



Digital funerals, the impact of Covid-19 on Zambian society

By Zanji Valerie Sinkala
It is no surprise that the COVID 19 Pandemic has forced people worldwide to improvise to adapt to different ways of living, given the circumstances. From the introduction of face masks and regular use of sanitizers, to partial lockdowns and social distancing, the world has been coerced to live in this new normal- and Zambia is no exception.
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BILL 10 FLOPS AGAIN

...as UPND MPs walk out, rule Speaker out of order

By Mirriam Chabala
CONSTITUTION Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 has been deferred to a later date within the current sitting. Justice Minister Given Lubinda sought permission of the House, "with a heavy heart", to put off debates on the bill for undisclosed reasons, Wednesday afternoon. Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini, however, cautioned Lubinda to ensure that a date is found within Parliament's current sitting, emphasizing that Bill 10 cannot be tabled at a later date than the last day of the current sitting.
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Zambia in a precarious state due to corruption - Zukas

By Julia Malunga
VETERAN politician and acclaimed freedom fighter Simon Zukas says the country is in a precarious state caused by corruption and the tolerance of it. And Zukas says Zambia should no longer dismiss the worth and ability of a younger generation that is smart enough to outwit the authority after protesting in the bush on Monday.
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ACC finally arrests Chitalu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested Minister of Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilulya on allegations of corruption. The ACC has since charged Chilufya with four counts of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime. And Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) president Rueben Lifuka says President Edgar Lungu should consider relieving the minister of his duties and allow him to focus on his case.

RDA boss suspended for abuse of office

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE Road Development Agency (RDA) board has suspended chief executive officer Elias Mwape and director for Human Capital Elias Mwila for abuse of office. According to impeccable sources, Mwape put his wife on a three-year paid study leave, without declaring conflict of

interest. In an interview, Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development Charles Mushota confirmed that the duo went on leave, but claimed that the decision was voluntary following "some disciplinary" issues that arose. "Yes, that is correct except that no one has sent them on forced leave and we have

not suspended anyone. They applied for two weeks of leave or 14 days. But to say that they have been sent on forced leave is not true. There are just some disciplinary issues going on just like in any other organization. The board is the one that is handling the whole matter," said Mushota. "They applied for leave on their own. They saw it honorable to go on leave

while the matter is being resolved and I commend them for that. They would have been still working if they did not apply for leave. Just like I said that this is just an allegation. It does not mean that they are guilty." By press time, RDA board chairman Samuel Mukupa's phone went unanswered.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, ACC corporate affairs officer Jonathan Siame said Dr Chilufya was released on bond and would appear in court on July 9, 2020. "The Anti-Corruption Commission has today arrested Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya. Dr Chilufya, 47, of H/n 4 Robert Kennedy Close, off Brentwood..."
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CEC had agreed to recover \$144m debt after KCM sale – Milingo



By Natasha Sakala

KONKOLA Copper Mines (KCM) provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu says the mining company entered into an agreement with Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) Plc that the US \$144 million debt owed to the power utility would fully be settled once it was sold.

In an interview, Milingo said the mine did not unilaterally refuse to clear the debt.

“Firstly, with CEC, when the liquidation process started, we entered into an agreement where it was agreed between ourselves and CEC that the bill will accrue until the mine is sold, and then when the mine is sold, they will be paid from the proceeds of the sale. And CEC only asked to say, ‘if that is the case, can you pay us the arrears, which accrued by the time we had taken over the mine in May, which was about US \$46 million and we did settle that amount in October. So, in terms of not paying them, it was by way of agreement because by definition, if a mine is operating the way we are operating, we can’t pay all bills as and when they fall due. So, there was an arrangement in place, it’s not like we simply ignored to pay them from day one,’ Milingo said.

He said the rise in the copper prices on the international market put KCM in a better position to pay CEC and still meet its obligations to Zesco.

“In terms of Zesco, yes, we have certainly put in place measures to pay them [Zesco], but also, you have to be mindful that we also owe CEC money so we are actually...in fact, we have been trying to get in touch with CEC to see if we can work out a plan to pay them, not the entire amount, but obviously to see how we can structure some payments. But at the same time, we also have to be current with our obligations to Zesco. With the copper price obviously picking up, it makes our position in a better place to be able to service the debt to Zesco. You recall when this issue started with CEC and so on, the copper price had gone to US \$4,000 per tonne then there was the issue of COVID-19, which circumstances were beyond our control, but the outlook now for the copper price looks promising and certainly from those revenues, we will look to settle the Zesco debt,” Milingo said.

And Milingo said KCM had so far not faced any problems with power supply from Zesco and were enjoying a better price than what was offered by CEC.

“It’s only a month into the deal, but so far, we have had no challenges, and I mean, Zesco knows what they are doing. They do it for other mines in Lumwana and Kalumbila and in terms of the cost, obviously, we can’t go into details, but it’s lower than CEC. It goes without saying, it will be lower since CEC used to add a mark-up,” said Lungu.

By Mirriam Chabala

NATIONAL Action for Quality Education in Zambia (NAQEZ) executive director Aaron Chansa says lack of desks and inadequacy in the teacher-pupil ratio is making social distancing impossible in rural schools.

In an interview, Chansa said NAQEZ’s assessment of how schools in Western, Muchinga and Luapula provinces were observing government’s health guidelines following the commencement of learning for pupils in examination classes showed that physical distancing was still a challenge in most rural schools.

Chansa cautioned that it would be challenging for government to incorporate pupils from non-examination classes back to school if the issue of lack of desks and inadequate teachers in schools were still not addressed.

“Our members have been to most schools around the country from the time schools opened and the reports we have received indicate that most schools have settled down and learning has commenced now. So, one can safely say that most of the schools have stabilized. However, some of the things we have noted are that for schools in provinces like Luapula, Western and Muchinga, pupils are finding it very difficult to exercise physical distancing because of lack of desks. We have been to some schools in Kawambwa [District of Luapula] and Chinsali in Muchinga where we found learners literally sitting on the floor! Most schools in these areas have no desks whatsoever. So, this, in our view, is one of the most challenging factors that are affecting teaching during this period of the [COVID-19] pandemic,” Chansa said.

“Also, the other thing that we’ve discovered is that most schools in rural areas are finding it very difficult to teach split classes as guided by government because of inadequate numbers of teachers. You know that we have some classes where you find that we have 100,

Social distancing impossible in rural schools – NAQEZ

80 or 90 pupils in one class! But because of the health guidelines now, these classes have to be split maybe in three or four classes. But some of these schools have one, two or three teachers. So, that means that the workload doubles or even triples. So, teachers are finding it very difficult to work in such a situation because of that increased workload.”

Chansa demanded that government should purchase more desks in schools and deploy more teachers to rural schools.

“There are two things that we need to demand from government; one is the immediate purchase of desks. Available statistics are indicating that by 2018, the

Ministry of General Education has a shortfall of more than 1.3 million desks and from that time up to now, nothing has been done, meaning that the shortfall has actually increased. So, this is going to make it very difficult for schools to operate, especially when we begin to consider non-examination classes. This is actually a crisis and we call on the Ministry of General Education to seriously consider purchasing desks for schools, especially rural schools, or they can forget about incorporating the children from non-exam classes back into school at this stage,” said Chansa.

“The other demand that we are making is for the Ministry to recruit teachers. I

am sure you are aware that the country has more than 50,000 teachers who are trained, but not employed. Last year, there was no recruitment, this year, also, we have not heard anything and we feel that this is the right time for the Ministry to consider recruiting teachers so that we can begin to deal with this big number, avert a crisis because this is a social-economic crisis and also help to reduce the teacher-pupil ratios that are very bad in most schools in rural areas. So, those are some of the things that we’ve noticed so far. If we are saying schools have no desks, then it is impossible to open the other classes because it will mean that all the guidelines against COVID-19 will be vandalized. You cannot keep distances when there are no desks; you cannot split classes when there are no teachers. So, unless we are saying we do away with the preventive measures against COVID-19...Otherwise, as things stand, schools will not be ready to accommodate non-examination classes.”

Lubinda sues Lukuku for calling him of a foreigner

By Zondiwe Mbewe

JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda has dragged Republican Progressive Party (RPP) leader James Lukuku to the Lusaka High Court for accusing him of being a foreigner and questioning his patriotism to the country.

Lubinda is seeking damages for libel and an order of interlocutory injunction restraining Lukuku, his servants and agents, from publishing similar libelous and malicious videos and articles relating to him.

He is further claiming an order of permanent injunction, punitive and exemplary damages, interest on the said damages and costs.

In his statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Lubinda who is also Kabwata PF member of parliament, stated that sometime in June this year, Lukuku recorded himself in an untitled video in which he confidently stated that

he (Lubinda) was a foreigner, and further questioned his patriotism to Zambia.

“The Defendant (Lukuku) particularly stated as follows: ‘When you look at Given Lubinda you should ask him before you start talking about Bill 10; where is your National Registration Card? It’s going to be interesting for you to check on the National Registration Card of Given Lubinda so that you can ascertain if that person has got the nation at heart. When you meet Lubinda, before he talks about Bill 10, ask him who is his Chief, Chief wake ni ndani? The other question that you are supposed to ask Given Lubinda is, ask him what’s the name of his father and mother?... And ask him what kind of a nationality he is because some of these people you don’t even know ku sukulu kwa mene bana yenda ngati ni kuti. They have formulated a new Bill 10 nomba ewo bepwishe ni nani

pali iyo Bill 10 iyo apangile iya new. Why is it that at every corner it is foreigners invading this country? But we know of people that have got questionable nationalities. They are at the forefront of formulating Bill 10. Cino ichalo democracy nga ya onaika ifi fine balefwaya ukonaula Parliament. Once Parliament is destroyed Given Lubinda is not going to be affected by any chaos that we can have in this country because even his children don’t stay in Zambia,” read the claim.

Lubinda stated that the said words in their natural and ordinary meaning meant and had been understood to mean that he was an imposter, a fraud, a cheater and was not patriotic to Zambia.

He added that the words were also understood to mean that he did not care for Zambians, he forged or fabricated his primary and secondary school certificates, was a thief and did not respect land alienation procedures.

Lubinda stated that the video had been widely published and circulated on social media, and electronic media in general, within and outside the jurisdiction.

“On the basis of the foregoing, in the estimation of ordinary and right thinking members of the public, the plaintiff (Lubinda) has suffered, and continues to suffer, scandal, ridicule, odium, contempt, and embarrassment generally,” read the statement of claim.

He stated that the words complained of were false and were maliciously published by Lukuku without lawful excuse.

Lubinda further stated that politics was not about character assassination but about putting forth developmental ideas and policies.

He stated that freedom of expression and all media freedoms were not a passport to attacking private lives, and generally character assassination of political opponents, and accordingly, the aforesaid freedoms were not absolute.

Publish SI proving that Zesco’s power lines are also common carrier, Simumba challenges Nkhuwa

By Natasha Sakala

INTERNATIONAL Trade economist Trevor Simumba has challenged Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa to make public the Statutory Instrument by which he declared all transmission and distribution lines in the country, including Zesco’s, as Common Carrier.

In an interview, Simumba said he was both shocked and intrigued to hear the minister boldly make such a statement when there’s no evidence in the public domain to support such a claim.

“Section 15 of the Electricity Act of 2019, which the Minister quotes clearly states that a transmission or distribution line becomes a common carrier when declared so by a Statutory Instrument signed by the Minister, but the only Statutory Instrument I have seen is SI 57, which declared all of CEC’s (Copperbelt Energy Corporation) transmission and distribution infrastructure common carrier,” Simumba said.

He argued that it should not be difficult for Nkhuwa to produce the SI

to substantiate his claim.

“Our energy sector attracts a significant amount of foreign donor support. The programmes Mr Nkhuwa mentioned in his statement such as GETFIT are heavily-funded by cooperating partners. I wouldn’t be surprised if those partners have indicated to our government that they would discontinue funding. That would explain why the Minister is now trying to walk back the arbitrary actions he has taken which, frankly, do not only scare away private sector participation in energy, but also dent the international image of Zambia as a destination for foreign investment generally,” he observed.

Simumba warned that the consequences of government’s hypocrisy in the power sector that he himself had earlier sounded alarm on were now starting to show.

“You can’t claim to want to attract private sector participation, yet at the same time take adverse actions against an existing, credible and Zambian

private investor and expect that you would be believed to be genuine,” he said.

He said government should not interfere in commercial covenants and impose harmful terms to private sector investment, but focus on providing a conducive environment where commercial arrangements between commercial entities could be amicably discussed.

“The Minister talks of power sector development, the need to address power deficits and a commitment towards the promotion of private sector participation in the development of a robust, diversified and secure power sector in Zambia – how exactly does he see this happening in light of the expropriatory actions he and his government are taking?” wondered Simumba.

He reiterated his challenge that Nkhuwa showed the nation the SI by which he declared Zesco’s infrastructure as Common Carrier, and whether the terms reflect those of SI 57, particularly

with respect to the terms on which an enterprise wanting to use Zesco’s infrastructure, being determined by the Energy Regulation Board (ERB).

On May 29, Nkhuwa issued SI 57 by which he declared all of CEC’s transmission and distribution lines common carrier.

But several stakeholders interpreted the controversial move as having been done to enable Zesco use CEC’s infrastructure to supply their newly-acquired customer, Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) Plc, after KCM refused to enter a new Power Supply Agreement with CEC but instead signed a binding term sheet with Zesco on the same day that Nkhuwa issued SI 57.

KCM has been evading a US \$145 million electricity debt owed to CEC after failing to settle its invoices for power consumed over a one-year period.

This followed Zesco’s failure and refusal to agree to a new Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA) with CEC after their 23-year deal lapsed on March 31, 2020.

Digital Funerals: The impact of COVID-19 on Zambian society

By Zanzi Valerie Sinkala

IT IS no surprise that the COVID 19 Pandemic has forced people worldwide to improvise to adapt to different ways of living, given the circumstances. From the introduction of face masks and regular use of sanitizers, to partial lockdowns and social distancing, the world has been coerced to live in this new normal- and Zambia is no exception.

The Corona Virus first hit Zambia in February this year, followed by strict regulations by the Government of Zambia, instructing all citizens and residents to avoid social gatherings of more than 50 people. This included weddings, funerals, parties, but to mention a few. Also regulated were people's movements locally and internationally, resulting in a partial lockdown of the country.

A Zambian national called Fred Lungu recently lost his mother to cancer three months ago in the United Kingdom, and because of the virus, he could not give her the burial she respectfully deserved.

"It's challenging knowing that someone is lying in the mortuary, and the rest of you have to go back to normal life," Fred grieves, "We are forced to put any physical funeral on pause until her body finally comes back to Zambia."

According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom, the complete process of deceased repatriation requires close liaison between various agencies such as national embassies, travel insurance brokers and tour operators. The normal repatriation process takes at least two weeks. Fred and his family have been waiting for almost two months.

The United Kingdom had been in a full lockdown for seven weeks from the 23rd of March, and as of the 10th of May, began to ease restrictions slowly.

This caused a significant delay in the process, leaving several deceased bodies, including that of Fred's mother, stranded. Repatriation of a deceased loved one is an emotionally challenging task for any bereaved family or friend.

However, repatriation, coupled with the impact of an unprecedented pandemic that has brought the whole world to a standstill, is hellacious.

When the news of Fred's mother's death was made known, the family was not only grieving because of a deceased relative. They were also worried that the process of receiving her dead body from the United Kingdom would be dilatory, given the circumstances of the current pandemic.

"In the week that she died, we talked as a family through WhatsApp calls, shared her pictures and videos and reflected on the time we spent with her when she was alive," explains Fred, "That, to us, was her digital funeral."

Around the world, people are improvising on how to hold funerals for deceased loved ones who died abroad. Australia is one example. Due to numerous restrictions limiting the number of people permitted to attend funerals in the country, funeral homes in Australia have taken to live streaming to ease the emotional burden of mourners who cannot physically attend the send-off of their loved ones.

While people like Fred are fighting for the bodies of their deceased relatives or friends to return home, others are authorizing the cremation of their remains. The Foreign Employment Board of Nepal, which is responsible for repatriating bodies and providing financial assistance to aggrieved Nepali families, stated that approximately 58 Nepali families authorized cremations of their deceased family members abroad between March and May 2020. This was due to the various lockdowns globally as a result of the pandemic.

Until recently, the repatriation of deceased bodies was halted because of the suspension of international flights worldwide. By the 6th of June 2020, airlines such as Emirates, Ethiopian Airlines, and South African Airlines were cleared to resume their flight schedules between Africa and Europe, among other continents. This brought a sliver of hope to Fred and his family, who anticipate that the body of their loved one will return soon.

"We were assured that by the 20th of June, her body would be in the country," Fred states confidently, "My grandfather wants to say a final goodbye to his daughter, and so I pray he won't be disappointed again."

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CHISHIMBA Kambwili's wife, Carol, has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that it is laughable that she is being asked to prove that Mwamba Kambwili is her son.

Carol has further told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services belongs to her and Mwamba, as directors of the company.

This is a matter in which 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.

It is alleged that on October 29, 2013, Kambwili, with intent to defraud or deceive, forged a 'no change return' (Companies Form 71) purporting to show that it was genuinely signed by his son Mwamba when in fact not.

It is further alleged that on the same date, Kambwili, knowingly and fraudulently, uttered the same document to an officer at Patents and Companies' Registration Agency (PACRA).

Testifying before Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba via Zoom Video Communications, Wednesday, Carol, 48, told the court that she was a staff nurse at National Health Service in Leicester City, United Kingdom.

She added that she was married to Kambwili and that they had five children, among them, Mwamba Chishimba.

Carol said Mwamba was their only son born in October, 1993, in Chingola.

Asked by one of the defence lawyers, Keith Mweemba, what proof she had that Mwamba

Kambwili's wife laughs off question to prove Mwamba is her son

was their son, Carol laughed before she said, "do I have to prove to the court that Mwamba is my son...anyways, I have a birth record to show to the court that he is my son."

After she positively identified Mwamba's birth certificate, she added: "How can somebody tell me that my son is not my son? It's laughable. Mwamba is my son, if somebody is doubting, I will tell them to do a DNA test."

On Kambwili's charges, Carol told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services was hers and Mwamba's and that they were both directors in the company.

She explained that the company was incorporated in 2001 while the family was still in Chingola, contrary to EEP leader Chilufya Tayali's claims that it was incorporated in 2013.

Defence continues today.

Previously, Kambwili testified that the complaint against the registration and directors of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services was malicious and politically motivated.

Opening his defence, Kambwili, 51, told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services was incorporated by his wife Carol Chansa in 2001.

"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," Kambwili said.

He 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.

Kambwili added that he was also running a company called CK Technical Services Limited whose directors were himself, his wife and another person.

He said when he got involved in politics, the two businesses started having problems due to political

interference by the MMD government then.

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

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.

Mobile money transactions grew by 126% in 2019, notes BoZ

By Natasha Sakala

BANK of Zambia (BoZ) Governor Dr Denny Kalyalya says transactions via the mobile money wallet account platform have grown exponentially, posting an annual average growth of 126 per cent in value from K2.07 billion processed in 2015 to K49.45 billion in 2019.

Speaking during the launch of the Zambia Digital Economy Diagnostic Report in Lusaka, Wednesday, Dr Kalyalya said actively transacting mobile wallets increased from eight per cent in 2016 to 34 per cent by the end of last year.

"The number of active mobile money wallets has increased over time. As at end-2016, a total of 6,513,725 mobile wallets were registered, and of these, 521,098 were actively transacting (meaning on average a transaction being conducted in 90 days), representing eight per cent of the total registered wallets. As at end-2019, 14,270,705 mobile money wallets were registered and 4,852,040 were actively transacting, representing 34 per cent of the total registered mobile money wallets," Dr Kalyalya said. "On the whole,

digital financial services have recorded significant growth, with mobile money payments posting an annual average growth of 126 per cent in value from K2.07 billion processed in 2015 to K49.45 billion processed in 2019. Transactions through Point of Sale machines increased from K3.04 billion in 2015 to K20.09 billion in 2019. This represents a leap of 560 per cent in values of transaction over a four-year period. From these statistics, it can clearly be demonstrated that there is great potential in Zambia to have more people financially included through digital channels and, ultimately, in the digital economy."

He added that the retail payment system had been positively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with values processed through the mobile channel peaking at K7.80 billion in April, 2020.

Dr Kalyalya noted that there was, however, need for stakeholders to work together to ensure that cybersecurity risk, identity theft, and the financial and technology literacy gap were bridged to realize the full potential of digital

financial services.

"In order to realize the full potential of digital financial services and increased financial inclusion, it is imperative for stakeholders to continue working together to overcome emerging challenges, notably, cybersecurity risk, identity theft, and the financial and technology literacy gap. We, therefore, need to institute stringent measures to safeguard the digital space, protect customer identity, and implement fully the National Strategy on Financial Education 2019-2025," said Dr Kalyalya.

And speaking at the same event, World Bank Group Zambia country manager Dr Sahr Kpundeh said the report should be followed by action.

Dr Kpundeh further said the country should develop a digital transformation strategy that could merge with the Eighth National Development Plan, and accordingly establish a multi-sectoral committee that discussed priorities and monitors progress overtime.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN CHICKENS

By Dr Wesley Champo Ng'andu (BVM, MBA)

NEWCASTLE Disease or Chipumpfu in Nyanja is a viral infection that affects a wide range of poultry such as broilers, breeders and layer birds of all ages. It can also affect domesticated poultry like village chickens, guinea fowls, peacocks or peahens, exotic and or wild birds. The nature of this viral disease is that it is very contagious and can spread quickly among susceptible birds, causing high numbers of sick birds (50 to 100% morbidity rate) and equally high deaths (5 to 100 % mortality rate). Some domesticated and or wild birds may not experience significant signs of sickness and deaths due to their strong immunity. However, Newcastle disease has been shown to produce massive mortalities in our local chickens too.

Where Is Newcastle Found and How Is It Spread?

Newcastle Disease exists in majority places where poultry are, although some few countries have managed to eradicate this disease. In Zambia, Newcastle Disease is endemic. This means that disease has continued to exist in many parts of the country. Newcastle disease in Zambia commonly occurs in the cold and hot season of the year. It is at these points that significant mortalities are experienced both in village chickens and commercial chickens.

Newcastle disease can be spread from one poultry farm to another by wild birds, contaminated vehicles, equipment, people, and through the air. When Newcastle disease occurs in commercial birds such as broilers and layers, it causes substantial economic losses as a result of high deaths, reduced weight gain and decreased egg production. For this reason, Newcastle disease is a notifiable disease under the government statutory requirement. This means that the local veterinary officers should be informed if this disease is confirmed in your poultry.

Signs of Newcastle Disease

It is essential to understand that the signs of Newcastle disease shown in a clinically sick bird are dependent on the level of immune protection, age of the bird, and the strain of the Newcastle virus. The strain of Newcastle virus that show less aggression

on the bird's immune system does not cause severe clinical signs where-as the one that is very aggressive on the immune system of the bird will show typical Newcastle signs. Some of the signs seen are as follows but not limited to these:

- Twisting of the neck, paresis and paralysis of the legs
- Greenish diarrhoea
- Sneezing or sneaky, and nasal discharge
- Decreased feed and water intake
- Drop in Egg production
- White shelled and soft-shelled eggs
- Haemorrhages in the mouth, trachea, proventriculus, small intestines and cecal tonsils.
- Inflammation of the kidneys.
- Swelling of the head (especially in co-infections)

Long-living birds, such as layers and breeders might not show typical signs of Newcastle infection sometimes. This can be said to be true for village chickens and other domesticated fowls like Peacocks.

Is There Any Treatment for Newcastle Disease?

There is no treatment for Newcastle Disease simply because the disease is of viral origin. Any medication given in the form of antibiotics is aimed at preventing or treating secondary bacterial infections as a result of Newcastle disease.

Prevention of Newcastle Disease

The best way to prevent Newcastle Disease is by vaccination and maintaining good biosecurity on your poultry farm. There are many ways in which vaccination can be done against Newcastle Disease. Depending on the type of Newcastle vaccine, it can be given as a spray, or via drinking water, eye drop, in the muscle or underneath the skin, or in the eggs at the hatchery. The recent developments in vaccination have seen the rise in what are known as innovative vaccines. Such type of vaccines can be given to birds as soon as they hatch in the skin (such as Vectormune ND) in commercial hatcheries or the eggs (in ovo) before the chicks hatch. This type of vaccination provides much longer immunity which is more reliable for the survival of the birds in your poultry houses.

An effective way to vaccinate Against Newcastle

Vaccination of broiler chickens against Newcastle Disease happens in two stages. The first stage is usually done in the hatchery. This can either be done as an eye drop, coarse spray to the newly hatched chicks, or in the skin or before hatching through the egg. On the farm, a poultry farmer can vaccinate against Newcastle by administering the vaccine through the drinking water, spray, and eye drop. Layers can be similarly given Newcastle. However, it is vital to mention that injecting of Newcastle vaccine into the muscles or skin of layers and other long-living birds such as breeders is one of the most effective ways to prevent Newcastle disease. In village chickens, Newcastle disease vaccination is normally done twice a year, between September to October and between May to June. This can be done through the drinking water or given as a spray.

Handling and Care of Newcastle Vaccines

Newcastle vaccines require a specific temperature to remain viable. All Newcastle vaccines should be kept in the cold chain at a temperature of 2 to 8°C. During the process of vaccination, only water that is de-chlorinated through the addition of a water stabilizer such as skimmed milk powder should be used for vaccination. Skimmed milk powder can be added to the water at 2 gram per litre of water. Further on, the temperature of the water should be cool and preferably below 20°C. Water vaccination should always be done during the coolest part of the day.

What you should not do

Do not use anointed water/oil, detergent paste, chilli, garlic, ginger, moringa, aloe Vera (tembusha) etc. at the expense of vaccination as a protection against Newcastle. These do not work and have costed many poultry farmers. Remember always to contact your veterinarian for more details.

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By Ulande Nkomesha

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has mocked youths who protested on Monday, recalling how he used to go to the bush with a girlfriend to appreciate the "good scenario of God".

And Lusambo says UPND president Hakainde Hichilema is playing politics by showing solidarity to incarcerated photographer Chellah Tukuta.

In an interview, Lusambo argued that anybody who operated from the bush was either a charcoal burner or a hunter, not youths who wanted to dialogue with government over pressing governance matters.

"For me, as Minister of Lusaka Province, I can assure you that Lusaka is safe, I am interacting very well with the youths in my province. Just yesterday, I had a meeting with my fellow youths and we had a very productive meeting with my fellow youths ranging from political, to developmental activities. So, for me, Lusaka is very safe. Those protests yesterday (Monday) cannot spark anything. I was in a Cabinet meeting yesterday trying to see how we can improve the living standards of the people. So, those people who went into the bush; the only few people who go in the bush are

Lusambo mocks protesting youths: "Last time I went to the bush was with my girlfriend"

farmers, when they are going to till the land and prepare for agricultural activities. Others, who go in the bush are hunters; if they want to go hunt animals. When I was young, I used to go in the bush to look for wild fruits because I really enjoyed wild fruits," Lusambo said.

"Sometimes you can go in the bush if you want to hunt birds, other people who go in the bush are charcoal burners because they go in the bush so that they can go and cut trees for charcoal. The last time we heard of people going in the bush is not even in Zambia, it was in Angola when they were experiencing civil strife; in DRC when there was civil strife; in Rwanda when there was genocide, people went in the bush running away for safety. There is no situation in our country and province that can warrant our people to go in the bush. I remember I went in the bush with my girlfriend just to go and see the good scenario of Zambia, the nice trees, the rocks in this country, we went in the bush. How can you go in the bush and say we are protesting in the bush? It is unfortunate. So, Lusaka is safe and the youths are

very safe."

He said it was disappointing that musician Maiko Zulu and motivational speaker Mubita Nawa were also referring to themselves as youths.

"When I was at school in grade three, I used to watch on TV, Kwacha Good Morning Zambia, I used to watch St Maiko, I used to watch Sister D by the time I was in grade three, grade four, grade five, I was a youth. Today, St Maiko wants to be a youth? I am very shocked! I am very shocked that St Maiko can be a youth today. I am very shocked that Nawa (Mubita) can be a youth today, whether Pilato can be a youth today. When you see things happening like that, then you realise there is a third force in this thing," he argued.

"Tell me: who is Nawa, who is St Maiko? B-Flow is my younger brother. Look at St Maiko, he is a parent; maybe he is a grandfather! This time, he is supposed to be pumping sense in his grandchildren! How can St Maiko sink so low to go in the bush? Maybe he has become a hunter? So, I haven't seen any youths in Lusaka protesting, some of those people



are grandfathers! When they were youths, we were in school in grade three. How can St Maiko be in a group of youths and say he is a youth? People are questioning the status of his mind. This is not the time to start youth activism; this is the time to take opportunities."

Lusambo warned the youths that government would not allow the protesters to cause confusion in the capital city.

"We are not going to allow the few individuals to cause

confusion in our city. Let them go and sit down with Hakainde Hichilema and he explains to them how privatisation happened. We have intelligent youths and the youths cannot be moved by political motives. The youths in this country are at universities, they are secondary schools and they come to us for empowerment; they don't come and demonstrate to get youth empowerment, no! They come to our offices to tell us we need the enabling environment.

So, are you telling me that the youths we have in this country are musicians? It is wrong! You can't feel that you are the only important youths. The President has one million eyes and one million ears; you think the President is not aware of the activities, he is aware of all the activities of this country," Lusambo warned.

And Lusambo, who is also Kabushi PF member of parliament, said Hichilema was playing politics by supporting Tukuta.

"How can a normal person like Hakainde Hichilema go and pay solidarity to a person who has been insulting a woman because there is no difference between the woman he was insulting and Hakainde Hichilema's wife? There is no difference, woman is a woman. So, I am very shocked by my pastor Nevers Mumba for him to defend the cameraman. I am shocked because there is no difference between mum Florence Mumba or the woman Tukuta was insulting. Let us separate politics from Ubuntu (humanity). Let us put a distinction. It is not always that we have to put politics first. There is a time we have to condemn and act as human beings. If you put politics in Ubuntu tomorrow, it will be you who is going to be insulted," cautioned Lusambo.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
CHIEF Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says she has heard a lot of arguments to the effect that some youth representatives are grandfathers.

Meanwhile, some youth entrepreneurs in Lusaka have asked government to end corruption and exercise equality and fairness when giving empowerment projects.

Speaking at a meeting held with the youths at her office in Lusaka, Wednesday, Siliya, the information and broadcasting services minister, said some people who claimed to be youth representatives were said to be grandfathers.

“What is popular now is that young people want to be heard. We want to hear really that across these issues of young people, what are the common issues? How would you want to be represented? [We want] to be sure how you would want to be represented because we want to be sure what voice are we hearing? While you are here, what are the other youths saying? And also that you are not misrepresented. I heard an argument yesterday (Tuesday) that some of the people who are saying that they are representing you are grandfathers. That is why I called you here. Are you well represented? My job here is to ensure that the president hears the issues that are topical among young people,” Siliya said when opening the meeting.

A youth identified as Mirriam Ngoyi then lamented about the alleged corruption involved when employing young people in government. “Most of the graduates don’t have jobs, and when applying for a job, you are required to pay something for someone to push for you. Corruption is too much. I think there is need to work on corruption. And there should be transparency when jobs are advertised. Imagine if you have just graduated as a teacher and you apply for a job, you will be told to pay something for someone to push for you. You don’t have a job and then they are asking for money...where are you going to find that money? Sometimes they do ask for sex and for us females, we are very vulnerable to that aspect,” Ngoyi said.

Another youth, Joseph Kasama from Youths In Farming Multi-purpose Co-operative Society, appealed

for equality and fairness in accessing government ministries.

“The only thing we want is for government to give us access to all ministries, just like the way Ministry of Livestock has been doing where they are helping us meet with big companies. Youths don’t have knowledge on how to win contracts from the government. A few of those who know how to go about it boast to those who don’t know, thereby making those who don’t know to start protesting on the streets. We need fairness and equality,” said Kasama.

Mubanga Vwalika asked government to provide the youth with a platform to showcase their skills.

“Many of us here in Zambia are really skilled and

I’ve heard that some youth representatives are grandfathers, says Siliya

talented...we don’t have to wait for government to start doing something. We need a platform where we can share our successes and our failures as well. There are so many people who are doing great things but they have nowhere to show it. Once that platform is created, that is when things are going to start happening. We can have opportunities to find funders for the projects that we are doing,” said Vwalika.

And Sera Kunda said her concern was the lack of a proper information platform to educate youths on procedures involved when starting businesses.

“My appeal is for the government to create an

information platform. For example, if I want to go into a food processing business, I don’t know who to go to, I don’t know what regulations I need to meet, I don’t know what permits I need, where do I register my products? Such kind of information will help us entrepreneurs. It is better to get the correct information from the onset rather than meeting up with ZABS after my product has already been produced,” said Kunda.

Meanwhile, Mulenga Mwaba also appealed to government to empower the

youths with projects rather than dishing out money to them.

“My biggest cry is in skills development. I am a carpenter. I would like government to empower youths in taking up skills like mine. Give us projects. Don’t give us money, all we need are the projects, through those projects, then we can develop. Carpentry, if you are just in the community, has got no money,” said Mwaba.

And Siliya assured the youths that it would be the responsibility of government to create such similar discussions for youths to engage each other.

“Clearly, government concedes that we should have had more and more engagements as such so that we can hear each other. When we hear that youths are protesting, sometimes we get confused [and ask], where has the communication gone wrong? And as a ministry, we have to take responsibility that as government, we have to try and create a platform where we can celebrate the young people of Zambia. When you go on social media, I understand how you feel because it feels as if there is no hope,” said Siliya.

Matibini allows Bill 10 debates, but UPND says it’s illegal

By Ulande Nkomesha and Mirriam Chabala

UPND members of parliament yesterday walked out of the House after Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini ruled that it was not prejudice for Parliament to debate Bill 10 despite an active court case touching on the same.

And Speaker Matibini has reserved ruling on a point of order raised by Lupososhi PF member of Parliament Bwalya Chungu on the opposition’s walk out, saying it was difficult to form an immediate impression since parliamentarians were seated in different rooms.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu says Bill 10 has expired because the time to debate it has elapsed.

Ruling on a point of order raised by Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Garry Nkombo on whether the House was in order to debate Bill 10 when there was an active court matter in the High Court bordering on Article 63 of the constitution on debt contraction, Speaker Matibini said the National Assembly was not debarred from discussing urgent matters of public importance such as Bill 10.

He said the National Assembly was supreme and

sovereign in the exercise of its legislative power.

“In keeping with the diverse authorities on subjudice that I referred to earlier on, the National Assembly is not debarred from discussing urgent matters of public importance such as the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019. At any rate, the authorities referred to above, also laid down if the subjudice rule were to be made applicable to an enactment of legislation, it will not make only the National Assembly subordinate to the courts but also make an enactment impossible because of pending court actions,” Speaker Matibini said.

“Needless to state that the National Assembly is supreme and sovereign in the exercise of its legislative power. In the exercise of my discretion as Speaker, I rule that it is not subjudice for the National Assembly to proceed with consideration of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill 10 of 2019 notwithstanding the action commenced by Mr Dipak Patel in the Constitutional Court

against the Minister of Finance and the Attorney General. That is the end of my ruling.”

He said Parliament could not put on hold debates just because Patel’s case touched on one provision of the Bill.

“The fact that one clause in the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019, and specifically clause 13, proposes to amend Article 63 (2) (d) which requires the National Assembly to approve the public debt before it is contracted cannot not warrant the National Assembly not to proceed to consider the bill which contains a wide range of legislative proposals. To put it plainly, the action before the Constitutional Court in Patel is substantially different to the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019,” ruled Matibini.

“The Constitutional Court held that it did not have jurisdiction to impeach a bill. Therefore, since the Constitutional Court has no jurisdiction to impeach or question a bill, it cannot in any way be prejudiced by the National Assembly proceeding to debate the Constitution of Zambia bill number 10 of

2019.”

Soon after the ruling, UPND MPs left the House in protest, necessitating Bwalya’s point of order.

“Mr Speaker, are the honourable members of parliament from the UPND in order to walk out of the chamber...Are they in order Mr Speaker to deny their electorate a chance to hear them and also to allow themselves to participate in the affairs of this country?” asked Bwalya.

But Speaker Matibini reserved his ruling saying he was unable to form a clear impression.

“Thank you honourable member for Lupososhi. As you can imagine, we are all seated in different locations and it’s very difficult to form a clear and immediate impression as to why that has happened. Otherwise I have representatives from my office in all the rooms. Therefore, in due course, they will be able to supply me with a full account as to what is happening and thereafter, I should be able to render a much more meaningful ruling. But for the time being, it’s very difficult for

me to react extempore at least. So in short, I have reserved my ruling,” said Speaker Matibini.

Meanwhile, at a media briefing soon after leaving the House, Mwiimbu said Bill 10 had expired.

He said as at 4th June, 2020, parliament had concluded the session in which Bill 10 was expected to be concluded.

“For those who are not aware of Parliamentary proceedings, let me explain. When a bill is introduced in Parliament, it has to be concluded within that particular session. Those are the rules. And because in December we had clocked six months, it had to be renewed for another six months. From the 4th of December to the 4th of June 2020, that is six months. This particular Bill number 10 procedurally was supposed to be concluded on the 4th of June 2020. Today is 24th of June 2020, days after the lapse of the bill it is still appearing on the order paper,” Mwiimbu said.

He said government’s attempt to push for the enactment of Bill 10 was illegal.

“Take note that from the 4th of June to date, legally, procedurally, there is no Bill 10 on the floor of the House. Bill elapsed on the 4th of June. Please note, the so called Bill 10 was buried on the 4th of June, 2020. There is an unmarked grave at Chingwere. There is no such bill anymore. Whatever Parliament and the PF through the Minister of Justice is doing is illegal,” said Mwiimbu.

“As UPND and fellow independents, we are not going to be part of the illegality. We cannot debate a bill that has elapsed, there is no bill. If the PF wants bill number whatever to be brought back to Parliament, they should go back to the drawing board, they should start afresh, gazette whatever bill they would want, after that it should come for first reading, second reading and whatever stage. At the moment there is no Bill 10.”

IMF, Zambia to virtually discuss economic programme

By Natasha Sakala

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that the current staff team now has the mandate to discuss an economic programme with Zambia.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta, the announcement was made by the IMF Mission Chief Dhaneshwar Ghura during the ongoing IMF virtual consultations, which started on Monday evening.

“The IMF and government have commenced the virtual consultative and information exchange mission for Zambia. The first session between the IMF and the government team led by Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu was held on Monday evening. During the meeting, IMF Mission Chief Dhaneshwar Ghura announced that his

staff team now had the mandate of IMF management to discuss an economic programme for Zambia. Since 2017, this is the most important stage in our relationship with Zambia,” said the Mission Chief,” read the statement.

And in response, Dr Ng’andu said government was in support of the process and looking forward to the best possible outcome.

“Responding to the announcement by Dr Ghura that the staff team was now mandated to discuss an economic programme for Zambia, Dr Ng’andu welcomed the decision of the IMF management and further confirmed that the government, at the highest level, was in support of the process and is looking forward to the best possible outcome for the economy from the engagement. “The President (Edgar Chagwa Lungu) and the rest of Cabinet

have today (Monday) reiterated their endorsement of our engagement with you. We are all looking forward to an outcome that will push our economy forward and bring relief to our people,” Dr Ng’andu stated,” the statement read.

Among the preliminary issues tabled in the initial contact virtual meeting was the overall macroeconomic environment, public financial management, fiscal accountability, the public debt situation, contracting of liability management advisors and commitment to economic reforms.

The Minister also briefed the Fund on various legislation that will be tabled on the floor of Parliament during the current session, such as the Planning and Budget Bill and the Public Procurement Bill.

During the current mission which ends on July 1, 2020, the IMF team will

not only conduct virtual consultative and information exchange sessions with the central government, but also engage the Bank of Zambia (BoZ), Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) and other stakeholders in the economy.

Among the top government officials, who were with Dr Ng’andu at the Ministry during the virtual meeting were: Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba, Permanent Secretary to Economic Management Mukuli Chikuba, Permanent Secretary Budget and Economic Affairs Mulenga Pamu, Accountant General Kennedy Musonda and Controller Internal Audit Mulonda Chibwe.

Others were Director Economic Management Maketo Mulele, Director Investment and Debt Management Gregory Chomba, together with Director Budget Joseph Nonde.



NDC

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom
 Why we deserve your vote



EXTRACT FROM THE NDC MANIFESTO

IN THIS Thursday's edition. We would like introduce the nation to section one of our party manifesto, and give a brief over view of our party, its ideology and what we stand for. We will continue publishing excerpts of our manifesto, courtesy of news diggers every Thursdays as we have always been doing.

FOREWORD

Many Zambians have for a long time desired a country that is highly inculcated with patriotism, national pride in its governance and political endeavours; a nation that is politically, economically, socially and technologically acceptable by all Zambians. The hopes of many Zambians have been lost due to the erosion of four fundamentals which our party shall restore once elected into government. These include: effective leadership, prudent economic management, the rule of law and zero tolerance to corruption. It is the erosion of these fundamentals that has battered our nation's dignity under the patriotic front administration, and it is mandated upon me and fellow patriots in the National Democratic Congress Party to provide efficient and effective leadership, proper management of the economy, restoring the rule of law and whipping out corruption from its roots.

This manifesto aims to provide a blue print of what the National Democratic Congress Party intends to do when given the Barton to lead this country in 2021. The implementation of this manifesto shall result in an environment that shall foster development. Our vision is bold, broad and radical. Under our leadership as National Democratic Congress party; we shall restore patriotism, hope and dignity in the lives of many Zambians. This is because we shall provide equal opportunities, establishment of a Modern Welfare State and a flourishing economic empowerment sector.

We are passionate about entrepreneurship especially that it is what has helped me in life to create wealth. Therefore, our party shall endeavour to do the following: create an environment conducive for youth, women and all Zambian entrepreneurial activities; provide a credit scheme for empowerment and entrepreneurial development; link secondary and post-secondary education to industrial and agricultural experiences and encourage youth participation in cooperatives and self-help initiatives and more as outlined in this manifesto. We therefore, appeal to all Zambians to join hands and rally behind the National Democratic Congress Party as "YOUR PARTY OF CHOICE" to effect the change you have desired for long. Thank you all and God bless the Republic of Zambia.

By Hon. Dr. Chishimba Kambwili
NDC PRESIDENT

INTRODUCTION

The National Democratic Congress party manifesto provides an alternative solution to the various challenges affecting our country. It highlights the background and deficiencies in government administration and specific policy formulation and implementation; in the political, social, economic, technological, legal and ecological environments with emphasis on agriculture, health, mining, energy, education and tourism sectors.

Section one is the foreword, genesis and acknowledgments on the formulation of this manifesto. It also highlights the ideologies and philosophy of the National Democratic Congress party; our vision, mission, four core pillars and our Christian and democratic values. Our symbol is the sun, pictured in the form of a rising sun, with 10 protruding rays of light signifying all the 10 provinces of Zambia. The colours on our emblem represent the Zambian national flag.....

PREAMBLE

The National Democratic Congress party is a LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY of national character that is founded on Democratic and Christian values, all summed up into the Ubuntu values and philosophy. A government of the people for the people and by the people. After FiftyFiveyears of independence, Zambia has been through a number of political ideologies, which have fallen short of uplifting Zambia from a despondent state to a thriving country which is able to be an industrial, agricultural and technologically advanced hub in the Sub-Sahara region, Africa and world over. These ideologies include humanism under Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (UNIP) which ushered in our national political independence, Capitalism under the MMD and a socialist ideology under the PF. With the coming of NDC into power under the ideology of Ubuntu, Zambia shall be governed by democratic tenets.

UBUNTU is a term meaning humanity; "humanity towards others, "the belief in a universal bond of sharing the good that connects all humanity". In Southern Africa, Ubuntuism is propagated in Africanisation to mean majority rule. Ubuntu is also an African philosophy of 'Oneness' – this oneness is an understanding of the interconnectedness of all life.

Further, Ubuntu means love, truth, peace, happiness, eternal optimism, inner goodness, and oneness. Ubuntu is the core of a human being, the divine spark of goodness inherent within each being. From the beginning of time the divine principles of Ubuntu have guided African societies. Ubuntu is tremendously essential in Zambia and the world at large – as the world needs a common guiding principle of human values. Ubuntu is the basic of human value and without Ubuntu mankind is enveloped by greed, selfishness, immorality, and pride. All of which have dominated our political and governance system.

The values espoused in Ubuntu emphasize caring, sharing, reciprocity, co-operation, compassion and empathy in recognition that for human beings to develop, flourish and reach their full potential, they need to conduct their relationships in a manner that promotes the well-being of others. These values will be the drive to the creation of a modern welfare state-which is a combination of democracy, welfare, and capitalism. A type of mixed economy. As the National Democratic Congress Party, we believe that the values espoused in the philosophy of Ubuntuism are Biblical and Democratic principles hence the founding of our party on the values of Ubuntu.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NDC shall put Zambia on a path of becoming one of the most industrialized and technologically advanced nations in

Africa by putting in place the following;

I. An education system; supporting 100% access to quality education up to tertiary level with high specialization and a most computer literate population.

II. A well-organized decentralized governance and lean administrative system that shall have zero tolerance to corruption, REGARD IT AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND A CAPITAL OFFENCE.

III. Under the NDC, Zambia shall be a free, liberal and plural nation in which inalienable and fundamental rights (CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES) are entrenched and were freedoms of all persons are preserved by means of the rule of law.

IV. A self-sustainable diversified agricultural system with the employment of technology, conservation farming techniques and creation of strong inter-linkages among the tertiary (service), the agricultural and industrial/manufacturing sector

V. A continental infrastructural epicentre to aid trade, business and commerce using its location as a land linked Nation to our advantage.

These deliberate plans shall lead to the following outcomes:

- Creation of over 5 million jobs in 5 years by developing policies and strategies that obligates 50% of government expenditure on goods and services produced within the country.

- Establishment, use and harnessing of technology in driving development forward.

- Free accessible quality education whose content shall include specialization, combined with entrepreneurial, information and technology skills for all up to the 12th grade. While encouraging churches, civil society organization and the private sector to participate in developing and running the education institutions.

- A healthy care policy to provide free quality health care for children, the unemployed, the disabled, those below the minimum wage and the aged in our communities; while providing for others based on their ability to pay.

- Electrification of the rural areas using renewable energy such as solar energy. Creation of an enabling environment for public and private sector economic development and entrepreneur activities and innovation.

- Creation of all-weather modern highways and roads across Zambia

- Elevating Zambia to a prosperous middle-income Country within 5 years, en-route to a developed nation

- New and thriving small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and cooperatives through a financing mechanism which shall be directly facilitated by government but owned and managed by the very SMEs and co-operators themselves.

NDC'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND CORE VALUES

1.1 NDC VISION

TO SEE ZAMBIA BECOME ONE OF THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.(Job creation through Industrialisation)

1.2 NDC MISSION

|To Set Zambia on a Path of

True Political, Economic, Social and Technological Emancipation by Embracing the Ideology of Ubuntu in National Decisions at All Levels of Governance and in All Spheres of the lives of the people of Zambia.

1.3 THE FOUR CORE PILLARS OF NDC

1.3.1 EQUITY IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES

NDC believes in a lean and decentralized well-organized administration through which fair and impartial distribution of resources can be achieved across ALL THE TEN PROVINCES IN THE COUNTRY

1.3.2 JUSTICE FOR ALL

We believe that access to justice is a fundamental right in our society. "AND NDC IS COMMITTED TOWARDS DELIVERING JUSTICE FOR ALL, including Zambia's most vulnerable citizens; that is people living in poverty, physically challenged, veterans, seniors' citizens, minorities, victims of domestic violence, people living with HIV/AIDS and socially excluded groups. We believe where there is injustice in the country, peace cannot be sustained. As such, justice shall be achieved by guaranteeing civil rights and civil liberties

1.3.3 SERVITUDE TOWARDS NATIONAL DUTIES

Change of attitude is of great importance amongst Zambians and politicians specifically about what serving people entails. NDC believes that politics is about leadership and servitude. It is not about power and Lordship. It is essential to put national interest far beyond personal interests. Therefore, this kind of culture shall be inculcated early on in an individual's life, and shall be required at all leadership levels.

1.3.4 INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP

NDC believes that one of the most important and top attributes of a great leader is Integrity. It connotes a deep sense of commitment to do the right thing for the right reason, regardless of the circumstances. It is a concept of consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations and outcomes. Being the most important principle of leadership, leaders shall be required to possess hallmarks of integrity. Be dependent on integrity because it demands truthfulness and honesty. Therefore, it is very imperative for Political Leaders to uphold Political Integrity in their efforts to save the nation.

1.4 NDC CORE VALUES

- Christian Values
1. Unwavering Love, Faith and Trust in God Almighty
 2. Love for one another Democratic Values.
 1. Rule of law
 2. Effective Separation and Dispersion of Power among the Judiciary, Legislature and Executive.
 3. Gender Equity and Equality
 4. Transparency, Accountability and Corrupt free leadership
 5. Freedom of the Press
 6. Access & |Freedom of Information
 7. Transparent, Free and Fair Election.

We will continue publishing excerpts of our manifesto, courtesy of news diggers every Thursdays as we have always been doing.

By Ulande Nkomesha
MALAMBO PF member of parliament Makebi Zulu says it is impossible to lay out all the information in Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 regarding how it pronounces on mixed-member representation, among other benefits, but it will enhance Zambia's democracy.

And Zulu says constitutional lawyer John Sangwa State Counsel is being mischievous by stating that President Edgar Lungu is a lame duck President and that he shouldn't champion constitutional amendments.

Commenting on Sangwa's remarks that those championing Bill 10 were not specific on how the proposed mixed-member system was meant to improve political representation for various groups, including women, Zulu argued that the proposal enhanced their interests by allowing for increased numbers in Parliament.

"Regards the mixed-member representation, that one I think he is being mischievous because the idea of mixed-member representation and the arguments that were advanced for mixed-member representation, encompass the issue of women representation, youth representation. In

Sangwa being mischievous – Makebi



John Sangwa

short, representation of the similarly marginalized groups or disadvantaged groups that is what was there. Today, the argument that says the youths want certain things to happen, the youths are, 'we want freedom of expression,' that is what the youths are saying. What better way to have a voice and people to speak in a place, such as Parliament, to advocate what they want. Let's have them in Parliament so that they can

advocate for what they want," Zulu said in an interview.

"So, a mixed-member representation, obviously, you can't have the Constitution lay out all the issues that are supposed to be there, it will become a Bible. It sets out the principle; he is a constitutional law lecturer, he should know that the Constitution is not supposed to be a bulk document; it sets out the principles and subsidiary legislation would prescribe in accordance with the Constitution, but certainly not going against the Constitution."

And Zulu, who is also Eastern Province Minister, said Sangwa was being mischievous by stating that President Lungu was a lame duck President.

"The statements or debates of Sangwa are mischievous! When he says, 'the President is a lame duck and that he doesn't qualify to stand...' You see, he is the one who was representing LAZ (Law Association of Zambia)

in that matter and he lost the case. All the arguments that he has been issuing in public, he argued in court and he lost the case. The courts said in no uncertain terms 'he is eligible to stand.' I think he is being mischievous because President Lungu qualifies to stand and he will stand in 2021. There is nothing in the Constitution that will validate or invalidate the fact that he should be able to stand," Zulu said.

"It appears to me his insistence probably is that they have some papers already prepared, which they intend to file immediately after nomination, and they are of the view that if amendments go through, they will not be able to do that. That is not how we practice our law, we do not do that. Let him sit down with his client; explain to his client properly what that judgement was. If he doesn't really understand it himself, as he appears not to, he may consult fellow lawyers who may be kind enough to explain to him because every lawyer has understood it except him. What makes him that special even the judges have explained it? It is only prudent that he swallows the bitter pill and acknowledges what it is."

Zulu also said the gazetting of Bill 10 did not mean a reintroduction of a new Bill in Parliament, but an indication that government wanted to build trust by showing citizens that it had incorporated the recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee.

"He has been inconsistent



Makebi Zulu

throughout this debate as regards to Bill 10. The gazetting of the amendments are intended to build trust because we have been saying that we have listened to the recommendations of the Committee and we intend to move with the recommendations of the Committee. The outcry has been that, 'we don't trust you,' and we decide to say, 'okay, listen, let us publicize this,' we could have as well put in News Diggers! We could have put it in the Daily Nation, we could have put in the Daily Mail, we could have put in the Times of Zambia... But we put in the Gazette as one of the options not as a way of reintroduction of the Bill, otherwise, it wouldn't be known as Bill 10 because the ones that gave the numbers as regards to Bills, it is the National Assembly. So, that just is simply to notify the public to say, 'hold us by this,' we have heard and these are the amendments we intend to move," said Zulu.

"So, those are the amendments we intend to move not in terms of reintroduction of the Bill, that is not the case. He is preying on the gullibility of some people. It is not confusing at all, it is not three documents; it is for that reason that I am saying he is becoming mischievous! He knows exactly what is going on and

the public out there are not dumb; they are able to see through things; they are those who are gullible and those who have been able to pick up a position and don't intend to shift from their position will listen to him. But those that dare to read and those that understand the process and look at it as mere rhetoric. He has simply become a politician now and it is not from a legal perspective as it was. If he was being objective from a legal point of view, he would have explained the way I have explained."

On Tuesday, Sangwa said that as a lame duck President, Edgar Lungu must focus on consolidating his gains rather than pushing for constitutional amendments.

He said President Lungu's term was almost coming to an end and because he was not eligible to re-contest, his agenda in trying to amend the Constitution could not be trusted.



MAMA & PAPA BANDA

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JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says there is no law that stops him from gazetting the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 at this stage, adding that those questioning his decision are ignorant about the law, despite being lawyers. He says it amounts to foolishness for anyone to allege that his move was contemptuous and illegal.

“All that is just a bluff as you are well aware and as all enlightened citizens are aware, the absence of a law to govern any practice does not make that practice an illegality. The fact that there is no provision for a person to gazette does not make a gazetting an illegality. When a person has committed an offence, the offence is against a provided law,” said Honourable Lubinda.

We are concerned that the Minister of Justice is misleading himself and the general public with a straight face. The process of making laws is very simple and straight forward. All one needs is basic civics to understand it. But our Minister of Justice is trying to confuse people. When the President or the Executive comes up with a proposed Bill, it is taken to the National Assembly, and the National Assembly has the right to amend it according to the will of the people, not the President or the Minister. That is why members of parliament are always called upon to serve the interest of the people who elected them.

When the Bill is read for the first time in the National Assembly, it is then assigned to a select committee that looks at the contained

Lubinda is wrong, govt can't act without the law

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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proposals in detail before they come up with the recommendations which are then taken back to the House for further debate and a vote. When the National Assembly is done scrutinising the Bill, two thirds of the total number of MPs is supposed to vote in favour of the Bill for it to pass. After that, it is then taken to the President who, if he likes the changes, assents to it and it becomes law. If he doesn't like the proposed changes from the National Assembly, the President has the right to decline to assent to the bill. It is as simple as that.

This whole process has no room for interference from the President or the Executive because the National Assembly is a totally different wing of the government. The only time that the President can have a say on the Bill is when it is presented to him officially for presidential assent. If he doesn't like it, he has to reject it all. He cannot task his Minister of Justice to make changes to the Bill midway through

the National Assembly process, and even gazette those changes to suit the Executive's desires, no! It doesn't happen that way. That is totally against the principle of separation of powers!

Now, Lubinda is saying there is no law that stops him from gazetting a Bill. We have a problem with that reasoning. Again, all that one needs is basic civics to understand that a government cannot not be expected to do anything that is NOT backed by law. In what capacity are you publishing that gazette? Which law did you follow to gazette this new Bill 10 with those amendments?

Our Minister of Justice needs to explain to the people. The Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 is already before the National Assembly and it was already gazetted before it was taken for First Reading, in accordance with the law. So where does he draw the authority to gazette and publish another edited version of a

Bill dealing with the same matter that is already undergoing enactment? What is the motive? Where does he want to take this new Bill 10? Who asked him to do it? Which stakeholders did he consult?

As far as we know, the recent Bill 10 that the minister edited and gazetted has no legal significance. It's a useless document. But if Honourable Lubinda insists that it was necessary for him to do so, he must explain to the people; is he abandoning the Bill that is before the National Assembly? If that is his intention, again, there is procedure to be followed before doing that because Zambia is a country of laws. What Minister Lubinda is supposed to do is formally withdraw the Bill which is before the National Assembly and start the process all over again, call for fresh proposals and recommendations from the public and stakeholders.

Honourable Lubinda's

job was to present the Bill to the National Assembly on behalf of the President, which he already did. How can he go back to start gazetting the Bill which he already presented before the National Assembly? What is he telling us now? This is what stakeholders mean when they accuse you, Honourable Minister, of interfering with the National Assembly process. This is why we are asking: who proposed the changes you have made to the new Bill 10? If they came from the Select Committee, you have no right to gazette them. The Committee is supposed to take its recommendations to the whole National Assembly for debate and then a vote, not to the Minister of Justice or the President.

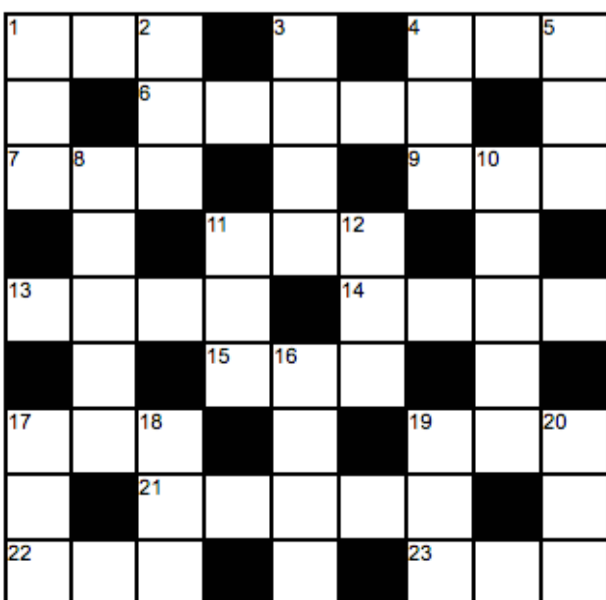
That is the simple procedure for making laws. So when the Minister stubbornly says even if he is not a lawyer, he understands the law better than lawyers, in the process of misleading the public, we find that to be very dangerous. This

is as dangerous as any Jim and Jack claiming to know medicine better than a doctor. There is no procedure for a minister to make changes to a Bill that is before the House. This is why people say Lubinda is dangerous because he speaks so confidently even on matters that have no legal backing. Even when he is wrong, he has the habit of bullying and threatening people.

What is worse in this case is that Minister Lubinda is lying to say there is no law that stops him. The Constitution is clear in Article 79 that gazetting a Bill is a precondition to presenting the Bill to the National Assembly. So what does he mean when he says there is no law that stops him? This minister is a very dangerous man.

Our people must know that what Mr Lubinda is preaching is lawlessness. When you are a decision maker, you need authority backed by law to do anything and in so doing, you must point to the law that mandates you. You can't say "there is no law that stops me!" That's lawlessness! It's not about whether there is a law that stops you; it's about whether there is a law that supports your action. We want to warn that Mr Lubinda will get in problems with this reasoning. If he thinks he can do anything he likes as long as there is no written law that stops him, trouble is waiting for him.

Crossword puzzle No 632



“Protesting is never a disturbance of the peace. Corruption, injustice, war and intimidation are disturbances of the peace.”
- Bryant McGill

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Said to scare 4. Help 6. Resulting in death 7. Groove 9. Tell a mistruth 11. Amount (abbr.) 13. Revise 14. Feels crummy 15. Talent for music 17. Weep 19. Sight organ 21. Run away to marry 22. Cookie container 23. Carry with effort | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soap shape 2. Many a time 3. Molecule component 4. The whole group 5. Female deer 8. Holstein part 10. Mosaic work 11. Dined 12. Black sticky substance 16. Delinquent G.I. 17. House pet 18. Craving 19. Snake-like fish 20. Scrambled or poached food |
|---|--|

Crossword puzzle No 631



Readers' Feedback

Lungu's argument that Bill 10 will help end succession wrangles in chiefdoms

Editor,

"Chiefdom leadership wrangles must be left to be dealt with by the chiefdoms themselves. Government interference and imposition of chiefs without following the chiefdoms' laid down procedures is what escalates the wrangles. Chiefdoms are better off left alone to sort their own wrangles. If they fail to settle among themselves that's when the courts can come in. Chiefdoms have been running smoothly for centuries way before the birth of Bill 10, except for a few

isolated incidents here and there. Let us guide our chiefs properly and not mislead them". - Grace Shankaya

"Just say you have no chance of winning any election, not with your record, so you want to hold on to power despite people rejecting you....It will back fire... If you're wise leave the stage now, go and enjoy your stolen wealth than being pushed by the very security protecting you". - Fortunato Fishinka

"Bill 10 will also pay our National Debt and build better roads and while at it, It might as well ensure equitable distribution

of national resources. Its going to be a miracle worker!" - Peter Mbanga Shankaya

"He should tell them the truth that he wants to change 270 rejected clauses less 5 irrelevant ones except one dealing with pensioners and that he wants to take away their remaining powers. Why can't he attend to real problems like PF corruption and violence, no clearcut economic recovery plan, oppression of divergent views and incompetence?!!!" - Callaghan Mwamba

"What this country needs urgently is not ammendments but good leadership. Lack of it breeds high debt, poverty and chaos all round". - Vongo Mwandila

"This is uncalled for!!! Just in 2016 the constitution was changed, and they want to change it again. Do we have problems with the constitution or we have problems with their governance system which has no transparency and is full of corruption????!!!" - Prince Saint Nicholas

What do you mean some traditional leaders are difficult to work with? Development can be taken to all parts of the nation without consulting chiefs. You do it for the general populous not for chiefs. The problem is, politicians exchange votes for development". - Victor Mboyounga



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Kampyongo's warning to youths that those who dare the State will have themselves to blame

Editor,

"Kampyongo is daring the State itself; the people of Zambia. For there cannot be a state without the people who make up the State. What he should always remember is that some of those that are marching today whom he is threatening with unspecified action, voted for Kampyongo and his colleagues. It is him to stop daring the people, not the other way round. Infact Kampyongo's threats on us show that this government has no regard for the people of Zambia". - Grace Shankaya

"If the Zambia Police Service is charged by the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act. No. 2

of 2016 to uphold the Bill of Rights (Article 193(2)(e) besides other duties in the mentioned Article), and Article 11(The Bill of rights) deals with fundamental rights and freedoms such as protection of freedom of expression, protection of freedom of assembly and association, protection of freedom of movement besides others, then the service must be at the centre of the protection of human rights in the most neutral and apolitical way. Criminalising peaceful protests and or demonstrations at every turn, and curtailing them by use of force or the threat to do so, violates the rights and freedoms of the very citizens the police is mandated to protect". - Felix Nkonge

B-Flow on Chellah's arrest a sign of shrinking freedom of expression in Zambia

Dear editor,

"Freedom of expression should be understood as such. Its the freedom to express an opinion and no one should argue with an opinion. If anyone feels aggrieved there are legal recourses not arrests by police - that is state intimidation. People in public service should know that their conduct in exercise of public functions is always under a microscope

and thus bound to criticism. The threat of defamation is for the thin skinned. Look at the way Donald Trump is criticised. If the USA was Zambia, half the country would be in prison. Leave Chella alone". - Cephas M Kunda

"So some folks need some civic education on freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is merely a right to express one's options, its

not absolute, it comes with duties and responsibilities. What Chella Tukuta was doing on his social media account was not freedom of speech but abuse of freedom of speech. Of late he has been defaming people without any tangible evidence, and those people have the right to take him to court and prove his allegations". - Lawrence Chimukwaya



Nkhuwa's hope that load shedding will end by December

Dear editor,

"Whether load shedding ends or not; I will continue with the same ZESCO load shedding time table by switching off electricity in my apartment until voting day". - Nawa CN

"That is a well known fact sir. 2021 is an election year. So we expect good things like end of load shedding and other gifts". - Fundamenta Mwendapole

"A few months ago, Zesco experts advised the nation that water from Mwinilunga to Kariba dam travels in 3 months. Is this water still travelling? Please help the nation understand clearly what's going on with regards to load shading". - Oast J Choongo

"The Hon. Minister skipped to tell the nation how far the water flowing from Vic Falls to the Kariba Dam has reached since the 9 weeks mentioned by a Zambezi River Authority official, for the water to reach the Dam, has elapsed by close to 3 months now". - Grace Shankaya

"Even the water is tired and disgruntled". - Kennedy Kangoni

"Didn't government say there is a project that is in place that will end loadshedding by June 2020, nomba its extended to December?" - Nkole Jimmy

"Joke of the year! Last year they told us, it will end by April, today it's December, natuleikalafye ififine kablili eflyo balefwaya! And am counting the days!!!!" - Chitundu Hosmon Sakala

"These are things frustrating people. Lies after lies, scandal after scandal. Since January last year we are still facing the same problem, even years after independence sure... uhhmm awe". - Lizwe Ndaba

"Hoping again? Ba minister , Victoria falls has recorded more water than it has ever done in 10 years. You told us it takes 9 weeks for water to flow from Victoria falls to Kariba. It's now past 9 weeks and you are now again hoping for better rains in December? Seriously?!" - Maclaud Musonda Nchimunya

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested Minister of Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya on allegations of corruption. The ACC has since charged Chilufya with four counts of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

And Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) president Rueben Lifuka says President Edgar Lungu should consider relieving the minister of his duties and allow him to focus on his case.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, ACC corporate affairs officer Jonathan Siame said Dr

ACC arrests Chilufya as TIZ calls on Lungu to fire him

Chilufya was released on bond and would appear in court on July 9, 2020.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has today arrested Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya. Dr Chilufya, 47, of H/n 4 Robert Kennedy Close, off Brentwood Avenue, in Lusaka, was arrested today and has been charged with four counts of possession of property reasonably suspected of being proceeds of crime

contrary to section 71 sub section 1 of the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act No 19 of 2010," Siame said.

"His arrest follows investigations that the commission has been conducting against the minister in relation to these allegations that I have just talked about. So, he has since been released on bond and this is in his own recognisance and is expected to appear

before the magistrate court in Lusaka on 9th July 2020."

And Lifuka, in a statement to News Diggers, appealed to President Lungu to relieve Chilufya of his duties as was the case with Emerine Kabanshi.

"In order to ensure that the prosecution and conduct of this matter is above board, we again call on President Lungu to consider relieving the Minister of Health of his duties and allow him first and foremost, to focus on this case and secondly, to insulate his own government from unfortunate distractions which this case may present if the said Minister remains in his office. We do not agree that President Lungu should only do what is legal when making such a decision but he should also do what is morally right. In any case, President Lungu himself has previously fired one of his own Cabinet Ministers, Hon Emerine Kabanshi on mere allegations of impropriety. President

Lungu should consider the greater need to ensure that Cabinet maintains a high level of probity and serves as a model to the rest of the public service," Lifuka stated.

He stated that there is no need for President Lungu to continue remaining undecided on cases involving those in authority.

"We want to reiterate our call for lifestyle audits for all Cabinet Ministers, the President and the Vice-President. The various cases of alleged impropriety against senior government officials fortify our consistent call for lifestyle audits and there is no need for the continued dithering from those in authority. We call on ACC, Office of the Auditor General and all relevant authorities to quickly develop the mechanism of conducting these audits," Lifuka added.

He further urged the ACC to continue discharging its duties in the interest of the public.

"We want to welcome the decision by the ACC to arrest Hon Chilufya and it is our fervent hope that the

necessary ground work has been done and there is a good basis to pursue this course of action. We do recognise henceforth that Hon Chilufya now has an opportunity to mount his defence before the courts of law and seek to clear his name. This decision should be in furtherance of the ideals of entrenching transparency and accountability in the discharge of public service. We will continue to prod ACC to continue to discharge its duties without fear or favour and to focus only on serving national interests and nothing else," stated Lifuka.

"The executive arm of government should take recognition of the fact that for the judiciary, judges are suspended whenever prima facie cases are established against them as provided for in Article 144 in the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) No 2 of 2016. Similarly, in Article 83, where a motion is supported by a resolution of two thirds of the Members of Parliament, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall be suspended from office and the matter referred to a parliamentary committee. We therefore ask the question, why should Cabinet Ministers be treated differently?"

Bill 10 flops again

By Mirriam Chabala
CONSTITUTION Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 has been deferred to a later date within the current sitting.

Justice Minister Given Lubinda sought permission of the House, "with a heavy heart", to put off debates on the bill for undisclosed reasons, Wednesday afternoon.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini, however, cautioned Lubinda to ensure that a date is found within Parliament's current sitting, emphasizing that Bill 10 cannot be tabled at a later date than the last day of the current sitting.

After the House adopted the report of the committee on media and information technology, the Clerk of the National Assembly announced the presumption of debate on the Bill 10 motion of 17th March, 2020 and Chipata central PF member of parliament Moses Mawere, who was on the floor before the House adjourned sine die, continued debating.

In his debate, Mawere brought to the attention of the House all the "progressive" clauses in Bill 10 which the people of Chipata Central wanted to be incorporated in the national constitution to ensure that they were not left out on governance issues.

"Mr Speaker, even as I stand here representing the people of Chipata Central, the people of Chipata Central have told me categorically that the women of Chipata Central want to represent themselves here in this House. Surely, Mr Speaker, who would want to be against that? The youths of Zambia are saying they want to represent themselves in this House, surely who doesn't want that gesture? The differently abled people, Mr Speaker, are also requesting to be represented here. What else can we do for them? Worse still, Mr Speaker, men of this nation are saying they want to be represented in this Chamber. So surely, this is a good gesture which all of us need to embrace," debated Mawere.

"Mr Speaker, issues of Zambia being a Christian nation, indeed we are a Christian nation. So enshrining this clause

in our Constitution is a matter which should not be debated by anyone. But we as Zambians, Mr Speaker, we need to embrace it and those who are walking away from this process, it means they have got a different agenda which is not being supported by the Zambian people."

But when asked to wind up debate, Lubinda sought the leave of the House to defer debates to later date within the course of this sitting without stating why.

"Mr Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I seek leave of the House to defer consideration of the bill to a later date albeit within the current meeting. I thank you Sir," submitted Lubinda.

But in response, the Speaker cautioned Lubinda ensure that he found a date not later than the last day

of the current sitting before granting leave to defer Bill 10.

"Very well. Honourable minister, you are obviously aware that this bill has had a long traverse since its first publication and as we speak now, we are in the last meeting of the fourth session and as you've rightly pointed out, any deferment to be allowed can only be in the course of this meeting. Therefore, I would like you to ensure that through your office and the office of the Clerk, you closely coordinate your efforts and indicate in good time the day when you are ready to proceed and conclude this particular matter. And of course as you've already implied yourself, that cannot be on a day later than the last day of this meeting. So leave is granted," said Speaker Matibini.

Zambia in a precarious state due to corruption, says Zukas

By Julia Malunga
VETERAN politician and acclaimed freedom fighter Simon Zukas says the country is in a precarious state caused by corruption and the tolerance of it.

And Zukas says Zambia should no longer dismiss the worth and ability of a younger generation that is smart enough to outwit the authority after protesting in the bush on Monday.

Meanwhile, former secretary to the Cabinet Sketchely Sacika says the rule of law has completely collapsed under President Edgar Lungu who is a creation of the Constitution.

Speaking at the launch of Our-Civic-Duty Association (OCIDA) comprising some senior citizens, among them freedom fighters, a retired senior church leader and some retired senior civil servants who served in the past governments and ruling party, Zukas said the answer to corruption was to deal with it and not wait for proof.

Apart from Zukas and Sacika, other directors of OCIDA include Archbishop Telephore Mpundu (Emeritus), Leslie Mbula, Ompie Nkumbula-Liebenthal, Lilly Monze, Bautis Kapulu and Yusuf Patel.

"An ordinary person will acknowledge the precarious state of our country. A precarious state that has arisen from corruption and the tolerance of it. From the diminishing political state, to lack of inclusiveness and abuse of public media by the ruling party. We need more transparency from our government. I would like to

raise the following: do we know of the gassing that took place? All we know is that a nolle (prose qui) but what was it all about? Some people lost their lives. What was the gassing trying to achieve? Was it political? We don't know and yet the government must know and should share it with us. Do we know how the degazetting of Lusaka forest reserve came about? Some people do know but I would like to hear officially from the government. Do we know why the government paid the exorbitant price of US\$42 million for 42 fire tenders? Have you heard the full account and with comparative tenders for it? The search for answers to questions like these above has given rise to abet us a civic duty association which comprises senior citizens, middle aged citizens and the younger generation," Zukas said.

"I would like to recognize the immediate need for our government to deal with corruption and production of a program acceptable to the International Monetary Fund. The answer to corruption is to deal with it. Not just to say that it is there and I am waiting for proof."

He cited a case involving one of Levy Mwanawasa's closest allies who was prosecuted for corruption despite playing a key role in ushering the latter into office.

"Let me give you an example, way back under the late President Mwanawasa there was a case where someone was...corrupt and the case was well known to Mwanawasa but because this corruptive man had helped

the President in the elections, the President hesitated to do something. At that stage, we had the Post newspaper. The Post wouldn't let the issue die, it went on about six months consequently referring to this case," Zukas said. "Eventually, the President had no option but to give instructions to deal with it. I can tell you that it came to court and the corruptive man was sentenced to six months in prison eventually after nagging. Now today, we have several cases where we keep hearing that the man is corrupt but there is no action taken. The answer lies in the authorities acting; whether it can be proved sufficiently for the case, that is another matter. But the important thing is to act, to mention it."

On the freedom of expression, he said such liberties were now limited.

"We have limited democracy here but it doesn't follow the systems being used in China or Cuba, it gives you more freedom. It may be more effective in mobilizing in emergencies. But freedoms of expression, freedom of individuals are very limited," Zukas said.

He said the country should not dismiss the importance of the younger generation.

"After Monday's event [where youths protested], we should no longer dismiss the worth and ability of a younger generation [of] very smart people; smart enough to outwit the authority," said Zukas.

And Dr Sacika said the President cannot run the country outside the law.

"...The problem is that there is no





Aguero to undergo knee surgery in Barcelona today

SERGIO Aguero will have surgery on a knee injury on Thursday with Pep Guardiola waiting to find out when he will have the striker available.

The Manchester City striker is currently in Barcelona where he will be operated on by specialist Dr Ramon Cugat, who has performed surgery on various City players, including Kevin de Bruyne, Ilkay Gundogan, Benjamin Mendy and Aymeric Laporte in the past.

A timescale has not

been put on Aguero's return and he has not yet been ruled out of the Champions League restart in August.

"Tomorrow he'll have surgery with Dr Cugat in Barcelona. Once he finishes the surgery maybe we'll know exactly the time when he can come back to join us and play with us," Guardiola told his news conference ahead of Thursday's clash with Chelsea.

"I don't know right now [about the Champions League]. After surgery we'll know exactly what the doctor sees and exactly what he has done. He will tell us more about the time to come back."

The injury leaves City with only Gabriel Jesus as a recognised striker although Guardiola insists he has options including Raheem Sterling and Ilkay Gundogan, who has been more recently used as a defensive midfielder.

"We don't have any doubts about Gabriel," the City boss added. "The only doubt we have is because not one single player with the preparation we have can play every three days."

"We have Gabriel. Raheem can play in this position, even Gundogan

and Bernardo [Silva] can play in this position. We have different options. Not like a striker but we can use them."

City face their third game in eight days on Thursday since the return of football following the shutdown enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic when they travel to Chelsea.

Guardiola made eight changes between the victories over Arsenal and Burnley and is expected to rotate again for the trip to Stamford Bridge, but he admitted that he will make changes with the trip to Newcastle on Sunday in mind with the opportunity of defending the FA Cup becoming a priority as Liverpool run away with the league.

"We can't deny that we have one eye on Newcastle," he said. "Chelsea and Liverpool are prestigious and important games but Newcastle is our game. A final for us."

"We have one eye on this but the other eye, the team selection depends on physical condition, the minutes they have played. We take a look a little bit at what is going to happen in the next, not just Chelsea."

GOAL

Deferred FAZ polls will affect soccer - Mamfunda

By Abraham Kalito

SOCCKER administrator Ricky Mamfunda says Zambian soccer will be negatively impacted by the deferred Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) elections which should have taken place in March this year.

In an interview with goal Diggers in Lusaka, Mamfunda said with limited officials at Football House to manage the running of the affairs, the super league could be adversely impacted.

"The delay in holding the elections will definitely have an impact on football generally and that impact will be a negative one. Because look, for instance, if we say the league resumes in the next couple of weeks, then unfortunately, we seem

not to have a policy making organ, in this case we are talking about the executive committee not yet being in place at football house. I think that may affect us negatively in the running of the affairs but overall, I'm hopeful that the secretariat led by the general secretary will be able to run the affairs of football in the absence of a fully constituted committee," Mamfunda said.

Meanwhile, the soccer administrator has predicted that various super league and division one clubs would fail to sustain their stay in those competitions owing to the negative impact that COVID-19 has had on their finances.

"I think one of the things that affected most of the clubs and for some

time to come will affect most of the clubs here, is the financial implication [of COVID-19]. And obviously, some clubs, if we talk of the super division and division one, not all the clubs have got the same financial muscle. So, unfortunately, we may see some casualties along the way and some clubs may not be able to sustain their stay in their respective zones. Going forward, I think we as administrators, in collaboration with the owners of the clubs and major shareholders, I think we need to look at how best we can bring in so many other players in terms of financial contribution."

He said going forward, clubs should have at least more than five sponsors to avoid being

inconvenienced.

"What I have noticed is that most of the clubs, especially in the super division, tend to have one or two major sponsors and then once those major sponsors are affected financially, there will be that negative trickle-down effect in terms of the sponsorship of clubs. But if one had to spread the net wider, maybe if you have got say about ten corporate entities, even individual sponsors coming on board, you would be able to leverage on those that may not be affected so much," said Mamfunda.

Dynamos' sponsorship remains safe for now

By Abraham Kalito

COPPERBELT Energy Corporation (CEC) Executive Director Owen Silavwe says the company will come up with a decision regarding its sponsorship to super league side Power Dynamos once it analyses the impact of the adverse decision that government has made on its power supply to the mines.

Last month, government declared CEC's transmission and distribution lines as common carrier shortly after assuming the responsibilities of supplying power to Konkola Copper Mine following the expiry of the Bulk Supply Agreement.

Silavwe called the decisions 'adverse', adding that the company is

still analysing the exact impact of the move by government before it can announce new measures to be taken in order to remain relevant.

"My response is that CEC at the moment is still doing its analysis on the decision by government and all associated government institutions like ERB have done. Now, that has not been completed yet but we are aware that these decisions have a serious adverse impact on the business. However, in as far as what measure the company is going to take [regarding sponsorship to Power Dynamos Football Club], that is something we are still looking at as an institution," Silavwe said.

He said currently, the

sponsorship to Power Dynamos will remain but admitted that the company will be to a great extent affected by the decision taken by government.

"So we are not announcing anything with respect to Power Dynamos or indeed any aspect of the business just yet. So, the status quo for Power Dynamos for now remains as it is but if anything changes, the company will make that announcement. For the moment, we haven't announced any measures being taken by the company because we are still examining whatever adverse decision the government is taking. From the business, we have to see what impact all these decisions will have," said Silavwe.

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Deferred FAZ polls will affect soccer - Mamfunda

By Abraham Kalito
SOCCER administrator Ricky Mamfunda says Zambian soccer will be negatively impacted by the deferred Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) elections which should have taken place in March this year. *Story page 11*

Luiz signs new Arsenal contract



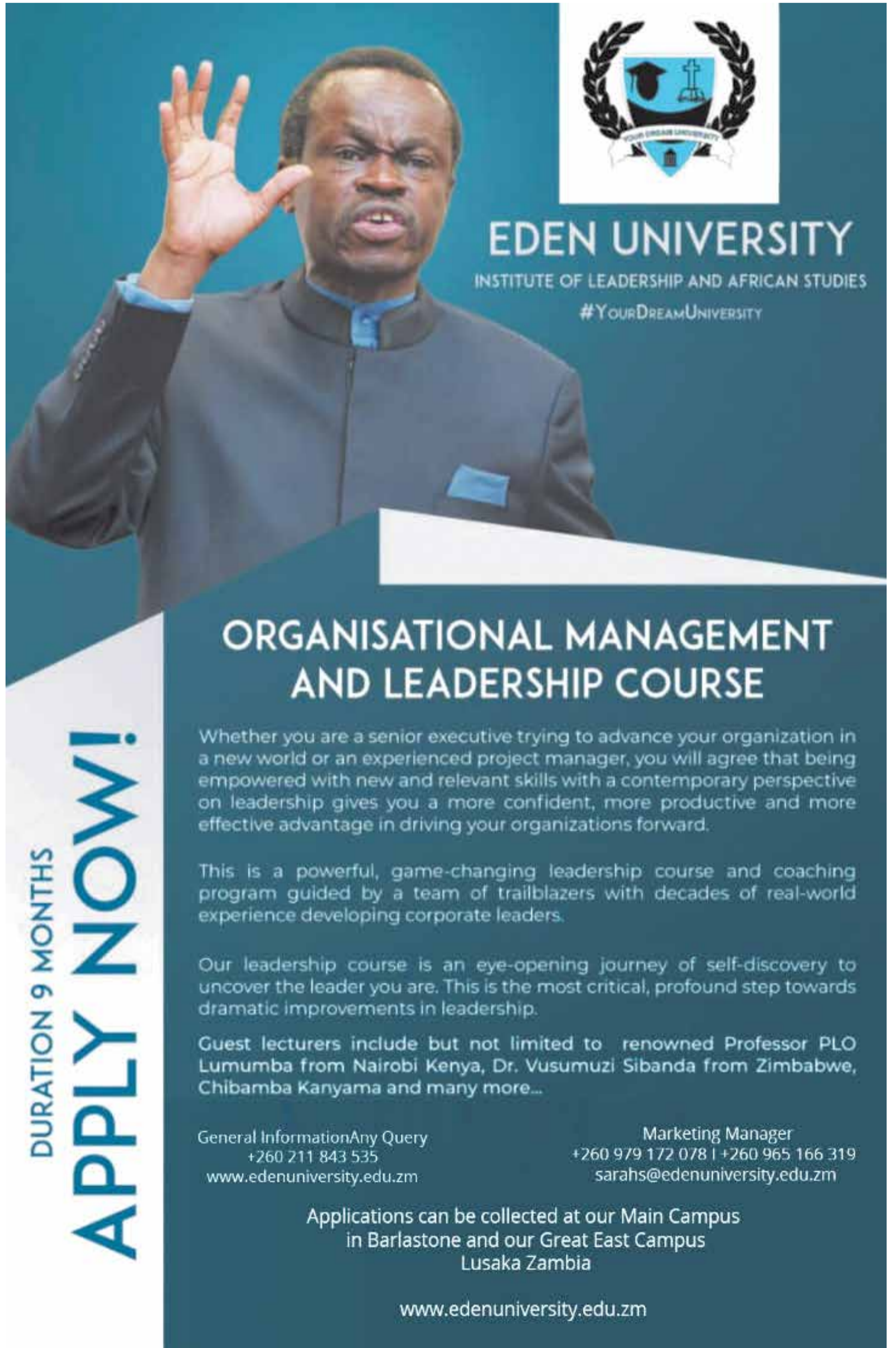
ARSENAL have announced David Luiz has signed a one-year contract extension with the club, while loanees Cedric Soares and Pablo Mari have penned permanent deals.


Dani Ceballos, meanwhile, will remain with the club until the end of the 2019-20 Premier League season but there is no news over Bukayo Saka or Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who are contracted to the Gunners until 2021.

Veteran defender Luiz's deal with the Gunners was set to expire at the end of the month, and there had been doubts about whether the club would want to keep him following a series of erratic performances.

That included him being sent off 25 minutes after coming on as a substitute against Manchester City last week, with Luiz having also conceded a penalty and made a mistake that led to Raheem Sterling's opening goal in the same game.

However, the 33-year-old's experience - plus the lack of viable alternatives amid the coronavirus pandemic - has seen Arsenal move to keep him at the club. **GOAL**





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