

Honouring legacy through infrastructure: Toll gates named after national leaders



**NYAMAZAO
NYIRENDA**

IN RECOGNITION of Zambia's founding leaders and their enduring contributions to national development, several toll gates across the country have been named in their honour.

These men were instrumental in the country's

liberation, governance, and infrastructure growth. By naming infrastructure after them, Zambia pays tribute to their legacies while reinforcing the national values of patriotism, service, and unity. In this article, we focus on the four founding leaders namely; Robert Chindika Kamanga, Alexander Grey Zulu, Enoch Kavindile Tull Gate, and George Kunda, State Counsel.

Robert Chindika Kamanga Toll Gate is located between Kalene and Chipata, in Eastern Province, named after Zambia's first Vice President, who was a key figure in the country's independence movement and early post-independence governance.

Born on August 26, 1929, in Chindika village, Chipata District, Kamanga did his education at Maitimoyo and Kaituma mission schools before proceeding to Muzili Secondary School in Lusaka.

His political journey started with African National Congress and in 1958, he co-founded United National Independence Party (UNIP). Kamanga's activism led to several imprisonments, reflecting his deep commitment to Zambia's liberation. Between 1960 and 1962, he served as UNIP's representative in Cape, lobbying internationally for Zambia's independence.

Upon independence in 1964, Kamanga was appointed Vice-President under President Kenneth Kaunda, a role he held until 1967. His later years served in various ministries, including Foreign Affairs, Rural Development, and Agriculture. In 1985, he was appointed to the UNIP Central Committee. Kamanga retired from politics in 1991 and passed away in

beginnings to hold some of the highest offices in Zambia's government.

A trusted ally of President Banda, Zulu served as Minister of Commerce and Industry, Transport and Works, Mines and Cooperatives, Home Affairs, and Defence. He also held the powerful positions of Secretary of State for Defence and Security and Secretary-General of UNIP, effectively acting as Vice-President during the one-party era.

Zulu played a crucial role in shaping Zambia's early government and was regarded as one of Southern Africa's liberation stalwarts. He died on August 16, 2020, at the age of 91. His leadership, dedication, and revolutionary spirit are commemorated through the toll gate named in his honour.

Enoch Kavindile Tull Gate is located between Chipata and Solwezi on the Copperbelt Province, named after a businessman-turned-politician who served as Zambia's seventh Vice-President from 2001 to

2003. His impact on the nation spans both economic and political spheres.

Kavindile, who was born on July 7, 1950, began his career in the 1970s by founding Woodgate Holdings Ltd, a company with interests in agriculture, mining, transport, and tourism. His business success laid the foundation for his entry into

politics in 1987 when he became a Member of Parliament for Chipata in the United National Independence Party (UNIP).

He later founded the United Democratic Party (UDP), before merging into the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD), under which he held several ministerial roles, including Minister of Science and Technology, Commerce,



KAMANGA



ZULU



KAVINDELE



KUNDA

and Health. In 2001, President Frederick Chiluba appointed him Vice President, a role he retained under President Levy Mwanawasa.

After leaving active politics, Kavindile focused on infrastructure development. As chairman of the North West Rail Company, he spearheaded efforts to build a railway from Chipata to Botswana, boosting regional trade. In 2021, he was appointed Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission in Eswatini and the DRC, highlighting his continued regional influence.

The late **George Kunda**, State Counsel, has a Toll Gate named after him on the Kapiti

Mpondo-Mpondo Road in Central Province. He was one of Zambia's most respected legal minds and political figures. Born on February 26, 1939, in Lusaka, he rose from humble beginnings to serve as the country's 11th Vice President from 2008 to 2011.

A law graduate from the University of Zambia, Kunda began his career with the Lusaka Municipal Council before founding his law firm. He entered politics in 2001 when he was appointed as a nominated Member of Parliament and, soon after, became Minister of Justice and Attorney-General under President Levy Mwanawasa.

His tenure was marked by a strong focus on legal reform and constitutional integrity.

In 2006, following President Mwanawasa's death, President Rupiah Banda appointed Kunda as Vice-President. He retained his role as Minister of Justice, giving him significant influence over legal and political affairs until 2011.

Kunda passed away on April 16, 2017, and was laid to rest at Lusapha Hill Memorial Park in Lusaka. He is remembered for his commitment to justice, the rule of law, and principled leadership.

These toll gates serve not only as physical landmarks, but also as living testaments to Zambia's

trailblazing leaders. These names, now etched into the nation's infrastructure, stand as daily reminders of the sacrifices made and the foundations laid for a united and progressive Zambia.

Look out for the next articles as we continue to highlight other leaders who shaped this great nation.

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1994. In honour of his legacy, tolls have been made to rename Chipata District Hospital after him.

Between Nyimba and Petake in Eastern Province is **Alexander Grey Zulu** Toll Gate, named after a prominent independence-era leader whose influence spanned decades. Born on September 3, 1924, in Chipata, Zulu rose from modest

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By James Kapfunde

