

ZAMBIA



DAILY MAIL

VOLUME 9 NO. 172 PRICE: K3,000

Friday, July 8, 2005

US group to build multi-million dollar Library at Mwangwe

FORGE, an American students organisation, has embarked on an intensive educational empowerment programme to construct a multi million dollar library at Mwangwe refugee camp in Mporokoso district.

Forge registered with 13 American universities has injected more than US \$15,000 in the project at the camp.

During an interview in Kasama yesterday, Forge director Kjerstin Erickson said the money would go towards establishing a library at the camp and equipping it with more than 10,000 books.

Erickson said her organisation would construct a modern spacious library at the camp as an educational empowerment programme for refugees.

She said construction works were expected to be completed in seven weeks and a truck-load of more than 10,000 books, in English, French and Bemba would be supplied to the library.

'As Forge we have constructed libraries at Dukwi in Botswana, Meheba in Zambia and now Mwangwe refugee camp being our third camp to empower the refugee communities with knowledge,' said Erickson.

Erickson said the idea of facilitating opportunities for refugees' growth and empowerment was cardinal because illiteracy would be reduced and the refugees would be able to assist in rebuilding their respective countries when they go back.

Erickson said it was vital to empower refugees in camps in various skills.

Forge comprises students specialised in various fields such as environmental projects. Among other activities the organisation would carry out include teaching refugees on how to utilise solar energy, and peace studies.

- ZANA/ZIS