

Shoprite Zambia feeds learners at arts festival

Shoprite's Mobile Soup Kitchen recently provided much needed sustenance to the more than 200 participants of the 2019 Lusaka Arts Festival (LAF).

Launched in 2018, the LAF is an initiative of the Lusaka International Community School, which this year took place from 3-11 May. Five schools – Good Shepherd Community School, Chainama Special School, Kalingalinga Primary School, Ngómbe PTA School and Kalikiliki Community School – participated in the festival, which included concerts, an exhibition of students' work as well as a carnival day.

"We are pleased to have been part of this festival and applaud the organisers' efforts and their commitment to the community and the schools," says Charles Bota, General Manager of Shoprite Zambia.

Through its Mobile Soup Kitchen, the retailer feeds on average 800 students per day as part of an extensive programme to bring sustainable hunger relief to communities.

Chainda Community School in Lusaka currently benefits from this programme, where the Mobile Soup Kitchen feeds the students for a year as a vegetable garden is established. The students and teachers are empowered to manage the garden themselves. To date three schools have benefitted from this programme run in partnership with Imana, Agogos and Stark Ayres.

"We are proud of the impact this programme has been implemented over the past three years. At schools where the programme has been implemented, we have seen increased academic performance, improved reading levels, significantly higher school attendance and an overall improvement in students' health," adds Bota.

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