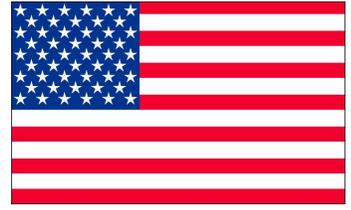




# U.S. Embassy, Lusaka CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



January -March 2013, Volume

## First Ever U.S. Commerce Trade Mission Visits

I recently heard a humorous story about an Italian aid worker who lived in Zambia in the 1970s. He recalled that when his Italian aid organization visited the Lower Zambezi, they were surprised that local Zambians were not farming in the fertile river valley. Amazed at the lack of development, the aid workers brought vegetable seeds from Europe and guided the reluctant Zambian villagers to plant and cultivate crops.

A few months later, he excitedly showcased the impressive tomatoes and zucchinis to the locals and remarked how easily these vegetables were growing in the Zambian soil and were even bigger than Italian ones. But just as they were getting ready to pick the ripened crop, a pod of hippos emerged overnight and ate everything. In complete shock and dismay, he asked the Zambian villagers, "Did you see those hippos?!" And they replied, "Of course. That's why we don't farm here."

The point of his story is that local knowledge is



crucial to any venture. Before directing a new operation or business endeavor, an organization or entrepreneur should first listen to what is needed at the local level. With this in mind, the U.S. Embassy recently linked 20 delegates from a wide range of U.S. companies with local Zambian businesspeople and entrepreneurs in the U.S. Commerce Department's first-ever trade mission to Zambia. Over a two day period, U.S. delegates and their Zambian counterparts conducted more than 100 meetings and the Embassy arranged a number of ministerial meetings with the trade mission lead, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez.

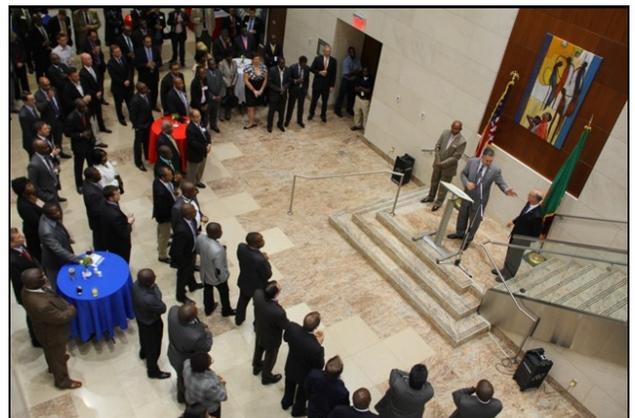
Trade between the U.S. and Zambia is relatively small but quickly growing. Boosting commercial ties is a top priority of the Embassy and we work closely with the American Chamber of Commerce in Zambia to achieve it. If you have a business in Zambia

and would like information about how to link-up with potential business partners, you can send an email to [CommercialLusaka@state.gov](mailto:CommercialLusaka@state.gov) or visit our business website at: <http://zambia.usembassy.gov/business.html>. An American partner may be able to help you expand your business, and you could perhaps advise a partner where to watch out for hippos.

Regards,  
Robert Romanowski, Consul

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# American Citizens Corner

## Farewell 2012, Welcome 2013

### Embassy Lusaka Mission Calendar 2013

Monday, January 1 New Year’s Day-US/Zambian  
Monday, January 21 Martin Luther King Birthday-US  
Monday, February 18 Presidents Day-US  
Friday, March 8 International Women’s Day-Zambian  
Tuesday, March 12 Youth Day-Zambian  
Friday, March 29 Good Friday-Zambian  
Monday, April 1 Easter Monday-Zambian  
Wednesday, May 1 Labor Day-Zambian  
Monday, May 27 Memorial Day-US  
Monday, July 1 Heroes Day-Zambian  
Tuesday, July 2 Unity Day-Zambian  
Thursday, July 4 Independence Day-US  
Monday, August 5 Farmers Day-Zambian  
Monday, September 2 Labor Day-US  
Monday, October 14 Columbus Day-US  
Thursday, October 24 Independence Day-Zambian  
Monday, November 11 Veteran Day-US  
Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving-US  
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day-US/Zambian

**U.S. Embassy  
Emergency Contact Info:**  
Mobile: 0966 877 805

**Routine Contact Info:**  
ACSLusaka@state.gov  
0211 357 000

### Zambian Road Tax

Most road taxes will expire at the end of December 2011. Please be reminded to check that your road tax and fitness is up to date: <http://www.rtsa.org.zm/>

### Smart Traveler i-Phone Application

Smart Traveler, the official State Department app for U.S. travelers, invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

### FAQs Social Security Administration (SSA)

**Q:** How can I estimate my retirement benefit at several different ages?

**Answer:** Use our *Retirement Estimator* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/) estimator to get a retirement benefit estimate based on current law and real time access to your earnings record. The *Retirement Estimator* also lets you create additional “what if” retirement scenarios to find out how changes in your situation might change your future benefit amount. Remember, Social Security is not sending out the yearly Statements any more, so this is a good way to keep track of your future benefit entitlement.

**Q:** If both my spouse and I are entitled to Social Security benefits, is there any reduction in our pay-

ments because we are married?

**Answer:** No. We calculate lifetime earnings independently to determine each spouse’s Social Security benefit amount. When each member of a married couple meets all other eligibility requirements to receive Social Security retirement benefits, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. Couples are not penalized because they are married. If one member of the couple earned low wages or failed to earn enough Social Security credits (40) to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse based on the spouse’s work record. Learn about spouse benefits at [.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yourspouse.htm](http://.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yourspouse.htm).

### IRS

American citizens living overseas might find IRS Publication 4732 “Federal Tax Information for U.S. Taxpayers Living Abroad” useful to navigate the web of U.S. tax requirements. The IRS developed this brochure as a resource to assist taxpayers in locating tax information that helps prepare tax returns and/or resolve tax problems. To view the publication, use the following link:

### Have other questions about Benefits or Social Security?

Check out Frequently Asked Questions at: [http://london.usembassy.gov/cons\\_new/acs/fbu/index.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/fbu/index.html) Alternatively, you can contact Embassy London’s Federal Benefits Unit by email: [FBU.London@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.London@ssa.gov).

### Driving During Rainy Season

- Roads are slippery and potholes form easily.
- Drivers drive without lights.
- Pedestrians may cross without notice or reflective clothing.
- People are in a celebratory mood and may be inebriated.

To read reviews and access the free download please check out the following link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>

# Consular Communicator

## Welcome New Consular Assistant Desiree Velasco

Hi! My name is Desiree Velasco. I joined the consular section as a Consular Assistant in October 2012. Before joining the Mission Zambia consular section team, I worked in the consular section in Haiti during a time when the earthquake prompted the biggest evacuation of American citizens in recent history. I also worked in the consular section in the

Dominican Republic. I am delighted to be in Zambia, a place of outstanding natural beauty and with definitively the nicest and most courteous people I have ever met. I look forward to working with you.



New Consular Assistant  
Desiree Velasco

## Alice Musonda Earns Eagle Award



Alice Musonda  
On December 14, 2012, Visa Assistant and MRV Cashier Alice Musonda received the U.S. Embassy Eagle Award “for enthusiasm and professionalism which is only matched by exceptional dedication to duty.” Congratulations, Alice!

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## Message from Vice Consul Brian Grandjean

### New Year Security Reminder

The Consular section wishes everyone a safe and happy new year and reminds everyone to please continue maintaining good residential security habits. Keep your doors locked and windows closed. Residential burglaries are more common as thieves are aware that people may have gifts and other high-value items in their homes.

Please contact the local police and notify the U.S. Embassy if you are a victim of crime. The local equivalent

to the “911” emergency line in Zambia is 999. Police response, particularly outside major cities, may be delayed due to a lack of vehicles and other resources.

In other news, 2012 saw many successful consular events throughout Zambia including the July 4th and Wardens Receptions in Lusaka as well as American citizen and voter outreach events in Lusaka, Kabwe, Kitwe and Solwezi.

We look forward to seeing you in 2013!!!



Photos from the U.S. Presidential Elections Breakfast on November 7th



**BANK of ZAMBIA**

**Vision: To be a dynamic and credible central bank that adds value to the economic development of Zambia**

## GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT ON THE CURRENCY REBASING EXERCISE

The Bank of Zambia has already formally announced the 1st of January 2013 as the date for the changeover from the existing to the rebased currency. The rebased currency will become legal tender on this date (1st January 2013) and will accordingly be accepted as a medium of exchange and store of value in the Republic of Zambia.

On 4th September 2012, the Bank issued the Technical Guidelines to key stakeholders and the general public. The technical guidelines are the basis upon which commercial banks and other stakeholders will conduct business before and during the rebasing exercise.

In readiness for the changeover date of 1st January, 2013, all key stakeholders in this process are required to adequately prepare for the adaptation of all systems and infrastructure. In particular, and of great importance, is the adaptation of banking and accounting systems and calibration of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to process the rebased currency.

The Bank of Zambia has now received images of the new Zambian banknotes and coins from the printers and minters. These images will form the basis for sensitizing the general public on the appearance of the new Zambian currency in order that all citizens are made aware of the appearance of the currency well before it

becomes legal tender.

The Bank has restructured the banknotes and has introduced the K100 and K2 denominations to the rebased family of banknotes. These two banknotes will constitute the highest and lowest value banknotes respectively. The rest of the old banknotes will have an equivalent in the rebased currency, with the exception of the K20.

It should also be noted that the value of the current K100 will be equivalent to the 10 Ngwee coin in the new family after rebasing. The old K100 should, therefore, not be confused with the new K100 which will be the highest denomination. In this regard, the Bank of Zambia wishes to make an earnest appeal to all members of the general public to be wary of any unscrupulous persons who may attempt to defraud innocent citizens of their hard-earned money. The rebased currency comprises a family of six (6) banknotes and four (4) coins. The bank notes are: K100, K50, K20, K10, K5, and K2. And the coins are: K1, 50 Ngwee, 10 Ngwee, and 5 Ngwee.

In terms of value equivalence: The old K50, 000 note will be K50; K20, 000 will be K20; K10, 000 will be K10 and K5, 000 will be K5. In addition, there will be a new K2 which has no equivalent in the existing currency.

In order to prepare the general public for the eventual roll-out of the

new currency on 1st January, 2013, a countrywide sensitization exercise is scheduled to commence next week. This sensitization campaign has been designed to cover the entire fourth quarter of the Year 2012 which will coincide with the physical introduction of the rebased currency on the market on 1st January, 2013.

Posters and other sensitization materials have been prepared and will form an integral part of the campaign. The materials prepared include:

- i. images of the rebased currency in banknotes and coins in the form of posters;
- ii. the currency rebasing fact-sheet in English which has also been translated into the 7 major Zambian languages; and
- iii. posters showing dual display of prices of goods and services, among other material.

This is a very important national undertaking. The Bank of Zambia, therefore, calls upon all stakeholders to ensure that the exercise is successful.

I Thank You.



BANK NOTES			COINS		
No.	OLD BANK NOTES	NEW BANK NOTES	No.	OLD COINS	NEW COINS
1	-	K100			
2	K50,000	K50			
3	K20,000	K20			
4	K10,000	K10			
5	K5,000	K5			
6	-	K2			
7	K1000	-	1		K1
8	K500	-	2		50 NGWEE
9	K100	-	3		10 NGWEE
10	K50	-	4		5 NGWEE
11	K20	-	5		-
			6	K10	-
			7	K5	-
			8	K1	-
			9	50 NGWEE	-
			10	25 NGWEE	-



## Consular Communicator

### Filing of Immediate Relative Immigrant Petitions



In 2011, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in-

troduced a worldwide change in procedures for immigration petition filing for overseas petitioners seeking immigration for immediate family members such as spouses, parents, or children.

Petitioners residing overseas are no longer able to routinely file Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, with U.S. embassies and consulates.

This change meant that the U.S. Embassy no longer accepts Form I-130 from petitioners resident in the

consular district. Petitioners residing in Zambia now file their I-130 petitions by mail with the USCIS Chicago lockbox. The U.S. Embassy can only accept I-130 petitions in extreme emergency situations.

The U.S. Embassy continues to accept clearly-approvable I-600 petitions for adopted children in cases where the adoptive parents already have an approved I-600A petition.

You can file Form I-130 with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox at one of the addresses below.

USCIS Chicago Lockbox addresses for regular mail deliveries:



USCIS  
P.O. Box  
804625  
Chicago, IL  
60680-4107

USCIS Chicago Lockbox address for express mail and courier deliveries:

USCIS  
Attn: I-130  
131 South Dearborn-3rd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

For additional information on how to file a Form I-130 with the USCIS Chicago lockbox, please see the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or contact USCIS by phone at +1-800-375-5283.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**&**  
**A PROSPEROUS 2013**