

## **Politics, September 2010**

### **Late President Levy Mwanawasa Remembered**

President Rupiah Banda has said Zambia managed to maintain stability after the death of president Levy Mwanawasa because of the firm and reliable governance system put in place by the late leader. The Times of Zambia reported on 20th August, 2010

And former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa has said the most important aspect of leadership is vision.

Speaking during a memorial Church service to mark two years since the death of Dr Mwanawasa at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka yesterday, President Banda said the reliable system of governance left behind by the late president made the people of Zambia withstand the shock of losing a sitting president.

“Dr Mwanawasa with his Cabinet ministers, civil service and the Zambian people had laid a firm economic and political foundation which would ensure continuation of policy, programmes and good governance,” he said.

In a speech read on his behalf by Vice-President George Kunda, President Banda said observed that the late President left behind the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP), which was a basis for economic development and governance.

The FNDP also formed the basis for support from cooperating partners, and that the continuity of good governance and prosperity was therefore guaranteed.

He reiterated Government’s commitment to constructing a museum and mausoleum at Embassy Park as a way of appreciating the works and contributions to national development of the late president.

He also pledged Government’s continued support to Dr. Mwanawasa’s family, saying the support would be offered in accordance with the benefits of the former president, as provided for by the Act.

Mrs. Mwanawasa said in her thanksgiving message that the late president could be remembered as having succeeded in being a leader with a vision.

She emphasised the need for national leaders to take a simple resolution of telling the truth, alongside embracing inner spiritual growth. Mrs. Mwanawasa also read out Dr. Mwanawasa’s last will and testament, which he read out and was recorded on 23rd March, 2005.

Speaking at an evening function to launch a book on the Late President, Bank of Zambia Governor Caleb Fundanga observed that Dr. Mwanawasa’s legacy portraying his resilience in the fight against corruption will remain. Dr. Fundanga also commended the author, Martin Kalungu Banda for putting a human face to the life of Dr. Mwanawasa who was constantly projected as a tough and no nonsense man. The book is entitled” It’s how we end that matters: leadership lessons from an African President.

## **First President Kenneth Kaunda Honoured By SADC and AU**

The 30th Jubilee summit of the SADC Heads of State meeting in Windhoek Namibia from 16-17th August 2010 has conferred the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal to Zambia First President H.E Dr. Kenneth Kaunda. He received the award together with former President Sam Nujoma of Namibia and Amb. Brig-Gen Hashim Mbita of Tanzania.

In accepting the honour Dr Kaunda observed that the people in SADC had not yet reached the destination to realise their long-held goal for a continental economic community where there would be free movement of people, goods and services across the existing artificial borders. He however expressed confidence that given the resourcefulness of the SADC People, “the malaise of underdevelopment, poverty and its offshoots of hunger, disease, corruption and above all exploitation of man by man” would be overcome.

He said the SADC region had every reason to celebrate although 30 years may not be a long period in the history of an interstate organisation, which had emerged from the era of colonialism and the abominable system of apartheid in South Africa.

Meanwhile, the 15th ordinary summit of the African Union which was held in Kampala from 19-27th July, 2010 endorsed the appointment of Dr. Kaunda to represent Southern Africa on the AU Panel of the Wise for a three year term. The newly appointed personalities will commence their mandate on 18th December, 2010.

Other members of the panel are: Mrs. Marie Madelaine Kalala-Ngoy (Central Africa), Mrs. Chnery Hesse (West Africa). President Ahmed Ben Bella (North Africa) and Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim (East Africa) were re-appointed for their second three year terms.

In 2007, the African Union inaugurated the panel of five eminent persons to promote efforts to prevent conflict on the continent, according to the five geographical regions.

The AU's peace and security architecture includes a Peace and Security Council (PSC); an African Standby Force (ASF); a Military Staff Committee (MSC); a Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and a Panel of the Wise.

According to Article 11 of the AU Protocol on Peace and Security the Panel of the Wise has the mandate 'to support the efforts of the Peace and Security Council and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention' (AU Protocol 2002: Article 11.1). Specifically, the Panel of the Wise has the mandate to 'advise the Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the AU Commission on all issues pertaining to the promotion, and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa' (AU Protocol 2002: Article 11.3).

## **Zambia State of Democracy Assessment Project Launched**

Zambia's State of Democracy assessment project was launched on 20 July 2010 in capital Lusaka. The project is organized by the Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) and the Department of Political and Administrative Studies of the University of Zambia (UNZA) with support from the Stockholm based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

According to Dr. Charity Musumba the FODEP Executive Director, the project aims to draw public attention to the project and to engage the public in closely monitoring its implementation. She also said that the launch marked the beginning of a sustained engagement with various stakeholders during the SoD assessment process. Dr Peter Loloji, Head of UNZA's Department of Political & Administrative Studies, has also assured that his department has the necessary skills and experience to undertake such an assessment.

The IDEA State of Democracy project has developed a comprehensive methodological tool that the citizens of all democracies in the world can use to assess the functioning of their own democratic systems. The assessments are aimed at raising public awareness, sparking discussions and helping identify areas for reform. The project does not place countries in a ranking order, but rather focuses on progress or setbacks

In Lusaka, the launch was attended by no less than 65 participants from civil society, political parties, Government, the APRM National Governing Council, members of the diplomatic corps including IDEA Member States and other members of the International Community.

Dr. Paulos Tesfagiorgis, IDEA's Senior Advisor for Constitution-Building Processes noted that his organizations supports citizen-led assessments in order to contribute to better quality democracy and active citizenship. Since International IDEA's interest and mandate is in building sustainable democracy, supporting internal actors such as UNZA and FODEP in evaluating the quality of their democracies is one way of pursuing its mandate.

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