



ZINGMAN BLAMES

FISHMAN

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

BELARUSIAN businessman Aleksandr Zingman who appeared in controversial pictures with President Edgar Lungu, Lusaka Businessman Valden Findlay and Russian businessman Alexander Mikheev, has blamed another businessman Vitale Fishman as the person who is behind

the allegation levelled against him.

A fortnight ago, News Diggers published images showing President Lungu interacting with Zingman and Mikheev, who is the president of Rosobronexport, a Russian state intermediary agency for the exports of defense-related products and services.

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...as he explains his links to Lungu, Sturdy, Kampeshi, Lt. Gen. Muma and Russia



President Edgar Lungu with Alexander Zingman

Some ZNBC staff test positive for COVID-19

By Ulande Nkomesha

SOME staff members at the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Mass Media Complex in Lusaka have tested positive to COVID-19.

In a statement, ZNBC corporate affairs manager Yvette Chanda said the affected employees had been isolated after tests conducted by officials from the Ministry of Health.

Chanda stated that

more tests were still being conducted, urging the public to restrict visitations to the Mass Media Complex.

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Bill 10 has become a source of division in the country - Catholic Bishops

By Julia Malunga

ZAMBIA Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) says it is concerned with the declining levels of vigilance among Zambians as they continue watching and saying nothing on the increasing incidents of human rights abuse, political violence and high levels of corruption.

And the ZCCB has insisted that Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 does not reflect the constitutional majority Zambians.

In a statement, Tuesday, ZCCB president Rt Reverend Bishop George Lungu said Zambians should speak out on the poor observance on the rule of law.

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Zambia in a dangerous, worrying stage - LAZ

By Ulande Nkomesha

LAW Association of Zambia (LAZ) president Eddie Mwitwa says it

appears Zambia has reached a point whereby the only people allowed to assemble or express themselves are

those aligned with the ruling party. And Mwitwa has condemned President

Edgar Lungu's threats against youths planning to demonstrate over attacks on freedom of expression in the country.

Speaking in an interview, Mwitwa observed that the country's democracy had reached a dangerous and worrying stage.

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Pilato, Maiko and B Flow call on MPs to reject Bill 10

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Parley debates to commence on June 16

Story page 4

By Ulande Nkomesha

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has no legal right to ban Ministers from making comments on foreign investors who flout labour laws in the country.

And Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu cannot stop such illegalities because he is involved.

In an interview, Kambwili said Mwila had no legal backing to instruct government officers from speaking as he was not part of government.

"First and foremost, it should be noted that Mwila has no legal right to ban a Minister to do what they are supposed to do. Mwila is not a government official, he is a party functionary. This is not the party and its government

Mwila's orders to ministers have no legal backing – Kambwili

like it is used to be in UNIP. Mwila can only ban party officials, not Ministers. Mwila is not in government, he is the secretary general of the PF. But because this is a chi pante pante (disorganised) government where even a councillor can warn a Minister, where even a ward chairman can ban a Minister from going into a constituency, you can expect that," Kambwili said.

"Mwila has no legal right whatsoever even on his party members, what are they hiding? Why don't they want people to express their views? Because belonging to a political party does not stop you from

commenting on national issues as and when you want as you deem fit. This is an abrogation of the Constitution, right of expression, right of speech."

He said Mwila was drunk with unknown powers.

"So, it is very sad for Zambia that a secretary general of a political party can ban all their members to exercise their constitutional right by condemning bad vices that are being perpetuated by the foreigners who are coming in the country in the name of investments. Surely, can someone come here to open a barbershop and you call him an investor? Because

that barbershop is supposed to be done by grade nines. Government should even give them barbershop equipment as a way of promoting and empowering them but you allow a foreigner to come and run a barbershop? What is more disheartening is that it appears that Mwila is drunk with unknown powers, swimming in very wrong waters under very big jackets," he said.

"I want to warn him, leave the Ministers alone, they are not your responsibility. You are not a government official, you are just a party official. It doesn't show democracy. I mean, when you are gagged from speaking or from airing your views, where is the democracy? Because democracy, people must be free to criticize, to praise, but the PF just wants praise singers. That is what brought UNIP down, that is what brought MMD down. I tend to wonder whether people learn from the past mistakes of others in order for them to be better citizens but in this country, people don't seem to learn. In a nutshell, what Mwila did is all wrong and must be condemned by all meaning Zambians."

And Kambwili said President Lungu had failed to control illegal activities in the PF because he was involved.

"This Patriotic Front is a chi pante pante government that when a Minister abrogates the law with impunity by trying to gag freedom of expression enshrined in the constitution, the President says I support the Minister. So what do you expect? If the President can send his Ministers to abrogate the law, and the President is told your Minister is corrupt he says 'those who are hard working are always accused of

corruption, I will not fire people on this basis, what arrogance of the worst kind! We know why certain statements are made because it is very difficult for anybody who is benefiting from certain actions of Ministers to take decisive action against them. Sometimes, it becomes very difficult to take action when your juniors know the illegal things you are doing," said Kambwili.

"So, that is why it has become very difficult under PF to control one another; because they are all doing illegal things because for the President to say arrest those who want to demonstrate when demonstration is the right enshrined in the constitution, the President is first to abrogate the law! What do you expect people like Bowman Lusambo to do?"



Some ZNBC staff test positive for COVID-19

By Ulande Nkomesha

SOME staff members at the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Mass Media Complex in Lusaka have tested positive to COVID-19. In a statement, ZNBC corporate affairs manager Yvette Chanda said the affected employees had been isolated after tests contacted by officials from the Ministry of Health.

Chanda stated that more tests were still being conducted, urging the public to restrict visitations to the Mass Media Complex.

"We would like to inform members of the general public, our stakeholders and clients that we have recorded positive COVID-19 cases among our members of our staff at the Mass Media Complex in Lusaka. This follows routine tests that were conducted by the Ministry of Health (MOH) at the Mass Media Complex in Lusaka. The members of staff that tested positive have since been isolated after being contacted by officials from the Ministry of Health," stated Chanda.

"More tests are being carried out on ZNBC staff that were exposed to the positive cases, to ascertain the extent of the infection at Mass Media Complex. In view of this, the Corporation is urging the public to only visit the Mass Media complex when it is necessary. As a Corporation, we will continue to implement the public health guidelines from the Ministry of Health including wearing of face masks, observing social distancing, hand washing and hand sanitizing. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country in March this year, ZNBC staff have been at the frontline in the fight against the pandemic by going into the field and covering COVID related stories."

Judge orders mental evaluation for murder-accused teacher

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA High Court judge Pixie Yangailo has ordered that the 42-year-old teacher of Nyumba Yanga Secondary School accused of shooting dead his wife after a marital dispute, be taken to Chainama Hills Hospital for a mental evaluation.

Justice Yangailo said the hospital needs to ascertain the accused's mental faculties at the time of the alleged commission of the offence.

In this matter, Kenneth Makina is charged with two counts of murder and acts intending to cause grievous bodily harm.

In count one, it is alleged that on February 13 last year, Makina, with intent to maim, destroy, or disable, caused grievous bodily harm on Eustone Kapotwe.

In count two, it is further alleged that on the same date, Makina killed Charity Jikubi, a police officer.

When the matter came up for continued trial, Monday, Legal Aid Board lawyer Mbile Vukovic applied that her client undergoes psychiatric examination to ascertain his capabilities to make a proper defence.

She also applied that the matter be adjourned to enable the accused person undergo psychiatric evaluation at Chainama Hills Hospital.

"Having received fresh instructions from my client, we wish to make an application under section 160 of the CPC to ascertain the accused's capabilities to make a proper defence," Vukovic said.

In response, the State had no objection.

And in her ruling, Judge Yangailo granted the application and ordered that Makina be allowed to undergo psychiatric examination.

"The accused will be committed to Chainama Hills Hospital to have his mental status ascertained," she said.

Previously, a 65-year-old lecturer at Zambia Open University narrated to the court how the accused shot him in the thigh before shooting his ex-wife.

Eustone Kapotwe, said on the material day, he was at his house between 07:30 and 08:00 hours when Jikubi (the deceased) who was with her niece and a carpenter arrived and informed him that she had gone to collect her wardrobe which she had left at the cottage.

The witness said he informed the deceased that the wardrobe had to be dismantled so that the timber could be put in her car.

He said the deceased then asked him to go and knock at the cottage to inform Makina about the wardrobe she wanted to collect.

Dr Kapotwe told the court that Makina said only the carpenter could enter the house to get the wardrobe.

He added that when the carpenter was taking long to

photograph the wardrobe, Jikubi called out his name but Makina asked why she was making noise.

Dr Kapotwe said, "she told him that the carpenter was taking long because she needed to travel to Ndola. Mr Makina came out and said 'don't you know that I can kill you'."

He testified that Makina then removed a pistol and fired towards Jikubi and her niece who then ran away.

The witness however, said Makina shot at him in the thigh before he could run.

Dr Kapotwe said the accused continued to chase after Jikubi and shot at her as she was rushing towards the gate.

"As she was about to go out, he shot at her and she ran to the next yard where we heard bullets," said Dr Kapotwe.

Govt postpones 2020 trade fair due to COVID-19

By Ulande Nkomesha

GOVERNMENT has postponed the 2020 Zambia International Trade Fair which was scheduled to take place in Ndola from 1st to 7th July due to COVID-19.

In a statement, Monday, Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Christopher Yaluma stated that the decision was arrived at after consultations with the relevant stakeholders.

"The World is currently facing unprecedented public health emergencies arising from the COVID-19 and has adversely affected the global economy and our way of life in our communities. In order to mitigate the adverse impact of this unprecedented global health pandemic, most Governments in countries affected have resorted to imposing partial or complete lockdown measures whose immediate economic effects include reduced business performance. The lockdown measures imposed to control the spread and pace of COVID-19 pandemic has caused instantaneous stress on the Zambian economy and most sectors are affected in a varied way. Notably, the tourism, mining, manufacturing, construction as well as the wholesale and retail trade sectors are expected

to record sluggish growth relative to the previous year owing to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Arising from the advent of the pandemic, the Zambian economy as reported by the Ministry of Finance is now projected to grow by 2.6% in 2020 as opposed to the earlier projection of 3.6 percent," Yaluma said.

"In view of the above-mentioned, the government through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry regrets to inform all partners, exhibitors, sponsors and both foreign and local visitors of the postponement of 2020 Zambia International Trade Fair, which was scheduled to take place from 1st to 7th July under the theme: 'Promoting Value-Addition for Sustainable Growth', in the City of Ndola on the Copperbelt Province. The decision was reached after consultations with the relevant stakeholders and taking into consideration that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in concerns from potential participating companies who have been negatively affected by the sudden slow-down of economic activities."

He stated that the Trade Fair attracted a number of exhibitors and visitors, hence a challenge would arise on the adherence of social distancing

and other guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health.

"Further, the Government of the Republic of Zambia is also alive to the fact that the ZITF attracts international delegates that includes a visiting Head of State as well as exhibitors from various foreign countries especially from the EAC, COMESA ECOWAS and SADC regions which have also been negatively affected by the pandemic. The ZITF usually attracts over 4,000 exhibitors and visitors. In this regard, it would be difficult to observe the social distancing and other guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health during the Fair," he stated.

"As part of the global family of exhibition organisers, my Ministry through ZITF management stands in solidarity with all those around the world who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 directly or indirectly. More events have been either cancelled or postponed to future dates countrywide, as authorities are still monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, reports have indicated that more than 1,500 fairs and exhibitions globally have been either cancelled or postponed as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic."

Meanwhile, Yaluma called on

the private sector to take part in the rapid business survey which would be conducted to ascertain how productivity and export trade had been affected by the advent of COVID-19.

"I wish to take this opportunity to notify and encourage the private sector to take part in a rapid business survey on both the industrial and trade sectors which includes Large, Small and Medium enterprises and Cooperatives that my Ministry is conducting to ascertain the extent of how productivity and general domestic and export trade is being affected following the advent of COVID-19 pandemic. Last but not the least, we must all take note that the time when the pandemic will disappear from this world is not yet known," stated Yaluma.

"We are therefore urged to adhere to the prescribed public health guidelines for prevention against Covid-19 as doing so, the infection and mortality rates would certainly reduce and business would steadily return to normalcy. Let's all strictly follow the guidelines so that we can protect one another for the benefit of our society we live in because the pandemic does not select and has demonstrated so far the ability to traverse all borders."

ZAMBIA EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE FOR 2020

	\$ Mn
Debt Service on USD Debt (P+1)	1,485
Multilateral	578
o/w Eurobonds	238
Paris Club	15
Non-Paris Club	892
o/w Interest	58
o/w Principal	834
Non-China Exposure (Princ. Only)	309
Israel Discount Bank	70
StanC	41
Investec	36
Citibank UK	33
Credit Suisse	25
Intesa Sanpaolo	16
NEDBANK	15
India EXIM	15
EXIM Russia	11
EXIM US	8
NORDEA	8
Citibank Zambia	2
China Exposure (Princ. Only)	526
Debt Service on FII holding of ZMW Debt	100
All in External Debt Service	\$1,585Bn

Thank you, Hon. Bwalya Ng'andu

Your honesty and candid position on the Zambia and IMF relationship is appreciated.

But we have questions!

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Who is responsible for getting us in this mess?

02

And how did we get in this mess?



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

By Zondiwe Mbewe

AN investigations officer has testified that he could have been portrayed as having given false information to the court due to the alleged changes which were made to the particulars of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services's directors while Chishimba Kambwili's forgery case was still active.

Stanley Mumbula, a detective chief inspector, was testifying in a matter where Kambwili is charged with contempt of court for allegedly tampering with evidence in another case where he is charged with forgery, uttering false documents and giving false information to a public officer.

It is alleged in this matter that Kambwili on March 6, 2018 in Lusaka, caused an obstruction or disturbance in the course of judicial proceedings by lodging documents at PACRA to alter the details and records of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services which were subject of active judicial proceedings.

It is further alleged that the changes made were particulars of the two directors namely, Mwamba Chishimba and Carol Chansa, of which the former was changed to Mwamba Kambwili and the latter to Carol Chansa Chipande.

When the matter came up for continued trial before Magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Tuesday, Mumbula told the court that on March 6, 2018 around 16:30 hours, he received a call from Lameck Mwenya, a manager at PACRA, who informed him about some documents that had been lodged at PACRA relating to Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services.

"He called me because I was the investigations and arresting officer of the matter involving the said company

Arresting officer testifies in Kambwili's contempt case

before honourable David Simusamba and Kambwili as a suspect. It's a case of forgery, uttering and giving false information to a public officer. Earlier in the day, we appeared before magistrate Simusamba and Mr [Chilufya] Tayali [EEP leader] was on stand," Mumbula said.

He said upon receipt of the call, he informed Mwenya that he would see him the following day.

Mumbula added that at that time, he was also in the company of Tayali, as they had planned to go to NPA to clarify some issues.

He said when Tayali heard him discussing documents relating to Mwamona, he got interested and asked what was going on.

"I told him that there were documents that have been lodged and that I will make a follow up and I will revert to him the following day," Mumbula said.

He said he went to PACRA the next day and met Mwenya who handed him some documents which had been lodged the previous day.

"I got the documents and went through them. There were about seven documents which include two receipts from PACRA receipting Mwamona; a Companies Form 45; notices of change of directors or secretaries; a special resolution by Mwamona dated March 5, 2018, that resolution, the chairman was honourable Chishimba Kambwili; there was a general affidavit verifying facts by Mwamba Kambwili; there was Companies Form 5 which

is declaration of consent to act as a secretary; [and] copy of the NRC by Mwamba Kambwili," Mumbula said.

He said upon collection of the documents, he informed Tayali that there were documents that had been lodged as well as changes that had been effected.

Mumbula said among the changes, he noticed the name 'Mwamba Chishimba' had been removed from the Companies Form 45 and replaced by 'Mwamba Kambwili'.

He said the NRC number which was appearing together with Mwamba Chishimba, being 239643/68/1, had also

been replaced by NRC number 306414/68/1.

"And also Mwamba Chishimba had been removed as a secretary and appointed Carol Chipande as company secretary. These were the notable changes," Mumbula said.

"Being the investigations officer and arresting officer in the other case, I noticed that the information had been changed and if we were to do a printout as at now from the system at PACRA, you will find those changes I have mentioned. That's how the matter was brought before honourable Simusamba and subsequently before your court."

Mumbula said as a person who had investigated the matter before magistrate Simusamba, he would appear like he presented false facts as a result of the alleged changes.

The matter comes up on June 17 for cross examination.

Parley debates to commence on June 16



By Natasha Sakala

PARLIAMENTARY debates will only commence on Tuesday June 16, 2020 as parliamentarians are this week undergoing orientation on how business will proceed amid the Covid-19 pandemic. In a Facebook post, Tuesday, the National Assembly of Zambia stated that from 9th to 12th June, member of parliament would be undergoing Covid-19 orientation.

"Parliamentarians undergo orientation on how parliamentary business will proceed amid the Coronavirus disease pandemic. The forth session of the twelfth national assembly which adjourned sine die on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020 has resumed today, 9th June 2020. Between Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th June, 2020, members of parliament will be undergoing orientation on how parliamentary business will proceed amid the Coronavirus disease pandemic. Parliamentary debate will this commence on Tuesday, 16th June 2020," read the post.

There is a rot in the procurement process at Ministry of Health – Kanyika

By Julia Malunga

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Zambia (PSZ) president Jerome Kanyika says there is a rot in the tender process at the Ministry of Health which has led to shortage of drugs in hospitals.

In an interview, Kanyika observed a retail pharmacy could not win a tender to supply drugs to the Ministry of Health.

He warned that as long as the tender process continued to be flawed at the Ministry of Health, there would be a continuation of inconsistencies of awarding contracts to companies that did not exist.

"This is the corruption. There is a rot at the Ministry of Health this is the outcome and eventually the people who are suffering are the Zambian people. The people are not having the medication because of the flaws in the tendering

procedure and giving contracts to companies that don't even deserve to win the contract. This has been happening for some time and the past four years has been the worst in terms of how the drugs have been procured at the Ministry of Health and this rot will continue if the right people are not placed in the tendering process. People at the Ministry of Health consider drugs as gold mines, which should not be the case. That is why you find that the right personnel are not being put in place in the procurement of drugs," said Kanyika.

"A retail pharmacy cannot supply drugs to the ministry. And when awarding a tender, you need to award someone with a proper track record and able to supply quality drugs. We don't even know if those health center kits have been supplied because the last consignment

were those that Missionpharma gave the Ministry of Health from then, we have not received health center kits."

He wondered why the Ministry of Health terminated the contract of Missionpharma despite them supplying quality drugs.

"Our worry is how did we find ourselves awarding a contract to a company that was not the cheapest? The company that was the cheapest in the order was Missionpharma and it has been supplying these drugs to the Ministry of Health for years. But we don't know why their contract was terminated we haven't had a problem with the quality of drugs that they supply us. The Ministry of Health was owing Missionpharma US\$ 11 million why didn't the ministry pay Missionpharma the debt it owed so that they continue with their contractual obligations?

Unlike terminating the contract without giving a proper reason?" Kanyika questioned.

"And this has resulted in our members losing jobs and this has affected the supply chain of drugs in the health centres. When you go to health centres today, you will discover that there are no medication, when you go in theatres most of the drugs that were supplied by Missionpharma were also used in theatres but you find that there are no drugs. Currently, there is no government institution that has pethidine, people are being told to use morphine and it doesn't respond well to others."

A News Diggers investigation revealed that government, through the Ministry of Health last year awarded a US\$17 million contract for the supply of health centre kits to a company called Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited, which did not exist.

Research at the Ministry of Health shows that Missionpharma, a Danish company with a subsidiary in Lusaka had an active contract to supply and deliver drugs to Zambia for several years and was a key government partner for supplying health centre kits. However, owing to an US\$11 million drug supply debt, the company stopped supplying in December 2018, demanding that the government first settles its debt; a move that forced the Ministry of Health to find a replacement.

According to an evaluation report for tender number MoH/SP/032/19 the Ministry of Health made a decision in July to procure 50, 000 health centre kits through a limited bidding process.

Records at the ministry show that a solicitation document for the tender was issued on October 7, 2019 and the evaluation of bids was done on October 22, 2019, while the contract between Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited and Ministry of Health was signed on November 22, 2019.

But Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) records do not show any company that existed prior to 2019 registered as Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited.

Bill 10 has become a source of division in the country – Catholic Bishops

By Julia Malunga

ZAMBIA Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) says it concerned with the declining levels of vigilance among Zambians as they continue watching and saying nothing on the increasing incidents of human rights abuse, political violence and high levels of corruption.

And the ZCCB has insisted that Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 does not reflect the constitutional majority Zambians.

In a statement, Tuesday, ZCCB president Rt Reverend Bishop George Lungu said Zambians should speak out on the poor observance on the rule of law.

"[We are] inspired by deep sights from the word of God and the social teaching of the church and our prophetic call to uphold the dignity of every person as well as the need of our political leaders to promote and defend the rights of all Zambians regardless of their political persuasion, creed color of belief and by our own desire and that of many Zambians to voice out and respectfully engage with duty bearers on pertinent and socio-economic and political issues. [We] appreciate all the efforts that have been made by the government and all its collaborations to formulate the current Constitution Bill No 10 of 2019 which is on the floor of the House waiting to be presented for the second reading. We

acknowledge the desire and need for Zambian to address the lacunas that are in the 2016 Amended constitution," read the statement.

"We are encouraged by the realization of many Zambians that the said Bill in its current form does not reflect the constitutional majority Zambians and that is why a lot of reference is being made to the parliamentary committee report on Bill 10 and the suggestions of changes to be made to Bill 10 by Cabinet who are the primary mover of the said Bill. We are aware and concerned about the dwindling levels of vigilance among Zambians in general as they continue watching and saying nothing on the increasing incidents of human rights abuse, political violence, high levels of corruption, poor observance of rule of law and now the manipulation of masses over Bill 10 exhibited by those who have taken it upon themselves to popularize it."

Bishop Lungu sympathized with the people who were denied their right to exercise their freedom of expression "Firstly and in line with our prophetic mandate, we wish to express our solidarity with the many Zambians who are denied their right to exercise their freedom of expression and assembly including the youths whose cry has become louder in recent days Secondly, we firmly believe that any legitimate process of making reviewing

and amending the supreme law of the land ought to be premised on a process that is widely inclusive, transparency, accountable and anchored on consensus building rather than partisan interests," he said.

And Bishop Lungu observed that Bill 10 had become a source of division in the country saying it lacked genuine consensus

"Having taken a comparative analysis of Bill 10 the Parliamentary Report on the same bill and the current amended constitution of 2016, we note that while Bill 10 may contain some progressive clauses, it also contains some retrogressive and highly contentious causes such as the provision for deputy ministers, proposed changes in the electoral system regarding mayors, council chairpersons, members of parliament and the President. The proposed revision of the composition of Cabinet. Unfortunately we have observed with regards to Bill 10 is that the process that was undertaken lacked genuine consensus and has become a source of division in the country. Instead of bringing Zambians together for a common cause it has further polarized them," Bishop Lungu said.

He said there was need for dialogue with all stakeholders for a people driven constitution to stand the test of time.

"As we have said before, the making

By Ulande Nkomesha

LAW Association of Zambia (LAZ) president Eddie Mwitwa says it appears Zambia has reached a point whereby the only people allowed to assemble or express themselves are those aligned with the ruling party. And Mwitwa has condemned President Edgar Lungu's threats against youths planning to demonstrate over attacks on freedom of expression in the country.

Speaking in an interview, Mwitwa observed that the country's democracy had reached a dangerous and worrying stage.

"We are at a stage that is very worrying because it appears that the only people that will be allowed to express themselves freely or even to assemble are those that are going to be siding with the government. So, if you hold a

Zambia in a dangerous, worrying stage – LAZ

critical view, you are perceived to be anti-government or pro-opposition, which is not the way it should be in a democratic society. Freedom of expression as guaranteed by the Constitution simply means one has the right to hold their own opinion, to express their view freely, as long as they are not defaming or violating another person's rights. But to hold a contrary view to what the government or the ruling party views are, that is not violating freedom of

expression," Mwitwa said.

"So, we are at a stage where it is becoming very worrying and also dangerous. If the whole Minister of Lusaka Province can threaten youths who are simply expressing their views on matters of national interest, that for me is a source of worry. It also simply indicates that there is very little understanding by those who are governing us as to what it means to govern and also to allow people to express themselves."

Mwitwa called on youths to wake up and realise that if we don't claim our rights, nobody else will. We have a responsibility, individually and collectively to ensure that our Constitutional guaranteed freedom and rights are not taken away by those who govern us. It is their responsibility to ensure that we enjoy those rights. They have no right to take away our

freedoms unless we don't want to exercise them ourselves," he said.

And Mwitwa said President Lungu was actually supposed to see to it that all citizens were enjoying unfettered freedoms.

"As long as they have followed the requirements under the law which is notifying the police seven days before they convene their gathering as required by the Public Order Act, that is all they are required to do. Whether government likes what the youths are saying is not one of the requirements for holding a peaceful procession and also expressing their views. We actually condemn any efforts or deliberate efforts by the government to try and frustrate the youths in exercising their constitutional guaranteed freedom of expression and assembly," Mwitwa said.

"What the President in fact should be doing is facilitating the youths to demonstrate and exercise their rights; because under the Constitution, it is his responsibility to ensure that every Zambian enjoys

their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution and he holds his powers on behalf of the people of Zambia because every authority, whether it is Judicial, Executive or Legislative derives from the people of Zambia. So we would urge the police, if those youths in fact or intend to actually inform the police about the intended procession, we urge the police to act professionally and objectively. Their role is to facilitate the enjoyment of those rights not to cartel freedom of expression and assembly."

On Saturday, President Lungu threatened that all youths and civil society organisations planning to stage protests over his Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo's attacks on freedom of expression would be dealt with by police.

Meanwhile, Mwitwa said LAZ was yet to get any response from PF and the police on the disruption of a Bill 10 discussion.

"There has been no response at all, not even an acknowledgement of the letter. We went as far as reporting the matter to the police. I think all the people that are supposed to have given statements from LAZ did that and we haven't heard from the police in a while. I think what happened before this COVID epidemic became heightened, the investigations were kind of constricted. The complaint is still sitting at the police force headquarters," said Mwitwa.

By Ulande Nkomesha

THREE musicians have called on members of parliament to reject the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 when it returns to Parliament.

Maiko Zulu, Chama Fumba popularly known as Pilato, Brian Bwembya a.k.a B Flow were speaking on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk programme, Tuesday.

Zulu, who is also a civil rights activist, described the Bill as evil and urged people not to be blinded by the inclusion of some popular recommendations made by several stakeholders on the Bill.

"I think it is very clear that Pilato and I have been championing the Yellow Card campaign. We have gone across the country and one of the things that we were championing was the shooting down of Bill 10. In my personal opinion as a citizen, I think it is an evil Bill. The opposition of Bill 10 defines what patriotism is for an ordinary Zambian. If you see a lot of people that are championing Bill 10, they tend to be on the side of the people that have an appetite for power," said Zulu.

"I think that public debate has shown us that the majority of Zambians do not want Bill 10. So I stand with the people that do not want Bill 10 to be passed and I am calling on honourable member of parliament Given Lubinda, who is Minister of Justice, people seem to be hijacked by the resolutions after Bill 10, the popular recommendations, to the point where they have forgotten the real devil. The real devil is the Bill itself."

And Pilato wondered why the government wanted to amend the amended 2016 Constitution when many Zambians had not asked for a change in the national document.

"For me, logic guides me that if the premise is wrong, you cannot expect a correct conclusion. The question I ask myself is: at what point did we ask for a new constitution after the 2016 Constitution? If I remember correctly, what prompted the NDF was the aftermath of the 2016 election and that Mongu rubbish that happened where people

Pilato, Maiko and B Flow call on MPs to reject Bill 10

started arresting each other. Even the Church and the ZCID, their intervention was to create a platform where political parties should not be seen as enemies to each other, to reconcile coming from the 2016 elections; why should Mr Lungu and Mr HH view each other as enemies? The NDF was a product of that discussion so we addressed this problem where we have these political tensions even after elections. So how do we resolve this? How that changed and the complexion changed to the Constitution is a different story," Pilato said.

"At what point did we the people feel that we had so much power, we want to give power to the President? Where did we say that? What is the answer we are trying to respond to by changing the Constitution? What is that we are trying to achieve when we are changing the constitution? Are we saying we don't have drugs in hospitals because the Constitution is like this? Are we saying that the poverty levels are this high because our Constitution is like that? For me, I can never accept a Bible or an instruction from the devil. If I call myself a Christian, I cannot accept a book or any lists of instructions from someone I stand to challenge."

He added that the amendment of the Constitution would not benefit Zambians but grant the PF chances of maintaining power beyond 2021.

"We as Zambians have not complained about the 2016 Constitution. As a matter of fact, when the President was signing that Constitution, a lot of scholars, a lot of lawyers, a lot of these intelligent people that we have in the country challenged that rushed signing, they said 'you can't sign this, this thing is faulty, this thing has a lot of gaps, this thing has to be refined'. They loudly expressed themselves because it was for political

convenience, the President signed it; his party rushed that and he signed it. Why is it that we should get back to address issues that were not even raised then? What is the benefit for the people that we must change or alter the Constitution now when we were quick to sign it then, even when these calls were made? In 2016, they used the Constitution as a campaign tool and when the President signed it, it was victory," said Pilato.

"Over time, they have realised that for them to extend their stay in power, they will need to go back to the Constitution and use it as a tool to get to the next level of power. We the Zambian people must ask ourselves: are we going to have a situation where every constitution has to be changed by anyone who

is in power? How many times are we going to change this Constitution? If we allow this editing of the Constitution by politicians to happen, what will stop somebody coming next year to organise his political friends and connections and say 'let us change one, two, three thing so that we do these things?'"

Meanwhile, B Flow said many Zambians had already rejected Bill.

"I think the reasons are convincing enough, people have rejected it! People have said no to Bill 10 and if that is not convincing enough, they made sure that each and every point in the Bill [has] a reason why it shouldn't be allowed. They have said 'this one is giving too much power to the executive and it shouldn't be like that, power should be to the people,'" said B Flow.



State enters nolle in aggravated robbery case involving sea food worth over K1m

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE State has entered a nolle prosequi in a matter where a Lusaka resident, three police officers and a Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) inspector were charged with aggravated robbery involving sea food worth over K1 million. Meanwhile, Lusaka High Court judge Kazimbe Chenda has sentenced Gift Kasaro, a politician of Meanwood Ibex to nine months imprisonment for personating a public officer.

In this matter, Kasaro 30; Nathan Kalaba, a police officer of Kabangwe; Joseph Mwansa, 42, a police officer Chilenje Police Camp; Simon Kalenga, 52, an inspector of Kabwata site and service and Collins Chileshe, 52, a police officer of Sikanze Camp were facing charges of aggravated robbery, personating a public officer and attempts at extortion.

The five were in court for allegedly intercepting a truck at gunpoint that was loaded with sea food and for allegedly stealing 19 boxes of sea food worth more than K1.1 million.

It was alleged that on October 12, last year in the Lusaka, the five whilst armed with 2 AK 47 Rifles, stole 19 Boxes of Dry sea food valued at K1,124, 500, property of Allan Chibinda.

It was alleged that immediately before the time of such stealing, they used or threatened to use actual violence to Amon Mwale in order to retain or prevent or overcome such resistance from it being stolen.

In count two, it was alleged that on the same day, Kasaro whilst acting together with others unknown, falsely represented himself to Amon Mwale as a person employed by Zambia Bureau of Standards, a Public Office.

It was further alleged that on the same date, the five solicited for K30,000 cash from Allan Chibinda.

When the matter came up for continued trial before Justice Chenda, Monday, Kasaro applied through his lawyer Jonas Zimba, to take fresh plea.

He then pleaded guilty to the offence of impersonation.

Passing sentence, Judge Chenda jailed Kasaro to nine months effective his arrest last year in October.

At this point, the State informed the court that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) had entered a nolle prosequi in favour of all the accused persons in other offences.

Judge Chenda discharged the accused persons in light of the nolle prosequi.

In March this year, renowned Patriotic Front cadre Munir Zulu told the court that he was supposed to benefit USD10,000 from the abalone fish deal after he connected a Chinese friend to the person who was selling the said fish in October last year.

He however, said he was not paid the said amount after the fish was confiscated and reported stolen.

Zulu, the seventh witness told the court how on October 13, last year, he received a phone call from his friend Webby Mukumbuta asking him whether he could find a buyer for their abalone fish which he agreed to and found one.

“Argument that members of select committee can’t vote against Bill 10 bizarre”

By Muna Ndulo
(William Nelson Cromwell
Professor of International
and Comparative Law,
Cornell Law School, USA)

IN A desperate attempt to pass Bill 10, surrogates of the ruling party have resorted to releasing a myriad of lies and distortions of legal principles relating to parliamentary practice. One of their main untruths is what exactly is the correct Commonwealth Parliamentary procedures relating to voting of members of parliament. Recently, they have argued that members of Parliament who have been members of the Parliamentary Committee to consider Bill 10 cannot vote against a Bill that went through a Select Committee of which they were a part. In essence advancing the bizarre argument that membership of a parliamentary committee has the effect of gagging a member of the Committee and does not allow them to vote otherwise than support the Parliamentary Committee Report. It has also been argued that UPND by issuing a three-line whip instructing its members how to vote on an issue it regards as crucial is a violation of parliamentary and democratic principles.

Both of these positions of the PF surrogates are manipulative dishonesty with the sole objective of misleading the MPs to that Bill 10 can pass. The leading authority on parliamentary practice in the Commonwealth is a treatise titled *Erskine May: Parliamentary Practice: Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament* and it nowhere supports such preposterous propositions. The PF surrogates further argue that HH is a dictator by instructing UPND MPs to vote against Bill 10. This is false. The approach that HH has taken is normal Commonwealth parliamentary procedure. No political party is worth its salt if it has no positions on crucial issues affecting the country. In a political part system an MP

goes to Parliament as a member of a political party or as an independent. If you do not accept party discipline you have the choice of going to parliament as an independent. It is also important to point out that Parliament cannot make any internal regulations to govern the conduct of Members of Parliament which are in violation of the constitution. In the following paragraphs I wish to develop the views expressed above.

A Parliamentary Select Committee is a cross party group of MPS given a specific remit to investigate and report back to the House. In the House of Commons, Select Committees have been used for many centuries for many different purposes. They are particularly useful when the House wants to investigate something and find out the facts about it rather than simply debate. The House delegates this task to a small group of members who can gather information and produce detailed reports. Parliament is not bound by the report. As pointed out earlier, a Select Committee Report does not gag its members. It does not operate to deprive a member of Parliament of his or her liberty to debate and vote in any way he or she wishes to.

Where a party instructs its Members of Parliament to vote according to the party's position on an issue before Parliament, it typically issues what is called a “three-line whip.” Breach of the instruction will normally have serious consequences. There is nothing dictatorial about this, it is simply upholding the policies of the party to which a Member of Parliament freely subscribes. The punishment is restricted to the member's status in the Party. The party is simply saying you cannot be our member and disobey party instructions. The member is not being punished for voting in Parliament but for disobeying the party and that is why the punishment relates to party status. According to the House of Commons Library the Oxford English

Dictionary first recorded the term “whip” in 1772. That is how long the practice has been in use in the House of Commons. It is in use in almost all Commonwealth countries including; South Africa, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, India, Kenya etc.

This is not a UPND invention, it is a well-established parliamentary practice throughout the Commonwealth. There are many recent examples of the use of a three-line whip in the UK House of Commons. During the BREXIT debate in the UK, the Leader of the Labor Party Jeremy Corbyn declared a three-line whip and ordered Labor Party MPS to vote as instructed by the leadership and allow Prime Minister Theresa May to start the withdrawal talks. Prime Minister Boris issued a three-line whip on a BREXIT Vote. The 21 Conservative Party members who defied the Whip were expelled from the party for not following the Whip. An example of where parties released their MPs from the whip was in Ireland in 2013 on a vote involving the legalization of abortion.

On the issue of whether Parliament can pass standing orders directing members of the of a Select Committee not to vote against a committee report, the answer is no. The Bill Rights applies to Parliament. A member of Parliament has a right to freedom of expression and conscience. That includes the right to vote whichever way he or she wants. The Zambian Constitution commits itself to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms of every person. Article 1 (1) states that the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Republic of Zambia; 1 (2) states that, an act or omission that contravenes this constitution is illegal 1(3) that the constitution shall bind all persons in Zambia, state organs and state institutions. Parliament is a creature of the Constitution and it can only have such power as is given to it by the constitution. That power

does not include the power to subvert the constitution or pass regulations that violate the constitution. The South African Constitutional Court has explained the relationship between Parliament and the Constitution. In *Glenister v. President of South Africa* (2008) the court stated, in a constitutional democracy the courts are the ultimate guardians of the constitution. They not only have the right to intervene in order to prevent the violation of the constitution, they also have the duty to do so. The Court observed that it is in the performance of this role that courts are more likely to confront the question of whether to venture into the domain of other branches of government and the extent of such intervention. It is a necessary component of the doctrine of the separation of powers that courts have a constitutional obligation to ensure that the exercise of power by other branches of Government occurs within constitutional bounds. The court observed further that “But under our constitutional democracy, the constitution is the Supreme law. It is binding on all branches of government and no less on Parliament. When it exercises its legislative authority, Parliament must act in accordance with, and within the limits of, the constitution; and the supremacy of the constitution requires that the obligations imposed by it must be fulfilled. Courts are required by the constitution to ensure that all branches of government act within the law and fulfill their constitutional obligations”.

In conclusion, I would like to state that those that wish to betray the interests of the people and pretend that they have no choice but to vote for the Bill because they were members of the Select Committee are but shameless deceivers who have chosen the 30 pieces of silver over the interests of the people. They should not pretend that their positions are backed by law. They lack integrity and posterity will judge them harshly.

By Natasha Sakala
 MINISTER of General Education David Mabumba has announced that third and fourth year students in both private and public colleges of education will re-open on June 29, 2020.

And Mabumba has announced that he took a COVID-19 test on Sunday after visiting various parts of the country, including Nakonde, and the results came out negative.

Speaking at a press briefing, Tuesday, Minister, Mabumba said following President Edgar Lungu's directive to re-open schools

Colleges of education to reopen on June 29

for examination classes, colleges of education would resume lessons on June 29, 2020.

He said an academic calendar would be released next week.

"So under the umbrella of the re-opening of higher education institutions as well as the Tevet Institutions, the ministry sat and looked at what it is that we can do and therefore, I want to announce to the Zambian people that all the colleges of education in

the Republic of Zambia, it be private, it be public, they will be re-opening on the 29th of June 2020. We have decided to provide this clarity so that we allow colleges to prepare in the next two or three weeks, also to prepare the students wherever they are because many of the students are spread across the geography of this country so we needed to fix a date in terms of when the colleges of education will be opening. So 29th of June, they will be re-opening, in

terms of the actual academic calendar, this is going to be issued maybe next week when I will be delivering a ministerial statement in Parliament in terms of how the examination classes have commenced thus far, what are the success stories, what are some of the challenges that we have," Mabumba said.

"Now as you may recall too, the President on the 8th of May when he directed the re-opening of examination classes, he, too directed

that we need to undertake consultations on how we deal with the non-examination classes, including the colleges of education and you may too recall that last week, the Minister of Higher education held a press briefing in which he had announced the re-opening of higher education institutions as well as Tevet institutions but we felt that we needed to make a clarity because the Ministry of General Education has almost more than 100 colleges public and private and I think in the press briefing, we are not too sure whether clarity was provided so we thought we needed to provide clarity to our colleges of education wherever they are, it be private as well as public."

He added that the re-opening of these institutions would focus on third and fourth year students while first and second years could continue with the e-learning programmes.

"I am also mindful of the fact that some of the colleges of education have got fourth year students who are doing degree programmes. So focus is on those colleges with fourth year students and third year students who are about to graduate at the end of this year and the government will be able to see how the second and first year students will be able to rejoin the colleges of education. In the meantime, the colleges will continue to deliver programs for the non-examination years through e-learning, through WhatsApp and the various modes of education that have been designed to provide education during the closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," Mabumba said.

He said so far, from the 40 districts that he had visited, he was happy with the preparedness by school managers in COVID-19

prevention for examination class students.

"As you may recall, the President provided a policy direction in which he had directed that all the examination classes re-open on the 1st of June...and like you heard, most of us have been in the field trying to monitor schools in terms of their preparedness. For me, I visited almost 40 districts in a very short period of time just to see how schools were performing. Thus far as minister, and having been to the 40 districts, I am happy to confirm that a lot of work was put in place by our school managers and we need to celebrate with them... because even after the re-opening, you have heard that we have continued going and monitoring the schools and that will continue," Mabumba added.

And the minister announced that he tested negative to COVID-19 after coming into contact with colleagues who had tested positive and visiting epicenters such as Nakonde.

"During my tour of duty, many of you were calling me to say 'minister you have come into contact with some of your colleagues as part of this issuance of press briefings.' Yes, I did do that and my team and I even visited epicenters, for example Nakonde, because we needed to demonstrate leadership. There is no way you can commandeer a war while you are hiding somewhere. So I needed to go into Nakonde, I needed to go into all the epicenters and I thank God some of you were calling me to find out whether I was in isolation. I was not in isolation and therefore I decided to take a COVID-19 test on Sunday and it was negative and I will ask the team when they will be making the next announcement to include it because I know as a leader, I needed to come out open," said Mabumba.

Lusaka resident sues Zambian Breweries over "contaminated Mosi"

By Zondiwe Mbewe
 A LUSAKA resident has dragged Zambian Breweries PLC to the Lusaka High Court seeking damages for injuries caused to his health after allegedly consuming Mosi Lager containing fungal growth.

Fredrick Chinsala claims that after consuming part of the said beer, he suffered from nausea and later started experiencing skin rashes and irritating sores on his body.

In his statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court principal registry on June 5 this year, Chinsala stated that on November 3, 2019, he bought a Mosi Lager 375 mls at a liquor shop known as Aganzo situated in Chainda off Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe road in Lusaka.

He added that he was served with one bottle of Mosi Lager right at the counter by a female cashier and opened it in her presence.

Chinsala claims that after drinking part of it, he observed a matter floating at the bottom of the bottle and alerted the

cashier. "We agreed to notify the owner and the the Zambia Police Service. The plaintiff (Chinsala) alleges that he informed Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Police Station who sent a police officer identified as Mr Mudenda at the scene, considering that the matter was criminal in nature," read the statement of claim.

Chinsala claimed that when the police officer, Mudenda, arrived at the scene, he examined the bottle and agreed that there was a foreign matter.

He added that the officer took pictures using his mobile phone and later requested the cashier to notify the owner of the liquor shop but the shop owner said he was in Chongwe and advised her to cooperate with him (Chinsala) and the officer.

Chinsala stated that at the police station, entries were made in the occurrence book and the bottle remained in the custody of the police who advised him to report on November 5, 2019.

He however, stated that when he went there, the dealing officer was not on duty until November 7, 2019 when the police advised him to report to the health department at Lusaka City Council and the bottle was handed back to him.

Chinsala stated that when he filed a complaint with the department of health at LCC, he was also advised to file a complaint with Zambian Breweries the same day.

He stated that he lodged a complaint with Zambian Breweries who upon examining the Mosi Lager from their laboratory informed him that the bottle was for the company but could not accept liability.

Chinsala stated that on March 5, this year, he wrote to the defendant in response to its letter dated January 3, 2020 and proposed ex-curia settlement demanding K30,000 as compensation.

He claimed that on March 11, 2020, Zambian Breweries in its privilege letter with inscriptions "without

prejudice" replied to his demand letter and insisted that they were willing to offer a case of Mosi Lager.

Chinsala contended that since he consumed about 110 mls of Mosi Lager, he suffered from nausea and later started experiencing skin rashes and irritating sores on the body.

"The entire action by the defendant has caused injury and damage to the health, mental or physical being of the plaintiff due to negligence of duty of care imposed by the laws of Zambia," read the statement of claim.

Chinsala now wants the court to order Zambian Breweries to award him real damages for breach of statutory duty care and aggravated damages for injuries caused to his health, mental or physical body.

He also wants exemplary damages for selling a bottle of Mosi Lager containing a fungal growth and nominal damages for infringing on his legal rights to enjoyment of his Mosi Lager.

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MUCH has been said about foreign investment in the past few weeks. We have seen the Mayor of Lusaka and his team carrying out operations to deal with questionable foreign investment, and later being asked to apologise for doing so by the supposed superior authorities in the name of Local Government Minister. We have also seen the ruling party chief executives giving counter directives to ministers on the matter, and essentially banning them from making any comments on foreign investments.

Looking at the various contradicting statements from the country's leadership, it's like Zambia has no policy guiding foreign investment. As a consequence of this, we have seen not only bogus foreign investment but also investment that does not benefit the people, the native Zambians.

Zambia, like any other country in the world, needs foreign investment. But we must only attract foreign investment when it benefits the people. We should not welcome the so-called foreign investment for the sake of it. It must be foreign investment for the benefit of our people. How does a foreign investor who comes to open a traditional foods restaurant benefit the people? How does a foreign investor who comes to open a garbage

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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They're falling over each other to get bribes from bogus foreign investors

collection company or a barbershop benefit the local people?

We can't just accept anything as long as it comes by a foreigner. We need to interrogate the kind of investment we have accepted to flourish on the streets Zambia. Opening a car wash and employing hapless youths is not sensible foreign investment, no matter how much money is invested. These are businesses and jobs that native Zambians should be allowed to explore.

Even in the mining sector, what we are seeing is very heartbreaking. Gold mines are being given to foreigners while our local entrepreneurs in the sector are limited to being Jerabos, scavenging

on slag dumps after the foreigners have extracted our minerals. There is something wrong with this picture here in Zambia.

We say this because foreign investors do not only bring their money and technology here, they also come to take something more valuable and much bigger than their investment - our irreplaceable God-given natural resources. As a country, we have been doing the future generations a great injustice because they will find all the valuable minerals depleted without anything to show for it. If this generation that governs our country today is not able, for one reason or another, to engage foreign investors profitably, then there is no need to bring them here at all. We will be

better off leaving the natural resources of our country unexploited so that the future generations can have something to lean on.

We have continued to give away the resources of our country for nothing. Colonial conquest and plunder left us with very little benefit from the resources of our country, if not nothing. This practice cannot continue forever if we are to survive and develop as a people. We cannot continue to allow transnational corporations to plunder our resources for no benefit to our people like they did during the colonial days. There has to be a new approach to foreign investment. Other nations are benefitting from foreign investment; they are

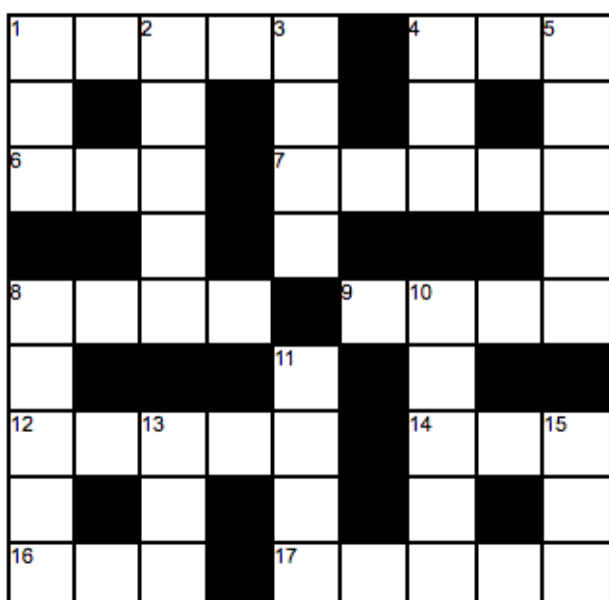
getting better deals from transnational corporations. Why can't we do the same?

It is not a favour to us for any transnational corporation to come here and exploit our natural resources. We must always remember that they will only be motivated to come here if there is something in it for them. In that case, we should also allow them to come here if there is something in it for us. We should reach fair deals with transnational corporations where we both benefit - it should be a win-win situation. Our government leaders don't need to be rocket scientists to appreciate this simple logic. So why are they selling our country and its resources to foreigners?

We don't want to believe that the poor deals we have gotten from foreign investors are simply a result of incompetence on the part of our representatives and nothing else. We are much more inclined to believe that we have gotten these poor deals as a result of corruption on the part of our representatives. Our representatives are invariably recipients of all sorts of favours from investors.

But our government leaders wouldn't be corrupted if they did not want to be corrupted, if they were incorruptible. They are being corrupted by foreign investors because they are corrupt at heart. They are morally bankrupt and they don't stand for anything. Foreign investors are simply cashing in on their greed, selfishness and vanity. Today, even the most useless, a clear conman calling himself a foreign investor with a few thousands of dollars in his pocket, will meet the President, the ministers of finance, commerce and industry, mines and so on and so forth without much ado. They are falling over each other to befriend foreign investors so that they can help them in their businesses, their farms and other ventures. That's how our representatives are making money by selling the resources of our country to foreign investors for nothing, for peanuts, for a song. What a shame!

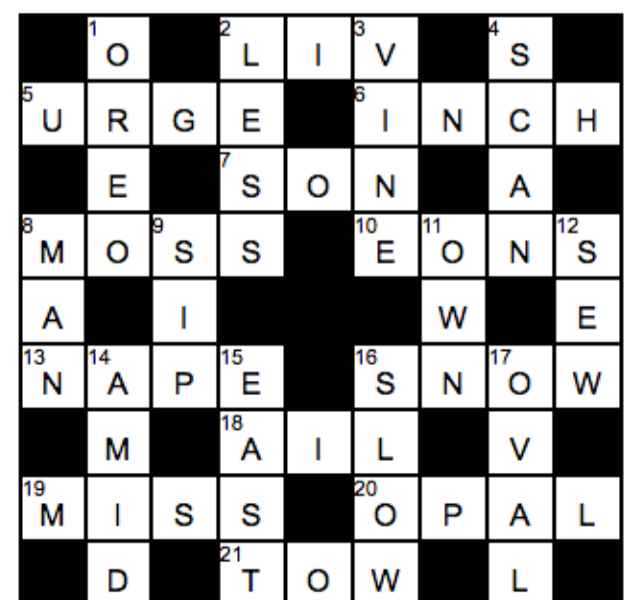
Crossword puzzle No 621



"Ignorance is an evil weed, which dictators may cultivate among their dupes, but which no democracy can afford among its citizens."
- William Beveridge

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collide noisily 4. Sack 6. Child's game 7. Dining room furniture 8. Fibbed 9. Tool house 12. Casual restaurant 14. Chopping tool 16. Snake-like fish 17. Aquatic mammal | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feline 2. Aquatic plant life 3. Detest 4. Cratchit or Newhart 5. Money hunger 8. Soup scoop 10. Central part 11. Group of 3 13. Zero 15. Hearing organ |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 620



Readers' Feedback

ND! Opinion: The 'nationalisation' of CEC will hurt economy

Editor,
 "The problem here is neither CEC nor Zesco but the corrupt visionless PF regime for they knew very well that BSA under the DAs which governed even CEC/ Zesco tariffs was coming to an end on 31/03/2020, 20 years but instead of coming up with new ones they were just like now occupied with bill 10 and other retrogressive actions.

For had they been a serious government, all these problems at KCM, Mopani, Lubambe and Chibuluma South mines would have been addressed before they happened! Now it's gold after Mukula and wild animals". - Callaghan Mwamba


"I understand CEC buys 60% of total power generated by ZESCO at a very low price and selling the same at huge profits to

the mines. Coming to think of it one would question the sanity of people condemning Govts move to make CEC a common carrier. Because how do you expect ZESCO to improve its generation capacity if much of it's power is sold at a very cheap price? Who will bare the cost? Of course not CEC but poor people through increased electricity tariffs. Best thing CEC would've done was to

use part of it's profits to invest in power generation plants other than just continue reaping off ZESCO at the expense of the many poor Zambians". - Hiden Mulambia

"Busy nationalizing CEC but can't nationalize a gold mine! Jokers and criminals!" - Gershom Habile

"This is not government my friend but criminals in public offices". - Bwalya Bwalya



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Tutwa on MPs to proceed with enactment of Bill 10

Editor,
 "How I wish this energy being wasted on bill 10 could be channeled to restructuring and resuscitating our ailing economy. Lack of foresight by our leaders will plunge this country into dead end shenanigans". - Chrissy Chuma

"Another bulldozer, Bill 10 is PF business_ please put it in the party manifesto if you so wish. For now, we want strategies and tactics that address the rising cost of living and that bring sustainable business opportunities for all". - Kool Int

"Just withdraw Bill 10 and look for

a roundtable. There are so many roundtables around. The Church is one of them". - Mike Phiri

"Even if you pass it, which I doubt you will, we the people will shut it down. Don't dare us Tutwa!" - Gershom Habile

"Government should introduce a Law; that those who want to stand as people's representatives should first undergo a mental check up, this will reduce having mad people as our representatives". - John Bwalya

"Too many bootlickers in leadership positions. Very retrogressive!" - Chishimba Shipanuka



Sunday's remarks that Kambwili just misses PF and he's free to rejoin

Dear editor,
 "Actually, its the other way round, PF misses Kambwili. Sunday wake up!" - James-Shadow Phiri
 "That is where PF always miss it, when you put an issue before them, they wont debate the issue but the messenger. Present to them the debt problem, they start debating what the former ministers did. Present to them the gold mine ownership, they start debating old privatization issue. Diversion

is a way of cowards!" - Richard Waga
 "You just want him back in PF because you have realised he is a heavyweight and he will cause problems for you in copperbelt next year! So this is a plea to him by PF". - Mutinta Mulonda
 "PF is finished and will be history after August next year, no wonder you are not sleeping until all critical voices are

suppressed, shame on you". - Steven Kaoma
 "How can he miss a sinking boat?" - Maimbolwa Kamanga
 "BA Sunday no direction!" - Chacha Kams
 "It's just an indirect call for him to rejoin. It's you who misses him as he has messed you in the Copperbelt". - Chilufya Meward

Bowman on freedom of expression not meaning that Zambians should act more intelligent than Lungu

Dear editor,
 "So no one should be more intelligent than the president? Who said the president is the most intelligent being in any setup....with such dull ministers we cannot develop as a country!" - Thomas Mwangala
 "No wonder the country's doing so well. With intellectuals like Honourable Bowman running things. Insightful statements like this one really make you put things into proper perspective. [Sarcasm]". - Phigy Kalulu
 "I think this has always been his plan, he was sent to destroy the party. The president is a Lawyer and he knows the importance of freedom of expression that's why he isn't saying anything nomba aba bena without any idea busy running his mouth and he is so adamant. Insoni ebuntu!" - Kalumba Kesh Mwaba
 "With such characters as ministers, I am not surprised we are in such a mess. Honestly people, he cannot even make a good Headmaster". - Shaka Zulu
 "The issue is, why is president Edgar Lungu comfortable with such personalities... The behavior of this type of leaders is powered by the president himself!" - KJ Nathan
 "Hmm what motivated the head of state to appoint such a dull youth by then since now he is no longer one. Surely who told this chap that all Zambians should not be more intelligent than Edgar Lungu?" - Rhodes Chipengu
 "Mr Lusambo being a President doesn't mean that you're the most intelligent person in the country. No sir, it is just a privilege, and if you are a good leader you must govern well knowing that it is a rare privilege and there's God above every government, sir". - Mwango Chanda Moses
 "Thank you for destroying PF the same way you destroyed MMD sir. I appreciate you for your gallant efforts and consistency". - Mukosha Mulenga
 "Ba Ndola please come and get your man, we have tried with all resources and the biggest university here in Lusaka, the man could not get anything, put him in Kabushi academy to begin with..." - Moonga Moonga

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

BELARUSIAN businessman Aleksandr Zingman who appeared in controversial pictures with President Edgar Lungu, Lusaka Businessman Valden Findlay and Russian businessman Alexander Mikheev, has blamed another businessman Vitale Fishman as the person who is behind the allegation levelled against him.

A fortnight ago, News Diggers published images showing President Lungu interacting with Zingman and Mikheev, who is the president of Rosobornexport, a Russian state intermediary agency for the exports of defense-related products and services.

The photographs showed Defence Permanent Secretary Sturdy Mwale, Zambia Air Force Commander Lt Gen David Muma and Military Attaché at the Zambian Embassy in Moscow, Robert Kampeshi, with the said Belarusian businessman.

Although he operates under the radar, Alexander Zingman is reported to be a valuable chain in the relations between Zambia and East Europe, and is believed to have brokered the procurement of helicopters from Russia and the contract for the supply of Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft.

But Zingman's UK based lawyer Daniel Delnero has told News Diggers, that the person behind the allegations made against Zingman is an actual arms dealer and businessman called Vitale Fishman.

Delnero went further to send articles and social media video footage of Fishman with a caption reading:

"Vitale Fishman is the individual behind the allegations against Mr. Zingman. Mr. Fishman is an actual arms dealer, who has been implicated in multiple international scandals. <https://www.diigo.com/item/note/7k4hp/u721?k=92d0a4039b79be-3ad5e53fd6f3c59ce3>"

News Diggers then gave an opportunity to Zingman, through his lawyer to explain the nature of his business with President Lungu and the Zambian top military brass.

Diggers: Thank you for sharing the above links, and thank you for granting as an opportunity to ask questions where we need clarifications on the concerns that you raise against our newspaper articles relating to your client.

We have also looked at your letter and we have a few questions to clarify before we can consider legal representation on the issues.

Firstly I would like to assure you that we do have a policy to retract, correct and apologize unreservedly for any inaccurate information that we publish.

To help us understand the 'inaccuracy' (if any) of the information we published, we would like you to help us clarify the following issues:

1. We have read the article about Mr Fishman you sent to us. In relation to the article we published, is the person in the picture with the Zambian President and the top military brass Mr Zingman or Mr Fishman?

2. If the person in the picture is Mr Zingman, can you kindly advise the nature of business he was discussing

Zingman insists he's not an arms dealer, points finger at Fishman

with the pictured Zambian delegations.

3. If Mr Zingman has no links to the Russian organization called, Rosobornexport, could you advise us on the circumstances that got him a meeting with Mr Alexander Mikheev, the president of the Rosobornexport and the Zambian President.

4. Since you say your client's dealings with Zambia have to do with Agriculture products and not military, would you enlighten us as to why he was holding meetings with our Zambian top military brass, such as the Air Force commander, military attaché in Russia, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary?

5. What is the link between your client and Zambian business man Valden Findlay who is in the pictures?

6. Is your client, Mr Zingman a person under US Federal government sanctions or European Union Sanctions? Is he connected to or an associate of any person, organisation or company that is under US federal government or EU sanctions?

Zingman's lawyer only answered the last questioning and promising to provide detailed answers to the rest of the questions later.

"On number 6, the answer is no, Mr. Zingman is not on any sanctions list, nor is he an associate of a sanctioned entity. If he was on a sanctions list, I would not be able to represent him," said Delnero.

But two days later, the lawyer wrote back with a proposal for News Diggers not to publish the responses to the questions asked.

"I have the responses ready to email. Can we agree that the responses will be used solely as part of your analysis regarding our request for a retraction, and that they will not be reprinted?" he asked

News Diggers rejected the proposal to keep Zingman's explanation of the pictures private, and told Delnero that since his client claimed to be a clean businessman with transparent dealings in Zambia, there would be nothing wrong with publishing the responses.

"Dear Daniel,

According to your letter of demand, we published inaccurate and defamatory material against your client. We find it strange therefore that when we ask for correct information on a matter of public interest here in Zambia you now request that we should not publish your client's answers.

We are a news organisation that is required to inform the public on a matter such as the one involving your client- one which is in the public interest.

Your own letter of demand unconditionally invited us to ask questions which we have done. We see no reason to undertake not to publish your client's answers to the simple questions we have posed.

And considering that

you have advised us that your client's dealing with Zambia are transparent, we see no reason why his clarifications to the material we published should be kept away from the public.

In line with our retraction policy, we have stated that once our questions for clarification are responded to, and it is verified (for example) that we published images of a wrong person, we would then retract, correct and apologise.

Asking us to keep the responses private would make it difficult for us to correct what you consider as inaccurate information.

Kindly take note.

A day later, Zingman's lawyer sent an explanation of the photographs:

I. Photo: We can confirm that Mr. Zingman does appear in that photograph.

II. Nature of the business discussions between Mr. Zingman and the Zambian delegation

Consistent with his broader business activities, Mr. Zingman was in Zambia to discuss Zambia business prospects with Belarus in the area of agriculture, mining, road construction, transport infrastructure, and logistics. During these many meetings, the parties discussed the construction of the tractor assembling plant Chipata, Zambia, which will produce about 2000 tractors per year, other agriculture machinery, and farming implements. It will also create more than 1000 jobs for the Zambian people. This investment, and the construction of the plant, will increase the mechanization of agriculture in Zambia and result in Zambia being less dependent on foreign nations for agricultural machinery. We further note that these discussions are consistent with Mr. Zingman's role in creating opportunities for Belarussian investment in Zambia and other African nations in the fields of agriculture, mining, and transportation infrastructure. These investments are typically supported and funded through the Development Bank of Belarus, and will involve a significant transfer of knowledge to Zambian people. The tractor assembling plant will be able to be paid back from its own revenue from sales of farming equipment after it is constructed and become operational. It will not have any drain on the Government treasury.

III. Alleged meeting with Mr. Zingman, Mr. Mikheev (President of Rosobornexport), and the President of Zambia

The photograph prompting these claims occurred by pure happenstance. Mr. Zingman indeed had a meeting with The President. There was no meeting between Mr. Zingman, Mr. Mikheev, and the President of Zambia, nor was there a meeting between Mr. Zingman and Mr. Mikheev. Mr. Zingman and Mr. Mikheev happened to have met at State House

of Zambia at the same time and, because they are from neighboring countries (Mr. Zingman is from Belarus and Mr. Mikheev is from Russia) and share a common language, Mr. Mikheev requested a photo with The President and Mr. Zingman.

We note further that Mr. Zingman does not have, nor has he ever had, any business or other dealings with Rosobornexport, and does not have any plans to engage in business or other dealings with it.

IV. Meetings with Zambian military and a Russian military attaché

The tractor assembling plant to be constructed will be a contract under Zamcapitol of the Ministry of Defence of Zambia. Mr. Sturdy Mwale, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence of Zambia, travelled in 2018 with the military attaché and other senior government officials from Zambia to tour one of the world's largest, if not number one, tractor manufacturing plants in Minsk, Belarus. During the same period, an MOU was signed to cooperate in this area for tractor production. It was as a result of this cooperation that Mr. Zingman travelled to Zambia for a follow up meeting with The President of Zambia. After the meeting, Mr. Zingman requested that Mr. Sturdy Mwale and the military attaché, who happened also to be in Zambia, to meet at a resort in Lusaka and have a dinner. It was during this time that Mr. Zingman first met General Muma, who came with military attaché at the resort. During the dinner, Mr. Zingman requested Mr. Sturdy Mwale and General Muma to join him for another dinner on the following day.

V. Links between Mr. Zingman and Valden Findlay

Mr. Zingman and Mr. Findlay have been friends for long time; hence, Mr. Zingman asked Mr. Findlay to join him for dinner.

VI. Sanctions

As discussed previously, Mr. Zingman is not subject to US or European sanctions.

The lawyer then issued a second letter of demand to News Diggers, giving a 12 hours ultimatum for the newspaper to retract the articles, but News Diggers asked further questions as follows:

1. We are in receipt of your further demand and ultimatum and find it wholly unhelpful to your client's position since we believe we are entitled to clarify his answers and ask follow up questions where necessary. Given the nature of your client's demand, it is wholly reasonable that we take his answers into consideration before we respond.

2. In your first letter of demand you referred to what you called a Pre-Action Protocol for Media and Communications Claims which you indicated you had attached but as your email will

show you have not sent to me. Please let me have the same as I consider a response to you so that I may know what it says and from which country or organisation it is.

3. Kindly confirm for the avoidance of doubt that It is Mr. Zingman's position that he was not nor is he now involved in the Zambian government Sukhoi Aircraft and other Russian aircraft supply deals?

4. Is it Mr.Zingman's position that his dealings with Mr. Findlay -a close associate of Zambian President Lungu, is merely social and that neither he nor any of his businesses has any business dealings with Mr.Findlay or through him or any entity that Mr. Findlay controls?

5(a) Has Mr Zingman by himself or any entity that he controls paid or shared any commissions on the Zambian transactions with Mr. Findlay or any entity that Mr.Findlay controls or indeed any other Zambian national or organisation?

5(b) Aside from sharing commissions has Mr. Findlay or any company that he controls received commissions on the transactions Mr. Zingman is doing and or has done with the Zambian government or any of its entities?

6. Has Mr. Zingman or any entity that he controls or is associated with been involved in a fertiliser deal with the Zambian Government?

7. What is Mr. Zingman's relationship with Mr. Findlay on the fertiliser agreement?

8. What is the value of this transaction?

9. Who is Mr. Zingman's contact in the Zambian government on the Investments he claims to have brought to Zambia?

10. Who is Mr. Zingman's local agent in the transactions he is carrying out with Zambian Government?

11. What is the value of the transactions Mr. Zingman is involved in, in Zambia. How are they financed given that Zambia is in financial distress?

12. Is there any upfront commission payable and or paid by or at the expense of the Zambian Government in relation to the transactions Mr. Zingman is involved in in Zambia.

13. What role has the Zambian Development Agency played in any of the investments Mr Zingman claims to have brought to Zambia?

The lawyer said the questions asked were not related to his clients claims:

Delnero: This is getting far afield from the claims in the article we have shown to be false, none of which are at all related to a fertilizer deal.

Diggers: Kindly confirm that you are not in a position to respond to any of the questions that we have posed to seek further clarification on your

earlier answers; and that you are not willing to share the pre-action Protocol for media and communication claims, which you referred to in your letter of demand.

Zingman's lawyer: That's not what I said. I'll share the preaction protocol and discuss the questions with my client. Some are relevant -- including those related to aircraft -- while others are not.

Diggers: Thank you for your prompt response Daniel.

Please kindly note that all the questions we posed are in connection with your client's alleged dealings in Zambia. And by your client's own admission, he is involved in agricultural transactions in my country. Therefore, all the questions we have posed are relevant to us and deserve to be answered.

Zingman's lawyer: I just don't want a retraction related to the military/arms accusations to be held up while we discuss other matters. Those are obviously very concerning to us and are causing real damage to my client, because it simply is not the business he is in.

As you hopefully saw from our prior response, we are willing to have an open engagement, as we acknowledged information in the articles that was accurate, rather than just challenged aspects that are not accurate.

Diggers: Noted. But please kindly have your client answer our questions as quickly possible to enable us take stock of our position regarding your demand.

Zingman's lawyer: On number 3, I can confirm that Mr. Zingman has never been a party to any aircraft supply deals with Zambia, including the one you mentioned.

Delnero, however did not respond to the questions, but instead, issued a third letter of demand, giving News Diggers another 48 hours in which to retract the published articles.

Zingman's Lawyer: At this point we have provided all the information necessary for News Diggers to determine that the original stories were, in fact false and defamatory. Accordingly, we will engage in no further communication with News Diggers until those articles have been removed and a retraction and apology issued.

Further, if the defamatory articles are not removed and a retraction issued, within 48 hours, we will pursue all legal remedies available to us. On a final note, it appears that News Diggers is basing multiple claims on the fact that Mr Zingman has either met or taken a photograph with particular individuals, including with individuals associated with the fertilizer and aircraft companies mentioned in your June 7, 2020 correspondence. He said the fact that Zingman appeared in a photograph with particular individuals did not mean that he had engaged in any business transactions with them, or received a commission on any transaction in which they were involved.

By Abraham Kalito

NAPSA Stars skipper Dickson Chapa says the team's target of finishing among the four best outfits at the end of the season has not been compromised because of a forced break.

Chapa told the club's media team that the technical bench had guided players to remain focused as the targets had not changed.

"The team will be ready. I think that the more reason the technical bench came up with the online drills is the more reason they said we are opening the league, we can start regrouping. Our target remains the same;

Napsa Stars sticks to season's target

even in our WhatsApp groups, we communicate and keep on guiding each other. The target is the same, we still want to finish in a good position at the end of the season," Chapa said.

He said he is relieved

that the team had started training together again.

"I'm trying by all means to keep myself fit during this period. The technical bench has come up with a programme where they have divided us into groups,

defenders, midfielders and strikers. So, they have been sending us programmes on WhatsApp and they have been sending us videos. This is a group where all the coaches are in and the President of the team is also

in that same group," Chapa said.

"So, whenever we train, we are asked to send our training videos in that group so that they are monitoring the way we are training"

He said the online trainings had so far proved effective.

"So far, so good. It's something to keep us active, not like to keep us 100 per cent fit but...somewhere around 40 per cent fit so that by the time we resume training, the coaches will know where to start from. We have started going in groups so at least we will start seeing each other. It will bring that togetherness in a team. A team is all about unity and togetherness. The way we were training online, we were unable to see each other but now we are able to," said Chapa.

Pogba stuck at Man Utd for now as summer transfer dreams drift away

WHEN Mino Raiola took aim at Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Instagram in February, it felt like that was going to set the tone for press conferences and transfer talk until the end of the season.

After what had been another impressive victory against Chelsea, which further boosted Manchester United's top-four hopes, the Norwegian was left fending off questions about Paul Pogba's agent.

"I don't need to comment through the media on Mino and what he says. I can probably speak to him myself," Solskjaer said after the 2-0 win.

"You can't control it anyway, everyone's got a voice and you can have your own opinion. There are things being said about us where you want to comment but you'd rather not and it's more clever that you don't comment on many different things.

"It's not my rapport, and Paul and Mino do have their conversations, but it's fine."

Pogba's agent has since claimed he has a good relationship with Solskjaer, but had the season not been halted due to Covid-19 it is likely that Raiola would have continued with his statements given his tendencies when attempting to engineer a move for one of his high-profile clients.

Many believed the World Cup winner had played his last game for United after foot and ankle injuries sidelined him for the majority of the campaign. The suspension of all football due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, means that not only will the 27-year-old have a key part to play in the resumption of this Premier League season, but he is likely to stay put for another year.

It is no secret that Pogba is keen for a challenge elsewhere and, in some aspects, who can blame him? United have struggled to mount a serious title challenge since he

returned in 2016 and are still facing the prospect of a second consecutive season without Champions League football.

However, the economic situation following the shutdown means that it is highly unlikely he will get the move he so desperately sought this summer. And the silence from his vocal leader Raiola on the subject over the past few months has been telling.

United would have allowed Pogba to leave last summer had a club met their valuation of around £180 million (\$230m). There is an acceptance that they will have to drastically lower that figure should clubs come enquiring when the market does open this summer.

In reality, in a post-Covid world, who would be able to afford the midfielder's huge wages and transfer fee, which would still be around £100m (\$128m)?

Though the club would have permitted Pogba's exit, there has been a reluctance to let the midfielder go. He has shown glimpses of his world-class talent, but has yet to produce consistently game

after game.

Because of that, Pogba's time at Old Trafford has been heavily criticised, with claims from former players and pundits that he has not lived up to his potential while there have been damning verdicts of his performances away from the pitch, as well as on it.

But circumstances mean United could now have the midfielder at their disposal for the peak years of his career, and Pogba has got the opportunity to prove himself as one of the best midfielders in the world.

Pogba's former team-mate Ander Herrera believes the Frenchman has the ability, but needs the consistency to be considered world-class.

"I don't know what other players say but he is a midfielder that has everything. If you see other midfielders in the world, they may have some qualities - control of the ball, long shots, passes, tackles, box-to-box - but Paul can do all of this, plus head the ball, score goals, make recoveries, one against one... everything," Herrera told The Athletic. **GOAL**

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Bale the greatest athlete I've seen - ex-Real doctor

GARETH Bale is the greatest athlete former Real Madrid medical chief Jesus Olmo has seen, with the Wales star "capable of excelling at practically any sport".

After making a world-record move from Tottenham to Real Madrid in 2013, the 30-year-old has split opinion in the Spanish capital, despite scoring 80 goals in 169 matches.

While agent Jonathan Barnett has often been forced to shield his charge from media and fan attacks, Olmo has sung the praises of the attacker, who he says is the most impressive player he has seen during a career in which he has worked with many leading stars, including Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Possibly the best athlete I've seen is Gareth Bale," he told Ideal. "He's a natural athlete capable of excelling at practically any sport. He has unusual genetics and athletic ability, and I

would say technical ability as well.

"He's the one who impressed me most in all aspects, although there is then performance, which comes about from different circumstances."

Olmo has suggested that Madrid fans have not seen the best of the star because he has played through injuries.

"All athletes have their handicaps," he said. "People only see when a player is injured, but there are footballers who play when they've got physical problems.

"A good medical team ensure that you have the minimum possible chronic problems, but the only way to overcoming them is by working hard and very well in a target way. That requires effort and depends a lot on the player.

"Nothing detracts from a high-level athlete's performance more than

chronic pain. Solving a small tendon problem is the best thing you can do for a footballer."

Olmo had a reputation of being a fiery character and he admits that he once clashed with Sergio Ramos.

"With Sergio, I had a unique relationship because we had a very great confrontation," he admitted. "He's a person, like me, who says things to your face. I did things he didn't consider appropriate, and although I explained them to him, he defended his position with the utmost respect.

"I didn't place myself at his command. My judgement must be my own.

"We had our differences, but from there our professional relationship was very good.

"We respect each other a lot and he always trusted my judgement with

his injuries and did what I told him.

"I still have a very good relationship with him and he works with professionals very close to me. When I have to give him a hand, I'll give it to him." **AFP**





SHONGA'S LACK OF ACTION WORRIES FAZ

By Abraham Kalito
THE Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) says it is concerned with the way Zambian players are being treated in South Africa. FAZ cited Justin Shonga who has had limited game time at Sowetan giants Orlando Pirates as an example, adding that the association was worried with the player's lack of game time.

Shonga himself has been a subject of discussion in both local and international media over his stay at the Soweto-based soccer giants. Having fallen from grace, Shonga has been linked to a departure from the club, with Tanzanian side SC Simba and some European clubs listed as suitors. He has made three appearances during the

2019/2020 season and has already fallen out of favour with new gaffer Josef Zinnbauer. Earlier, his representative Michael Ngobeni revealed that he was under pressure from Zambian authorities regarding the player's lack of game time at the South African club. "Even Messi won't be happy when not playing. Tell

me any player that would be happy when not playing. The secretary general of the Zambia FA phoned me and asked if the boy is going to play. He is their top striker. So, I'm under pressure from the national team of Zambia for Justin to play," Ngobeni told South African media. When 'Soccer Laduma', a South African media group contacted FAZ for a comment, association general secretary Adrian Kashala said the situation was a source of concern for all Zambians.

"The concern we have as the country and people in charge of football in Zambia is that we have players all over Africa, and some of them in Europe, and we follow their performances with keen interest as far as game-time is concerned, and we realise that it's been a while that Shonga featured for his club. That also affects the performance of our national team. If the players that we count on are out there and just warming the bench, or sometimes not even on the bench, we want to find out what the problem is for our player and see how he can be helped to rekindle his

previous performance," said Kashala. "Mulenga and Kambole are national team players. It worries us when [they are not in] the line-up or not being on the pitch for their respective clubs. Our interest is to see that our players [who] have gone to play professional football, are playing so that they can improve their skill. We also want to make sure that when we call them to the national team, we are calling people that are active...and are able to give us results when they report for national team duty."

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Berlusconi eyeing Serie A return after Monza promotion

SILVIO Berlusconi is aiming for a return to Italian football's top table for the first time since selling AC Milan after his new club Monza were promoted to Serie B on Monday. Monza were one of three clubs moved up to the second tier alongside Vicenza and Reggina following the Italian Football Federation's decision on Monday to end the regular Serie C season and promote the top team from each of the division's three groups. "Monza will build a team ready to aim for the top of Serie B," local newspaper il Cittadino quoted Berlusconi as saying. "Promotion (to Serie A) will depend on a range of factors, some of which are unpredictable. However some we know very well and we will try to make the very most of that." Berlusconi had previously owned AC Milan for over 30 trophy-laden years in which the team won five European



Cups and eight Serie A titles. He sold the club in 2017 to a consortium led by Chinese businessman Li Yonghong. American fund Elliott took over the following year after Li defaulted on a loan to buy the club. The 83-year-old media tycoon and former Italian Prime Minister then bought Monza for the relative pittance

of a reported three millions euros (\$3.4 million) and invested heavily in the team. He also brought in his historic right hand man Adriano Galliani to help guide the team to the top. As a result they were 16 points clear in their group when the league was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. AFP