

Jane Meyers' Speech at the opening of the second Lubuto Library at Ngwerere Basic School, Lusaka on November 10, 2010

- First Republic President Kaunda
- Deputy Minister of Education
- Honorable Member of Parliament for Mandevu, Hon. Jean Kapata
- U.S. Ambassador Storella and Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Senior Government officials
- Chairperson of the National Arts Council and Lubuto Advisory Board member Mulenga Kapwepwe
- Headteacher of Ngwerere Basic School
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen and – last but by no means least – children and youth who have joined us today:

I thank you for coming and extend our warmest welcome to the opening of the second Lubuto Library.

Today's opening marks an important milestone along Lubuto's evolution and growth. This second library will allow us to expand our outreach to vulnerable children and youth with a comprehensive collection of books and a range of services that promote self-expression, art, culture and traditional Zambian values. The Lubuto concept of bringing the highest quality of library services and programs to Zambia's young people was 'born' in Zambia, but has received widespread support from library and information professionals as well as the corporate sector in the United States and internationally. The libraries are open to all but especially reach out to the most vulnerable children and youth, with measurable impact and a sustainable model. Thus, Lubuto Libraries play an important role in helping Zambia achieve the Millennium Development Goals and protect and promote the human rights of even the most marginalized Zambians.

Though funded by Dow Jones & Company, the library we open today is the first built in formal partnership with Zambia's Ministry of Education. This agreement between Lubuto and the Ministry cements our commitment to working together to actively seek out hard-to-reach children and youth, and extend life-changing opportunities to this large and vastly underserved population. Recognizing the impact and power of

our model, the Ministry has asked us to build Lubuto Libraries throughout the country, starting here at Ngwerere School due to its proximity to many street children and vulnerable youth. Zambian government ownership of this community-based library, guided by Lubuto's professionals and financed by Dow Jones & Co., is the type of public-private-civil society partnership that exemplifies the best in effective educational development.

We are so honored that Dr. Kaunda has joined us as our special guest for our opening celebration. He opened our first library at Fountain of Hope in 2007, describing it as a place where we are 'holding on to humanity,' and he has continued to encourage us in our mission to enrich the lives of street children, orphans and other vulnerable and out-of-school children and youth.

Our unique approach creates opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction through beautiful, indigenously-styled open-access libraries. The libraries serve as safe havens and are the center for Lubuto's educational, cultural and community programs, which offer discovery and joy through reading, music, art, drama, computers and other activities.

In addition to first-rate, carefully chosen book collections that are heavily used and loved, Lubuto's full range of preservation, reading promotion, educational and social service activities illustrate the valuable role that libraries can play in national development, particularly in countries like Zambia where over half of the population are youth and one-fifth have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and find themselves outside the reach of mainstream services. Lubuto Libraries open doors of opportunity for those to whom every other door is closed. Each life changed by coming through those doors helps create the capacity for transformational change nationwide.

At today's celebration we want to share with you just a few of the many different ways that Lubuto Libraries enrich and transform lives. Brief descriptions of Lubuto's programs and activities are listed in your program, and I hope you will take the time to read about them. The first library receives about 50,000 visits per year, and today I would like to briefly introduce to you some of the faces behind these numbers – the

real lives that have been changed by Lubuto and those that have worked to make those changes possible.

Dr. Lawrence Mukuka created and implemented Lubuto's wildly popular and successful Motivational Mentoring program, which we were able to extend to thousands of boys and girls with support from Project Concern International. Will those children here today please stand?

Visual arts serve as a means of communication and self-expression for young people. Lubuto's art program, which was initially led by Mwamba Mulangala in 2007 and is now taught by Victor Makashi, has so effectively nurtured the talent and creativity of its participants that they have been invited to exhibit their artwork at the Stella Jones Gallery in New Orleans, USA, next year. This exciting opportunity was the impetus for the establishment of LubutoArts, a self-sustaining art education program supported by proceeds of the sale of artworks. I would like to introduce our very gifted founding LubutoArts members: Enesto Zulu, Jackson Kaunda, Roy Chitwila, Joe Tembo, Emmanuel Nkwabilo, David Shampwali, John Mukosha, Robby Musole and Ireen Chungwe.

You will see firsthand some of the outcomes of Lubuto's Performing Arts Program throughout today's celebration, so I would like now to just introduce its dedicated, creative and capable leader, Kenny Hau, who is also responsible for our proactive outreach to street children in Lusaka.

Use of "One Laptop Per Child" computers in our libraries unleashed the remarkable abilities of a number of children, leading us to work with the Ministry of Education to develop the Zambian Language Literacy Program. Under this program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through eIFL.net's Public Library Innovation Program, Zambian teachers team up with Lubuto's youth to create computer programs to teach children to read in their mother tongues: CiNyanja, IciBemba, SiLozi, ChiTonga, Lunda, Luvale and KiiKaonde. Based on the Zambian reading curriculum, the team is creating fantastic computer graphics that will engage the imaginations and teach reading to countless numbers of children in the decades to come. Leading this effort are Ezekiel Miti from the Int'l School of Lusaka and Jennifer Campbell from

Lubuto Library Project, teachers Mirriam Banda and Betty Chocha, programmers Moses Zyambo, Loveness Zyambo and Joe Tembo (who earn school fees while creating this important gift to Zambia's children) and graphic artists David Shampwila and Enesto Zulu.

For offering their time, talents and services so that Lubuto Libraries may become truly excellent centers of enrichment and expression, we offer our ongoing thanks to all of these people.

We have arrived at this point because of the generosity and hard work of many people, in Zambia, the United States and elsewhere. I hope you will take time to look at the many contributors listed in the program. This library was made possible by the extraordinary support of the international business communications corporation Dow Jones & Company and its employees. Their initial corporate gift of \$60,000 for construction was augmented by Dow Jones' employee book donations and a Dow Jones Foundation grant, together amounting to almost \$50,000, which provided the necessary inputs for a complete library, including the collection and staff training. The 4,000 volume collection was selected and cataloged by library professionals and shipped free of charge by International Mailing Solutions, with additional support from our great friends at the National Geographic Society and Brodart Library Supplies. We are profoundly grateful to these supporters.

I would like to recognize the designer of these beautiful, welcoming and sustainable library buildings, the Lubuto Project's Regional Director in Zambia, Eleni Coromvli. Her team of builders and those contributing to the construction are listed in the program, and we thank them all.

We are especially appreciative of continuous support and guidance we have received from the Ministry of Education, particularly from the Planning Department and Infrastructure Section.

I would like to also thank the three members of our Advisory Board here in Zambia, whose help and guidance is critical to Lubuto Libraries: today's Emcee Mulenga

Kapwepwe, our old friend Mark Chona, and the newest to join our Advisory Board but another old friend, Mark O'Donnell.

Finally, our warmest thanks for making today's event possible go to the staff of the Ngwerere Basic School and to:

The U.S. Embassy in Zambia

The Hellenic Association of Lusaka

The International School of Lusaka

Protea Hotels Zambia

And SPAR, through whose generosity we are able to offer refreshments to our young guests.

And, of course, I would like to thank those who honor us with their participation in this celebration, especially the First Republican President, Dr. Kaunda.

To the children at today's event, I know you will use and love this library, and like the thousands of users of the first Lubuto Library, you will find here a strong sense of community that you will come to cherish and depend on in your daily lives. Whether you read books, perform plays, paint, learn to read in Zambian languages and English, are mentored on meaningful topics or learn about healthy living, or simply find in the library a safe haven, know that the efforts of many people to bring this to you were based on the conviction that you are important and worthy of the very best.