on people. While workers are a crucial resource to our operations, the people in our catchment area are equally important. Their well-being is of paramount importance to us," Dr Beene highlights. The company invests in schools, hospitals, and small businesses to ensure the sustainability and well-being of these communities. Additionally, FQM has played a crucial role in establishing the Kalumbila Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ), which will fast-track economic development in the North-Western Province.

Regarding environmental responsibility, Dr Beene states, "We make every effort to minimise our impact on the environment using technological advancements and sustainable mining practices." FQM has invested in a state-of-the-art tailings storage facility to contain the externalities within the mining areas. The company also actively replenishes biodiversity by planting trees in its catchment areas and restocking wildlife in the West Lunga National Park, contributing to the conservation efforts of the lesser-known national park in Zambia.



MODEST BEGINNINGS AND TENACITY

Dr Godwin Beene is at the helm of the largest mining firm in Zambia but his beginnings are far removed from his current situation. He grew up in Makala Village in Monze, Southern Province and recalls going to school barefoot and writing on the floor. However, he was strong-willed and was able to rise above his circumstances.

NOT JUST A MANAGER

Dr Beene jokes that he is not just a manager but also a man-urger. As a leader, he believes it is his duty to find out the aspirations of those he works with and to push them to achieve their potential. He presides over an inviting work environment where his colleagues typically refer to him as the Doc.

Dr Beene enjoys mentoring young people in the mining industry. He emphasises that there's a role for everyone as the industry requires multiple different skill sets.

MINING INDUSTRY VETERAN

Dr Beene academic background is in engineering and he has worked in the mining industry in both the public and private sector throughout his career. He has served as permanent secretary at the Ministry of Mines and is now the country manager of FQM Zambia and the president of the Zambia Chamber of Mines.

FQM is the biggest taxpayer in Zambia and runs the largest mining operation in the country with three mines: Kansanshi in Solwezi, Trident in Kalumbila and Enterprise Nickel Mine in Kalumbila (set to be Africa's largest nickel mine).

HOBBIES AND PASTIMES

Outside of work, Dr Beene enjoys farming, photography and exercise. He enjoys working with his hands and prioritise his physical fitness. Further, Dr Beene tries to strike a balance between work and rest, despite a demanding schedule.



Dr Beene's leadership extends beyond his role at FQM. He chairs a successful mission school board on the Copperbelt dedicated to providing a holistic education to children and preparing them for tomorrow's challenging environment. He currently is the chair of the End Malaria Council (EMC), an initiative of an alliance of African leaders whose aim is to eradicate the disease in Africa. He is also the current president of the Zambia Chamber of Mines.

Dr Beene's passion for mentorship and developing young talent in the mining industry

is evident. He believes in the potential of young Zambians and aims to increase their participation in the sector. Dr Beene encourages young people to think of mining as a field that offers diverse opportunities for personal and professional growth. He envisions a future where young, open-minded individuals play a crucial role in leading the industry's transition toward sustainability and creating a prosperous future for the country.

Outside of his work at FQM, Dr Beene dedicates his time to photography, farming and mentoring young people in the mining industry and in the engineering profession in general. He finds fulfilment in working with his hands and developing his farm in Kalulushi District. Maintaining his physical well-being is essential to Dr Beene, who walks up to 30 kilometres each week and ensures he rests adequately to make positive contributions in all aspects of his life.

Dr Godwin Beene's incredible journey from a humble background to becoming a renowned leader in Zambia's mining industry showcases his resilience and unwavering dedication to the work he undertook. As the country manager for FQM, his role in managing relationships with the government and stakeholders is instrumental in the company's success. Dr Beene's commitment to sustainable development, community engagement and talent development highlights his visionary leadership and deep-rooted passion for creating a brighter future for Zambia's mining industry.



THE FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON PEOPLE. WHILE WORKERS ARE A CRUCIAL RESOURCE TO OUR OPERATIONS, THE PEOPLE IN OUR CATCHMENT AREA ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT. THEIR WELL-BEING IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO US.

- Dr Godwin Beene
FQM CEO

THE LOBITO - LUSAKA OIL PIPELINE

PIPE DREAM OR REALITY

Words by Kapijimpanga Mulemba



Pipe dreams, many of us have harboured them throughout our lives. In our pursuit of success, we often encounter dreams that seem unattainable. Some are fulfilled through relentless determination, others by fortuitous chance, and sometimes it comes down to being in the right place at the right time.

During Zambia's independence in 1964, the country relied on a refinery near Umtali in what was then Southern Rhodesia for its fuel supply. Prominent

multinational Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like Agip, Caltex, Mobil Oil, Shell-BP, and Total imported petroleum products from Southern Rhodesia into Zambia, establishing a lucrative intermediary system that catered to the local Zambian market.

However, the closure of the southern route forced Zambia to implement petrol rationing on December 23, 1965, which endured for three years and had a devastating impact on the economy. Recognizing the urgent need for change,

the Zambian government took decisive action and birthed the Tazama Pipeline project. This visionary initiative involved importing fuel into Dar es Salaam and channelling it through a pipeline into Zambia, with valuable technical assistance provided by the Chinese government, which was sensitive to the needs of newly independent African states.

The Tazama Crude Oil Pipeline was meticulously constructed to facilitate the transportation of crude oil from the port

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of Dar-es-Salaam to landlocked Zambia, achieving an affordable and sustainable economic cost. When installed in 1968, the pipeline boasted an impressive carrying capacity of 1,100,000 tonnes (1,212,542 tonnes) annually. However, by 2002, this capacity had regrettably deteriorated to 600,000 tonnes (661,387 tonnes) per year.

The tank farm situated in Dar es Salaam featured six onshore storage tanks, comprising three tanks with a combined capacity of 36,000 cubic meters (36,000,000 L) and three tanks with a combined capacity of 41,000 cubic meters (41,000,000 L). Along the route, seven pump stations were strategically positioned between Dar-es-Salaam and Ndola, encompassing five in Tanzania and two in Zambia.

Unfortunately, Zambia found itself cut off from Angola, an oil-producing country situated west of its borders. Angola gained independence after the April 25, 1974, Carnation Revolution in Lisbon. Lobito's port activities faced severe limitations due to disruptions in railway transit and the heightened insecurity prevalent during the Angolan Civil War (1975–2002). Prior to the war's disruption, the Benguela route, utilized by both Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (then Zaire), successfully transported 3.3 million tonnes in 1973. Subsequently, peace and stability during the 2000s paved the way for Lobito's reconstruction and marked a resumption of its path toward development.

Fast forward to 2023, and we find ourselves on the cusp of the Angola-Zambia Refined Petroleum Multi-Product (AZOP) project. Encompassing a 1,400-kilometer route from the port city of Lobito to Lusaka in Zambia, this monumental venture represents a remarkable \$5 billion deal to be jointly developed by the private sector, Angola's national oil company Sonangol, and Zambia's state-owned Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) as strategic equity partners. The Angola-Zambia Oil Pipeline, projected to span approximately 1,400 kilometres and boast a capacity of 200,000 barrels per day, will transport petrol, diesel, kerosene, and gas, thereby reducing fuel prices in Zambia while simultaneously serving as a lucrative source of revenue for Angola.



Demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the project, both President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia and President Joao Lourenco of Angola have pledged their support. Zambia plans to acquire stakes in Angola's Lobito refinery, which is currently under construction. The project is scheduled for completion by 2026, with an expected refinery capacity of 200,000 barrels daily. Private investors, in collaboration with Zambia, are poised to own a majority 70% stake, while Angola's national oil company Sonangol will retain a 30% share in the oil infrastructure facility.

Zambia's strategic decision to import fuel from Angola holds immense potential for transformative benefits, including reducing pump prices and mitigating supply shocks. By acquiring

a stake in the Lobito refinery and facilitating the proposed oil pipeline from Angola to Lusaka, Zambia is actively fostering and nurturing growing economic cooperation between the two countries.

With a keen focus on ameliorating the fuel sector, the Zambian government has diligently implemented various measures. These include diversifying fuel import sources and encouraging the adoption of alternative energy sources. Additionally, the government has sought to strengthen trade relations with neighbouring countries, exemplified by their proactive engagement with Angola, to reduce import dependency and lower pump prices.

Renowned Zambian energy expert and Chairman of the Energy Forum, Johnstone Chikwanda, has expressed his belief that energy diplomacy within a bilateral framework involving Zambia and Angola could prove to be the long-awaited solution that has eluded both governments for the past two decades. Chikwanda posits that, aside from direct procurement based on energy diplomacy with a producing country, the only other options for guaranteeing affordable fuel would entail Zambia discovering its own oil resources. This endeavour would undoubtedly require considerable time and resources to develop adequately. So, is this ambitious venture merely wishful thinking, a mere pipe dream? Or is it the dawn of a well-oiled future for these two neighbouring nations? Only time will reveal the answer.



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AFRICAN CREATIVES AND A NEW KIND OF ECONOMY

Words by Sebastian Moronell

Of late, there has been a rise in the use of the term 'African creative'. It describes all sorts of global creative practitioners, from established fine artists exhibiting in decades-old galleries to university students selling self-made clothes on Instagram to small ateliers cropping up in cosmopolitan centres selling cultural goods at exorbitant prices. The amorphous nature of the term may be unsettling – indeed, who is a creative if everyone is a creative? However, it also indicates the term's popularity; if so many are willing to self-describe as African creatives – why? It is not merely a trend but an acknowledgement of the currency the term carries: creativity is now the de facto term to describe

the added value that innovation brings to any activity. Lately, this has been acknowledged by public institutions.

From the 20th-23rd June 2023, the inaugural Africa Music, Arts and Culture Exhibition (AMACE23) will take place in Lusaka, Zambia, as part of ongoing festivities organised by the All-African Students Union (AASU) to commemorate their Golden Jubilee. Taking place after this publication goes to print, the full impact of AMACE23 remains unclear; however, its significant public profile – it is being 'hosted' by President Hichilema – along with the anticipated volume of functions, speakers, and participants means that the three-day event could potentially be a well-organised and successful one. Set to the theme of 'Harnessing the Dividends of the African Creative Industry through Investments in Youth Talents', the AMACE23 exhibitions bring together the Zambian government, local and international cultural, youth and student organisations, ostensibly seeking to leverage the connection between mobile youth economies and creative practice. AMACE23 can be seen as an affirmation of the new economies that creative practice has enabled worldwide and Africa in particular, and the active role that governments seek in engaging them.

This is most obvious in the tourism industry, the darling child of stable African governments wishing to diversify their economies. Over the past 20 years, tourism has become an important centre of economic activity on the continent. A 2022 report by the International Finance Corporation indicated that 2019 tourism contributed \$169 billion to Africa's economy, accounting for almost 7% of Africa's GDP. This was down to 3.8% in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Thus, many of the tourist industry's gains in the subsequent two decades were lost, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa. In response, there has been a renewed pledge from African governments to formulate policy centred on reviving the tourism sector. For example, the South African government



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developed the 'Tourism Sector Recovery Plan' very early during the pandemic. In contrast, the Zambian government has continued to reach out to relevant tourist institutions and authorities to offer support.

However, with a few exceptions, these continent-wide efforts often stop at the level of rhetoric. Despite the ongoing constraints of capital markets across the continent, large-scale domestic and foreign investment continues to pour into traditional sectors of the economy, especially in emerging and small tourist markets. In response, African governments seem hopeful that they can 'Harness' the 'Dividends' with minimal actual financial 'Investments', relying on their populations' 'entrepreneurial spirit' instead. Thus, without much formal backing, the tourism industry has had to rely on itself for promotion and development.

African creatives are well-poised to take up the mantle. Much of the tourism we encounter operates on encouragement of the desire to experience: whether it is the desire to experience a new culture, natural landscape, or for some, commodity. In many ways, this parallels the affective appeal of creative experience: art, literature, and food – in short, culture – seek to engage the senses and imagination of an individual and enable the desire for more, often newer experiences. The optics of tourism also mirror the optics with which new creative economies operate – social media platforms operate similarly to tourism advertisements. The entire structure of social media platforms is to gain new users (much like touristic spots), with the attending hashtags, SEO optimisation, and smiling face at this or that beach/ mountain/ restaurant/ retailer to fill in the details.

The African creative adds value to this symbiotic economy through their proximity to African places, experiences, and culture. The African creative is familiar enough to the continent to be a valuable guide for foreign and domestic tourists, which in turn leads to new cultural experiences and expressions for both the tourist and the local. One type of African creative utilising this function is a new breed of the guidebook: travel



vlogging. Similar to travel writers of a past era, travel vloggers record their experiences, feelings, and tips of travelling with their audience through the use of videos and pictures. The casual and accessible nature of these accounts has helped them gain almost-instant popularity among a broad population. The content is usually uncritical and thus garners interest from institutions as a possible avenue for positive press. Take, for example, "akosuashirley", the Instagram handle of Akosua Shirley, a Ghanaian travel vlogger with 12,000 followers engaged by Ghana Tourism to promote tourism in the country. Her travel 'content' includes pictures of tourist attractions within Ghana, alongside adverts from the tourism authority. Other creatives are more subtle: another Ghanaian travel vlogger, Jasmine Ama – with 130,000 YouTube subscribers – produces video 'content' for an African diaspora market, and her videos re-enact African culture for

African ex-pats. Ama is not engaged by Ghana tourism, but her videos certainly promote Ghana as a tourist destination – as of 2020, tourism contributed over \$3.1 billion to its economy, up from \$118 million in 1991.

AMACE23 – and similar efforts by African governments – hope to replicate what the Ghanaian tourism industry has achieved. Leveraging African creatives and content creators is a relatively affordable alternative to more capital-intensive tourism schemes. It has the added benefit of promoting African culture. However, as with the travel writers of old, one wonders whether African creatives will be able to withstand the temptation of using misrepresenting African culture: framed within the context of tourism that wishes more and more to consume culture as a commodity, can there truly be creative activity whose added value is not an African stereotype?

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SEBASTIAN MORONELL

Humour Columnist

IN THIS ECONOMY?

Lately, I've been fielding questions about the meaning of my life, and its proposed contours:

'What drives you, mate?'

'Where are you going, son?'

'So, do you finally have a job?'

In an accent not quite my own, these bedevilled voices – which have the half-life of a sleepless night – plague me. Like some genuine but misplaced proctoscopy, I'm prodded till I produce a grunt:

'I prefer the whip, friend.'

'Wherever you deign, Father.'

'In this economy?'

Truth is, I'm the loafing yin to the productive yang; ragged ascetic to the fat archbishop; adjective to the noun. These attributes, once the exclusive qualities of venerated saints, don't hold one in good stead nowadays; we're a dying breed. Amidst the cacophony of self-help books and look-at-me LinkedIn posts and pay-for-pray preachers, those merely getting by cannot be heard.

Flirting with this economy

When faced with a coquettish dollar, kwacha savings and inflation are a force for re-evaluating one's principles; the choice of declining from society can no longer be economically sustained (maybe that's better – your loafing, ragged, adjective-full attire is now intentionally worn by preteens and men over 50). But, having lived so long in the shadows, you may need some advice; maybe even advice on where to find advice. Indeed, this flight may be your first attempt at an escape from your principles, and towards civilisation proper (although books on colonial misadventures may provide the context for such an escape – and subsequent search – they are notoriously bad on giving advice; see pages 1 - N.A. [extant] of human history for further reading). Thus, as your allocated guardian, it's my duty to talk you down from the ledge, to soothe over your fears. As anyone who has fallen for another can tell you, love starts with a bit of flirting. And maybe a bit of advice.

A selection of advice one could receive from various individuals and institutions pertaining to romantic and economic betterment in particular, and the re-admittance into civilised society in general:

- i) *Financial advisor*: ring leader of the experts with little expertise; mis-careered, glorified bureaucrat who can play golf well; incorrectly calling virtually all the shots on economic meltdowns from the 'Tulipmania' of the 1630s to the Great Recession of 2008.
- ii) *Preacher*: doesn't usually play golf, but when putting has God on his side; accepts donations in mobile money and lost souls; lost the Crusades, and then moved the battlefields to Africa.
- iii) *TikTok, and other social media*: good practice for hours of thoughtlessness, a handy tool when conversing with most people; unbearably fun 'content' of preteens wearing your former attire; does not play golf, but will provide invaluable skills on how to dance in sequence in front of a camera.
- iv) *In-flight magazine columnist*: insufferably self-conscious (at odds with his usual bad smell); possess neither golf skills, nor God skills; will almost certainly be late, like this column (ask the editor for details).

This list is not exhaustive; indeed, it is a truism of our age that folks are more adept at giving advice than taking it. However, as key players in aforementioned contemporary civilisation, their services should be sought out. Meetings can take place in individual, or group sessions. Individual sessions allow you to test the 'mettle' of these experts; for example, invite your financial advisor to the golf course on the condition that she can't speak about i) interest rates; or ii) golf; and then see where the conversation takes you (you may actually learn something). Personally, I suggest group sessions – they give colour to the different skill sets these experts possess that individual meetings just don't do. You can collectively discuss the contents of this article over bad airport coffee, or have a virtual meeting. And don't be afraid to experiment with different combinations: invite your preacher and in-flight magazine columnist over for a couple of beers and force them make a TikTok dance (I suggest a dance-off set to gospel music). Why not have a little fun while you're still feeling things out?

If these strategies do not work, then you may have to rethink your decision: maybe this economy is not meant for you?

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Sebastian would rather play Russian roulette with a fully loaded gun than be seen dancing in a TikTok video.



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BAOBAB COLLEGE

LEADING CONVERSATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION



Baobab College, a leading educational institute in the southern suburbs of Lusaka, has taken bold steps in addressing pressing topics in education with 'Conversations of the Future', their ground-breaking three-part podcast series. Baobab College has captivated audiences and sparked meaningful conversations among educators, mental health professionals, parents and students on the pressing topics that impact the future of education.

The podcast's moderator, Chana Musakanya-Cataldi, explains that the first episode delves into the future of education and its rapidly evolving landscape with discussions by a panel of prominent educational experts. The second episode focuses on well-being and mental health, shedding light on the challenges and difficulties faced in an increasingly complex digital world. By highlighting concerns and

putting forward strategies, esteemed healthcare providers Medland Hospital, Renaissance Centre, Extend Care, SES, Kabelenga Family Hospital, and UTH are joining forces with Baobab College to highlight the importance of championing wellness for students, staff and parents. Dr Mohamed Sahili, Chief Visionary Officer at Medland Hospital, emphasized the importance of working in deliberate tandem with rapidly advancing technology while still nurturing our human relationships.

Baobab College is at the forefront of reimagining education and empowering conversations for listeners that contribute to a better educational future for all students.

The important steps in prioritizing the holistic well-being of students, staff, parents and the wider community is evidenced by the WeBB (Well-Being Baobab), a welcoming and inclusive



well-being centre, created on the school's beautiful campus in 2022. Laura Stokes, Co-Acting Principal and Head of pastoral care oversees the WeBB centre. The centre also has a dedicated professional counsellor, Mrs Sehrish Khan, who supports Baobab staff, families and over 670 students aged 2 to 18. With the WeBB, the school's students have full access to seek support for their mental and emotional well-being whenever needed. By recognizing the interconnectedness of academic success and emotional well-being, Baobab students are fostering a sense of ownership and agency about their well-being that develops the necessary emotional resilience and self-awareness to thrive in the modern world.

As the third episode of this innovative podcast series is hotly anticipated, it remains that these episodes encourage educators, institutions and policymakers to question traditional education models by embracing innovative practices that foster creativity, critical thinking and adaptability. Baobab College inspires others to explore new approaches and reimagine possibilities for student learning. Baobab College, through its podcast series, is disseminating knowledge, insights and best practices to a global audience which has the potential to spark transformative changes in educational systems worldwide.



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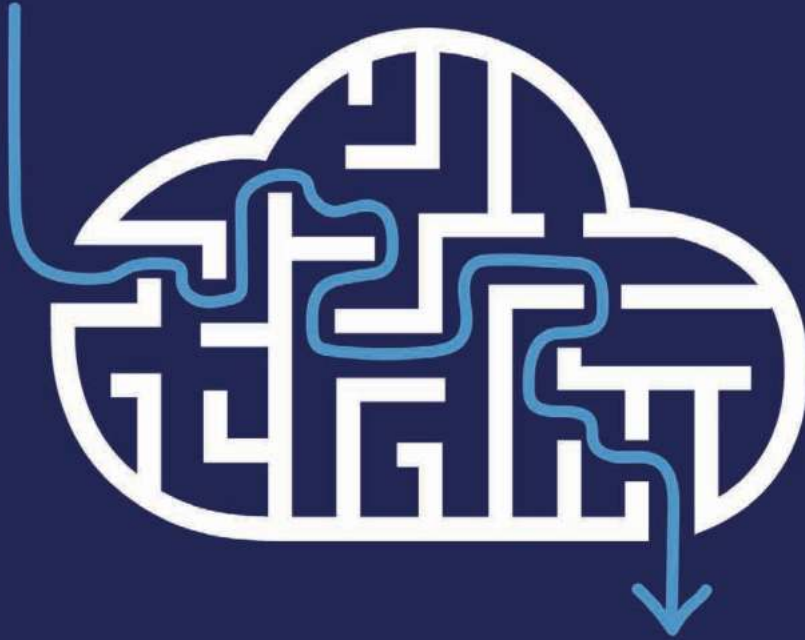
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INSIDE

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El Mukuka fulfilled his teenage dream with the release of his debut album in June 2023. Discover the journey to "Zebra" on page 74.



Lydes Malisheni, 58, was already a successful tobacco grower with over 10 years' experience in this field when she took her farming success to new heights – she began to grow groundnuts mainly to supplement her income, but the benefits have proven to be much more.

Lydes, who had been growing tobacco leaf since 2010 with Japan Tobacco International (JTI) Leaf Zambia, enrolled in the company's Market Match program. A grower-centric initiative that supports contracted growers to gain additional income from non-tobacco crops, aiming to guarantee food security and entrench Good Agriculture Practices. The program links JTI tobacco growers to markets for selling non-tobacco commodity crops and, through crop rotation, this program enhances soil fertility.



The Market Match program was first implemented in Zambia in 2020 with 713 growers as a flagship JTI program. Since then, JTI Malawi has also adopted the program and there are plans to implement it in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Tanzania. There are now 2,629 growers in the 2023 season Market Match program in Zambia.

JTI growers are contracted to grow tobacco and supply JTI annually. With Market Match, growers receive inputs in the form of seed, gypsum and inoculants and are connected to off-takers who grade the groundnuts and export the crop for the international market. The off taker also provides training to JTI's Agronomy Technicians (extension staff) who then train growers



to help ensure they grow a quality crop. The groundnuts are grown on a rotational basis, and fix nitrogen in the soil, thus increasing soil health and potentially increasing crop yields.

Market Match in Zambia has delivered an average additional income of \$439 per hectare. This means growers have increased their incomes leading to greater food security, improved quality of life and improved the sustainability of their main farming activity – tobacco growing.

While most farmers experience success in the Market Match programme, it isn't always straightforward and easy. Lydes' first attempt was as she described it challenging. "During the first year I did not do very well due to a number of factors such as growing a different seed variety that's different from the traditional seeds and understanding the right number of labourers required to work on the field. The next year, I did not participate in the program because of the previous year's poor performance, but I noticed that the farmers who had entered the program in the second year produced better yields and earned good incomes from selling the groundnuts. After seeing this improvement, plus getting good feedback from some of my fellow farmers, I decided to give the Market Match program another try."

Lydes received seed and inoculants to plant half a hectare, which she grew alongside traditional varieties. Armed with the information she had gathered and her determination to succeed, Lydes was able to exceed her expectations. She produced over four tonnes' groundnuts. The highest in that year.

"The groundnut training has been useful in that we learned about inoculants, which are an important part of the growing process and something I never did when growing traditional varieties. I could see the difference across fields where I used inoculant and where I did not."

An additional benefit to this program that Lydes and other growers have experienced is the increased

business and financial acumen through the customised trainings and knowledge of another crop. Market Match also helps to entrench good agricultural practices, such as crop rotation, pest and disease management, in the growers, thus ensuring the sustainability of the main crop – tobacco – and the additional crop. The farming methods practiced in Market Match also help growers become more resilient to climate change through multiple cropping.

"With the ever-increasing cost of production and climate change, it's critical that growers keep evolving and adopt new and sustainable farming practices to improve productivity and ensure that they continue to make sustained profits in agriculture. Market Match is a critical program for JTI because the success our growers experience directly impacts the leaf supply to the business," says Shane Vincent, JTI's Agronomy Director.

Growers enrolled in Market Match can overcome a critical challenge for many farmers in this region – over-dependence on a single crop for their income and livelihoods. In the 2021/2022 growing season, JTI provided maize inputs to 6,511 contracted growers who planted about 1,628 hectares of maize for their food security in addition to 2,232 growers selling 132,245kg of groundnuts for additional income.

The success of the crops in this program has strengthened JTI's resolve to expand the program not only into other countries, but into other non-tobacco commodity crops. These crops will undergo trials at the JTI Agronomy Development and Extension Training (ADET) facility.





A COSMIC AFFAIR

AN ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER'S TALE

**“MAN MUST RISE ABOVE THE EARTH – TO THE
TOP OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND BEYOND – FOR
ONLY THUS WILL HE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE
WORLD IN WHICH HE LIVES” SOCRATES, GREEK
PHILOSOPHER**

Images by: Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe and Kalichi Pictures

Words by: Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe



NGC3372 - Eta Carina Nebula

Eta Carina Nebula is a vast cloud of gas and dust with several massive and bright stars, including at least a dozen, which are 50 to 100 times the mass of our sun! The strong emissions from the stars ionise the gas cloud and cause it to glow brightly.



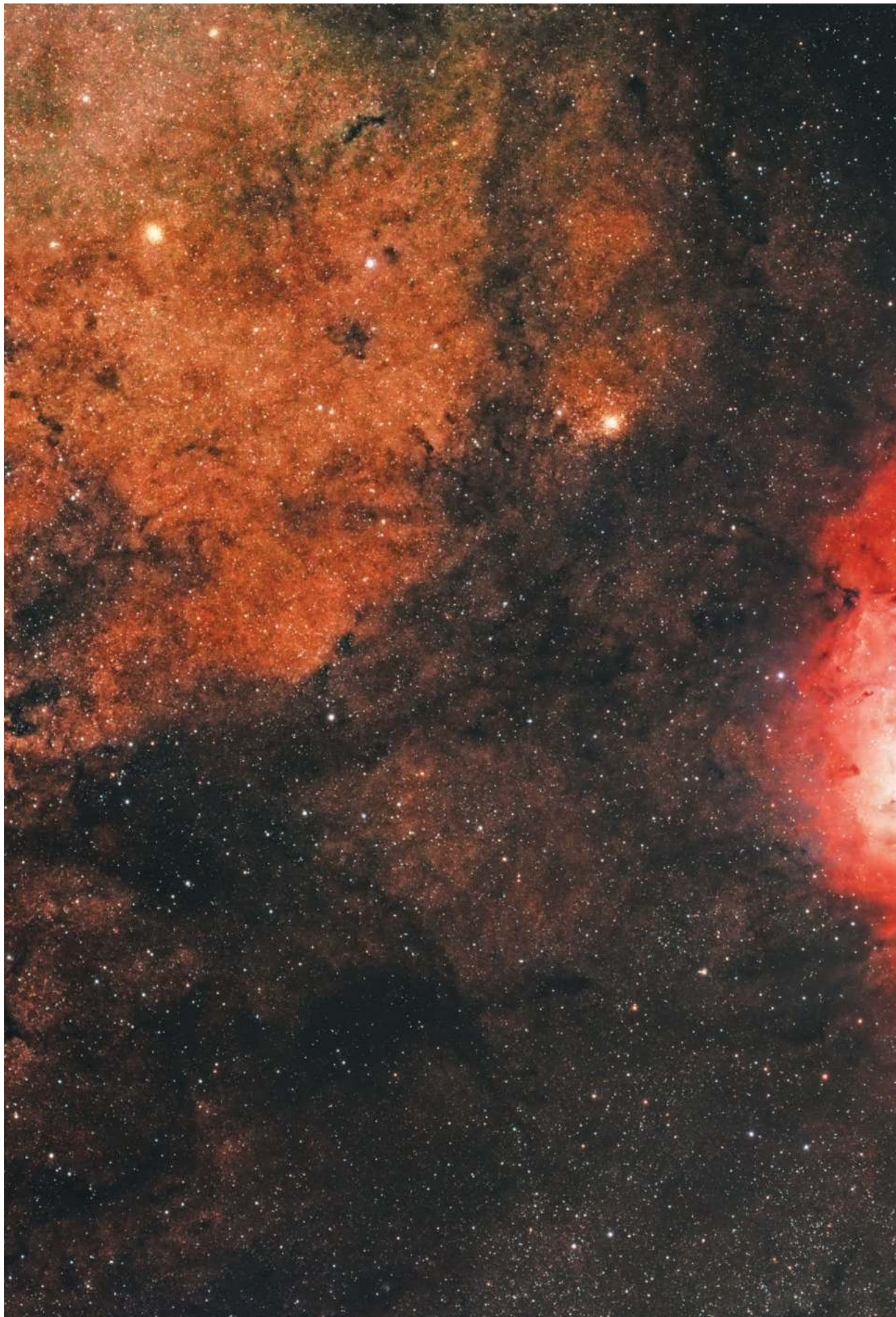
M45 - Seven Sisters

A prominent and easily viewed open star cluster asterism, the Seven Sisters - also known as the Pleiades - is a favourite of southern hemisphere star gazers.



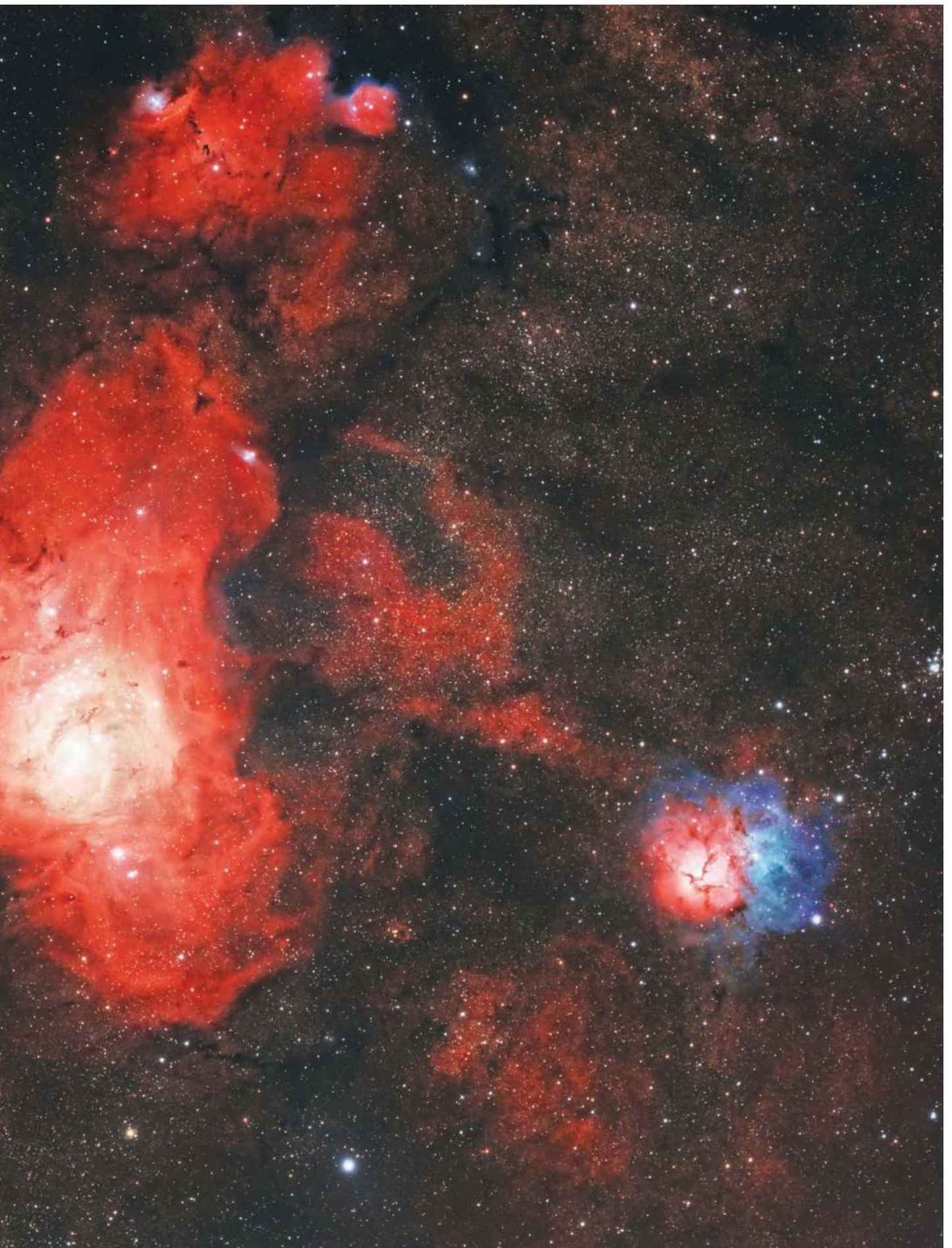
**M42/Sh2-279 -
Orion Nebula**

The Orion Nebula and nearby Running Man Nebula are well-known nebulae in the Orion Constellation. M42 is an example of a stellar nursery where new stars are constantly being born. Observations have revealed approximately 700 stars in various stages of formation.



**M8/M20 -
Lagoon & Trifid
Nebula**

The red Lagoon Nebula and its adjacent Trifid Nebula are located about 5,000 light-years away in the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy in the constellation Sagittarius. The Lagoon Nebula is a star-forming stellar nursery classified as an emission nebula.





Join Dr Mwanakatwe's Facebook group if you're interested in learning more about the cosmos and astrophotography. ZedAstro

I am a retired telecommunications engineer who earned a PhD in satellite communications engineering from the University of Surrey, UK. I worked in the telecommunications industry for over thirty years in Europe and Zambia.

Having lived in the heavily light-polluted cities of Europe, I highly appreciate Zambia's pristine night skies, especially when viewed from dark rural sites. My astronomy epiphany occurred a few years ago, early one winter morning in the Lochinvar National Park.

I had gone on a hunt with a few friends and emerged from my tent in the dead of night to "see a man about a dog". As I happily went about my business, I noticed that the landscape was eerily well-lit as if a full moon was overhead, yet it was the new moon. I gazed toward

the night sky, and my jaw dropped in utter disbelief.

An incredible Milky Way hung over my head, seemingly millions of stars forming a magnificent wide galactic swath from east to west. The intergalactic dust clouds in the Milky Way were clearly visible, and the stars shone so brightly, seemingly so close, that I felt I could grab a handful.

After what seemed like an eternity, I crept back into the tent and slept blissfully under African skies, ignoring my wet feet!

As we drove back to Lusaka the following day, I remember thinking I should try to photograph the night sky.

I thus fell into the astrophotography rabbit hole, from which I may never

emerge, much like the black hole at the centre of our universe!

I started my astrophotography journey with a Canon 60Da astro-modified camera and primarily took Milky Way photos. I would drive 30km to 40km southwards on the Leopards Hill road, where the night sky is relatively dark on a new moon and managed to take some quite decent Milky Way photos.

I then graduated to using a sky tracker, which tracks the night sky as it rotates around the southern celestial pole, and the camera sits on top of it. This allowed me to take many long exposure photos (of the order of minutes in duration). This, coupled with taking multiple exposures and combining them using stacking software, took my astro-imaging to the next level.

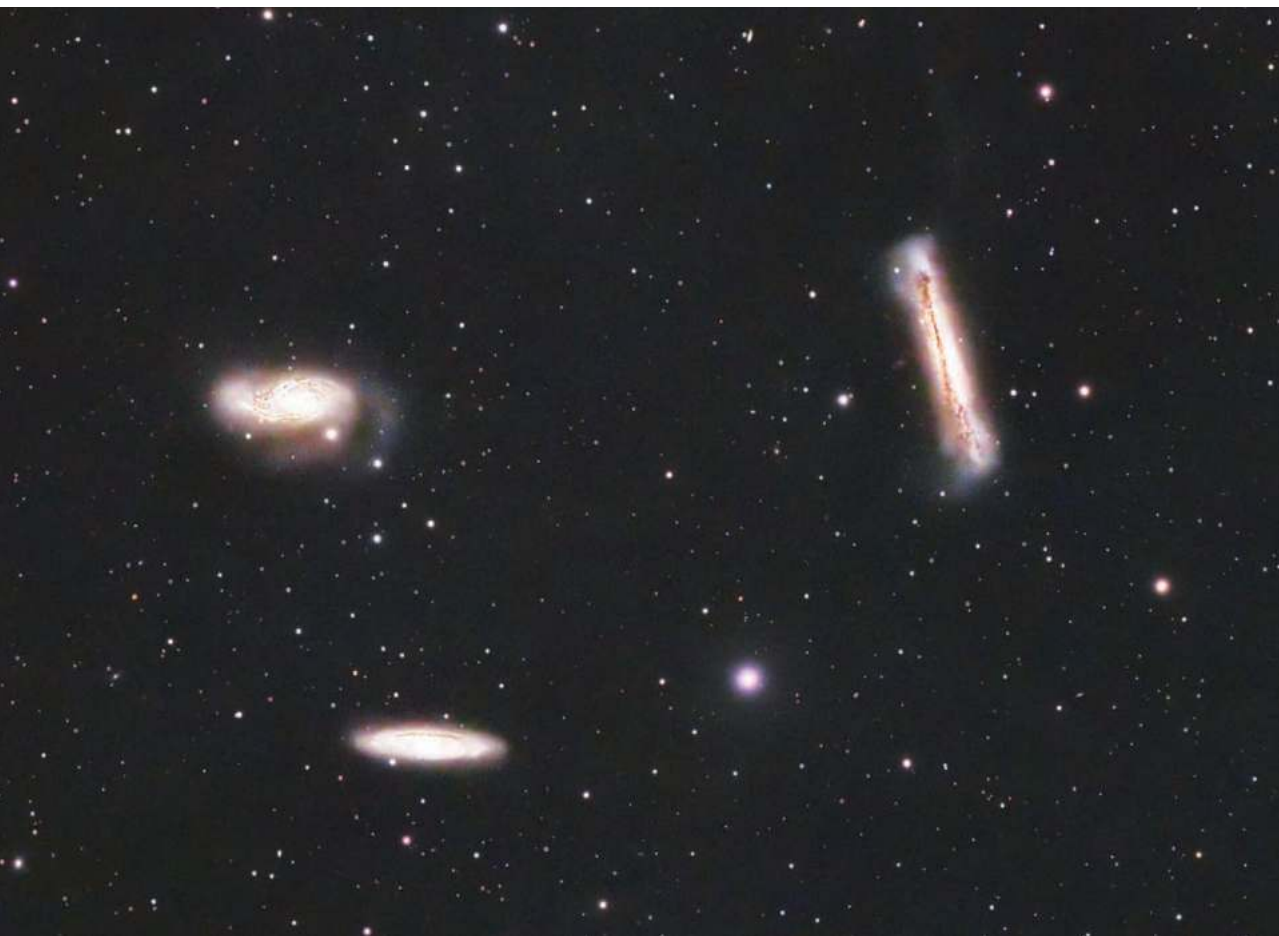
I soon tired of being limited to Milky Way photography and wished to graduate to photographing what is termed deep-sky targets – such as nebulae and galaxies. The various Canon camera lenses I had been using would not suffice for high-quality deep sky photography, and I needed a proper telescope.

I opted to buy the Williams Optics Redcat-51 and a one-shot-colour camera – the ASI294mc Pro. I also invested in a quality Sky Adventurer EQ6-Pro go-to equatorial mount and an ASIAir Pro computer to control the telescope, guide scope, electronic focuser and mount. The photographs in this article were taken with this gear.

My current equipment setup is termed "Widefield" and is ideally suited to imaging large nebulae. I will need a much larger telescope with greater reach to image much smaller structures, such as galaxies.

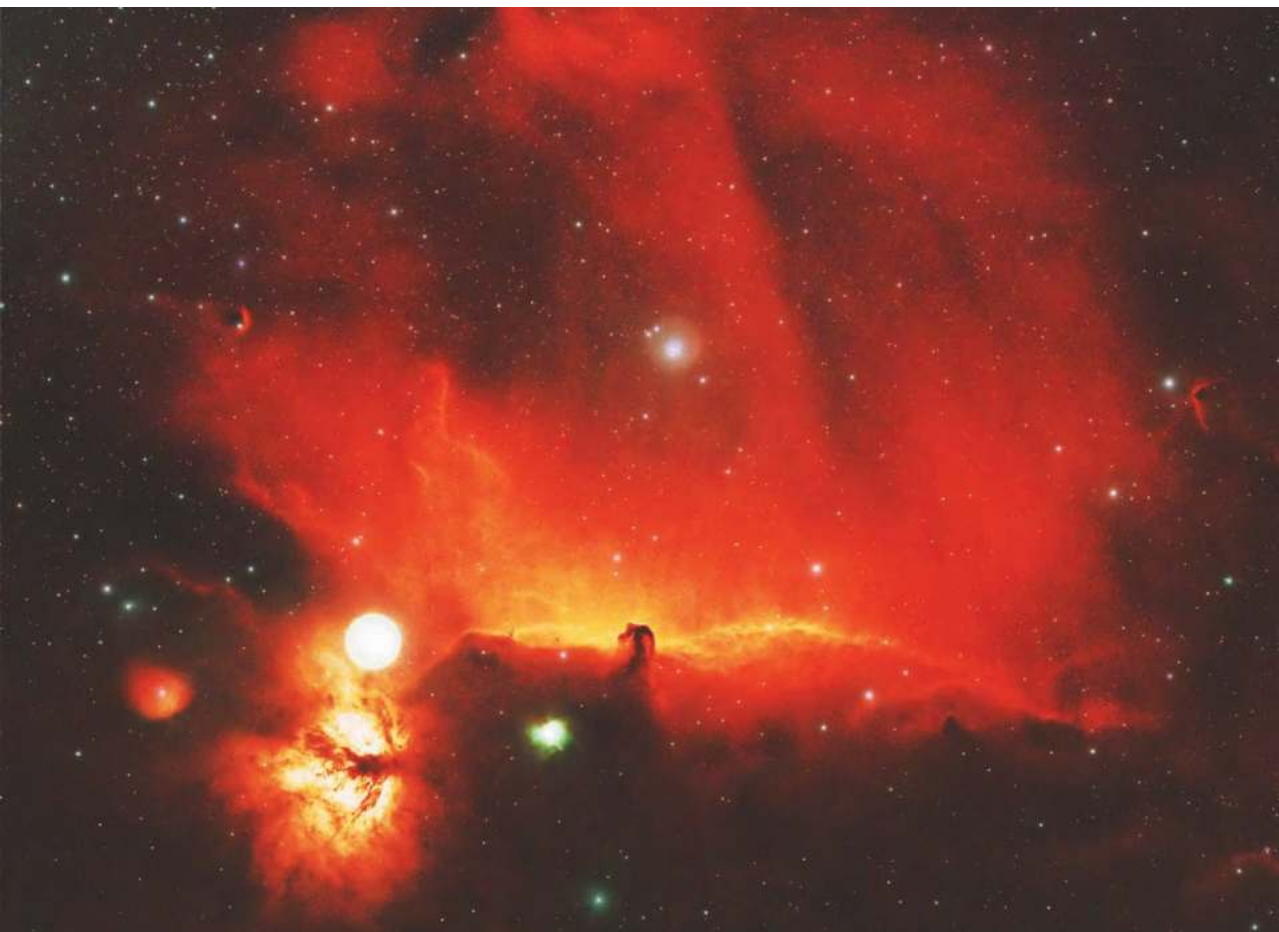
I am largely self-taught and have learnt the hobby by watching countless YouTube video tutorials, purchasing many books and spending many hours under the night skies. Astrophotography is a technically demanding and challenging hobby that is ultimately most fulfilling and enlightening.

I take my astrophotography images at Kwisoko Game Ranch in the Lusaka East area most nights with clear skies. I hope you will be inspired to make your own journey into this fascinating pastime and grow to appreciate the beautiful skies above us and marvel at the glory of the heavens!



**M65/M66/
NGC3628 - Leo
Galaxy Triplet**

The Leo Triplet is a group of three interacting spiral galaxies in the Leo Constellation at a distance of approximately 35 million light years. The trio offer different and exciting visual perspectives of galaxy orientation, from an edge-on-barrel view to various degrees of inclinations of spiral galaxies.



**B33/NGC2024
- Horsehead &
Flame Nebula**

The Horsehead Nebula and its companion Flame Nebula are situated in the Orion Constellation, close to the bright star Alnitak. The horsehead-shaped Horsehead Nebula is a light-gobbling nebula made of cold gas and stellar dust. Alnitak shines into the Flame Nebula, and its energetic light knocks electrons from the great gas clouds of hydrogen gas, making the flame glow brightly.

**Southern Cross
Region of the
Milky Way**

The easily identifiable, naked-eye asterism - the Southern Cross - is nestled in the heart of our Milky Way. This widefield image of this portion of the Milky Way reveals thousands of stars in a dense star field, with the prominent Southern Cross in the left part of the image. One can also easily identify other southern hemisphere gems in the image, including the Jewel Box, Coalsack Nebula, Lagoon and Trifid Nebula, and Eta Carinae, on the extreme right.



**NGC6334
- Cat's Paw
Nebula**

At the bottom left of this image, the Cat's Paw Nebula looks like a celestial feline paw that has stepped in red paint and walked across the Milky Way. It lies about 5500 light-years away from Earth, is 50 light-years across, and is one of the most active star-forming nurseries.





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Sibika

Located in the south of the park, Sibika offers secluded rooms (all twins) on raised platforms with stunning views of the open plains and private decks. Enjoy abundant birdlife in the wet season from this small woodland retreat. The four classic en-suite reed and thatch rooms offer complete privacy, and the main decked area has a fully equipped kitchen and a braai area.

Campsites

Stay at one of three community campsites in Luiwa Park: Katoyana, Kwale, Mukalabumbu and Sikale. Each location has running water, clean ablutions and can accommodate up to 20 people. Camp Attendants will attend to your needs, but Sikale is a Wilderness camp for the self-sufficient and well-equipped. No water or camp attendants are provided.

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An aerial photograph of a savanna landscape, viewed from the window of a vehicle. The foreground shows a dense forest of acacia trees with green and brown foliage. A winding river flows through the middle ground, surrounded by a mix of green trees and dry, yellowish-brown grass. The background features a vast, flat plain under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

INTO THE WILDERNESS

UNFILTERED ENCOUNTERS IN
NORTH LUANGWA

Words by: Bongani B. Kumar

Images by: Mana Meadows

An aerial photograph of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, there is a river with a sandy bank. Beyond the river is a large, dry lake bed. The background is filled with a dense forest of trees. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

**WELCOME TO THE UNTAMED WILDERNESS OF ZAMBIA'S
NORTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, WHERE THE CALL OF
THE WILD BECKONS AND CONSERVATION TOURISM REIGNS
SUPREME.**



Throughout recent years, travel has become a large part of my work. As a practitioner in people and organisational development, I had covertly hoped that my work would someday allow me to leave the familiarity of urban living to make a meaningful difference in far-flung regions I had only learned about in my high school geography class.

As destiny would have it, my career growth played into this innate passion for adventure. Consequently, I have ventured to some of Zambia's most interesting and exciting corners seizing every opportunity to immerse myself in the unparalleled splendour and distinctiveness of the diverse landscapes that define the Real Africa we call home. Regardless of my whereabouts, the call of the wild has always beckoned, and I have consistently answered.

One of these work escapades that has profoundly instilled within me a lasting sense of gratitude has been the North Luangwa National Park, where conservation tourism is embodied by

Regardless of my whereabouts, the wild has always beckoned and I have consistently answered its call.





the teams that empower communities to live off the landscape sustainably and preserve the Luangwa ecosystems for future generations. I have come to subscribe to this form of eco-tourism because it has compelled me to execute my duties in a manner that minimises ecological impact while affording me firsthand encounters with the wonders of nature and the invaluable opportunity to uplift the very communities I serve.

Nestled gracefully along the banks of the majestic Luangwa River, within Zambia's Muchinga Province, lies the captivating North Luangwa National Park—an exquisite gem adorning the northern fringes of the renowned Luangwa Valley. This pristine sanctuary is part of the southern tip of the Great Rift Valley. It is one of Zambia's last untamed wilderness habitats, with unparalleled access to unfiltered experiences rarely encountered elsewhere on the continent.

As per my understanding, the National Park is only accessible to the valiant rangers from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), volunteers and employees of non-profits who have dedicated their resources and lives to sustainable landscape conservation. This restricted accessibility is perhaps why the North Luangwa National Park is not as commercially viable a tourist destination when juxtaposed with its southern counterpart. Therefore, you can well fathom the immense privilege I felt to travel and contribute to this area and support the teams doing essential work for the future of the Luangwa ecosystem.

Embarking upon the voyage to reach the revered North Luangwa National Park was a feat in itself. It took an average of 10 hours to drive from Lusaka to Mpika,

the closest town to the North Luangwa National Park, which forms a base for many visitors to rest and recoup before going into the untamed wilderness.

From Mpika, our expedition persisted for just over 2 hours, leading us to the very doorstep of the park's base office. The journey initially provided marvellous scenery of the Muchinga escarpment, with rolling hills, verdant valleys and sentinel-like inselbergs similar to those of the Mutinondo wilderness. The views then simmered down to plains with dotted settlements, and it eventually gave way to a series of hills with beautiful vantage points overlooking the endless expanse of mopane and acacia woodlands that make up the North Luangwa National Park.

When we finally arrived at the campsite, sheer delight engulfed me when I discovered my secluded haven nestled alongside a tributary of the illustrious Luangwa River. After settling down, I interacted with teams from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife as well as dedicated individuals of the Frankfurt Zoological Society's North Luangwa Conservation Project. They explained their profound mission to protect species of fauna and flora while promoting sustainable development in communities that live in the Game Management Areas surrounding the National Park. I learned that they periodically set out into these growing communities and collaboratively engage, educate and support them to use sustainable farming methods.

The communities have also been taught to utilise alternative livelihood approaches and are now supporting road and infrastructure development





within their districts. I also witnessed how communities are trained to use alternative energy sources and reforestation techniques to restore the wilderness habitat stretching across the Game Management Area and the National Park. I had the honour of acquainting myself with the dedicated teams monitoring diverse plant and animal populations working to curb human-wildlife conflict.

Facilitating sessions centred around leadership, engagement and cohesion across these teams was intrinsically fulfilling as I realised our work's impact in enabling them to progressively make their initiatives a reality and ultimately support the ecosystem's future sustainability. After my sessions were completed, I came to acknowledge that in our unique way, we should all play a role in supporting the efforts of front liners in the conservation space by taking an interest and raising awareness of the work being done. Together, we can forge a path towards safeguarding these natural wonders and preserving their irreplaceable splendour for future generations.

I also learned that the North Luangwa ecosystem boasts rising populations of elephants, buffalos, lions, rhinos and leopards, Africa's Big 5. The remarkable resurgence of these iconic species owes its gratitude to the conservation work done by these teams, especially in the

case of the Black rhino and elephant species. One particular moment stands etched in my memory—an experience akin to an enchanting Attenborough documentary—as I was granted the privilege to witness the nurturing of a few Black rhinos.

It was amazing to realise how rare it was to see these endangered animals in their natural habitat, let alone see how playful but aggressively territorial they can be. The rhinos have been allowed to roam freely within the park. They are consistently observed by

As twilight descended upon the park, a captivating spectacle unfolded before my eyes.

monitoring units, similar to what is done in Livingstone's Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park.

As twilight descended upon the park, a captivating spectacle unfolded before my eyes. Antelopes, zebras, warthogs, and elephants would gracefully gather along the riverbanks, partaking in their evening sojourns as they indulged in nature's sundowners. Little did I anticipate the gentle giants would cross the river under the dim moonlight sky and decide to savour the large succulent sausage tree pods within the campsite or seek to scratch an itch against the side of my tent. Dear reader, nothing can prepare you for the sheer presence, the grunts and the sound of flapping ears as an elephant leisurely makes its way around your humble abode in search of food, with nothing but a thin layer of polyester serving as your shield.

Thankfully, as the week unfolded, I gradually acclimated to these enchanting encounters. Yet, on one unforgettable evening in the camp, I found myself immersed in a chorus of distant 'whoops' and laughter emanating from hyenas. Suddenly, the deep resonating roar of a lion pierced the night and sent ripples in the air, ultimately leaving only crickets brave enough to serenade in the darkness. The North Luangwa National Park is also an oasis for avid bird enthusiasts, and you are sure to see several species around the woodland expanse.

I appreciated ending each day with the serene sight of a clear star-studded night as I took deep breaths of the crisp, clean air. Overall, my experience in Zambia's ultimate wilderness continues to impact my ongoing adventures positively.

As you embark on your work-related travels or venture forth in search of Zambia's myriad adventures, I encourage you to embrace the ethos of eco-tourism wholeheartedly by spending your resources at facilities that have proven to participate in conservation efforts while also promoting responsible practices that link the livelihoods of communities to the landscape. A few camps are being set up within the North Luangwa region this year, so if you want to go and experience the wilderness and support eco-tourism, you will be able to do so by this time next year.

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A CELEBRATION OF TWO CULTURES



Words by: Samm Tembo

Images by: El Mukuka



EL MUKUKA



House music, while still not the most popular or commercially successful genre in Zambia, has grown immensely over the last few years, garnering a fervent fan base of music lovers from different backgrounds; this fan base cuts across race, gender and class. If you've ever been to a house music show, you'll know that the crowd's diversity is unmissable.

Eleftherios Mukuka (better known as El Mukuka), one of Africa's fastest-rising DJs and a proud Zambian export, released his debut album entitled *Zebra*, promoting and exemplifying diversity and unity in June of this year.

While the title speaks to how house music embraces people from different backgrounds, *Zebra* is much more personal for El Mukuka as someone who exists as black and white, Greek and Zambian. Black, through his Zambian father and white, through his mother, a Greek woman. *Zebra* acknowledges and



“I’ve been fighting for my career since I was a teenager”

celebrates El Mukuka's two contrasting yet interlinked identities. It's about embracing and celebrating his African and European heritage.

Though El Mukuka is in a great place in his career right now, his story isn't one of overnight success though it may appear that way to those observing from afar. The house DJ started producing hip-hop music in his bedroom as a teen after listening to the likes of Dr Dre, Red Man, Eminem, Erick Sermon, 50 Cent and 2Pac. He fell in love with electronic music at age 18, when he was pursuing a degree at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His time at Berklee, however, was cut short because he lacked adequate financial aid. Because of this, he had to drop out halfway through his music degree.

"I'm a fighter," El Mukuka tells me during our conversation at a popular Lusaka restaurant where we caught up over coffee. With a crazy schedule, which included travel and rehearsal for the *Zebra* pre-album launch party at *Alliance Française* of Lusaka, El Mukuka was a hard man to pin down, so I was grateful for the chance to sit down and have a candid conversation with him. He tells me about his journey to his debut album and the battles he has had to wage to get to where he is.

"I've been fighting for my career since I was a teenager," he told me with absolute conviction in his voice. "I fought to get into music school, which was a big miracle. I found kids there that were

way more talented, but God somehow allowed me the opportunity to get in. When I returned to Zambia, not long after dropping out of music school, I got a job as a sales agent working for Pepsi while pursuing my music on the side. In 2016 I released my song 'Bottle of Loneliness', which opened doors for me and gradually made it possible to get into music full-time. From 2016 onwards, real growth started for me; the journey has just been getting bigger and better with every new year."

While El Mukuka's career was on the rise, there were setbacks. He was signed to Sony Music Africa in 2018 off his track 'Weight of the Sun' but only briefly, as he had to part with the label abruptly. He also lost friends in the industry;

these were people he thought were trustworthy but worked behind his back to block opportunities for him. Despite all this, El Mukuka didn't stop moving forward and spreading his message of *unity, good vibes, and positivity* through his music. No matter the adversity or obstacles he faces as an artist in an ever-changing industry with many politics around it, whether in Zambia or abroad, El Mukuka believes strongly in the concept of "failing forward." He doesn't believe in hitting dead ends but instead learns from his mistakes and modifying his strategy. In 'Simple Things,' a song featured on *Zebra* El Mukuka quotes a famous speech from Denzel Washington that he gave at Pennsylvania University in which he says: "If you don't fail, you're not even trying."



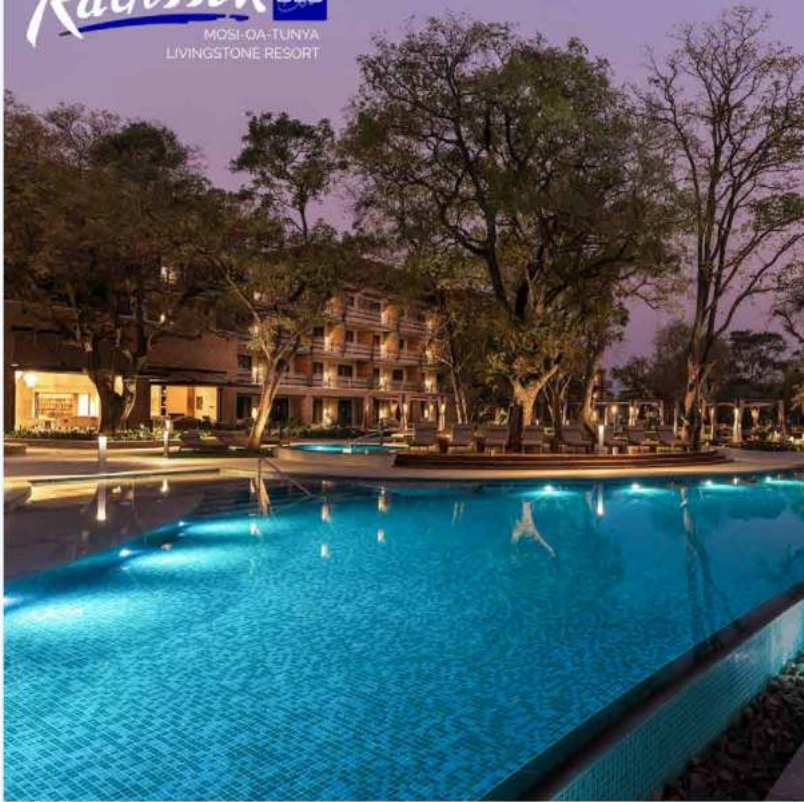
We discussed the album and the artist's El Mukuka worked with to make it a reality. *Zebra* boasts a diverse roster of featured artists, such as Adekunle Gold, Gaz Mawete, Abel Chungu and Karyendasoul. "Regarding features, there's this misconception that I don't work with Zambian artists," El Mukuka shares. "That's bogus! I've always and will always work with Zambian artists. What usually happens is when people don't see me working with the people they want me to work with, they criticise me - yet the credits on my album have so many Zambian names, from vocalists to instrumentalists. Most Zambian pop stars don't fit in with the kind of music I'm trying to make. I'm more drawn to artists on the folk side, such as Mumba Yachi and James Sakala, who both feature on the album. I can't forget Kreative Nativez and Sebastien Dutch, who alongside me are the main driving forces of house music in Zambia and are both featured on my album," he continues. "I also have some of Zambia's best instrumentalists like Sam Nyambe of the Crazy Fish band and David Andish, an extraordinary guitarist. David Andish plays on over half the album."

Of all the names of incredible Zambian artists that feature on the album, there's one El Mukuka mentions with a different kind of reverence, Marocco, whom he cites as one of Zambia's best but most underrated vocalists.

Fans who attended the *Zebra* pre-album launch party at *Alliance Française* can testify to how much of an unforgettable journey the album takes you on. The album experience was elevated as El Mukuka surprisingly performed all the songs with a live band, with himself performing on a grand piano and on the decks. Songs like 'Bosana' and 'No Wasted Time' got reggae and kalindula renditions that had the crowd riled up as they sang along enthusiastically.

Zebra gives insights into where El Mukuka is headed as an artist while paying tribute to where he comes from. It celebrates his sound, which graciously merges African and European cultures. It is also the culmination of 10 years of making electronic music. Since the *Zebra* pre-launch party in April, El Mukuka has gone on tour in Warsaw, Ibiza, Madrid, Oberhausen (Germany), Johannesburg, Lusaka and Kampala. He officially released *Zebra* on June 23rd.





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THE ELEPHANT COAST

A KWAZULU-NATAL TREASURE

Words by: Noxolo Kapela



Located on the eastern coast of South Africa, the Elephant Coast in KwaZulu-Natal is among the top tourist destinations in the country. This region stretches from St Lucia in the south to the Maputaland Coast in the north and boasts incredible natural biodiversity that includes pristine beaches, dunes, lush forests, wetlands and awe-inspiring wildlife. Whether you are looking for a romantic getaway, an adventure-packed holiday, or a family vacation, this amazing region has something for everyone.

Here are some of the reasons why you need to visit and explore the Elephant Coast:

Things to do

A must-do activity while on the Elephant Coast is visiting the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site spanning over 280,000 hectares. Here, visitors can explore the diverse wildlife by taking guided game drives and walks along the coastline, which is home to an impressive variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic animals, such as dolphins, whales, turtles, crocodiles, and hippos, including a large variety of birdlife. As a result, it is an ideal place for birdwatchers and bird enthusiasts. A boat cruise at the St. Lucia Estuary will take you closer to the hippos and crocodiles. Watching these giants go about their day and play with their off-springs is a great experience not to be missed.

Immerse in the Zulu Culture by going on Zulu Cultural Tours. The Elephant Coast is home to several cultural villages and communities where visitors can learn about the local traditions, customs, and way of life of the Zulu people. If you are familiar with the history of South Africa,





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you will know that the Zulu nation is one of the country's most significant and historical ethnic groups.

Relax and unwind at Bhanga Nek Beach, one of the most secluded beaches along the Elephant Coast. This beach is recommended for those who want to take time off and detach from the everyday hustle and bustle.

Enjoy Kosi Bay Nature Reserve with a boat ride and see the unique traditional fish traps/kraals made by the local community. This estuary system is home to a unique ecosystem that includes five interlinking lakes and a variety of fish, birds, and other animals. Visitors can also take part in guided walks and kayaking to explore the area. On some occasions, you can have the whole beach to yourself.

If you are seeking an adrenaline rush, then the Elephant Coast has much to offer you. Visitors can go on backpacking adventures through the coastal forests or take a helicopter ride over the region. Another thrilling activity to try out is zip-lining. Visitors can fly over the treetops of the coastal forest, taking in the incredible views and the cool breeze from the ocean.

The Elephant Coast is famous for its beautiful and vibrant underwater world of coral reefs and colourful fish species. Therefore, for a wholesome experience, visit Sodwana Bay, a pristine beach with crystal-clear blue waters, colourful coral reefs, and a wide range of marine life. Over the years, Sodwana Bay has become a popular destination for snorkelling, scuba diving, and fishing, where scores of adventure-seekers take advantage of its year-round accessibility and come back to tell a tale of unmatched marine life beauty.

It is important to note that snorkelling can be experienced at any of the many beaches along the coast. Diving with tiger sharks in the Aliwal Shoal is another must-try for the brave.

Hiking trails are also available for those who want to explore the region's natural beauty on foot. One of the most popular tracks best enjoyed from January to March is the turtle tracking trail. If lucky, you might witness hatchling turtles making their way to the sea under the cover of the dim moonlight. The most rewarding part? Guiding them with your torches into the sea!

Where to stay

The Elephant Coast has various accommodations, including luxurious resorts, safari lodges, and budget-friendly options. One of the most popular accommodations in the area is the Falaza Game Park and Spa, which provides visitors with a touch of both luxury and adventure. This resort is in the game reserve and offers game drives, bush walks, and a spa with various treatments.

Mseni Lodge is another excellent option that offers affordable accommodation while still allowing visitors to experience the beauty of the Elephant Coast. This establishment is a stone's throw away from the beach.

On the northern border of the Elephant Coast, you will find the beautiful Jozini Tiger Lodge, where you can immerse yourself in the beauty of the Jozini dam and experience the most spectacular sunsets. This establishment also offers a variety of water sports like boat cruises, speed boats, canoeing, and tubing.

Where to eat



The Elephant Coast offers a unique culinary experience through its delicious cuisine influenced by the region's diverse culture. Visitors can try dishes such as bunny chow (a bread loaf filled with curry) or sample fresh seafood at one of the many beachfront restaurants.

The Fisherman's Restaurant in St. Lucia comes highly recommended by locals for seafood lovers or those needing a quick bite. This restaurant, which overlooks the beautiful estuary, offers a variety of seafood dishes and grills.

Jozini Tiger Lodge also offers a fantastic variety of 5-Star dishes and tapas. It is also known for its excellent combination of vibrant and thirst-quenching cocktails, perfect for sundowners while marvelling at the beauty of the Jozini Dam.

Safaris

Hluhluwe - Umfolozi Game Reserve is a must-visit to experience superb wildlife safaris and to see Africa's Big

Five (comprising the lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, and rhino) in their natural habitat. This game reserve is one of Africa's oldest and largest and offers sunrise and sunset drives. I highly recommend the sunrise drive, though – it's an incredible way to start your day, and you're bound to see all sorts of unique wildlife.

Tembe Elephant Park is a short drive away to admire these gentle giants in the park that hosts one of the largest elephant populations in South Africa.

Ndumo Game Reserve is known for its birdlife population, with more than 430 species recorded. Visitors can participate in guided walks, game drives, and bird-watching activities to discover the diverse range of birdlife. Another option for bird watchers is Muzi Pan Nature Reserve, part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Make sure you visit in the summer, as a wide variety of species are available then. Choosing the right season will guarantee a great time wandering

around this small, serene, peaceful reserve.

St. Lucia Estuary is one of the best places to visit on the Elephant Coast. Take a boat tour and watch various bird species, crocodiles, and hippos in their natural habitat.

Overall, the Elephant Coast offers a unique blend of wildlife, culture, and natural beauty that will create unforgettable experiences for visitors. KwaZulu-Natal's most beautiful region should be on every traveller's bucket list. The area is by far one of South Africa's best-hidden gems. When you visit, you can expect a unique experience that offers adventure, luxury, abundant natural beauty, and an unforgettable culinary experience. The Elephant Coast caters to all types of travellers. So why not pack your bags, head on, and try something new? Move away from the city and discover KZN's best-kept secret – the Elephant Coast!



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#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
020	08:00	10:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
024	11:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

NDOLA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
301/020	06:30	10:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303/024	09:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - CAPE TOWN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	08:00	11:30		●				●	

LUSAKA - DURBAN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
032	09:00	11:30				●			●

LUSAKA - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
704	10:30	11:40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
708	16:35	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - SOLWEZI

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:25	07:35	●	●					
910	07:00	08:10			●	●	●	●	●
914	15:00	16:10	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
302	07:45	08:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
332	10:30	11:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	
304	14:00	14:45	●		●		●		●
306	17:00	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
308	18:45	19:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - MFUWE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
800	07:00	08:10	●		●		●		
802	09:20	10:30		●		●			
804	10:30	11:40	●		●		●	●	●
806	13:00	14:10		●		●			
808	16:35	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
332	10:30	12:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	

LUSAKA - KALUMBILA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:25	08:25	●	●					
956	15:40	17:00	●			●	●		●

NDOLA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
332	11:40	12:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	

JOHANNESBURG - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
023	12:00	14:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
025	14:00	16:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

JOHANNESBURG - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
025/306	14:00	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

CAPE TOWN - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:15	15:35		●				●	

DURBAN - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
033	12:30	15:00				●			●

LIVINGSTONE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
705	12:20	13:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
709	18:15	19:25	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

SOLWEZI - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	08:05	10:00	●	●					
915	16:50	18:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

NDOLA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
301	06:30	07:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303	09:00	09:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
333	13:50	14:35	●	●	●	●	●	●	
307	15:15	16:00	●		●		●		●
309	18:15	19:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MFUWE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
801	08:50	10:00	●		●		●		
803	11:10	12:20		●		●			
805	12:20	13:30	●		●		●	●	●
807	14:50	16:00		●		●			
809	18:15	19:25	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MANSA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
333	12:45	14:35	●	●	●	●	●	●	

KALUMBILA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	08:45	10:00	●	●					
951	08:00	09:20					●	●	
957	17:35	18:50	●						●

MANSA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
333	12:45	13:25	●	●	●	●	●	●	

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PROFLIGHT
ZAMBIA



PROFLIGHT WELCOMES THE FIRST BOEING 737 AIRCRAFT



Zambia's leading airline is celebrating the arrival of its first 126-seat Boeing 737-500, marking a significant milestone in its history and reaffirming its commitment to delivering exceptional air travel experiences.

The introduction of the Boeing 737 represents a significant advancement for Proflight, enhancing its ability to cater to its expanding customer base with increased comfort, reliability, and efficiency. The aircraft has six abreast seating and ample overhead baggage stowage that will offer a superior journey to passengers with improved comfort.

The Boeing 737 will be the third Jet added to Proflight's fleet since emerging from the COVID pandemic in 2022. Proflight's fleet, with the addition of the Boeing 737, will now consist of eight aircraft: including three 50-seater Bombardier CRJ-100/200 jets, three 29-seater Jetstream 41 aircraft, and one 18-seater Jetstream 32 aircraft.

Captain Josias Walubita, Proflight Director of Flight Operations, expressed his excitement about the arrival of the Boeing 737, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome the Boeing 737 aircraft to our esteemed fleet. This momentous occasion represents a significant milestone for Proflight Zambia, further emphasizing our commitment to delivering exceptional

service to our cherished customers. The advanced features of the Boeing 737 will enable us to offer an even more comfortable and enjoyable travel experience."

Proflight Zambia remains dedicated to continuously enhancing its services and expanding its network to meet the growing demands of its valued customers. The addition of the Boeing 737 to its fleet demonstrates the airline's unwavering commitment to delivering world-class travel experiences while contributing to the development of Zambia's aviation industry and efficient regional transport.

The airline eagerly anticipates the numerous opportunities and growth this aircraft will bring, firmly believing it will strengthen its position as the preferred regional carrier. Although the new Boeing 737 arrived ahead of schedule, it is expected to commence operations and make its inaugural flight in a few days, pending regulatory approvals.

As Proflight Zambia ushers in this new era with the arrival of its first Boeing 737, the airline remains committed to its core values of safety, reliability, efficiency, and customer satisfaction. Travellers can look forward to enhanced air travel experiences and continued dedication to excellence from the airline.



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PROFLIGHT
ZAMBIA



PROFLIGHT ADDS CAPE TOWN TO ITS GROWING LIST OF SA DESTINATIONS



Proflight Zambia launched the first-ever direct flights between Lusaka and Cape Town, reinforcing the nation's new-found dominance of the skies between South Africa and Zambia.

The Cape Town service is Proflight's fourth South African route, adding to its Lusaka-Johannesburg, Ndola-Johannesburg and Lusaka-Durban flights.

The direct service to South Africa's second-largest city, also known as the Mother City, means that travellers will no longer need to transit through Johannesburg for the first time.

Proflight will operate the new route to South Africa's legislative capital using its 50-seat CRJ jet, giving a flying time of 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Initially, the service will operate twice weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. On other days passengers can continue to Cape Town via Proflight's three-times-a-day service between

Lusaka and Johannesburg and then onwards with its partner airlines Safair, Cemair and South African Airways.

The new service is also timed to connect smoothly with Proflight's early morning Ndola-Lusaka and evening Lusaka-Ndola flights.

"We are seeing growing demand for flights between Zambia and South Africa; hence the time is now right to launch this new direct service to Cape Town," said Proflight Zambia Director Flight Operations Captain Josias Walubita. "Travellers can be assured of a safe, reliable and friendly service that adds further freedom and flexibility to explore the region."

Cape Town is one of the world's top tourist destinations, as well as being an important commercial hub and a leading centre for regional conferences and exhibitions. Its famous Table Mountain landmark presides over some of the country's best beaches and cultural and nature attractions.

PROFLIGHT FLEET

BOMBARDIER CRJ100 / CRJ200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
3	26.51m	21.03m	20ft	2159kg	41000ft	682km/h	50

JETSTREAM 4100



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
3	19.25m	18.29m	5.75ft	2600kg	25000ft	550km/h	29

JETSTREAM 3200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
1	14.37m	15.85m	5.37ft	1474kg	25000ft	445km/h	18

TRAVEL TIPS

FLYING COMFORTABLE

- Before you fly, get a good night's sleep. Rest and some light exercise will help you cope on your journey.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing and shoes that are not too restrictive.
- Eat a light, well-balanced meal before you travel and opt for a smaller helping than normal on the plane.

SAFETY

- A Preflight safety demonstration is always made before take off. A safety pamphlet is also provided at your seat. Please familiarize yourself with its important information and note the nearest emergency exit.

SMOKING

- Smoking on board is strictly prohibited. This includes any artificial device or e-cigarettes.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Please ensure that all electronic devices are turned off before taxiing and take off as they may interfere with the safe operation of the aircraft. These include cellphones, laptops, remote controlled games,

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

- In addition to the carry on luggage allowance provided herein, each passenger may carry without additional charge, the following carry on items the weight of which shall not exceed 5kg. The carry on items are permitted for use during the flight and when retained in the passengers' custody as listed here below:
- A lady handbag, pocket book or purse, which is appropriate to normal traveling dress and is not being used as a container for the transportation of articles, which would otherwise be regarded as baggage.
- Laptop
- An overcoat, wrap or blanket
- A small camera and/or a pair of binoculars
- Reading material
- Infant's food for consumption in flight.
- Infant's carrying basket

PROHIBITED GOODS

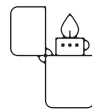
Banned, restricted and dangerous goods are articles or substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment.

If you wish to travel with any such goods or material, please be aware of the restrictions or steps you may have to take if wishing to travel on a Proflight Zambia service.

To ensure the safety of the aircraft and those on board, checked in or hand baggage must not contain articles or substances that could pose a danger during flights these include:

COMPRESSED GASES
deeply refrigerated
flammable non-flammable)
such as butane, oxygen
propane and aqualung
cylinders

CORROSIVES
such as acids, alkali wet
cell batteries and apparatus
containing mercury



FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & SOLIDS
such as lighter and heater
fuels, paint. All safety
matches and fire lighters

MEDICAL AND TOILET ARTICLES MAY
BE CARRIED IN SMALL QUANTITIES.
SAFETY MATCHES MAY BE CARRIED ON
THE PERSON.

EXPLOSIVES
such as fireworks, flares
munitions, Ammunitions and
pistol caps

**BRIEFCASES / ATTACHE
CASES**
installed with alarm devices



**OXIDISING
MATERIALS &
ORGANIC PEROXIDES**
such as bleaches and fibre
glass repair kits

POISONS
such as insecticides, weed
killers, arsenic & cyanides



TOXIC SUBSTANCES
such as bleaching powder
and peroxide

RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS



**INFECTIOUS
SUBSTANCES**
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virus materials



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Tax Rate	6.78%
Tax	204.67
Other	5.12
TOTAL Due	

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