



U.S. Embassy, Lusaka



CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR

January-March 2012
Volume 1

Farewell 2011, Welcome 2012



As 2011 comes to an end, many members of the U.S. Embassy have reflected (perhaps a little wearily) on the number of significant events that have taken place this year. U.S. Ambassador Mark Storella calls 2011 the “big year” – the year that brought an organized transition to a new Embassy building, a visit by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to attend the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, and the Zambian national elections, to list just a few. Just recently in December, the U.S. Embassy greeted a couple more important visitors to Zambia – President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. Accompanied by their daughters and son-in-law, the former president and first lady launched the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon (PRRR) Initiative in an effort to reduce by 25% the incidence of cervical cancer in Zambia.

Led by the George W. Bush Institute, the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon Initiative leverages public and private investments in global health to combat cervical and breast cancer – two of the leading causes of cancer death in women. The initiative will expand the availability of vital cervical cancer screening and treatment and also promote breast cancer education. President Bush kicked off the initiative in Zambia at the George Urban Health Center in George compound, a sprawling settlement with a catchment population of approximately 122,000 individuals and a community which is among the poorest in Lusaka. To a crowded audience, including press from the NBC Today show, President Bush declared that Zambia would be the first PRRR partner, and Ambassador Storella announced, on behalf of the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), that the United States will contribute an additional \$3 million to expand cervical cancer services in Zambia.

During their visit, the Bush family was very well received by local Zambians and officials. President Sata hosted a formal luncheon at the State House, and First Lady of Zambia Dr. Christine Kaseba chaired a roundtable discussion with cancer patients, survivors, and leading NGOs at the Cancer Diseases Hospital.

The family also visited a number of sites focused on women and girls. They participated in a Peace Corps GLOW event (Girls Leading Our World) where young girls and teachers demonstrated activities that occur in the remotest villages to empower and educate girls, and at Chikumbuso, the family toured a vibrant income generation area for a community of women and children (many of whom are widowed and orphaned).

The consular section would like to extend our warmest wishes to you during the holiday season and hope that your success in the New Year lasts much longer than your New Year’s resolutions! Happy Holidays!



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The U.S. Embassy atrium dressed up for the holidays

PHOTOS FROM PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA



President Bush with GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) participants



Visiting with President Sata at the State House



The Bush family's arrival at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.



ACS Corner

FAQs SSA

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

Answer: It's easy! Use our *Retirement Estimator* at 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 payments 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 more about spouse benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yourspouse.htm.

Do you have other questions about Benefits or Social Security?

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions page at 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.

IRS

American citizens living overseas might find I.R.S. Publication 4732, "Federal Tax Information for U.S. Taxpayers Living Abroad," useful in trying to navigate the confusing web of U.S. tax requirements. The I.R.S. developed this brochure as a resource to assist taxpayers in locating useful tax information to help in the preparation of their tax returns and/or in resolving tax problems. To view the Publication, use the following link:

Driving in Zambia during the Rainy Season

- Beware that roads are slippery and pot holes form easily
- Many drivers drive without lights
- Beware of pedestrians that may cross in the rain without notice or reflective clothing.
- Many people are in a celebratory mood and may be inebriated

Embassy Lusaka Mission Calendar — 2012

- Monday January 2 New Year's Day - US/Zambian
- Monday January 16 Martin Luther King Birthday -US
- Monday February 20 Presidents Day - US
- Thursday March 8 International Women's Day - Zambian
- Monday March 12 Youth Day - Zambian
- Friday April 6 Good Friday - Zambian
- Saturday April 7 Holy Saturday - Zambian
- Monday April 9 Easter Monday - Zambian
- Tuesday May 1 Labor Day - Zambian
- Friday May 25 Africa Freedom Day - Zambian
- Monday May 28 Memorial Day -US
- Monday July 2 Heroes Day- Zambian
- Tuesday July 3 Unity Day - Zambian
- Wednesday July 4 Independence Day - US
- Monday August 6 Farmers Day - Zambian
- Monday September 3 Labor Day - US
- Monday October 8 Columbus Day -US
- Wednesday October 24 Independence Day - Zambian
- Monday November 12 Veteran Day - US
- Thursday November 22 Thank giving - US

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.

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

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?>

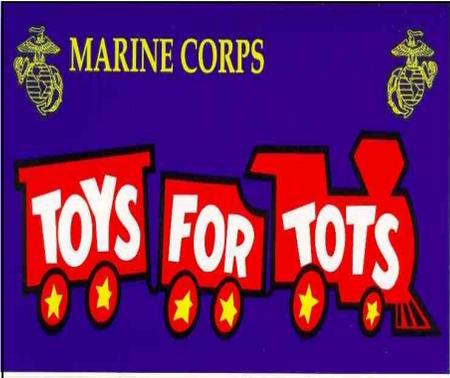
Zambian Road Tax.

Most road taxes will be expiring at the end of Dec 2011. Please be reminded to check that your road tax and fitness is up to date.

<http://www.rtsa.org.zm/>



Toys for Tots



The mission of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the U. S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. This year, the Marines in Lusaka are working with the House of Moses and House of Martha. Some things the charities are in need of: toys for ages up to 14, school shoes for the thirty children, baby formula Lactogen 1 and 2, baby diapers, baby socks. The House of Moses and House of Martha are happy to accept anything else you deem suitable for children.

Voting News: FVAP Hits Social Networking Sites!

The year 2012 is set to be another very active year for American voters. If you're on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter, then the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) can send you timely updates. Below are several great voting information resources available through (FVAP).

[FVAP Website \(www.fvap.gov\)](http://www.fvap.gov)

[FVAP Facebook page](#)

[FVAP Twitter page](#)

- [LinkedIn page - LinkedIn Sign In](#)
- **FVAP's Automated Online Ballot Wizard:** This is a great, easy-to-use online resource that assists voters in completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). It also selects the correct mailing address for each voter's local election officials.
- **FVAP's Voting News Releases:** These news releases from provide you with updates on primaries and special elections around the country, changes to voting procedures, and useful guidance.
- **FVAP's Toll-Free Telephone and Fax Lines:** FVAP offers voting information over the phone. This is a toll-free service available to voters in several dozen countries. FVAP also has toll-free fax number that voters can use to fax in their ballot requests or voted ballots.

Please note that different states may have differing requirements and deadlines for registration.





NEW ZAMBIA IMMIGRATIONS PERMITS

Zambia Immigration has released new immigration permits. Please follow the below link to view the Zambian Immigration Office's brochure on the applicable permit changes, fees and application procedures.

<http://zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/>

Notice on the new Immigration Permits

This serves to notify the general public that the Department of Immigration has introduced new permits. This is as a result of the repealing of the Immigration and Deportation Act CAP 123 of the laws of Zambia and subsequent enactment of the Immigration and Deportation Act number 18 of 2010, which provides for *intra - alia* the introduction of new permits. In accordance with Act number 18 of 2010 the following permits have been introduced in addition to the previous permits which were provided for under the repealed Immigration and Deportation Act, CAP 123 of the laws of Zambia.

- Residence permit
- Spouse permit
- Temporary employment permit
- Cross border permit
- Asylum seekers permit
- Investors permit
- Diplomatic permit
- Transit permit

The public is further advised that Self employment and Entry permits have been replaced with the Investors' and Residence Permits respectively. The procedure for acquiring the said permits remains the same.

The Employment, Visiting, Study and Temporary Permits are still provided for under the new law and all eligible applicants are encouraged to apply accordingly.

In view of the above, the Department of Immigration will with effect from 9th December 2011, start the issuance of the new permits in accordance with the provisions of the law therein. The public is however advised that holders of Employment, Visiting and Study Permits need not to panic as they shall be gradually phased out as they expire.

For further information, contact the Public Relations Unit, Department of Immigration on +260211252831 or the nearest Immigration Office.

Maxwell E. Nkole
Permanent Secretary
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
5th December 2011