



Press Release

Lubuto library Opens its Second Library at Ngwerere Basic School

November 10, 2010. Lusaka.

Lusaka — U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Mark C. Storella championed a community-led, community-driven initiative today when he helped officially open the Lubuto Library Project at the Ngwerere Basic School in Lusaka's Garden Compound. Speaking at the opening, Ambassador Storella highlighted the American-supported Lubuto Library as a model of how public private-partnerships enable communities to find innovative solutions to their education challenges. Addressing youth, he advocated that they take ownership of their education.

"Public-private-public partnerships continue to change lives," said Ambassador Storella citing hundreds of street children who have been taught to read through the Lubuto Library Project. Ambassador Storella recounted the story of Kenny Hau who learned to speak English and read as a teenager at Lubuto's first library. With no formal basic education, Kenny eventually took a secondary school exam and graduated high school. Today, Kenny directs Lubuto programs for street children to teach them critical life skills. "

Kenny's story is one about the power of public-private partnerships," said Ambassador Storella. He further illustrated the USG commitment to library development by quoting U.S. President Barack Obama who said, "... the moment we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold into a library, we've changed their life forever, and for the better. This is an enormous force for good."

Americans and Zambians working together led to creation of the library. American publishing and financial information firm Dow Jones & Company donated more than \$100,000 for construction and material support. The U.S. Embassy supported the initiative via the United States Fulbright Program which, via an exchange program, offered a library sciences professor to work with resident Americans and Zambians. The U.S. Fulbright program promotes leadership development through learning and international cooperation and furthers the U.S. Embassy in Zambia's interest in fueling economic growth to ensure a more prosperous future for Zambia.

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