

Toll gates named after national leaders: Part III



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NAMING toll gates after national leaders is a meaningful way to embed national history into the everyday life of citizens. This initiative blends functionality with patriotism, reminding travellers of the vision, sacrifice, and leadership



KEBBY Musokotwane.

that shaped the nation.

In this article, we focus on the three founding leaders, namely Kebby Musokotwane, Daniel Munkombwe, and Wilson Mofya Chakulya. In honouring these leaders, Zambia not only pays tribute to their enduring legacies, but also reinforces the national values of patriotism, selfless service, and unity that they so strongly embodied.

Notable for being energetic, affable and intelligent, Kebby Sililo Kambulu Musokotwane was born on May 5, 1946 in Musokotwane village in the then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). He became politically active in 1973 after contesting and winning the Katombora Constituency seat in what was then a one-party state of the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP).

He later served in various cabinet portfolios such as minister in charge of Water and Natural Resources, Sports, Education and Finance respectively.

Musokotwane became Zambia's fifth and youngest Prime-Minister at the age of 38, a position equivalent to Vice-President of Zambia, from April 24 of 1985 to March 15, 1989.

The highly popular politician was the second post-independence president of the former ruling party as a successor to Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, the first President of Zambia, with whom he enjoyed a relationship of trust

and paternal affection after the humiliating defeat it suffered at the hands of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) in the first multiparty elections since the end of the one party

raise domestic revenue for road infrastructure development.

The Daniel Munkombwe Toll Plaza is situated between Batoka and Choma on the Livingstone Road, in Southern Province.



state.

Ironically, he was to be unseated as party president by his predecessor, Dr. Kaunda in June 1995 at the UNIP congress.

Musokotwane's death in 1996 marked the end of a significant chapter in Zambian politics. His contributions to the country's development and his role in the political landscape are remembered by many.

The Kebby Musokotwane Toll Plaza on Zimba-Livingstone Road in Southern Province stands tall in his memory and was officially commissioned in September 2020 as part of Zambia's national road tolling initiative managed by the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA). The initiative aims to

May 16, 1932, in Mbole Village, Choma District, Munkombwe's political journey began in the 1950s when he worked as a political organiser and administrator for the African National Congress (ANC) in Northern Rhodesia. He was elected to Parliament for Choma Constituency in 1973 and



WILSON Mofya Chakulya.

served for 19 years.

Throughout his career, Munkombwe held various government positions under multiple administrations, including those of Kenneth Kaunda, Levy Mwanawasa, Rupiah Banda, and Michael Sata.

In recognition of his leadership, unwavering dedication, and revolutionary spirit, a toll gate has been named in his honour.

Munkombwe passed away on June 15, 2018 at the age of 86.

The Wilson Mofya Chakulya Toll Plaza is located on the Kitwe-Chingola Road, on the Copperbelt, named after a real force and influential player in liberation and post-independence politics in Zambia.

Chakulya was a trade unionist and served as the general secretary of the Northern Rhodesia Trade Union Congress from 1956 to

1964 and the general secretary of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions from 1967 to 1971.

Chakulya was a staunch supporter of Dr. Kaunda and served in various important positions, including being the first African managing director at Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines, minister of Defence, minister of Labour, and High Commissioner to Canada. His legacy is commemorated through the Wilson Mofya Chakulya Toll Plaza on the Kitwe-Chingola Road in Zambia.

To learn more about the operations of NRFA, please visit the official Agency website www.nrfa.org.zm or contact the NRFA Customer Care Centre by dialling 700.

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