

Dear All

The roads in Livingstone are still being worked on. It really is an obstacle course trying to get around town. The Bubble Gum Road has almost been ripped up and new tarmac laid. I must say that everyone is being very patient while queuing up to get through. Well done, us!

As I mentioned the other week there is a new tar road going between the airport and Nakatindi Road through Dambwa. The other day, while coming in to town on it, I found a truck negotiating its way into a driveway. It



went up onto the pavement and into the drainage channels before it eventually got into the right spot. If we are going to allow trucks onto these side roads they will not last long. Some years ago the Council banned trucks from going in to residential areas and



we need to get some signs up to stop them again. Otherwise our new roads won't see the year out.

## Historical Centre

The historical centre of Livingstone is based around Mukuni Park which used to be called The Barotse Centre. Many of the buildings here date from 1910 or thereabouts. Some of them are still in good condition, having been preserved with direction from National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC).

Finance Bank is having a makeover inside and is becoming like any other bank – all shiny and modern with a low ceiling. Gone is that beautiful high ceiling which used to let in light and air; now the bank will have to rely on electric lights and air conditioners. When the building was first constructed there were no such things as air conditioners; electricity was minimal. In present Zambia where electricity has to be conserved, I find this 'innovation' for modernization very sad. But few people can say anything to bankers ...



Fortunately the outside will remain the same.

On the corner of Airport Road and Mosi-oa-Tunya Road is the old Post Office. It now houses Department of Immigration and Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation.

The pavement outside is in a bad state and needs to be looked at.

Surely NHCC can make a feature of our old historic centre to entertain visitors. We get many people coming to Livingstone who had ancestors who used to live here and they want to see where they lived and how they lived.

Tourism takes on many facets. Most people come to Livingstone to see the Victoria Falls but there are others who come for history, for sports and for entertainment. If we are to maximize Livingstone's tourism potential we have to show off all our assets, and history is a big one.



Saturday 29th June  
Kubu Cafe  
9-11am



**Pre-loved Book Sale**

Also, solar-powered gadgets

All proceeds to go to LAPS

*Before the event please bring your secondhand books to Kubu Cafe or give to Sue Brink or Sue Brookes.*

[www.facebook.com/LivingstoneAnimalProtectionSociety](http://www.facebook.com/LivingstoneAnimalProtectionSociety)



## ZAMBIA

### New airport tax in Zambia

From Robin Pope

Please note that National Airports Corporation has now introduced an Infrastructure and Development charge which is effective immediately.

This tax is applicable for ALL passengers departing from Livingstone, Mfuwe, Lusaka or Ndola Airports on domestic or international flights. The new tax will be applied to ALL tickets for scheduled flights issued or amended after 15 June 2013. The new tax will also apply to all private charters and will be payable along with the departure taxes.

Anyone with a ticket issued BEFORE 15 June 2013 is exempt from paying the tax.

The Infrastructure & Development charge is ZMW 27 (approximately USD 5) for domestic travel and ZMW 54 (approximately USD 10) for international travel.

### Events on the Way

25 June: Put Foot Rally  
29 June: Book Sale in aid of LAPS at Kubu Café. 9am  
25-27 July: Pumping Legs for Water. Hwange National Park  
24-29 August: UNWTO  
11-16 August: Cycle Zambia.  
26 October: Zambezi Kayak Festival.  
26-31 World Adventure Travel Summit. Windhoek

## Zambia's most expensive road on track

From the Zambia Weekly

Zambia's most expensive road, the Mongu-Kalabo Road, will be almost half-way by the end of this year. By then, 12 of the 25 bridges will be completed. The 34 kilometres are scheduled to be completed by 2015.

### FACT BOX: The Mongu-Kalabo Road

The construction of the 74-kilometre Mongu-Kalabo Road started in 2002 at an initial cost of \$40 million, but in the 2003/04 rainy season, large parts of the newly built causeway collapsed, and the contractor, Consolidated Contractors Company of Kuwait, suspended works – leaving behind two sections of completed road at either end, a total of about 40 kilometres.

In 2005, the remaining section of the road was re-designed and raised higher above the Barotse Floodplain. The project was flagged off once again in October 2010, this time with AVIC International of China as the contractor, and the MMD government borrowing KR1.25 billion from China to complete the final 34 kilometres of the road.

This week, the Times of Zambia alleged that the cost of the project under the PF government has ballooned to KR2.1 billion, meaning that one kilometre of the raised 34-kilometre section of the Mongu-Kalabo Road will cost KR62 million (about \$11.5 million per kilometre) – whereas it normally cost up to \$1 million to build a kilometre of tarmac road in Zambia.

Experts have pointed out that the money could have been spent on a lot of other things in Western Province – while Kalabo could have been connected to the rest of the world by tarring the Senanga-Kalabo Road and establishing modern harbours at Mongu and Kalabo. This would also protect the fragile ecosystem of the Barotse Floodplain.

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## Another bridge over the Zambezi

From the Zambia Weekly

The Road Development Agency (RDA) has awarded China Henan International Cooperation Group (CHICO) a KR80 million contract for the construction of Sioma Bridge across the Zambezi River on the Sesheke-Senanga Road, reported the Daily Mail. CHICO is an old-timer in Zambia, with several roads under its belt. Currently it is working on the Mansa-Luwingu Road and the Lusaka-Chirundu Road – and is constructing the Chiawa Bridge over the Kafue River in Chirundu.

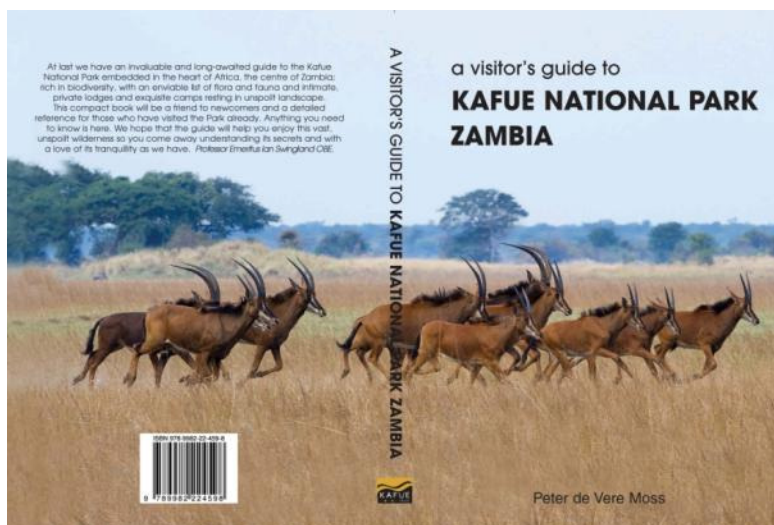
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## Kafue National Park

If you are heading towards Kafue National Park this year, you will need the new book, just out. It gives all the places to stay, includes a map to get you around and GPS coordinates. There are also lists of birds and animals for you to tick off while you are there.

Even if you are not going to Kafue, this book is a must for any library – home or lodge.

I have copies for sale. Retail K150, wholesale (10+) at K105.





## Namib Desert to become World Heritage

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN, the advisory body on natural World Heritage, recommends five new sites for inscription on the list of Earth's most outstanding places. The Namib Sand Sea, pristine dunes at the heart of the coastal Namib Desert of western southern Africa has been identified.

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## Zambian Poachers in Namibia

Using a little-known border post of Singalamwe between Namibia and Zambia, two Zambian poachers were found while crossing the border. They had negotiated a lift in a Zambian government vehicle between the border and Sesheke.

When the poachers realised that there were problems afoot in the form of Namibian police and Environmental Police, they escaped leaving their bags and the three people involved with the vehicle.

Inside the bags were 23 pieces of elephant tusks.

The search goes on to find the actual poachers whose names are Ian Pilaelo Mukelebai and Muyombo Eric Muyombo.

*Photo from New Era*



Among the items found with the elephant tusks were blankets, ammunition, clothes and some traditional charms. It appears that the pair came into Namibia legally and then camped in the park while awaiting the chance to kill the elephants. No gun was found.



## Country poised to be declared drought stricken

From the Ngami Times

The government is expected to declare the country drought-stricken next week after the presentation of the drought assessment report to cabinet next Wednesday. The drought assessment was carried out between April 15 and May 9. According to sources close to the study, the report strongly recommends for the declaration of drought in view of the total crop failure in most parts of the country, which was precipitated by poor rains. For instance, the Pandamatenga area normally experiences rainfall of 556-600 mm but this year it only received 290 mm. The Panda, therefore is expected to produce less than 50% of its normal cereal output.

In southern Ngamiland, the rains stopped at the beginning of February, leading to the wilting of planted fields and pastures. The affected area contains more than 80% of Ngamiland cattle population, more than 15 000 heads of which perished in last year's less severe drought.

This year's drought in Ngamiland is expected to be more devastating to the livestock sector, given the region's overstocking of more than 400 000 head of cattle as against the carrying capacity of 250 000. In general, northern Botswana is to bear the full brunt of the drought as the situation is further compounded by presence of elephants that have long outstripped their range's carrying capacity. More than 95% percent of Botswana's 190 000 elephants are domiciled in the Chobe/Ngamiland region.

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# PHOTOGRAPHS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## Africa Wildlife Foundation

African Wildlife Foundation is a proud sponsor of the "African Wildlife" category of the NBP Windland Smith Rice Awards. Check out their photos, and pick your favorite!



*I have picked mine!*

*A lion having a bad hair day*



*Fuzzy, the giraffe ...*

*A drippy lion*



<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151784750313949.1073741828.11918108948&type=1&l=99607498c9>

## Kalizo Lodge, Namibia

*In a blizzard of colour these beautifully plumed birds flock together in the beautiful African dusk to fight, mate and nest.*

*The amazing display of Carmine Bee Eaters was captured on the banks of the Zambezi river in Kalizo, Namibia, by wildlife photographer and tour guide Andrew Schoeman.*



## From Jacana Maun

*There was some SERIOUS overloading on the public transport at Black Pools in Moremi on Sunday....*





## From Wilderness Safaris

*Marian Myers reflects on the astonishing differences between Hwange's dry and wet seasons...*

*"Here in our little slice of heaven in the Hwange National Park, we can feel the witch of winter creeping up to grip us in freezing temperatures and dry landscapes. Animals will seek out the waterholes for replenishment and there will be lots of game activity of a different nature."*



## Imbababala

*Skimmers during last year's mating season... Should be another month or so before they return for this year's breeding on our sand banks in front of camp... Will keep you all posted!!*



## Royal Chundu

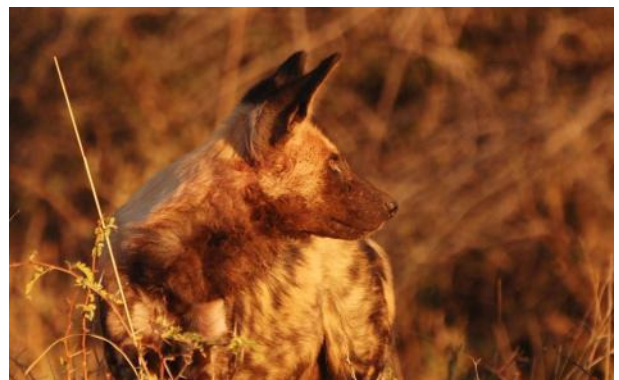
*A family setting up their fishing wires for their nets to start catching Parrot Fish.*

*We thought we would share these photos we took yesterday at the Village of the locals and all the fish they have caught over the last two weeks. The fish are dried on mats and will be used throughout the coming year as a food source. These tiny little fish have a very high fat content which is removed and used as cooking oil.*



## Mashi River Safaris

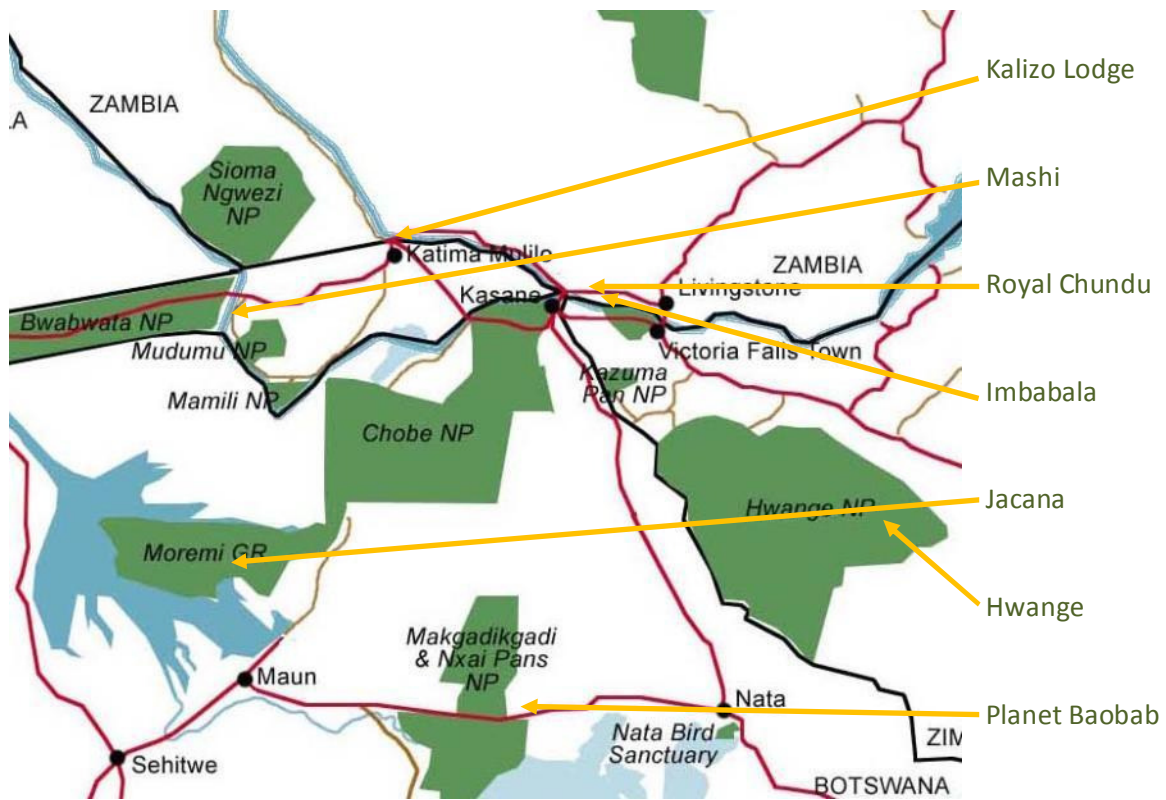
*Absolute killer start to a 3 day safari. Dogs on a kill, Goliath heron spearing and devouring a fish bigger than I have caught this year and the best elephant sighting for ages. Oh, and the dogs surprised poor Clement by rocketing through camp past the lunch table in hot pursuit of a lechwe that was so scared it visited the Nambwa toilet on its way to ditching into the river.*



## Planet Baobab

*Planet Baobab is everyone's favorite watering hole this dry season! Colorful characters and eclectic travelers flock to Planet Baobab, and recently, we even spotted elephants! Check out this gathering at the water hole near Planet Baobab.*





This has been a short one ... and no joke ... woops ...

Have a good week

Gill