FENZA REPORT TO THE ZAMBIA SECTOR ASSEMBLY

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(On the Memorial Day of St. John Paul II)

General Introduction

This report highlights some of the activities or progress of the Faith and Encounter Zambia Centre (FENZA) which have been implemented during the last six months after the 'Ceremonial Handover' which took place on May 12, 2026. As a whole there have been different outreach activities, sessions, rallies, consultative meetings, and ecumenical workshops conducted under the Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism Department, Human Trafficking and Migration Department (TAKUZA), Culture and Language Department, and the Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Department.



These initiatives expound ongoing efforts forging FENZA to where it is supposed or expected to be. These activities also aim at bringing out and fostering meaningful collaborations and partnerships, and deepening mutual understanding across diverse faith communities in Zambia and beyond.

Let the House be informed that there is now clear distinction in administration between FENZA Centre and the Community. The accounts and financial activities too have been separated for a smooth running of the two entities. We have also established a Vehicles' Account for a better management of the vehicles since they are used for different purposes. Each car has a log-book. And each member has his own office according to his appointment or specialisation.

1. Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism Department

During the last six months, the department focused on three main pillars, namely strengthening ecumenical relations with other Christian denominations, advancing interreligious dialogue with leaders of diverse traditions, and forging an informed approach to complex socio-religious phenomena through thematic workshops. Though financial constraints restrict us from moving at the speed we wish, some projects have been sent out to potential donors and we are waiting for favourable responses in order to proceed with our planned activities accordingly.

1.1. The Department's Journal-based Report:

1.1.1. May 2026:

May 13: Meeting with Fr. Cornelius (National Pastoral Coordinator) at the Secretariat to discuss strategic updates and operational synergies.

May 18: Engagement with Monk Swami Divyabadhananda at the Hindu Temple to maintain open interfaith dialogue channels.

May 19: Dialogue with Pastor Keith Chuumpu (Secretary General of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lusaka) to explore areas of common community interest.

May 20: Meeting with Bishop Japheth Lungu from the Bauleni Fellowship Ecumenical Fraternity focusing on local ecumenical unity.

1.1.2. June 2026:

June 5: Consultation with Ms. Tomaida Milingo (Head of Religious and Cultural Studies at the University of Zambia) to assess potential structural partnerships and academic collaborations.

June 6: Participation in the Interfaith Sports Day at Yotam Muleya Secondary School, organized in close collaboration with Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL).

June 24: Strategic meeting with Mol Ikram Chuza, Secretary of the Zambia Federation of Muslim Organizations (ZAFEMU).

June 26: Session with Fr. Luwaya (National Education Secretary) exploring methods to actively reach out and support Catholic schools.

June 29: Follow-up meeting with Sheikh Moosa Mazunda hosted at ZAFEMU.

1.1.3. July 2026:

July 5: Consultative session with Sheikh Yussuf Ayami from Family Development Initiatives regarding grassroots social programs.

July 12: Joint interactive workshop addressing "Witchcraft and Satanism in Zambia", hosted alongside representatives from the Jewish Community and the HWPL Zambia Branch.

July 18: Regional outreach to Ndola for a meeting with Fr. Ephraim Masala (Vicar General of Ndola Archdiocese) and Fr. Thomas Chunika (Pastoral Coordinator of Ndola Archdiocese).

July 24: Meeting with Fr. Collins Likumbi (Archdiocesan Education Secretary) focused on aligning FENZA Centre resources to benefit the Archdiocese's specific structural demands.

1.1.4. September 2026:

September 21–23: Facilitated a multi-day capacity-building workshop on "Understanding Witchcraft and Satanism in Zambia" tailored for the novices of the Inter-Congregational Missionaries at Kalemba Hall.



1.1.5. October 2026:

October 5: Ecumenical engagement with Pastor David and accompanying ministerial colleagues representing the Pentecostal Church.

1.2. True to its fundamental mission, the Department continues to actively commit to building bridges, promoting social harmony, and deepening mutual understanding in an increasingly diverse religious ecosystem. The Department reaffirms its commitment to continue fostering a culture of encounter and mutual respect.

2. Human Trafficking and Migration Department:

Human trafficking is a reality that's very prevalent in our contemporary world and one which cannot be ignored. It is one of the major illegal industries which generate a huge amount of money at the expense of the vulnerable. These industries are:

Arms Trade Industry,

Drug Industry,

Human Trafficking Industry, and

Exploitation of Natural Resources.



As mentioned in the last Sector Assembly, the Human Trafficking and Migration Department works hand in hand with TAKUZA (Talitha Kum Zambia), which is well immersed in the field here in Zambia. TAKUZA, with whom FENZA has signed an MoU, is committed to challenging injustices that threaten human dignity. Human trafficking and irregular migration are serious concerns requiring coordinated effort and action. Through advocacy, reflection with youth ambassadors, and collaboration with government offices, including Home Affairs, Internal Security, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Department, we seek to raise awareness and support vulnerable people.

2.1. Activities Performed:

- Profiled detained migrants and submitted their information to the Immigration Office to help verify their nationality and facilitate repatriation.
- Supported the repatriation process for migrants from Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Repatriations were arranged through diplomatic channels, by bus or air.
- Conducted awareness activities in schools and parishes. This awareness is needed, and the work continues as resources are available.
- Began planning outreach with partners, including the Diocesan Prison Team and the Kabwata Prison Group.

2.2. Challenges:

- The number of migrants continues to increase, requiring sustained availability to listen to their difficult and painful experiences.

- Trafficking and irregular migration involve complex networks of criminals and scammers, making it difficult to identify and protect those at risk.

- Detained migrants may remain in prison for six or seven months, often with urgent needs for food, clothing, and medical care.

2.3. Outcomes and the Way Forward:

After hearing and examining the needs of detained migrants and people vulnerable to trafficking, FENZA submitted a proposal to the Papal Foundation through the Nunciature. The Foundation has donated K724,040.00 for the above purpose.

- Planned outreach will include medical care, food, and clothing, particularly for detained boys and trafficked women.

- FENZA is grateful to the sector authorities for encouraging this initiative and helping us respond to people's spiritual and physical needs.

2.4. Rally against Human Trafficking:

On July 30, 2026, TAKUZA-FENZA organised a rally at East Park which was attended by dignitaries, government officials, NGOs, and people of good will who are passionate against human trafficking and illegal migration. The Director of FENZA gave a touching and challenging inaugural speech in a form of prayer!



Behind every statistic is a human being deserving safety, dignity, and compassion. Human trafficking is present in almost every corner of the country, of the continent, of the world. We simply need to open our eyes and ears to see this reality; and then to take action accordingly.

3. Culture and Language Department and FENZA operations:

3.1. Language Course:

From August – September 2026 we had a one-week *Welcome to Zambia Course* and a six-week Cinyanja Course respectively. Both courses were well appreciated by the participants. We are exploring the possibility of having another *Welcome to Zambia Course* before the end of the year if we get reasonable number of participants!

3.2. Hostel:

Following recommendations and suggestions from different sources of concern, the Hostel has now twelve new beds, twelve new mattresses, twelve pillows, twelve extensions wires, some table lamps, and some window nets have been replaced. And there is some improvement in the dining room too.

We are also looking into the possibility of improving the dormitory's toilets and showers.

3.3. Administration:

The FENZA Administration with its different departments has been making a serious effort to source finances for the proper and professional running of the offices, departments and the Centre as a whole. As a result of this effort, through the Mission Support Office (MSO) of the Missionaries of Africa, we have been able to get three computers for the Director, Manager and the Interreligious Dialogue Office.

3.4. Library:

The Library is doing well, though we still need to continue advertising it in order get more users. Confreres too are encouraged to come and use it when possible. In the near future, we may need to expand it as we have now signed an MoU with Zambia Catholic University to establish a Theology Department, which will use FENZA as its campus. We still need a qualified, active and innovative librarian.



3.5. Strategic Plan:

FENZA's Strategic Plan is not yet fully finalised; the former Director and his team did a good job drafting it. The new team is now revising and updating it. When all is in order with a foreword from the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (the Provincial), it will be printed out and launched officially. In the future we do hope that we will manage to publish Annual Reports of the Centre.

4. JPIC Department and outreach exploration:

4.1. Season of Creation:

FENZA and the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) have come together to found a group titled *Season of Creation*, based on *Laudato Si*. The members are from different Religious Congregations. We have been having meetings, and the culmination was on October 2, 2026 when we had a Study Tour here at FENZA, at which the expert in conservation and restoration, namely Fr. Venerato Babaine, MAfr, gave an elaborate explanation of each and every tree which we have here in the compound and their usefulness.



A small fund from the Mexico Sector is to be received soon with a view to collaborating with some journalists and media houses in connection with our contemporary FENZA activities.

4.2. Partnerships and Collaboration:

FENZA has entered into partnership and collaboration with the Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) — originating from Korea — on Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (Ecology); with Ndola Diocese on Interreligious Dialogue; with People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ) on Integrity of Creation (Ecology) – Make Lusaka Clean (MLC); with Zambia Catholic University (ZCU) – the Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) to establish a Theology Department is done already. We are exploring the possibility of having FENZA as a campus, mainly for those doing their courses online, as well as a Centre for the examinations for those from/in Lusaka and its vicinity.

Conclusion:

As an entirely new team, we are still trying to find our way to improve and sustain FENZA Centre. Apart from the short term or temporary projects, long term projects are being envisaged in collaboration with the Mission Support Office (MSO) and other possible sources or donors. FENZA Centre continues to appreciate any support from Confreres and friends of the Centre.

