

The Swedish-Zambian Association

Newsletter

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On the cover:

Greta Mattsson together with the late chairman of the Swedish-Zambian Association, Rolf Svanström (to the left) and secretary Lennart Simonsson.

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Rolf Svanström leaves a legacy of hope

The sudden, shocking passing in July of Rolf Svanström has left a big void in the Swedish-Zambian Association, but he also leaves a legacy of hope. Rolf was elected chairman in 2006. During his tenure Rolf showed great dedication and interest in the Association – and especially the Youth Rights Information Centre (YRIC) project at Mindolo.

The project is the largest undertaking the Association has taken on, and has proved to be challenging not the least over stringent financial reporting demands requested by Swedish authorities.

As chairman, Rolf spent countless hours poring over reports, and working on drafts and budgets – often in close tandem with Lisa Persson, the treasurer. Scores of emails in my inbox are just one tangible sign of this toil.

But Rolf did not shy away from the hard work, and whenever there was an impasse he would seek alternative solutions. This reflected, I believe, his wish to ensure the overarching goal that YRIC could continue its efforts to reach out to youth, parents and others.

Rolf had a deep interest and love for the people of Zambia. This was apparent in 2005 when I had the privilege of visiting the country with Rolf, and three other members of the Association. Our visit coincided with the centenary of the former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld's birth, which was commemorated at various events. During our stay we visited the Hammarskjöld plane crash site, near Ndola, along with students from Mindolo. At a memorial ceremony, dignitaries from Zambia and Sweden paid tribute to Hammarskjöld. On the bus back to Mindolo, the students from Zambia and several neighbouring countries were engaged in an animated discussion on human rights and gender equality. Rolf made a few remarks but mainly listened – with a twinkle in his eye – as the female students challenged mindsets about women and their role in society. A male student, who had argued vocally about limiting women's rights, was forced to backtrack. When we stepped off the bus, Rolf smiled broadly and said he had enjoyed the discussion as much, if not more, as the formal speeches at the Hammarskjöld commemoration. How come? Well, Rolf said, the discussion was an indication that some of the ideals that Hammarskjöld had propagated have really taken root. If more young women were able to discuss and defend their rights with the same conviction as the female students we heard on the bus, then there was reason to hope for a bright future for Zambia and its neighbours.

Rolf will be sorely missed, but let us take some comfort in the knowledge that he leaves a legacy of hope embodied by YRIC and the youth clubs that are active at schools in the Kitwe region.

Lennart Simonsson, board member

Words of remembrance

Many members of SweZam and friends from several organizations that Rolf communicated with on behalf of SweZam expressed their deepest condolences to Rolf's family and to the association for the loss of the pillar that he was to the SweZam project at MEF in Kitwe. Especially the Youth Coordinator Bruce Mubanga had a close relationship to Rolf and expressed his feelings very sincerely.

Mr Rolf Svanstrom (paps)

You were not just my Boss you became like a father and a grandpa to me. Working with you for 5 years as a The Swedish-Zambian Association Board Chairperson was; challenging, a learning experience, fun and rewarding. Challenging in that you always pushed me to work hard, report on time and think outside the box and when am wrong you rebuked me thus, kept learning! fun and rewarding because of your passion to the Project you exposed me to traveling within Zambia and outside!

So this year I was expecting your visit to Zambia for Monitoring like it's always been for the past 5 years! You were concerned of my personal life and wanted to know when I will marry so you come and attend the wedding! Space fails me but your death is tragic to me, MEF, and the entire SWEZAM family in Zambia and Sweden! I wish I could attend your burial!

M.Y.S.R.I.P Sir!

Bruce Mubanga, youth coordinator at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation

A visit to the Zambian Embassy in Sweden during the Exchange visit in 2009.

From left: Ylva Werlinder, Don Mwindilila, Bruce Mubanga, the Ambassador Joyce Musenge, Linda Malukutu, Rolf Svanström and Karin Johansson.



From Marianne Svanström

My family and I want to thank all concerned for the kind condolences regarding my husband Rolf Svanström's sudden death. He was the chairman of the Swedish-Zambian association for many years and passed away in July in the midst of his assignments for the association. We wish to express our deepest felt thankfulness for all the kind letters, mails and cards as well as the beautiful flowers for his funeral. He had a high esteem of Zambia and especially enjoyed working with the Mindolo Youth Project for Human Rights in the Copperbelt together with the board of the Swedish – Zambian association.



Rolf and Marianne Svanström at the AGM 2012 at Etnografiska museum in Stockholm

2011 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

January - March, 2012

NATION YOUTH DAY COMMEMORATION IN THE CITY OF KITWE

Introduction

With the change of government from the MMD to PF it was expected that this year's youth day would have a lot of changes such as; changing the Youth Day planning committee, the PF inclined youths being given a platform to take the leading role and perhaps the speeches being made and read to simply apse the new regime! However, this was not the case, yes there were few changes but the SWEZAM project still had its firm influence in the committee and the overall preparations!



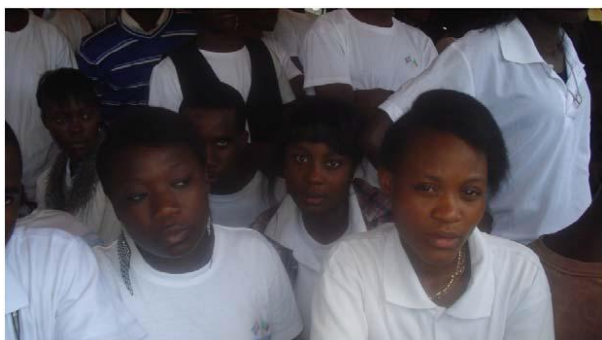
This year, towards the run up to the event a lot of focus and coverage on radio and TV was to the SWEZAM project due the Developing Democratic Principles in Youths workshop. These where are the words of the Youth Day organizing committee Chairperson on Zambia

National Television Copperbelt Focus programme during the youth week activities;

“.....We have been working with various stakeholders to ensure that the youths are empowered with knowledge and skills so that they become a part of sustainable National development. The PF government is taking a leading role in ensuring this is done. And yesterday I was briefly part of a workshop for youths at Mindolo Ecumenical foundation, where there is a project called SWEZAM Youth Project. They brought youths together to look at developing democratic principles such indicatives are important and are helping in changing the mind sets of young people when it comes to democracy”

Youth Day Background

National Youth day is commemorated every **12th on March**. This is a day that allows youths from various organizations, Schools, Companies, political parties, churches and from the communities to come and show case their talents, skills and gifts through poems, dances, drama, drills, march pasts, speeches and exhibitions. It further allows them to build networks amongst themselves. The other interesting item is that; universities and college take time to explain to school going pupils (Grade 12s) on the various courses they offer.



This year's Theme was: **Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable National Development.**"

The SWEZAM Project Participation during the event

The project took part in the following

- 1. Reading the Speech on behalf of all the youth in Kitwe**
- 2. Exhibition of the project's resource centre**
- 3. Citing of the poem**

Reading the Speech On Behalf Of All the Youth in Kitwe

The Speech Was Read by the Helen Kaunda High SWEZAM Youth Club Facilitator/
Coordinator - Idrissa K.Pilati.

Exhibition of the project's resource centre

The SWEZAM exhibition desk was just next to the high table where all the guests were seated including the guest of honor. This made the desk accessible to a lot of people keeping the SWEZAM members behind the desk busy explaining to people where the project is found and what it is all about. When the time for visiting the exhibition desks came, the guests accompanied by the guest of honor started with The SWEZAM project



before going to other desks. There, the youths explained to the them what the project does, how long its been in existence and where it is located.

Citing of the poem

It was unfortunate that the poem was not cited due to bad weather the rains kept coming and going the led to the cutting of some activities and sadly it included the SWEZAM poem. It was sad to see the SWEZAM youth leaders who to cite the poem not doing as they worked hard to prepare for that like always!

CONCLUSION

The SWEZAM Project has become a household name in a lot of youths in schools and communities and churches (requests for school leavers to become active members when they leave school are many). Therefore, now comes a time to ensure that the impact of the project's activities are seen the change of attitudes and behaviors in the lives of youths. And hopefully this year's (2012) activities will solemnly focus on that!

**Cc: MEF Director
Project Committee members**

Mänskliga rättigheter på agendan när debatt drar igång i skolorna!

I fredags började SweZams populära debattävling mellan skolorna och idag fortsätter den första utslagsrundan. Finalen blir här på MEF på lördag. Temat är mänskliga rättigheter och tio skolor ställer upp med tre elever var. I fredags blev det en het debatt om införandet av mänskliga rättigheter i skolor, om det har varit till nytta eller skapat oordning i skolorna. Debatten kretsade mycket kring fysisk bestraffning i skolorna och hur stort behovet av disciplin egentligen är.

Aulan var full med livliga supportrar från de debatterande skolorna. De erfarna engagerade SweZam-medlemmarna som brukar koordinera klubbarna på skolorna ställer upp som domare, en eloge till dem för deras engagemang och all tid de lägger på projektet mot minimal ersättning! SweZam-projektet rullar på även med andra aktiviteter. I torsdags följde jag med några av klubbmedlemmarna på Mukuba Boys High School till en annan skola där de pratade om HIV/AIDS och sexualitet. Åhörarna var redan väldigt insatta i ämnet så det blev en intressant diskussion och ett kunskapsutbyte.

Nu är vi tillbaka på kontoret efter en långhelg. Måndag och tisdag var "Heroes' and Unity Day", officiella helgdagar här i Zambia. Jag har haft en bra ledighet med flera kortare utflykter i området kring Kitwe, så nu har jag sett lite mer av omgivningarna. Söndag kväll var vi på en spelning i Kitwe och i måndags grillade vi hos Bruce, min handledare. Nu väntar en kort, intensiv och rolig arbetsvecka som sträcker sig fram till finalen på lördag.

Hanna Helander,
Mindolo, 4 juli 2012



Ett aktivt liv har givit energi



Foto: Hans E Ericson

Greta Mattssons liv har varit mycket omväxlande. Hon har bland annat arbetat i mjölkaffär och skött design och tillverkning av kläder i Zambia. Nu fyller hon 91 år!

Fakta

NAMN: Greta Mattsson

AKTUELL: Fyller 91 år 24 oktober, firar samma dag 68-årig bröllopsdag.

FAMILJ: Make Sven, barnen Eva och Hans, barnbarnen Johan, Peter, Ylva, Åsa och Björn, barnbarnsbarnen Doris, Hillevi och Astrid.

BOR: I Nor, Knivsta.

ENGAGEMANG: Hedersmedlem i Svensk-zambiska föreningen, Hembygdsföreningen i Knivsta, Internationella kvinnogruppen, Musikens- och bibliotekets vänner, PRO och SPF.

INTRESSEN: Människor, litteratur, matlagning och skapande.

LÄSER JUST NU: August Strindbergs Lilla katekes för underklassen. Mikaelis Niemis Fallvatten, Mo Yans Ximen Nao och hans sju liv.

OM SIG SJÄLV: Glad, med åren tolerant, social, kreativ och aktiv.

UPPSKATTAR HOS ANDRA: Gillar människor som är avspända och har något att berätta.

MOTTO: Människor är som de är.

Greta Mattsson har upplevt avgörande historiska händelser på nära håll. Hon minns när Belgiska Kongo blev fritt, och skräckslagna belgiska kolonistörer flydde i panik från staden Elizabethville till gränsstationen Kitwe. Hon minns när de första Sidaanställda kom till kontinenten fram på 60-talet. Och mest av allt minns hon när FN:s generalsekreterare Dag Hammarskjölds flygplan störtade i Ndola, där hon och hennes man bodde.

Greta Mattssons egen livshistoria börjar helt blygsamt i Älvsbyn i Norrbotten, där hon föddes i mitten av en syskonskara på nio. Hennes pappa hade målerifirma och mamma drev Stålbergs konditori i Älvsbyn.

– På den tiden var ett konditori en viktig samlingsplats på norrländska orter. Konditoriet finns kvar än i dag, under namnet Polarbageriet, säger Greta Mattsson som tidigt fick börja hjälpa till i konditoriet, iklädd svart klänning, spetskrage och ett litet vitt förkläde, minns hon.

Krigsåren innebar goda tider för rörelsen, och av ransoneringen märktes inte mycket. Bönder i närheten levererade både grädde, smör och kött. Dessutom kom det massor med inkallade soldater till Älvsbyn, till glädje för traktens unga flickor.

– Det kom så många vackra pojkar söderifrån så det kan du inte tro! Fast det skulle förstås vara en fänrik om det skulle bli allvar. Men de kontakterna var så rörande oskyldiga: vi brukade bjuda soldaterna på Pommac och mazariner.

Skolan i Älvsbyn fungerade som sjukhus, och hon glömmer aldrig när hennes bror som läst franska via Hermods en dag bjöd hem några av de sårade patienterna.

– Det var en tysk, en ryss med röda kinder och en fransman som hade förlorat ena benet i kriget, säger Greta Mattsson som skulle komma att få många internationella kontakter senare i livet.

För svindlande 68 år sedan träffade hon sin Sven. Paret bosatte sig i Karlstad och blev snart ivriga waerlandister.

– Vi var riktigt renläriga, åt kruska varje dag och levde som vegetarianer i tolv år, säger Greta Mattsson som tillsammans med maken var medlem i en frisksportarklubb, vandrade i skog och mark under sång och ägnade sig åt gammeldans.

Efter några år i Karlstad köpte makarna ett timrat torp i värmländska Skåre, utan vatten och avlopp. Det var under den perioden Greta Mattsson lärde sig hugga ved. Hon drev en mjölkaffär i Skåre och tjänade extra genom att stå modell för krokielever. När barnet kommit blev torpet för trångt, så familjen byggde en villa i Färjestad.

Hennes make som var engagerad inom Byggnads- och träfacket fick erbjudande att resa till Ndola i Zambia för att hjälpa till att bygga upp en fackföreningsrörelse där. Självklart följde resten av familjen med. Under Afrikaåren skapade Greta Mattsson kläder av afrikanska tyger och arrangerade uppskattade modevisningar både där och i Sverige – med firmanamnet Anna-Greta of Sweden.

– Jag köpte en massa tyger och ritade själv mönstren till kläderna. Det här var i början av 70-talet och Afrika stod på många sätt i fokus, säger Greta Mattsson som har många roliga och spännande minnen från Afrikaåren.

Efter 15 innehållsrika år i Zambia flyttade makarna Mattsson åter till Sverige och bosatte sig så småningom i Klockarbacken, Knivsta, där de bott sedan 1984. Nu som då är hennes hem en mötesplats inte bara för familj och släkt, utan för människor från hela världen.

Greta Mattsson var med och startade Svensk-zambiska vänskapsföreningen och har under många år suttit i styrelsen. Fortfarande får hon då och då besökare från zambiska ambassaden. – I dag är de så unga att det jag kan berätta är historia för dem.

När hon inte lagar god mat och umgås med familj och vänner läser hon gärna, vilket det inte alltid funnits tid till tidigare.

– Nu för tiden läser jag massor. Knivstabiblioteket har så fin service och personalen är ljuvligt snäll.

Att träna är också viktigt för henne. Greta Mattsson är hedersmedlem (vilket innebär gratis träningskort) på Hälsohuset i Knivsta, där hon går på gym ett par gånger i veckan. Men för den skull försummar hon givetvis inte sina regelbundna qigong-pass.

Av: Anna Bill anna.bill@unt.se



Greta Mattsson together with representatives from the Zambian Embassy and the SweZam Board at one of many joyful gatherings at the family Sonnégård's place north of Åkersberga.

Unrelated to her profession!

Hanna Helander (insert) from the University of Uppsala, Sweden has volunteered to do Swezam work in the month of July. She will be discussing gender based violence to high school pupils around Kitwe. In addition, Hanna will do administrative work and coordinate young people's activities in Swezam high school clubs. "I found out about Swezam on the internet and I wrote to them to ask which organisations I could do voluntary work for in Africa and they suggested MEF," said a smiling Hanna. "I have not experienced many cultural shocks in Zambia compared to life in Sweden but I have truly enjoyed the cultural exchanges," she added with a chuckle.

So far Hanna has visited 12 schools and has talked to some of the schools about gender based violence. And this year's Swezam youth rights information day [youth expo'], took place in the second week of April in the Charles Fisher Hall at MEF. Young people from high schools around Kitwe show cased different talents through song, drama, dance and poetry. The young people discussed human rights, gender based violence and HIV/AIDS topics. The young people also had a privilege of listening to motivational speaker and events planner, Mrs Bwalya Nonde Peters.



Source: <http://www.whypoverty.net/en/>

STEALING AFRICA

How much profit is fair?

Rüschlikon is a village in Switzerland with a very low tax rate and very wealthy residents. But it receives more tax revenue than it can use. This is largely thanks to one resident - Ivan Glasenberg, CEO of Glencore, whose copper mines in Zambia are not generating a large bounty tax revenue for the Zambians. Zambia has the 3rd largest copper reserves in the world, but 60% of the population live on less than \$1 a day and 80% are unemployed. Based on original research into public documents, the film describes the tax system employed by multinational companies in Africa.

Rüschlikon is a sleepy village in Switzerland, where house prices are soaring, unemployment virtually non-existent and social problems few and rare. Discretion is the local watch word, as Mayor Bernard Elsener puts it, “*you can be rich, but please do not show it.*” The good fortune of the village was recently cemented by the arrival Ivan Glasenberg, CEO of commodity giant Glencore, who netted \$9.6 billion when his company went public in 2011. Receipt of Glasenberg’s taxes overwhelmed public coffers to such an extent the mayor decided to lower the tax rate.

Less fortunate are the citizens of Zambia, who don’t see bountiful revenues from their internationally owned copper mines. Zambia has the 3rd largest copper reserves in the world, but 60% of the population live on less than \$1 a day and 80% are unemployed. “*We are aware that Africa is losing more money from tax avoidance by foreign companies every year than it is gaining in aid from the countries from which these people come*” comments Zambia’s Vice President Guy Scott, who was elected in 2011 on a promise to challenge existing corporate practices.

However, the terms of Zambia’s bail-out by the World Bank and the IMF in 2000, when copper prices had hit rock bottom, makes change difficult. The near broke country agreed to loan conditions that required the sell-off of the mines. As Edith Nawakiwi recalls “*I felt that I was not a minister. I was a beggar.*” Copper prices subsequently rebounded, but too late for the country to benefit from an increase of over 350%. “*Glencore*” comments filmmaker Christoffer Guldbrandsen “*is famous for their ability to spot an opportunity which is what they did in 2000 with the faltering Zambian mines*”. Now a public company, Glencore’s predecessor company was founded by Marc Rich, a highly controversial and ruthless American businessman who fled US Justice in 1984. Along with their co-investors, the company successfully negotiated a royalty rate of 0.6% with the then Zambian administration. The lowest in Africa.

These terms, which the now disgraced former Minister for Mines involved in the sell-off will not comment on, leave Zambia out of pocket by the exploitation of its own resources. As well as economic woes, copper has also become a source of health and welfare concerns in Zambia. Water supplies are being contaminated and air pollution detected that, observers claim, exceed World Health Organisation levels. “*A lot of respiratory infection cases come*” says Dr Makasa Sichela “*especially when the emissions are too big... I feel it myself.*” Despite the claims and independently sourced data, Glencore strongly asserts that its operations are carefully monitored and clean. “*This is a story of global trade where money and natural resources only flow one way.*”

The Zambian story is only a small piece of the puzzle. Neither the rule or law nor morals determine what investors pay in tax in Africa. It comes down to what you can get away with.”

Some facts:

In 2010, approximately 80% of African exports were based in oil, minerals and agricultural goods.

Around \$160 billion worth of taxes are lost from developing countries each year as a result of multinational corporations dodging paying them.

Liberia declared corruption public enemy No.1 and its revenue rose from US\$80 million in 2004/5 to US\$142 million in 2006/7.



Hälsningar från valberedningen

Kerstin Fagerlund och jag, Staffan Uddeholt, har utsetts att utgöra valberedning till styrelse för SweZam fr o m årsmötet 2013, vilket kommer att hållas under vårvintern.

Som du väl sett avled föreningens ordförande Rolf Svanström oväntat och tråkigt under sommaren. Magnus Halling har vid ett extra medlemsmöte i september fyllnadsvalts att vara ordförande fram till nästa årsmöte men avsat sig möjlighet att sköta uppdraget under kommande år.

Enligt föreningens stadgar utser årsmötet ordförande och kassör vartannat år, så vi står inför ett fyllnadsval av ordförande under en ettårsperiod. Lisa Persson, som tagit hand om ekonomin under flera år har annonserat att hon gärna ser en efterträdare men är villig att kvarstå i styrelsen för att bidra till kontinuitet under året som kommer. Magnus Halling och Lennart Simonsson har ett år kvar på sina respektive mandat och kvarstår således under kommande år, vilket säkerställer erfarenhet och kontinuitet i arbetet.

Det innebär att det förutom fyllnadsval som ordförande finns utrymme för två styrelseledamöter under en kommande tvåårsperiod och för 1-3 suppleanter, som väljs årligen. Med det här meddelandet vill vi därför inbjuda intresserade medlemmar att kandidera till de olika uppdragen. Du, som är intresserad eller bara nyfiken är välkommen att skriva eller ringa till oss så att vi kan samtala om de olika uppdragen. Läs också gärna hemsidan för att få en uppdaterad information om föreningen och dess arbete. Det finns så klart utrymme för att initiera nya frågor för den eller de som önskar. Om du själv inte vill eller har möjlighet är vi tacksamma för tips om personer, som vi kan kontakta.

Vi fram ser emot ett att se så många som möjligt av er vid årsmötet, vilket styrelsen kommer att kalla till i god tid.

Så vet vi att Lisa gärna påminner om att det är hög tid att betala årsavgiften för i år för den som ännu inte gjort det och varför inte samtidigt passa på att betala för år 2013.

Medlemsavgiften är 150 kr för individ, 200 kr för familj och 100 kr för student. Betala in medlemsavgiften till plusgiro 83 05 95 – 5.

Med vänliga hälsningar

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SVENSK-ZAMBISKA FÖRENINGEN **(SWEZAM) www.swedish-zambian.org**

The Swedish-Zambian Association,

was founded in 1974 by a group of Zambians and Swedes. The Association is non-political and wants to promote understanding and closer contact between Swedes and Zambians as well as social and cultural exchange between the two countries. As a member of the Association you have the opportunity to keep in touch with old friends and with current developments in Zambia. You will receive the Newsletter. You are welcome to meetings and seminars arranged by the Association. The Association is a member of Forum Syd. The Annual General Meeting is held in March.

To become a member:

Pay the studentfee of 100 kr, the individual membership fee of 150 kr or the family fee of 200 kr to giro 830595-5.

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