



## PRESS RELEASE

### AN ANGLO-ZAMBIAN INITIATIVE IS SAVING LIVES AND CREATING EXPORTS.

A British engineer has invented a new waterless sanitation system capable of using the sun's energy to break down human excreta into safe garden compost. Nicolas Ferguson, who developed the system while domiciled in South Africa, has named it the *Ecodome* and set up a partnership with Zambian entrepreneur, Greene Simpungwe to produce and distribute the technology.

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Simpungwe are among the leading directors in the newly established company, EcoDome Systems Zambia Limited, which holds the rights for the *ecodome* technology. The two partners believe Africa needs a lasting response to endemic outbreaks of cholera and other diarrheal diseases, caused by contamination of water and poor hygiene. Greene Simpungwe is the proprietor and Chairman of the Zambian pharmaceutical giant, International Chemical Limited, popularly known as Interchem.

It is widely accepted that waterborne sewer technologies are becoming unaffordable and practically unrealistic in the face of increasing urbanisation, the deepening water scarcity crisis, and soaring costs of capital installations. Pit toilets on the other hand are less favourable owing to challenges such as offensive odour, difficulties in emptying, and the widespread contamination of ground water, leading to outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases.

The Ecodome is designed to harness the heat from the sun to dry up human excreta and convert it to a harmless substance ready for use as farm fertiliser. The system does not need water supply or chemicals and is therefore low cost and ideal for low income home owners. The faecal waste is kept separate from urine using a urine-diverting squat pan or pedestal and directed into a sealed tank below ground level. Above the ground, a special dome harvests enough solar heat to destroy the germs in the tank so that it can be safely used as 'humanure'. The system, which took seven years to develop, has been trialled with success in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia and found to be ideal for the warm climates of Sub-Saharan Africa.

And Regional Manager of EcoDome Systems Zambia Limited, Mudukula Mukubi, has revealed that manufacturing of the Ecodome waterless toilet system commenced in Lusaka in August 2008 and distribution was on course, with NGOs and commercial farmers among the major customers. Ecodome Systems has recently opened a franchise in neighbouring Malawi, where commercial farmers and aid agencies were seeking sustainable solutions to what has been described as the sanitation challenge.

The *ecodome* has won critical acclaim for its sustainability and capability to forestall infestation of surface and underground water sources, the key factor in the transmission of waterborne diseases including the dreaded cholera. Apart from its life-saving benefits, the *ecodome* is also set to become a notable export product for the Zambian economy.

Nicholas Ferguson	Mudukula Mukubi
Ecodome Systems	Ecodome Systems (z) Ltd
Ashling House	Interchem Holdings Ltd
The Croft	Kabelenga Road
Bures CO8 5JB	PO Box 32071
United Kingdom	Lusaka Zambia
Tel + 44 1787 228298	Tel + 260 211 228780
+ 44 560 150 4434	Cell + 260 977 109696
<a href="http://www.ecodomesystems.com">www.ecodomesystems.com</a>	<a href="http://www.ecodomesystems.com">www.ecodomesystems.com</a>
<a href="mailto:ecodomesystems@gmail.com">ecodomesystems@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:ecodomesystems@gmail.com">ecodomesystems@gmail.com</a>