



# Kondanani Zambia News

Aug  
2020

## Vale Mrs. Harriet Sianjibu-Miyato

Sunrise: 21st July, 1951  
Sunset: 4th August, 2020

It is with grieving hearts we are sad to inform you of the passing of our very dear friend Mrs. Harriet Sianjibu-Miyato in Lusaka on Tuesday 4th August.



Harriet has been our inspiration and mentor since we first met in 1992 in Melbourne where she was an AusAid scholarship student at Deakin studying a Masters in Health Education. Harriet has been the reason we have visited Zambia so many times since our first trip to visit with Harriet in 1996, to work and learn from Harriet about the rights of the child to education.

You can visit: AUSTRALIAN BY DEGREE:  
HARRIET SIANJIBU MIYATO ZAMBIA and  
experience her  
passionate love

for the out-of-  
school children of

her country. Harriet is

mourned by her daughters Mwaka and Yvonne, her grandchildren Nathan, Mwika & Munji, and Harriet Monkombwe, by the Preston family, and the many supporters of Kondanani Zambia Inc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3POd6BHCfil>





## Harriet Miyato: Gone but not forgotten

by BENEDICT TEMBO, *Daily Mail, Lusaka*

HARRIET Sianjbu Miyato, often referred to as the mother of Zambia's orphans and vulnerable children, has died. Mrs Miyato, who was an educationist for over 40 years working in government, died on August 4, 2020 at Levy Mwanawasa Hospital in Lusaka.

She worked as a teacher, college lecturer and inspector of schools. She was a senior education consultant /technical advisor for Integrated Nutrition, Health, Gender, HIV and AIDS, and Environmental OVC-Education Programmes in Africa and internationally. She worked at UNICEF Lusaka-Zambia as an education specialist under secondment from the Ministry of Education from November 1, 1995 to January 31, 2003.

While there, Government asked her to develop a Community Schools strategy for Zambia that would foster the provision of quality education to disadvantaged children, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), especially girls and children with special education needs.

She was an exceptional leader and force for change. She was the Chairperson of the Zambia National Education Coalition and Women for Change. She was passionate about children in general and girls in particular and believed that education was the ultimate equaliser from her own journey starting off as a school teacher. Her passion and dedication to public service earned her several scholarships from the government.

She received her Master of Education in Social Sciences (Science, Nutrition, Health and Environmental Education) from Deakin University, Australia, and has a plethora of qualifications from the University of London, Huddersfield Metropolitan University, Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Zambia, Natural Resources Development College (NRDC) and David Livingstone Teachers College.

The woman pioneered Zambia Open Community Schools, which increased the number of children accessing those schools to thousands. Mrs Miyato developed ZOCS from a small organisation that was only responsible for four districts to a national organisation represented in 76 districts. ZOCS today advocates for 3, 000 community schools and enables 600,000 children to access education, as well as influencing government policies. "This is the kind of career I have always wanted to have. I have lived my dream! Firstly, becoming a teacher was the beginning of my journey to my career success. Secondly, I love working with children and this desire was enhanced by focusing my attention on the provision of education for vulnerable/disadvantaged children, especially girls and children with disabilities by increasing their access to quality education," she said in an alumni interview with her former university, Deakin, in Australia.

She was at Deakin University from 1993 to 1995. She added: "Suffice to say, I am also from a humble background and therefore the only weapon in all my career progression has been hard work with humility, believing in myself, and being honest and accountable."

She was privileged to have Government's support through scholarships, which enabled her to excel from being a primary school teacher to a secondary school teacher; from being a lecturer in a college to an inspector of schools at the Ministry of Education Headquarters; and finally seconded into UNICEF as an education specialist/National Education officer. While in UNICEF, by virtue of her role of Propagating a Community Schools Strategy for Zambia became her niche to widen her original vision for a pilot community School that was conceptualised before leaving Australia.

Mrs Miyato believed that education is the key to human development and that educating the child, especially the girl child, positively changes everything, including the life of the household, community, nation, and even at an international level.

She considered herself mentor, someone who went beyond the call of duty to serve others. She was strong, firm, perseverant, inspirational, passionate about children's and human rights. Someone who exhibited tough love when coaching others.

Born on July 21, 1951, she is survived by daughters Mwaka and Yvonne and four grandchildren, Harriet, Nathan, Mwika, and Munji. She will be fondly remembered by entire family as a loving, soft, spoken but extremely passionate, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother.

## **Feminine Hygiene Kits**

With a grant from Sammy Stamp, the Uniting Church voluntary group which sells used stamp, feminine hygiene kits were made by Dressmaking students at CHODORT in Choma, and distributed to girls at rural school. A lack of sanitary wear for vulnerable girls has been a challenge leading to absenteeism from class every month due to fear of being laughed at or being stigmatized by fellow learners most especially boys leading to poor performance by girls. Some girls end up dropping out of school leading to early marriages because their parents might think they are mature enough and some keep to the bushes and stay away from school because they lack what to use during their menstrual days.

**The Expected outcome will be:** Improved school attendance for girls, safeguarded dignity, bodily integrity and opportunities for girls to excel in their education, and enhanced understanding around menstrual hygiene



## **Covid 19 Contingency**

In response to ZOCS appeal for support in form of hygiene kits (handwashing buckets, soap and sanitizers) for OVC in Community Schools owing to the COVID 19 pandemic, Kondanani Zambia heeded to the call and provided \$2000 for the purchase and delivery of the materials to households in Choma, Kalomo & Zimba areas in Southern Province and demonstrated preventive measures and provided WASH facilities.

“As a marginalized community we have always had challenges in accessing hand washing facility”, Said Moses Munsaka the Teacher-In Charge at Siachoohe Community School in Choma District, upon receiving one portable hand washing facility from Zambia Open Community schools.

As of 7 August, another \$7000 has been sent to this fund.



## **Update on teachers supported by Kondanani Zambia**

Mr. Professor Mudenda - Professor is one of the two teachers being supported by Kondanani Zambia project. Professor was trained as a tailor at CHODORT, and has been teaching sewing at Kalalasaka. He has been at Musuka High School preparing for General Certificate of Education examination, with the help of his tutor he's made great steps towards his final examination. Professor Mudenda commented that he was grateful for the support from Kondanani Zambia as that will enable him to attain academic qualifications and be in a position to upgrade his career aspirations of becoming a qualified teacher.

Ms. Nalucha Mwitelela - Nalucha is being supported on two programmes namely GCE upgrading and her Primary Teacher's Diploma studies. She is studying at Malcolm Moffat College of Education in Serenje District for a Primary Teachers' Diploma Course and wrote her GCE examinations in Mathematics and Science in the first week of August, 2019, with tuition support from teachers at Matero Boys Secondary School.

Nalucha is now in her second year of study pursuing a Primary Teachers' Programme. Despite the closure of all learning institutions: “I learnt a lot on how to make teaching and learning Aids, I learnt how to take care of school property and to repair broken furniture and also I had no idea about the Rationale that makes teaching and learning easier”, commented Nalucha.

## **Chinsanshi Project**

There are chickens at the school. ZOCS engaged an Agricultural consultant currently mobilizing the community to support with the chicken project and other Income Generating Activities at the school.



## Thank you from ZOCS

ZOCS is grateful for the support that Kondanani Zambia offered that enabled the organisation to undertake these activities. Although COVID 19 pandemic has affected implementation of different programmes for ZOCS and communities, ZOCS is grateful for the support as it has enabled the organisation to still reach out to vulnerable communities that do not have the economic power to develop their schools and also purchase preventive materials against COVID 19 as encouraged by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of General Education.

"I thank Kondanani Zambia for helping me to explore my inner ability which without them I wouldn't have known I had. Thank you so much for giving me a chance to develop and advance academically, socially, morally and above all to help me to teach the under privileged with much needed professionalism. Our own now are at par with their peers through quality education which ZOCS has always wanted for their learners, I give God the glory. Thank you", Nalucha Mwitelela.



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

We have a range of giving opportunities for you to support for the numerous Zambia Open Community Schools including:

- School hygiene products;
- Feminine Hygiene kits;
- Chicken, Goat and Pig income generating projects;
- Solar powered electrical systems for school buildings;
- Solar pumps for boreholes and water reticulation systems;
- Solar lamps for students;
- Text books for students and teachers;
- Building materials, cement, metal windows and door frames;
- Roofing iron and metal roof trusses;
- Bicycles for teachers.

The Preston Family have met so many wonderful people who have faithfully supported us in our mission, and seen great progress and achievements:

*To ensure that every child, especially those disadvantaged in any way, can actualize their full human potential, realise their rights and experience what it means to be a human being fully alive.*

Kondanani Zambia Inc is a registered charity in Australia, and we complete federal & state government returns each year.

**All monitoring visits by the Preston family are self-funded.**

## **DONATIONS:**

**Special gift cards will be provided to the donor for each gift, with information about that project and about Kondanani Zambia Inc.**

### How to donate:

Cheques to be made payable to :

KondananiZambia Inc;  
or make a bank transfer:  
Bendigo Bank: BSB 633-000  
Acc. No: 144 757 655  
Acc. Name:  
KondananiZambia Inc.

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**Kondanani Zambia**  
Supporting vulnerable, disabled, orphaned children