

The green season man needs to tender

By Jack Mwewa

THE rainy season; though it comes along with water borne diseases and disasters, it waters the earth and blossoms the beauty of flowery picture square. It is therefore, a season of beauty of nature.

It is during this wet season that grass richly grows, flowers get washed, and rivers filled up to give those that appreciate nature a pleasant fresh atmosphere.

Israel Zandonda, an environmentalist with First Quantum Minerals defines the rainy season as a season of life, considering that animal life and vegetation is rejuvenated during this time, this happens as a result of a humid temperature that ranges from 25 – 30 degrees .

"The rainy season rejuvenates life in animals and plants during this period because of the humid temperatures that range from 25 to 30 degrees," Mr Zandonda said.

Mr Zandonda further said though vegetation benefits from the rainy season, a combination of warm sunny and windy weather complements the perfect atmosphere required for the green surrounding on the earth.

A clergy-man, however, has every reason to attribute the natural beauty of the season to God, saying being the creator and architect of the existence of the world, He purposely chose the humid condition to sustain life.

Pastor Justin Chapuswike of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Ndola said it was God's original plan to create an atmosphere that could give His creation a perfect weather to reproduce and survive.

Quoting from the **Bible** book of Genesis 1 verses 9; "And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear, and it was so." Vs 11, Then God said let the land produce vegetation; seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds, and it was so."

It can be said that God spoke the dark, shapeless mass into existence. He dazzled it with light, enveloped it with atmosphere, brightened it with bubbling brooks and flowing rivers, coloured it with beautiful flowers and plants, enlivened it with an incredible variety of living things and looked upon His hand work and said, "It is good."

Scripture and science therefore, bear collaborating details about the nature of the green season, a feat that affirms the orderliness and richness of the season of natural beauty.

Florists and land-scapers in the likes of Ndola-based landscape expert John Mulenga attributes his decorating ideas from nature, and that he has always picked flowering lessons from the glow of natural colour combination from trees and flowers during the rainy season.

"It is amazing that the out-look of colour combination from the trees and general vegetation during this season is unique and never clashes. I have always copied how to mix colours from such array," Mr Mulenga said.

There being over-whelming confirmation of a perfect weather pattern and beautiful as the vegetation might be, man can only enjoy it by tendering the earth as charged by God to the first human being who lived on earth.

Pastor Chapuswike said man was given a task to maintain God's landscape as recorded in the **Bible** book of Genesis 2 vs. 15; "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

He said; "There is no doubt that the rainy season as planned by God is good for man, animals and plants, but it also calls for man's efforts to sustain it."

Neglect to tendering the vegetation has over the years turned the natural green season to condemn mother earth with disasters that have claimed the very life it ought to sustain.

No wonder that with all superlatives coined about the rainy season, negligence turns the same season into being the monster that begets disasters and diseases like cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery.

Most fora that have sat to discuss ways of saving mother earth, human beings have been blamed the environmental degradation on indiscriminate disposal of waste, deforestation and failure to nature the season.

Back home still fresh in our minds is one such case of negligence in the matter in which Konkola Copper Mines(KCM) discharged effluent from the mines operations into Kafue River, a source of drinking water for Chingola residents.

The undesirable discharge affected many residents negatively who later on successfully sought legal redress in the Lusaka High Court and then obtained a ruling in their favour with the high court imposing a heavy fine on the company confirming the point of neglect.

Citizens for Better Environment executive director Peter Sinkamba was quoted as saying that environmental degradation matters require urgent redress.

"Environmental degradation is a serious matter that requires quick attention, and to redress this earth threatening case, human beings must initiate deliberate programmes of replenishing vegetation," Mr Sinkamba said.

It is also timely that recent campaigns like Government supported 2011/2012 "Forest for all purposes," tree planting scheme is meant to replenish tree plantations over a 3,200 hectares stretch of land.

Taking care of the earth is no doubt a serious matter such that representatives from more than 200 countries met last year in Durban South Africa in November at a major meeting known as the 17th United Nations Climate Change Conference dubbed (COP-17) talks.

The COP -17 indaba met under a theme, 'Saving Tomorrow Today' can be said to be a desperate cry for tendering the earth now to safe-guard future environment for future generations.

In the same vein,the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) handed over the well-established "Billion Tree Campaign" last December to the responsibility of children from Plant-for-the-Planet, project aimed at replacing trees that are being indiscriminately cut daily.

The project is within the framework of the 17th United Nations Framework COP 17, in the first five years of the "Billion Tree Campaign", which was initiated in 2006, citizens, governments and companies world-wide planted altogether 12.5 billion trees, which are almost equal to two trees per person.

The original aim of Plant-for-the-Planet, to plant one million trees in every country of the world, turns into the goal to plant 1.000 billion trees worldwide until 2020.

Only if such earth-saving campaigns are effective and successfully carried out will human beings be responding to the call to tender and maintain the green season for natural beauty.

With such efforts, being made by various quarters, it is envisaged that mother earth can therefore,retain her dazzled light, enveloped atmosphere, brightened with bubbling brooks and flowing rivers, coloured with beautiful flowers and plants, enlivened with an incredible variety of His creatures.