

Toll gates named after national leaders - part II



**NYAMAZAO
NYIRENDA**

MICHAEL Chilufya Sata, Zambia's fifth republican President and one of the most charismatic and populist leaders in the country's post-independence history, left a lasting legacy of bold leadership, infrastructure development, and unrelenting advocacy for the working class. Born on July 6, 1937 in Mpika District, Northern Province, Sata's early life was shaped by humble beginnings. He served in various roles, including as a police officer, railway worker and health inspector, before entering politics during the era of Zambia's first republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda. Initially a United National Independence Party (UNIP) member, Sata joined the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) in the 1990s and rose through its ranks, serving as minister of Local Government, Health and Labour and Social Security under President Frederick Chiluba. Known for his no-nonsense

leadership style, particularly at the Ministry of Health, he won public admiration for tackling absenteeism and inefficiency in the sector.

After being passed over for the MMD presidential nomination in 2001, Sata founded the Patriotic Front (PF), a move many saw as political suicide. Yet, driven by tenacity and an ability to connect with ordinary citizens, he transformed the PF into a powerful political force.

Sata's populist messaging and fiery oratory earned him the nickname "King Cobra". His presidential bids in 2001, 2006 and 2008 failed narrowly, but he triumphed in 2011, defeating incumbent Rupiah Banda. As president, he

and ensuring sustainability in road maintenance through tolling systems. It stands today not only as a vital revenue collection point but also as a tribute to his vision for a better-connected Zambia.

Michael Sata remains a towering figure in Zambia's political history – loved by many for his humour, grit and drive to serve the underprivileged. The toll plaza bearing his name continues to remind the nation of his contribution to Zambia's development and the transformative power of resilient leadership.

He died in office on October 28, 2014, in London, where he was receiving medical treatment, becoming Zambia's second sitting president, after Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, to pass away while in office.

MULEMBA

Humphrey Mulemba was a senior Zambian politician and freedom fighter who served under many portfolios in three parties, namely United National Independence Party (UNIP), Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) and National Party.

Born in 1932, Mr Mulemba was educated at Chikuni in Southern Province. He worked as a miner at Nchanga copper mines in Chingola and later became an assistant personnel officer. He was involved in trade union activities in which he rose to become full-time secretary of the General Workers' Union.

His political activities often

landed him in trouble and in 1959 he was rounded up with the other



MULEMBA

activists as a political detainee. In 1960 he was released and resumed political work with UNIP and later became the party's secretary for North-West Province.

Mr Mulemba entered Parliament in 1964 and was also appointed deputy speaker, serving for three years alongside Wesley Nyirenda, the Speaker. In 1967, he became minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Public Service. The following year he was sent to Luapula Province as minister. He became Western Province minister from March to September 1969.

He later served as minister of Trade and Industry, and minister of Mines and Mining Development.

On February 18, 1981 he was appointed secretary-general of UNIP and on April 24, 1985 he was replaced by Grey Zulu. Mulemba was then sent into diplomatic service.

During revolutionary change of power from UNIP to MMD in 1991, Mulemba, alongside other UNIP stalwarts like Michael Sata, crossed over to MMD, which took over power in a landslide victory on October 31,

1991. From 1991 to 1993, he served as Solwezi Central MP under MMD and was appointed minister of Mines and Minerals Development, a position he served from 1991 to 1992.

Just one year into power, splits and squabbles appeared in the MMD and Mr Mulemba, with other MMD founders including Akashambwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, Baldwin Nkumbula and Emmanuel Kasonde, rebelled against the Frederick Chiluba-led government, accusing it of being corrupt. A new opposition party called National Party (NP) was formed and Humphrey Mulemba became its president.

The new NP had targeted the 1996 presidential election to show off its popularity with Mulemba as its presidential candidate. He lost the presidential election to then incumbent President Chiluba.

Mulemba died in 1998 and his contributions are etched not only in Zambia's political history, but also along its major highways –

Province – a region known for its mining activities. The toll



MUNDIA

plaza is a symbol of connectivity, governance and tribute to a man who dedicated his life to building institutions.

Nalumino Mundia

The newly inaugurated Nalumino Mundia Toll Plaza,

Mundia, honours his substantial contributions to the nation's political landscape and his tireless advocacy for the rights of marginalised communities.

Mundia, who was a prominent member of UNIP, played a pivotal role in Zambia's early post-independence years.

Known for his efforts to promote equality and development for all Zambians, Mundia's legacy continues to resonate through various political and infrastructural advancements across the country.

Born on November 27, 1927 in Kalabo, Western Province, Mundia played a key role in the country's early years.

He was a founding member of UNIP and served as the party's deputy national treasurer. After Zambia gained independence in 1964, Mundia became the country's first minister of Commerce and Industry.

Mundia's political career was marked by his commitment to Zambia's development and his willingness to challenge the status quo. He later served as the fourth prime minister of Zambia from 1981 to 1985.

Throughout his life, Mundia demonstrated his dedication to public service, diplomacy and the well-being of the Zambian people. He passed away on November 9, 1988, leaving behind a legacy as a true patriot and statesman.

Look out for the next article as we continue to highlight other historical icons who shaped this great nation.

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through the Humphrey Mulemba Toll Plaza on Solwezi-Mutanda road named in his honour.

In recognition of his service to the nation, the Humphrey Mulemba Toll Plaza stands tall in Zambia's North-Western

located on Lusaka-Monga road in Western Province, marks a significant milestone in Zambia's road infrastructure development. The toll plaza, named after the late former politician and freedom fighter Nalumino