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Special Edition

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# OUR VOICES

**A Special Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter**



## **Highlights:**

- **Alumni Entrepreneurship**
- **College Applications**
- **General Elections**
- **Alumni Engagement**



It was an amazing experience as we gained more knowledge about our culture and also got to see the amazing artwork of our own artists. Among the most captivating paintings in the gallery were that of the Makishi Dancers of the Luvale People.

In this article I am going to share some important information about the Luvale people and their culture. Luvale (same as Chiluvale, Lubale) is a buntu language that is widely spoken by a particular group of people from Angola and Zambia.

## **Lechwe Trust Art Gallery -**

**By Timothy Chibinda**

The Lechwe Trust Art Gallery in Lusaka is running an art exhibition which features great pieces of art from two Zambian Art-ists: Victor Makashi and Patrick Mumba. Most of their artworks bring to life the cultures of two prominent tribes here in Zambia: the Luvale people of North Western Province and the Lozi people of Western Province of Zambia.

On the 25th of June some of the Kuceteke-la Foundation Gap year students (including myself) together with the Executive Director took some time to visit the Art Gallery.

The Luvale people are best known for their Makishi (“likishi is the singular”) dancers who wear masks and knitted costumes which are made from traditional materials. It is generally stated that most of the Makshi are men, however, we cannot really say that’s the truth because their identity is strictly hidden from the public.

Legend has it that they wear their costumes from the graveyard where no one can see them. The only time we get to see them in action is when they are performing at special events such as the Likumbi Lya Mize, Mukanda and Wali dances.

The Likumbi Lya Mize (translates to “ceremony of the mize”) is a ceremony where the Makishi dancers are deployed together with Wali at the Chief's Palace where they perform various dances. Apart from the dances, speeches are also given by the chief and other government officials.

The whole event takes place for about one week and it is witnessed by the general public, who watch it either on the National Broadcasting Television Channel or from the actual site at the Chief's Palace. The other famous Luvale Ceremony is the “Mukanda ceremony.”

The Mukanda is a coming of age ceremony that includes male circumcision, the ceremony takes place in the bushes and lasts for about 6 months. The participants are Luvale males aged between 8 and 12, and they are called “Tundaji”. The teachers who take them through this process are called Makishi. The Makishi guides the tundaji through their transition process from being boys to becoming men. It's a tough process but that's what makes a Luvale man to be a brave man.

Finally, the Wail ceremony. It is a coming of age ceremony for a Luvale girl who reaches puberty (age of 13). The girl (Mwali) is moved from her parents' home and taken to a new built house that is near a fig tree, the tree symbolizes “Fertility”. Mwali is taught how to be hygienic, how to do domestic chores and is given protective medicine by her teacher, “Chilombola”.

After this period, which takes place for about a week to one month, has finished, Mwali has to perform various dances to show the skills that she has gained from the ceremony. Mwali is then covered in a chitenge and is taken back to her home. In the past, her return home would be welcomed by an arranged marriage. However, due to changes in culture and the laws governing the country, early marriages are illegal in Zambia. Therefore, nowadays this ceremony is performed right before the woman gets married.

In conclusion, I was thrilled to see how these two artists (Victor and Patrick) were able to capture the most important part (Makishi) of the Luvale culture through their amazing paintings. As a Kucetekela Foundation student, it's important for me to understand my culture and that of other people as it will help me to become a great leader.





## CIALFO - By Timothy Chibinda

Over the past two months, I have been using an online platform called CIALFO to do my University research. I was introduced to this platform by Mr. Kamelu, Kucetekela Foundation programs manager who also acts as my university application counsellor under the CIALFO account.

Now what is CIALFO? The acronym CIALFO stands for Citius Altius Fortius which in Latin means faster, higher, strong. Understanding the word CIALFO made me eager to learn more about what the program/application is really about and how Kucetekela Foundation and its students can benefit from it.

However, behind the Acronym "CIALFO" is an Artificial Intelligence driven solution that brings together people, software, and data to simplify college and career counselling workflows. In other words, it allows students applying to universities to have the necessary resources needed to do so while at the same time allow their counsellors to have access to tracking their application. With CIALFO, university application is made easier, organised and effective.

I was mesmerized by how the whole application worked and how effortless it was for me to navigate through it as a whole. What captured my interest the most was how easy it was to search for a university that I can fit in well. To achieve that, I would just enter the details of the type of college or university which I am interested in finding into the search engine and just like magic the names of the institutions which fall under my criteria would appear.

Apart from that, the application has a section with resourceful information on universities such as full financial aid, the acceptance rate of different institutions, courses offered, geographical location, and other vital information.

I look at CIALFO as an online resource that is useful for a prospective college student like me.



## **Agriculture Innovations - By Edna Phiri**

No matter which scope of the world we may be in, we can never run away from agriculture. After all, it is one common practice shared amongst nations and moreover, it is the anchor of a country's economy. With that said, a number of sensitization programs on smart agriculture practices have been formed with the intent to raise awareness on the significance of farming and some having a vision of helping people become self-reliant.

I was privileged to attend three exceptional programs that taught me so much about agriculture. One of the programs was on sustainable agriculture which was held at Grace Ministries church in Lusaka, hosted by Pastor Chiluba and Pastor Victoria. In our midst, we had several experts like Dr. Bob Sichinga, Professor Reda, Professor Mukumba and Dr Songole. The objective was to educate Zambians on the importance of farming and the agronomics of crops like soybeans, wheat, caster and onion.



One of the takeaways that I had was the link factors (environment, social and economy). These three have to be in harmony in order to achieve the goal of sustainability. It was an opportunity for me to also learn more about forms of sustainable agriculture such as drip irrigation, aquaponics, spring irrigation and greenhouses. These practices ensure that usage of resources is maximized and there is efficiency.

One of the professors taught farming strategies that left me with a wider option of crops that one can grow at any point in season. In his lecture was an aspect of agribusiness and marketing too.

The other great program I attended was at hydro technologies that specialize in out-grower schemes (contract farming). Their practice is mostly organic and free-range arrangements for pigs, poultry and guinea fowls. They also grow vegetables like lettuce, cabbage and rape. Their setup of farming shows that it's possible to practice smart agriculture.

From here, I learnt two things: feed formulation and Azora growing (a rich component used in the production of feed). It is a great technology that offers contract farming in 4-week chickens and pigs i.e. buying chickens or pigs at 4 weeks then raise them to a standard growth of 6 weeks (broiler chickens) and 6 months for pigs. The beauty of it is that hydro tech provides a ready market because they buy and process into meat products.

Last but not least is an innovation called the Genuine Millionaires Movement (GMM) which is an agribusiness transformation flagship program spearheaded by Mr Chilekwa Mambwe and Dr Mushalika.

It is a business partnership aimed at changing the economy of Zambia. The agriculture sector in Zambia is in two divisions: the commercial and smallholder farmers who account for a greater percentage. Smallholder farming makes it difficult to identify markets because most firms want products in bulk.

This has for a long time hindered the exportation and or supply of live-stock, poultry and other agriculture products to desired firms. Genuine Millionaires Movement seeks to address the above challenge by calling on investments through the acquisition of shares so as to produce a bulk of agricultural products such as poultry, watermelons, aquaculture, onions etc.

This initiative has taught me the power of resource mobilization as a team. It is easier to make a tremendous change when united, especially in the context of economic development.

All three programs had similar lessons: problem-solving, identifying seasons of opportunities, character development, goal setting, cultural reset, networking and personal finance. A combination of all these will equal SUCCESS!



## 2021 Zambia General Elections - By Emmanuel Mutambo

Every half a decade, Zambians turn up in numbers at various polling stations to cast their votes in the selection of the local councils, Members of Parliament and the Presidential candidate of their choice. All parties are accorded an opportunity to carry out their campaigns prior to the polling day. This is done in order to sell their vision countrywide. Unfortunately, this year's campaigns were restricted in order to curb Covid-19. The ruling party made sure that various political parties and the general public adhered to the health guidelines by avoiding overcrowding and masking up while in crowded places.

2021 general elections were held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of August with a total of 16 presidential candidates to be voted for by 7,023,499 qualified registered voters within 12,152 polling stations. Voting took place from 6am until 12 hours later. Usually, the winner must have 50% +1% of the registered voters. If none of the candidates is successful in attaining the prescribed winning criteria, a runoff is conducted within 37 days between the top two ranking candidates until one of them meets the winning criteria.



This year's elections ran for about 6 days and Zambians turned out in great numbers to vote for their desired candidates. People would wake up as early as 03:00am to go and queue up in readiness for voting. According to my observation, the number of registered voters this year was really high, probably because many people in Zambia have now realised that voting is one of the ways to express patriotism to their country. For your information I really wished I was of age to also cast my vote.

This year the country witnessed free and fair elections. It was now up to the Electoral Commission of Zambia to count the votes and announce the victorious party to the nation. Everybody was anxiously waiting to hear the aftermath of the elections.

After several days, the results were announced and the main opposition party (UPND) took the lead. It was like a new day had dawned on Zambia. There were celebrations everywhere especially in the capital city and the majority felt they made the right choice and did not cast their vote in vain. The UPND president, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema won with more than 59% of the votes. This was a figure that had never been recorded in the history of Zambian elections.

The Zambian people are very respectful and show regard even to those candidates that do not make it. The citizens have become more vigilant than ever to ensure that elections are free and fair in order to enforce the will of the people to prevail.





**We are on the web! Visit us at <https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/>**

Kucetekela Foundation is an organization that sponsors talented, high-achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience and community service programs.

All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us.

### **Our Team:**

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Dr. Oliver Barry</b>	<b>Co-founder and President</b>
<b>Dr. Florence Lutale Nkowane</b>	<b>Co-founder and Executive Director</b>
<b>Mr. Simasiku Mukena</b>	<b>Co-Founder and Finance and Administration Manager</b>
<b>Mr. Joshua N. Kamelu</b>	<b>Programs Manager</b>
<b>Ms. Grace Jere</b>	<b>Alumni Intern</b>
<b>Ms. Edna Phiri</b>	<b>Alumni Intern</b>
<b>Mr. Nchimunya Mukuwa</b>	<b>Gap Year Intern</b>
<b>Ms, Theresa Phiri</b>	<b>Gap Year Intern</b>

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute  
*towards their education, please use our donation link:*

<https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/donate/>

Or contact Dr. Florence Nkowane @ +260971594959,  
[kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com](mailto:kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com) to make a  
donation.