

SWEDISH-ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Annual report to the AGM 2011 for the year 2010

The Mindolo youth project, which focuses on human rights for youths, continued 2010 with the start of a new project period 2010 - 2012. The budget for the whole period is 424,000 SEK of which 384,000 SEK is a grant from Sida and 40,000 SEK is our own contribution. This project is the biggest undertaking the SweZam Association has embarked upon, and requires extra effort from the people involved as well as our members giving financial and spiritual support. However, there are great payoffs such as the rewarding feedback from the participating Zambian youth.

The vision of the project is to reach out to Zambian youth, educate and empower them about real life issues, inspiring them to become good and productive citizens in society by providing them with information regarding Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender. The means to achieve the vision are:

- to strengthen the established Youth's Rights Information Centre, which is used for capacity building and organizational development within the targeted area. Members of the first three youth clubs are engaged as mentors and peer educators.
- to build strong networks with secondary schools in the surrounding community, where new clubs will be established. Presently there are youth clubs in seven secondary schools (High schools).
- to involve other youth and adults (parents, teachers) through outreach activities.
- to network with other organizations that run or conduct youth programmes such as YAN (Youth against AIDS Network), and PPAZ (Planned Parenthood Association Zambia).

In our opinion, the project is still successful which was again confirmed during my last follow-up visit in November 2010, and can to a large part be credited to the youth co-ordinator Bruce Mubanga and the youth club leaders and members. The organization and focus of the project has evolved over time and the influence from the youth has increased continuously. The direction of the project has changed from establishing youth clubs at Mindolo campus, to forming youth clubs in schools and to conduct outreach activities in schools and the surrounding community in order to reach more people at the same cost (less money spent on bus tickets) with the message of human rights. The Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) management now regards the project as an integral part of their activities and it has received commendations, from outside observers, as a modern institution introducing workshops on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender where both parents and children participate and have a dialogue on equal terms. Furthermore, the Youth Centre has been requested to educate the staff at the District Ministry of Education office on gender issues.

As stated above our own contribution is 40,000 SEK for the project plus an extra 6,000 SEK for audit costs. During 2010 we paid 15,000 SEK as our own contribution. We managed to raise 13,082 SEK through donations, sales of pins and a reduced number of printed Newsletters. The incoming balance from 2009 was 9,813 SEK thus the outgoing balance is 7,885 SEK. We would like to thank several of our members for their valuable contributions. However we need more donations and fund-raising activities for the years to come to secure the continuation of the project.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 March 2010 at Etnografiska Museet, Stockholm together with the friendship societies for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The AGM elected the following Board for 2010/2011:

Rolf Svanström	Chairman	Re-election 2 years
Karin Johansson	Vice chairman	1 year left
Elisabeth Persson	Treasurer	1 year left
Lennart Simonsson	Secretary	Re-election 2 years
Eva Dalekant P	Permanent	New election 2 year
Åsa Knutsson	Permanent	New election 1 year
Magnus Halling	Permanent	Re-election 2 years
Hanna Eckeskog	Alternate	New election 1 year
Staffan Uddeholt	Alternate	New election 1 year

Tommy Hemmingsson and Karl-Johan Sonnegård were re-elected as auditors, and Tell Åke Dahlöf was re-elected as an alternate auditor, all three for 1 year. No Nominating Committee was elected due to lack of candidates.

The board met on January 18, February 22, April 7, May 31, September 4 (at the Sonnegård family's home with an exquisite lunch buffet), October 6, and December 8. At the end of the year the number of paying members was 94, a decrease from last year by about 10.

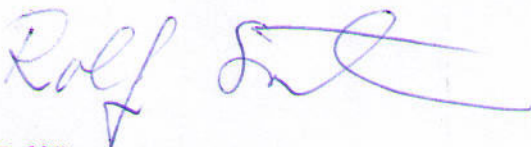
The web site (www.swedish-zambian.org) is updated on a regular basis and members who have submitted their e-mail addresses, approx 90%, receive information about the updates. The web site has been modernised to facilitate simplified content updates and also giving readers the possibility to give feedback. The cost for printing and distributing the paper-based Newsletter has been reduced significantly since a majority of members download the Newsletter from the web site instead of getting a paper copy. There has been positive feedback from several members and others. People, e.g. high school pupils and students planning to travel to Zambia, who have searched the web for information about Zambia, have also contacted us for tips and advice.

Our excellent relationship with the Zambian Embassy continues. The ambassador Joyce Musenge transferred to China in the beginning of 2010. Ms Anne Luzongo Mtamboh is the new ambassador. We wish them both good luck and success in their new duties. The board meets on the premises of the embassy. Representatives from the embassy are invited to share information at the meetings. Independence festivities were held at the residence of the Zambian Ambassador on October 23. As a prelude, a workshop on AIDS/HIV was organised by Noachs Ark and the Pamodzi Association, and attended by several of our members. Representatives from the Swezam board participated in the festivities together with many Zambian and Swedish friends. As usual it was a very pleasant and interesting event.

We organized two informal After work meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to offer members and others interested in Zambia, a possibility to meet and talk about Zambia, development issues and other matters. At one of the meetings, two Zambian young women participated. They were in Sweden as participants in the cultural exchange project headed by Centrum för Internationellt Utbyte.

The Association has been a member of Forum Syd during 2010.

The Financial Report indicates that the Association's finances are in good order and that there will be a surplus for 2010.



Rolf Svanström
Chairman Swedish-Zambian Association