

Mwanawasa's death not to derail economic growth - minister

Zambia's Finance and National Planning Minister, Ng'andu Magande has down-played fears that the death of the country's President Levy Mwanawasa could derail the country's economic prosperity.



By [Gregory Gondwe](#) 1 Sep 2008

Magande said President Mwanawasa established a strong economic and investment policy foundation.

"The systems put in place to enhance development would continue despite the death of President Mwanawasa," the minister told local media at Ndola International Airport last week shortly after the plane that carried Dr Mwanawasa's body took off for Solwezi.

"Government would continue to adhere to the laid down national mechanisms to foster development in alleviating poverty through wealth and job creation," he said.

Magande said they would continue with the strong foundation that was laid by late President Mwanawasa in bettering the standards of living for the people in Zambia.

With Government's focus on achieving economic growth by accelerating investments, in turn investors have also shown confidence in the country's economy despite the death of the head of state.

The Zambia China Economic and Trade Corporation Zone (ZCCZ) concurred with the minister pointing out that a number of projects launched by President Mwanawasa are still attaining growth.

In Chambishi, a major copper smelter launched by late president Mwanawasa in July, last year is nearing completion and expected to help boost the country's economy.

Chambishi copper smelter vice director in the administration department, Deng Yun said construction works on the plant are progressing well and hopes that the plant is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of the year.

Mining and quarrying make up a large portion of the industry sector in the Zambian economy and it has provided the large proportion of the country's total GDP.

Mwanawasa resuscitated Zambia's agricultural industry, which had been neglected by his predecessor.

ABOUT GREGORY GONDWE

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