

SWEDISH-ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Annual report to the AGM 2007 for the year 2006

The Youth Rights Information Centre project at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe continued during 2006, with a budget of 144,000 kronor of which 131,000 kronor was a grant from SIDA (via Forum Syd) and 13,000 kronor our own contribution. Unfortunately there was a delay in the transfer of money to Mindolo for 2006, which caused some activities to be postponed to June when the money arrived. The reason for the delay was the time it took to finalize the project report for 2005. The Youth Centre was officially inaugurated June 27 by Director Thomas and one of our members, Paula Maritz. The project has focused on the establishment of a Youth Club for high school students, aged 16 to 20. They meet twice a week to learn more about human rights, HIV/AIDS and gender through self-studies and presentations by invited lecturers. The activities are coordinated and supervised by a Youth Club organizer. Currently our volunteer, Anna Tyllström has that position. We are now in the process to recruit a locally employed successor.

The chairman made a two week long monitoring visit to Mindolo in October. He had the opportunity to follow the practical work inter alia HIV/AIDS education through theatre and also participated in several project meetings. His conclusion from the visit is that the project is on track and delivering results according to plans despite many obstacles and difficulties (has been described in detail elsewhere). The concentration on Youth Club activities is a positive development.

Anna Tyllström has worked with organizational development at Mindolo as a volunteer during September – December. According to the director, she has been a breath of fresh air and has contributed substantially to the development of Mindolo through her goal-oriented attitude. For the first time our Association is acting as an employer, which has worked well mainly due to the dedicated work by our treasurer Göran Midman. A new grant from SIDA has made it possible to extend the volunteer assignment for Anna Tyllström through May 31.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11 March 2006 at the Zambian Embassy. The AGM approved the Annual Report, the Financial Report and the Auditors' Report and gave the Board a vote of confidence. The AGM elected the following Board for 2006/2007:

Rolf Svanström	Chairman	Reelection 2 years
Tommy Hemmingsson	Vice chairmen	New election 2 years
Göran Midman	Treasurer	1 year left
Lennart Simonsson	Secretary	Reelection 2 years
Joyce de Maré	Program officer	New election 1 year
Siw-Inger Halling		Reelection 2 years
Anna Tyllström		1 year left
Carin Hedlund	Alternate	Reelection 1 year
Elisabeth Persson	Alternate	New election 1 year
Karl-Johan Sonnegård	Alternate	New election 1 year

Göran Häggfeldt was re-elected as auditor, Stefan Falk was elected (new) as auditor, and Jan Ölander was re-elected as an alternate auditor, all three for 1 year. In the Nominating Committee Margareta Sonnegård (convenor) and Paula Maritz were re-elected and Tell Åke Dahlöf elected (new) for 1 year.

The board met on 17 January, 5 April, 9 May, 11 June (in conjunction with an excellent lunch at Sonnegård's place), 29 August, 10 October and 29 November. At the end of the year the number of paying members was 132, a decrease from last year by 18 despite the influx of some new younger members.

The development of our new web site (www.swedish-zambian.org) was concluded when it was launched in September. The site was updated in October and December. Members who have submitted their email address to the board receive information about updates. However, we are still missing email addresses for 60 percent of our members, which is an obstacle in our effort to improve communication and to cut costs. There has been positive feedback from several members and others on the web site. The paper-based Newsletter was published twice, May and December

Our excellent relationship with the Zambian Embassy continues. The board meets in the premises of the embassy, now located in Solna. A representative from the embassy and sometimes from the sister organization Pamodzi are invited to share information at the meetings. Together we organised a very pleasant Independence Day celebration October 21 at the ambassador's residence.

The Association organized three MFS-seminars in co-operation with the NGO INUG (Ingenjörer och Naturvetare utan gränser) and the Institution for Political Science in Uppsala. We informed briefly about the Association, distributed our leaflet and talked about the possibilities to carry out minor field studies (MFS) in Zambia. The seminars attracted in all 94 students, and several showed some interest in Zambia.

The Zam-Nordic Golf Tournament took place in Molde, Norway. Some 40 people participated, mostly Norwegians but several Swedes and one brave Finn.

In September some board members met a group of Zambians who were invited by the Government to observe the Swedish elections. The Association also had a meeting with some Swedes who were going to Zambia to be a part of the EU election observers. In October, the Association was invited to participate in a workshop regarding the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ), which is an initiative between the Zambian Government and the leading donors to co-ordinate their work in order to minimize double work and improve efficiency. Sweden has accepted to be the leading donor in the Agricultural and Health sectors.

A work group headed by Tommy Hemmingsson has developed an archive policy, which has been adopted by the board.

SIDA has approved an application for a four-month assignment for an IT-volunteer. We are now in the process to recruit a suitable person.

A questionnaire regarding the mission of the Association was distributed to members via email and enclosed with Newsletter in May. In total 21 persons replied. The board is grateful to the respondents for their effort but had hoped for a more extensive response.

The Financial Report indicates that the Association's finances were in good order and registered a small surplus for 2006.

*Uppsala, March 2007, for the Board,
Rolf Svanström, Chairman*