

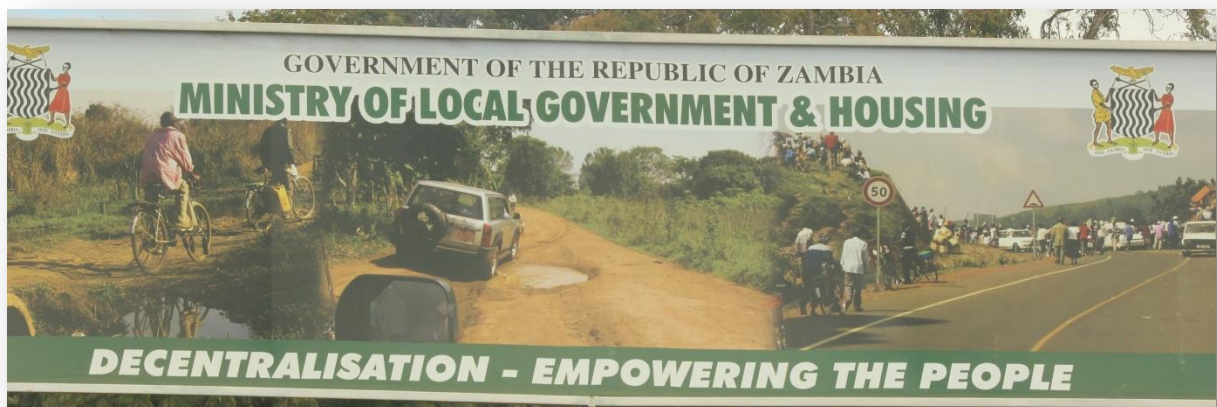


Account of a journey

May 2014

Background

In January this year, 2014, we were granted 300 000 S. Kr for an inception phase with Chinsali, Zambia. The focus was development of local democracy. In March we had a delegation here from Chinsali consisting of four people; Patrick Kambita- townclerk, Mary Sinkala, director for environment and social affairs, Ian Mukondo, counsellor and Sham Kapyanga, mayor at that time. In May there was time for a delegation from Piteå to visit Zambia and Chinsali. The group consisted of Peter Roslund, mayor, Elisabet Berg, leader for the conservatives, David Sundström, municipal strategist and me Gerd Sävenstedt, head of international relations.



Towards Chinsali

For three of us, it was the first time to visit Africa. Their images of what to expect was based on media pictures. It was a long journey – Stockholm, Rome, Addis Ababa, Harare and after 20 hour we landed Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. At the same flight there was also a group from Arvidsjaur, which has a partnership program with another Zambian municipality. Mary and Patrick were at the airport to meet us. They had travelled more than 800 km to welcome us and see that everything was in order.

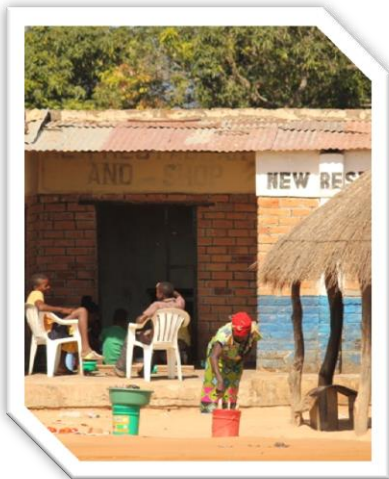
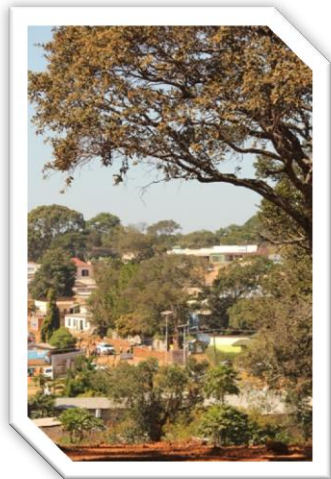
We had one nights rest before we started the journey towards Chinsali early the following morning, a one day's journey through the countryside of Zambia.

Zambia, a country in the southern part of Africa is bordering Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Angola and Congo.

We were excited to come to Chinsali as we had heard and read about it. The small town, birth place of the first Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda – a town now turned into a provincial capital.

As the town is in a growing process they had placed us in a lodge "to be" roughly 50 km from the town.

The lodge had a scenic location close to hot springs and Mary told me later that they had made several trips to the lodge in order to make it function. They had even temporarily placed a small generator here in order to provide us with electricity for a few evening and morning hours. They had also found a chef to cook for us in the evening, and staff to heat water and do the cleaning – but making breakfast was our own task.



Day 1

Courtesy and meetings

The Mayor

It might be even more important to make courtesy visits in Africa than it is in Sweden. Our first was at the mayor’s office. After their visit here there has been an election in Chinsali and the new mayor is Katongo Ronald Chaswe. A mayor who is chosen by and among the people elected councillors. A mayor can’t hold his office for more than 2, 5 years, but can be a councillor as long as elected by the people. The new mayor took a great interest in our visit and participated during all three days.

The mayor has more of a ceremonial role and it is the group of councillors who make the political decision.



Permanent secretary

Dr. Bwakya K.E. Ng'andu, quite newly appointed permanent secretary for Muchina Province. This means that he is officer in charge for the province and appointed by the president. Michael Zata is since 2011, president and leader of PF, Patriotic Front –based on a democratic socialism. One term for a president is five years and he/she can run the office only for two terms. PF has five more seats in the parliament than the second largest, Movement for Multi-Party Democracy, MMD.



In the country there are 10 regions/provinces and Muchinga from 2011 is the newest. The Muchinga province consists of seven districts. The PS is official in charge for the province.

In Muchinga province Chinsali was made as the capital of the province.

Since then it has been a lot of constructions going on and Dr Ng'andu stresses that the planning process is of great importance as they don't want to have a shanty town. Two Universities will be there, the first one is today finished by 80 % and the building of the second one is planned to start in 2016.

The plan for the “new” town, placed around 3 km from the old town, reaches up to 2030 and contains administrative buildings as well as business – and residential areas. There are also plans for a new international airport, hospital, schools, rehabilitations of roads and soon a new dam will be ready.

The building programs are financed by the government with loans from the Worldbank as well as they get support from development agencies as SIDA, DANIDA, FINIDA etc... and also private agencies as Kellogg Foundation and OXFANAM. The PS stressed the importance of involving the citizens in the process that was going on and supported cooperation between Chinsali and Piteå.

Besides the buildings all areas in a society need to be developed as the town grows into a city; environment, water supply, sanitation, electricity, telecom, waste management, health, education, community and social welfare.

One concern that was expressed was that if there would be a new government in the next election in 2016 new priorities may be done. But they also considered the risks are minimal.

Higher officials at the Municipality are also employed by the government which means that the government can place and replace staff as they want. All in the management team at the Municipality come from somewhere else.

The government is responsible for education and it is a prioritized area. The primary education for children between 7- 13 is now free, which has increased the enrollment. Especially at the country side they leave school after primary school to start to work. 2012 93, 7 % start school but only 25 % continue to secondary Schools. The classes are big, average 61 students/teacher and there is a lack of both trained teachers and facilities for teaching.

District Commissioner



We also made a courtesy call to the District Commissioner Evelyn Kangwa in her office. She expressed the support of the Swedish – Zambian cooperation and found it very interesting that the area was development of local democracy.

The Municipality

Mr. Patrick Kambita is the town clerk in Chinsali. A town clerk corresponds to the chief executive officer in a Swedish Municipality. We met for the first time in Kiruna in September 2013, in an arrangement made by ICLD. He was one of those who were appointed to go to Chinsali in order to take an active part in the development of the new provincial capital. He works closely together in the development work and in the project with Mary Sinkala, director for social welfare and environment. Both also take part in a Symbio City project run by ICLD.



A Zambian municipality is divided into wards and each ward is represented by a councilor. In the Municipal council each ward is represented as well as traditional chiefs. The MP from the area is also there. The number in the council is 13.

Councilors play a very important policy-making role, requiring the identification of community needs, setting objectives to meet those needs, establishing priorities between competing demands and allocating resources.

The policy framework and the strategic management plans endorsed by councils provide the direction for the ongoing management and operation of council activities.



The Mayor is elected by the councilors and has a casting vote if the votes among the councilors are tied. The Mayor can hold his seat for 2,5 years. In total there are 13 councilors in Chinsali.

The mayor has a high ranked military man as an assistant.

Finances are a problem for the Municipality. After salaries are paid it is not much left over to carry out the different duties. 5% of the budget comes from the government and the rest from different taxes/fees.



After late lunch and another meeting we went 50 km out into the bush where we were lodged. The last 15 km was on a red dusty bumpy road. The lodge was in a scenic setting, beautiful and relaxing.



There was Lucas, normally working for Tazama Pipelines limited, at one of the stations for the pipeline transporting crude oil from Dar Er Salaam in Tanzania.

Mary and others had been transporting a lot of goods to the lodge in order to prepare for our accommodation for four nights. Among other things a generator which could provide electricity a few hours at night and a little bit in the morning. All cooking was made on charcoal stoves; it was much more reliable than the electricity.

Day 2



Maybe is selling charcoal. 35 kwasha (about 35 s. Kr) for one bag.

When you go by car you see that there are a lot of trees, but you also can see that there is a lot of charcoal for sale along the road.

– Most of the big trees are cut down, says Mary because people make charcoal out of it.

Deforestation is a problem in Zambia. Forestry was in focus for the morning session. We had a very inspiring session with a provincial forestry extension officer, Mr Everisto Nonde.

Making charcoal is forbidden but as we understood it the law is not very strict enforced and there is a lack of monitoring. But people in Zambia and in this area are poor, unemployment rate is high and there are no other sources for providing inexpensive fuel for cooking.

- You can't take away maybe the only source of income without replacing it with something else. Today they run a project in collaboration with the Finnish government where they want to set aside certain areas for planting fast growing trees and let the community have the ownership of both charcoal production as well as replanting in a sustainable way.

But charcoal is not only used in the rural areas. An energy study shows that 85 % of the households in Lusaka also use charcoal and most of the charcoal is produced for urban use.

Besides that there is a problem with illegal harvest of valuable trees in the province.

The locals

Study visits

KK

The rest of the day was a day for field trips and for giving us a better understanding of the Municipality. 50 years ago Northern Rhodesia became the republic of Zambia. Chinsali is the birth place of KK, Kenneth Kaunda- the first president of Zambia. He was in the forefront of the independence fights from European rule and in 1964 he became the first president. From 1968 all political parties except his own was banned but more than 20 years later he was forced by international pressure to change the rules and a multi-party election took

place in 1991 – which he lost. KK- today 90 years old is still active and in the 70- ties he also built a house in Chinsali which also includes a farm, Shambala Kale Farm.



KK's Chinsali residence

KK's nephew is guiding us on the estate

- How can I talk to you, I don't know you, said KK's nephew with a smile, but after an introduction and telling him the reasons behind our visit our host and no problems of sharing his memories with us.

KK was the youngest of eight children and his African name means the unexpected one. It was clear that KK's nephew was proud of his uncle not only because he became the first president but also as he had taken good care of his relatives, of which many lived at the farm. But also here they had problems and he reminded the town clerk that there still was lack of water- a big problem in the whole town.

Kapwepwe house

Simon Kapwepwe, another freedom fighter also came from here. In the new government he became first Minister of Foreign Affairs and later on the country's second vice-president. In the beginning of the 70-ties he became the leader of a new party, United Progressive Party, banned by Kaunda. All in all 122 members of the party was imprisoned and Kapwepwe was one of them. After he was released he turned his back to politics and went to live on his farm in Chinsali, which we visited. The widow of Kapwepwe, mama Salome lives at the farm together with their daughter Chilufya Kapwepwe. She is a former diplomat who today do agri – businesses as well as she runs project for women.



Mama Salome and her daughter Chilufya

The freedom fighter is buried on the estate. Mama Salome who once visited Sweden could tell about all the worries and challenges she had bringing up her children most of the time by herself. Today the daughter takes care of her mother and at the same time running a number of empowerment projects in the agricultural area for women. Her newest women's project was to start a business where women could dry agricultural products, by a small dryer run by a solar panel.

Here we also had lunch, well made, tasty mostly from ecological products produced at the farm.

The dam



Water is a big problem, at least to supply the citizens with water. In December a big dam project started and now 6 months later is was almost done. The dam will provide water both for the old town and the University and the engineer we met said the dam will have capacity also for a growing city at least until 2050.

The Robert Makasa university



There are plans to have two Universities in the City. The first one is built by a Zambian- Egyptian company and named after a third well known freedoms fighter from the area, Robert Makasa. The capacity will be about 1500 students and they will have dormitories for little less than 700 students.

Day 3

Tazama Pipelines



Tazama pipeline is a 1710 km long crude oil pipeline from Dar- es Salaam in Tanzania to Ndola in Zambia. It is owned by the governments in Zambia and in Tanzania. There are 5 different stations along the pipes and one of them is here in Chinsali. Even if the smoke is black they put a lot of effort making the environment clean and green. They also provide education for the children to the employees. They need qualified staff at the station which also means that the salary level here is higher than at many other places.

A walk at the market

- The whole town knows you are here, says the town clerk. It was important for them also to show us the old town and to show us to the town.
We made a stroll through the town, starting with the bus station. At least there was a small office where you could buy tickets and there was a bus stop. But we also saw the location for a new modern bus station with descent bathrooms waiting launches and place for expansion. When we left the bus station I could realize what Mary meant when she said that waste management was a big challenge. Even if there was a place to dump garbage and there were garbage bins here and there a lot was just dropped on the streets and the foot paths.

Not far away was the new market, a world populated by women.



For one kwascha a day they could have a table at the market. Most women sold the same goods, vegetables of a certain variety. On the street some hundred meters away was the fish market with dried fish. They told me that the dried fish lasted for one week and I suppose the most vegetables had a shorter life expectancy than that. When I asked them who took care of their children one of the ladies said – Our husbands, as long as they are sober. The others were laughing and said - praise the Lord for our mothers.....

Ian who I walked together with explained my presence and our discussions related to cooperation. – Yes, we need to be empowered, said one of the women who spoke English.

The police station

Not far away is the police station and Ian wants us to go inside and meet the police inspector. 42 police officers are stationed here and roughly 30 % are female officers. When we went into his office I saw some men sitting on the floor behind some bars and I presumed it was the custody.

- Violence in close relations is the most common offence, said the officer when I asked what are the most common crimes committed. His colleague started to talk about crimes linked to witchcraft as a problem. Even here, as in many other meetings I was surprised of the openness and willingness to talk about issues not all that easy to talk about and I must say that I could have stayed there and listened for a long time.

What do we want to do together?

In our approved proposal for an inception phase we said that the focus would be, development of local democracy. After what we had heard and understood we realized that there is a tradition of involving people in the process, mainly traditional leaders but also in the different wards. At least it is an ambition.

Many times during the days it was mentioned that there is a lack of female leaders. Heavy workloads, lack of support from husbands and from other women was mentioned as some reasons.

There is also lack of transparency in the society and it leads to mistrust from the community towards politicians and authorities. We were told that people complained that they were doing nothing for the community. – but we don't have any resources, says Ian, who is in charge on the financial committee.

In our final discussions we said that we will apply for a project. The project will be based on community involvement and citizen dialogue will be used as a method. After discussions regarding planning processes we ended up in two areas, women empowerment with a focus on getting more women involved and waste management. We would see if there would be a possibility to combine these two.

We decided that we would meet again in September somewhere outside Lusaka and spend some days together writing a proposal.

In the discussions most of the management team, the mayor, the former mayor and another councilor participated as well as 2 politicians and 2 officials from the Swedish side.

Chipoma falls



After lunch we went to see the Chipoma falls, 24 km south of Chinsali. It is a part of Chimanabwe river, located in a scenic setting. They hope that this will be a tourist attraction but before that happens I think some road rehabilitation needs to be done. The drop over a distance of 500 meter is 40 m. If we compare to Storforsen our rapids in the neighboring community it is 82 meter over a distance of 5 km. There were guide who told us about the fauna and flora and he knew them all by their scientific names.

Farewell party

