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2019 GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK ZAMBIA ; 18TH TO 20TH NOVEMBER,2019 .

Themes: Entrepreneurship Policy, Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Entrepreneurship Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Education.

Zambia, 18th to 20th November 2019 on this momentous dates and period joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) which is officially running up 24th November,2019 , with various Entrepreneurship promotional events by various stakeholders and partners across the country starting with Lusaka. But very important is Zambia 's key GEW activities of the 2019 Lusaka Global Entrepreneurship Week activities were driven by the four main global themes as follows;

a. EDUCATION#GEWeducation

Education can inform and expose people of all ages to entrepreneurship. Communities can mobilize entrepreneurship education through many different vehicles – from early-childhood learning centers, to colleges and universities, vocation institutions, marketplaces and more. Providing the right information and tools to those with an interest in entrepreneurship can foster creativity and skills to grow sustainable businesses – improving not only local entrepreneurial ecosystems, but also strengthening the skilled job force.

GEW Education works to share resources, raise awareness and provide skills training to potential entrepreneurs around the world. This theme celebrates the tools and programs communities use to foster entrepreneurship.

b. ECOSYSTEMS#GEWecosystem

The Global Entrepreneurship Network and other entrepreneurship support organizations around the world are looking beyond Silicon Valley to facilitate collaboration and partnership between startup ecosystems in promising mid-tier cities. Sharing knowledge and connecting local ecosystem leaders, has become increasingly important in building healthy and thriving entrepreneurial communities.

GEW Ecosystems aims to inspire communities to collaborate, and share their networks and markets to help their rising startups thrive. This theme celebrates the shared challenges and triumphs of entrepreneurship communities and hubs around the world.

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c. INCLUSION#GEWinclusion

Entrepreneurship is a positive force that drives innovation, creates wealth and improves lives in communities, cities and countries alike. But not everyone has the same opportunity. Race, age, gender, or where one lives should not be an obstacle to entrepreneurship. Anyone, anywhere should be able to realize their dream and start a business quickly, inexpensively, and without barriers.

GEW Inclusion will highlight the work startup champions are doing around the world to minimize barriers and obstacles for entrepreneurs by maximizing inclusion. This theme celebrates diversity in all forms, including women and youth in entrepreneurship. Activities, workshops and speaker series held around the world will explore the obstacles entrepreneurs from underserved populations may face, and discovering solutions through access to success stories, training, capital and mentorship.

d. POLICY#GEWpolicy

Startup ecosystems are led by their entrepreneurs, but government plays an important role in helping them flourish – removing barriers, resetting the regulatory environment and emphasizing connections and catalytic events. A new generation of public sector officials and startup-savvy advisors are hacking policy solutions to help local entrepreneurs start and scale.

GEW policy will highlight the work of governments and policymakers to help entrepreneurs everywhere start and scale.

The GEW Zambia Launch which was initially planned to be officiated by Her Honour the Vice President, Mrs. Inongwe Mutukwa Wina at COMESA Secretariat, was instead due to circumstances beyond our control witnessed by various senior Officials which among others, included the following:

- 1) Mr. Mukula Masaka – the Director Enterprises Development, also known as the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Division, under the Zambia Development Agency
- 2) Mrs. Margret Lungu – Acting Executive Director & Director Technical Services – Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS)
- 3) Mr. Cleophas Takaiza – Director General – Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVETA)
- 4) Ms. Precious Phiri – Enterprise Development Officer
- 5) Mrs. Njaame Mwila – Economist – Ministry of Industry
- 6) Ms. Zungaye Phiri – Senior Economist- Ministry of Industry

Monday, 18th November 2019, which was both the launch & Policy day started with Mr. Edwin Zulu the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) Zambia Country Host giving the background and introduction to what it is? that the GEW is as the largest celebrations

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of entrepreneurship, with events in over 170 countries, from November 18 -24 expecting roughly over 10 million people to take part in this twelfth annual celebration, recognising and supporting entrepreneurship from around the world and he also thanked the Office of the Vice President, the Ministry of Commerce, the Zambia Development Agency, TEVETA and ZABS for the support and guidance during the process of the GEW 2019 preparations and all other partners.

The event went on with very insightful public policy presentations from all the agencies who were present as follows;

- 1) Mr. Mukula Masaka – the Director Enterprises Development, also known as the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Division, under the Zambia Development Agency
- 2) Mrs. Margret Lungu – Acting Executive Director – Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS)
- 3) Mr. Cleophas Takaiza – Director General – Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVETA) with each of these institutions sharing on their various policies and programmes aimed at enhancing Entrepreneurship and Innovation promotion.

The 2019 GEW Zambia event was very unique as it had a number of delegates from across the country and also a very special guest who included: His Royal Highness, Chief Mukonchi of Kapiri Mposhi District in Central Province, who is also the Central Province Chiefs Council Chairperson and member of the Zambian House of Chiefs, who has since been conferred as the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) Chiefs Ambassador and Champion, to provide leadership in the promotion of culture of entrepreneurship and innovation among fellow Chiefs and Chieftainesses in the sustainable utilization of the local natural and cultural resources, including promoting business solutions to all local social and economic challenges that their Chiefdoms may be faced with from time to time.

The second day, 19th November was also designed as the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem day aimed at building on the work which had been started in Bahrain during the 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Congress last April of the Zambia Ecosystem Development, which was led by Mr. Zumani who is the TEVETA Entrepreneurship Specialist in close liaison with the GEW Zambia Country guided through Entrepreneurship Ecosystem development process. Therefore after this Ecosystem development process, the participants were then introduced to “Key Ecosystem actors outline”, which identified various key actors categories as follows;

- a) Entrepreneurs
- b) State & Local Government Officials
- c) Universities & College Professors /Scholars /Researchers
- d) Business Association leaders
- e) Large Companies
- f) Startup support programs

- g) Incubators and accelerators
- h) Early stage finance leaders, Angel investors , Croudfunding
- i) Media and communication

It is really interesting to see that Zambia and GEW Country Host and key partners had to take so many years in developing this Global Entrepreneurship Network – Zambia (GEN Zambia) Ecosystem and as part of this process the delegates came up with a select team of interim Board of Directors and Advisory Board with stakeholders chosen across the Public and private sector. Here what was critical is the full government participation, guidance and leadership through the ZDA and MCTI respectively.

Wednesday , 20th November 2019 carried two themes inclusion and education , which was also the GEW Women Entrepreneurship Day or GEW Women with women drawn from across various economic sectors and that the main sessions were moderated by the Ministry of Gender ,here women entrepreneurs shared success, lessons learnt and challenges across sectors e.g; women in construction and women in mining etc.

This day was special that Zambia's wholly owned National Saving and Credit Bank (NATSAVE) initially established in the 1896, whose Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Mukwandi Chibesakunda and Her Public Relations Manager, Ms. Patricia Luhanga, took time to share on their broad Vision of NATSAVE in being a leader for country –wide entrepreneurship and business development through the provision of the appropriate financial products and services inline with Zambia's key economic sectors and all other special sectors e.g; student saving products, including value chains development etc.

At the close of these activities , the GEW participants guided by the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry and the Zambia Development agency were able to come up with various proposals on various Government Entrepreneurship policies and programmes to be presented the 2019 gew report soon. The activities of the week ended with Mrs. Njeema Mwila on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry thanking the Organizing Committee , the GEW Country Host, all stakeholders and the delegates for their proactiveness during the proceedings and deliberations, also wished that the proposed upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Network Zambia (GEN Zambia) Team shall be able to proactively work on actualizing the main issues that have been raised and encouraged all institutions and entrepreneurs to always engage with both the Ministry and ZDA.

Mr. Edwin Zulu , the GEW Country Host through the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry thanked the Office of the Vice President for the support of this process of the 2019 preparations, also thanked the Ministry itself and the Zambia Development Agency for having assigned special dedicated officers for these activities. Therefore ended by thanking NATSAVE for the full participation , while looking forward to continued collaborations and partnership , also challenge NATSAVE to re-position itself as the only full Zambian Bank and a Big Thank you and Congratulatory to COMESA for the venue for its 25th Anniversary and our 14 to 23 years collaborations.



Edwin Zulu

GEW Country Host & ELIF Business Solutions – CEO