

Zambia: Where are the workers?

International investors are toasting Zambia's fast-growing economy, but economists and social rights activists point out that it is yet to make a serious dent in poverty.

The economy has recorded an annual growth of five percent for the past five years, inflation is in single digits and the kwacha has appreciated against foreign currencies. But the benefits seem hard to find in the working-class districts of the capital, Lusaka.

"It seems this economic growth is only known by the government; they tell us the economy is growing but to us life is still the same, prices of everything on the market are still the same, we are still poor, and we are still looking for jobs," Lusaka resident Agness Banda told IRIN.

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