



OMI Zambia

A Newsletter of the Zambia Delegation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
To establish and maintain a vital and culturally integrated missionary presence in Zambia

FROM THE DELEGATION SUPERIOR



Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI

Dear Brother Oblates and Associates,

Let me start by wishing each one of you a Happy Easter! I couldn't help but feel the spirit moving on the Easter Vigil at Mary Immaculate Parish as lights came on, bells rang, flowers were brought in by the women's league, the choir ululating "utupundu" and what more with the stellas (dancing girls) choreographed to the perfect rhythm with songs intoned with alleluias throughout. This was a culmination of hard work and preparations by our brother Oblates and all involved in liturgy for us to experience a worthy *Triduum*. I am sure each one of us had a similar experience in our respective places where we minister or are assigned.

In the *Victimae Paschali laudes* (Easter Sequence) we are reminded of Christ as a Paschal sacrifice who died but never to die again:

To the Paschal Victim let Christians offer a sacrifice of praise.

The Lamb redeemed the sheep.

Christ, sinless, reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life were locked together in a unique struggle.

Life's captain died;

now he reign, never more to die...

"Christ my hope has arisen.

He will go before his own into Galilee."

We know that Christ has indeed risen from the dead.

Do you, conqueror and king, have mercy on us.

Amen. Alleluia.

Indeed we celebrate the unique story of reality told over and over throughout our Christian history. This story, this reality should not only be told in the historical context but also in the present moment of our lives. There are moments when we feel like the victims of circumstances and give up hope. It is those moments of restlessness, anxiety, uncertainty that we need to hear the words of the Easter Sequence once again "Christ my hope has arisen. He will go before his own into Galilee." Where is our Galilee where we feel comfortable so that God through his risen Son can meet us? Once we discover where we feel comfortable with God, there we

shall be renewed and receive messages or message of "Go and proclaim the Good News to the whole world!" the Good News of the risen Lord.

I wish you a blessed Eastertide as we renew ourselves through these stories that we tell in this OMI Zambia Delegation Bulletin. Christ is truly risen. Amen! Alleluia!

Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI
Delegation Superior

ANOTHER OBLATE BROTHER FOR THE ZAMBIA DELEGATION

By Musonda Chipili

On January 28th, 2013, Bro. George Litiya, OMI and Sch. Bro. Faustino Kalebwe, OMI, made their perpetual Oblation at Mary Immaculate parish in Lusaka. They vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and perseverance, thus sealing their commitment to live the Charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod until death.

Receiving the vows was the Delegation Vicar Superior,

Fr. Valentine Kalumba, OMI. In his homily, Fr. Kalumba, OMI, encouraged the two brothers to give themselves wholeheartedly to the kingdom of God and to imitate Jesus Christ, who persevered until His death.

The perpetual Oblation was attended by Oblates in Lusaka and the missions in Western Province. Also in attendance were women and men religious. The families of the

two brothers also joined in the celebration which was witnessed by parishioners of



L-R: Sch. Bro. Faustino Kalebwe, OMI and Bro. George Litiya, OMI celebrating the occasion as Fr. Katongo, OMI (l) and Fr. Emmanuel Bwalya, OMI, (R) join..

Mary Immaculate and friends.

Bro. George Litiya, OMI hails from Sancta Maria Parish in Lukulu, Western Province. He did his prenovitiate at St. Eugene De Mazenod Formation House on Ng'umbo Road, Longacres, Lusaka. He later went to Our Lady of Peace Novitiate in Doeбра, Namibia. After novitiate, he went to St. Joseph's Theological Institute in

Cedara, Republic of South Africa where he graduated with a B.A in Religious studies.

Upon his return to Zambia he was assigned to Mongu at Oblate Jack Joyce community with ministry at Oblate Radio Liseli.

Sch. Bro. Faustino Kalebwe, OMI, hails from Mungwi Parish in Northern Province. He did his prenovitiate at Queens Park in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. After completing his prenovitiate

he moved to Namibia for his Novitiate. He is currently in his fourth year of Theological studies at St. Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara, Republic of South Africa.

Bro. George Litiya, OMI, brings the total number of finally professed brothers in the delegation to four. Others are Brothers Maxmillian Mwakacheya, George Mandona and Theodore Mbulo.

187 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Ackim Phiri

(Prenovice De Mazenod Formation House Lusaka)

This February, 2013, marked 187 years of missionary existence of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

At Mass, in a homily to mark the feast of the Congregation's approval of the Constitution and Rules in the church, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI, the Zambia Delegation Superior resounded perpetual ignition of Christ's light in our everyday lives.

It was in 1816 that St. Eugene, founder of the Missionary Oblates, began to work on the Constitution and Rules, that still govern our being men set

apart for the Gospel. These rules have a biblical foundation, are dynamic and are meant to liberate us and those we preach to. It is thus that when given the Constitution at our final vows as Oblates, we are told "do this and you shall live" to assure a life lived for the good of our neighbours.

Fr. Freeborn called upon all Oblates to live and witness a life of justice, peace and uphold the integrity of all creation. He also called for a recommitment to the service of the Gospel to the poor and a deeper understanding of who the poor

are. "Poverty sometimes can be the luck of knowledge of God. It may not be in not having, but in not realizing what we have".

Thanks to the holy mother Church, touching lives is our constitution through the footsteps of the call of Jesus Christ, heard within the Church through people's need for salvation as our mission. Let this light that was lit 187 years ago endlessly shine to the break of dawn.

CONGRESS ON FORMATION

By Fr. Emmanuel Bwalya, OMI



Fr. Emmanuel Bwalya, OMI

"Formation is a process which aims at the integral growth of a person and lasts a lifetime. It enables us to accept ourselves as we are and develop into the persons we are called to be. Formation involves us in an ever renewed conversion to the Gospel and a readiness to learn and to change in response to new demands"-OMI Constitutions and Rules # 47.

The Delegation of Oblates in Zambia held its first ever congress on formation from the 2nd to the 5th of January 2013. The Delegation Superior, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI welcomed the participants and recognized and introduced some of them, particularly those who came from outside the Delegation. These included Fr. Cornelius Ngoka, OMI who came from Rome where he is currently serving on the General Council as First Assistant General, Fr. Greg Gallagher, OMI, from the US Provincial Council, Fr. Gotthard Rosner, M.Afr., who served as one of the moderators as well as presenter, and Bro. Charles Kabeta, SC. The presence of the members of the formation team from South Africa was also acknowledged. Fr. Kibombwe went on to

mention that the purpose of the congress was "to see where we currently are as a Delegation in terms of formation program(s) and see what recommendations can be made for possible revisions and ongoing reflection."

As mentioned already, this was the first congress on formation ever to be held on the Delegation level. In the past, the practice had been that the leadership in collaboration with the Formation committee would review the programs of formation at the different stages, and in response, take necessary steps. While appreciating and valuing the input of the past practice, the leadership decided to have a congress where different sectors of the life of the Delegation could be

represented, and thus providing a broader base of deliberation and input. These sectors included first formation, those in their beginnings of fulltime missionary experience i.e. recently ordained and finally professed members of formation teams in the Prenovitiate and Scholasticate, and some council members. There was input in form of reports from the Novitiate formation team and from the Scholastic brothers in formation in the various houses of formation that could not be present.

A number of issues came up and most of them invited the participants to ongoing reflection and dialogue. Some of the points that came out of the different presentations will be highlighted here. In his presentation, Fr. Ngoka emphasized the point that formation, initial or ongoing, is to help us "live out the charism in creative and dynamic ways in today's world." "Initial formation," he continued, "must aim at helping Formandeos to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ our savior inspired by Mary's example." Fr. Ngoka commended the leadership of the Delegation for the importance it continued to show towards the formation of its members. He said formation was very important, yet it continued to be one of the areas in the congregation that was not usually considered by many people. "Very few people make themselves available to work in formation. We can only pray that through such gatherings many men will make themselves available to work in formation. I encourage

you, through your leadership, to continue placing such importance on formation and having such gatherings where you can reflect and dialogue together."

In his presentation, "Vowed Life From the African Perspective," Bro. Charles Kabeta, SC, stressed the point that when we come to live together in community as religious, we form a new culture altogether that is lived out in a particular context. While not losing our cultural backgrounds, we can actually enrich our present contexts (communities) with our respective backgrounds, provided they are well integrated. We are encouraged to "identify and look at the basic cultural elements that foster maturation and responsibility of a human person leading to leadership". In Religious life, animated by the Gospel values, one has to harmonize the value systems of his/her cultural background to a point where one is an integrated minister." This process of harmonization has to be in line with the Gospel value system. Through integrating our particular cultures into that of Religious life in which the Gospel values are the foundation, we are better able to participate in the mission and the vision of our congregation. All personal visions and missions are therefore integrated into the congregation's mission and vision.

Fr. Rosner, M.Afr., reminded the participants that we are all Formators in our various capacities. It is not only the work of those who are

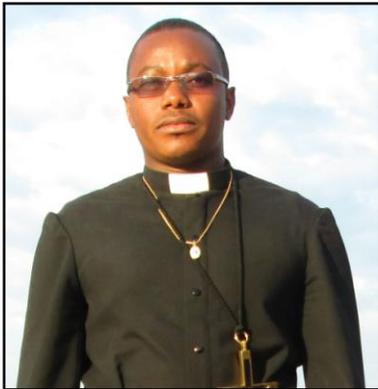
specifically assigned to the houses of formations. "As Formators you have the task to form for mission. And this is our mission." He went on to observe that while the strong idea today in mission theology is work with the poor, Justice and peace, primary Evangelization et-cetera, sometimes intellectual formation can take precedence over human and spiritual formation. This needs to be watched"! He pointed out that ongoing reflection and dialogue through such gatherings where formation programs are reviewed can be one way through which proper discernment around formation can be attained.

The participants also took time to look at the Brotherhood. It was noted that there was need to promote the Brotherhood in more intentional ways. As Oblates, we are a congregation of Priests and Brothers and everyone is called upon to promote us as such. It was observed that the number of the Brothers and those aspiring to the Brotherhood was low. This is an invitation for us all to reflect on how best we can do our vocation promotion wherever we are.

The various stages of formation were looked at and discussed. Various recommendations were forwarded to the leadership for further review, reflection, and dialogue on how best the formation programs can be run. In the meantime, everyone was called upon to continue praying for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life, particularly the Oblate way of life.

CALL TO CONVERSION IN FIRST FORMATION

By Bro. Gabriel Choongo, OMI



By Bro. Gabriel Choongo, OMI

The 2012 delegation assembly, whose theme was “Living the 2010 Chapter Call to Conversion In First Formation,” saw a shift in its nature and dynamics. It was the first of its kind in the short history of the Zambia delegation to focus only on the Oblates in First Formation.

In his opening remarks, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI, reminded the participants that conversion touches all aspects of formation. He said that the purpose of the assembly was to reflect on what it means to be in first formation.

The assembly was facilitated by Sr. Christina Mitchell, SHsp from Mongu. Among the participants were members of the Zambia Delegation Council. The presence of Fr. Cornelius Ngoka, OMI, who is the first Assistant General at the Oblate General house in Rome and Bishop Evans Chinyemba of Mongu Diocese added quality

to the assembly. Their presence was a living testimony to the Oblates in First Formation that the Church and indeed the Oblate Congregation seeks quality ministers to take care of her children. This quality in the minister is an ongoing openness to conversion as the theme suggested. Conversion for Oblates has several meanings:

1. Turning back to the past; back to Aix, to our origin so as to strengthen our roots.
2. Turning to something new; to start afresh from Aix, open to new calls, towards the future, something meaningful for today.

To this way, Fr. Ngoka, OMI, challenged the participants to centre their lives on Jesus Christ through whom they live and do all their missionary activities. An Oblate whose missionary activities do not begin and end with Jesus Christ is only a social worker. Conversion, therefore, requires Oblates to be deeply rooted in Christ, aimed at improving their quality of life for the formation of both community and mission. The call to conversion is a wakeup call from sleep and an encouragement to being good Oblates.

Another area that the Oblates in First Formation were challenged on through the

skilled voice of Fr. Cletus Mwiila is that formation seeks quality and not quantity. He further said that acting as a religious man leads to anguish whilst living as a religious man leads to peace. Fr. Mwiila also observed that it was easy to fall into acting in First Formation for the sake of going through formation.

The body of Christ has been badly damaged by the scandals of religious men and women around the world. The integrity in First Formation and ministry is the basis of the future of the religious life and of its dignity. First Formation, therefore, ought to have quality and aggressive programs to ensure the quality of Oblates that eventually are put in charge of God’s people. It is unfair to expose men to ministry without giving them the necessary training.

Finally, conversion is for the entire congregation. Oblates in Ongoing Formation are also called to conversion. Like a chameleon or a snake that peels off an old skin from its body, Oblates are called to time and again peels off the old skin of laxity, laziness, pride, and so on. St. Eugene De Mazenod always challenged his men to be on fire. Are the Oblates in Zambia on fire?

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Chikweto Chungu, Godwin Wali and Ackim Phiri

A glance at the terminologies; *Justice and Peace*, one may think that they are just judicial terms that cannot have a bearing on a religion. It turns out they are rooted in the scriptures from creation. One of the oldest and active ministries which the Oblates of Mary Immaculate are involved in is the ministry of Justice and Peace, and Integrity of Creation, (JPIC). This ministry is special to the Congregation in that, it is the core of the vocation of Christ. Oblates have continued this ministry as a

response to the founders desire to help people become human, Christians and strive for holiness.

From February 4th to 8th 2013, a workshop on the spirituality of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation was held at the Oblate Formation House in Lusaka. In attendance were the prenovices.

Fr. Kennedy Katongo, OMI, who was the convener shared on the importance of preaching and living the Gospel. He



Fr. Kennedy Katongo, OMI (L) with the prenovices

further said that the call to JPIC awareness of the global positive happenings and challenges of the world. Positive happenings were listed as: industrialization, multiculturalism and intercultural dialogues, developments in human rights, transport and communication. Challenges were identified as

global warming, abuses, violence, corruption, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, poverty and the moral decay generated from the development of science and technology to mention but a few.

We also learnt that the solution to the vices the world is facing today rests well solved in the scriptures, Catholic social teachings, theological reflections and the Oblate Charism.

In closing the workshop, we were told to go out to live justly, promote peace and uphold the integrity of creation in preaching the Gospel. We were also urged to identify the different injustices of our time in the society we live in.

At the November 2012 OMI JPIC committee meeting in Rome, the gathering chose three new internal core priorities to better integrate JPIC into the life and mission of our Congregation:

- 1. That all Oblates have a clearer understanding of what Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and Catholic Social Doctrine entail for our life and mission.*
- 2. That every Unit and Region there be trained JPIC animators and committee given sufficient time and resources to fulfill their ministry.*
- 3. That concrete JPIC values and praxis be integrated into all initial formation programs and centres where Oblates pursue their academic studies. ----- Fr. Kennedy Katongo, OMI.*



**OMI JPIC Executive Board
Fr. Kennedy Katongo, OMI second from left.**

OBLATE RADIO LISELI CELEBRATES WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

By Garries Wamundila (News Editor Oblate Radio Liseli)

Oblate Radio Liseli left a mark in history after according Mongu residents an opportunity to commemorate the World Day of Social Justice on February 20, 2013 through the holding of a live debate on issues affecting the economic status of Western Province.

The debate, which took over an hour, was held under the theme 'Is Poverty

Reduction a Source of hope for the people of Western Province?'

Over eighty people attended the debate in which some of the participants were given a platform to voice their concerns on three important issues that included the state of the health sector, road infrastructure and the high levels of unemployment in the province.

Participants included the Provincial Coordinator for Civil

Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Mr. Kebby Kalima, Jubilee Zambia Provincial



The panel members of the Live Debate

Chairperson Evans Musialela and Mr. Mubita Mubita a Community representative.

Others included the Acting Chief Planner Mr. Kafula Chisanga from the Provincial Administration who was later joined by the Provincial Permanent Secretary of Western Province Mr. Emmanuel Mwamba who stormed the venue after

following the debate from his office.

The sessions became hot as most of the participants demanded government's response on how it hopes to implement most of its pronouncements aimed at reducing the high levels of poverty in the province. People were assured that government will fulfill its promises.

The debate was conducted in partnership with the BBC Media Action, under the financial support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (UK-DFID).

The debate was captured live on Oblate Radio Liseli from Mongu Community Hall which was the venue of the debate. Oblate Radio Liseli has lined up a number of public debates for the year 2013. The debates will be carried live on Oblate Radio Liseli and will mainly focus on developmental issues affecting the people of Western Province which is the poorest province in Zambia.

FIVE MAKE FIRST VOWS

By Morgan Musukuma

Our Lord Jesus Christ gathered the twelve apostles whom he chose and trained for the special mission of proclaiming the reign of God and His kingdom. They had to leave all material possessions and acquired nothing but eternal life. As time went by, the

apostles began to discern, and recognise who they were in the eyes of God.

It is from this background that the ten young men from Zambia, Namibia, Kenya and South Africa felt the call from Christ through St. Eugene De

Mazenod to commit ourselves to God. In making our first profession, we vowed; Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Perseverance to be witnesses and sign of God's presence to all we meet.

Among the ten who made their first vows in Germiston, South Africa on 28th January, 2013 were five Zambians. The superior of the Zambia delegation Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI, received the vows of Banda Robby, Chanda Sylvester, Masiye Emmanuel, Musukuma Morgan and Kapeya Conrad.

Some Zambian Novices with their oblate brothers pose for a picture



FAREWELL TO GODFREY DAKA

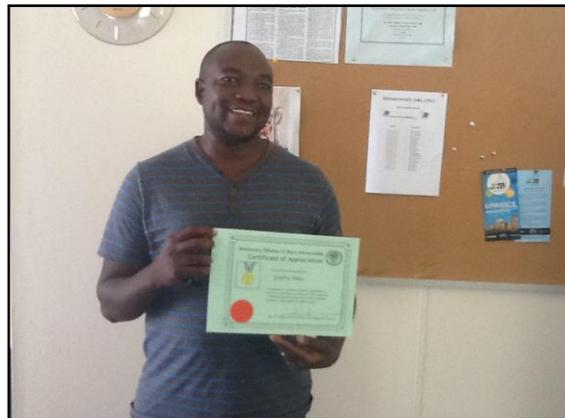
By Musonda Chipili

After working for the Zambia Oblate Delegation for ten years and four months, Godfrey Daka bade farewell to the delegation on February 8th, 2013. In bidding farewell, the administration awarded him with a certificate of service. This award is given to an employee who has worked for the delegation for ten years or more.

A fateful accident that took place in the Southern Province of Zambia in the year 2000 involving four Oblates led Godfrey Daka to know the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the Zambia Delegation and beyond.

The four Oblates were; Frs. Jim Brobst, Ron Carignan, Don Joyce and George Capen who were travelling to Livingstone when they met with the accident before Batoka. Fr. George, OMI, who was behind the wheel, lost control when trying to avoid potholes on the road. The vehicle overturned twice before landing in a

drainage, as narrated by Mr. Daka.



Godfrey Daka holding his Certificate of Service

Godfrey Daka appeared on the accident scene before the dust raised in the air due to the accident settled down. He was driving a mini-bus which was carrying ten passengers. He then decided to put his ten passengers on a public vehicle and rushed the trapped and injured Oblate priests to the nearest hospital which was in Choma, where they were admitted.

Mr. Daka was driving his Fathers mini-bus so he could

raise money to enroll himself into an auto mechanic school. After two days, Fr. Ron Carignan, OMI, returned to the former Centre House on Lake Road in the company of Mr. Daka. The three injured Oblates were later driven to Lusaka with Ron being the most critical with broken ribs. After their health stabilized in Lusaka, they were flown to the USA for more medical attention.

In October of that same year, Fr. Ron Carignan, OMI, met with Mr. Daka where they got to know one another better. In an effort to express his gratitude for the kind and noble gesture, he offered Mr. Daka several options he could choose from. Mr. Daka then told Fr. Carignan, OMI, that he wanted to pursue training in automotive mechanics. He was later introduced to Fr. Leo Dummer, OMI, who was the Delegation Treasurer at that time.

Tuition fees were paid for him and upon completion he worked at a garage in Makeni. He was later employed by the

delegation in October of the year 2002. Mr. Daka worked in Kalabo, Lukulu, Mongu and Lusaka.

Godfrey Daka fondly remembers the brotherly relationship he had with Frs. Leo Dummer, OMI, and Ron

Carignan, OMI, which saw the same relationship being passed on to other Oblates that joined the Delegation afterwards.

When asked if he was an Oblate Associate, he said he is more than one.

The Zambia Delegation wishes Daka well in his new job and also thanked him for his many skills and services he offered to the Delegation.

ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

January			February		
Fr. Valentine. K		16	Sch. Bro. Chupa Chanda		4
Fr. Keba. C		17	Fr. Chibesa Chishimba		6
Fr. Sekula. G		25	Fr. Gitzen Patrick		8
			Fr. Nacidze Singini		13
			Sch. Bro. Kasonde Michael		18
			Sch. Bro. Phiri Christopher		22
			Sch. Bro. Musonda Sydney		22
			Sch. Bro. Nkomesha Joseph		28
March					
Sch. Bro. Kalebwe. F		4			
Fr. Walker. R		14			
Fr. Phiri. J		15			

Final Vows

January			February		
Fr. Mwangala. R		5	Fr. Lubinda. K		02
Bp. Chinyemba. E		6	Fr. Mwansa. V		02
Fr. Sauti. L		6	Fr. Phiri. J		02
Br. Mwakacheya. M		8	Fr. Kalumba. V		20
Bro. Mandona. G		22	Fr. Kalumba. V		20
Bro. Mbulo. T		22			
Fr. Mutale. N		29			
Fr. Chibesa. C		30			

Ordination to Priesthood

January		February	
Fr. Sauti. L	16	Fr. Kabika. F	02
Fr. Chanda. R	21	Fr. Mutale. N	02
Fr. Kabombo. M	21		
Fr. Like. L	21		

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **July 19th, 2013** Perpetual Oblation of Sch. Bro. Bright Musa Makunka, OMI and Sch. Bro. Cornhill Nahonge Mwala, OMI, at De Mazenod House of Formation, in Makeni, Lusaka.
- **July 20th, 2013** - Ordination to Priesthood of Rev. Bro. Lazarous Kayuni, OMI, and Rev. Bro. Michael Kasonde Musaba, OMI at Mary Immaculate parish in Lusaka.
- **July 22nd to July 28th** - Annual Delegation retreat in Kasisi.

OMI Zambia Newsletter

Our newsletter aims at informing on the happenings in the Zambia Delegation, with a view of connecting people in the Oblate world and its Associates. Our articles focus on the church, justice, peace and development.

Editors:

Fr. Sakubita Lawrence Like, OMI
Fr. Pat Gitzen, OMI
Musonda Chipili

For comments and contributions

Email: muschipi@iwayafrica.com or
muschipi@yahoo.co.uk

Contributors :

Fr. Emmanuel Bwalya, OMI
Bro. Gabriel Choongo, OMI
Bro. Morgan Musukuma, OMI
Chikweto Chungu
Godwin Wali
Ackim Phiri
Garries Wamundila

Or Write to:

OMI Zambia Newsletter,
P.O.Box 320009 ZA
Lusaka
ZAMBIA

Photography :

Fr. Singini Nacidze, OMI
OMI Archives
Ms. Musonda Chipili

Publisher:

Rev. Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI
(Delegation Superior)

15601 Woodlands,
Telephone: +260 257341/2
Facsimile: +260 257340
Lusaka
Zambia
www.omizambia.org

Layout and Design

Ms. Musonda Chipili

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Information Office is appealing to each community to submit articles on the activities that have been going on in your respective communities. As Oblates you have been doing good ministry and sometimes your efforts go unnoticed. The Information Office would like to share with other Oblates and Associates on your ministry. Please submit any articles accompanied with pictures.

For more stories and photos, visit our website on omizambia.org