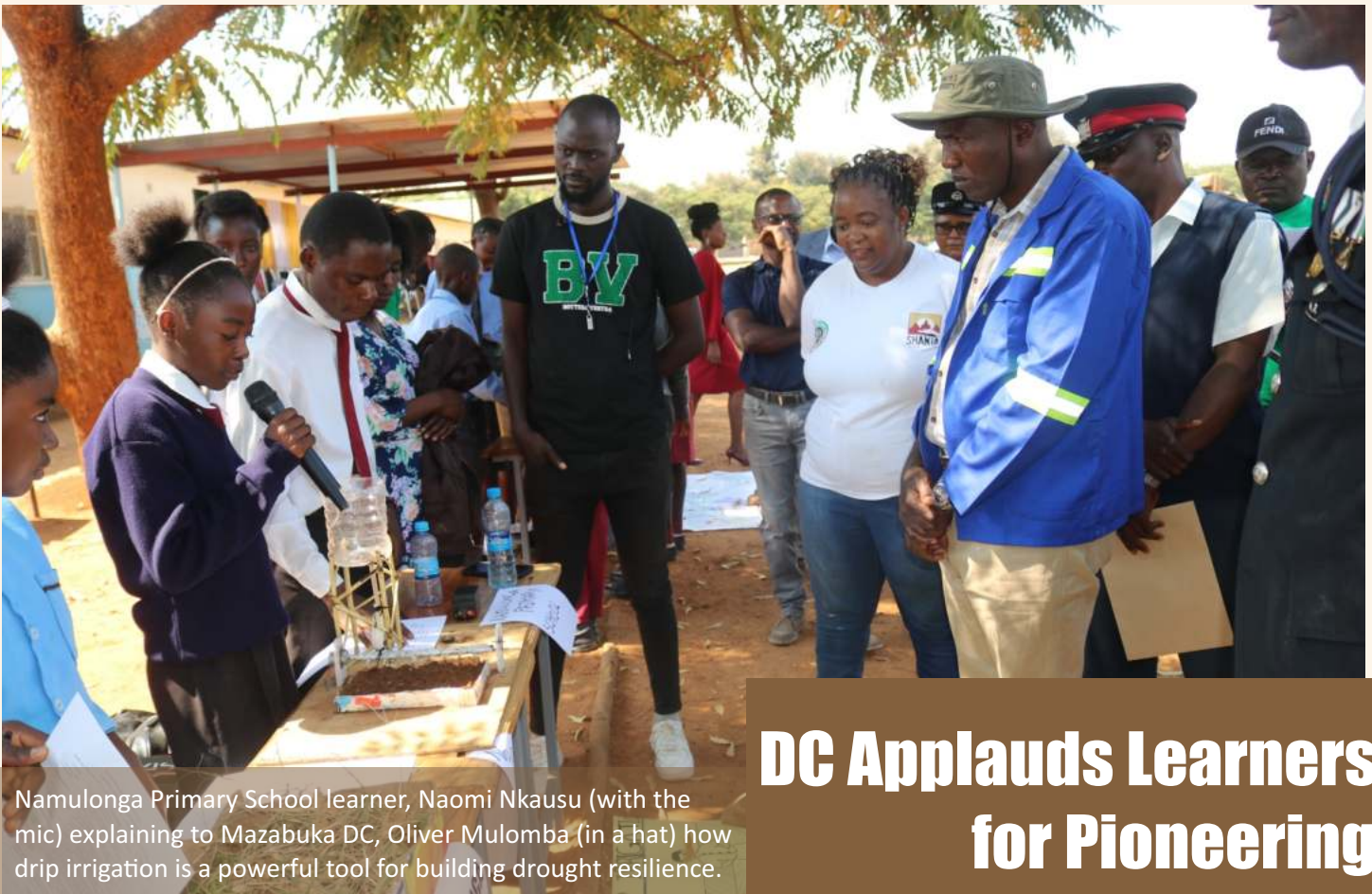




*'Compulsory,  
Free  
Education  
a Key Strategy  
to Eradicate  
Child  
Labour'*

**LEARNERS ENGAGE IN A SPIRITED  
DEBATE TO MARK THE WORLD  
DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR**



Namulonga Primary School learner, Naomi Nkausu (with the mic) explaining to Mazabuka DC, Oliver Mulomba (in a hat) how drip irrigation is a powerful tool for building drought resilience.

## DC Applauds Learners for Pioneering Innovations in Land Restoration, Drought Resilience

“Young people have a critical role in combating the pressing environmental challenges facing the country

**M**azabuka District Commissioner, Oliver Mulomba praised learners for showing interest in taking the lead in developing innovative solutions for land restoration and drought resilience.

Mr Mulomba stressed that learners should take a leading role in finding solutions to the critical issues of land degradation and drought, which have significant impacts on agriculture and water resources.

The District Commissioner was speaking during an Exhibition and Quiz event, sponsored by People's Action Forum to celebrate World Environment Day (WED) at St Edmund's Secondary School in Mazabuka, on 5 June under the theme 'Accelerating Land Restoration and Drought Resilience.'

Mr Mulomba commended the learners for showcasing their creativity in developing initiatives to help restore the degraded lands and build resilience against droughts at a time when the country was facing the effects of drought.

“Young people have a critical role in combating the pressing environmental challenges facing the country. With climate change issues such as land degradation and prolonged droughts, the need for innovative and sustainable solutions has

never been more urgent,” Mr Mulomba emphasised.

And speaking earlier, Mazabuka Town Clerk, Judith Maambo commended the learners for spearheading innovations aimed at land restoration and enhancing drought resilience.

“Your ideas and initiatives are vital in restoring our lands and building resilience against the adverse effects of drought. I urge you to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible and lead the way in creating a sustainable future.”

Mrs Maambo encouraged the learners to explore and implement new farming techniques that can improve soil health and increase water retention so as to mitigate the impacts of drought.

The Exhibition and Quiz event, showcased a wide range of ideas and projects by highlighting the creativity and potential of learners in tackling environmental challenges. Fifty learners from ten selected schools in the district took part in the event which was well-received by attendees, including teachers, local officials and community members.



# PAF CONTRACTED AS PIP TO DISTRIBUTE RELIEF FOOD



*Ms Banda taking details of one of the recipients of relief maize*

**P**eople's Action Forum (PAF) has gathered recognition from partner organizations for its remarkable efforts in community mobilization and engagement in Mambwe district of Eastern Province.

Musamalia Banda, is the focal person at the helm of the activities in the area ensuring that the organisation is relevant to the needs of the people.

Early June, Ms Banda, who is PAF district supervisor, was among key stakeholders in the district who attended a training in drought resilience organised by Plan International and facilitated by Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). The training was meant to build capacity in conducting relief food distribution in Mambwe. Other activities of the week PAF got involved in, include the on-going relief food distribution in various wards.

PAF has been contracted by DMMU as a Project Implementing Partner (PIP) to distribute bags of maize in the district. "The relief food distribution project involves a comprehensive strategy, including identifying the most affected areas, coordinating with local authorities, and ensuring a smooth and equitable distribution process," Ms Banda explained. She said the partnership marks a pivotal moment for PAF, underscoring its role as a key player in humanitarian efforts.

One of the cornerstones of PAF's success is on community mobilization.

Through community meetings, focus groups, and grassroots engagements, PAF ensures that every voice is heard and every perspective valued.



*At last! Household food security assured*



*Two men happily help each other carry the relief bag of maize*



*A recipient of relief maize walks home*

## St Patrick's Secondary School

Learners from various schools in Mazabuka gathered at Immaculate Hall at Mazabuka Girls Secondary School to engage in a debate on the topic, "Governments Worldwide Should Prioritize Free, Compulsory Education as a Key Strategy to Eradicate Child Labour."

The People's Action Forum sponsored event, organized by the District Child Protection Committee to mark the World Day Against Child Labour, aimed to raise awareness about the persistent issue of child labour and explore potential solutions.

The debate saw participation from four schools, each represented by a team of five learners. The auditorium was filled with enthusiastic supporters, including teachers, education authorities and representatives from Community Development Department.

The teams arguing in favor of the motion presented compelling arguments on the necessity of free, compulsory education.

They highlighted that education empowers children, equipping them with skills and knowledge that can break the cycle of poverty. A learner from St Patrick's Secondary



School, Joyce, stated, "Education is a powerful tool that can transform lives. By making education free and compulsory, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and grow, reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and child labour."

On the other hand, the opposing teams acknowledged the importance of education but raised concerns about the feasibility of implementing such policies globally. They pointed out the financial and logistical challenges faced by developing countries. "While the idea of free, compulsory education is ideal, many governments lack the resources to provide quality education to all children," noted Choolwe from Kaonga Secondary School.

Opponents also argued that simply making education compulsory does not address the root causes of child labour, such as poverty and lack of access to basic needs. "Without addressing economic disparities and providing support to families, children may still be forced into labour to support their households," they explained.

St Patrick's Secondary School beat Kaonga Secondary School in the Junior Secondary category while St Edmund's emerged winners over host Mazabuka Girls in the senior secondary group.

## Kaonga Secondary School



# LEARNERS ENGAGE IN A SPIRITED DEBATE TO MARK THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR





# GAF PROGRAM EXCITES SIYOWI WOMEN



*Excited trained GAF mentors pose for a group photo at Siyowi Primary School*

**W**ith hope and determination, the community of Siyowi has embraced the Girl's Action Forum (GAF) project aimed at addressing barriers to education and fostering positive personal development for girls.

After a successful training for school and community mentors in building a brighter and more equitable future for girls and women in Siyowi, the trainees totally pronounced that the GAF project was a promising start to a new chapter in the community's story.

Constance Mwiinga, a mother of six children, expressed her gratitude and optimism about the initiative. "This project is a blessing for our daughters and us. We want them to be well informed in matters of reproductive health and personal development through education. Education will open so many doors for them," she said.

And People's Action Forum (PAF) Programme Manager, Janet Nyoni said the program seeks to tackle challenges that prevent girls from progressing in school. These include economic hardships, cultural norms, and safety concerns. By providing support, GAF aims to ensure that every girl in Siyowi can pursue her educational dreams and develop holistically.

Three teachers and twelve community mentors went through a two day training conducted by PAF in partnership with SHANTA Foundation under the Community-Led Village Development Project being implemented in Siyowi.



*A participant making a presentation during a GAF training for school and community mentors*



*PAF Programme Manager, Ms Janet Nyoni facilitating during the GAF training in Siyowi*



*GAF trainee mentors listening attentively during the training held at Siyowi Primary School*





# PAF STEALS THE SHOW AT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION



Mazabuka DC, Mr Oliver Mulomba flagging off the World Environment Day march past

celebration and designed to test and expand participants' knowledge about environmental issues, saw enthusiastic participation from learners and environmental stewards.

With thought-provoking questions the quiz generated lively discussions and heightened awareness among the participants.

People's Action Forum (PAF) Programme Officer, Eneless Daka expressed her delight at the success of the event. "We are thrilled to see such a positive response from the schools. Our goal was to educate and inspire, and the overwhelming participation and interest show that we are on the right track."

The event not only provided a platform for learning and engagement but also highlighted the critical role of PAF in driving environmental initiatives and fostering a culture of sustainability among the learners.

As the world continues to grapple with environmental challenges, such efforts are essential in mobilizing collective action and ensuring a greener future for all.

In a remarkable highlight of this year's World Environment Day (WED) celebration, an exhibition and quiz activity sponsored by People's Action Forum (PAF), thrilled participants and stole the show.

The event, which aimed to give learners an opportunity to exhibit their innovations

and inspire action towards land restoration and drought resilience initiatives, was marked by displays, interactive sessions and an engaging quiz competition that drew participation from ten schools.

The exhibition showcased innovative projects and solutions focussed on combating land degradation

and promoting drought resilience skills. Participants had the opportunity to explore various interactive exhibits, including sustainable farming practices, water conservation technologies and environmental-friendly practices for daily living.

The quiz activity, which was held a day before the WED



A group photo for the Quiz & Exhibition winners



Kabanje Primary School learner explaining during the exhibition



# KAONGA LEARNER CRITICIZES PARTICIPANTS FOR IGNORING LITTER DURING A MARCH PAST



Participants march their way to the venue for the World Environment Day



Tyson Kaula

**“It's not enough to just march and hold banners. We need to take action, every day, in every small way we can.”**

In an unexpected turn of events during the World Environment Day celebrations, a young learner, Tyson Kaula, voiced his disappointment at participants of the event's march for neglecting their environmental duties.

The eleven-year-old learner at Kaonga Primary School, took the stage during the event's exhibition presentation highlighting the issue.

Tyson expressed his frustration at seeing numerous pieces of litter left untouched along the route to the venue.

“We are here to celebrate World Environment Day, but how can we celebrate when we are not practising what we preach?” he questioned. His observation was met with a mix of surprise and applause from the team led by Mazabuka District Commissioner, Mr Oliver Mulomba.

Tyson observed that many participants walked past discarded plastic bottles, wrappers, and other trash without a second thought. “Every piece of litter we ignore is a sign that we are not truly committed to the cause,” Tyson continued. “It's not enough to just march and hold banners. We need to take action, every day, in every small way we can.”

Tyson's call to action serves as a timely reminder of the importance of aligning actions with ideals, ensuring that the spirit of World Environment Day is reflected not just in words, but also in deeds.





*GAF mentors pose for a group in Siyowi after the training*



*GAF trainees engaged in a group activity during the training*

# P H O T O



*St Edmund's Secondary School learner debating against Mazabuka Girls Secondary School*



*Relief food distribution in Mambwe District where PAF has been contracted by DMMU as PIP*



*A quiz session for Primary Schools at the Council Chamber during Environment Day celebration*



*PAF Supervisor, Ms Msamalia Banda (centre) making sure that the relief food distribution is going on well*

# F O C U S



*A Kaonga Secondary School learner explains how to combat deforestation during WED Exhibition*



*Debaters pose for a group photo after the World Day Against Child Labour competition*