



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY



JUNE, 2003

FOREWORD

Culture is one of the fundamental dimensions of development. Cultural development constitutes one of the essential instruments of general development and the improvement of quality of life. Lack of regard for the social and cultural circumstances of the men, women and children tends to cause unsatisfactory or total failure of development.

This policy is aimed at facilitating participation by all in the creation and enjoyment of our cultural wealth. We believe that unless we can ensure that the people have access to cultural facilities and participate actively in the preservation and promotion of our culture, we may not be able to achieve sustainable national development.

The Government is also cognizant of the fact that in this new millennium, as the globalization process takes firm grounding; culture will be a key tool for fostering global peace and mutual understanding among nations. A culture of peace can only be achieved when cultural diversity not only within the country, but among nations as well, is accepted and valued.

This Policy is aimed at facilitating the participation of all stakeholders in the development and promotion of our culture.

The successful implementation of this Policy will require concerted efforts and commitment of all stakeholders at all levels. I, therefore, wish to urge all institutions and persons charged with the responsibility of implementing the various aspects of this policy to apply themselves fully to the tasks ahead.



Marina Nsingo, MP

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The process of developing this cultural policy began in 1992. A lot of individuals and institutions contributed invaluable to the exercise and the Ministry is greatly indebted to them all.

I wish to thank all my predecessors who started the process and the entire staff of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services for their committed effort in the preparation of this Policy. I am also grateful to the University of Zambia, the Institute for Economic and Social Research, the National Arts Council of Zambia, the National Heritage Conservation Commission, the National Museums Board, the National Archives, Zambia News Agency (ZANA) and several other organizations which participated in the development of this policy. Without them, this task would have been extremely difficult to accomplish.

To all those that contributed in various ways to the successful formulation of this National Cultural Policy, I say thank you and please let us continue to collaborate in its implementation.



Peter L. Mwamfuli

Permanent Secretary

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
LIST OF ACRONYMS	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	5
2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS.....	6
2.1 Culture and Democracy	7
2.2 Cultural Identity	8
2.3 Cultural Heritage	8
2.4 Artistic and Intellectual Creation and Art Education	9
2.5 Culture and Development.....	10
2.6 International Cultural Co-operation.....	11
2.7 Administration and Co-ordination of Cultural Affairs.....	12
3.0 VISION OF GOVERNMENT ON CULTURE	13
4.0 RATIONALE.....	13
5.0 MISSION STATEMENT	13
6.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES.....	13
6.1 Culture and Democracy.....	13
6.2 Cultural Identity	14
6.3 Cultural Heritage	14
6.4 Artistic and Intellectual Creation and Art Education	15
6.5 Culture and Development	16
6.6 International Cultural Co-operation.....	16
6.7 Administration and Co-ordination of Cultural Affairs	16
7.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK	17
8.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.....	17
8.1 Institutional Arrangement.....	17
9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	18
10.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	18
11.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	19

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CICIBA	International Centre for Bantu Civilizations
ICOM	International Council of Museums
ITI	International Theatre Institute
MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
SADCAM	Southern African Development Community Association of Museums
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCC	World Crafts Council
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Zambia is a country of great cultural diversity sharing historical ties with her neighbours and other nations outside the continent of Africa. Majority of the Zambian population is of Bantu stock having migrated from 'Kola' in modern Democratic Republic of Congo. From archeological evidence, the Tonga are believed to be the earliest settlers in Zambia, (A Success in Junior History, Isaac Chilimunda, 1988).

By the turn of the 19th Century, the Zambian way of life and character had changed tremendously. A new and more powerful cultural influence had "invaded" the country. This was the arrival of the European settlers. This group brought its own traditions and beliefs which were imposed and applied on every aspect of economic and social life with no regard for local traditions. Tangible forms of Zambian culture also suffered in that some important artifacts, such as the Broken Hill man were taken away without the consent of the local people. These have impacted negatively on the indigenous culture.

The most powerful influence was the introduction of Western Education whose curriculum had no bearing on local cultures and also the money economy which forced the local people to move from the rural areas to urban areas in search for money. The result of these new influences was a plural society as we know it today, especially in urban areas. The colonial administration also greatly contributed to the emergence of disparities in the development of Zambian ethnic cultures through its policy of indirect rule.

Although Zambia is highly urbanized, the majority of the people live in villages in rural areas. A common characteristic among all ethnic groups in the way they live in the chiefdom whose cluster of villages share clan affinity. In some larger ethnic groups several chiefdoms are supervised by a Senior Chief. In four cases a number of senior chiefdoms are superintended upon by a paramount chief. A significant part of the population lives in urban areas where the traditional system of government, that of village heads, chiefs, senior chiefs and paramount chiefs does not exist though they still retain

relationship with their rural kin. As a result the impact of the profound indigenous traditional values, beliefs and norms continues to influence life in today's Zambian Society.

Zambia's current population of approximately 10 million comprises 73 ethnic groups and some settler groups from Europe, Asia and other African countries.

Since independence in 1964, there has been a revival of distinctive forms of cultural expressions rooted in the history of the people. There has been growth of interest in folk arts and traditions, traditional ceremonies, traditional knowledge and technologies, history and Zambian languages. Seven local languages are recognized as national Languages. These are taught in schools and used on national radio and television. The seven national Languages are Bemba, Kaonde, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja and Tonga while the official language of Zambia is English.

The establishment of the Department of Cultural Services; the National Museums Board, the National Heritage Conservation Commission, the introduction of Courses in Art and Music at the Evelyn Hone College; the establishment of the Creative Arts Centre as well as teaching of Zambian languages at the University of Zambia confirm the growing interest in both traditional and contemporary Zambian cultures.

Great interest in contemporary art by both urban and rural populations as marked by a proliferation of popular music bands and theatre groups, creative writing clubs and visual art organizations have been growing steadily since independence.

2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

Culture in its widest sense is the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

"(Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies - UNESCO, 1982}. Culture is therefore a very broad concept. In order to effectively analyse the current situation the following major components have been identified, namely; Cultural identity; Cultural Heritage; Artistic and Intellectual Creation and Art Education; Culture and Development; Culture and Democracy; and International Cultural Co-operation. The analysis will also look at the current administrative arrangement of the cultural sector.

2.1 Culture and Democracy

Participation in cultural life is equivalent on another level to that of values and to participate in public life and social development. Consequently, without effective exercise of cultural rights there can be no true cultural democracy.

Zambia is a signatory to various conventions on culture. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that "everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits".

The Government has taken necessary steps to attain this declaration for example the Government has incorporated in the constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.18 Part IX, Article 112 (g) of 1996 which provides that "the State shall take measures to promote the practice, enjoyment and development by any person of that person's culture, tradition, custom or language in so far as these are not inconsistent with this Constitution";

Currently, Government is assessing obstacles faced in the provision of cultural goods and services such as:

- Inadequate cultural infrastructure and production materials which have hindered the production and marketing of culture,
- The centralization of cultural institutions has made it difficult for people to fully participate in decision making concerning cultural life. Government will decentralize the delivery of cultural services to the districts and community levels.

-
- Gender inequalities. In traditional society gender roles and ties are understood in terms of sexual functional responsibilities. While the woman's role is to attend to household chores, the man's role is to fend for the family. In view of this, the Government's role is to promote shared responsibilities among women and men.

2.2 Cultural Identity

Culture represents a unique and irreplaceable body of values and its presence is demonstrated through traditions and forms of expression; Culture is dialogue, the exchange of ideas and experiences and the appreciation of the other values and traditions. The Zambian society comprises 73 ethnic groups, each with its own set of traditions and forms of expression which demonstrate their cultural identity;

The proliferation of ethnic traditional ceremonies and the expressed desire by several ethnic language groups for their languages to be given the deserved recognition in the educational system and the media raise the need for deliberate policy measures to be put in place to protect, stimulate and enrich each ethnic group's cultural identity in order to build a rich and diverse Zambian cultural identity. Currently seven local languages are recognized as national languages and are taught in schools. They are also used in the media.

The right of each cultural community to affirm and preserve its cultural identity and the equality of all ethnic cultures is recognized and provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia.;

2.3 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage includes both tangible and intangible works of society's artists, architects, musicians, writers, and scientists and is expressed through languages, rites, beliefs, historic places and monuments, literature, works of art, archives and libraries.

Government and the people of Zambia have a collective duty to defend, protect and preserve the cultural heritage of each ethnic group and the nation's as a whole. It is the right of all citizens to access their nation's natural heritage which must be properly presented.

Museums in Zambia are administered by the National Museums Board. The museums are responsible for collection, restoration and display of artifacts of historical cultural, scientific, technological and economic significance to the nation. The National Museums Board, however, has not been adequately funded for a very long time. This has resulted in failure of the Board to collect, on a continuous basis, artifacts and to develop new museums. Some existing museums are in a state of disrepair while others cannot meet their recurrent departmental charges. In some cases warrants of distress have been issued onto some museums. Museum objects have been lost due to poor security arrangements. The concept of community museums has not been implemented due to limited resources. On the other hand the private sector has not fully participated in the development and management of museums.

Immovable heritage such as sites and monuments are administered by the National Heritage Conservation Commission. The Commission has not been able to document and protect all monuments and make them easily accessible to the public due to inadequate funding. This poses the danger of having some monuments destroyed by property developers or vandals.

2.4 Artistic and Intellectual Creation and Art Education

Freedom of opinion and expression is essential for creative activities of artists and intellectuals alike. The Government has provided an enabling environment in the country which supports the necessary conditions for artistic and intellectual creation.

Practicing artists have had difficulties in accessing basic tools and equipment necessary for them to create works of art. Recording studios for music are

inadequate and inferior. There are no art galleries for exhibitions and no concert halls for live performances. Musical instruments are not available and when they become available they are out of reach of ordinary musicians while art studio tools such as chisels, sable brushes, paint tubes, picture frames, and cutting tools are too expensive for the ordinary artist to access them. This is more so for women artists who the majority of whom tend to be poorer and less educated than men.

The development and promotion of art education imply not only the formulation of specific programmes designed to foster artistic appreciation and support groups or institutions engaged in creation and dissemination, but also the encouragement of activities that will stimulate public awareness of the social importance of art and intellectual creation. Unfortunately this has not been the case until recently when the National Arts Council of Zambia was created. Infrastructure for artistic creation and manifestation is far inadequate and in a state of disrepair. Further, protection of artistic and intellectual property is yet to be realized despite the necessary legal framework having been put in place.

In order to provide artistic and intellectual creation and cultural education, the Government will establish of a Cultural Academy to provide training in the various disciplines of arts and culture at formal and professional levels.

2.5 Culture and Development

Culture constitutes a fundamental dimension of development process and helps to strengthen the independence, sovereignty and identity of a nation. The qualitative dimension of development, namely the satisfaction of a person's spiritual and cultural aspirations is as important as the quantitative dimension, namely the satisfaction of basic needs;

As of now, almost all development models do not take into account cultural

factors, hence development appears to be elusive and lop-sided. The failure to recognize cultural factors in development has, for instance led to perpetration of gender imbalances, in its participation in, as well as benefiting from such development.

The ultimate goal of development is the individual's dignity as a human being and that person's responsibility to society. The person is the origin and the goal of development. Balanced and sustainable development can only be ensured by making cultural factors an integral part of the strategies designed to achieve it; consequently these strategies should always be devised in the light of the historical, social and cultural context of our nation.

2.6 International Cultural Co-operation

International cultural exchanges and encounters contribute to the promotion of global peace, respect and mutual understanding. Zambia has signed bilateral cultural agreements with a number of friendly foreign countries.

Zambia is a land-locked country surrounded by 8 countries. The borders were arbitrarily drawn up by the colonial authorities without regard to cultural and ethnic realities, so much that some clans were split into two or three countries and in some cases splitting families to belong to different countries.

The men and women of Zambia share common history and origin with those of neighbouring countries. All ethnic groups in Zambia are of Bantu origin and so are the majority of those in neighbouring countries. Zambia belongs to a number of multilateral cultural organizations, namely:

- i) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- ii) Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- iii) International Centre for Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA);
- iii) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);

-
- v) Southern African Development Community Association of Museums (SADCAM);
 - iv) World Crafts Council (WCC);
 - vii) International Council of Museums (ICOM),
 - viii) International Theatre Institute (ITI)

There is need to focus more on sub-regional and regional cultural interaction without ignoring the global cultural contacts. Adequate resources need to be allocated to facilitate the implementation of cultural exchanges. The full implementation of these agreements has been adversely affected by lack of financial resources thus rendering these agreements almost ineffective.

2.7 Administration and Co-ordination of Cultural Affairs.

The Cultural Sector cuts across a number of line ministries such as:

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (under which the Department of Cultural Services and the National Arts Council of Zambia fall);

- a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services (under which Zambia Music Copyright Protection Society and film and cinema administration fall);
- b) The Ministry of Tourism (under which the National Museum Board and the National Heritage Conservation Commission fall);
- c) The Ministry of Local Government and Housing (under which the administration of Chiefs' Affairs falls);
- d) The Ministry of Science Technology and Vocational Training (under which the training of artists in colleges falls);
- e) The Ministry of Home Affairs (under which the National Archives falls).

The above scenario raises the problem of co-ordination for effective and efficient delivery of cultural services to the nation.

3.0 VISION OF GOVERNMENT ON CULTURE

The vision of Government is to mainstream culture in national development processes in order to achieve sustainable human development.

4.0 RATIONALE

The rationale for mainstreaming culture in development is that:-

- a. Development divorced from its cultural context is like growth without a soul;
- b. The right to culture is a fundamental human right;
- c. Art and creative expression contribute to the strengthening of democracy; and
- d. Culture gives identity to the nation.

5.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services is: *"To provide and facilitate socio-economic empowerment of the poor and vulnerable, and promote the development and preservation of culture for sustainable human development."*

6.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

6.1 Culture and Democracy

Objectives

- a) To promote the positive local customs and traditions while discouraging the negative ones.
- b) To promote democratic

Strategies

- a) enable access to cultural principles, national unity and international understanding through culture infrastructure by all regardless of gender or

-
- disability;
 - b) provide legal framework that enables every person to participate fully in the cultural life of the nation;
 - c) Consolidate national unity by enhancing cultural tolerance and a culture of peace by encouraging intra-national cultural exchanges.

6.2 Cultural Identity

Objective

To promote the appreciation of local ethnic cultures

Strategies

- a) introduce lessons at basic school level in local languages that are spoken in a given community;
- b) commission authors to write appropriate books in those local languages that are not yet taught in schools;
- c) train and recruit teachers of those local languages that do not have teachers
- d) introduce adult literacy lessons in those local languages that are currently not being used in literacy programmes;
- e) encourage creative writing in local languages through writing competitions;
- f) document in print and on video local language literature, especially oral poetry and narratives;
- g) allow ethnic communities to organise and participate in cultural activities that reflect on their identity within the Zambian nation; and
- h) provide technical support to communities wishing to establish multi-purpose cultural centres in their communities.

6.3 Cultural Heritage

Objective

To efficiently and effectively protect all significant material evidence or expression of human development of movable or immovable nature.

Strategies

-
- a) While Government will do all it can to ensure that the National Museums Board and the National Heritage Conservation Commission are adequately funded, the private sector will be encouraged to make financial contributions to the National Museums Board and the National Heritage Conservation Commission for which tax incentives would be offered; and
 - (b) Tax incentives will be given to those wishing to establish and manage community museums.

6.4 Artistic and Intellectual Creation and Art Education

Objective

To improve the standard of artistic, creative and cultural expression and products.

Strategies

- a) Government will establish district, provincial and national cultural centers throughout the country in order to provide adequate and suitable infrastructure for artistic and intellectual creation;
- b) Land will be made available to the private business wishing to invest in cultural infrastructure;
- c) Professional artist tools and equipment will be allowed into the country free of duty and Value added Tax for an initial period of three years to encourage private sector participation in the development of the arts in the country;
- d) Curricula for art education and training in schools, colleges and universities will be upgraded and reviewed periodically to give art education and training the status accorded to other subjects;
- e) The Private sector will be encouraged to invest in professional music and video recording by providing appropriate tax incentives;
- f) Public awareness campaigns will also be mounted by Government, National Society to sensitize law enforcement agencies, the public and all stakeholders on the need to respect copyright.

6.5 Culture and Development

Objective

To promote the integration of culture into the mainstream of development.

Strategies

Government will organize workshops for development planners at all levels to sensitize them on the need to take into account cultural factors in development planning, monitoring and evaluation.

6.6 International Cultural Co-operation

Objective

To protect the rights of artists and intellectual creators.

Strategies

- a) Government will increase funding towards the implementation of bilateral and multilateral cultural co-operation so that the country could derive maximum benefits from these agreements; and
- b) The private sector will be encouraged to play an active part in the implementation of cultural agreements.

6.7 Administration and Co-ordination of Cultural Affairs

Objective

To ensure gender equity in the delivery of cultural services and accessibility to cultural wealth.

Strategy

In order to improve the co-ordination of Government Institutions that are involved in the delivery of cultural services an Inter-ministerial Cultural Committee will be established a standing committee of Government. The Department of Cultural Services will continue to be responsible for the overall monitoring of the implementation of the policy. The Department will also be responsible for the preservation and promotion of folk culture, the development of cultural industries and promotion of creative expressions. The existing statutory cultural institutions will continue to perform their legal mandate.

7.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In order to achieve Government's Vision, Objectives and effectively implement policy Measures Government will review all relevant Legislation in order to provide appropriate and comprehensive legal framework.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

8.1 Institutional Arrangement

National Level:

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, through the Department of Cultural Services, will continue to collaborate and work very closely with other Government Ministries, Departments, Statutory and Non-Governmental Organizations as well as the private sector in the implementation of this Policy.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee which will be established will facilitate the smooth coordination of the implementation of this Policy.

The Department of Cultural Services will be strengthened in line with the objectives of the Public Service Reform Programme to make it more efficient and effective by providing for an appropriate structure.

Provincial Level:

At Provincial Level, the post of Provincial Cultural Affairs Coordinator will be established to co-ordinate the implementation of the Policy and to monitor and evaluate activities aimed at achieving the objectives of this Policy. The Provincial Cultural Affairs Coordinator will also co-ordinate the District Cultural Affairs Coordinator and collaborate with other Government, statutory and Non-Governmental Organisations involved in the implementation of this Policy.

District Level:

At district level, the post of District Cultural Affairs Coordinator will be introduced to co-ordinate the implementation of this Policy. The District Cultural Affairs Coordinator will, apart from carrying out administrative functions, ensure that men, women and children in the district are stimulated to fully participate in the cultural life of their respective communities. The District Cultural Affairs Coordinator will also work with communities in identifying sustainable programmes and activities aimed at implementing this Policy.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- a) The Inter-ministerial committee will be established immediately the Policy is adopted to identify legislation that require immediate review to facilitate the implementation of the Policy;
- b) The Inter-ministerial committee will draw up the Action Plan and Budget for the implementation of the Policy. This plan will also address cross-cutting issues of gender, HIV / AIDS and the environment;
- c) The Department of Cultural Services will be restructured immediately in order to build its capacity to disseminate the policy, co-ordinate policy implementation with all stakeholders, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy and make appropriate recommendations on the Policy.

10.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In order to support the implementation of this Policy Government will seek to source funding from the following:

- a) National budgetary provision;
- b) Community participation particularly in the construction, maintenance and administration of community cultural centres;
- c) Private Sector and NGO participation; and
- d) Bilateral and multilateral co-operating partners.

11.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy, the Government will develop monitoring and evaluation instruments guide cultural service delivery.