

**LUBAMBE COPPER MINE RESCUE TEAM WINS A SILVER MEDAL  
IN THE TEAM SKILLS CATEGORY AT THE INTERNATIONAL MINES RESCUE  
COMPETITION HELD IN THE USA**



Congratulations to the Lubambe Mine Rescue Team for winning a silver medal in the team skills category at the International Mine Rescue Competition that took place in West Virginia, USA, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

*"We are extremely proud of our team. It is not easy competing in an international competition with some of the best teams in the world and getting such a result."*, Ikayi Mushingi, Lubambe Director – External Relations.

*"The team did great! This is a remarkable achievement for a team that has only been in existence for 5 years and the win makes Zambia the first African country to win a medal at that Competition"*, Daniel Chihili, Lubambe General Manager Support Services.





*Lubambe Mine Rescue Team with General Manager – Support Services, Daniel Chihili, after receiving the trophy*

Mines rescue teams play a critical role world over by providing immediate response in emergency situations. They locate, rescue and recover miners that find themselves in dangerous and precarious situations.

At the Competition, the Lubambe team was able to show case critical skills required, God forbid, in the event of an emergency. They were also able to learn from others and were exposed to state of the art facilities, which has enhanced and sharpened their capabilities.

*“The experience was very good, mind opening and learning. There has been so much advancement in terms of assessment tools, equipment and techniques. The two days given for orientation to the team before the actual competition, enabled them to familiarise themselves with the simulation environment and the equipment to be used in the competition. The exposure to renowned experts in the area of mine rescue gave the team further training. The team got to interact with the judges (trainers and simulation tests setters) before and after the competition, giving the team the much-needed confidence and appreciation. The fact that the team competed among the best and managed to get an award is really encouraging for the them and gives confidence to the company that we have an adequate prepared team of rescuers on site”, Daniel Chihili, General Manager, Support Services.*

In the mining sector, safety is not an option – it’s a must, and at Lubambe Copper Mine Ltd, we take this seriously. Pantu Tulasakamana – Because we care.

*“The exposure to world class facilities with judges drawn from all over the world added a higher dimension to the standards that our rescue team has to subscribe to now. Their performance and achievements are a reflection of the company’s visionary and supportive management as well as the commitment and focus of the mine rescue team members”, Team Trainer, Jack Rowlands.*

*“Actually, we’ve done Zambia and the rest of Africa proud as the first country to win anything at that competition. I would like to thank Lubambe Management for allowing us to participate. It was a great experience to be among the high class and most experienced teams in the world. We also learnt a lot in terms of equipment and technology. It was awesome”, Frank Banda, Team Manager.*

*“It was an amazing experience for the team. Thank you to my team for working well together and good coordination. We are grateful to Lubambe management for all the support”, Kenny Sakayongo, Team Captain.*

### **About the Competition:**

Twenty-two (22) teams participated in the international competition from 9 countries. Canada had 5 teams whilst Zambia, Australia, India, USA had 3 teams each. Columbia had 2 teams, whilst Finland and Poland had 1 team each.

The Zambian teams were from Lubambe Copper Mine Ltd, Mopani Mines and KCM. Lubambe Mine Rescue Team earned the qualification to compete after it emerged national winners in the 2021 National Rescue Competition.

The 22 teams were tested in six simulations at the state-of-the-art academy ranging from first aid, firefighting, high angle rope rescue, rescue team skills, theory examination and rescue team scenario.

Out of the seven prizes given out at the end of the competition, the USA won 3, Canada got 2, whilst Zambia and India each got one. The Lubambe team came out second, after the United States of America, who were first in the rescue team category.

The team skills category involved assessment in the rescue techniques and ventilation measurements/calculations, recovery and lifting of trapped persons/ material under heavy loads using veta bags, gas and ventilation measurements.

Others activities included relay done immediately after the rescue scenario simulation while wearing the BG4 sets, a time-based relay starting with lifting of loads (two 25kgs), laying and folding of fire hoses, pushing of a timber with a 14-pound hammer and cutting a log as the last act. Lubambe emerged the best team with the best time in the event, clocking 27 minutes.

***The Team in Pictures:***







