



**By Julia Malunga**  
TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says it is extremely disturbed with revelations that Ministry of Health that last year awarded a US\$17 million to supply health center kits to a company that did not exist.

In a statement, Thursday, TIZ executive director Maurice Nyambe observed that the Health Ministry had continued to make headlines for all manner of wrong reasons.

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# CANCEL DRUG SUPPLY TENDER

## ...to pave way for investigations - TIZ



The Burundi government has announced a one week of mourning following the death of the country's President Nkurunziza

## State House deletes Lungu's Facebook condolences message to Nkurunziza after negative feedback from Zambians

**By Julia Malunga**  
STATE House has deleted President Edgar Lungu's message of condolences in

which he eulogised Burundi's outgoing President Pierre Nkurunziza which was posted on the Head of State's

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tragedy and that he would be remembered for spearheading infrastructure projects aimed at making water and electricity more accessible to the people of Burundi.

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## UPND vows to hold gatherings with or without police permission

## IMF to hold virtual consultative talks with Zambia

**By Natasha Sakala**

FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu has directed ministry officials to prepare a well-structured engagement strategy in preparation for the forthcoming virtual consultative and information exchange mission of the International Monetary Fund from June 22 to July 1, 2020.

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## There is tension because govt favours Chinese - HH

**By Ulande Nkomesha**

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says there is growing tension in the country because government is giving more business opportunities to foreigners than Zambians.

Meanwhile, Hichilema says like George Floyd, a lot of Zambians had died at the hands of police.

Story page 5



## Nkombo lodges complaint to Speaker against Lubinda's continued remarks on Bill 10

**By Ulande Nkomesha**

UPND Mazabuka Central member of parliament Garry Nkombo has written to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini on justice minister Given Lubinda's continued utterances in the media on the Constitution Amendment Bill 10.

Story page 10

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE complaint against the registration and directors of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services is malicious and politically motivated, NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court.

Kambwili, who denied forging a "no change return" (companies form 71), also told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services was registered by his wife in 2001, before he was either a member of parliament or minister, contrary to EEP leader Chilufya Tayali's claims that it was registered in 2013.

And Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba has censured Tayali, who is the complainant in the matter, against posting opinions relating to the ongoing proceedings on social media but to report on facts as they turn out in court.

Meanwhile, Kambwili has re-engaged his former lawyers in the case, Keith Mweemba, Gilbert Phiri and Christopher Munda to continue acting for him.

The three defence lawyers will be representing the accused alongside former Attorney General Musa Mwenye State Counsel.

In this matter, Kambwili is charged with three counts of forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer in relation to the registration of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services.

On November 28, last year, magistrate Simusamba found Kambwili with a case to answer in the matter and consequently placed him on his defence.

## Kambwili describes forgery complaint as malicious, politically motivated

But in February this year, Kambwili's defence lawyers Mweemba, Phiri and Munda excused themselves from representing the accused in the matter.

Kambwili consequently retained Mwenye as his lawyer in the case.

The accused who had not commenced defence yet, was only able to do so yesterday when the matter came up before magistrate Simusamba.

Opening his defence, Kambwili, 51, told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services was incorporated by his wife Carol Chansa in 2001, adding that the complaint against its registration and directors was malicious and politically motivated.

"This is in view of the fact that prior to Mr Tayali reporting this matter to the police, he held a press briefing where he made allegations and I quote 'honourable Chishimba Kambwili had registered a company with a fictitious name with a view that he can be getting company contracts as a minister without being depicted that he was involved in that company'. During that briefing he stated that the company was registered in 2013 when I was Minister of Youth and Sport in government. To the contrary Mwamona was registered in August 2001, way before I was either an MP or a

minister in government," he said.

Kambwili said the Genesis of the registration of Mwamona was that his wife, his sister Daisy Kambwili and himself were running a company called "CK Scrap Metal Merchants and General Contractors Limited".

He said he was also running a company called CK Technical Services Limited whose directors were himself, his wife and another.

Kambwili said when he got involved in politics, the two businesses started having problems due to political interference by the then MMD government.

"There were instructions given to mining companies who were principal customers not to deal with any companies where Chishimba Kambwili was a director," he said.

He said consequently, his wife decided that she needed to register a company with their son, Mwamba Chishimba Kambwili, and his younger sister Sampa Kambwili.

Kambwili also produced Mwamba's birth record, which he tendered in as part of his evidence.

He said the only directors in Mwamona were his son and wife as they later on decided not to include his sister.

And Kambwili said the signature he was alleged to have forged in the first charge belonged to him.

He said he had never forged a document in his life and that he was a law abiding citizen.

"This charge is laughable. This is my signature and I signed it. How do I forge my own signature? I had the power of Attorney from my son to sign on his behalf. I have never forged any document in my life. I am a law abiding citizen," Kambwili said.

Meanwhile, magistrate Simusamba censured the complainant, Tayali, against posting opinions relating to the ongoing proceedings on social media but to report on facts as they turn out in court.

This was after Tayali posted on his Facebook page a post stating "Production of forged documents in court is a very serious offence, must I complain on this one too? #Birthcertificate".

He said he had been unable to access any of the exhibits that were produced or the transcript of the proceedings and that at every point when he sent people to court to access the proceedings, he had been told that the file was inaccessible.

"These colleagues are here at my advise and on my insistence. Because that was the only way we could proceed to a certain point today without access to the court record as they have the institutional memory of this case to a certain point. So I advised the accused person to re-engage them and infact insisted with them that it was their professional duty to come and help me with the defence. If there is anyone to apologise here it's not them, it is me," Mwenye said.

Defence continues on June 18, this year.

By Natasha Sakala

FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu has directed ministry officials to prepare a well-structured engagement strategy in preparation for the forthcoming virtual consultative and information exchange mission of the International Monetary Fund from June 22 to July 1, 2020.

And the minister has advised ministry officials and public sector agencies to adopt a positive, symbiotic and systemic mindset towards the IMF talks.

According to a statement, Dr Ng'andu was speaking during a weekly top-management visioning and milestone setting meeting on economic policy, fiscal affairs, tax policy financial management, and internal controls.

"Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu has announced that the International Monetary Fund will conduct a virtual consultative and information exchange mission for Zambia from 22nd June 2020 to 1st July, 2020. Dr Ng'andu has since directed officials in the Ministry of Finance to deeply reflect on the forthcoming assignment and prepare a well-structured engagement strategy. He has asked his management team to closely monitor the cleaning-up of all the required data requirements and ICT facilities in preparation for seamless engagement with the International Monetary Fund. Dr Ng'andu seized the opportunity to encourage his management team to ensure that innovation, professionalism, integrity, and diligence take root in the work culture of the Ministry 'especially during this difficult period'. To emphasize his expectation for improved service delivery, Dr. NG'ANDU

## IMF to hold virtual consultative talks with Zambia

asked for expeditious implementation of the government policy on performance management for all divisions, directorates, and agencies under the Ministry of Finance," Ministry of Finance public relations officer Chileshe Kandeta stated, Thursday.

During the meeting, Dr Ng'andu reiterated his pledge to sustain commitment to the deceleration of public debt accumulation.

"Among the Minister's other points of emphasis was the need for accuracy in the production of debt related data, firmness in the implementation of liability management measures, and a sound domestic arrears dismantling programme. Dr Ng'andu took the opportunity to pledge sustained commitment to the deceleration of public debt accumulation. He appealed, strongly, that a close watch on external debt metrics 'must be maintained so that obligations that fall due are serviced in a timely manner'. Dr Ng'andu concluded the meeting by reiterating the need for the Ministry of Finance to frequently engage both local and foreign development partners in order to improve information exchange on matters of mutual developmental and multi-sectoral investment interest," Kandeta stated.

According to the statement, the minister further called for the development of an effective domestic revenue collection

system to help reduce the financing gaps created by the impact of Covid-19.

"Let us ensure that non-tax revenue collection initiatives are implemented and monitored well," Dr Ng'andu said, according to Kandeta.

And Dr Ng'andu implored relevant public sector agencies to adopt mindsets that are positive, symbiotic, and systemic.

"During the staff mission, the IMF team will conduct virtual consultative and information exchange sessions with Central Government, Bank of Zambia, Zambia Revenue Authority, and other stakeholders in the Zambian economy. In this regard, Dr Ng'andu has implored relevant public sector agencies to adopt mindsets that are positive, symbiotic, and systemic. The Minister also emphasised the need to identify competent and dedicated staff who will adequately allocate time to prepare for the assignment in order for the country to obtain the best possible conclusive outcome on future cooperation with the Fund," read the statement.

The meeting was attended by Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba, Permanent Secretary for Economic Management and Finance Mukuli Chikuba, Permanent Secretary for Budget and Economic Affairs Dr Mulenga Pamu, Accountant General Kennedy Musonda and Controller for Internal Audit Chibwe Mulonda.

## UPND vows to hold gatherings with or without police permission

By Julia Malunga

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka says PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri should not insult the intelligence of the Zambian people by saying President Edgar Lungu does not hold public gatherings but that people follow him as he inspects developmental projects.

In an interview, Mucheleka vowed that the party would hold gatherings with or without permission from the police.

"They must not underestimate our intelligence, Mumbi Phiri must not insult the intelligence of the Zambian people. How can you say 'people are following the President?' Who mobilizes those people? Is it not the PF who are mobilizing people to be where the President is? Why can't they refuse saying there is COVID-19? Before President Lungu arrives, people already gather waiting for him. She speaks as though she is speaking to dull people. Zambians are very intelligent people. The issue of COVID-19 appears as though it is a God-given gift for them to use it against the opposition. If a party loses popularity because of corruption, poverty and unemployment which have become the features of the PF, they get scared of the opposition to mobilize," Mucheleka said.

"As a party, you will find that we always adhere to the health regulations, including wearing masks, social distancing and applying hand sanitizers. We are doing all that but for them, it is still not enough. They will come and pounce on our people. They are exhibiting serious signs of dictatorship. President Edgar Lungu, senior officials in the party and his MPs have been moving everywhere, gathering without adhering to COVID-19 regulations and you will not see the police pouncing on them. For us, we have become accustomed to the leadership of the PF. As I speak to you, we are holding intra party elections across the country, we are almost done. Our people are able to go in the bush and hold the elections, with or without the police because it is our constitutional requirement."

He said the party would not succumb to the ruling party's intimidation.

"PF is doing everything possible to frustrate us but we are beating them at their own game. As they attempt to stop us, we are finding ways and means to communicate to our people. No amount of intimidation will slow us down, it will not work," vowed Mucheleka.

## PF applies to join case where magistrate wants de-registration of 'undemocratic parties'

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Patriotic Front has applied to be joined as an interested party to a matter where a Livingstone magistrate is seeking an order that the Registrar of Societies deregisters all political parties which have not practiced democracy within their parties through regular elections.

PF has submitted to the Constitutional Court that being a ruling party, it has sufficient interest to be joined to the proceedings as any order or declaration that may emanate from the petition may have a bearing on it.

In this matter, Benjamin Mwelwa, an Advocate of the High Court, has petitioned the Court, seeking an order and declaration that any political party which was registered and in existence as of January 5, 2016 and which has not promoted and practiced democracy through regular, free and fair elections, within its political party, has breached article 60(2) (d) of the Constitution (Amendment) Act no. 2 of 2016 and therefore such a political party ceased to exist as a political party in Zambia on January 4, 2017.

He wants an order that the Registrar of Societies deregisters all political parties for having ceased to exist as political parties in Zambia on January 4, 2017 and since violated article 60(2)(d) of the Constitution of Zambia

(Amendment) Act no.2 of 2016 and section 18(1) and (2) Act no.1 of 2016.

Mwelwa cited Attorney General, Likando Kalaluka and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) as the respondents in the matter.

Last month, the Constitutional Court joined UPND as an interested party to the matter.

This was after Stephen Katuka in his capacity as Secretary General of the UPND, applied to join the case as an interested party, saying the petition targets all political parties in Zambia, of which UPND was the main opposition party.

And now, Mwila has also applied to join the case as an interested party.

According to an affidavit in support of summons for joinder as an interested party, Mwila stated that the PF as the ruling party would be affected by any order or declaration that may emanate from the petition.

"The petition seeks declarations affecting all political parties in Zambia. The Patriotic Front is the current ruling party and any order or declaration that may emanate from the petition may have a bearing on it. In light of the above, the Patriotic Front as a political party has sufficient interest to be joined to these proceedings," read the document.

# 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!**

**01**

Who is responsible for getting us in this mess?

**02**

And how did we get in this mess?



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

# Falling kwacha has robbed Zambia chances to benefit from low oil prices - Chikwanda

By Natasha Sakala

ENERGY Institute of Zambia (EIZ) chairperson Johnston Chikwanda says the kwacha's depreciation against convertible currencies has cast a dark cloud on the country's chances of benefiting from low oil prices on the international market.

Chikwanda, however, says despite the steep exchange rate, the government should find a way of passing on the benefit of the low prices to consumers.

In an interview, Chikwanda said Zambia has been robbed of the opportunity to benefit from low international fuel prices due to the state of the kwacha.

"You know we have a very awkward situation as a country and also as a continent in the sense that the prices on the international market have really tumbled...and they will remain low for the rest of this year according to forecasts and only countries with better performing currency index are benefitting from this opportunity and so as a continent and as a country, we have been robbed of the opportunity to benefit from low international prices, by and large because of the deteriorated state of the local currency. The exchange rate is casting a dark cloud over our prospects of a better pump price, it's casting a dark cloud, at K18 and it's very steep, it's very, very steep...but surely, we have to find a better way of maybe seeing how, I don't know, even if it's a one percent or a five percent benefit to the people, hopefully it can be squeezed out as we come to this price," Chikwanda said.

"What happens is that you have to check how far the price has fallen on the international market and how far the exchange rate has also performed; how far has it fallen or how far has it gone up? So that gap between the two fundamentals, that is what is used to determine whether the price should be increased or the price should be reduced or maintained, so we are keeping our fingers crossed and we are hoping that this time around, the potential to pass the benefit to the people could be tenable because what was procured, was procured at a price that was quite compared to even where the price is now."

He, however, noted there is need to review whether there is still need for customs duty waivers for importers of fuel because prices in the region have gone down.

"And so it's a very difficult situation that we are in but what I could maybe advise is at the moment, the refinery is down and the crude oil is not coming in so we have got a number of oil companies that are bringing fuel into the country who have been given a waiver on import. A number of them are bringing in from the region, so the region where they are bringing from, the prices are quite low so we need to verify the customs duty which we waived, whether it is still valid to waive or it shouldn't be waived so that we can test whether what we are buying from the region can still land at an affordable price even without further incentivizing them," said Chikwanda.

By Julia Malunga  
TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says it is extremely disturbed with revelations that Ministry of Health that last year awarded a US\$17 million to supply health center kits to a company that did not exist. In a statement, Thursday,

TIZ executive director Maurice Nyambe observed that the Health Ministry had continued to make headlines for all manner of wrong reasons.

"TIZ is extremely perturbed by the revelations in the 9th June 2020 edition of the News Diggers newspaper to the effect that the Zambian government, through the Ministry of Health last year awarded a US\$17million contract for the supply of health centre kits to a company that did not exist according to records at the Patents and Companies' Registration Agency (PACRA). The importance of all government entities adhering to all the provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2008 cannot be overemphasized as those provisions are meant to protect procurement processes from any undue influences that may result in improper conduct by any of the entities involved," Nyambe stated.

"Public procurement of any kind should emphasise value for money and only credible companies with the necessary experience should be allowed to participate. We are all painfully aware of the numerous corruption allegations that has been associated with public procurement in this country, and it is still evident that this country continues to lose colossal sums of public resources through such suspicious transactions," Nyambe urged the ministry

# Cancel drug supply tender to pave way for investigations - TIZ

to immediately provide the Zambian public with full information on the matter.

"TI-Z makes an urgent call to the Ministry of Health to immediately halt this procurement process whether retrospectively or otherwise in order to allow for a comprehensive investigation to be carried out. Further, we call upon and challenge the Ministry to immediately provide the Zambian public with full information on this matter in order to clarify the circumstances under which what appears to be a gigantic procurement anomaly was allowed to happen. Further, we want to call for a forensic audit of all public procurement at the Ministry of Health from 2011 to date. It is possible that this award of a contract could just be one of several other scandals at the Ministry of Health," he stated

Nyambe stated that it was unacceptable that a contract of that value and magnitude could be awarded in such a circumstance.

"Given the foregoing, TI-Z finds it not just astonishing but unacceptable that a contract of the value and magnitude as has been reported could be awarded in such circumstances to a company that was not in existence at the time of award of the contract. There is absolutely no justification for such action, particularly that Zambia has a number of well-established pharmaceutical companies with a track record

in the drugs and healthcare supply chain. This unfortunate action is symptomatic of glaring weaknesses in the procurement systems at the Ministry of Health, and a blatant and shameless disregard of procurement systems and procedures as outlined in the Public Procurement Act," he said

Nyambe said he was concerned that government entities had continued to treat procurement processes that costed huge sums of money with negligence.

"The unfortunate fact that there is precedence when it comes to such matters at the Ministry of Health is not lost on TI-Z. We recall that in November 2017, the Zambia Pharmaceuticals Business Forum (ZPBF) raised a red flag and wrote to the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) over concerns that the Ministry of Health was deviating from the Public Procurement Act restricting the award of tenders for the supply of drugs to selected pharmaceutical companies, a tender that was worth an

estimated US\$80million. TI-Z is concerned that government entities have continued to treat such procurement processes that cost huge sums of money with a laxity that gives a sense of trepidation about what else is going on," he observed.

Nyambe appealed to the office of the Auditor General to take interest in the procurement processes at government ministries to stop apparent abuse.

"The Ministry of Health has in the last couple of years continued to make headlines for all manner of wrong doings particularly where public procurement is concerned and it is time that action is taken to clean up house and put a stop to the apparent rot. In the same vein, we would like to appeal to both the Office of the Auditor General and the ZPPA to take particular interest in procurement processes at government Ministries in order to put a stop to the apparent abuse and disregard of the provisions of the Public Procurement Act in these entities," stated Nyambe.

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# State House deletes Lungu's condolences message to Nkurunziza after negative feedback

By Julia Malunga

STATE House has deleted President Edgar Lungu's message of condolences in which he eulogised Burundi's outgoing President Pierre Nkurunziza which was posted on the Head of State's official Facebook page after getting negative feedback. President Lungu said Nkurunziza's demise was a tragedy and that he would be remembered for spearheading infrastructure projects aimed at making water and electricity more accessible to the people of Burundi.

"I am deeply saddened by the deaths of outgoing Burundi President Peirre Nkurunziza who died on Tuesday following an illness. I learnt of Mr Nkurunziza's death with deep sorrow and his demise is shocking because he was unwell for a short period. He was to democratically hand over power to that country's President-elect General Major Evariste Ndayishiyie who emerged victorious following a milestone democratic presidential election held in Burundi recently. The demise of President Peirre Nkurunziza is a tragedy. I recall that President Nkurunziza played a significant role in successfully ushering Burundi into the East African Community Economic Bloc in November 2006," posted President Lungu.

"He will also be remembered for having aided the reformation of the economic community of the Great Lakes Countries, the trade organization that comprised Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in April 2007. Further, he will be remembered for spearheading infrastructure projects aimed at making water and electricity more accessible to the people of Burundi. On behalf of the government of the Republic of Zambia, the people and indeed my own behalf I wish to convey sincere and deepest condolences to your Excellency to the government of the Republic of Burundi and the bereaved family on the death of outgoing President of the Republic of Burundi Mr Peirre Nkurunziza. May the Almighty God comfort the bereaved family and the entire nation. As we join the rest of the world in commiserating with the people of Burundi, please accept your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration."

But President Lungu's followers however reacted negatively to the post.

"Too bad it's a wrong country," posted Melvin Makumba.

Another follower, Sarafina Nthenga, seemingly 'admired' the people of Burundi.

"Utunensu (Our friends)," commented Nthenga.

And Dumiso Mawere hoped that God would answer Zambia's prayers.

"Some countries are blessed, anyway God will answer our prayers too," said Mawere.

Chongo McDonald said he waited for another African

leader, who was a dictator, to die.

"Remember him just as government alone, not including the people, there is nothing good to remember about [a] dictator. Us the people are just waiting on whose next," wrote McDonald.

Another follower, Clement

Sikazwe, said the 'angel's mission had not yet been accomplished.

"Very sad indeed, it's good that the angel is still roaming in Africa. The mission hasn't been accomplished yet," said Sikazwe.

Innocent Kangwa said God was blessing other countries.

"See what God is doing for other countries," posted Kangwa.

Meanwhile, Keith Moono likened Nkurunziza to President Lungu for trying to run for a third term.

"Nkurunziza was a dictator who manipulated his country's constitution to run

for a third term just like the way to impose Bill 10 on us," said Moono.

President Lungu's handlers were forced to delete the post. This is the second post to be deleted in a space of a week. The first post which was deleted was a video in which the Head of State ordered

police to sort out youths who were planning to protests against various governance issues.

Nkurunziza was President of Burundi since August 2005. He died three weeks after the election of his successor, Evariste Ndayishimiye.

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says there is growing tension in the country because government is giving more business opportunities to foreigners than Zambians. Meanwhile, Hichilema says like George Floyd, a lot of Zambians had died at the hands of police.

Speaking on SABC News, Wednesday evening, Hichilema said the failure by government to take into account the importance of offering jobs to Zambians rather than foreigners has spurred friction among youths.

"There is definitely tension in the country. There is a feeling amongst citizens that opportunities are being given to the Chinese more than the local people are. What are these opportunities? Access to land, mining licences, trader's licences, contracts in the road sector. The citizens are seeing this trend as one which is favoring foreigners in particular China at the expense of local people, at the expense of jobs for the local people. You will find that a company, a road construction company run by the Chinese, the basics of jobs are being done by the Chinese while Zambians remain unemployed. So I think this is the issue here and any government must take into account the importance of offering opportunities for jobs, for business, for contracts to its citizens as well. Otherwise you create this friction, that is what is happening in Zambia," Hichilema said.

Hichilema also said government illegally deprived locals from undertaking gold exploration by giving access to a Karma mining, a Sudanese company.

"We all understand the importance of investment in a country to grow the economy, to create jobs but what is happening in our country is that the issuance of all opportunities in the mining sector to entities, in this particular case we are talking about the Sudanese group of people that they have been given access to the gold resources. Resources that a number of Zambians already had licences over and this government is trying to take away the mining rights, the mining opportunities, processing opportunities and granting them to Sudanese in a dubious manner without actually making a competitive permit along the way. So that marks of corruption, that is what citizens are complaining

## There is tension in Zambia because govt favours Chinese – Hichilema

about," he said.

And Hichilema said government was using police to suppress youth voices on various matters.

"The youths were voicing their concerns with regards to employment, to lack of opportunities and indeed many other difficulties that the population in Zambia is having. The youth in particular, even the issues of schools, colleges, are a problem long before the coronavirus arrived here, already, our population was in distress. The youths had been voicing their views and dissatisfaction and one Minister in Lusaka threatened to brutalize the youths using the police and using their political party thugs," he said.

"The President, instead of actually moderating his Minister, he encouraged his Ministers that they should actually use the police with the Minister of Home Affairs to actually brutalise the youths, including the musicians who voiced their dissatisfaction on the living conditions of the country, this is unacceptable.

I have encouraged the youths to continue respecting their freedoms, their rights especially the freedoms of expression because that is a legal entitlement, that is the natural justice, it cannot be taken by anybody."

Hichilema said it had become a pattern for the PF government to use the police to suppress citizens.

"Nobody needs to be incited by anybody, these are adults, the youths have entered adulthood, they understand the provisions in the constitution, they understand that these provisions are universal, they don't need my encouragement or indeed anybody else's encouragement. So, they are doing what is right, anybody that stands in their way, anybody that tries to silence them is actually breaking the constitution, is breaking the law. So there is no issue of inciting anybody, it is within the legal limits. So, nobody should be uncomfortable unless a leadership that is confirming that it is brutal and

it is oppressing citizens. We don't want anyone to oppress citizens' rights," Hichilema said.

Meanwhile, Hichilema said like George Floyd, a lot of Zambians had died at the hands of police.

"I must tell you that In our country, we have George Floyd, a number of George Floyd in Zambia. A student was killed at the University of Zambia by the police while she was sitting in her room, the police discharged tear gas canisters in her room and she died out of suffocation. Under the police, another youth

killed and brutality executed by the police when she was exercising her right of freedom of assembly. All these are in the public domain. So these are the pattern by the party in office except that the region seems not to be aware of these negative issues happening, this is an affront to democracy in our country. We should not tolerate this, no leadership calling itself democratic and constitutional should actually act in the manner the Zambian government should act in. No one is being incited and no one needs to be incited. People must speak!" said Hichilema.



By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUNDAZI Central member of parliament Lawrence Nyirenda is in parliament illegally because he does not hold a full Grade 12 certificate or equivalent qualifications, losing independent candidate Colonel Bizwayo Nkunika has argued.

Col Nkunika, 71, has told the Constitutional Court that he, on the other hand, has a full Grade 12 certificate, among other qualifications.

This is a matter in which Col Nkunika has petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare the Lundazi Central parliamentary seat vacant, alleging that the current member does not hold a full Grade 12 certificate.

Col Nkunika cited Nyirenda and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) as first and second respondents, stating that ECZ contravened Articles 70 and 72 of the Constitution when it allowed Nyirenda to contest the Lundazi Central seat without meeting the minimum qualifications.

He wants the court to declare the seat vacant and that ECZ should thereafter hold elections within 90 days.

When the matter came up for hearing before Constitutional Court president Hilda Chibomba who sat with four other judges, Wednesday, Col Nkunika told the court that there was a contravention of the Constitution when ECZ allowed

## Lundazi Central MP is in parley illegally - Nkunika

Nyirenda to contest the election.

"By practice in Zambia, when we say a person must have a grade 12 certificate, it means a full certificate comprising at least five subjects," Col Nkunika said.

Asked in cross examination by Nyirenda's lawyer, Tutwa Ngulube, to confirm whether he had brought the matter to court because he lost the election to Nyirenda, the former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom said he was in court because the Lundazi member of parliament was in parliament illegally as he did not hold a full Grade 12 certificate or its equivalent.

He added that Nyirenda did not hold those qualifications at the time of nominations, elections or when the matter was brought to court.

"He has never held any rank under the Zambia National Service nor has he undergone military training under the Zambia National Service at his former institution. I do not allege forgery but my complaint is that Mr Nyirenda does not have necessary qualifications to be in parliament," Col Nkunika said.

But Ngulube argued that it was not Col Nkunika to determine who had the requisite qualifications, as it was the preserve of the Examinations Council of Zambia and Zambia Qualifications Authority that were mandated to determine the qualifications a person holds.

The lawyer further argued that Nyirenda held a grade 12 certificate, diploma in secondary school teaching and equivalent qualifications.

And asked by Ngulube which clause was breached by allowing Nyirenda to take part in the election, Col Nkunika said he did not know the specific clause but that Articles 70 and 72 of the Constitution were breached.

Further asked whether the Constitution stopped an elected member of parliament from upgrading their qualifications, Col Nkunika said Nyirenda obtained the upgraded qualifications after the petition over the full grade 12 certificate was also already in court.

The matter comes up on Monday for continued cross examination.



**Civil Society for  
Poverty Reduction**

# CSPR SOCIAL PROTECTION BUDGET TRACKING & SERVICE DELIVERY SURVEY KEY FINDINGS (Case of Nchelenge & Samfya Districts)

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION.

Social Protection plays a critical role in realizing human rights for all, reducing poverty and inequality, and supporting inclusive growth by boosting human capital and productivity, supporting domestic demand and facilitating structural transformation of national economies (ILO, 2019). Public expenditure on social sectors is critical for the development of any nation. This is because social services such as health care provision and education would be undersupplied without government intervention. Moreover, Government intervention in the social sectors is justified on the grounds of positive externalities and market failures (United Nations University, 2019).

Against the above, the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), has been monitoring allocations and disbursement of government expenditure towards social protection programs and other social sectors in general. This has been achieved through detailed budget tracking and service delivery monitoring exercises in social protection as well as health, education, water and sanitation, and agriculture. However, for this report, the budget tracking and service delivery monitoring concentrated on social protection program only despite a small section of the review of budget allocation toward the social sector from 2012-2018.

Budget tracking in this paper concentrated on the three pillars of social protection which are Social Assistance, Livelihoods and Empowerment and Protection. The Social Assistance Pillar, concentrates on the protective interventions that seek to shield targeted populations from the consequences of economic and social shocks, poverty and destitution in particular and some of the programs that were assessed included social cash transfer etc. Further, the Livelihood and Empowerment Pillar looks at dimensions that strengthens livelihood capacities through initiatives to empower segments of the population that are poor but have

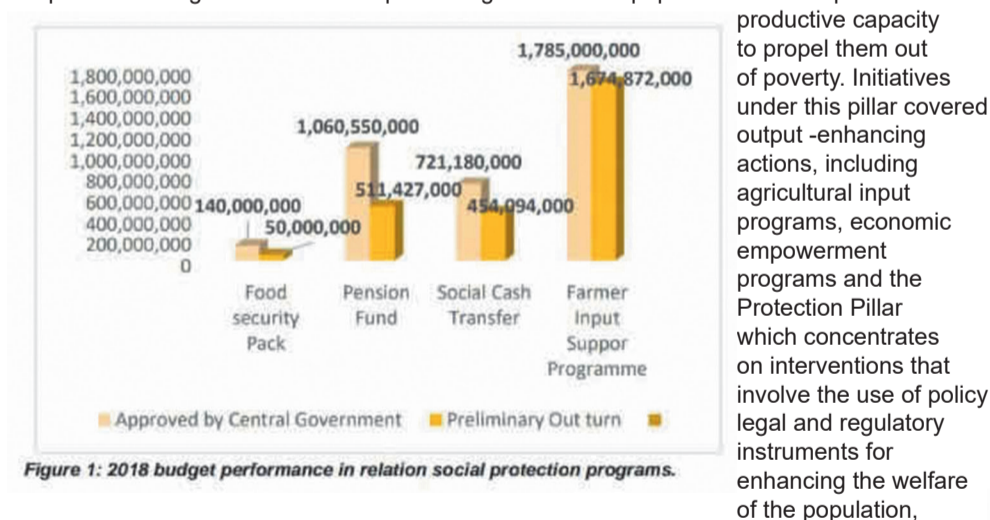


Figure 1: 2018 budget performance in relation social protection programs.

productive capacity to propel them out of poverty. Initiatives under this pillar covered output -enhancing actions, including agricultural input programs, economic empowerment programs and the Protection Pillar which concentrates on interventions that involve the use of policy legal and regulatory instruments for enhancing the welfare of the population,

changing structural causes such as social norms or power imbalances, which are at the origin of poverty and vulnerability.

## 1.1 2018 BUDGET EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE IN RELATION TO SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

### 1.1.1 National Budget Disbursement towards Social Protection 2018.

On average the three social protection programs which include food security, pension funds and social cash transfer under performed on allocations versus disbursements by central government. On the other hand, the farmer input support programme performed well in 2018. Disbursement under FSP was only 35.7% of the approved, Pension funds 48.2% and Social Cash Transfer's disbursement was only up to 63% of the approved allocation by the central government.

Only FISP performed well which saw the disbursement go up to 93.8% in the 2018 national budget. The low execution of the social protection Budget has a negative effect on public service delivery especially for the poor and vulnerable rural population.

### 1.2 2018 LUAPULA PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION.

In Luapula Province, at provincial level, the funding for implementation of departmental programs has been poor with inadequate or no funding at all, with this prevalence being

among programs planned under provincial administration as compared to programs planned by Headquarters do receive fair attention though not adequately funded. There are two programs that were centrally budgeted at K332,640.00 and were allocated K419,397.00. K253,077.00 was disbursed and only K113,602.00 was spent which saw the implementation of programs such as Agriculture Support and Skills Training.

However, funds for the other provincial planned programs which were budgeted for and allocated were not disbursed. The affected programmes include Micro Credit to Women, Non-Formal Education and Skills Training and Procurement and distribution of adult literacy materials. Figure 2 shows the aggregated allocation and disbursement of social protection funds in Luapula Province.

### 1.2.1 NCHELANGE DISTRICT.

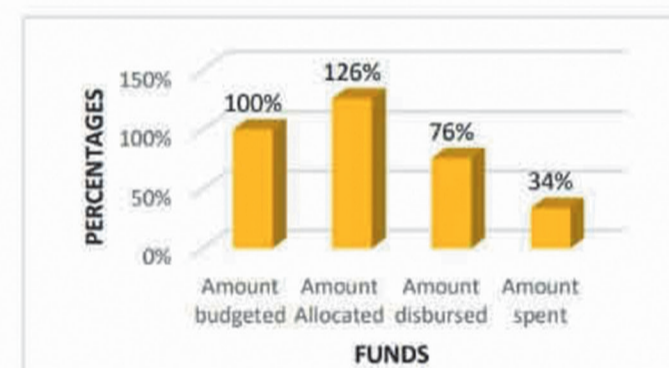


Figure 2: Luapula Provincial disbursement of Social Protection funds.

### 1.2.1.1 Community Development.

Under community development, the total amount disbursed was K172, 249.20 which was more than what was allocated due to the fact that an extra amount of K52,666.33 was also released for Non-Formal and Skills Training Program. Despite the funds for skills training being disbursed by Headquarters, proper guidelines have not been availed on the usage of funds. CSPR observed that the system of centrally budgeting by headquarters in Lusaka, pose a challenge in terms of proper tracking of the funds. The study established that it is the discretion of the headquarters to determine how much funds to disburse to the districts and not necessarily according to district needs.

### 1.2.1.2 Social Welfare.

On social cash transfer, the total amount budgeted was K12,971,320.00, by the District and allocated was K3,987,560.00 by the central government: Thus, the budgeted amount was reduced by over 300%.

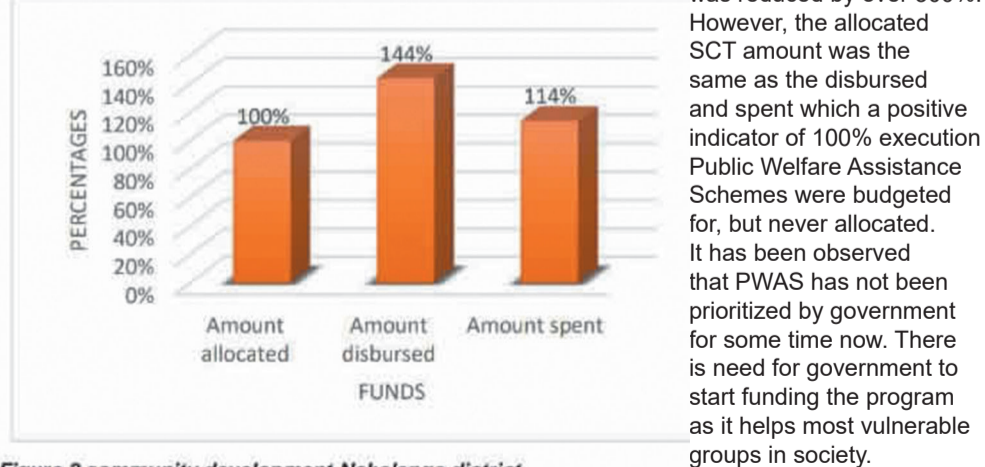


Figure 3: community development Nchelenge district.

In Samfya district, an indication was made that of all the four social protection programs, only the food security pack program was funded. The rest of the programs including, FISP and economic empowerment programmes for women did not receive any funding during the

period under review. FSP received 100% disbursement of the allocated amount during the period under review. The programmes was allocated K 150,426.87 and K 150,426.87 was disbursed and spent.

2.0 SOCIAL PROTECTION EXPENDITURE AND REVIEW. Social Protection Expenditure includes releases on services and transfers provided to individuals and households and releases on services provided on a collective basis. This includes expenditure on Pensions Fund, Farmer Input Support Programme, Social Cash Transfer and Food Security Pack. The Social Cash Transfer Programme remains the largest component of social protection expenditure. Funding for social protection increased from K656 million in 2012 to K2.3 billion in 2018. The Social Protection (SP) budget has decreased nominally by 15% from the K2.7 billion in 2017 to K2.3 billion in the 2018 Budget. The decline is on account of the reduction in the allocation to the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF) which has been reduced by 33%. However, the PSPF still accounts for a dominant share of the SP budget at 46% compared to the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) at 31% and other interventions at 17% (ZIPAR & UNICEF, 2017).

2.1 Expenditure Rates. Government expenditure towards the Pension Fund was K 511,427,000 in 2018 while that on the Social Cash Transfer was at K454,094,000. The expenditure on the Food Security Pack was K 50,000,000 and Farmer Input Support Program was K 1,674,872,000. In terms of expenditure rates, the FISP has the highest percentage expenditure at 93.83%, followed by SCT at 62.9%, Pension Fund at 48.22% and FSP at 35.71% respectively.

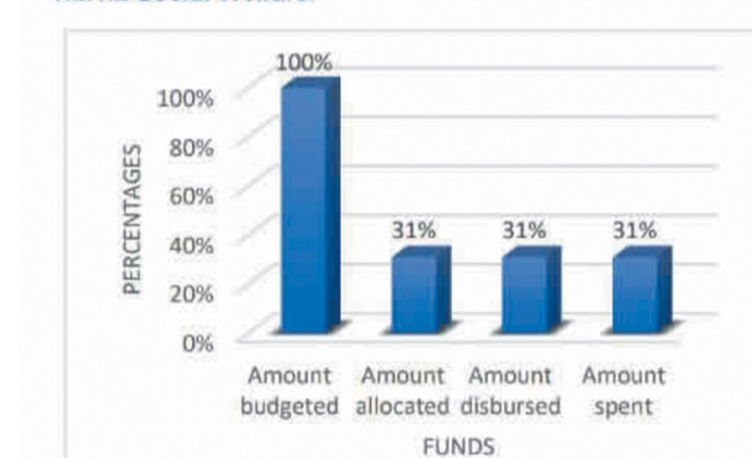
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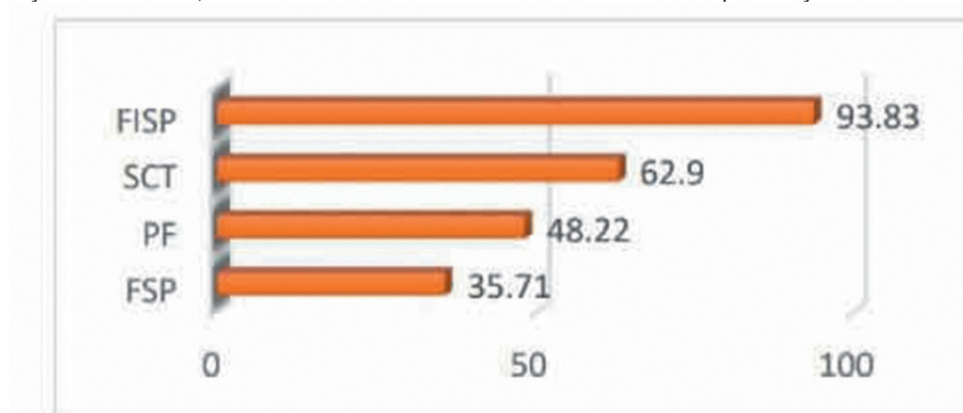


Figure 5: 2018 Budget expenditure towards social protection program.

## 3.0 SUMMARY FINDINGS ON SERVICE DELIVERY MONITORING IN NCHELANGE AND SAMFYA DISTRICTS IN LUAPULA PROVINCE.

This section presents the survey findings on the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery specifically towards social protection programmes in Nchelenge and Samfya districts of Luapula province. The findings are presented in simple descriptive statistics. A total of 30 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 360 respondents were held in six different wards of Nchelenge and Samfya. These focus group discussions were divided

into groups of youths, women and men. Further to that, semi-structured interviews were held with traditional leaders, government workers and some representative of community-based organizations.

The survey covered different villages in Nchelenge District namely Mukombwe, Kabuta, Shanyemba, Kanyembo, Chishima and Mulanga. In Samfya district survey covered different villages too namely Mufimba, Luka Mumba, Joseph Lulembo, Kafweni, Fwaka Kunda and Mabo among others. The score card was administered in groups and the leading responses have then been used to make a conclusion and an in-depth analysis.

### 3.1 Social Assistance.

In summary, there is limited social assistance in both Nchelenge and Samfya districts as evidenced by the small number of vulnerable people receiving social cash transfer, lack of timeliness in the disbursement of Social Cash Transfer to beneficiaries, inadequate inclusion of vulnerable persons with disabilities on SCT and insufficient support provided through the Food Security Pack program. Additionally, the support given to the most vulnerable people in the community through the public welfare assistance programme is insufficient and there is limited access to social welfare funds and education support.

### 3.1.2 Livelihood and Empowerment.

Regarding Livelihoods and economic empowerment, it was concluded that majority of the women do not have access to grant support. There is limited support towards the provision of equipment to women clubs, inadequate support system to community self-help activities, on-formal and skills training, women development activities, inadequate funds towards village banking, literacy survival skills and non-timely disbursement of funds towards village banking. Despite government efforts in implementing food security packs in certain areas of Luapula Province, food insecurity is at a rise in Samfya and Nchelenge districts due to limited and inconsistent delivery of food security pack (FSP), limited number of early childhood education (ECE) and primary school learners on feeding programmes and communities benefiting from FISP. Further, low capacity households are not provided with agricultural inputs while there is inadequate transparency in the selection of beneficiaries of FISP.

### 3.1.3 Protection.

The protection situation in both Nchelenge and Samfya district has remained poor as evidenced from the responses that have been provided regarding gender-based violence and the total absence of reformatory homes, anti-human trafficking services and the lack of effectiveness of police officers to act on the GBV related cases.

### 4.0 Conclusion.

The study has established the Social Protection budget performance at both central government and district levels. It has also documented the state of Social Protection service delivery in the 2 districts as planned under each pillar of the National Social Protection Policy. In terms of child protection, there is poor staffing of child protection officers in the 2 districts, a situation that has led to failure to prevent the violation of children's rights including the worst forms such as Sexual Gender Based Violence, with high prevalence of child marriages. Government support towards social welfare is inadequate given the huge number of poor people who need it in the districts. Community Development programmes equally suffer from poor funding which include untimely and inconsistent disbursements. Social welfare situation in both Nchelenge and Samfya district has remained poor and the economic livelihood activities in these two districts have remained static, hence, negatively affecting the living standards of majority people.

### 5.0 Recommendations.

- 1) Government should ensure timeliness, adequate uptake, financing and coordination of funding and disbursement of social protection funds in all the districts.
- 2) Government should decentralize the procurement of farming inputs under the Farmers Input Support Program to enhance the distribution process.
- 3) Government should enhance the needs assessment exercise before embarking on the distribution of Food Security Pack.
- 4) Government should ensure that there is adequate support, timeliness, access and transparency in the Social Protection programs.
- 5) Government should ensure the enhancement of the integrated framework system on Social Protection programs, make Social Cash Transfer predictable, regular and reconsider the value.
- 6) The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services should be allowed to use Electoral Commission of Zambia, Zambia Army, Zambia National Services transport (trucks) to distribute subsidies such as FISP and FSP.

When people with common interests band together, their voices can be heard and their chances of influencing the political debate increase. That is what is expected of a healthy democracy. Democracy is more than the sum of government institutions operating freely. A healthy democracy depends, in large part, on the development of a democratic civic culture. Culture in this sense does not refer to art, literature, music or dance, but to the behaviours, practices and norms that define the ability of a people to govern themselves. But Zambia is not a democracy any more.

President Edgar Lungu and his Minister of Home Affairs have basically issued instructions to the police to arrest the youths who are seeking to demonstrate against bad governance. We are not surprised. By that action, the Head of State is saying no to freedom of speech and no to freedom of assembly. Again, we are not surprised. President Lungu doesn't want people to govern themselves. To us, that looks like a dictatorial approach towards national governance. A leader who says no to a citizenry that wants to govern itself ceases to be a servant of the people. Ultimately, he becomes the master and his electors turn into slaves. This is not surprising.

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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# Stupid disgruntled youths should think twice before dancing Dununa next time

Two days ago, we published a brief editorial opinion in which we were describing the qualities of a dictator. Under a dictatorship, protestors of bad governance are punished harshly. Political power is concentrated in the hands of few people or just one person. Media freedom is systematically obliterated; leaving newspapers, radio and television as tools of indoctrination. State-sponsored violence and other human rights abuses are used to control the population. Citizens are not allowed to check the ruler's power; people's complaints are condemned and regarded as sponsored sentiments of regime

change. Under a dictatorship, the right to private property is easily abolished. Dictators weaken institutions of governance, and compromise law enforcement agencies to protect individuals in the ruler's inner circle.

You can remove the word dictator and replace it with Edgar Lungu, and the story will read just fine. Under Edgar Lungu, protestors of bad governance are punished harshly. Under Edgar Lungu, political power is concentrated in the hands of few people or just one person. Under Edgar Lungu, there is no media freedom; newspapers, radio and television stations are turned into tools of indoctrination and propaganda. Under Edgar Lungu,

state-sponsored violence and other human rights abuses are used to control the population. Under Edgar Lungu, citizens are not allowed to check the ruler's power; people's complaints are condemned and regarded as sponsored sentiments of regime change. Under Edgar Lungu's rule, the right to private property is easily abolished. Edgar Lungu's leadership weakens institutions of governance, and compromises law enforcement agencies to protect individuals in the ruler's inner circle.

We are not calling President Lungu a dictator, we don't have to. People just have to look around and see for themselves what kind of leader he is.

The youths who voted him into office are now being threatened with arrests if they complain or comment on bad governance. Look at what is happening to media houses that have offered a platform for divergent views. We see a heavy handed police shooting citizens whom it is supposed to protect. Law enforcement agencies are covering up for criminals in government, and taking instructions from the President's inner circle on whom to prosecute.

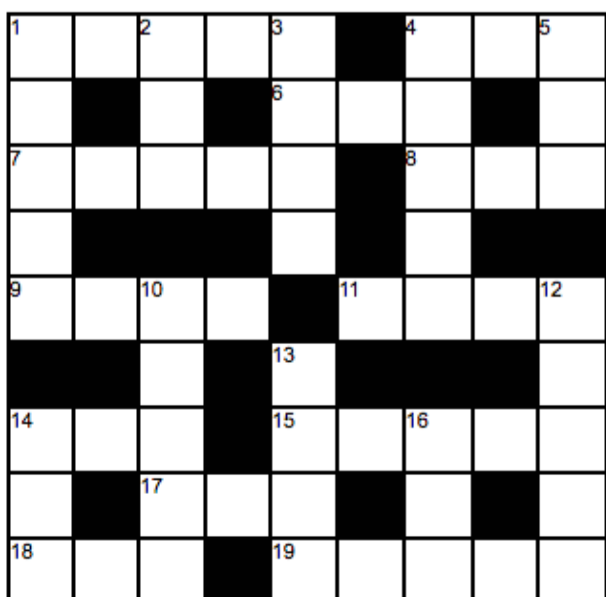
One would say President Lungu has changed; that he is no longer a humble man, he is no longer a soft spoken God fearing leader. But that is not true. This President has not changed. Those with a good memory

will remember that he said, at the beginning of his tenure in 2015, that he would fall on anyone who comes in his way like a tone of bricks. He said he moves with a long stick to whip anyone who questions his authority. "Don't look at my small body, those who want to dare me will have themselves to blame when I fall on them," said President Lungu.

If democracy has been obliterated under his reign, we must not say Lungu has become a dictator, we must instead say we have become aware of his true colours. And that is the problem that we have with the people of this country who are complaining about President Lungu's leadership. We have stated before that President Lungu is one of the most honest leaders this country has ever had. He told us just about everything that we needed to know about him, but we elected him. Not once, but twice!

It's good that the youths who danced so vigorously to Dununa Reverse are here to see for themselves where that ecstatic campaign euphoria has brought them. It's good that the same gospel singers who had abandoned God to start worshiping politicians in exchange for money have now seen how this regime regards them. Stupid, naked, disgruntled youths. We hope they learn a lesson.

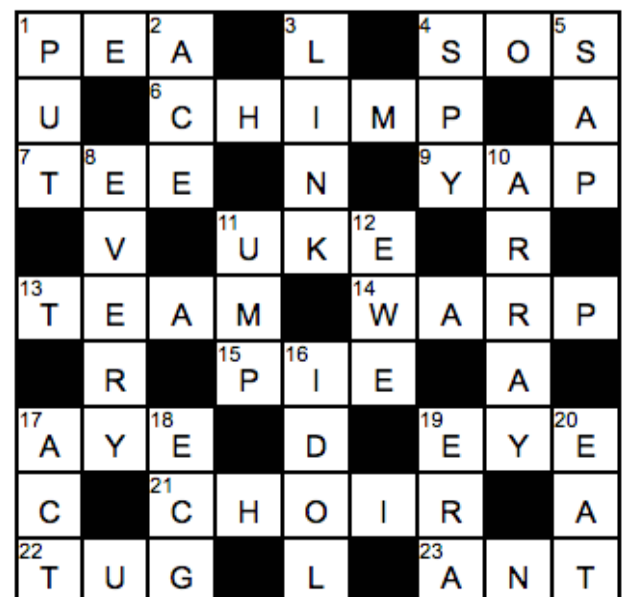
## Crossword puzzle No 623



*"If you have any hate in your heart, you will not be able to create a society that is just."*  
- Debasish Mridha

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steer clear of</li> <li>4. Depressed</li> <li>6. Part of a circle</li> <li>7. Grace word</li> <li>8. Type of tree</li> <li>9. Not common</li> <li>11. Car scar</li> <li>14. Constrictor snake</li> <li>15. Flame</li> <li>17. Fib</li> <li>18. Thomas nickname</li> <li>19. Shoe bottom</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fireplace remnant</li> <li>2. Beer</li> <li>3. Not difficult</li> <li>4. Place of action</li> <li>5. Dull</li> <li>10. Royal domain</li> <li>12. Current style or fashion</li> <li>13. Encourage</li> <li>14. Poker action</li> <li>16. Had a bite</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## Crossword puzzle No 622



# Readers' Feedback

## B-Flow's accusation to supporters of causing confusion after meeting Bowman at State House

Editor,

"If you don't stand for something, you fall for anything' whatever he said at state house has already been echoed by patriotic Zambians. Bflow had the chance to be on the right side of history but alas he has chosen the Judas Iscariot way. But all hope is not lost, this fight is for every youth, let us all stand up and defend what belongs to us by registering to vote and do the right thing on that day, those of us that have voters cards, please let's keep them safe and jealously. VIVA YOUTH!" - Jeff G

Chungu

"To the young people in Zambia, no single person qualifies to be called 'voice of the voiceless' not even me. Each one of us have the power and the responsibility to be our own voices. No single person should be allowed to tell you that you are voiceless in a democratic country. We have the same power to express ourselves. Let's defend our dignity by defending our liberties and freedoms". - Pierre Tavaka Jnr

"Ok ba B-Flow, good for you, otherwise for the rest of the citizenry ni nayo-

nayo, no to corruption, lack of transparency (closed door meetings regarding public matters), and the supression of freedom of expression. Dialogue is important, but certain matters require no discussion, Jesus shut dialogue with the devil by simply saying 'it is written', you should have shut that down by simply saying 'the Disgruntled Youths have Spoken'". - Mercy Mwanza

"Okay B Flow is a disappointment and disgrace. So after all the talks and talks then you come say this sure

??? Even after being recognized by BBC awe mwandi get serious. And a lot of Youths looked up to you. TSK USELESS!" - Sech Nzima

"This is why we don't vote for youths they're easily compromised, in the end we end up with the so-called recycled politicians". - Kasanda Fewdays Jr.

"The young man is just echoing what more senior and wiser citizens have already raised. Issues he has raised are not state secrets, they are already in the public domain". - David M Mwanangombe



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published. Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

## Cost of living hits K7,195.60

Editor,

"We have stopped living, we are existing". - Charles Chola

"What do you expect from a Narcissistic Kleptocracy fueled and encouraged and institutionalised Stealing Culture by Lungu's Model of 'uubomba mwibala alya mwibala'; Kuba na nzelu; Kuba na mayele-Mobutu's Advice to his Ministers. The Economy is in ruins and adversely affecting only

the poor majority. With no Empirical Data, GBM was recently quoted saying that the Zambian Economy is doing better than the South African Economy. This diagnosis can come from an ignomous who is selfishly enjoying at the expense of the Masses". - Simeo Musonda

"And one foolish man on social media was proudly supporting that people are not suffering they are just lazy". - Dorothy Chemba

## Chipampe's explanation of deletion of Lungu's threats video

Dear editor,

"We have the video stored already, come next year we will play it just as a reminder just in case we forget, just like the Zesco Bill, mealie meal receipts, and I have even got a tattoos of the #42 houses just in case they are collective amnesia. I'll be here to remind you all". - Phil Caesar Banda

"Even as the people protest to defend their freedom of expression, their right to life must also be gauranteed, if it is not, the consequences for those responsible for such deaths will be dire because it will further spark youth 'disgruntlement'. The Police must avail themselves at the scene to provide security for the peaceful protestors against PF cadres, or any such people known to wreak

havoc, chaos and violence. The Police must redeem it's name now or it's head Mr. Kanganja will be answerable to the people!" - Mercy Mwanza

"Ministry of clarification and damage control at work! Bravo!" - Gershom Habile

"We know what we want!The president is not our God, he is there because of us, we can still protest using the ballot box, and very effectively! Should we stop thinking and breathing just because the president says so?"

## threats video

NO! He doesn't own our lives. Its God who gave us life to enjoy and NO individual is going to take it away from us!" - Baldwin Michael

"With this kind of reasoning government is showing on all matters, it becomes very difficult for anyone to disbelieve what Seer I has been saying, that he has gotten his "powers" from them and scattered a seed of confusion. Honestly, these guys have become jokers". - Yuri Kasonde IV

## Chanda Kabwe on S/P leaders needing prayers

Dear editor,

"There is nothing wrong with Southern Province. There's, however, something very wrong with you, Mr. Kabwe. You need serious prayers!" - Prosper H Kamanda

"This man made a very strong allegation, he must produce evidence for the Radio station, failure to do so, he must face the law. You don't just speak without evidence. I am from Mazabuka (Southern province ) and I have never heard any Radio station saying that.. Elo one more thing this Government should realize is that people are noticing what's happening. DO YOU REALLY THINK PEOPLE WOULD/ WILL BELIEVE THAT THERE IS COVID WHEN THEY ARE BUSY TOURING THE NATION TO CAMPAIGN? AWE bane, Open your eyes!" - Nzubo

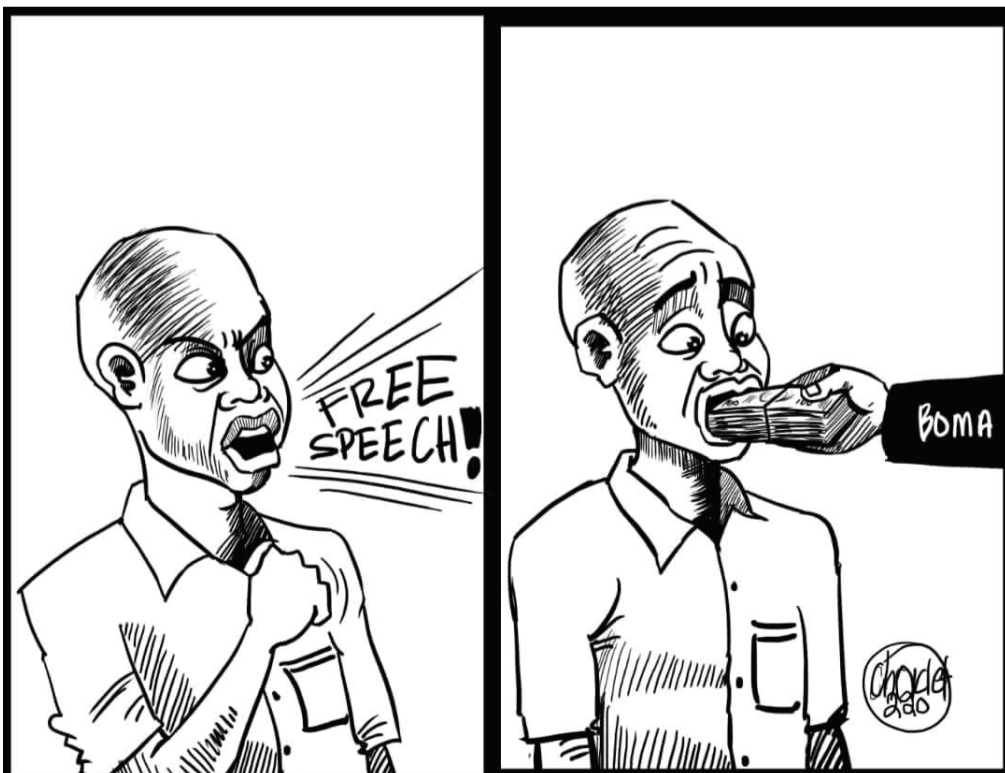
"Don't politicize Southern Province, if you want to help just help, not with that absurd propaganda you want to create to tarnish the image of Southern Province, don't bring politics everywhere". - Conard Wilson Chikumi

"A disaster managing national disater. What a disaster? Zambia is Purely Finished!" - Mubanga John

"That is a political statement coming from someone who is supposed to be a civil servant and none political". - Brian Mweene

"Look who's talking about praying for Southerners! A guy who is a PS in a Government that desperately needs prayers itself to fix Zambia's ailing economy". - Mike Phiri

"Who in Southern Province said that, it's wrong stereotyping a whole province leadership which actually is led by a PF provincial minister, Edify Hamukale where are you?" - Hikavula Cindundu





By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND Mazabuka Central member of parliament Garry Nkombo has written to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini on justice minister Given Lubinda's continued utterances in the media on the Constitution Amendment Bill 10.

In a letter dated May 22, 2020, Nkombo stated that the continued statement by Lubinda and others on Bill 10 while the House was awaiting a ruling from Dr Matibini on the way forward on the matter was a breach of parliamentary privilege.

"I write to officially lay a complaint before you, Mr Speaker, against Honourable Given Lubinda, the Honourable Member of Parliament for Kabwata Constituency and Minister of Justice, regarding his utterance as quoted in the public media regarding National Assembly

# Nkombo lodges complaint to Speaker against Lubinda's continued remarks on Bill 10

Bill number 10 (Bill 10) despite there being a pending ruling over the same. Mr Speaker, you will recall that before the house adjourned sine die on 18th March, 2020, I had raised a point of order regarding the continued debate by the House of Bill 10 in the face

of court proceedings that have been commenced in the Constitutional Court which relate to one of the provisions which is subject of Bill 10," Nkombo stated.

"On that occasion sir, you retired to consider the matters raised in my point

of order before returning to adjourn the House sine die without delivering any ruling on my said point of order. In that regard, your ruling Mr Speaker is still pending and as such, parliamentary practice and privilege demands that all members of the House desist

from discussing, debating or otherwise making any innuendos in relation to the matters subject of the pending ruling aforementioned."

He added that the continued comments by Lubinda that Bill 10 debate proceedings would continue once Parliament resumes were prejudicial to the proceedings of Parliament.

"It has thus come to me with a sense of deep concern that the Honourable Minister, Mr Lubinda, has issued and continues to issue running commentary on the continued debate of Bill 10 which he claims will continue once the House resumes sitting notwithstanding the pending ruling," Nkombo added.

"I note in particular comments attributed to the Honourable Minister in the News Diggers! Newspaper edition No 681 of 7th May, 2020, also enclosed herewith, in which he was quoted as saying debate on the bill will continue once the sitting of the House resumes, thereby preempting and undermining your ruling on the issue. In my considered view, the utterances by Honourable Lubinda, if correctly reported by the said newspaper, are prejudicial to the proceedings

of the House and are intentionally disrespectful of you, Mr Speaker, given the aforementioned circumstances. To this end, I write to seek redress against Hon Lubinda pursuant to sections 10 and 28 of the National Assembly (powers and Privileges) Act Chapter 12 of the Laws of Zambia as amended by the Act No. 13 of 2016."

He further asked Dr Matibini to direct members of parliaments to desist from making running commentaries on the process of enactment of Bill 10.

"I further seek indulgence, sir, that you direct all other persons, be they members of parliament or otherwise, to desist from making running commentaries on the process of enactment of Bill 10 pending delivery of your ruling on the point of order raised as allowing them to do so has the potential to demean the processes of this august House. I look forward to your further guidance on the subject matter of this letter and indeed on the point of order raised once parliament resumes sitting on 9th June, 2020 as announced by the Clerk of the National Assembly recently," stated Nkombo.

## Burundi cabinet meets on way forward after president's death



Burundi is mourning the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza who died on Monday after 15 years in power

BURUNDI held an extraordinary cabinet meeting Thursday to discuss a way forward after the sudden death of long-serving ruler Pierre Nkurunziza left many anxious over the future of the troubled country.

Nkurunziza, who died on Monday aged 55, had been due to step down in August after his surprise decision not to run in an election last month won by the ruling party's handpicked successor.

But his death has raised uncertainty and fears of a power struggle in a country whose recent history has been marked by violent political upheaval, a refugee exodus and civil war.

The government called a ministerial meeting to discuss "the management of the situation following the unexpected death" of Nkurunziza, who according to the government died of a heart attack after feeling unwell for two days.

The meeting wrapped up in the early afternoon, and

the government is expected to give an official statement on its outcome later in the day.

"The two vice presidents and cabinet ministers have already approached the constitutional court to declare the presidency vacant," a presidential advisor told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Under the constitution, the speaker of the National Assembly, Pascal Nyabenda, should take over in the event of the president dying.

However the country finds itself in an unusual situation, as a newly-elected president is waiting to be sworn in in August.

"The government seemed to be leaning towards a swift swearing-in of the president-elect, but things are changing because after intense discussions they may finally opt for the strict respect of the constitution with an interim led by the speaker," the presidential advisor said. This was confirmed by another high-ranking party member.

The path forward will be

ultimately be decided by a "crisis committee" answering to the president's office, a ministerial source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

This group comprises powerful generals like Nkurunziza, who emerged from the ethnic Hutu rebellion during Burundi's long civil war and ruled for 15 often tumultuous years.

"In reality, it is not the council of ministers that will decide what will happen... everything has been decided within the crisis committee that sits with the presidency," the source said.

- Personality cult -

Nkurunziza, an evangelical who believed he was chosen by God to rule the East African nation, fostered a personality cult around his leadership.

The ruling party declared him a "visionary" and "supreme guide for patriotism", and some officials likened his death to a catastrophe.

But he did not wield power alone, and analysts

say his death could provoke a tussle for power in the upper echelons of government.

Nkurunziza had wanted Nyabenda to succeed him, but the generals opted for Ndayishimiye who won the May 20 election.

While also a general, Ndayishimiye is not a regime hardliner and Nkurunziza had been expected to continue to play a significant role in the background.

His 2015 run for a third term in office sparked protests and a failed coup, with violence leaving at least 1,200 people dead while some 400,000 fled the country.

A climate of fear marked by a crackdown on the opposition and media settled over Burundi in the years after.

Rumours swirled on social media about his death, with some suspecting he had been infected by coronavirus.

His wife, first lady Denise Bucumi, who was recovering from the coronavirus in a Nairobi hospital, flew back to Bujumbura late Tuesday. **AFP**

## Europe to reopen borders but world virus toll mounts

BRUSSELS set out plans to reopen the EU's internal borders on Thursday, even as the global coronavirus outbreak hit worrying new landmarks in the United States, Latin America and Russia.

The European Commission recommended that the 27 EU members fully reopen their frontiers with each other on June 15 and with the western Balkans from July 1.

Europe's borders with the world beyond will open more gradually after that -- and only to countries where the pandemic is seen as under control.

The United States, which has the world's highest number of deaths and infections, marked a grim new milestone as recorded cases surged past two million Thursday.

Russia meanwhile passed the symbolic milestone of 500,000 confirmed cases, and Iran said 180,000 have been infected there.

And the death toll in Latin America passed 70,000 fatalities on Wednesday, according to an AFP tally of official figures.

Brazil, the region's worst-hit country, accounts for more than half of the total deaths in the region.

In all, the novel coronavirus has killed at least 416,000 people and infected more than 7.3 million since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to an AFP tally of official sources.

- Economic catastrophe -

The epidemic, along with economic and social lockdowns imposed by governments to contain its spread, has also left economic devastation in its wake.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development revealed Thursday that in the first three months of 2020, the G20 major economies shrank by 3.4 percent.

This is the largest decline since records began in 1998, with the steepest decline in China, where the economy shrank by 9.8 percent. **AFP**

**By Abraham Kalito**  
 SOCCER administrator Simataa Simataa has backed calls by England-based former footballer Howard Gayle to have Godfrey Ucar Chitalu honoured and his name added into the Hall of Fame as one of Africa's best strikers to ever grace the game of soccer.

Simataa, however, says the former footballer is only supporting a cause that was established years ago by the local authorities to acknowledge what Chitalu accomplished during his playing career.

"One, it's to lay information at the doors of FIFA, CAF and FAZ. Secondly, some people some time ago, I think led by Jerry or other people, did go to FAZ and say 'here are the facts', I think under Kalusha's administration. And an answer came forward where FIFA said they did not believe those records. I think that year, Maradona was being

# Simataa calls on FIFA to honour Godfrey Chitalu

claimed to be the highest scoring player at national team level. So, this person (Howard Gayle) is only supporting the cause, there has been a cause and maybe him being from Europe, they might listen. He has done well. The only thing I see is that there is an element of bias and it borders on racism, that I can say. I have heard a stupid comment from an official from FIFA that if it were true that Chitalu scored those goals, then the defense were weak," Simataa said.

He charged that officials from FIFA have refused to honour Chitalu because "he is a black man from Africa".

"Some FIFA people came to check that record. Firstly, I think our record keeping is poor. But when someone researches and brings you the evidence, you cannot deny that evidence on the basis of reading. You must do a similar research and come up with a different result. Jerry did a research, he compiled where each goal was scored against who and it amounted to more goals than the 107. But those are the ones that FAZ recognised. The year before and a couple of years after, he still scored more than 80 goals in a season. And in fact, we are doing injustice to the man by focusing on one season. And we had

another striker who would equally score those kind of goals, Gibon Chewe," Simataa said.

He said FIFA should at least give Chitalu a qualified recognition instead of ignoring the empirical evidence presented by local officials on the former

Chipolopolo's feat.

"There are people who played with Chitalu who are still alive, Richard Stevenson is still alive. That is why I believe that the reason he is not recognised like the other players is because he is from Africa. So, on Ulcar's situation, I

suspect racism. So, I cannot deny your research on the basis that I read your report and I don't believe," said Simataa. "I have to come up with empirical evidence as well to prove that you are wrong. But that evidence is there unproved and Chitalu should be honoured. The worst they can do is give him qualified recognition. So, that guy who is making this call is just another voice in the wilderness."

Chitalu died in 1993 when the plane ferrying Zambian footballers crushed into the Atlantic Ocean in Gabon.

## I told Xavi to go to Barca while the God of Football, Messi, is still there – Eto'o

SAMUEL Eto'o has instructed Xavi to return to Barcelona while Lionel Messi is still playing, with the former Cameroon ace branding the six-time Ballon d'Or winner the "God of Football".

Xavi already enjoys legendary status at Camp Nou, having turned out for the club on more than 500 occasions in the top flight, having spent 17 years as a professional with the team he joined in 1991.

Now 40, the ex-Spain international star is managing Al Sadd, where he spent the final four years of his playing career, but is continuously linked with a move back to Catalunya, particularly if there is a vacancy in the dugout.

While Xavi has previously stated that he does not feel ready for the task of leading Barca, Eto'o, who helped the club to the 2009 Champions League title under Pep Guardiola, has encouraged his former team-mate not to wait much longer.

"I've told Xavi that whatever happens, he has to go back to Barca – and I told him that he has to do it while the God of Football is still there," he told Catalunya Radio.

"He played with him, and that will make it easier

for him than for another."

Meanwhile, Eto'o has told Barca that Luis Suarez cannot easily be replaced, even if they add Lautaro Martinez to their ranks from Inter this summer.

"I love Suarez. He's making an incredible story with Barcelona," he said when asked if he or the Uruguayan is the club's greatest No.9. "We're both lucky to have played for such a club.

"Luis is always Luis, he is one of the best players in

the world in his position. It is obvious that Barca have to reinforce themselves, but it is not necessary to take away the stripes of a general. Luis is a general, he is a captain, and he cannot be demoted.

"Lautaro is doing very well, but people have a tendency to forget recent history. Luis has written the history of Barca and of football. We must admit it. That does not mean that new players should be excluded, but you can't forget the greats." **GOAL**



## Jovic not committed at Madrid - Mijatovic

LUKA Jovic has not fully embraced the idea of succeeding at Real Madrid, according to Predrag Mijatovic.

The Serb was one of the most prolific strikers in European football last season as he recorded 27 goals in 48 outings across all competitions for Eintracht Frankfurt.

Madrid were impressed enough to fork out a reported €70 million (£63m/\$80m) on the 22-year-old last June, and big things were expected

of the highly-rated forward upon his arrival at Santiago Bernabeu.

However, he has endured a nightmare first season in the Spanish capital, scoring just twice in 24 appearances while failing to earn a regular place in Zinedine Zidane's line-up ahead of Karim Benzema.

Madrid are already being tipped to cut their losses on Jovic ahead of the summer transfer window, with Arsenal reportedly among those ready to offer him a lifeline. **GOAL**

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## Patson maintains scoring prowess

**By Abraham Kalito**  
 RED Bull Salzburg star Patson Daka's scoring prowess has continued with the talisman scoring a goal against Bundesliga side SK Sturm Graz on Wednesday.

The striker started the match as the topman and scored the third goal of the five against SK Sturm Graz but was substituted and rested at half-time.

His goal came after he reacted

quickly to tap-in a rebound of a long range shot that came off the cross bar.

He has now scored 22 goals this season in the league, two goals behind the current top scorer.

His compatriot and fellow countryman Enoch Mwepu started on the bench and was introduced at the interval.

Daka has now scored in three consecutive matches.

Elsewhere, Chipolopolo winger turned defender Lubambo Musonda helped his WKS Śląsk Wrocrow beat Wisla Plock 2-1.

He played the full 90 minutes in his new role and was key to WKS Śląsk Wrocrow's success on Wednesday.

Musonda was converted to a defender earlier this season and has been playing in that position impressively since.

# DEC RAIDS FAZ

## ...takes away Kashala's laptop

**By Abraham Kalito**  
THE Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) Thursday afternoon raided Football House and took away a laptop from Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) General Secretary Adrian Kashala's office.

The DEC also went away with a Central Processing Unit (CPU) from Kashala's office as well as a desktop from his personal assistant.

manager Sydney Mungala stated that the raid by the DEC had left operations of Football House partially paralysed.

"The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) wishes to inform its membership and stakeholders that its operations have been partially paralyzed following a raid by Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) officers. Drug

Enforcement Commission officers descended on the institution this afternoon (Thursday) and got away with a laptop and CPU from the office of the General Secretary Adrian Kashala and a desktop from his personal assistant. The FAZ officials fully cooperated with the DEC officers and have pledged full compliance with the law enforcement agencies. Officers from the Drug

Enforcement Commission presented a search warrant looking for drugs and narcotics and other related substances," Mungala stated.

"FAZ is however disturbed by the nature of the operations conducted by DEC, especially that it has set the benchmark of conducting its business

above board. As FAZ, we wish to reiterate that we operate on an open door policy and remain available to whoever wishes to seek information within the law."

## Spurs star Alli given one-game ban over coronavirus joke

TOTTENHAM midfielder Dele Alli has been given a one-match ban by the Football Association after joking about the coronavirus in a social media video and will miss his side's first Premier League match after the restart.

In the weeks before the virus took hold across the world, Alli posted a Snapchat clip in which he made fun of an Asian man in an airport departure lounge in February.

The England international was shown wearing a face mask and the video had the title: "Corona whatt, please listen with volume".

The video cut to an unsuspecting man of Asian appearance before panning to a bottle of antiseptic hand wash, underneath which appeared the caption: "This virus gunna have to be quicker than that to catch me".

Alli later deleted the post and posted an apology to the Chinese social media network Weibo.

He was charged with misconduct by the FA on February 26 and his case has now been heard.

The one-game suspension means Alli will miss Tottenham's game at home to Manchester United on June 19, their first of the resumed season.



Alli has also received a £50,000 (\$63,000) fine and will have to attend an educational course.

"Dele Alli has been suspended for one match with immediate effect, fined £50,000 and must undertake a face-to-face education course," an FA statement read.

After the FA issued the ban, Alli again expressed regret for his action.

"In response to the FA decision, I would like to apologise again for any offence caused by my behaviour," he said.

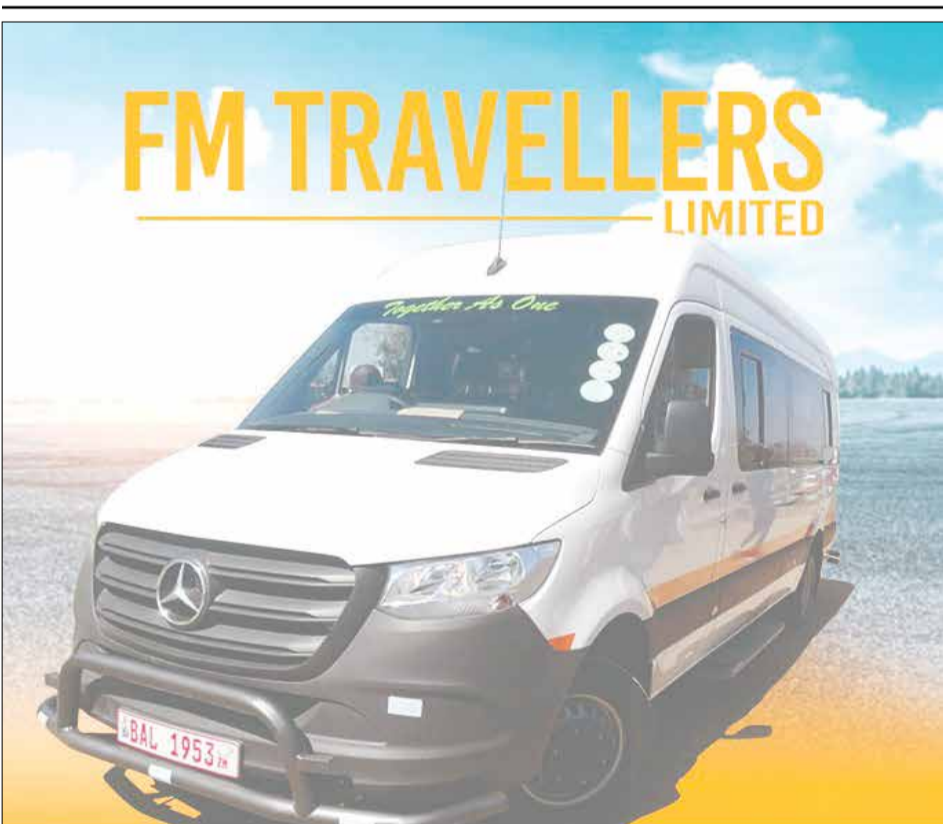
"It was an extremely poorly judged joke about a virus that has now affected

us more than we could ever have imagined.

"I'm grateful that The FA has confirmed that my actions were not racist because I despise racism of any kind. We all need to be mindful of the words and actions we use and how they can be perceived by others."

Alli's suspension continues a troubling period for the 24-year-old after knife-carrying burglars broke into his house recently.

Following an altercation with Alli, who was shaken but not seriously hurt, the men made off with jewellery. **AFP**



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