

# RICE FARMING IS TOUGH, LAMENTS SAMFYA FARMER

By MUKOSELA KASALWE in Samfya

**RICE production is a lucrative venture and performs well and also has a readily available market in Samfya but it requires commitment and hard work says Landisalus Mweni, a farmer.**

Mr. Mweni said he was passionate about farming and thanked the Japanese Government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who were training farmers how to grow rice.

He said it was unfortunate that some trainee farmers had given up because rice farming was labor intensive.

Mr. Mweni said rice farming was performing well due to the rich black soil and that the addition of composite and animal manure were enough to see a successful yield.

Speaking on Wednesday when Japanese ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima toured his garden, Mr. Mweni said he was encouraged that the ambassador had found time to listen to the opportunities and challenges of the project.

"I would like to thank the Japanese government for training Zambian farmers in crop production, this is a



Mr. Mweni (R) showcases his rice garden

fundraising venture with a readily available market here in Samfya and we don't have to travel long distances," he said.

Mr. Mweni said the challenges at the time of harvest included rats and birds which invaded the fields but that traps were being used to control the situation.

Project trainer, Ayumn Takezaki, who is locally known as Mulenga, said he was happy to train as many farmers as possible in price farming.

Earlier, in Mansa Mr. Sobashima inspected the Mulundu irrigation where

farmers grow cabbages, carrots and tomatoes.

Mulundu irrigation scheme chairlady, Irene Kababila said she was able to accrue K3,000 from the sale of her crops and vegetables.

Also while in Mansa the Japanese ambassador toured two houses in the Zambia National Building Society (ZNBS) compound which were painted with anti-mosquito paint (AMP) courtesy of Kansai Plascon Zambia Limited (KPZ), a project under JICA as part of trials on how the paint could perform.

One of the beneficiaries,

Evelyn Sakala said the paint was effective and that none of her household members this year were infected with malaria.

Another beneficiary, Paul Kauseni, a retired teacher said the paint had reduced the prevalence of malaria in his household.

Mr. Kauseni said the paint was non-reactive although it had a strong smell. KPZ, operations manager Gibson Mwenso said Luapula had a high prevalence rate of malaria cases and that the paint's effectiveness which lasted for two years could help ease the situation.

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By PETER MA

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# Investment in mines secure, Minister assures

By NATION REPORTER

**"WE are committed to running and operating a mining fiscal regime which is stable, predictable, simple and anchored on the promotion of security of tenure as a baseline for encouraging investment," Minister of Mines Richard Musukwa has said.**

Speaking at the 5th annual International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) on Wednesday in Melbourne, Australia, Mr Musukwa said Zambia was keen on ensuring

that investments in the mines were safeguarded through sound policies.

He said to actualise such a mining fiscal regime, Government was open to discussion and had kept an open door policy to players in the sector over the new mining fiscal regime which was structured to ensure sustainable growth in production by encouraging development as opposed to mere processing of imported materials.

"We are committed to providing an enabling environment to spur mine development and ensure that we do not

tax the mines out of business. We would like to see a situation where both the mines and the Government derive mutual benefit from the sector," Mr Musukwa said.

And speaking on the side-lines of the conference, ZCCM-IH board member Mateyo Kaluba, who is also the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) group chief executive officer, said it was gratifying to have ZCCM-IH a global company with mining tier-one assets in the IDC portfolio, representing Zambia at such an international forum.

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By KELVIN SIC

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