History of ZCEA

Zambia Civic Education Association was formed in September 1993. It was formed by three lawyers, namely Lucy Banda Sichone, Christine Kunda and Elias Chipimo Jr.

From the beginning Christine and Elias took an advisory role and Lucy took the Executive role and she was the Executive Director of the organisation until her untimely death on ... August 1998. After Lucy's demise Mrs. Astrida Kapita became E. D. After her came Ms. Betty Majula Mungomba, then Mrs. Ada Lopa and currently Ms. Judith Mulenga.

At the time of Lucy's death, ZCEA used to rent its offices where Tokyo Laundry is, number 1 Butwa Court on Great East Road Northmead side. Then it moved to rent offices at 21A Chaoli Road Rhodespark. In 2000 the Norwegian Embassy bought the property on Plot 2/1836 Azikiwe Crescent, off Manchinchi Road in Northmead for ZCEA. The embassy's magnanimous gesture was to both assist the sustenance of ZCEA and also as an appreciation of the contribution that Lucy had made to the growth of civil society organisations in Zambia. On Friday 29th August 2008 the property was launched into the Lucy Sichone Memorial House and the Guest of Honour was the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, Mrs Pixie Yangailo and the launch was attended by Lucy's children biological and the adopted ones as well as her family and friends including her co founding partner, Mr Elias Chipimo Jr. The Embassy of Norway was represented by the First Secretary at the embassy, Ms. Anne Fredricksen.

ZCEA is a non governmental, not for profit human rights organisation registered under the Registrar of Societies Act in 1993 registration number ORS/102/35/805. It was formed to empower the Zambian citizenry in coping with the then new democratic dispensation. The founder members sought to assist the development of democratic process in Zambia as well as promote Justice. This was to be done through increasing and creating awareness amongst citizens about their duties and responsibilities under the Constitution. The founders believed that it is in the execution of duties and responsibilities that bestow rights, privileges and equality for all before the Law.

Since inception, the organization's programmes have been around human rights, governance and democratic issues. In 2002, ZCEA decided to focus on Children's Rights. In line with the underlying principles contained in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the People's and Human Rights (ACPHR) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

ZCEA's has been contributing to the attainment of a society where people enjoy all fundamental rights justice and human dignity prevails. It lobbies for the strengthening of laws that protect children and for child visible public policies and monitors the implementation of existing laws and policies. ZCEA's activities are capacity building through training, information dissemination, awareness raising, development and provision of IEC materials, lobbying, policy analysis and monitoring implementation, research, coalition building and networking, engagement with policy makers and organisational development through reflective learning.

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Profile

ZCEA's Philosophy and Values

ZCEA"s philosophy is to create a just world in which all persons irrespective of race, gender, religious orientation, and creed enjoy all the fundamental rights and freedoms. ZCEA's work of promoting children's rights is guided by the desire to create an informed citizen who will promote and protect his/her rights and those of others in a community.

ZCEA's core values are:

1. **Child focus** – Unwavering commitment to meeting children's wellbeing based on principles of children's right.
2. **Non profit, non partisan**
3. **Building alliances** – Working with and respecting the contributions of other like-minded organisations and individuals.
4. **Reflection learning** – Encouraging conscious learning from experience in order to improve our future practice.
5. **Integrity** – Commitment to maintaining the highest levels of ethics, fairness and transparency in all our interactions.
6. **Innovation and creativity** – Encouraging the development of new ideas and recognising positive results.
7. **Accountability** – Being accountable to the children, their parents, teachers, communities, our cooperating partners and the government
8. **Transparency and openness**
9. **Respect for divergent views**
10. **Non discrimination** – All rights all children regardless of any standard of measurement.
11. **The universality, inherence, inalienability, interdependence, inter relatedness and indivisibility of human rights** – All rights should be enjoyed in totality.
12. **Active participation** – by all concerned especially the target groups.

Who does ZCEA Serve?

'All Children, All Rights'

ZCEA work is meant to benefit all the 6 million children in Zambia. These are all persons who are 18 and below. Recognising the universality of human rights, ZCEA believes in the principle, 'all children, all rights.' ZCEA's advocacy work to have child friendly, child visible public policies is meant to benefit all children of Zambia. Public policies impact directly or indirectly on children's present and future well being and affect children disproportionately more than adults. ZCEA would like to see corporal punishment of children in the homes, schools, judicial systems, alternative institutions of care such as orphanages and in work places. ZCEA would also like to see more money put towards children's programmes in the national budget. Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, provides that national budget allocations ensure that valuable resources are allocated to the maximum extent for the realization of children's rights.

Children in Community, Basic and High Schools

ZCEA's projects in Community, Basic and High Schools such as the Child Rights Clubs and the promotion of child participation in school governance through Children's School Councils benefits 87,800 children in schools. ZCEA work also benefits and teachers who provide adult support to Child Rights Clubs and Children's School Councils, district and provincial education officers.

Children in 15 Communities in Lusaka, Kafue, Kabwe, Kapiri Mponshi, Ndola, Kitwe and Mufulira

One million, one hundred and thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and one (1,134,801) children and their families in these communities benefit from ZCEA's free legal advice offered by trained paralegals and they also benefit from free legal education facilitated by the paralegals and offered by police officers and honourable magistrates.

ZCEA has 15 Child – Friendly Citizens Legal Advice Desks in:

Lusaka
Garden Compound
Kalingalinga Compound
Bauleni Compound

Kafue
Zambia Compound

Kabwe
Makululu Compound
Nakoli Compound
Kamanga Compound
Ngombe Compound
John Laing Compound
Linda Compound

Kapiri Mponshi
Kapiri Mponshi Compound

Kitwe
Ipusukilo Compound

Ndola
Masala Compound

Mufulira
Kawama East Compound

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Those we have not forgotten

Profile of Lucy Banda Sichone. Founder of ZCEA

By Judith Mulenga

'Greatness seldom comes to those who seek it. It is those who unselfishly give of themselves who are remembered as having been truly great!'

Anonymous

Mrs Lucy Banda Sichone founder of Zambia Civic Education Association was born in Kitwe and she went to school at Fatima Girls Secondary School before studying law at the University of Zambia. She further studied Political Science and Economics at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Lucy Sichone formed Zambia Civic Education Association (ZCEA) at a time when local civil society organisations were just emerging in Zambia and it is credit to her vision and dedicated hard work that 18 years after it was established and 13 years after her death ZCEA is still in existence.

Who was Lucy?

Lucy was a Human Rights Activist who strongly believed in the universality of human rights. In her view the struggle for human rights was universal to all; men, women, youth and children. She believed that they all must be protected on the same scale, platform and emphasis.

Lucy was a strong believer in democratic principles such as individual civil liberties, freedom of expression and right to information, separation of powers, a culture of constitutionalism and the rule of law. Most Zambians remember her one-person-demonstration to the second Republican President, Mr. Frederick Chiluba, at the Lusaka International Airport in 1977 in protest against the police shooting of the First Republican President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Dr. Roger Chongwe, a politician. Indeed the motivation for founding Zambia Civic Education Association was to contribute to the then new democratic dispensation of the third republic.

Lucy believed in not only the liberating but the empowering quality of education. In 1996 she was quoted in the Post Newspaper saying, "I think my biggest mistake was to go to school because this made me become aware of my abilities and rights resulting in failure to keep quiet about my informed stand on issues." End of quote.

Lucy had faith in the worth of civic education as a tool that empowers citizens to collect, analyse and process information about their society and more importantly their roles as regards rights and responsibilities. According to Lucy there are two things that are indispensable in any democracy: a strong opposition and a well-informed citizenry.

Lucy loved children. Not only was she raising her own four biological children but she was raising (fostering) five other orphaned children despite being a widow and single parent.

Lucy's achievements can not be quantified in an article such as this one. However, no mention of Lucy's activism can be done without citing and acknowledging her fight against unjust provisions in the 1995 Land Act which she determinedly fought such as:

- The vesting of all the land in the Republican President's hands;
- The conveying of customary land on the authority of a chief without provision for wide community consultations especially in the rural areas; and
- The lack of the Land Act being pro poor and pro vulnerable groups thus failing to recognise that poor people's livelihood is dependent on land and that women and children are vulnerable groups in Zambia who need special provisions to help them access land.

It was due to her concern for these provisions that she, through ZCEA and other like minded organisations, formed the Zambia Land Alliance which has now grown to be an independent NGO fighting for a pro poor land policy and administrative procedures.

Hers was a life selflessly and purposely lived.

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