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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EARLY EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 50093
LUSAKA

29th May 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT

I write to strongly recommend the Lubuto Library Project. As the officer of Zambia's Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education responsible for approving the design and supervising the construction of all public educational structures in the country, I have worked with the organization's Architect since 2009, have approved the design of both Ngwerere Lubuto Library in Lusaka and the Mumuni Library in Southern Province while closely following their construction.

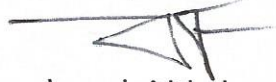
I have been extremely impressed with the Lubuto Library Project efforts to provide the children of Lubuto Libraries not only with beautiful literature and stories, but a beautiful, safe and functional environment conducive to offering a variety of programs. Lubuto Libraries are public libraries and as such they need to be created as distinct public buildings, as points of attraction for both children and youth, in order to succeed in positively enriching their lives. I have seen that both indoors and outdoors spaces which comprise a prototype Lubuto Library work as strong centres for creating community and for offering the opportunity to children and youth to engage in both individual and group activities in order to explore, learn and communicate.

Another factor that makes Lubuto's approach especially effective is that the architectural design, like all of their programming and services, are based on the rich traditions of Zambia. For example, Lubuto *Mentoring*, which uses stories from our oral traditions to transmit values and help children form their identities in their inherited cultural context, is also offered at the "talking circle", a space in the centre of the Reading Room two steps lower than the main area, formed by seating around in a circle, just like a story-telling setup in a traditional Zambian household.

I would like to stress that Lubuto Library Project has succeeded in building public libraries which are not only inspiring but also sustainable and environmentally suitable. The cost for building a Lubuto Library is comparable with the unit cost for building a public school

facility. All the materials used are produced locally and the communities which are being served by the libraries participate in offering labour and skilled traditional craftsmen.

I am especially satisfied that Lubuto Libraries strive to offer the best to our Zambian children and youth and I believe that there are patterns inherent in the space of a Lubuto Library which are worth using in other buildings or spaces serving children and youth.



Joseph Nthele
Head, Infrastructure Section,
For/ Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education