



Mindolo News

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Not for sale

Participant dies

First year Zambian Teachers Certificate Course participant, Ms Sella Bwalya passed on March 28 in Chingola and was put to rest on March 31 in Chingola.

Ms Bwalya visited the clinic on March 27 and was advised by the Clinic Sister, Ms Margaret Makangile to seek further medical attention. She therefore went to Chingola on the same day and the following day she passed on.

Speaking at the cemetery, ZATEC Coordinator, Mr Katwishi said Mindolo had been robbed of a potential teacher.

Mr Katushe said Mindolo's vision was to train participants who should go back to society and contribute to the development of society. He said Mindolo was saddened by the sudden death of Ms Bwalya. He said Ms Bwalya was among the first participants to participate in the ZATEC programme which began in January 2009.

He assured the family members that Mindolo was mourning with them and would pray for the family as they mourned their daughter.

EDITORIAL : Kashoki Henry Nsofwa
Mwiinga Shimilimo

First lady visits MEF



I HOPE MEF clinic will open VCT centre soon. - Mrs. Thandiwe Banda (right).

First Lady, Mrs. Thandiwe Banda, paid a courtesy visit to Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Mrs. Banda visited the Peace Centre, clinic and the room in which Mama Betty Kaunda (First Republican President, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda's wife) was accommodated during her days as a MEF participant.

The first lady revealed that she often visited friends at MEF when she was still a Kitwe resident and that Saturday's visit refreshed her fond memories of the institution.

On arrival at the clinic, the nurse, Mrs. Margaret Makangila, shared

with her that MEF clinic sometimes ran out of drugs because the community had grown.

Mrs. Makangila said she was hopeful that Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) units would be opened at MEF clinic because of the increasing MEF population.

And acting coordinator for the Peace Centre, Mr. Ignatius Mukunto, revealed that the Peace centre had designed courses to offer for government officials who dealt with issues related to conflict resolution.

"We intend to start training United Nations peace keepers and those sent by government for

Continued on page 2.

'Support MEF's golden Jubilee'

Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation chairperson of the Golden Jubilee Committee, Prof. Muyunda Mwanalushi has appealed to business houses to pledge financial support to the institution.

Prof Mwanalushi said this during MEF's fundraising golf tournament cocktail party which was held at Kitwe's Sherbourne guest house on March 13.

Prof. Mwanalushi said he was hopeful that business houses would contribute towards MEF's golden jubilee not only through monetary, but through other means as well.

He revealed that Mopane Copper Mines had pledged to help with the repair of the road .

"MEF will be celebrating fifty years of existenc we all celebrate our birthdays. We appeal to business houses to support us financially," he said.

And at the same function, Kitwe District Commissioner,



PROF. Mwanalushi

Mr. Macdonald Mtine, who is MEF's golden jubilee Research Committee Chairperson, said the institution had contributed to career development of many people across Africa and overseas, hence it was important for those alumni to support MEF.

Mr. Mtine gave detailed history of MEF and mentioned that MEF had trained a lot of Africans who were now prominent government ministers in their various countries.

"The institution has trained many prominent people such as Mama Betty Kaunda...our media department has trained prominent journalist such as Fackson Nkandu," he said.

Mr. Mtine also disclosed that bodies such as Mine Worker's Union and Zambia Congress of Trade Unions were founded at MEF.

"MEF has contributed to the development of this nation because it was among the first institutions to educate Africans during the colonial era. It also trained many uneducated Africans during the post-independence era," he said.

The fundraising cocktail was attended by representatives business houses, non-governmental organisations, Church and individuals.

The cocktail party was aired on Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Television on Friday, March 20 and Monday 22.

First lady pays courtesy visit to MEF

from page 1

peace keeping in war torn countries. Our approach at MEF is different from other peace training institutions. Here we place emphasis on conflict transformation through dialogue as opposed to using fire arms. Most peace keepers want to bring peace by using fire arms but at MEF, we want to train them to use other means," said Mr. Mukunto.

The first lady commended the peace centre for the programmes they were offering



and urged them to continue with the good work.

In concluding her visit, the first lady signed the visitor's book.

"I write a lot," she

chuckled. Mrs. Banda signed the longest paragraph so far in the visitor's book saying:

"Thank you very much for showing me around the surroundings of Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation. I recognise the great works which are taking place within this institution and believe they will help our Zambian people as well. I appreciate your warm hospitality."

MEF programmes still relevant – WCC



WCC representatives on arrival at director's office. Ms. Affermann (right) and Mr. Sintado (left)

World Council of Churches has said MEF courses are still relevant to the African continent Ecumenical Scholarship Programme Officer, Ms Natascha Affermann said this during a meeting with Management and Union Members in Zambezi class room on March 6, 2009.

Ms. Afferman said the evaluation which she and her counterpart from Geneva, Mr.Carlos Sintado had conducted revealed that MEF courses were still relevant to society.

Ms Affermann said MEF had the potential to revive as long as the institution looked for more sponsors apart from WCC.

“I commend the introduction of Zambian based courses at MEF because they will reduce dependency on donors. I think there’s too much dependency on donors, especially us,” she said.

“We will reveal our findings of our evaluation later when Carlos and I prepare separate reports,” said Ms. Affermann.

She added that there had been a lot of hurt on the part of Management and workers, but there was still hope of growth in MEF now that reconciliation had taken place.

Ms. Natasha said she was amazed at how much infrastructure MEF had and gave an example of the dark room at Media Department

which had seven machines for chemical photography.

“I learnt from Ms. Shimilimo, that MEF has machines for chemical photography whilst the University of Zambia has only one such machine!” she said.

Ms. Affermann urged MEF to market courses more rigorously so that the institution can have an increase in number of students.

The two representatives visited all programmes and departments, and had talks with management, workers, lecturers and the union.

Their evaluation lasted from March 2 to 6, 2009.