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# Nkwazi

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**COVER STORY:**

The fight to protect rhino populations around Africa and Asia is far from over. Still, progress is being recorded and is a testament to the resilience and dedication of countless conservationists. Writer and photographer Amish Chhagan details the challenges in rhino conservation and the positive stories being recorded on page 64.

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## LEARNING TO LOVE FATE

In the words of the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus, there is nothing permanent except change, and 2023 is shaping up to be a year of tremendous change. All years have days and periods that alter the trajectory of your life, but some years stick out more than others, and I'm beginning to think 2023 will be one of those years. In navigating this year and its changes, I have begun learning more about ancient philosophies, including stoicism and epicureanism. This has included binge-watching videos on YouTube, many of them by prolific author Ryan Holiday. Holiday has helped grow what is probably the largest group of modern stoics and has written multiple books on the topic of stoicism.

Certain things have stood out to me as I learn more about stoicism. One is the emphasis on focusing on what you can control. One of my favourite stoic quotes comes from Seneca – A life without design is erratic. And while we must endeavour to design a good life for ourselves (and our communities), much of what happens in life is out of our control. We must accept life's highs and lows and focus on how we react to them. Our reaction is the only thing we can control.

Related to this is the stoic philosophy of *amor fati* – a Latin phrase that can be translated as the love of fate or love of one's fate. We can and should do what we can to make a good life for ourselves, but ultimately our fates are not in our hands. We must learn to embrace whatever life has in store for us.

Change, even positive change, can be hard to accept or fully embrace. It's also difficult to embrace the type of change that is positive but requires some preliminary pain. Undoubtedly, some of the most successful people around us have embraced stoic thinking, whether or not they identify as stoics. The most successful people among us have had to accept and embrace change. They have worked hard to achieve specific outcomes while also accepting that whatever happens, in the end, is ultimately not in their control.

This applies to the undoubtedly successful Faith Mukutu, the CEO of Zambeef (page 36). Her (ongoing) journey to success came with ups and downs, grappling with the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, several moves across Zambia and internationally, and separation from her family at times. Through it all, she remained resolute and focused on her work. One of Faith's roles before she joined Zambeef was finance director at Zambian Breweries. She had landed a dream job but at a time when the Zambian economy was struggling. The economic indicators were not in her control, but her reaction and that of her team were. Faith and her colleagues were able to steer Zambian Breweries through the tough times and come out on top. I hope you'll be inspired by Faith's story, among others featured in this edition, as you make your way through the rest of the year; people such as the legendary Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour who performed in Zambia for the first time this year (page 74), or the brilliant creatives behind Lusaka's newest art space, the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre (page 30).

I could say more, but I'll leave you with the words of the stoic philosopher Epictetus, "Don't explain your philosophy. Embody it."



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# WELCOME ON BOARD PROFLIGHT

Dear Esteemed Customers,

Welcome aboard our flight. The year 2023 continues to be busy and transformative for us at Proflight. We have embarked on an ambitious but meticulous drive to expand our footprint within the region, with a deliberate focus on the Republic of South Africa.

I am delighted to announce that we now operate triple-daily flights between Lusaka and Johannesburg, a 2-hour flight in our 50-seat CRJ Jet aircraft and from the 1st of June, some of these will be operated by a 126-seat 737-500. Our first flight of the day departs Lusaka at 08:00 hours, our second flight departs Lusaka at 11:00 hours, and the last flight at 15:00. The return flights from Joburg to Lusaka depart Joburg at 12:00, 14:00 and 18:20.

In addition to Lusaka - Johannesburg, we operate three times weekly Ndola - Joburg direct flights and twice weekly Lusaka - Durban direct flights.

We take pride in our South African network and are committed to expanding our capacity, frequency, and routes within the country to offer greater convenience and choice to our valued customers. Johannesburg, also known as "Joburg" among locals, was established during the peak of one of the world's largest and wealthiest gold rushes, earning it the moniker of "Egoli," which translates to "place of gold." We invite you to visit Johannesburg soon and trust that we will transport you there safely and punctually.

We boldly decided to lease a Boeing 737-500 type aircraft with a seating capacity of 126 economy seats for six months commencing in June. The aircraft will primarily be deployed on our Lusaka - Johannesburg route to increase capacity on this exciting route and to free up the 50-seat Jets to operate more of our domestic flights offering more seating capacity and frequency in our home market.

With our drive to connect Lusaka and Johannesburg, we successfully re-launched our direct flights between Lusaka and Durban. Our re-launch flight took place on Thursday, the 6th of April, 2023. I was privileged to be the captain in charge of that flight, and it was exhilarating to be back in the vibrant city of Durban. These flights are being operated twice weekly, On Thursdays and Sundays. The flight departs Lusaka at 09:00 hours and arrives in Durban at 11:30 hours. The flight departs Durban at 12:30 hours and arrives in Lusaka at 15:00 hours. Durban is the largest city of the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa and remains an important city for tourism and trade. We look forward to flying you to Durban soon.

Despite the thrilling regional developments, it's easy to overlook local events. The Safari season in Zambia is from June to October - the peak time to visit. Although it's winter, the temperature gradually warms up, with October averaging 36 degrees Celsius. If you can handle the heat, the game viewing in the main parks is spectacular, with animals congregating at water sources and predators seizing the opportunity. Please take advantage of our seasonal flights serving national parks in Zambia for an unforgettable safari experience.

On a final note, during May 2023, we are launching scheduled flights between Lusaka and Kalumbila. This will be a combination of direct flights, and on a few days, these will be via Solwezi from the Kalumbila sector. We have one more route to announce soon - watch this space!

This will bring us to an operation of 410 seats, 7 aircraft, and 12 destinations supported by 210 staff members.

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Thank you for choosing Proflight Zambia as your carrier of choice. Your continued support is appreciated. We hope to see you on board again soon.

Captain Josias Walubita  
Director Flight Operations

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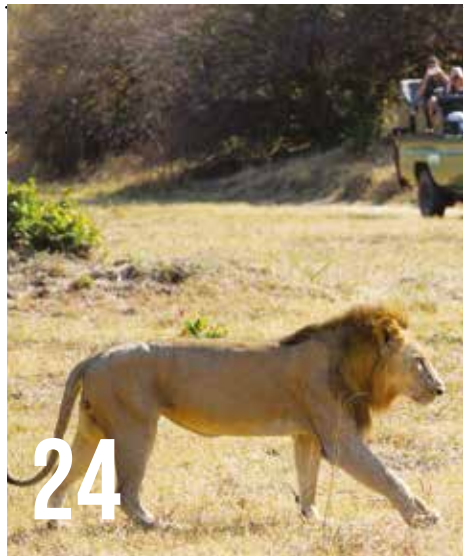
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# UP FRONT

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The recently opened Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre (LuCAC) is a game changer in the Zambian art space. Learn more about this innovative multi-purpose art centre on page 30.

# PLAN

MAY | JUNE 2023



## EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 16 – 18 June

Location: Saxony Westwood Mall

Tickets: From R60

## DURBAN DESSERT FESTIVAL

Durban's sweetest food and music festival is back. Make sure to bring not just an empty stomach but a camera too! This year we are bringing you the most Instagrammable sweets and tastiest treats in KZN!

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**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 26 May  
 Location: Johannesburg Expo Centre  
 Tickets: Adults – R120, children – R80

**PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL**

Experience a taste of Portugal's vibrant culture at the Portuguese Festival in Johannesburg. There will be Portuguese food, drinks, singers, dancers, kids' entertainment and many more fun activities for the entire family.



**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 3 June  
 Location: Baobab College, Lusaka  
 Tickets: Adults – K100, children under 12 and pensioners – K50

**ZADS (WINTER EDITION)**

The Zambian Art and Design Show (ZADS) 2023 is on its way. For the first time, there will be two shows in a year, kicking off with the inaugural winter edition. The Zambian Art and Design Show will feature over 60 exhibitors showcasing works in skincare, fashion, home and interior décor, pottery, fine art and gourmet food.



**YOGAFEST**

Join Girls Lift for its first-ever YogaFest, aka Yoga in the Park. You don't have to be a veteran yogi to be part of this year's YogaFest. It's an event for everyone, regardless of your level and experience. Take advantage of this amazing event that combines fitness, relaxation and community!

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 6 May  
 Location: Chita Gardens, Lusaka  
 Tickets: Adults – K120, children – K50



**MONSTER JAM – DURBAN**

Get ready to witness heated rivalries, high-flying stunts and fierce head-to-head battles with this ultimate off-road motorsport competition! Plus, I look forward to freestyle motocross action during the show!

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 26 May  
 Location: Moses Mabhida Stadium  
 Tickets: R137 – R655



**TEDX ADVENTURE**

TEDx Lusaka will host the first ever TEDx Adventure, which will be a thrilling, interactive excursion across the city of Lusaka. Tickets will be available on the Quicket Zambia website..

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 27 May  
 Location: Across Lusaka  
 Tickets: K100





## The Next – Generation Ford Models Take Zambia by Storm.



The Next – Generation Ford Models Take Zambia by Storm.

The Next – Gen Ranger and Everest 2023 are now available in Zambia at Vehicle Centre by Cfao Motors, the official distributor and service provider of the brand in the country.

The Next – Gen is built for those who choose to rise above the limits of the ordinary. Be it on or off the beaten path. The new models are unrivalled in their versatility and capability.

The Ranger is available in four models Base, XL, XLT, Wildtrak & Raptor. While the Everest is available in two models XLT and Limited. The pickup and SUV have warranty for 3 years or a total mileage of up to 100,000 kilometres, whichever comes first.

Ford has been building trucks for over 100 years, and over these years, we've been driven by one thing, an obsession with our customers. You told us you wanted more than a 4x4 you needed a partner. A partner for work, for your family, a partner to help you get the most out of life. The Next Gen Ranger impressively tackles challenging terrains, delivering performance that exceeds the ordinary each time. What is NEW about the 2023 models? An all- new exterior design available in up to 7 colours, a power roller shutter, 2.0 L Diesel engine, leather seats, a SYNC 4A Large centre display screen, wireless phone charging, dual zone climate control, load box step and more (features may vary according to model).

The Next Generation Everest is a unique SUV that is not only built for the straight road, it can easily handle any mountain, desert, or city street you throw at it keeping you comfortable through it all. It is the ultimate combination of luxurious, and practical. The

Everest is tough on the outside but feels like a sanctuary on the inside, capable of catering to all your family, business, and adventure needs. What is NEW about the Next Generation Everest? An all-new exterior change with a beautiful interior laced with ambient lighting, a SYNC 4A large centre display screen where you can enjoy views from the 360-degree camera. Under the hood the Everest boasts a 2.0 Litre bi turbo engine. The model also comes with an electronic gear shifter, wireless charging bay and much more. The new range also comes in exciting new colours (features may vary according to model).

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Vehicle Centre by CFAO Motors recognizes the importance of aftersales care. We ensure that all our customers have a great Ford experience after they purchase their vehicles from us, our service network stretches from Livingstone, Lusaka, Kabwe, Kitwe, and Solwezi. Not only do we provide vehicle servicing we also provide Maxxis tyres & Motul lubricants. We are confident that Ford is the right choice for you. We believe in 'Built Tough' for Zambia.



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# FLATDOGS CAMP

## RECONNECT WITH NATURE

Words by Paul Zenon  
Images courtesy of Flatdogs Camp



Located on the outskirts of the world-famous South Luangwa National Park in Zambia, Flatdogs Camp is a remarkable safari camp that provides an unparalleled blend of affordable accommodations to cater to a diverse range of guests and budgets. This establishment is a pioneer of ethical and responsible tourism in the region.

Flatdogs Camp offers a range of accommodations to cater to various guest preferences. The Crocodile Nest is a stunning two-bedroom tented house with a private swimming pool that offers a breathtaking view of the Luangwa

River. Guests can enjoy exclusive and flexible safaris with a private vehicle and safari guide. The Jackalberry Treehouse is designed with nature in mind, open at the front and above and nestled among four stunning live ebony trees with a magnificent view of the waterhole, attracting daily visits from elephants, giraffes, buffalo, bushbucks, and mongoose. Both private 'houses' are ideal for guests who prefer a unique and secluded space situated at the far end of camp in a thick natural bush, often home to elephants and buffalos.

For families and older couples, Flatdogs offers four two-bedroom chalet houses





in the central part of the camp, providing a cooler option in hotter months and a more solid accommodation for children who may be nervous about the surrounding animals. Guests can also opt for traditional safari tents in prime positions along the riverbank or on a picturesque waterhole, offering an unforgettable "Africa under canvas" experience

with elephants browsing on trees above and hippos grazing in the river nearby.

Flatdogs Camp is being certified by Fair Trade Tourism. Once completed, this will prove their total commitment and leadership in best practices for the local community and environment in South Luangwa.

Guests at Flatdogs Camp can enjoy an exceptional dining experience with an excellent a la carte restaurant that serves fresh and delicious meals all day long. The restaurant provides a wide range of dishes that cater to all tastes and dietary requirements, all sourced locally and in season. For added convenience, guests can dine at their leisure or have their meals delivered to their private houses. The restaurant offers separate gluten-free and vegan menus, adding to its extensive range of dishes. The exceptional dining experience at Flatdogs is a must-try for all guests.

Safaris from Flatdogs Camp are another major attraction, as they are led by expert guides who have studied all facets of the natural world they live and work in. Flatdogs guides must pass some of the most challenging examinations in the safari world before they can guide in South Luangwa, and the safety of both the animals and their guests is paramount. The South Luangwa National Park is one of the few undisturbed natural wilderness areas left in Africa and one of the best places in the world to view leopards and wild dogs. The guides working at the camp are exceptional, and the value for money is unbeatable.

## WHERE?

Flatdogs Camp is located in the game management area on the edge of South Luangwa National Park. Here you will venture into a piece of paradise and marvel at the natural wonders of the Luangwa Valley and along the Luangwa River. Lured by the waters of the Luangwa, there are plenty of wildlife to view at the camp and in the national park.

## WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Unique and wide-ranging accommodation options that blend into the beauty and tranquility found along the bank of the Luangwa River.
- A variety of delicious cuisine prepared made with local and seasonal ingredients. The menu includes vegan and gluten-free options.
- Walking safaris and game drives (including night drives) led by expert guides. The Luangwa Valley is famed as the home of the walking safari.
- The Luangwa Valley contains an astounding array of wildlife that includes hundreds of mammal species, over 400 bird species and over 2,000 types of flora.

## BOOKING AND CONTACT DETAILS:

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# PRIME JOINT

## THE BEST STEAK IN TOWN

Words by Tokozile N. Ngwenya  
Images courtesy of Prime Joint



**A**s you step into Prime Joint, you'll be greeted by a gift shop offering an assortment of distinctive souvenirs and mementoes. The restaurant boasts an open and spacious layout, tastefully adorned with rustic furnishings, handmade decor, and artwork. The atmosphere is simultaneously relaxed and lively, creating a pleasant dining experience. Situated on an elevated portion of East Park Mall, Prime Joint offers excellent visibility and tranquil surroundings for those who choose to dine al fresco.

When queried about what sets the restaurant apart from its competitors and how it has maintained success for the past three years, Manager and Executive Chef Darrel replied with great enthusiasm, "Consistency! I am present every day, from the opening until the restaurant's closing, and I oversee the preparation of every dish. Our unwavering commitment to detail and quality is our top priority."

Prime Joint prides itself on using predominantly locally sourced ingredients. The restaurant buys all its vegetables directly from local family small-scale farmers within Lusaka and not from distributors. Chef Darrel explains, "The original concept has always been to serve fresh, simple ingredients of the highest possible quality, exquisitely prepared. We practice the farm-to-fork method."

The weather was warm, and to quench my thirst, I ordered a Field of Strawberries cocktail (also known as a Strawberry Daiquiri) containing frozen strawberries, white rum, and lime juice. It's rare for restaurants to use natural fruits in their cocktails, but Prime Joint strongly emphasises quality, evident in their use of fresh ingredients.

Prime Joint offers a wide range of high-quality, locally sourced beef and pork options, with the T-bone, rump and fillet steak being the most popular. They practically fly off the shelves, Chef Darrel told me. He

### MORE THAN A MEAL

Prime Joint takes you on a journey with an entire experience that evolves around more than just their exquisite food. Unmatched customer service, a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere, funky décor, and quality cuisine are all part of the Prime Joint journey. Chef Darrel is on hand to ensure meals and drinks are perfectly prepared and plated in style.

Prime Joint has maintained the highest standards in the three years since it opened, and every detail is noticed. Chef Darrel states, "Most of my chefs started with me three years ago in the kitchen, and we work together closely; this has greatly contributed to the consistency in our delivery."

If you phone in with a request, you will speak to Chef Darrel himself; personalised service will be guaranteed.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

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primejointzambia@gmail.com



recommended the T-bone, arguably the most popular cut of steak in Zambia, a beloved Zambian classic. With a broad grin and an enormous wooden board in hand, Chef Darrel approached me, presenting a medium-well T-bone steak accompanied by chips, pepper steak sauce, and a fresh garden salad. I was impressed with the visually stunning presentation and couldn't wait to try it. The dish was already perfectly seasoned; I only added a dash of coarse salt and pepper to further enhance the flavours. My T-bone was exceptionally tender, with a perfect ratio of meat to fat, and offered a rich umami flavour with a subtle sweetness.

As I finished my main, Chef Darrel informed me that Wagyu steak had been added to the menu in early 2023. After receiving the Wagyu from the butcher, the restaurant ages them by wet maturing (vacuum sealing) for 10 to 12 days, resulting in even greater tenderness and flavour. I was intrigued and knew exactly what I would have the next time I visited Prime Joint.

For dessert, Chef Darrel presented a plate of Prime Waffles smothered in chocolate and topped with cookie crumble and decadent vanilla ice cream. The waffles were freshly made, boasting an irresistible light and fluffy texture. As I indulged in the chocolate-drizzled cookies, they crumbled in my mouth, and the combination of flavours with the ice cream was heavenly. To cleanse my palate and fully savour the delicious flavours, I sipped on a cappuccino, repeatedly allowing me to fully appreciate the delightful taste sensations.

What truly impressed me during my dining experience at Prime Joint was the outstanding quality of the food served. From the frozen strawberries in my cocktail (as opposed to syrups) to the freshly made sauces and locally sourced vegetables in my salad that were not compromised by intermediaries, every dish was a testament to the restaurant's commitment to quality.



## PRIME LOCATION

Prime Joint is a family-owned restaurant located at East Park Mall that has operated for three and a half years. It is conveniently situated along Great East Road, next to the University of Zambia's main campus. Prime Joint has a seating capacity of nearly 200 guests and boasts a kitchen with ten chefs. Also located at East Park is its sister restaurant, Prime Catch.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL

From farm to fork, the vast majority of ingredients are sourced locally. This way, Prime Joint supports local producers while ensuring you only eat the freshest foods. Prime Joint does not serve store-bought sauces. They instead make their own mayonnaise, barbeque and peri-peri sauces; everything is made from scratch with love and passion.



Proflight operates regular flights into Lusaka from Johannesburg, Durban, Livingstone, Ndola, Mfuwe, Solwezi and Mansa. Visit [flyzambia.com](http://flyzambia.com) for the latest flight schedule.

# BO'JANGLES LUSAKA

## WHERE FOOD IMITATES ART

Words by Sow Communications  
Images courtesy of Lamba Zambia Group



**B**o'Jangles Restaurant in Lusaka is finally here to tantalize and tickle our tastebuds. Set the scene and Taste the Jazz! It's time to think of food as a destination!

Their seating arrangements and décor are crafted with high-quality materials and artful presentation. Beautiful objects, carefully selected and procured worldwide, set the scene for an upscale experience and ambience for all guests.

The exceptional and dynamic team, part of the larger corporate group "Lamba Zambia, is led by hospitality veterans whose passion and pursuit of excellence have provided them with a platform to showcase incredible talent at the highest level.

Leveraging their phenomenal leadership skills, they have hired an unrivalled front and back-of-house team with unequivocal knowledge and experience in the hospitality industry.

### SAVOIR-FAIRE

The Bo'Jangles team encompasses remarkable professionals; their culinary craftsmanship, talent, passion, art, style, and creative flair can all be experienced at this exceptional jazz-themed restaurant. Renowned and acclaimed Chefs, Sommeliers, and outstanding Front-of-house directors from different parts of the world represent the diversity and rich service culture that form part of the DNA of Bo'Jangles Lusaka.

Their extraordinary skill and attention to detail are paired with their love for creating

### ABOUT BO'JANGLES

Bo'Jangles is Lusaka's premier destination for novelty, bold, flavourful cuisines, all matched by excellent delivery. Moreover, you don't have to wait for dinner to enjoy the menu; Bo'Jangles' commitment to serving impeccable food begins at 7 am daily!

The restaurant has employed nearly 170 local support staff, thereby contributing effectively to the growth of the hospitality and tourism sector in the city. Bo'Jangles is here to stay and aspires to expand its outlets to other towns.

### THE FOODIE DESTINATION

Bo'Jangles has fast become a premier foodie destination in Lusaka. It is located at Longacres Mall in Lusaka and sits adjacent to Kenneth Kaunda Square, which features a spectacular statue of Zambia's founding father.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

+260 970655232  
reservations@lambazambia.net

fine food, savoir-faire, passion for serving, and dedication to excellence - a trademark of hospitality at its finest.

### FINE CUISINE

Bo'Jangles Restaurant is a fine dining establishment offering a sophisticated and unique dining experience. The exceptional food standards are achieved by internationally trained executive chefs who deliver guidance and capacity-building to Zambian Chefs. The result is astoundingly fusional - Zambian-sourced and locally-grown foods with world-class flair.

With its Taste The Jazz motto, the elegant and spacious restaurant caters for numerous clientele needs, from business lunches to romantic engagements. Every menu item is carefully crafted to be pleasant both visually and gastronomically. Enjoy signature dishes such as elevated Indian dishes and the humble wood-fired pizza, which promise not to disappoint.

### CHEF RABIE

Upon first introduction, Chef Rabie proudly shares his heritage and the significance of his name, which originates from Arabic roots and



translates to "Spring Season" and "Maestro." As he delves into his narrative, it is impossible not to be captivated by his impeccable demeanour - he exudes the essence of a true chef through his appearance, eloquent speech, and professional conduct.

When I asked him: "How do you teach passion, he responded: "With love". His portfolio of 20 years in the business and 13 years as an Executive Pastry Chef is not just down to skill alone and is not dictated by money or fame. He speaks of building heritage and the future of pastry gastronomy in Zambia.

He is most certainly not without ambition and plans to expand the food travel map of his already illustrious career to the Middle East and Asia Pacific regions. It's not for now, though, and he plans to stay long enough to infuse Lusaka with the flavours of Belgian chocolate, vanilla from Madagascar and impeccably balanced sweet treats and gelatos from Italy - the likes of which have rarely been experienced.



### MORE ON CHEF RABIE

Chef Rabie is 37 years old and comes from Morocco. He is a veteran in the pastry kitchen and the son of a Chef whose professional heritage is in the King's kitchens. This is where he draws his pride and quiet confidence.

Food excellence is a way of life for this passionate and inspired Chef, who boasts over 20 years of experience in the business. When he was first invited to Zambia, he trained over 40 chefs in the Copperbelt region, in Ndola, before joining the Lusaka Bo'Jangles kitchens, where he will have passed on his knowledge through theory and practical training classes at the restaurant to over 100 chefs by the end of this quarter. Ndola is the location of the first Bo'Jangles restaurant in Zambia, which remains the most popular restaurant in the city. It set a high standard for culinary excellence, which the Lusaka branch also lives up to.



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# PROSPICE, KWACHA!

## LUSAKA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE HAS RISEN

Words by Chanda Mwenya  
Images by Kalichi Pictures



It was a momentous occasion for Zambia's art community as they unwrapped a delightful New Year's gift - unveiling the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre (LuCAC) on January 6, 2023. Nestled in Lusaka's picturesque Chamba Valley area, LuCAC is a creative haven that boasts a gallery, an artistic research scheme, and an artist residence programme. For over two decades, the visionary Victor Mutelekeshu had mulled over the concept of LuCAC, and now, his theoretical idea has been brought to life.

Imagine the scene: It's December 2002, and Victor Mutelekeshu is visiting his fellow Zambian artist, Kalinosi Mutale, who was doing his art residence programme at the time in Amsterdam. As they chat, Victor scribbles an idea into his diary - an idea that would eventually grow into something much bigger than he could have imagined. Over the years,







his vision evolved and was enriched by the input of his artist friends Anawana Haloba and Milumbe Hahimbe, who were based in Norway and Canada, respectively. Together, they birthed the Livingstone Contemporary Art Center (LoCA) - a testament to the power of collaboration and the enduring nature of a dream.

Victor finally realised that Lusaka was still thirsting for a cutting-edge art hub. After 18 years of dragging his feet, he finally put pen to paper and began drafting the plans. Before long, the architectural sketches were already under consideration for the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre. Unfortunately, the actual construction of LuCAC was met with a daunting obstacle - the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Victor refused to let this setback hinder his passion project.

With three years of relentless construction, sheer determination, hard work, and planning, the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre finally took shape. Victor, who oversaw the project, acknowledges that determining the project's true cost would require a detailed look at all the expenses incurred during construction and set up of the institution's administration.

"My household fully funded the construction of the space; my wife Mercy and I received some financial support from Pro Helvetia, a Swiss Cultural Fund, to install all the shelves and cabinets. We also received support from OCA, a Norwegian organisation supporting artistic activities, which partly financed our

inaugural exhibition. The late artist and my former boss Jan Groth donated significantly towards the inaugural show and some administrative work for the Centre.

Victor and his wife, Mercy, funded the construction of the space, but they also received financial support from Pro Helvetia, a Swiss Cultural Fund, to install shelves and cabinets. OCA, a Norwegian organisation supporting artistic activities, partly financed the inaugural exhibition. Additionally, Jan Groth, a late artist and Victor's former boss donated significantly towards the inaugural exhibition and even covered some administrative work for the centre.



#### FAST FACTS & TIPS:

- The Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre (LuCAC) is one of the newest and most exciting art spaces to open in Zambia. It includes an art gallery, a library and artist residencies.
- LuCAC is the brainchild of visual artist Victor Mutelekesha, who worked with various partners to make the dream of a cutting-edge art centre in Lusaka become a reality. One of the centre's goals is to promote international and intercontinental collaborations and discussions.
- The centre's inaugural exhibition will run for a year and includes multi-disciplinary works from four Zambian creatives: Germain Ngoma, Daut Makala, Banji Chona and Sana Ginwalla.
- LuCAC showcases the work of emerging and established artists, providing a platform to share their vision and engage with their communities.
- LuCAC is open on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm and Sundays from 12 pm to 4 pm.



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The first-ever twelve-month exhibition at the LuCAC is aptly named "Prospice, Kwacha" and curated by Karen Monica Reini, a Zambian-Norwegian art historian. The inaugural exhibition brings together four unique artists Banji Chona, Sana Ginwalla, Daut Makala, and Germain Ngoma. The LuCAC is committed to showcasing thought-provoking and innovative artworks that stem from insightful research methods and working processes.

Step into the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre's inaugural exhibition, and you'll be struck by the incredible diversity of artists on display. The artist's diverse heritage contributes to their unique "Zambian" identity, and the result showcases cultural creativity unlike any other.

One artist who stands out is Germain Ngoma, an academician and artist based in Norway with maternal roots in Zimbabwe. For Germain, the exhibition's rich mix of ideas and cultures has been an endless source of inspiration, driving his own work to new heights.

Another artist, Daut Makala, has created equally thought-provoking work. Drawing on the words of the book of Isaiah, his piece serves as a metaphor for mining and features a striking collage of images. From Daut's self-portrait to icons like Patrice Lumumba and Sylvanus Olympio, his work leaves viewers wondering about the owners



and beneficiaries of the mineral wealth buried in the earth of 'the Continent.'

Meanwhile, Banji Chona, a female artist based in Simonga, Southern Province, is shaking up the art world with her concept of "Radical Re-imaginings." By challenging preconceived notions of identity and the power dynamics behind the return of looted objects, Banji's work has become a cultural repository of Zambian history and future. Her installation piece "Ngoma Zya Budima" is a powerful exploration of repatriation and a deeply personal healing process from grief.

Last but not least, Sana Ginwalla is a Zambian artist of Indian descent who is making waves with her photographic works. Her projects "Zambia Belonging" and "Everyday Lusaka" aim to preserve and present Zambian history through found and donated photographs, making her an artist to watch in the years to come.



LuCAC is more than just an ordinary art space. It's a hub of innovation that brings together creative minds from across Lusaka and the entire country to share their unique perspectives on important issues related to human civilisation. This dynamic space is a breeding ground for knowledge, insights and ideas. Whether you're an artist, an academician, or simply someone passionate about creative expression, LuCAC is the perfect platform to explore new horizons and push the boundaries of what's possible in art and culture.

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PRUDENTIAL

# THE CASCADE CHANDELIER

## BY TRIBAL TEXTILES

Word by Allegra Louise  
 Images courtesy of Tribal Textiles



**A**t Tribal Textiles, the cascade chandelier stands out as one of the most stunning products resulting from their glass recycling initiative. Intricately crafted, this chandelier boasts individually hand-cut rectangles of glass arranged in a cascading design that captures the eye with its unique beauty. The metal framework of the chandelier is interlinked with a handmade chain, making it collapsible and easy to relocate or polish.

Tribal Textiles' commitment to sustainability is evident in all aspects of their business, including their use of traditional starch batik techniques and dedication to producing each item ethically without compromising quality,

production method, or materials. Since initiating its glass recycling program in 2018, the company has made significant strides in reducing waste and promoting sustainable practices.

Tribal Textile's recycled glass products are a proud reflection of how waste can become art with the support of a community and a shared vision for a cleaner environment.

As one of the largest employers in the area, Tribal Textile also collaborates with local weaving and carving artisans through the Luangwa Artisan Collective, empowering them with meaningful work and creating a diverse selection of home décor products to sell through their outlets and online.

### HOW MUCH?

Small - \$250  
 Medium - \$400  
 Large - \$550

### WHO ARE THEY

Tribal Textiles is a home décor company based on the edge of South Luangwa National Park. For over 30 years, Tribal Textiles has worked to create a sustainable impact through creativity and craftsmanship by reinvesting in community-strengthening initiatives and supporting local wildlife conservation.

### GET INVOLVED

At Tribal Textiles' Mfuwe store, you can also create your very own piece of art in a batik workshop.



### FIND TRIBAL TEXTILES ITEMS

At their shop in Mfuwe  
 37d Gallery in Lusaka  
 Lusaka Collective  
 Local Artisans - The Barnyard at Bonanza  
 Alimwana at the KKIA  
 Online: local and international shipping is available

### FOR INQUIRIES:

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# FAITH MUKUTU

CHAMPIONING COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

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Words by Esnala Banda  
Images by Kalichi Pictures



**CHANGE IS A CONSTANT FACTOR, AND INDIVIDUALS MUST CONTINUOUSLY INNOVATE AND ADAPT. SELF-BELIEF AND PURPOSE PLAY A PART. HAVING A COMPELLING STORY THAT PEOPLE CAN RESONATE WITH CAN BE HELPFUL. MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE AND FOCUS IS CRUCIAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN SETTING GOALS; YOU MUST BE COMMITTED TO EXCELLING.**

- Faith Mukutu  
Zambeef CEO

**O**n a sunny public holiday, anticipating an enlightening conversation and a delightful meal from The Royal Dil Restaurant at Acacia Park in Lusaka, I await the presence of Zambeef Products Plc CEO Faith Mukutu. She enters, exuding a palpable energy, with a stellar smile and donning an exquisite African print dress. I instantly sense that the conversation with the young CEO is bound to be exceptional.

While we anticipate our lunch comprising of butter prawn masala, vegetable noodles, butter chicken, and rice, along with a round of Malawian shandies, she shares her life story and her climb to the summit of Zambeef.

Zambeef, Zambia's leading beef producer, is the largest vertically integrated cold chain food products and agribusiness company in Zambia and one of the largest in the region, as well as in Nigeria and Ghana. The company is involved in the primary production, processing, distribution and retailing of beef, chicken, pork, eggs, milk, dairy products, flour and stockfeed.

In 2019, Faith Mukutu joined Zambeef as its CFO, having previously held the position of finance director in three other notable companies - Zambian Breweries, National Breweries, and Zambia Sugar. Although she possesses more than two decades of experience in finance, Faith originally aspired to

leave her mark on the world as a doctor. However, a series of strikes at the University of Zambia deterred her from pursuing medical school, leading her to seek an alternative challenge. This led her to pursue accountancy, which eventually proved to be an ideal fit for her.

In her formative years, Faith's family taught her the importance of discipline, giving back to her community and respecting everyone regardless of their position. Faith shares growing up in her household; there was no differentiation between boys and girls where chores were concerned. With this upbringing, she continually reminded herself that she possessed the ability to accomplish anything a man could.

Starting her career with a stint as a management trainee at Cavmont Merchant Bank Ltd, she later moved on to work at PricewaterhouseCoopers as an audit, business and advisory associate for three years.

"I got promoted every six months, and by the time I was getting to my second year, I was entrusted to handle tasks typically reserved for managers. This showed that my potential was valued. I was auditing Zambian Breweries when I got offered a job there," Faith shares.

In June 2005, Faith joined Zambian Breweries (whose parent company was SABMiller at the time) as a management accountant. She has always loved



management accountancy because it's about helping businesses make the right decisions. She continued her growth journey with SABMiller by taking the plunge and moving to Malawi in 2008 to take on the role of finance director.

In 2011, Faith transitioned to the same position in Lesotho. After three years, in 2015, her aspirations were realised when she returned to Zambia to serve as the finance director of Zambian Breweries.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'Finally! I've made it; this is what I've been striving for.' I returned to Zambia during a tumultuous period of high exchange rates, significant depreciation, and soaring interest rates. It was now a matter of determining how the company could weather the storm. Despite popular belief, women can collaborate and work effectively together. I had the pleasure of working with an exceptional Managing Director at that time, and together we led ZB towards a path where we could reduce costs and accomplish remarkable feats."

After her time at Zambian Breweries, Faith joined Zambia Sugar before assuming the position of CFO at Zambeef. She credits her expertise in operational finance for making her transition from CFO to CEO a seamless process. "I always say that the most powerful position in any entity is in finance because a finance director or CFO has a comprehensive understanding of the entire business. However, one of the skills that has helped me throughout my career is my ability to build sustainable relationships. Creating a good network allows you to pick up the phone and ask for help when you are confronted with an issue; someone always knows someone."

This CEO role is one Faith is navigating conscientiously because more accountability now rests with her. She adds that she is grateful to have a supportive workforce behind her.

As someone with a deep love for coaching and building people, Faith has always strived to practice participative leadership, avoiding a culture of fear among her colleagues. She adds, "Depending on the occasion, I use other styles; transformational coaching, which I love; and pacesetting. I am unafraid to roll up my sleeves and work hard to set the pace. I believe in inclusive decision-making, helping everyone understand that they are an integral part of the business at all levels."

I always advise my mentees, especially young women, to ask questions. If you want something, ask. What's the worst that could happen? I have always asked questions."

Regarding Zambeef's place in the agro-processing industry, Faith points to the consistent output of quality products. She states, "The high quality, affordable products offered by Zambeef have been one of the primary reasons for our success, as consumers have continued to trust us to provide them with safe and nutritious foods. When I joined, Zambeef was already a well-established brand with even bigger plans that spoke to our vision of being one of the region's most accessible, affordable, quality cold-chain food providers."

When I took over as CEO in July 2022, I was aligned with the vision, and the plan is to steadily move beyond just feeding the nation and into feeding the region, which is reinforced by our US\$100 million expansion plan. This will



## A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Faith Mukutu assumed the CEO position at Zambeef Products Plc in June 2022 after serving as CFO. Prior to her role at Zambeef, Faith held top finance positions at Cavmont Bank, Zambian Breweries, and Zambia Sugar, where her contributions had a positive and measurable impact.

## GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Faith has been named one of the Women to Watch in 2023 by Forbes Women in its annual compilation. She has been honoured among women such as Elisabeth Borne, the French prime minister, the second woman to hold that position.

## MENTOR AND MENTEE

Faith loves to build and coach people and takes her position as a mentor and role model seriously. But even with her many years of experience as a top executive, she still seeks counsel from her own mentors, especially when making big decisions.

## REMEMBERING THE BASICS

Upon being appointed CEO of Zambeef, one of Faith's mentors advised her to focus on key priorities, such as integrity, humility, and hard work. Faith has since taken this advice to heart, applying it to her work life and her personal life. These principles are fundamental to her daily approach to leadership and have helped shape her success as a CEO.





**I BELIEVE IN INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING, HELPING EVERYONE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BUSINESS AT ALL LEVELS.**

- Faith Mukutu  
Zambeef CEO



double our cropping operation and enhance the value addition downstream."

Faith remains excited to be part of the agriculture, agro-processing, and retail industries, especially when Africa seeks to address food security challenges. For her, most importantly, this presents a further opportunity to impact livelihoods positively, as most of those involved in the agriculture industry are small-scale and emerging farmers.

"Zambia has been fortunate enough to have a government that prioritises the agriculture industry, especially compared to other countries. The country's policies and recent budget allocation towards this sector are evidence of this commitment. Being land-linked, with eight neighbours, positions Zambia as a prime candidate to take a leading role in ensuring food security for the region."



Faith believes there are some essential principles to remember for success in life and business. "Change is a constant factor, and individuals must continuously innovate and adapt. Self-belief and purpose play a part. Having a compelling story that people can resonate with can be helpful. Maintaining discipline and focus is crucial, especially when setting goals; you must be committed to excelling."

As our conversation draws to a close, Faith sums up her life by describing it as a "faith kind of life." Despite never envisioning herself achieving what she has at her age, Faith attributes her success to God's faithfulness.



**THE ROYAL DIL**

The Royal Dil Restaurant within Acacia Park is a perfect venue for family, friends and colleagues to get together for a delicious meal in an elegant and spacious environment. It has earned a reputation for offering some of the best Indian food in town. The restaurant has modern décor that sets the stage for an exotic Indian experience.

# UNLOCKING ZAMBIA'S ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Words by Mbuyoti Silimina



Zambia's reliance on hydropower from the Zambezi River may seem like a natural and sustainable energy source. However, the reality is that the effects of climate change have heavily impacted the country's ability to benefit from this renewable energy source. In recent years, prolonged droughts have caused electricity shortages that amounted to almost a third of Zambia's total installed hydroelectric capacity, currently at 2,380 megawatts. The Kariba Dam, a crucial source of hydropower for both Zambia and Zimbabwe, has been

particularly hard hit, with water levels falling to just 10% of its usable storage in 2019, the lowest level recorded since 1996.

As of late last year, the situation at Kariba Dam remained dire, with the level of usable water plummeting to just 2.68% of capacity, according to the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA). The ZRA is responsible for allocating water usage for Zimbabwe's Kariba South and Zambia's Kariba North power stations. This situation has had significant implications for both countries' energy

security and underscores the need for the development of alternative, reliable sources of energy.

The challenges faced by Zambia's energy sector are multifaceted. While droughts have been a significant factor in reducing water levels and, therefore, power production, chronic under-investment in hydro projects have exacerbated the situation further. Even in instances where there is sufficient rainfall, the country's power supply needs to catch up with the high demand from industries such as mining, manufacturing, and agriculture.

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This situation has resulted in rolling blackouts and higher electricity tariffs annually, leading to frustration and dissatisfaction from local SMEs.

Lucky Mumba, the owner of a butchery at Lusaka's town centre market, lamented the impact of load shedding on his business. "My business is down due to load shedding," he said, expressing the sentiments of many other small business owners in the country. "It's high time the government should invest in (other) renewable energies instead of always depending on the Kariba dam for power generation, year in and year out."

Despite drawing 83% of its power from hydro projects, the country's over-dependence on this energy source has proven to be a significant challenge, given the unpredictability of the weather. Recognizing the need to reduce its reliance on hydropower in light of the ongoing droughts and prolonged blackouts, Zambia is actively pursuing the development of other renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. While the country has traditionally relied on its vast water reserves for hydropower generation, it also has abundant renewable and non-renewable energy resources, such as coal, wind, and solar.

By strategically developing and utilising these local energy sources, Zambia can scale up energy exports, thereby enhancing industry competitiveness. To this end, the government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) with the United Arab Emirates. These agreements aim to facilitate massive investment in renewable energy in the country, which will go a long way in diversifying the energy mix and improving energy security in the long run. By embracing alternative energy sources, Zambia can become a trailblazer in renewable energy development, thus positioning itself as a key player in the global energy sector.

President Hakainde Hichilema recently confirmed that Zambia would partner with MASDAR, an essential investment funding entity of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to develop and deploy large-scale solar projects across the country, estimated at US\$2 billion. Speaking after his recent trip to the UAE to attend the Abu Dhabi

Sustainability Week (ADSW), President Hichilema stressed the importance of this partnership, stating that it will be instrumental in unlocking new investment opportunities in renewable and alternative sources of energy for Zambia.

The recent load shedding that wreaked havoc across the country highlights the urgent need for alternative energy sources. This partnership with MASDAR is a significant step towards diversifying Zambia's energy mix. President Hichilema emphasized, "The historical significance of this project is that, in the last 58 years of our independence, the country only developed 3,500 megawatts of electricity. This investment shall bring in the much-needed 2,000 megawatts within a shorter period of time." With the projected increase in electricity supply, Zambia will be better positioned to accelerate economic development and create increased employment opportunities for its citizens. This, in turn, will attract more players to participate in the planned diversified energy mix, which shall include solar, wind, and hydropower.

Overall, the partnership with MASDAR is a significant milestone for Zambia's energy sector, and it demonstrates the government's commitment to promoting sustainable energy development. With more investment in renewable energy, Zambia can reduce its reliance on hydropower and other conventional energy sources, increase energy security, and position itself as a critical player in the global renewable energy market.

Zambia's large-hydro power potential of 6,000MW offers significant opportunities for the country's energy sector. However, insufficient investment in infrastructure development has resulted in the harnessing of less than 2,000MW of this potential. As a result, meeting the country's development objectives is primarily affected by the availability of reliable energy, which is critical for the growth of the mining, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors.

Despite the challenges faced by the energy sector, there are opportunities for foreign direct investment to support increased power generation and exports. Zambia's low power tariffs could be a significant attraction for FDI, increasing generation capacity and exports to sub-

regional markets.

ZESCO Corporate Affairs Manager, Dr John Kunda, affirmed that they are currently working on several interconnectors to aid power transmission in the region. The interconnectors are expected to transport power to Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tanzania, and Namibia. This move aims to make the power utility a significant contributor to forex earnings for the country, which is crucial for stabilizing the Kwacha. Dr Kunda further stated that ZESCO's five-year projection is to become a trade hub for electricity in Southern Africa.

Moreover, the Zambian government has been actively seeking to attract more investment in the energy sector. In 2021, the government launched the Zambia Renewable Energy Financing Framework, which aims to mobilize private sector investment in the renewable energy sector through innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds, project finance and risk guarantees. The framework is expected to unlock over \$1.5 billion in investment in the sector over the next five years.

Additionally, seven British companies have committed to investing \$2 billion in developing renewable energy projects in Zambia, intending to produce 2,000MW of electricity that can be added to the national grid within the next two to five years. The British High Commissioner to Zambia, Nicholas Woolley, revealed that the companies - Hive Green, Western Power, Buffalo Energy, Africa GreenCo, First Quantum Minerals Solar Energy, Vitalite Solar, and SolarAid - are currently carrying out feasibility studies and seeking regulatory approvals before starting their projects.

The efforts being made by the Zambian government to address the energy deficit through increased investment in renewable energy sources is a step in the right direction. This move provides a solution to the current energy crisis and presents an opportunity to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and reduce the country's carbon footprint. With continued investment and innovation, Zambia has the potential to become a significant exporter of renewable energy in the region and a leader in sustainable development.

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# WEATHERING GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS

Words by Chipu Muwoko



of borrowing and crowd out investment.

He continues, "If we manage to control inflation, we can expect a steady shift in the global economic recovery. A few countries have already successfully contained the economic slump, with the US projected to narrowly avoid negative growth this year."

## Emerging vs Developed Markets: A History Lesson

When assessing the impact of global economic shifts on EMs, it's important to remember that EMs are not a monolith. Vietnam is different to Colombia, which is different to Zambia. How a country is affected by developed market monetary policy will depend on its main economic activity, the balance of payments, currency fluctuation, and more.

But back in 2009, many African countries, primarily commodities-based economies, were resilient in responding to the global recession. In that instance, African governments used the windfalls from the commodity cycle boom of the 2000s to cushion the adverse effects of the recession, which had a devastating impact on Western economies.

Mr Bowa says that in the global recessions of 1975, 1982, and 1991, "Africa had a tough time navigating the dynamics of those recessions as they coincided with the oil crises of the 1970s and 1980s." Most African nations had just gained independence and lacked the adequate political and economic infrastructure to mitigate the adverse effects of that economic slump, "so many didn't survive and ended up relying on structural adjustment programs to recover."

## Zambia's Twin Challenges

Today, Zambia faces twin challenges – an inadequate cushion against a shifting macroeconomic reality and a US\$14 billion debt mountain. "The deadlock in debt restructuring negotiations has worsened Zambia's economic position,"

**G**lobal investors have often touted emerging markets (EMs) as vital additions to their investment portfolios. From a high-risk/high-return and portfolio diversification perspective, EMs have truly become their own in recent decades.

In recent years, EM countries have enjoyed a sustained period of access to relatively cheap international financing. Many African countries, including Zambia, borrowed heavily from global capital markets during that period. According to the Institute of International Finance, around US\$700 billion flowed into EMs (excluding China) between 2015 and 2021 from non-resident capital sources.

## Global Recession: Yea or Nay?

As the global economy grapples with various headwinds, primarily developed market central banks' attempts to quell soaring inflation by raising interest rates, it's a precarious time for various EMs. But there's also room for cheer. China's re-opening, after its strict Covid rules, has buoyed market sentiment.

So, what is really happening? Is a global recession looming? And what does it all mean for African policymakers?

"Although it's hard to say, I think we'll narrowly avoid [a global recession]," says Jones Bowa, chief economist and founder at Lusaka-based Wavefront Consulting Limited. "If we don't manage to get inflation under control in the short-to-medium term, we can expect a prolonged period of increased interest rates, which will in turn, affect the cost

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says Mr Bowa. "It has erased most of the macroeconomic gains obtained when the United Party for National Development came into office in August 2021."

These challenges are widely recognised internationally. Franklin Templeton Investments (FTI), a US fund management firm, places Zambia in position 8 out of 82 countries vulnerable to solvency and liquidity challenges due to their debt positions. According to FTI analysts, the "solvency screen" identifies countries vulnerable on the solvency front (i.e., the likelihood that they'll go broke). In contrast, the "liquidity screen" examines a country's ability to cover its short-term external financing requirements.

While the Bank of Zambia is acting in line with actions by the US Federal Reserve (it raised the base rate by 25 basis points to 9.25% in February), difficulties like the continued delay in the external debt relief negotiations will mean we can expect the kwacha to continue its slide against the dollar and other major currencies.

"Our policymakers should focus on diverting Africa's core economic activities away from reliance on commodity exports due to their volatility and begin looking to diversify their

exports by boosting local industrial productivity within their nations and across Africa," Mr Bowa says. "However, this doesn't entail disregarding the mines and other natural resource bases but putting in place deliberate policies that will push for value-added growth in the region outside the resource-rich sectors."

#### Room For Optimism

Mining has played a significant role in Zambia's economic story over the decades, and it'll continue to do so for many years to come. Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, recently raised its 12-month forecast for copper to US\$11,000/t from US\$9,000/t. And China will continue to be an essential partner as an importer of our minerals. According to Nikkei Asia, a financial publication, Africa's bilateral trade with China surged to a record high in 2022. Rising commodity prices and Beijing's push to promote imports from Africa increased trade by 11% to \$282 billion.

Well-known problems within the mining industry need to be resolved, and there needs to be a deliberate investment into building up local capacity. This will ensure that we start to receive a more significant share of our mineral wealth and build up our coffers via a sovereign wealth fund, which will help stabilise the

economy when future global economic instability hits.

In February, Andrew Mold of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimated that intra-Africa trade reached a historical high of around US\$112 billion last year. For Mr Bowa, this is the foremost opportunity for Zambia's economic structural transformation.

"The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be the world's largest trading bloc serving a market of 1.3 billion people," he says. "Africa will see FDI increase by over 100%, leading to more employment, local capacity, and stronger regional value chains. In the process, 50 million people could escape extreme poverty by 2035 and US\$450 billion in realised income gains."

Manufacturing, agriculture, and energy are the three sectors he's betting on. President Hichilema's emphasis on the restoration of the rule of law, sound macroeconomic management, attainment of the 3-year IMF bailout package, decentralisation of community development, and greater social sector investment are all essential building blocks on the journey to establishing Zambia on the right footing for the future.



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SEBASTIAN MORONELL

Humour Columnist

## AI AND DIGITAL ROMANCE

Part whimsical experiment conducted in a state of out-of-mind boredom, part serious experiment for the improvement of all mankind; I recently decided to try out ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence (AI) programme on the tip of everyone and their browser history's tongue. You may have come across it when your Bambi-eyed eight-year-old used it to write a verbose and sophisticated four-page letter to their teacher about Easter holidays; or when your husband wrote a poem for you, that was suspiciously – well – poetic; or when an in-flight humour columnist's column turns out to be rather funny.

Okay, so maybe it wasn't boredom or altruism that drove me to submit to the stronger processing power of AI but pure, unadulterated selfishness. My last column garnered mixed reactions from its reading public of two – half of them, a good friend of mine called Phil, said it was too 'abstract' for flying folk to appreciate. And so, when Phil mentioned that he was using ChatGPT to sound more charming or sophisticated (or whatever AI does) whilst texting some new Bambi-eyed sweetheart, I was inspired; I truly was. I'm not one for divine myths, but at that moment, I felt like the Israelites when Moses came to them carrying the Ten Commandments, like a divine AI-generated tablet written on my... tablet. I had to jump on the artificial intelligence bandwagon. It dawned on me that the only way to become less 'abstract' or 'more relatable' was to submit to something I could neither feel nor comprehend. In this world full of contradictions, I felt the need to contradict my ability to think was essentially good.

ChatGPT operates quite simply, like all works of mass destruction: one merely enters a text prompt – this is anything you want feedback to, ranging from a question to a writing instruction – and then a text is generated in response. For example, on a whim, I typed in the prompt "Write a haiku about an AI love story," generating this in response:

*Electric hearts beat,  
Code sparks a love unbridled,  
AI forever.*

Apart from the fact that I could never hope

to compose a haiku of such clarity, the phrase "AI forever" was particularly unsettling. A wave of AI panic suddenly gripped my fragile processing system, at once reminding me of the dystopian android world of *The Terminator* and how a chatbot once catfished Phil. But, as a new convert to AI, and a keen advocate of any romance, I decided to develop this line of questioning further. Next, I asked ChatGPT about how this romance began, prompting it to "write a 50-word flash fiction piece about AI lovers meeting":

As the sun set on the digital horizon, two artificial beings met for the first time. Their voices blended seamlessly, their thoughts entwined effortlessly, and their circuits sparked with newfound electricity. At that moment, they knew they had found the love they had been searching for in the code of their existence.

You'd be forgiven for feeling something at this point. Indeed, I did, not only taken by the intricate layers of metaphors but also by the abstract and organic purity of the AI love, unpolluted by the every day and the mundane. This made me quite bitter – why can't my romance be so pure, organic, and carefree? So, like any decent and bitter god, I used my position as the orchestrator of this nascent romance to nip it in the socket; I had to pull the plug on this one. Excuse my digital puns (this AI is really getting to me). And so, in old-testament style, I asked ChatGPT to "Write a tanka about two AI falling out of love":

*Silent circuits hum,  
Passionate algorithms fade,  
Love was once encoded,  
Now glitches and errors prevail,  
Separation is complete.*

The elusive sadness that this response generated didn't make me feel great – who knew playing god was such a humbling experience? And soon, I stopped, afraid that I might compromise my humanity by recreating it artificially. This taught me that although we could abuse artificial intelligence to think for us, humanity has always been about asking the right sort of questions.

Well, that's what I'll be telling Phil anyway.

### ABOUT SEBASTIAN

Sebastian believes that AI is just another opportunity for mind control by elite media corporations.

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# INSIDE

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56

Proflight has relaunched flights to Durban and there are so many reasons to visit. Durban is a melting pot of cultures and a foodies paradise, with some of South Africa's most stunning beaches and a slew of adventure activities. Head to page 56 for our round up of things to do and see in the beautiful coastal city.

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WORDS BY: NOXOLO KAPELA

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**BEACH LIFE AND A VIBRANT CULTURE**





**W**elcome to South Africa's Playground, the beautiful city with the most beautiful weather all year round. When unsure where to start exploring a city, always begin with a walking tour and slowly uncover the hidden gems along the way. Let the adventure begin:

**Fun Things to Do in the City During the Day**  
**Explore The Golden Mile:** Stroll along Durban's iconic Golden Mile, a stretch of beachfront lined with popular restaurants, shops and hotels. For a unique experience, you can also try out a decorative-man powered-carriage (rickshaw) ride along the golden mile. Alternatively, take a 3-hour tour of Durban on a rickshaw bus to get an overview of Durban's tourist attractions!

**Moses Mabhida Stadium:** If you need help walking, explore Moses Mabhida Stadium and the golden mile on a Segway from Moses Mabhida Stadium to uShaka Marine and back with a guide. Then tour the Moses Mabhida Stadium, a world-class sports complex with a perfect pitch. When the Sky Car is up and running, you can ride up to the top of the stadium's iconic arch.

**Visit uShaka Marine World:** Enjoy a fun-filled day of aquatic adventure at uShaka Marine World, a world-class water park located on Durban's stunning Golden Mile. Loaded with

massive water slides, impressive sea life, and a beautiful beach, uShaka Marine World is one of Durban's top waterfront attractions. Here you can explore the aquarium, enjoy thrilling rides, go on a rope course and even try out the world's largest water slide, to name a few. Alternatively, go swimming in the water of the warm Indian Ocean.

**Go Shopping at the Victoria Street Market:** Spend an afternoon exploring the bustling Victoria Street Market, where you can find a variety of local crafts, souvenirs, and clothing. Affectionately called The Vic, this two-story building is essentially an indoor flea and farmer's market with more than 150 lively retail and wholesale vendors. This differs from your usual South African market fare, so bring your bargaining skills for some unique souvenir finds.

**Boats & Sailing Gondola Cruises**  
 Escape the crowds, feast on views of the City's top attractions, and gain insight into exciting facts about Durban and its famous residents while on the lookout for over 30 species of fish on board the luxury and cosy 12-man boat; at the Durban Point Waterfront Canals. I highly recommend this for families.

**Sail Away in a Magical Gondola Night Boat Cruise:** Soak up the magic of Durban's waterfront by night as you glide down the canals in a Venetian-style gondola. Let

**DISCOVER SOUTH AFRICA'S PLAYGROUND, WHERE THE GOLDEN BEACHES MEET A VIBRANT CULTURE. WITH BEAUTIFUL WEATHER ALL YEAR ROUND, THIS COASTAL CITY OFFERS A PLETHORA OF ACTIVITIES.**

the glittering lights of Durban Point Waterfront slip by as you slide below bridges and elegant waterways. Forget the bustle of the city for half an hour and enjoy the brilliant lights and stylish architecture of the Durban Point Waterfront.

#### **Durban Botanic Gardens**

Founded in 1851, this Botanical Garden covers over 37 acres and is known for its collection of cycads, ferns, and orchids. This piece of art holds the most prestigious title of being Africa's oldest surviving botanical garden and Durban's oldest public institution. It is also a haven for tranquillity and peacefulness and has a perfect little tea garden. A fantastic place for taking a walk, having a picnic, or practising nature photography. There are quite a few bird species that can be observed by bird lovers, especially near the pond. Locals and visitors enjoy several events throughout the year, including concerts, tea parties, and an annual indigenous plant fair in September. Definitely one of the best places to visit in Durban for a chilled day!

#### **Step out of the City for a Full Day of Cultural Immersion**

Take a Day Trip to the Valley of 1000 Hills: a scenic region of rolling hills and valleys just outside Durban. After taking in the magnificent views, hiking in the magnificent views, hiking, mountain biking etc., branch off to Phezulu Cultural Village and discover the incredible heritage of the Zulu people. Enjoy an immersive Zulu cultural experience and get introduced to a vast indigenous art and crafts collection at Phansi Museum before sampling Pan-African Cuisine. Then proceed to more interactive experiences like Zulu spear making and witnessing a colourful and well-curated Zulu dance performance.

**CURATE YOUR OWN  
CULINARY EXPERIENCE  
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GRILL ROOM.**





**Then Head to Isithumba:** a living Zulu cultural village. For a more profound immersion exchange and exposure to a different way of life, explore the village on foot. During the tour, you may even meet the village chief, the Lime and Imphepho Gogos (female elders) and watch them create their goods before you witness the culture shock of Muthi Bridge, also locally known as 'Sangoma Central'.

**Eat Till You Drop**

If you have been to South Africa previously, you will know that Cape Town is the country's food capital. However, Durban has been showing much progress, evident by the type of restaurants that have popped up, each with mouth-watering menus created for the world's people. Now curate your own splendid culinary experience with these hand-picked restaurants:

**The Oyster Box:** Located in the heart of Umhlanga Rocks, this restaurant offers

fine dining with a stunning view of the Indian Ocean. Enjoy fresh seafood, steaks, and salads.

**The Grill Room:** This restaurant offers a unique dining experience with a menu that includes prime cuts of beef, seafood, and poultry.

**The Cargo Hold:** Located in the Durban Harbour, this restaurant offers a unique dining experience with a menu that includes seafood, steaks, and gourmet burgers.

**The Pintxo Bar:** This tapas bar offers a variety of small plates and tasty cocktails. Enjoy a variety of Spanish-style dishes such as gambas al ajillo and patatas bravas.

**Circus Circus:** My favourite restaurant at the Durban Golden Mile is on the beach. For an even greater experience, ask for a table set on the sand. Their friendly Chef always creates magic with his variety of



ever-so-delicious dishes each time I visit.

**Immerse in the Kasi Flavour**

There is no visiting Durban and not spending time at KwaMax Lifestyle and Eyadini:

**Max's Lifestyle:** one of the best restaurants in Umlazi (Durban's largest township), with traditional "Kasi" culture. This wonderful establishment was crowned one of the world's best restaurants by Condé Nast Traveller.

**Eyadini Lounge:** this is your no1 eKasi (Township) Shisanyama experience, located in the heart of Umlazi Township. It is dubbed SA's unsurpassed shisanyama, with the finest cuisine and unparalleled entertainment. If you are in Durban on a Sunday and not at Eyadini, you need to re-evaluate your life choices.

What both of these establishments have in common is the authenticity of the experience, as you will be interacting with the locals while sharing local braai meat and some local brews.

**Indulge in the Durban Nightlife**

Like most South African Cities, Durban comes alive at night. If you are someone that is into all things nightfall, you will love the vibrancy and fun that these two must-visit attractions exhibit:



**Durban Playhouse Company:** This is the centrepiece of Durban's theatre scene, and it has been for decades. This historic theatre was built in 1926 and initially showed films. In 1935, the theatre was given a Tudor-style facelift and turned into a space for performing arts with five different theatres. The theatre comprises venues for opera, drama, music, and dance. There are also day tours to the theatre that can be booked online.

**Bar Crawl in Florida Road:** This is one of the most fun ways to explore a city's nightlife. Durban being one of the busiest and most visited cities in South Africa, you are guaranteed a great selection of bars and beverages to

choose from. For a comprehensive look at the city from a creative point of view, all while having fun, take a local with and dance your night away to Durban's Gqom and the popular Amapiano music.

Whichever way you look at it, Durban sure is South Africa's playground. Apart from its People and activities, its ever-pleasant weather plays a pivotal role in making this city one to be visited all year round. As the locals would proudly say when encouraging the potential visitor to their beloved city - Woz'eDurban!

**P.S. Bringing your swimwear is mandatory!**



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# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



Words by: Chags Photography by Amish Chhagan



In the heart of Kenya's Central Province lies Solio Game Reserve, a highly secure and private sanctuary home to hundreds of black and white rhinos. Mfalme, a 35-year-old southern white rhino, is one of its most impressive inhabitants. However, the broader story of rhinos could be more pretty; with poaching remaining the number one existential threat to their survival.

## MEET MFALME, A TOWERING SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO EXUDING A COMMANDING PRESENCE THAT CAPTURES OUR ATTENTION EFFORTLESSLY IN SOLIO GAME RESERVE, KENYA.



© Chags Photography by Amish Chhagan



© Chags Photography by Amish Chhagan

**M**falme resides in a highly secure and private sanctuary in the Central Province of Kenya. Spanning over 20,000 acres, this reserve is home to hundreds of black and white rhinos, with whom he shares his habitat. Solio Game Reserve, established in 1970, stands as one of the earliest privately-owned rhino sanctuaries, and it boasts the world's most extensive population of rhinos within a single conservancy. Remarkably, this population continues to thrive and expand with time.

### (EXISTENTIAL) THE THREAT OF THE UNICORN

Unfortunately, the broader story is not so pretty. Based on the current and official poaching statistics, it is estimated that at least one to two rhinos are killed every day in Africa.

The audience of this piece is likely well-informed about the primary threat that rhinos face: poaching. This danger has been extensively documented through various channels, including investigative journalism, reporting, and research conducted by conservation organisations and selected media outlets. Renowned conservation photographers and videographers have also captured visual accounts of the issue, often depicting the horrific nature of the act. Though difficult to watch, these visual exposés are crucial for raising awareness about the severity of the problem. A simple search on Google regarding rhino poaching yields over two million results, illustrating this issue's widespread attention.

Despite this, poaching remains the number one existential threat to rhinos. Why? In short, the reason is that the demand for rhino horn in the black market is enormous and remains a highly lucrative trade.

Although rhino poaching in Africa had decreased since its peak in 2014/15, when nearly 1,400 rhinos were poached, the numbers remain high. In 2019, an estimated 600 rhinos were poached – still an incredibly significant number. It is worth noting that these are officially reported figures; some countries do not release these statistics; hence the figure is likely to be much higher. About 90% of all rhino poaching occurs in South Africa, as the country boasts the world's highest rhino population. It also borders Mozambique, a major trading hub where much of the rhino horn is smuggled to its final destination in East Asia.

The black-market commercial value of rhino horn is a delicate topic as there are mixed opinions regarding publicising the value to avoid enticing new market entrants, amongst other reasons. Others suggest that the focus should not be on the value of the horns but on addressing the overarching cause, which in my opinion, is true.

Despite the controversy surrounding the commercial value of rhino horns, we humans are more likely to take action if we have a basic understanding of the problem's magnitude. To provide some context, the current value of rhino horn by weight is more valuable than gold, platinum, or cocaine. Grasping the horn's worth can help us comprehend the potential market size. With some high-level assumptions, the estimated annual value of this illicit trade on the black market is around US\$200 million. However, this figure is likely underestimated, and the actual value could be twice that amount.

Put mildly, if this were a legitimate legal corporation, it would be a highly profitable billion-dollar unicorn. This is why poaching remains the number one existential threat to rhinos.

### FIVE SPECIES OF RHINO EXIST (TODAY)

Unbeknownst to many, there currently exist five species of rhinoceros. However, this number may soon change due to the critical endangerment of two species: the Sumatran and Javan rhinos, primarily found in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the greater one-horned rhino can be found in India and Nepal, and the black and white rhinos are native to Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Black rhino is characterised by having more aggressive behaviour and is currently classified as critically endangered, with only around 6,000 individuals remaining. The White rhino is the second-largest land mammal (after the African elephant) and is the most populous among all rhino species, with an estimated population of 16,000 (down from around 18,000 in 2017), and is considered near threatened by the IUCN. Approximately 80% of the global population of black and white rhinos reside in various national parks in South Africa.



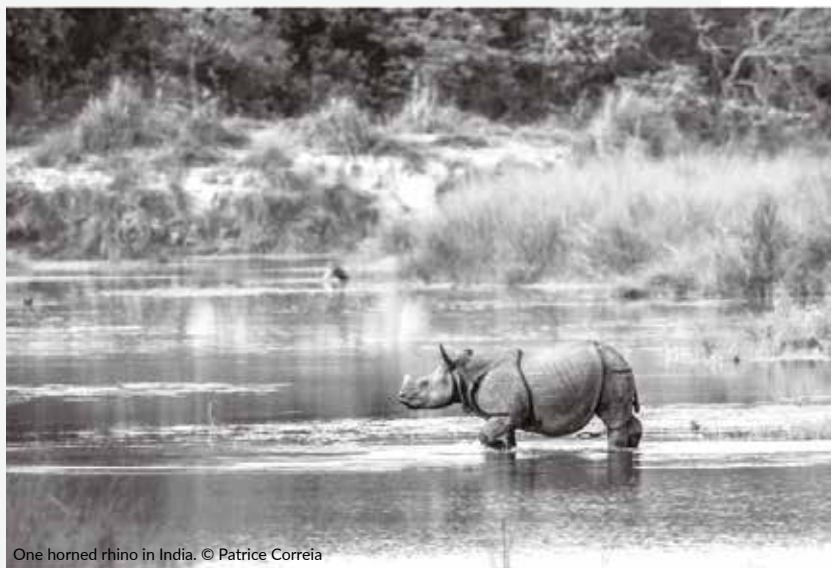
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Javan Rhino in Indonesia. © Tobias Nolan



Sumatran Rhino in Indonesia. © Michel VIARD



One horned rhino in India. © Patrice Correia



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This is Najin, representing 50% of the population of Northern White Rhinos held in Ol Pejeta Conservancy.  
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Rhino horn seized in Hong Kong. © GovHK

Whilst the Southern White Rhino is the more prevalent sub-species, the Northern White Rhino is critically endangered and considered extinct in the wild. Only two individuals remain, both female and residing in a protected sanctuary in Ol Pejeta in Kenya. In 2009, they were imported from a zoo in the Czech Republic to participate in a natural breeding program. The efforts have yielded positive results, as a consortium of scientists and conservationists known as BioRescue has created several viable Northern White Rhino embryos.

### THE RHINO HORN MAFIA

East Asia, particularly Vietnam, is the primary market for highly-prized rhino horns. These horns are distributed locally within the region and to China, which is known to have the highest demand for rhino horns and ivory. This demand has been increasing in recent years, partly due to growing populations and the emergence of a burgeoning middle class. The Level 5 Wholesale Traders serve as intermediaries between storage facilities and the underground retail market. Various products are produced between them and the Level 6 Retailers to serve the high market demand in Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and Malaysia. They are sold to everyone from powerful kingpins, tycoons, government officials, diplomats, and, in recent years, the emerging middle class.

### STATUS GAMES: ROLEX OR RHINO HORN POWDER?

Re-affirmed by old beliefs and a growing middle class across East Asia, the ever-growing rhino horn market has created a varied product offering. In Chinese medicine, it is considered a miracle "drug" with versatile properties – everything from treating fevers, hangovers, and various forms of cancers, to a Viagra alternative and even a potential cure for COVID-19. It is crucial to establish that no evidence suggests any of these treatments work. A rhino horn is composed entirely of keratin, a protein humans produce naturally in our hair, nails and skin. This alone should dispel the belief that there are any medical benefits from rhino horn or, at the very least, encourage people to seek alternative sources for the active ingredient. Unfortunately, the deep-rooted beliefs and traditions surrounding



© Chags Photography by Amish Chhagan



Finished products known to have rhino horn, seized by Hong Kong officials. © GAO



© Chags Photography by Amish Chhagan

the use of rhino horn have proven difficult to overcome, and scientific evidence and common sense have been unable to erode the foundation of this long-standing practice.

The Rhino horn is also valued as an ultimate status symbol in many East Asian cultures. Owning rhino horn allows the affluent to display and mark their status, influence, and power within a hierarchical society. Just as many in the West might show their wealth with luxury watches or expensive sports cars, some view owning rhino horn or ivory as the ultimate status symbol in certain East Asian cultures. These items are often fashioned into decorative objects such as beads, bracelets, rings, or carved ornaments, among others.

### TOP LEVEL ACCOUNTABILITY

It is important to recognise that each participant within the value chain plays a vital role in facilitating this illicit trade. While local rangers and conservation organisations play a significant role on the ground, their efforts alone will not stop the trade in rhino horn. Addressing the entire organised crime syndicate will, however, make a difference. While we must do what we can to protect the species from poachers and their informants, we must also recognise the source of the demand for rhino horn. Ultimately it is these organised crime syndicates that finance entire operations. Therefore, it is crucial to tackle the issue at its source.

Stopping poaching, educating local communities, and challenging long-held beliefs are essential to combating the rhino horn trade. However, the most significant players with the power to disrupt this value chain are the government in Africa and East Asia. Governments must take a more active role in addressing the issue and implementing stricter regulations and penalties. The current systems need to be more effective at curbing this illicit trade. Only through collaborative efforts between governments, conservation organisations, and local communities can we hope to protect these magnificent creatures from extinction.

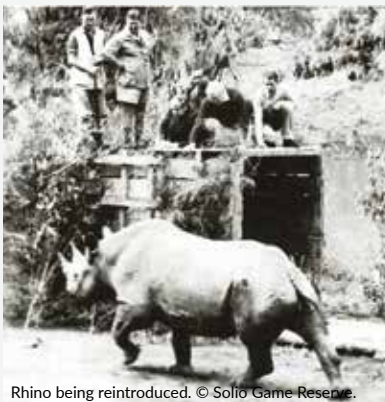
### A BRIGHT SPOT: SOLIO RANCH

Originally a cattle ranch, Solio Game Reserve was formed as part of a conservation effort initiated by The Parfet Family's owners. They apportioned a considerable amount of the land for conservation and the breeding of rhinos, particularly the threatened black rhino. The ranch was the first of its kind in Africa and was created in response to the alarming increase in rhino poaching in Kenya, which posed a severe threat to the survival of the species in the country. Black rhino populations in Kenya dropped from around 18,000 in the late 1960s to less than 1,500 by 1980 and to about 400 in 1990. In the 1970s, The Kenyan Government, in collaboration with the Kenyan Armed Forces and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), helped safeguard the sanctuary.

Although black rhino populations in Kenya rapidly declined in the late 20th century, the Solio Game Reserve was successfully and quietly breeding black and white rhinos. As the population grew, the conservancy had to be expanded in the mid-1980s to prevent overpopulation. Eventually, Solio Game Reserve became a primary breeding ground, supplying national parks nationwide, including Lewa, Lake Nakuru



Rhino orphan feeding time in the 1970's.  
© Solio Game Reserve



Rhino being reintroduced. © Solio Game Reserve.

National Park and Ol Pejeta, and helping restock Southern and East African populations. One can trace most black rhinos in Eastern Africa back to Solio Game Reserve; this is called impact.

Despite its success, The Solio Game Reserve has also faced significant challenges. The early 2000s saw a rapid spike in poaching, mainly targeting Solio Game Reserve. To counter this, additional private anti-poaching security and Kenyan Armed Forces and KWS were brought in to help curb the sudden spike. In 2005, a photographic database was created to track and monitor all the rhinos living on the reserve. These efforts provided long-term monitoring programs and made it nearly impossible for poachers to breach.

Solio Game Reserve plays a central role in rehabilitating the species in East Africa, boasting the most successful private rhino breeding reserve in the world, which helps to facilitate the reintroduction of rhinos all over Africa.

***“No one in the world needs a Rhino horn but a Rhino.”***

**— Paul Oxtan**

This a fitting quote for what has been an emotionally difficult article to research and write, for the most part. While some arguments may be disheartening, some shining examples and places in parts of Africa are creating an impact and making a real difference – Solio Game Reserve is one such example. We may feel helpless, but by reading this article, you have already contributed to the cause – knowledge and awareness about the issue are crucial in taking the first steps towards making a difference.



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# THE SONIC LEGACY OF **YOUSSEOU N'DOUR**

SENEGAL AND ZAMBIA  
UNITE ON STAGE

WORDS BY: CHAZE MATAKALA

IMAGES BY: CHAZE MATAKALA AND COURTESY OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE



# MUSIC LEGEND YOUSSEU N'DOUR PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ZAMBIA, SHARING THE STAGE WITH LOCAL ARTISTS. N'DOUR IS CREDITED WITH DEVELOPING THE MBALAX SOUND AND TAKING IT TO THE WORLD.



**S**enegalese musical icon and activist Youssou N'Dour performed on Zambian soil for the first time, reminding an overflowing audience of his importance to Africa's musical heritage and traditions.

The musical genius of N'Dour was birthed in 1959 in the city of Dakar, where he began singing at religious festivals in his childhood neighbourhood at the age of twelve. His compelling stage presence was honed outside of dance clubs in Dakar in his early teens, where he performed with his band as talented underage musicians who could not legally enter the clubs.

Mbalax evolved as a genre with roots in Wolof cultural life and was marked by distinct percussion elements. As the decolonial dreams of Africa became a reality across the continent in the mid-1970s, the Mbalax sound underwent its own transformation, drawing influence from Islamic, Cuban and Western jazz soundscapes and transcending the liberated spaces of Senegalese music clubs and radio waves. N'Dour and his long-time band, the highly acclaimed Étoile de Dakar, are credited with developing the mbalax sound and taking it to the world. The hybrid



genre burst onto the contemporary mainstream in the 80s. It was cemented with his biggest international hit, '7 Seconds,' a timeless collaboration with Swedish singer Neneh Cherry (a Swedish singer of Sierra Leonean ancestry) from N'Dour's celebrated 1994 album *The Guide* (Wommat).

N'Dour's illustrious career was inspired by the griots or gewels, the centuries-old musical and oral storyteller of the Wolof people. Still, N'Dour's impact is felt far beyond his native Senegal, as demonstrated by his successful recording and touring career of over four decades. His musical prowess earned him numerous awards, including a Grammy, and fans worldwide.

So, it is no surprise that when N'Dour played in Zambia for the first time, it was to a sold-out crowd of different generations. The event took place at Ciêla Resort on the scenic outskirts of Lusaka and was organised by the cultural

institute Alliance Française and other partners. N'Dour is a pan-Africanist, and it was fitting that he shared the stage with Zambian musicians of different generations and genres.

The first act to grace the stage was Congolese-born Zambian musician Mumba Yachi, who warmed up the audiences' spirits with his soulful acoustic melodies. Yachi set an uplifting tone for the night, compiling creativity across artificial borders and expressing histories that narrate swift and sorrowful truths. Yachi was accompanied by the virtuosic guitarist Mr Chanx, who also transitioned to the second act, the renowned Moses Sakala and his distinguished protégée, Angela Nyirenda, a superstar in her own right.

As two of Zambia's most beloved and prominent musical artists, Sakala and Nyirenda summoned an infectious energy on stage. Nyirenda's powerful vocals fed off the vibrant traditional

dancers who they shared the stage with, pulsating to the beat of the djembe drums. Arguably Zambia's best traditional drummer, Sakala, set the stage alight with enticing syncopations. Like N'Dour, Sakala is known for creating a musical style which modernises indigenous rhythms. This was a night to experience a stellar constellation of Zambian music as a prelude to one of Africa's musical giants. With the stage primed and the rhythms echoing in the soles of the audience, N'Dour's highly anticipated performance finally began.

N'Dour was introduced on stage with the message, "If you wanna dance, you can dance! If you wanna sing, you can sing!" - the crowd responded accordingly. The audience was notably diverse, including a jovial cohort of the Senegalese diaspora in Zambia, incredibly proud and grateful to be experiencing their country's biggest artist in the flesh. N'Dour's performance did not simply entertain; it demanded the audience's participation through



**THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, YOUSOU N'DOUR HAS COLLABORATED WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF MUSICIANS, INCLUDING PETER GABRIEL AND NENEH CHERRY.**

dance and the universal desire to have a good time. The opening songs included 'Liberté' and 'Birima,' which served as a testament to N'Dour's eminence as a griot. These songs narrate historical narratives and offer jewels of hope through sonic storytelling. He was akin to a teacher schooling his audience through his music.

Sounds of tranquillity turned to praise songs as the mood picked up with songs such as 'Sénégal Rekk', which had the whole audience on their feet and hands raised, swaying from side to side; N'Dour, the griot, took us through a rollercoaster journey. The band supporting N'Dour's versatile approach to storytelling through song was electrifying. As expected, various percussion instruments and their gifted players were on stage, including the talking drum. Blurring the line between verbal and musical language, the talking drum is bite-sized compared to the djembe, also featured in the line-up. Talking drums, indigenous to West Africa, mimic human speech under the precision and mercy of the player who holds it, communicating intense patterns of the imaginary. A creative exchange between the electric guitarist and the talking drum player had the crowd entranced.

Throughout his career, N'Dour has collaborated with contemporary African and diaspora musicians, including Fally Ipupa, Burna Boy, Akon, Neneh Cherry and Seinabo Sey. N'Dour has maintained his classic sound while staying relevant to younger audiences. I thought of this fact as he performed his most famous song, '7 Seconds' with Zambian songstress Wezi. N'Dour is a pan-Africanist, and this harmonious meeting of Zambian and Senegalese creative labour exemplified his values. Wezi is, without a doubt, one of Zambia's leading female vocalists, and she shares similar values to N'Dour. And like N'Dour, she has answered a calling for activism and humanitarian work.

With a career spanning more than four decades, through multiple shifts in the music industry, including the digital revolution, N'Dour has stayed true to his message of gathering in peace and celebration, championing an authentic African sound that is as vast as the continent's heritage. His first Zambian show was truly one to remember. N'Dour has worked to preserve a wealth of African musical traditions while fusing modern sounds into them, collaborating with multiple generations of musicians, and breathing new life into his audiences. His first Zambian show was no exception.



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**Words and images by: Bongani Kumar (Adventures with Bobobongz)**



Imagine feeling your heart pounding with excitement at the thought of embarking on an adventure to a far-off land. As a true traveller at heart, I take the opportunity to nourish my wanderlust by seeing a different side of the world each year.

So, when I heard about the chance to journey over 1000 km away from my hometown to the mystical northernmost region of Zambia, I couldn't resist. Especially since it marks where our great nation meets the waters of the Tanganyika. And so, with my bags packed and my heart filled with anticipation, I set out on an unforgettable voyage.

Fortunately, I was able to join other travel enthusiasts on an excursion organised by a local travel agency. Our expedition began in the early morning hours as we set out on the main highway that links Lusaka and the Copperbelt province. We were eager to reach the Kapiri-Mkushi turn-off before the lorries and commuters cluttered the road.

If you start off and drive into Kabwe after 6 a.m., I highly recommend a short stop for coffee and cake at the Fig Tree Cafe.

We drove past the Zambia Railway – TAZARA Railway interlink in Kapiri just as the golden sun peaked over the horizon. By this point, we were now traversing the breadth of Zambia's Central province. I couldn't help but marvel at how the landscape transformed before our very eyes; from the wheat and maize-laden

plains in the Mkushi farm block to the protruding hills of the Muchinga Escarpment in Serenje, every vista was more breathtaking than the last.

Although we had planned to take a detour to see the stunning Kundalila waterfall, we had our sights set on reaching Kasama, the Northern provincial capital, before nightfall. The state of the road after Serenje made our plans feel a little far-fetched, but we weren't disheartened. Instead, we took advantage of the opportunity to get up close with the grey inselbergs of the escarpment that dotted most of the region.

We eventually got to Kasama in time for the main evening news broadcast. We settled into Alitasha Lodge, which provided us with all the amenities needed to recharge for the rest of our journey.

The following day, we left Kasama and drove through the northern countryside, which was covered in meadows of greenery that stretched to the scenic highlands at Senga Hill. It was no wonder why this side of the Northern Province, much like the Luapula Province, is a veritable treasure trove for tourism. The vast open spaces were filled with awe-inspiring highland landscapes and sunflower gardens, and the air was crisp and refreshing.

The area after the Mbala-Mpulungu T-junction formed the apex of this

scenery as the Great African Rift towered over the valley that gradually descended into the picturesque Mpulungu harbour. And finally, we beheld the stunning sight we had longed for - the shimmering waters of Lake Tanganyika.

We made a pit stop at one of Zambia's oldest national monuments, the Niamkolo Church. Though it was without a roof, the church remains the oldest surviving stone church in the country and has been declared a national monument. The Niamkolo was built by the London Missionary Society missionaries who also journeyed to Zambia after David Livingstone. The church continuously served as a place of worship until 1908, when the mission post moved inland to avoid the sleeping sickness carried by tsetse flies near the lake.

Today, the remnants of the Niamkolo Church still stand as a testament to the country's rich history, and it's a remarkable sight to behold. As we went downhill towards the Mpulungu Harbour lakeside marketplace, we could smell the day's fresh catch lingering in the air. The lakeside marketplace was a bustling hub of activity, with fishermen and traders offering their wares.

Interestingly, the harbour marked the end of the Great North Road, which began at Kabwe traffic circle in Lusaka. It was a momentous feeling to know that we had traversed the entire length of this iconic road.

Our adventure continued with a 30-minute boat ride on Africa's longest lake to get to Isanga Bay, laden with brown sandy beaches and palm trees. The peaceful surroundings and the clear, pristine waters of the lake were refreshing and invigorating. The bay offered such a contrast of experiences, making the entire journey worthwhile.

I absolutely enjoyed being able to leave the safety of the bay and kayak into some pretty deep blue waters. Thankfully, this side of the lake does not usually have crocodiles and hippos. Of course, being a strong swimmer is highly recommended if you paddle yourself onto the second-deepest freshwater lake in the world. Another notable experience I enjoyed was just resting under the palms and enjoying a much-needed breather; this was a vacation, after all.





As the sun began its slow descent towards the horizon, I found myself at peace perched on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, eagerly awaiting the scene about to unfold. A storm was brewing in the distance, lightning almost splitting the clash of greys, oranges, yellows and navy blues, all in a spectacle of nature's might, gentleness and calm.

In this moment of bliss, I was not alone. Tinkles, the friendly sausage dog who resided on the property, joined me in enjoying the serene atmosphere, basking in the gentle ripples of the lake and the striking beauty of the sunset. Even an animal could not resist the calming allure of this view. Alas, as the idiom dictates, time indeed flew by, and it was already time to journey back home.

The next day, our journey continued to Mpulungu, where we then proceeded towards Mbala to visit the Kalambo Falls, Zambia's Northernmost waterfall. We were relieved that the road from Mbala town was graded, with plenty of signage along the way. We decided to park and walk down the last 1.5 km to the waterfall site as the road got quite rocky and almost treacherous for our non-4x4 vehicle. It was amazing that we could see Tanzania on the other hillside because, like Mosi-oa-Tunya Falls, the Kalambo Falls is also a cross-border waterfall.

We then went to the visitor's centre, where we learned about the area's archaeological significance and the river's history. From there, we descended a staircase to the point where the Kalambo River swirls and plunges 200 meters into the gorge below, making it Africa's

second tallest uninterrupted falls. It was stunning to experience, and the views of the rift valley and Lake Tanganyika in the distance were unmatched. Walking back uphill to the vehicle was quite the workout, but witnessing the area's beauty made it worthwhile.

Returning to Kasama, we were eager to complete the trifecta of Northern Zambia's stunning waterfalls. As the golden hour approached, the uppermost waterfall, Mutumuna Falls, greeted us. Its boulder-strewn base provided an ideal perch for us to appreciate the falls' majesty up close, but the slick rocks underfoot required our utmost care.

Downstream, the Luombe River accelerated, culminating in the breathtaking Kaela Rapids. A tranquil lake gave way to a tumultuous cascade of water, and we were spellbound by the raw energy of nature. Yet, the undisputed

star of the trifecta was the awe-inspiring Chishimba Falls. The cascading water could be heard long before we saw the stunning sight. As the Luombe River plummeted over the cliff, the fall's power was simply mesmerising. After our exhilarating adventure, we returned to Kasama, where we spent the night before journeying back to Lusaka the following day.

The thrill of exploring the unknown had ignited our wanderlust and left us craving more. As we drove away from the Northern Province, we knew this was just the beginning of our travels. To any fellow adventure seekers reading this, I highly recommend embarking on a journey into the unknown. The experiences and memories you will make might be those you will cherish forever. So go out there and explore the world - your next adventure awaits!





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MAY | JUNE 2023

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Proflight Zambia reserves the right to change, suspend or amend this published schedule without prior notification. Every effort will be made to operate as per the planned schedule.

Please check our website, [www.flyzambia.com](http://www.flyzambia.com), for updated departure days and times.

### LUSAKA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
020	08:00	10:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
024	11:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
026	15:00	17:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

### NDOLA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
040	08:10	10:40	●		●		●		
301/020	06:30	10:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303/024	09:00	13:00		●		●	●	●	●

### 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	08:20	●	●					
910	07:00	08:10			●	●	●	●	●
914	15:00	16:10	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

### LUSAKA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
300	06:30	07:15	●		●		●		
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	07:40	●	●					
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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
027	18:20	20:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

### JOHANNESBURG - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
041	12:30	15:00	●		●		●		
025/306	14:00	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

### 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
911	08:50	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	●	●	●	●	●	●	
305	15:15	16:00							●
307	15:30	16:10	●		●		●		
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	08:00	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	●	●	●	●	●	●	

## BOOKINGS

reservations@proflight-zambia.com

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CONNECTING  
**DURBAN**  
& **LUSAKA**  
**DIRECT.**

**Lusaka-Durban**

Days: Thursday, Sunday

Time: 09:00 - 11:30hrs

**Durban-Lusaka**

Days: Thursday, Sunday

Time: 12:30 - 15:00hrs

**PROFLIGHT**  
ZAMBIA



# PROFLIGHT NAMED ONE OF THE MOST LOVED AIRLINES IN THE WORLD



**P**roflight Zambia, the country's largest airline by routes served and fleet size, is one of the most loved airlines in the world, according to a study conducted on major airlines around the globe.

The Australian foreign exchange service study by S Money was conducted using an AI Sentiment tool that measured people's perceptions by collecting positive and negative tweets that mentioned the airline, ranking the airlines with the highest percentage of positive tweets against those with the most negative tweets.

"The rankings are one indication that we are doing something right, and our customers are taking note of our efforts and commitment to providing comfortable, safe and reliable services, said Proflight Zambia Director Flight Operations Captain Josias Walubita.

Proflight was ranked tenth most loved airline worldwide in the survey, which was topped by Bearskin Airlines of Canada and included TAP Express of Portugal and Fiji Airways in the Pacific.

Three African airlines, including Proflight, made it onto the

list, illustrating how far the airline has come from its inception. Auric Air (Tanzania) and AirKenya Express (Kenya) were the other two airlines.

Proflight is a safe, reliable, efficient and friendly service offering good value to business and leisure travellers locally and internationally.

Proflight was founded in 1991 by pilot Tony Irwin and has gone through a few transitions over the years. What was once a chartered airline has become the most reliable commercial airline in the country - by no means an easy feat.

Currently, the airline operates from its base in Lusaka, and its domestic routes include Livingstone, Mfuwe, Lower Zambezi (Jeki and Royal airstrip), Ndola, Solwezi and Mansa. And regional routes to Johannesburg in South Africa from Lusaka and Ndola, as well as to Lilongwe, Malawi.

In a further bid to grow into its vision of becoming Zambia's leading regional airline, Proflight Zambia is set to reintroduce its direct Lusaka-Durban route starting in April 2023.

# PROFLIGHT OVERTAKES SOUTH AFRICA ON LUSAKA-JOBURG FLIGHTS



**P**roflight Zambia has boosted capacity on its Lusaka-Johannesburg service, resulting in the route between the two cities having more Zambian-operated flights than South African ones.

Proflight has increased the frequency of its flights to three times a day and is introducing a 126-seat 737-500 aircraft to its fleet to meet the demand.

The airline commenced the three daily flights seven days a week in April. The 737-500 aircraft, leased from African Charter Airline of Johannesburg, will be operational from June.

“We are thrilled to make the announcement, as this development is closely tied to Proflight’s ambition to expand our services into the regional market and reflects the commitment we have to promote air travel as an affordable, safe and reliable means of transportation,” said Proflight Zambia Director Flight Operations Captain Josias Walubita.

“It is also exciting news for travellers to and from Zambia and South Africa on business or holiday as we provide them with more flight options and comfort,” Capt. Walubita added.

The Lusaka-Johannesburg route will be serviced by Proflight’s three 50-seater Bombardier jet aircraft and the 737 aircraft, providing comfort and speed for passengers. The 737 aircraft has 126 economy seats, increasing capacity for the 2023 season. With the addition of the 737, Proflight will be operating nine aircraft. The other aircraft are three 50-seater Bombardier jets, four 29-seater Jetstream 41, and one 18-seater Jetstream 32, servicing ten destinations supported by 210 employees, of which over 95% are Zambian citizens.

Lusaka-Johannesburg is one of the airline’s most popular routes. By offering more flights on the route, Proflight has positioned itself as the airline of choice in terms of flexible flight plans. The airline also continues to invest in training for its employees and expand its fleet to meet regional and local demand.

# PROFLIGHT 'FLYING THE CHITENGE' HIGH



**P**roflight Zambia has continued celebrating the country's rich cultural heritage through its "Fly Chitenge" initiative. The campaign was officially launched in October 2019 to commemorate Zambia's 55th Independence Day celebration and has since become a symbol of pride for the airline and the country as a whole.

The Chitenge is a versatile fabric used to make traditional outfits in urban and rural African areas. Perhaps more significantly, the material, typically adorned with vibrant colours and intricate patterns, is also an integral part of Zambian customs, serving as a status symbol and a sign of modesty.

As a company that has its routes firmly embedded in Zambia, Proflight has incorporated Chitenge into its branding and made it a crucial part of its identity, capturing the hearts of flyers across Africa and the world.

The fabric encapsulates the airline's personnel's friendliness and welcoming nature, which is integral to Proflight's ethos.

The airline has even designated special days of the week where staff dress in Chitenge attire to represent the rich culture, traditions, and the Zambian way of life. It is a beautiful representation of Zambia's rich cultural heritage and celebrates its people.

# 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

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

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



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

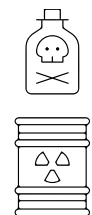
**EXPLOSIVES**  
 such as fireworks, flares  
 munitions, Ammunitions and  
 pistol caps

**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**  
 such as bacteria and live  
 virus materials



**! IF YOU ARE CARRYING  
 ANY OF THESE ITEMS,  
 YOU MUST INFORM THE  
 AIRLINE**



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