



By KAPALA CHISUNKA
VISITING United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has commended the Zambian Government for its efforts towards improving the lives of vulnerable children. Mr Ban said efforts and partnerships formed to better the lives of vulnerable communities are inspiring;

“It is through the eyes of children that a brighter future of the nation is assured,” he said when he visited Fountain of Hope, a life skills and training centre for vulnerable and orphaned children.

“There is nothing more important than investing in the lives of children. Countries that invest in uplifting the lives of vulnerable children will definitely be stronger. I have seen a brighter future for Zambia just by looking into the eyes of these young children,” he said.

Mr Ban said the partnerships of government and other non-governmental organisations have assisted many vulnerable children to make informed decisions through skills training programmes.

And Deputy minister of Sport Rayford Mbulu said Government is keen to promote policies and programmes which enhance the welfare of vulnerable children in society.

Mr Mbulu said Government will continue to work with other organisations, including UN agencies, to foster the rights of children through education and sporting initiatives.

“Government is aware of the plight of vulnerable children in Zambia and we remain committed to improving their living standards by putting in place sufficient laws on child abuse,” he said.

Mr Mbulu also urged organisations to invest more in education and sporting infrastructure.

Meanwhile, International Olympic Committee president Jack Rogge congratulated the Zambia national soccer team for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations victory.

He also commended various stakeholders for their concerted effort in making it possible for vulnerable children to have a better life.



MRS Blandina Buku, chairperson of Fountain of Hope, introducing board member and secretary of Fountain of Hope Mr Henry Kapata to the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon when he visited Fountain of Hope in Kamwala in Lusaka on Saturday February 25, 2012.