



# WORKING TOGETHER

## Tiyende Pamodzi

Volume II, Issue 3

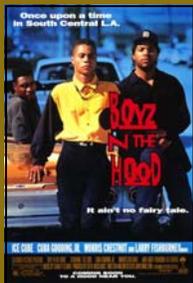
<http://zambia.usembassy.gov>

March 2008

### NOW SHOWING

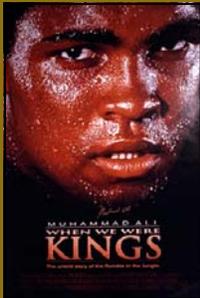
**MARCH 13:**

*Boyz in the Hood*



**MARCH 27:**

*When We Were Kings*



American Center 5:30 PM

**FREE**

American Embassy Lusaka  
Public Affairs Section  
American Center  
COMESA Building  
Ben Bella Road  
P.O. Box 32053, 10101  
Lusaka, Zambia



**HIV** **Free on**  
**24hrs** **falkline**  
"talk to a friend"  
**Call 990**

### U.S.-DONATED BIKES HELP SAVE LIVES



World Bicycle Relief is donating over 20,000 bikes to Zambia.

*Story next page >*

### A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



For the past 20 years, March has been designated as Women's History Month in the United States. Every year there are more and more activities and it has become a great platform for recognizing the achievements of women throughout history.

It so happens that we have a unique position from which to celebrate here in Lusaka this year. It so happens that women play a starring role at this Mission—and perhaps uniquely so! Besides having a female Ambassador, this Mission features women in leadership positions almost everywhere: Our Peace Corps Country Director, the Acting Director of our Centers for Disease Control and Prevention team, and both the Director and Deputy Director at USAID are women. In fact, over 130 Zambian and American women play vital roles in every section and office throughout this entire Mission.

We have many programs in place here to help women and girls, and in the coming months we will begin preparing for the launch of the Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative, a U.S. Presidential Initiative created to help combat sexual violence and abuse against women. We hope that the lives that we help save with our programs will be the same lives celebrated in future Women's History Months!

# GETTING TO KNOW...

## Towa Musukwa Maonde



Ms. Towa Musukwa Maonde joined the United States Embassy in September 2003 as the first Protocol Assistant.

As Protocol Assistant, Towa coordinates meetings with government officials and other international missions and assists at high-level Embassy events. One of her most

challenging assignments at the Mission was to coordinate an event for more than 300 delegates for the 3rd International Institute for Peace Through Tourism at then-Ambassador Martin Brennan's residence. Towa puts her attention to detail and high standard on nearly all of the Embassy's public events.

Prior to coming to the Embassy, Towa worked at the Netherlands Embassy. Though she's worked at a bank, in the insurance business and at a library, Towa marks her current job as the most fulfilling she's ever had. Towa recently attended a very informative Diplomatic Practice, Protocol and Public Relations course at Zambia Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies.

Towa is a people person who enjoys her job as it gives her the opportunity to interact with people from various walks of life on a daily basis. Before returning to Zambia, Towa lived in Princess Anne, Maryland, in the U.S. She is the proud mother of two children, Chilombo and Teza.

# U.S. PARTNER DONATES BIKES TO CAREGIVERS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

In partnership with both the U.S. and Zambian governments, American NGO World Bicycle Relief (WBR) plans to donate nearly 25,000 brand new, extra-durable bicycles to caregivers and child-headed households throughout Zambia. The bikes will allow caregivers to cover greater distances faster, while carrying more medical-care kits to their neighbors in remote areas and villages.



WBR President F.K. Day, World Vision Zambia Director Dr. Charles Owubah, Ambassador Martinez and Dr. Sipungwe form the Zambian Ministry of Health

Last month, Minister of Health Dr. Brian Chituwa accepted 100 bicycles on behalf of the Ministry of Health. U.S. Ambassador Carmen Martinez handed over 100 more bicycles to caregivers at a ceremony at Mututa Memorial center. WBR is also training and equipping 400 Zambian mechanics, who will be able to assemble 4-5 bikes a day and earn a good income.

WBR's donation is being made in partnership with RAPIDS, a local consortium of NGOs supported by USAID, with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief.

# GETTING TOGETHER

Below: A U.S. Embassy panel—Carroll Vasquez, Carmen Villar and Mikael Cleverley—on ZNBC's *Open Line* with host Caristo Chitamya. The panel discussed the U.S. election process and the worldwide interest. The show received over 100 calls and SMS messages from interested viewers.



Above: AIRC staffer Joseph Ngwira (bottom right) with excited students from Lusaka High School. The Public Affairs Section is visiting a different Lusaka high school every week to promote PAS programs, Mission activities, and to answer questions about different aspects of American culture.

## First Person: Bernard Kampolombo

I am a second year Education student at UNZA.



In July 2005, I tested and was told that I was HIV+. The months that followed were like living in a storm. Confusion, frustration and the usual questions of how this happened bombarded me. As if to add salt to the injury, I was also accepted to UNZA at that same time. Even before getting to UNZA, I had decided that one day I would go public so I could be of help to others—and I did on World AIDS Day, in 2006. This was the most challenging thing to do in a

University setting, where I was unsure what the reaction of the other students would be. However I was prepared for whatever would happen. It was more important to me that others could learn from my story. So far some of my fears seem not to have been well founded after all.

It has been challenging being a HIV+ student who is open about my status. The first challenge is that I still have to meet high academic standards and this sometimes means going beyond midnight studying, while at the same time needing enough sleep for health reasons. This sometimes really stresses me up. To maintain a balanced diet is also challenging as sometimes I have to decide whether to spend on academic materials or buy food. Sometimes academics override the food issues. Still, it has been gratifying to know that I have helped others decide to go for VCT. My fears about stigma, though, do not seem to be a big deal in campus. Quite a number of my friends and other students mingle freely with me.

I am a team leader on the U.S. Government-funded UNZA abstinence programme and I have enjoyed this part of the programme as it brings me in contact with the group that I am most concerned with, the school pupils. I have been to Chongwe High School, Munali Girls, Libala High School and just last week I was at Chingwele Basic and Vera Chiluba Basic. In all these schools I have shared my experience. At Chingwele Basic School, just after finishing my discussion on positive living, one grade 9 girl approached me and thanked me for being there for them. She wished me a longer life and actually broke down and wept in front of all her friends. It really touched me and I too almost gave in to tears. I really do need to have more talks with pupils in schools since I strongly believe that I got infected when I was somewhere in grade 8 myself. Reaching out to students is going to be my greatest achievement and I will die a happy man.

Our only hope lies in the young ones and this can only work for the rest of us in Zambia if we show them what would happen if they abstained from sex versus if they did not. The consequences can be grave at the individual, national and international level.

## Kukondwerera tsiku la kubadwa

**March 26, 1930: SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR**

As the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor was one of the most influential women in the world, during her tenure, which lasted from 1981 to 2006. Ms. O'Connor was considered a moderate who often became an important "swing" vote during closely contested decisions. She was also known for her case-by-case approach, making her a very objective jurist.



## SPOTLIGHT:

## U.S. PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Zambians, and indeed people all around the world, have looked on with great interest as the storylines for the 2008 U.S.



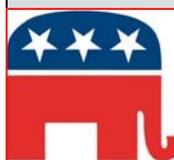
Presidential Election play out with high drama. As the first elections since 1952 without a sitting president or vice president on the ballot, this election promises huge change, regardless of who emerges victorious.

Right now, Americans are casting ballots and holding caucuses to decide the candidates for each of the two major parties—the Democratic Party (donkey) and the Republican Party (elephant). In the U.S. there is no automatic succession to the presidency. Each Presidential candidate must earn their party's nomination by appealing directly to the American people.



That's what makes this part of the process so interesting (and so challenging to the candidates). Right now the remaining candidates are expected to outline their positions on numerous issues—from health care to economic issues to foreign policy—in an attempt to draw distinctions between themselves and their opponents. To do this, they travel all over the country, speaking at each turn to Americans of all stripes.

This year's contest has been particularly close, and as we go to print, the only sure thing is the knowledge that by the time the two main presidential contenders emerge, the American public will have played a major role in shaping the contest.



*Please stay tuned!*

## ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM FESTIVAL PROVES POPULAR

In the month of February, the American people remember the struggles and celebrate the achievements of Africans and African Americans. February is designated as Black History Month, and the U.S. Mission kicked off the second annual Black History Month film festival, showing three great movies which featured stories from the Civil Rights struggles of the 1950's and 1960's.



The popcorn was flowing as Ambassador Carmen Martinez introduced the first film, *The Rosa Parks Story*, on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The film highlighted Parks' famous refusal to give up her seat on a public bus—an act of defiance that led to Martin Luther King Jr. leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On February 20, that same epic story was highlighted in the film *Boycott*. Finally, on February 21, the Deputy Chief of Mission Mike Koplovsky introduced Disney's *Selma, Lord, Selma*, an inspiring true story about a young girl who joins in the famous March from Selma to Montgomery.



Angela Bassett in the title role in *The Rosa Parks Story*.



Originally a weeklong celebration started in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Negro History Week was designed to educate people on the positive contributions of Africans/African Americans. In 1976, the celebration was expanded to the entire month of February, and was designated as Black History Month. President George W. Bush, speaking on February 12<sup>th</sup>, said February “is a month in which we recognize the many African Americans who’ve made great contributions to our country. We honor their talent and their courage. We renew our commitment to securing liberty and justice...”

The theme for Black History month this year is a celebration of America’s cultural diversity.

## AIRC Corner: What’s Happening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library

### NEW PORTABLE DVD PLAYERS OPEN A HUGE FILM ARCHIVE TO LIBRARY USERS



Martin Luther King Jr. Library members have a great new reason to celebrate: the Library has procured new portable DVD players. This opens up the huge American Information Resource Center film library to its Zambian patrons. “This is exciting,” says Matilda Sakala, the AIRC Director, “our clients will be able to pick from classic Hollywood movies, important documentaries, historical miniseries and much more!”

The players, which are small enough to fit in a viewer’s lap, will be used with headphones, and offer yet another way for Zambians to learn and appreciate American culture, history, arts and politics.

“We are one of the first AIRC’s in the world to offer this service,” stated Ms. Sakala, “and we think it will be very popular with our members.”

