



WORKING TOGETHER

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<http://zambia.usembassy.gov>

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NOW SHOWING:



APRIL 12: RAY

APRIL 26: FAME

Showtimes: 5:30 PM
American Center
All shows are FREE.



U.S. builds *Corridors of Hope* in Zambia's border towns

On February 23, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Carmen Martinez officially launched the Corridors of Hope II initiative, on the banks of the Zambezi river, in Kazungula. The three-year, K46 Billion (\$11 million) project, which is funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), aims to reduce unsafe sexual practices among people living along transit routes and border towns, in high-HIV prevalence communities. The project builds on the success of the first Corridors of Hope cross-border project, begun in 2000, to help protect high risk groups from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. *(Continued next page.)*

Getting in Touch

LusakaNews@state.gov

"Please keep this up, it's a very brilliant idea!"

—Executive Director,
Transparency
International Zambia

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A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



Judging by the number of activities we've already participated in, it's hard to believe only a quarter of 2007 has passed!

Along with several members of the Mission staff, I recently had a whirlwind working visit to Livingstone. I was awed by the variety and scope of the many successful U.S. Mission programs there. From the clinics and voluntary counseling and testing centers supported by our CDC and Department of Defense, to a HIV/AIDS education radio drama called *Gama Cuulu*, to the chili pepper farming project supported by our USAID Economic Growth team, my trip to the Southern Province reaffirmed the importance of our mission, but also the commitment and hard work of our numerous Zambian partners. Another highlight of the trip, which we feature in this issue, was the launch of Corridors of Hope II.

Back in Lusaka, I was proud to join First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa in launching the 'Call 990' HIV Talkline awareness campaign. Talkline, which is funded in part by the U.S., is a free telephone hotline providing HIV/AIDS information, counseling and referrals. Call 990 and save someone's life!

GETTING TO KNOW...

Dr. Alwyn Mwinga

Dr. Alwyn Mwinga joined CDC-Zambia in 2001 and currently serves as the Associate Director for Science and Chief of CDC's Care, Treatment and Prevention branch.



Dr. Mwinga has extensive experience working on the treatment of tuberculosis in Zambia. Since 2004, she has had a lead role developing and implementing CDC's PEPFAR activities. As a critical member of the CDC-Zambia's Global AIDS Program, Dr. Mwinga provides scientific leadership for activities related to the rapid scale-up of HIV/AIDS antiretroviral treatment and care, TB/HIV integration, and STI prevention in Zambia. She also represents the U.S. government on the Avian Influenza Preparedness Task Force of the Zambian Ministry of Health.

In December, Dr. Mwinga received the CDC's Global Health Achievement Award in recognition of her good work.

She is also an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases and an Executive member of the Pan African Bioethics Initiative and the University of Zambia Ethics Review Committee. Somehow Dr. Mwinga also finds time to provide lessons to adults and youth in nutrition, healthy living principles and HIV/AIDS in various communities.

Corridors of Hope II continued



When the Ambassador cut the red ribbon, symbolically tied between the cabs of two trucks, alongside Southern Province Permanent Secretary Darius Hakayobe and National AIDS Council Director General Ben Chirwa, she launched a project with a full-range of prevention services,

such as mobile and drop-in services, a variety of counseling opportunities, and condom distribution. Unique to the project will be the introduction of moonlight voluntary counseling and testing centers, near places where people gather at nights, such as bars and truck stops.

"The HIV virus does not recognize man-made borders," said the Ambassador in her remarks, "it moves silently and with ease, transported through unsafe sexual practices. Unless prevention remains a priority of leaders, donors, and those who battle the epidemic, tens of thousands will continue to be infected. Effective prevention projects such as Corridors of Hope II provide tools to block the routes of infection and enables those most at risk to make use of these tools."



GETTING TOGETHER



(Left): Red hot chili peppers. (Right): Ambassador Martinez chats with African Spices Managing Director Mike Graviner in Livingstone.



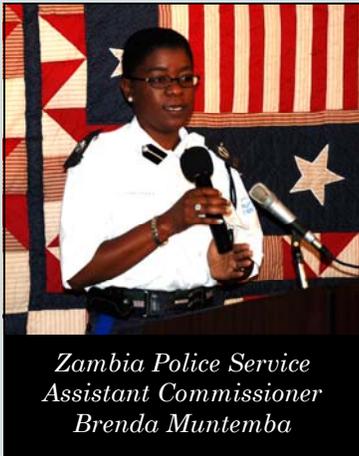
(Left): Ambassador Carmen Martinez receives a traditional welcome while touring a smallholder chili farm in Livingstone.



(Above right): Health Communication Partnership deputy Uttara Kumar accepts the Silver Medal for the film *The Road to Hope* at the New York Festivals International Film Competition. The film was funded by USAID through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

INSPIRATIONAL ZAMBIANS HIGHLIGHT WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

There were plenty of lessons to be learned when the Public Affairs Section brought together a group of twelve high powered women to conduct a Leadership and Mentoring Program for girls from a number of Zambian schools. Ambassador Carmen Martinez kicked off the program, which was timed around Women's History Month in America. The guests, all of whom have found great success, covered a cross-section of professions, including government, the arts, law, medicine, law enforcement, sports, business, and journalism. The women described their careers and talked about how girls in Zambia can find success.



*Zambia Police Service
Assistant Commissioner
Brenda Muntemba*

Ms. Brenda Muntemba, the Assistant Commissioner of the Zambia Police Service, challenged the girls to follow their dreams. "Dare to dream, but have a plan," she said. She also urged the girls to avoid early marriage if it meant sacrificing their goals.

Ambassador Martinez urged the girls to strive to be self-sufficient, taking control of their education and their choices. Speaking about how HIV/AIDS is wreaking havoc on Zambian

society, Ambassador Martinez said that all the strides made in AIDS treatment will mean little if HIV infections continue to rise. All of the panelists echoed this theme, urging the girls to practice abstinence and to be vigilant in protecting themselves against sexual violence.

Said Ms. Muntemba: "Has anyone every gone to a hospital and been told that a person had gotten sick from *not* having sex?!"

Phidelia Mwaba, from the Zambia State Insurance Company, underscored the importance of education—a theme all of the women panelists echoed. "You can be anything you want to be," said Dr. Cheswa Vwalika. "Take the time to get to know yourself," she added, "and always stay true to that self!"

DVDs of the women's presentations are being prepared by the Public Affairs Section (PAS). Please contact PAS for more information if you are interested in using the DVDs in a program.



WHAT'S AHEAD

APRIL 22, 2007: EARTH DAY

The first Earth Day, in 1970, is credited with the birth of the global environmentalism movement. That same year, the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts and created the Environmental Protection Agency.



SPOTLIGHT:

TALKLINE: CALL 990

On March 15, Ambassador Martinez and Zambian First Lady Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa kicked off the CALL 990 Awareness Campaign, designed to promote the HIV Talkline.

Since its launch in December 2003, HIV Talkline has proven to be an effective way for Zambians to learn more about HIV/AIDS. The free telephone hotline offers confidential services which allow callers to speak openly without fear or shame. Callers speak directly to skilled nurse counselors who provide a range of information, including locations of voluntary counseling and testing centers and referrals to any clinic or hospital in the country. Every caller receives individual attention tailored to his or her specific needs.



The First Lady at the 990 event

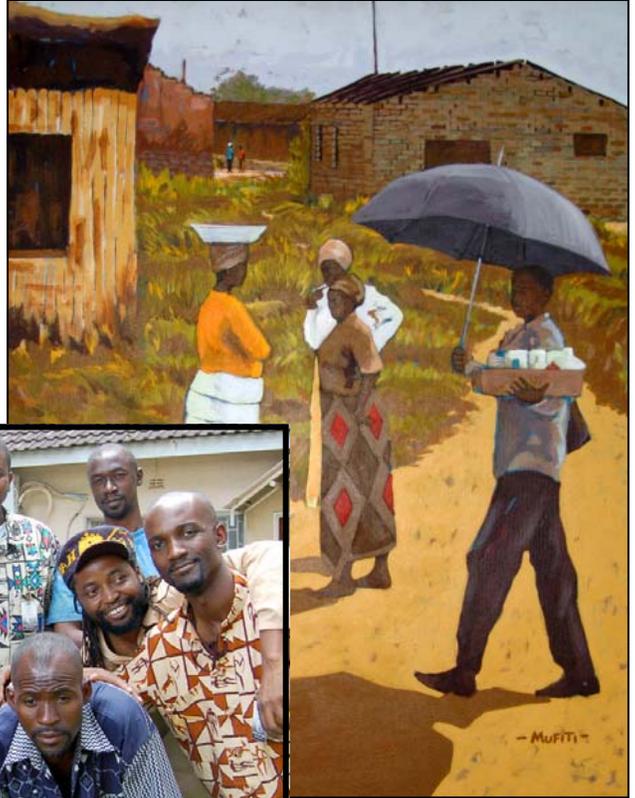
Information is available on the Talkline in a number of local languages.

The 990 call center is managed by Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Management Program (CHAMP), a not-for-profit organization. Talkline is funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and is implemented with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The campaign supports Zambia's National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and calls for widespread promotion of voluntary counseling and testing, abstinence, delayed sexual debut, and faithfulness to one partner. In the past year, the U.S. Government has provided \$149 million for HIV-related programs in Zambia.

Since Talkline's launch more than 420,000 people have called and over 123,000 Zambians have received services.

ZAMBIAN ARTISTS BRIGHTEN USAID COMMUNITY

What started as a way to beautify USAID offices has turned into a productive collaboration. Looking for a way to improve the white walls of USAID and support Zambian artists at the same time, Communication Officer Renuka Naj, herself an artist, approached the Zambian Visual Arts Council (VAC) with a list of USAID's thematic work areas—including health, education and economic growth. Artists belonging to VAC then selected work that complemented USAID's mission here. Currently, 16 artists, in a variety of mediums, have work on display at USAID. There are also plans underway to hire artists to paint murals on USAID's walls, and Ms. Naj will be conducting writing workshops for the artists to help them in their marketing endeavors. A public exhibition of the work, at the American Center, is also a very real possibility...so watch this space!



AIRC Corner: What's Happening at the Martin

AIRC Celebrates 50th Birthday of Dr. Seuss' Children's Classic *The Cat in the Hat*

Oh, the THINKS you can think up if only you try...



The Public Affairs Section used the occasion to get to know some of the American Center neighborhood's school children. Armed with *Fox in Socks*, *Hop On Pop*, and other classics, the PAS staff modeled the joys of reading and matched the 8 and 9-year-olds tongue twister for tongue twister. It was the first trip to the MLK library for most of the children, who also watched *Horton Hears a Who*. The kids left with buttons, pens and a new-found respect for a certain cat in a hat.