

NEWS RELEASE

ATA COMMUNICATIONS

Africa Travel Association

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ATA MOURNS DEATH OF ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, NY August 20, 2008 -- ATA yesterday expressed profound condolences over the death of Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa.

"His passing is a huge loss for the nation, but he has left behind a great legacy of a committed and compassionate leader, who worked tirelessly for the development of his beautiful country," ATA Executive Director Edward Bergman wrote in a letter to Vice President Rupiah Banda, who is expected to take over as acting leader.

President Mwanawasa was an outstanding statesman, respected among his peers for his courage in the face of the many challenges to the region, his contributions to Zambia's socio-economic and political growth, and his inspirational leadership as a proponent of democracy on the African continent, Bergman also noted.

President Mwanawasa, 59, died in a Paris hospital on Tuesday after suffering a stroke in June.

For coverage, visit TV5Monde, Le monde, allAfrica, bbcnews, and International Herald Tribune.

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About the Africa Travel Association (ATA)

The Africa Travel Association is the premier global travel association promoting tourism to Africa and intra-Africa travel and partnership since 1975. ATA members include ministries of tourism and culture, national tourism boards, airlines, hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, travel trade media, public relations firms, students, NGOs, individuals, and SME's. For more information, visit ATA online at www.africatravelassociation.org or call +1.212.447.1357.