This was the second Special Olympics Zambia coach training held in the country. The first was held in 2008 when Zambia was first recognized as a founding committee. The Program, at the time underwent some leadership challenges and could not receive full accreditation. This resulted in the Program remaining dormant for a few years until 2010 when the Program was reinstated.

Special Olympics Zambia attended the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece and in 2012, the vice Chairperson and acting National Director were invited to attend the Africa Region leadership meeting.

Special Olympics Zambia applied to receive Christmas Record Grant in 2011 and 2012 and has pledged to recruit at least 4000 athletes, 400 coaches, and hold 1 Young Athlete event and will also recruit 400 Family members, involve 200 Unified athletes, 150 Unified partners, introduce 2 new sports in addition to Football and Athletics, and hold 60 local competitions by the end of 2012.

With such a task, and considering that the Program has just recruited new board members, the new leadership expressed an urgent need to train the new board members and also recruit and train new coaches that will help achieve these goals. There was also some urgency in conducting this training in order to give enough time to the coaches to begin working in order for them to meet their goals by the end of the year.

Special Olympics Zambia was therefore placed as one of the priority Programs in line to receive training. It is against this background Charles Nyambe and Sta Sithole were assigned to conduct this training in Zambia.
**Board Training**

The board training was held at the Olympic Youth Development Centre starting at 18:00hrs until 20:00hrs on Monday, May 7. The following board members attended the training;

Dr. Peter Mwaba, the Chairperson of Special Olympics Zambia. He is the permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health in Zambia. Dr. Mwaba is standing fourth from the right in the picture on the left. In his statement, he thanked Special Olympics Africa for investing in this training and assured us of a strong program as there would be no excuses considering that Special Olympics Zambia will have received training. Third from right is Professor Sekelani Banda from University of Cavendish the Dean, School of Medicine and vice deputy chancellor and holding a green file is Ms. Violet Bwalya, an athlete who represented Special Olympics Zambia at the World Summer Games in Shanghai who brought back a silver medal. The other board members in attendance were, Mr. Clement Chileshe, Vice Board Chair, Mr. Lazarous Kalirani, Treasurer. Mr. George Kakomwe, the Sports Expert on the board, Mrs. Abgail Tuchili and Mr. William Sikapanda, the acting National Director.

**Coach Training**

On Tuesday, May 8, we kicked-off the coaches training with an official welcome from the Deputy Minister of Sports and Youth Mr. Nathaniel Mubukwanu. In his address during the opening ceremony, Mr. Mubukwanu, on behalf of Government, pledged a total amount of twenty four million Zambian Kwacha, (K24,000,000) to Special Olympics Zambia, which is equivalent to approximately four thousand five hundred United States dollars (US$4,500). He said that the Zambian Government attached great importance to people with disabilities. He encouraged the delegates from around the country to focus during the workshop so that they are equipped with knowledge to support Special Olympics Zambia athletes.
Above left, Deputy Minister of Sports and Youth Mr. Nathaniel Mubukwanu addressing the coaches and right Program Officer for the Ministry of Education Mr. Nero Mwanapabu addressing the coaches.

Above left: Group picture of all coaches and officials during the opening of the training and right, Charles Nyambe speaking on behalf of Special Olympics.

In his speech, the Program Officer for the Ministry of Education Mr. Nero Mwanapabu assured Special Olympics board, the Ministry of Sports and the coaches that his Ministry would work closely with all of them to promote sports among people with intellectual disabilities.

Coach Training

44 coaches from around the country were in attendance. The 37 of these were teachers from Special Schools and the rest were Federation coaches. The training was an advanced coach training so those coaches that passed will be expected to recruit and train new coaches.

The training was held at the Olympic Youth Development Centre over four days. On Tuesday 8th we focused on the General orientation in Special Olympics and on Wednesday 9th, we concentrated on understanding divisioning and on Thursday 10th the coaches wrote a test and started off with preparations for the mounting of a Special Olympics mini event that was held on Friday the 11th. On Friday the 11th, the delegates organized a mini event at which 40 athletes from nearby local special schools were invited to compete. This event was part of the training.
Above, coaches warming up during the practical session.

At the conclusion of the training, the coaches went back to the training room to complete evaluations and discuss the mini event.

Above right, one of the coaches, the event director addressing delegates during the mini event.
Above, athletes and coaches parade during the opening of the mini event

Above, left, during the opening of the mini event, athlete Bwalya bringing in a symbolic Special Olympics torch and right, athletes being escorted depart for competition

Above left, directors of ceremony making announcements and right, athletes competing in 100m dash

Above left, Sta announcing during the mini event, middle, athlete reciting the oath and right, guests during closing of training
Staff Training

Using the site visit tool, during the week in Zambia, Sta held three meetings with the three Special Olympics Zambia staff members, to train them in the basic Special Olympics administration. She trained them especially in financial and administrative management.

Closing

The Deputy Minister of Sports and Youth Mr. Nathaniel Mubukwanu came back to hand over certificates and officially close the training. 25 coaches qualified as advanced coaches while the rest remained ordinary Special Olympics coaches. The advanced coaches have been assigned to each return to their local communities and recruit and train at least 30 new Special Olympics coaches each. At the completion of this task, each of these coaches will receive an advanced coach certificate.

Advanced coaches

The following 25 coaches qualified as advanced coaches;

Recommendations;

1. We recommend that Special Olympics Zambia either confirms the acting National Director if they find him suitable or hires one as soon as possible as this will help with the strengthening of the Program and there is an urgent need to hire a Sports Director as soon as possible.

2. As Special Olympics Zambia has to receive accreditation at the end of 2012, we recommend that the Program reviews the accreditation requirements as shared during the board meeting and begins to put in mechanisms to ensure that all accreditation requirements are met by the end of the year.

3. We highly recommend that Professor Sekelani Banda from University of Cavendish the Dean, School of Medicine and vice deputy chancellor be considered for Healthy Athletes training as he may be very useful to the region considering that he trains doctors and is very passionate about Special Olympics.