



# SANGWA REACTS

## If State Counsel rank is given as *chivala pakamwa*, I'm ready to give it back tomorrow



By Mirriam Chabala

CONSTITUTIONAL lawyer John Sangwa says the rank and dignity of State Counsel is not *chivala mulomo*, adding that being a member of the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) does not abolish any lawyer's freedom of expression.

And the renown lawyer says if the objective of the Letters Patent given to State Counsel is to stop the recipients from speaking out on governance issues, then he is willing to relinquish his Letters Patent, as it would be a form of corruption.

Earlier this week, President Edgar Lungu asked the newly-elected LAZ Executive to address the tendency by some State Counsel who are in the habit of openly "demonising the Executive" instead of putting their concerns in writing to the Office of the President.

Reacting to the development, Sangwa, who has previously accused President Lungu of trying to hold on to power beyond the Constitutional limit through a "strange interpretation" of some provisions of the Constitution and judgment of the Constitutional Court as well as through Bill 10, said the rank and dignity of State Counsel is not conferred to enable lawyers charge higher legal fees but in recognition of their contribution to the legal profession.

"People have misunderstood what it means to be State Counsel. You are given that title in recognition of your contribution to the legal profession. It doesn't mean that it becomes *kavala mulomo* or *chivala pa kwamwa* [a silencing tool], no!.." If that is the intention,..."

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Challenge PF's corruption to ensure fair 2021 polls, UPND pleads with EU

By Mukosha Funga

UPND has asked the European Union (EU) to aggressively interrogate issues surrounding political violence in Zambia, the 2021 general election and the fight against corruption, among others in the forthcoming Zambia - EU annual meeting.

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PACRA diverted K14m meant for office block to personal emoluments, reveals AG

By Julia Malunga

THE Auditor General's Report has revealed that the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) spent over K14 million, which was originally meant for construction of an office block, on personal emoluments.

And the Report says information such as registration numbers for 16 clients and addresses of registered offices for 17,082 clients vanished from PACRA's system.

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## We've reached critical stage of COVID-19 pandemic, warns Chilufya as death toll hits 134

By Julia Malunga  
HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the country has recorded six deaths associated with COVID-19 and 206 new cases in the last 24 hours.

And Dr Chilufya says 18

patients are currently on oxygen, with two in a critical condition, saying the country has reached a critical stage of the pandemic with an unprecedented surge in Coronavirus cases due to the current cold weather.

Speaking at COVID-19 media briefing, Thursday, Dr Chilufya said out of the six deaths recorded, five were brought-in-dead at the University Teaching Hospital while one was recorded at Kalulushi General Hospital. Story page 10



## Anarchists won't be allowed to campaign in prisons - Chileshe

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MATERO PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya says the altercation which happened between him and his councillor, Annie Chinyanta, on Wednesday was a trap to force him into manhandling the latter.

But Chinyanta says Kaziya does not know what he is talking about and will soon be forced to retract his statement.

On Wednesday, a video went viral on social media where Kaziya had an altercation with Chinyanta in Matero's Emmasdale area over a piece of land.

In an interview, Kaziya explained that the councillor had been rude to him ever since he assumed office, and that she had been provoking him.

"She wanted to provoke me to a situation where I could physically handle her. That is

# My councillor tried to force me to man handle her – Kaziya

what she was leading to and I sensed that. She just wanted to embarrass me and that was the whole idea of shooting that video. But there is no crime to this because, you see, Local Government Ministry has taken interest into this matter, Lands Ministry has also taken interest into the matter and I have been talking to them. So, they are coming tomorrow (today) on the ground to verify what is happening and the truth will be told. The video does not explain anything," Kaziya argued.

He insisted that Chinyanta had been rude to him since he

was elected back in 2016.

"She has been rude throughout the tenure! I have just avoided her. She has been extremely rude. Whoever knows her closely regrets knowing her. She is that one person you can be friends today and tomorrow you are enemies. She is so vulgar that anything, she will raise her voice. So, that is the kind of leadership and you wonder those are people aspiring to take over from us as MPs. What will remain of Matero if you hear there?" Kaziya asked.

He also charged that Chinyanta had been allowing

illegalities in Emmasdale in the name of development.

"It's unfortunate that somebody recorded the incident halfway. The gist of the matter is that there are some illegalities going on in Emmasdale. That is a third illegality I am trusting with coming from one known councillor. There is a road in Emmasdale that has been given to an Indian at a fee. I had even brought ZNBC cameras to come and see what is happening. I went to warn the Indian from closing the road because he has even put a concrete slab on the road

with a view to extend his wall fence! There is a second case involving Emmasdale Bazaar, just near Chaisa bus stop. The community from there called me to say, 'this Indian is extending his wall fence towards the tar mark,' Kaziya explained.

"So, I went to see him requesting for papers. I stopped that man and I talked to the Town Clerk and they have written to him to stop construction. This is a third one where you sell a piece of land under Zesco pylons to a Rwandese national. And I was called by the community again to say, 'can you come and see what is happening here,' and I went there. I got there only to find people busy constructing on Vubwi road. That is directly under 33KV Zesco pylons. I went there and stopped those people from constructing. I asked them who was developing the area, but they couldn't disclose. Then I gave them my number to ask the developer to call me so that I look at the papers and warn him that you cannot develop under the pylons."

And Kaziya said when he went to verify the complaints brought to his office by the community, the councillor started insulting him.

"No sooner had I left the place, they went back to construct. I was called again by the same community to say, 'these guys have gone back to construct!' That is how I went to pick up the police officers from Emmasdale after lodging in a complaint. And I was given three police officers as you can

see in the video. We asked the developer to go and bring the documents and he went to call Annie Chinyanta instead. He took about 30 minutes, keeping us waiting outside! Annie just came and started insulting me. I said I have come to verify the documents, but she insisted that I have been harassing people that have been trying to help develop Matero and Emmasdale. Then she instructed somebody to start filming. Then I didn't realise that she was up to no good. She made me so upset that I called her 'useless' because whatever activities she has been doing in Emmasdale are all illegal activities. After realising that somebody was filming, I just went into the car and left," narrated Kaziya.

When reached for comment, Chinyanta said she could not respond to Kaziya's claim as she needed clearance from the party hierarchy.

"Can you give me time, I haven't gotten clearance yet. You know, I am a constituency chairlady as well, so I am not allowed to issue statements anyhow. I will definitely give you my side of the story, but just give me some time. Even over the weekend. Just continue getting statements from that man (Kaziya). He will come and retract them because he doesn't know what he is talking about! That is why he is talking anyhow. And I can't do what he is doing. I am a leader. I need to know what I am supposed to do. I don't want to have his attitude. So, let him talk about whatever he wants to talk about, but I will give you my own statement. Just give me time," said Chinyanta in a separate interview, Thursday.

## Govt not leading by example in COVID-19 fight – Chikoya

By Mirriam Chabala

COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya has expressed concern that government officials are endangering Zambians' lives by holding mass gatherings against the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

And Fr Chikoya has advised CCZ members to ensure that they do not gather for smaller church meetings, but conduct them remotely via social media platforms as the Church leadership continues to find safer ways of conducting spiritual activities.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya said it was difficult for people to take government's health guidance on COVID-19 seriously when the leaders themselves were not practicing what they preached.

"We are concerned as the Church about the current happenings and, of course, we will have to reflect and give guidance to our members sooner than later on this matter. But we are very concerned about the seemingly over-relaxation of the COVID-19 preventive measures by the government, which has led to this current situation where the number of cases are skyrocketing! So, this is a source of concern, especially that the leaders in government should give a good example. But with the way our leaders and their entourages have been visiting places and conducting rallies without observing any social distancing, as the Church, we express our strongest worry because it sends a message that,

'it is okay,'" Fr Chikoya said.

"It means, therefore, that if our leaders are gathering, then we should follow their example and not what they are telling us. So, that's the unfortunate part of all this. But I think we will be able to update the country and our members in terms of our limitations and what we are working on so that the necessary steps can be taken to ensure the safety of all our members. But we should not take COVID-19 for granted. We call for people to stick to the highest levels of hygiene and we must make sure that we avoid unnecessary crowding, including funerals; we should be able to really avoid sleeping in crowds. We should avoid situations where people sleep crowded in a small room; we have to mourn our departed, yes, but the new normal is that we have to mourn differently."

Fr Chikoya asked CCZ members to ensure that they avoided unnecessary gatherings as the Church leadership sought safer ways to conduct prayers and other religious activities.

"The way we conduct our church services, obviously, also need to be relooked; we may have to get to a place where we have to discourage public gatherings and encourage smaller programmes through social media and other platforms and these are things that people should not wait for, they should be able to look at the situation and immediately act because if you love your members, you should be able to take the required measures to protect them. Everybody should be protected. To love one another means I should mask

up, wash my hands and follow all the guidelines. We are in a very challenging time, but we have to learn to live with these challenges. We need to intensify our sanitation hygiene and be very strict at funerals and where we need to cancel events like weddings and other gatherings, let us just cancel and ensure that we protect lives and this is exactly what we are trying to do as church leaders," Fr Chikoya said.

Meanwhile, he asked Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chitalu Chilufya to practice what he preached and follow all health guidelines if he wanted total cooperation and seriousness from the public.

"We are concerned that on one hand, we are being told to stay at home and avoid crowds, while on the other hand, we see the very person who is at the forefront of leading the fight against COVID-19 breaking those same guidelines. We seriously call to him that he is out of order. Yes, everybody else can do something else, but he should make sure that such things aren't done by him. He should not be involved in such situations where there are so many cadres around him with no social distancing! Let's walk the talk, stop saying one thing and then doing another thing. We are fed up with this approach where you expect people to cooperate and follow guidelines, which you break with impunity yourselves," complained Fr Chikoya.

"Leaders are just sending a wrong message to us. All those arranging the Presidential programmes and the like, they are sending the wrong message to the people of Zambia. Let's

stop that and just provide proper leadership. At the moment, we have a situation where people are saying, 'yes we hear you, but how come? Is Coronavirus only for us or it's affecting everybody?' Even when, for example, you have a COVID-related death, whether in government or not, the strict COVID-19 guidelines should be followed. But if we are going to allow crowds and that kind of arrangement at funeral homes, we are telling ordinary people, also, when they have funerals to also follow our example. So, these are serious concerns where, unfortunately, our leaders are not helping us. But when we are in leadership, we need to be very clear and make everything extremely clear."

## Police charge Chihepo with desertion, sedition

By Mirriam Chabala

POLICE in Muchinga Province have officially arrested and charged Jeyson Chihepo with desertion and seditious practices, saying he wanted to bring government into hatred.

Muchinga Province Police Commissioner Joel Njase has asked officers seeking to join politics to resign, further cautioning cops to be cautious of their choice of words in public.

On July 16, 2020, Chihepo announced his resignation in a Youtube video, saying he could not continue working under a Police Command that was politically controlled and infiltrated by political party cadres.

The Central Province Police Command arrested and detained Chihepo at Kapiri-Mposhi Police Station on Monday before he could be transported to Nakonde Police Station in Muchinga Province where he allegedly committed the offence of desertion.

And in a statement, Njase confirmed that Chihepo had been rearrested and charged desertion and seditious practices after he published utterances believed to have been aimed at exciting disaffection against the government.

"This is a matter in which Muchinga Division has arrested and charged the above mentioned officer for two offences, namely; desertion contrary to section 26(d) of the Zambia Police Act of the laws of Zambia and that of seditious practices contrary to section 57(1), (b) and (c) as read together with section 60(1), (b) and (e) of the Penal Code of the laws of Zambia. In the first count, facts of the matter are that Sergeant Chihepo being a duly attested member of the Zambia Police Service and deployed at Nakonde Police Station did without lawful excuse absent himself from duty

for more than 28 days without the intention of returning back for duty starting from the 7th of February, 2020 up to the date of his arrest on 19th July, 2020," Njase stated.

"The officer has in the second count been charged with seditious practices contrary to section 57(1), (b) and (c) as read together with section 60(1), (b) and (e) of the Penal Code, Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia as outlined earlier. Facts of this case are that on unknown dates but between 16th and 19th July, Sergeant Chihepo did utter and public seditious material with an intention of bringing into hatred or contempt or to excite dissatisfaction against the Government of Zambia or further, with an intention of raising discontent or dissatisfaction among the people of Zambia."

The Commissioner further asked police officer wishing to engage in active politics to resign.

"Let me take this opportunity to advise and warn police officers wishing to engage in politics, to resign through laid down procedures in writing to the Inspector General of Police. Further, that being Public Service employees and dealing with national security, careful choice of words in public is critical. Every person in Zambia has guaranteed constitutional rights to express themselves but that such expressions, must not risk our national security and peace we enjoy. As Zambia Police, we remain loyal to the government of the day and our Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. In light of this; let's promote respect for the rule of law, in a manner that enhances unity in our country," stated Commissioner Njase.

Sergeant Chihepo is currently in police custody and shall soon appear in court.



CCZ General Secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya

By Zondiwe Mbewe

KAMUNDA Milling Limited has dragged Chimsoro Milling Company Limited to the Lusaka High Court, claiming K73,652 refund owed to it by the latter for ground rates, electricity and water bills.

Kamunda Milling Limited further wants an order that it does not owe Chimsoro Milling US\$32,000.

It is also seeking an injunction to restrain Chimsoro Milling, its directors, officers, servants, agents or any of them from disposing of its property pending determination of the matter.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Kamunda Milling stated it was in the business of manufacturing grain

## Kamunda Milling sues Chimsoro over K73,652 refund

mill products, a business that Chimsoro Milling was also involved in.

Kamunda Milling explained that it entered into a lease agreement with Chimsoro Milling on June 7, 2019 relating to plot number 2258 on Great North Road, Kapiri Mposhi at a monthly rental of US\$6,022.

It stated that upon occupation of the same premises, it discovered that Chimsoro Milling Limited had not been paying the ground rates, electricity and water bills relating to the property.

Kamunda Milling stated that payment of the ground rates, electricity and water bills was a contractual obligation of the defendant,

Chimsoro Milling.

“Notwithstanding the forgoing, the plaintiff (Kamunda Milling) and the defendant (Chimsoro Milling) agreed that the plaintiff should settle the said ground rates, electricity and water bills on the premise that the amount paid would be netted from the rentals to be paid to the defendant,” read the claim.

Kamunda Milling stated that it settled the sum of K73,652 being ground rates, electricity and water bills, but added that in breach of the agreement, Chimsoro refused or neglected to net the said payments from the rentals paid by the former.

It claimed that despite numerous reminders and

correspondence, Chimsoro Milling has willfully neglected or refused to pay the K73,652.22.

“The plaintiff will further aver that due to unprecedented pandemic of the Coronavirus that the whole world is currently battling with, the Government of the Republic of Zambia took the step to close all bars in the country in late March, 2020,” read the claim further.

Kamunda Milling stated that the said step by government adversely affected its business as the majority of its produce was sold to brewers who used the same for alcohol production.

It stated that in light

of the above, article 8 of the lease agreement was invoked, therefore, the said lease agreement and its requirement to pay rentals was negated.

Kamunda Milling, however, stated that Chimsoro erroneously issued a warrant of distress against it for the months of February to July amounting to US\$32,000.

It further stated that in the light of the above, a bailiff erroneously executed the warrant of distress against it on July 10, 2020.

Kamunda Milling stated that a letter of demand dated July 15, 2020, was written to Chimsoro Milling to recover the outstanding amount and to advise them to discharge the erroneous warrant of distress.

It lamented that as a result of Chimsoro Milling's actions, it has suffered loss, damage and inconvenience.

Kamunda Milling now wants the court declare that the warrant of distress dated July 8, 2020 be declared null and void, among other claims.

## Kabwe drags Kingsland City to court seeking issuance of receipt for 2 secured properties

By Zondiwe Mbewe

FORMER Access Financial Services director Faustin Mwenya Kabwe has sued Kingsland City Investment Limited in the Lusaka High Court, seeking an order for issuance of a receipt for the K110,000 paid for the purchase of two properties.

Kabwe wants the said money to be credited in his purchase account held by Kingsland City.

He is, in the alternative, asking the court to order Kingsland City Investment Limited to refund him the sum of K120,000, with interest from the date of the payment of the said amount up to the date of full payment.

Kabwe also wants damages for breach of agreement, inconvenience, interest and any other order the court may deem fit.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, July 21, 2020, Kabwe stated that he was a purchaser of two properties at Kingsland City.

He explained that he was interested in purchasing two properties from Kingsland City and when he made inquiries, he was advised that as a way of commitment, he needed to make upfront payment of K10,000 per property so as to have Kingsland City reserve the property for him as the same were on high demand.

Kabwe stated that he made an initial payment for the reservation of property on January 29, 2018 and a receipt was issued in his favor.

He stated that he again made another payment of K10,000 on March 6, 2018 and that the same day, he and Kingsland City signed a contract of sale of US\$89,230, C3,35.3#,1.3-B of stand no.Lusaka/LN\_21982/3.

Kabwe stated that on or about June 18, 2018, he was called by Kingsland City sales manager Joy Munthali advising him that that she had found a property for him which was initially sold to a Penias Banda.

He stated that he was advised to make another advance payment of K100,000 directly to Banda to secure the said property and accordingly, the parties entered a contract for the purchase of G-27#,D4-B of Lusaka /Ln\_24982/3 situated in Lusaka for the sum of USD172,272 dated June 18, 2018.

Kabwe stated that he instructed Messers MC Mulenga and Company to transfer the sum of K100,000 to Banda as consideration for the purchase of the subject properties and the instructions were executed on June 21, 2018.

He stated that he started following up with Kingsland City for issue of the receipt for the K100,000 and that the defendant kept assuring him that the same would be done.

“The plaintiff will at trial show that sometime in August 2019, the plaintiff discovered that the defendants' sales manager had been arrested for theft. He accordingly followed on the defendant to check the status of his account and found that the defendant had only credited the sum of K20,000 in his account as opposed to the K120,000.00,” read the statement of claim.

Kabwe stated that efforts to have Kingsland City credit the amount of K100,000 to his account had proved futile.

He added that Kingsland City had either neglected, refused, ignored or failed to adjust his account accordingly.

Kabwe further stated that by this time, he would have finished paying for the purchase of the two properties but had not been able to due to Kingsland City's continued refusal to adjust his account.

The plaintiff stated that as a result, he had been greatly inconvenienced and had suffered loss and was greatly affected by Kingsland City's failure to credit his account accordingly as he was unable to conclude the purchase of the properties and take possession of them.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH & ASSEMBLY



Edgar Lungu is this what you are teaching our children?



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

By Zanji Valerie Sinkala

"We need information about COVID 19," laments Martin Gondwe, the founder of the forum for people with disabilities in Nakonde, "Since the time of the outbreak, there has not been a single poster in the streets written in sign language. People are just moving up and down sensitizing the non-disabled people, thinking that they are the most at risk, forgetting that we are the most at risk."

The trading city of Nakonde, in Zambia's Northern Province bordering with Tanzania, has been one of the towns hardest hit by COVID 19 and just recently rebounded from a one-month lockdown. People with disabilities are particularly the most at risk during this outbreak as the majority of them have little or no knowledge about the virus or access to proper sanitation for their safety.

Over the past four months, the number of people infected with COVID 19 in Zambia has continued to rise. The Southern African country has recorded 128 deaths, 1,620 recoveries, and a cumulative number of 3,326 cases as of July 21st, 2020.

In clear examples, since the COVID 19 outbreak, there has been no alternative or inclusive method of sensitizing people with disabilities on the pandemic despite Nakonde being the current epicenter of the virus and having over 13,000 adults and 5,000 children living with disabilities.

"The deaf cannot be informed about the virus or what safety precautions to follow because there are no sensitization-specific programs related to COVID-19 on ZNBC addressed in sign language," continues Martin, "How will they be taught how to stay safe during this pandemic?"

Nakonde is one of the poorest districts in Zambia, with over 80% of people

## We're the most vulnerable to Covid-19, laments people with disabilities in Nakonde



living below the poverty line (earning less than \$2 a day) despite the large amounts of revenue collected at its trading entry point. This statement means that more than half of the population of people with disabilities in another fix.

No Representation Another grievance that the community of people with disabilities in Nakonde has is that they are not invited to influential and tactical COVID 19 meetings.

"As we are talking, there is a training going round Nakonde sensitizing locals about COVID 19, and no one from the community of people with disabilities was invited to attend it," he grimaces, "We have no representation. We feel invisible." Martin elaborated further that the community feels the same sentiments it did when the HIV pandemic hit Zambia in the 1980s. Not only did they think that they were the last to know, but also that very little has changed in their community since that time.

"It's high time we realize

that disability matters have to be represented by people with disabilities who know how it feels to live with them," says Martin.

Public transport for people with disabilities has proven to be another nightmare. People with disabilities rely on taxis and minibuses to move around the town. However, with the current pandemic, what was usually a stress-free process because of the help of fellow passengers has now become strenuous because nobody wants to 'touch other people unnecessarily.' "With the outbreak of COVID-19, people don't want to touch a wheelchair or crutches. Even in the shops, I see fear in people's eyes," narrates Martin.

Sanitation and Health Services Amid the pandemic, the government of Zambia has put in place compulsory measures to ensure the prioritization of sanitation in all social settings. Among these is the mandatory placement of a bucket of water and soap at the entrance of each shop. The government hopes to lessen

the probability of Zambians infecting or being infected by one another. This measure is an excellent initiative- just not enough for people with disabilities.

"People on wheelchairs need assistance to move, and those whose vision is impaired need guidance to access this bucket of water and soap," narrates Martin, "Initially, the shop owners would help, but now everyone fears they will be infected. It's hard. Very hard."

Martin and the community of people with disabilities are advocating to be given free hand sanitizers by the government out of the abundant donations it has received from stakeholders.

"We need free sanitizers and face masks- Most of us have face masks, but they aren't easy to come by either," he states.

COVID 19 continues to pose a significant financial strain on the community of people with disabilities in Nakonde in more ways than one. According to Martin Gondwe, able-bodied people in the town can make do with buying one bottle of hand sanitizer to see them

through a significant period. In contrast, persons with disabilities have to buy twice as much to sanitize their wheelchairs and crutches as well.

When approached for a statement, the Permanent Secretary, Pamela Kampamba, stated that the government came up with emergency social cash transfers from the donations of stakeholders to cater for the needs of vulnerable Zambians impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic-including the community of people with disabilities. However, most of these donations were pledges and the government was waiting for them to be released.

"We are also waiting for the funds to come through in order to reach out to as many vulnerable communities as possible," she stated, "This is an emergency and not something planned, therefore, we also have to get back to the different donors, present the Zambian case and wait patiently for them to release the funds."

The Permanent Secretary gave an assurance that the government of Zambia was finalizing on the matter and would start disbursing the emergency social cash transfers soon.

Elsewhere in Switzerland, at the Policy Brief on Persons with Disabilities and COVID 19, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged governments to place people with disabilities at the center of COVID- 19 response and recovery efforts and to consult and engage them.

"People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, and they experience higher rates of violence, neglect and abuse," he remarked, "They face a lack of accessible public health information, significant barriers to implement basic hygiene measures, and inaccessible health facilities."

Health workers in Zambia agree that people with disabilities are at an increased risk of getting infected with COVID 19, and therefore, ought to be prioritized. However, due to the limited resources in the country, they believe that people with disabilities may have to be treated like anybody else when seeking health services related to COVID 19.

"With regards to health services in government facilities, everybody is treated the same and given the same basic medical healthcare they need in that moment," explains a medical doctor from Kabwe Central Hospital, "It's a level playing field for everybody, both able-bodied and disabled." The source reiterates that it is an effective way to ensure that each person is catered for and included in the

treatment scheme, given the limited resources currently available in government facilities countrywide

Economic Downside Survival for people living with disabilities in Nakonde is economically challenging during this crisis as most of them are uneducated and rely solely on their small businesses to get by. With the recently lifted lockdown, those too, were forcibly closed.

Five kilometers away from Martin's residence lives Mr. Tyson Simukoko, a carpenter living with disabilities, whose business was closed due to the lockdown. His small business, by which he earned \$4 on 'a good day,' helped him put food on the table for his family of six. As more residents gave in to the temptation of leaving their rented residences in the town to live in the village because of economic hardship caused by the virus, Mr. Simukoko continued to soldier on.

"It is tough to remain in town during this pandemic," explains Mr. Simukoko, "My family is pressuring me to leave the town and move back to the village."

Mr. Simukoko fought hard to make something of himself by leaving the village he grew up in and moving to the town, given the odds that were against him economically. He began his carpentry after Martin connected him to a well-known carpenter in Nakonde called Mr. Mulenga four years ago. Since then, he has mastered it as his skill, sustained a steady flow of income to feed his family, settled in the town, and has not looked back ever since. Now, he worries that the village is pulling him back to a life of poverty that he strived so hard to leave behind.

"Every day my family asks me why we are still in town suffering with no money or food instead of going back to the village," says Mr. Simukoko, "I am under so much pressure, so I am hoping we can recover from the effects of the recent lockdown because I don't want to go back to the village."

No choice but to live in the 'new normal.' COVID 19 is a significant setback for the community of people with disabilities. However, they understand that they must adapt to the new lifestyle it entails sooner than later.

"Despite the challenges people with disabilities are facing during the COVID-19 crisis, we have to choose not to let our disability get in our way," remarks Martin optimistically. The community of people with disabilities in Nakonde have created its first COVID 19 District Disabilities Task Force spearheaded by a person with disabilities that is handling their concerns and raising resources that will procure face masks, sanitizers and other safety essentials.

## Ndola man gets 10 years for causing brother's death

By Daniel Chansa

THE Ndola High Court has sentenced a Masaiti man to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour for causing the death of his brother over beer.

In this matter, Kunda Musonda, 28, was initially charged with murdering his brother Vincent Musonda but the charge was amended to manslaughter.

He then pleaded guilty to the reduced offence.

Facts in the matter are that on October 18 last year, Kunda and Vincent were at their homestead drinking Chibuku opaque beer when a quarrel ensued between them and degenerated into a fight.

During the fight, Kunda picked a stick with which he hit Vincent on the head.

Vincent sustained a deep cut on his

head and bled profusely.

When Vincent was rushed to the hospital, he was admitted in the intensive care unit until his demise a few days after the incident.

And a postmortem examination conducted by Dr Volodym Petrenko, the cause of death was established as severe head injuries.

In mitigation, Kunda, told the court he was remorseful for his action and that he caused the death of his own brother, a situation which caused a lot of stress in his family.

Kunda also blamed his action on the fact that he was intoxicated.

In sentencing, Ndola High Court judge Yvonne Chembe described the incident as sad and regrettable.

"I have considered the mitigate factors of this matter, the convict is

youthful and first offender who pleaded guilty to the amended charge. The case makes very sad reading as the acts of the convict will forever affect his family. He will have to live the rest of his life with the knowledge that he caused his elder brother's death. It is also sad and regrettable to note that his death was influenced by the consumption of alcohol and once again it shows that violence is not the answer," Judge Chembe said.

She said Kunda could have walked away from his aggressive brother and reported the matter to the police unlike choosing to fight back.

"The offence of manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment but because the convict is a first offender, I will accord him some leniency and sentence him to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour," said Judge Chembe.

By Mukosha Funga

UPND has asked the European Union (EU) to aggressively interrogate issues surrounding political violence in Zambia, the 2021 general election and the fight against corruption, among others in the forthcoming Zambia – EU annual meeting.

In an open letter to the EU, UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka pleaded with the EU to help Zambians tame the ruling Patriotic Front's insatiable appetite for power, which he said was being used on a crusade to punish opponents, while protecting wayward PF supporters.

He implored the EU to use its influence over the Zambian government to ensure that Zambia held free and fair elections next year without violence so that the results truly reflect the will of the citizenry.

"In August, 2021, Zambia will hold its presidential and general elections. In order to be able to participate in these elections, the Zambian Constitution demands that all political parties should hold ward, constituency, district, provincial and national elections where all positions should be free to be contested for in order to qualify to participate in the general elections. But to this date, opposition parties have found this to be a daunting task as the Patriotic Front government has seemingly instructed the Zambia Police not to allow the opposition parties to gather for purposes of achieving this constitutional requirement in spite of having put in place all COVID-19 prevention measures and giving the requisite not less than seven days' notice to the police. On the other hand, the ruling party is being allowed to hold its intra-party elections. If left unchecked, this action by the PF has the intended consequence of suspending Zambia's democratic dispensation by manipulating constitutional provisions with an intention of eliminating some political parties from the 2021 election process," Katuka stated.

"As regards voter registration, we are of the opinion that a number of Zambians are at risk of being disenfranchised as the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has in an arbitrary manner gone ahead to halve the voter registration period from the initial provided-for 60 to 30 days against all sound advice and protests as many do not see how they can cross-check and add nine million voter registration records as the process is very tedious. This act is being done in tandem with not issuing National Registration Cards, which are a prerequisite to voter registration, in opposition strongholds whilst the same exercise has for a while now been running smoothly in perceived Patriotic Front strongholds. The Electoral Commission of Zambia has also given notice of its intention to cancel the current voter register and create a new register of nine million. Aside from it being an attempt

## Challenge PF's corruption to ensure fair 2021 polls, UPND pleads with EU

to manipulate the Voter Registration, we do not see what malaise they are trying to remedy considering that this will be a direct violation of the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016, which mandates the Commission to conduct Continuous Voter Registration."

Katuka appealed to the EU to interrogate Zambia's peace and security with a special focus on tribal politics being perpetuated by the ruling party.

Katuka also brought to the EU's attention the lip-service President Edgar Lungu and his government was rendering to the fight against corruption.

"Corruption continues to be endemic within the echelons of the ruling elite and their surrogates as

evidenced by the number of senior government officials and parastatal chiefs that continue to be summoned by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for interrogation for corrupt practices. Such suspects are not even allowed to temporarily stand aside to allow for investigations as they maintain their official authority and powers, which they then use to intimidate investigative and judicial officers. Case in point is when the Health Minister (Dr Chitalu Chilufya) in July, 2020, had to have his corruption case postponed after he used the powers attached to his office to overrun the court premises," he recalled.

"Judging that the findings as contained in the Financial

Intelligence Centre (FIC) (Trends) reports remain not acted on, it is not beyond reproach to speculate that the PF government only gives lip service to the fight against corruption more so that there are a lot of Politically-Exposed Persons (PEPs) cases implied in the FIC reports. In the absence of the political will to fight corruption, the ACC is not sufficiently empowered to prosecute the detailed high profile cases."

Meanwhile, Katuka appealed to the EU to scrutinise the electoral reform process that sought the inclusion of participation of prisoners in elections and ensure that this was not just a

scheme by the ruling party to rig elections.

"One of the intended deliverables of the electoral reforms was that prisoners be allowed to vote from August, 2021. This amendment has been proposed though the modalities of how to apply it are yet to be known or put in place. It is very important that this process be as transparent as possible to avoid the prisons being turned into a rigging platform. To put it in context, to our total dismay, none other than the Commissioner of Zambian Prisons is on verbal record as having instructed his officers not to allow the opposition parties into prisons. How, then, are

we expected to campaign and monitor the electoral process when the prison institutions are superintended over by an openly politically biased public official? In light of the foregoing, we strongly suggest that the prisoner voting be suspended for the 2021 elections to allow for ample time to put up strong processes and attendant controls. We are alive to the fact that this proposal has the unintended consequence of disenfranchising our prisoners, but in the spirit of delivering a people's will-driven election result, it will, on the other hand, protect the electoral intentions of the majority," stated Katuka.

## PACRA diverted K14m meant for office block to personal emoluments – AG

By Julia Malunga

THE Auditor General's Report has revealed that the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) spent over K14 million, which was originally meant for construction of an office block, on personal emoluments.

And the Report says information such as registration numbers for 16 clients and addresses of registered offices for 17,082 clients vanished from PACRA's system.

According to the Auditor General's Report on the Accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other statutory institutions for the financial year ended December 31, 2018, PACRA failed to utilise funds amounting to over K14 million meant for the construction of an office block because they were diverted to personal emoluments.

"Misapplication of funds reserved for the construction project on 4th February, 2013, the Agency opened a fixed deposit account with a local bank with an initial deposit of K15,000,000. As at 28th June, 2016, the balance on the account had accumulated to K19,235,173. In this regard, the Board directed management to set aside K17,000,000 from the fixed deposit account for the construction of a new office block. However, out of the K19,235,173 available, amounts totalling K14,542,198 were applied on unrelated activities, such as payments of personal emoluments and other 74 operational costs without Board authority leaving a balance of K4,422,212. Consequently, as at 31st December, 2019, the construction of the office block had not commenced," the Report disclosed.

The Report stated that PACRA had over K2 million deducted as Pay as You Earn (PAYE) that was not remitted

to the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA).

"Non-remittance of tax, contrary to the Income Tax Act Chapter 323 of the laws of Zambia, which required the Agency to remit taxes promptly to ZRA, amounts totalling K2,027,572 deducted as Pay as You Earn (PAYE) in November and December, 2018, were not remitted to the ZRA as at 31st December, 2019. Delayed transfer of revenue to Control 99. During the period from January, 2016, to December, 2018, PACRA received amounts totalling K17,038,639 in respect of various fees collected by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) on behalf of the government," it stated.

The Report also disclosed that the Agency delayed in transferring funds to Control Account 99, which deprived the Treasury of much-needed revenue.

"However, the Agency delayed transferring funds to Control 99 from the Operational Account for periods ranging from 12 to 187 days, thereby, depriving the Treasury of revenue. Under-declaration of revenue on annual returns, according to the PACRA Fee Chart for the period August, 2015, to December, 2018, companies in sectors, such as banking, insurance and financial services are supposed to declare returns and pay specified fees as outlined in the approved fee structures. However, a review of annual returns for the period under review revealed that 30 companies in the banking, insurance and financial services sectors had under-declared annual returns by K44,749," the Report revealed.

It stated that there was equally missing information of

clients.

"Missing information on client master data – contact details, according to Section 28. (1) of the Companies Act of 2017, a company shall have a registered office in Zambia to which all communications and notices may be addressed. In addition, Section 14 (1) (d) states that where an applicant meets the requirements of this Act, the Registrar shall within five days assign a designating number to the company as its registration number. However,

a review of the active clients on the client master data in ePacra revealed that information, such as registration numbers for 16 clients and the addresses of registered offices for 17,082 clients were missing from the system. This may result in the failure to trace the companies," it stated.

Meanwhile, the Report stated that the Agency may lose the land they had purchased in Chinsali District due to failure to acquire a title deed.

"The Lands Act No. 29 of

1995 requires that institutions or individuals owning land should have or possess title deeds as proof of ownership. On 12th May, 2015, PACRA purchased a piece of land in Chinsali, Muchinga Province, from Chinsali Municipal Council at K11,000 with a view to constructing the Provincial Office. However, as at 31st December, 2019, PACRA had not acquired title for the land. The lack of title deeds may result in loss of property," stated the Report.

## Expedite release of COVID-19 test results in schools, BETUZ urges govt

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

BASIC Education Teachers Union of Zambia (BETUZ) spokesperson Kakunta Kabika says the Ministry of Health should quicken the process of testing schools that have recorded suspected cases of COVID-19.

In an interview, Kabika asked the Ministry of Health to quickly release test results of suspected COVID-19 in schools for all relevant stakeholders to be immediately informed.

"Our appeal is that let the process of testing those suspected cases be quick so that we are able to protect our children who are in those schools that are suspected to be having some cases of COVID-19. We need to speed up the process of testing. If the testing process delays, it will also compromise our process of protecting other learners and teachers. We have seen that the process of testing takes longer. If the process of getting the results is quickened, it will help us to ensure that we protect the learning institutions," Kabika said.

Kabika appealed to health authorities to immediately tests learners and teachers in all the schools where suspected cases had been recorded to prevent further spread.

"Our prayer is that suspected COVID-19 cases in those schools should not worry. Through our process of monitoring the reopening of examination classes and adherence of schools to COVID-19, our findings are very clear that a number of our schools have seriously committed themselves to ensuring that they adhere to the Ministry of Health guidelines. And with the rumours that we are getting that there could be some

cases of COVID-19, I think it's important that the health authorities should be able to rush to those areas and control the outbreak of the disease in our schools. We want our children to be protected together with our teachers," he said.

And Kabika appealed to parents and communities to avoid unnecessary visits in schools where examination classes were still ongoing.

"As a labour movement, we want to appeal to our communities to ensure that they treat schools as no-go areas for people, who have no serious business to get into schools. COVID-19 moves through a medium and if the general public keeps away from the schools, our learning centres will remain safe and we are going to have a successful term, which our examination classes have undertaken. But suffice to mention that there are some challenges that parents may want to get to the school, but our appeal is that let's ensure that all unnecessary visits to the schools are avoided," appealed Kabika.

"We have also discovered that our learners are adhering to the rules and regulations that have been given by the Ministry of Health. When they are in school, they put on their face masks and wash their hands, but immediately they leave the schools and go in the communities, they find that communities are not taking the issues of COVID-19 seriously. And I think this is a huge challenge that is going to create more problems in schools. We have seen that the majority of people have gone back to business as usual. Therefore, we need to take this disease very seriously."



# PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

(PAC)

Viva New Zambia!!!

Why we deserve your vote



## The Challenge of Governance!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

**G**OVERNANCE seems to have been rocket science especially in Africa including our Country Zambia. No one seems to be willing to learn from developed nations that are dedicated to development such as the United Arab Emirates and well, we can say whatever we want to say about China but lets be honest they were once a third world Country and today they are the second largest economy in the world. When we realistically look around us, we see that it's not that we are poor but it's because we are led by those who lack ambition to have their names enshrined as the heroes who changed people's lives. Their core focus is on enriching themselves and holding on to power.

In our article when we wrote about the government's debt management and contracting of Lazard Freres, we did ask some critical questions which any reasonable person could have picked that what we were trying to put across is that we have blown our own opportunities and never took advantage of anything that could have developed this country. We have procured equipment at overblown prices such as fire trucks, we have mismanaged resources such as Gold and Mukula including Copper, we have not adhered to the principles of corporate governance as a result chasing investors, we have not created initiatives to take advantage of opportunities in agriculture. We have just been doing business as usual focusing on useless politics, tribalism, bill 10, by elections, disputed elections and nothing on the economy.

Governance is not rocket science; the problem is the people we consistently elect. They have just been interested in power as opposed to governing. What is the problem with governance? The biggest problem with governance is appeasement. When most Presidents are elected the first thing they think about is to appease people who were campaigning with them on the stage. They would give key cabinet positions, permanent secretaries, key positions in government, parastatals, contracts and employ relatives of those in power and their associates. And then there is a race to be rich by all those who are in power and their associates.

### Cabinet

The first mistake Presidents make is appoint political associates and relatives to key cabinet positions. What does the PAC manifesto say? PAC believes the crafters of the constitution did provide the 8 nominated members of parliament to be awarded to citizens of great talent who will occupy key government portfolios in order to develop a country. These citizens are people who mostly should not be politically affiliated but have passion and willingness to bring about the needed reforms in government. The PAC government will not use these positions to appease MPs who will be dictated to vote for bills such as Bill 10, but people who will work for the country. Under the PAC government reshuffles won't happen as Ministers will be appointed based on their experience and ability to run a certain ministry. This means that if they fail, they won't be suitable to run any other ministry but to be relieved of their duties.

The PAC government will be a lean and entrepreneur driven government. Its cabinet shall be led by the President of the Republic of Zambia as overall presiding officer over the nation's affairs. There shall be a Vice President who will deputise the President

and preside over Government Business in the National Assembly of Zambia. The Vice President's main focal area will be Empowerment and Employment in addition to other responsibilities. The PAC government will focus its greatest attention where the need is greatest even as we will push for reforms and restructuring in all areas of governance. PAC has identified empowerment and employment as the main focal point and hence will be driven by the Vice President instead of a Minister. This is to ensure that this critical area of need receives the attention that it deserves.

### Permanent Secretaries

We have seen that most Permanent Secretaries are not appointed based on talent but loyalty to the ruling party. This has compromised the operations of government and the needed reforms have failed to take place as a result. The PAC government will chance the narrative and ensure competent PSs are selected.

A Permanent Secretary (PS) is supposed to be the Chief Executive Officer of a Ministry. A PS is at the very core of government operations. Permanent secretaries must therefore be adequately qualified to manage the functions of the Ministries where they are appointed. However, what is obtaining is exactly the opposite. Many Permanent Secretaries are not appointed based on merit but rather based on relationships or connections to the ruling party. This has been exhibited in successive governments, and it has hampered real transformation in the functioning of the government.

Government systems have remained stagnant due to lack of adequately qualified personnel to manage the challenges. Many appointed government officials are politically connected. In as much as any leader must work with a loyal team, as PAC we believe that that team must be qualified for the benefit of this country. Government structures have remained obsolete and have failed to deliver services on time and fairly. Currently, it's not about what you need; it's about who you know. Our politics have been negatively affected. Most government appointments are based on paying back favours and enriching the inner circle to the detriment of the poor majority.

In order to bring about reforms in the way government operates, the PAC will ensure that a competent public service commission advertises for all appointments of Permanent Secretaries. The President will only be furnished with a short list of the best candidates to choose from to appoint. The PAC will put in laws that will make it difficult to fire Permanent Secretaries that meet their performance management targets. All Permanent Secretaries applying for jobs will be required to bring forward a thesis that describes how they will transform that Ministry and how they can ensure government improves service delivery once they are appointed. Key to this will be cost effective, efficient and optimum service delivery.

### Diplomatic Mission

Diplomats that have been appointed to various missions have just gone there to warm seats and do business as usual. Most of them like any other political appointments have not been appointed on merit but based on personal connections with people in politics. There is also no clearly laid out plan to ascertain exactly what's to be achieved in various missions especially where there is opportunity.

The PAC government will ensure self-driven individuals are appointed as Ambassadors and

High Commissioners in various missions. The PAC will also ensure that missions with areas of interest and prospects are properly equipped to ensure the opportunities yield optimum benefit for the republic of Zambia. The PAC will appoint Diplomats who are trade oriented as opposed to being there just registering presence. This will work hand in hand with our plan of opening export markets. Missions must be able to open opportunities for various businesses for Zambians and on the other side channel investors to Zambia.

### Parastatals

Parastatals have been a playground for corruption and a dumping ground for job seeking members of a ruling political party. This includes children and relatives of those connected politically. This has hampered the operational efficiency of these institutions as they must work with inexperienced and unskilled labour and high cost of running businesses.

Most Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) appointed are qualified and experienced but are toothless and subjected to follow instructions given by either the President or a Minister. They fail to take control of the affairs of running parastatals and cannot adequately control costs because of undue pressure from the appointing authority. Even those that clearly fail to perform are not fired because the government half the time doesn't really care about the losses incurred in these organisations, because the CEOs are connected to the system.

Some Parastatals do not have in place a Board of Directors. Those that do have many of their Board Members appointed as political favours and they lack the necessary corporate governance and businesses know-how to oversee these parastatals. It is common to find private institutions making profits in the same industry as some of these loss-making parastatals. This is as a result of a negative mind-set and work ethic with ensuing inefficiency, uncontrolled costs and poor service delivery.

The PAC will ensure that it first appoints a competitive Board of Directors. The appointed board members will have entrepreneurship skills and determination to make these organisations move towards profitability.

The PAC will ensure that all CEO positions are advertised. The new Board Members will have the autonomy to appoint a CEO without interference from government. PAC will also enact laws that will protect CEOs from being unnecessarily sacked due to government interference.

The PAC will also enact laws to ensure that government interference in the running of Parastatals is minimized and CEOs are able to operate independent of any appointing authority. The PAC will also ensure these organisations are restructured to reflect the trends of time and create an efficient system.

The PAC will also ensure that targets agreed between Parastatals and the government are communicated to the Zambian people.

Upon forming government, the PAC will institute a forensic audit in the Parastatals companies. Where necessary, the PAC government will enter into a private public partnership with some Parastatals.

The PAC's goal is to ensure that parastatals work towards profitability.

Andyford Mayele Banda

President

People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
ZAMBIA Law Development Commission (ZLDC) chairperson Justice Roydah Kaoma has proposed that correctional centres should be designated as polling stations to allow inmates exercise their right to vote.

And Zambia Correction Services Commissioner General Dr Chisela Chileshe says anarchists will not be allowed to campaign in prisons because they don't mean well.

Meanwhile, Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) representative Emma Mwiinga says the commission still has a number of challenges in terms of operationalising the Supreme Court judgement about the need for inmates to be allowed to votes.

Speaking during a Zoom meeting which was hosted by ZLDC, Wednesday, Justice Kaoma said there was need to enhance inmates' access to information.

"In the desk research that we undertook on the operationalisation of the prisoners' rights to vote, we took into consideration the relevant international instruments, our domestic legislation, institutional framework as well as best practices. As the commission, we have made recommendations which we hope will be taken into consideration regarding the legislative and administrative reform which includes an inter-alia review of the regulations under the electoral process act and prisons act by inserting provisions that will enhance inmates access to information, secondly to review the regulations under the electoral process act in order to establish correctional facilities as polling stations," Justice Kaoma said.

And Dr Chileshe said no one would be allowed to cause confusion in correction facilities when the time for campaigns starts.

He said those that might

# Anarchists won't be allowed to campaign in prisons – Chileshe

want to cause confusion in correctional centres would not be given an opportunity to campaign there.

"If the stakeholders, the political parties, adhere to the security guidelines, there is no problem in them because after all, the inmates are visited by all people that are concerned about their welfare. We allow even political parties to visit them, to donate things and to talk to them on areas that concern their welfare. But we do not just allow confusion to come to the facilities. And that is why we emphasize that those that might want to bring confusion are the ones that may not have an opportunity to come because we have systems of knowing who is an anarchist and somebody who is able to propound their issues," Dr Chileshe said.

Dr Chileshe said political players would not be allowed to mount podiums and campaign in prisons but that a level playing field would be created for them to sell their messages.

"So in terms of campaigns, we need a modality of campaigning [such as] is it through electronic media? Is it through materials or is it through whatever? But what is obvious is that you cannot go in a security facility like a correctional centre and put a podium and start campaigning and slogans and songs, it doesn't work because even in camps, political campaigns are not allowed. But people vote based on the information they are given. So, that shouldn't be a problem at all," he said.

Dr Chileshe said inmates would not be allowed to wear any political party regalia because they already have a uniform.

"[On] political regalia in the correctional facilities, prisoners or inmates have their own uniform. And that uniform is what is allowed in their facilities. So, it's not regalia that campaigns, it's the information that you disseminate. What is important is for key players to showcase their manifestos

and show why they should be voted [for], and the level playing field will be created," Dr Chileshe said.

And Dr Chileshe asked stakeholders to ensure that inmates would be eligible to vote by facilitating registration for both NRCs and voters' cards.

"It is very practical that the inmates can vote. And I should mention that we have categories of inmates in our facilities. We have those that will be eligible and those that will not be eligible because of not having the right documents. It's up to the stakeholders to ensure together with us that only those that are eligible legally have the documents for them to use to cast their votes. And stakeholders need to agree on the modalities. How are we going to ensure that the level playing field is equal to everyone so that no one complains that this one has an advantage over the other?"

asked Dr Chileshe.

Meanwhile, ECZ's Mwiinga said the commission still had a number of activities which it needed to resolve for it to actualise the Supreme Court judgement on the prisoners' rights to vote.

"Some of the key issues that the modalities will focus upon will include voter registration procedures for people who are in lawful custody. Those are some of the issues that the commission is looking to get from the technical committee. Also, what will be the voter registration guidelines? How will the commission and other stakeholders like civil society be able to do voter education in correctional facilities? Also campaign guidelines for political parties. What will be the most practical way of undertaking campaigns during the time of the campaign in the correctional facilities so that they can also canvas for votes? In terms of availability of infrastructure in correctional

facilities for publicity of campaign materials, voter registration materials and also ICT materials," said Mwiinga.

"But also one of the biggest question that is on the table that the technical committee ought to guide upon is the level in which, for example whether we should go for a phased approach in enabling people in lawful custody to vote, do they vote in presidential level or in constituency or in local government? Because the law as it is, you only vote in the constituency, for example, your MP and your councillor. So, the commission still has a couple of activities that it ought to undertake."

And Prisons Cares and Counseling Association (PRISCA) executive director Godfrey Malemeka said the association wanted to see prisoners vote.

"Prisons have produced so many politicians and leaders. So, we thought this constituency is huge. By

Zambian standard, when you talk about 20,000 people, you are talking about three or four rural constituencies. Our issue now is to make sure that this judgement is actualized and operationalised. We want to participate in sensitizing inmates so that they are aware that even other countries have been allowing prisoners to vote. What's wrong with us? We are not interested in who these prisoners will vote for or which party. What we want is to see these prisoners exercising their rights to vote. So, politicians should stop debating whether these prisoners are going to vote or not because that is water under the bridge. They should start preparing what to tell these prisoners," said Malemeka.

"We actually wanted all these correctional centres to be part of the constituency development committees and allow the police and officers from the Zambia Correctional Facilities to be sitting and benefiting from the Constituency Development Funds. We don't want Dr Chileshe to be fixing a broken tap in a correctional facility when there are funds within that locality. Those funds should be extended to help some of those centres."

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**

CHRISTIAN Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) chairperson Fr Cleophas Lungu says the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide comprehensive information to the public on the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs).

In a statement, Wednesday, Fr Lungu stated that the Ministry should release a schedule for the nationwide NRCs issuance, including locations and procedures, to build confidence in the process among all interested parties.

"Amid continued reports of unannounced mobile NRC issuance activities from its observers, the CCMG, again, calls on the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide stakeholders and the public with comprehensive information on current mobile NRC issuance activities. In addition, CCMG urges the Ministry to release a detailed plan, including procedures, locations and schedules, for the announced nationwide mobile NRC issuance exercise beginning in August, 2020, in order to build confidence among the public

## Release mobile NRC issuance schedule, CCMG urges govt

in the fairness of the process," Fr Lungu stated.

He asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to treat the concern as an urgent matter as it would allow the public to participate in the process.

"CCMG remains concerned about the lack of any publicly available schedule for the nationwide mobile NRC issuance exercise announced for August. Given that voter registration is slated for October, it is urgent that the Ministry of Home Affairs release its schedule for mobile NRC issuance to ensure that the public can participate in the process and receive their NRCs before voter registration, and for stakeholders to participate in raising awareness. CCMG has requested previously that the Ministry share its nationwide plan and the matter is only more urgent now due to the imminent start of the exercise," Fr Lungu stated.

He expressed concern that reports of unannounced mobile NRC issuance activities were increasing by the day.

"CCMG's observers have reported 54 instances of unannounced mobile NRC issuance activities since November, 2019. These include 13 instances in Eastern; 16 instances in Luapula; one instance in Lusaka; five instances in Muchinga; 13 instances in Northern and six instances in North-Western. After a lull in April and May when the COVID-19 mitigation measures were more restrictive, instances of unannounced mobile NRC issuance activities increased in June and are at their highest level thus far in July, with a total of 10 instances taking place in Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern

provinces. CCMG remains concerned that the lack of public information on unannounced mobile NRC issuance activities creates the perception of an unfair process and so could damage public confidence in the electoral process," stated Fr Lungu.

"The Minister of Home Affairs has stated there are some mobile NRC issuance activities underway already, but the Ministry has failed to provide the locations targeted or the schedule for these activities. As having an NRC is critical for registering to vote, CCMG is concerned at the lack of information on the issuance activities taking place since November, 2019. We call on the Ministry to release information immediately to the public about these activities."

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**C**ONSTITUTIONAL lawyer John Sangwa says the status of State Counsel is not chivala mulomo and being a member of the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) does not abolish a lawyer's freedom of expression. The renowned lawyer adds that criticism and the freedom of expression is the backbone of any functional democracy.

"People have misunderstood what it means to be State Counsel. You are given that title in recognition of your contribution to the legal profession, that's the grant of that title. It doesn't mean that it becomes kavala mulomo or chivala pa kwamwa [a silencing tool], no! If that is the idea, many senior lawyers would have no problem in surrendering it, including myself. Being State Counsel is not just about billing, I think that's a misconception. People have misunderstood it, State Counsel doesn't mean that you are a lawyer owned by the State, no! Our allegiance is to defending the Republican Constitution, not the party in power or the sitting President," says State Counsel Sangwa.

"I may be a member of LAZ, it doesn't mean that I have forfeited my

# Lungu wants to gag lawyers who criticise him to leave only those who praise him

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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freedom of expression. I still have those rights and nobody, not even LAZ, can curtail those freedoms. In fact, a country is built on divergent ideas. It's different ideas that build the country. The letters patent is not given to define you, it is given in recognition of what you have achieved. So it is not to vala mulomo; if it is, then that would be corruption. If that's the way they perceive it, then that's a form of corruption. To suggest that because you are State Counsel, [and] you have letters patent, then you should keep quiet, then that instrument is now given for the wrong purpose."

Our opinion is that the learned State

Counsel is absolutely right and President Lungu is wrong because there is no such existing legal framework on which the LAZ president can base his decision to gag senior members of the association from speaking out on governance issues. There is nothing demonising about eminent citizens criticising the government or indeed the Executive. As a leader, you have to encourage divergent views, and that is the strength of any functioning democracy. Democracy is the ability for people to exchange ideas, even bad ideas which you don't like.

What is bad is

insulting or telling lies. If there was any State Counsel trading in lies, we would agree with President Lungu's displeasure, but even that, there's already a legal framework within which those lies can be addressed. If State Counsel lies about somebody, the aggrieved person has the right to go to court and seek relief, but it's not for LAZ to intervene.

When you say that State Counsel cannot publicly criticise the executive, from our point of view as media, we feel that is some sort of way to curtail freedom of expression. When you genuinely feel that the country is not going in the right

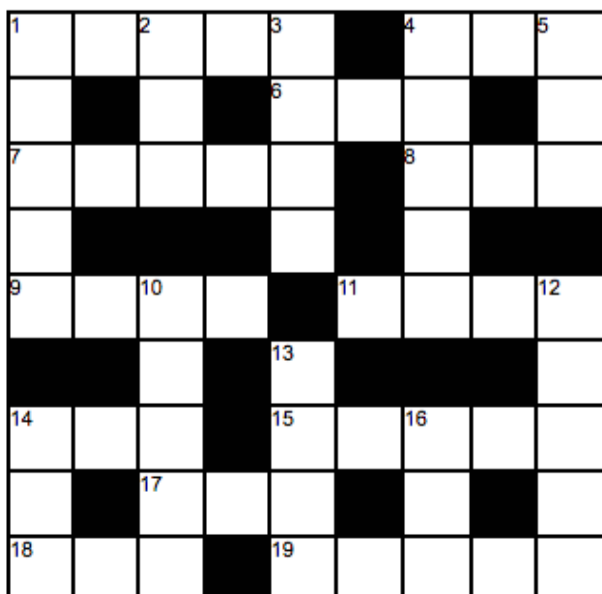
direction, it cannot be correct to say because of your status, you cannot go on a podium like public discussion forums, a TV station, to express your concerns over national issues. Even State Counsel who support the governance style of the current Executive have not shied away from openly defending the government and party in power.

So, we think that a lawyer who understands how a democracy is supposed to operate cannot make such a demand from the new LAZ president. That can only be the thinking of a dictator who believes that people have no right to question the

government. We are not living in the 17th Century. President Lungu is not a chief who can demand that people should go and kunkula before him even when they're displeased with the leadership. Even tradition leaders nowadays are criticised by their subjects without jeopardising co-existence. You cannot contain people's thinking.

President Lungu shouldn't focus on who is giving him advice and what format the advice is delivered to him; he should pay more attention to the message. If it's valid advice, it shouldn't matter whether it's written in a letter that is delivered quietly at State House or said during a public discussion programme on television. If you have heard that advice, it's up to you to judge and see whether it's valid or not. It doesn't matter whether somebody is FDD, UPND, MMD, PAC or NAREP. What matters is the message.

## Crossword puzzle No 653



*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."*  
- St. Augustine

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate</li> <li>4. Unopened flower</li> <li>6. Earth's atmosphere</li> <li>7. Written report</li> <li>8. Drink cooler</li> <li>9. Smooch</li> <li>11. Conquer</li> <li>14. Round green vegetable</li> <li>15. Mountain chain</li> <li>17. ___ de Janeiro</li> <li>18. Skin blemish</li> <li>19. Wonderful</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Urban dance</li> <li>2. Vapor</li> <li>3. Votes against</li> <li>4. Groom's mate</li> <li>5. Payable</li> <li>10. Bright</li> <li>12. Halloween option</li> <li>13. Pond hopper</li> <li>14. Dispenser candy</li> <li>16. First called</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## Crossword puzzle No 652





# Readers' Feedback

## Chilufya's warning on Zambia to record 1,000 deaths per day if guidelines aren't followed

Dear editor,

"If guidelines are followed by who? Leadership must always be at the forefront setting an example for the rest of the population. You don't lead, citizens follow; you lead citizens follow. You see how important leaders are in influencing citizens' behavior?" - Kanyata Mubita

"Lead by example, that court stunt you pulled was a huge blunder, elsewhere you would have resigned for such conduct". - Chela Lazarous

"Dr Chitalu Chilufya and President Lungu must be held 100% responsible for the spike in the new Covid-19 cases of Infections and Deaths we are experiencing in the country. Their Selfish desire for self preservation in order to continue exploiting the people of Zambia is now claiming lives from their own PF rank and file. Now they want to act like our saviours!" - Christopher Kalima

"Chitalu Chilufya went to Court with over 100 Supporters. What kind of nonsense is this? Most Zambians have never taken Covid 19 Seriously Leaders inclusive. Politician Market tours, public gatherings etc. in SA our movements has been restricted for 4 Months now". - Moses Kalima

"Did Chitalu Chilufya not lose the professional and moral authority to lead the covid-19 when he himself recklessly encouraged a mob of chiefs, ministers, DCs and cadres at the magistrates complex. His own party demonstrated the most public non-compliance display to covid protocols contained in his statutory instrument during late Rodgers Mwewa's funeral. Isn't that the worst kind of hypocrisy?!" - David M Mwanangombe



## Mumbi on youths who engage in violence foolish

Editor,

"Muleikalafye mayo, you have failed to discipline PF cadres. Where is Jay Jay? Now Mr Mwila says he should be disciplined at provincial level! A person who went to cause confusion at the police station honestly!!!" - Lloyd Simutowe

"Madam! Say PF Cadres are foolish. Is it not your cadres who attacked the central police station a few days ago? If you are serious, have them arrested!!!" - Musheke Sishekanu

"But you are full of hate speech, that's why the carders think its best to fulfill your words in physical violence!" - Theresa

Kakuwa

"This was just a PR kind of talk. You are the same people who go behind and pay them to attack the opposition". - Alick Mangala

"And the guardians of the youth that encourage them to engage in violence? Especially those that set a bad example via tribalism and hate speech, how should they be described?!" - David M Mwanangombe

"It's not just a matter of speaking Mom, its about taking action... It calls for

determination". - Rodney Maguswi

"How many times are you going to warn them?... I think you should take a step ahead... Everyday warning since 2016!!!" - Benjamin K Phiri

"They are motivated by speeches made by leaders". - Cosmas Mwanza

"After using them then you dump them!" - Enza Pule

"This is when she is realising that!!!" - Mcdonald Mudenda

## HH's vow to fire PF cadres in civil service and foreign missions

Editor,

"There is a lot of cleaning required, just don't push in your cadres and family too. You will have an opportunity to go back to career diplomats and real civil servants. Clean SOE's, judiciary, police and army, we need real men and women of integrity that will serve as expected, without fear or favour". - Lukonde Chama

"That's his campaign message. Either you buy it or leave it. Zambia is not short of professionals for highly specialised and technical jobs to be left to unqualified cadres. No votes lost as these cadres already owe their allegiance to the appointing authority. Way to go if we are going to have institutions functioning again". - Cyrus Kalando

"Especially in Zesco, there must be a clean up no Wonder they claim that the cost of running the company is high. Hence the increasing tariffs". - Isaac Sibwani

"Not just ending by firing them... Some should be put to account for their misdeeds, prosecuted and jailed if found wanting!" - Ian Malekhanie

"Fire cadres and engage professionals". - Mweetwa Mweetwa

"Very good move, PF government has flooded civil service with PF cadres who have no qualifications at all...we need qualified personnel to run parastatals..." - Pierre Fanucci

"On that one you are spot on". - Maimbolwa Kamanga

## 300 resident doctors' plea to Lungu for govt to pay outstanding dues

Editor,

"Wait till they catch the real Covid-19 and are neglected by the same doctors they're refusing to pay". - Kelvin Pumulo

"The president is busy hiring people and appointing them on other positions but on such issues, we don't hear him saying anything". - George Malupande

"This makes sad reading, we are told there are

Billions of kwacha in the Covid fund. What is the purpose of those funds if not to alleviate the suffering of the people?" - Ben Kauzeni

"Daylight deciet by government. Government thinks it's dealing with illiterates". - Mike Phiri

"Where are the funds donated for covid 19 going.

You guys should have pity for the citizens, how can you miss appropriate monies donated to fight the disease?" - Martin Ngandu

GRZ ought to redress that. Covid-19 fund should be source of funds to clear their arrears, it would be justified, not diverting such monies to 'infrastructure development". - David M Mwanangombe

# EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

By Mirriam Chabala

CONSTITUTIONAL lawyer John Sangwa says the rank and dignity of State Counsel is not chivala mulomo, adding that being a member of the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) does not abolish any lawyer's freedom of expression.

And the renown lawyer says if the objective of the Letters Patent given to State Counsel is to stop the recipients from speaking out on governance issues, then he is willing to relinquish his Letters Patent, as it would be a form of corruption.

Earlier this week, President Edgar Lungu asked the newly-elected LAZ Executive to address the tendency by some State Counsel who are in the habit of openly "demonising the Executive" instead of putting their concerns in writing to the Office of the President.

Reacting to the development, Sangwa, who has previously accused President Lungu of trying to hold on to power beyond the Constitutional limit through a "strange interpretation" of some provisions of the Constitution and judgment of the Constitutional Court as well as through Bill 10, said the rank and dignity of State Counsel is not conferred to enable lawyers charge higher legal fees but in recognition of their contribution to the legal profession.

"People have misunderstood what it means to be State Counsel. You are given that title in recognition of your contribution to the legal profession. It doesn't mean that it becomes kavala mulomo or chivala pa kwamwa [a silencing tool], no! If that is the intention, I would have no problem in surrendering my Letters Patent tomorrow. Being State Counsel is not just about charging higher legal fees and being given preference before the courts. It is also about using that rank and dignity for the good

## If State Counsel rank is given as *chivala pakamwa*, I'm ready to give it back tomorrow - Sangwa

of the people. The President has misunderstood the role of State Counsel and why that rank and dignity is conferred. A state counsel is not a legal advisor to the Government. There is only one legal advisor to the Government and that is the Attorney general. But I have an obligation, as State Counsel, to serve the State when I am called upon. However, my primary responsibility is to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of Zambia as by law established and faithfully represent, to the best of my ability, without fear or favour of any person, before any Court of law," Sangwa said.

"If it is designed to be a kavala mulomo so that you don't criticise the state, so that you keep quiet in the face of injustice, I have no problems surrendering the Letters Patent tomorrow. The Letters Patent is not given to define you, it is given in recognition of what you have contributed to the development of the law and legal profession in the country. So it is not to 'vala mulomo'; if it is, then that would be a form of corruption. If that's the way they perceive it, then the rank and dignity of State Counsel is being given as a bribe. To suggest that because you are State Counsel, you should keep quiet, in the face of corruption, abuse of power, misrule and utter lawlessness. Then that instrument is given for the wrong purpose. In fact it is because of that status that one should speak out on behalf of those who are less privileged in our society in the hope that those in charge of Government

will listen to you, the people who conferred the rank and dignity of State Counsel."

Asked if LAZ had the legal framework for stopping State Counsel from openly criticising government, Sangwa said there is no such a legal framework, adding that the Association has no power to take away the freedom of expression from its members.

"I'm a human being first and I became a member of LAZ second. It doesn't mean that I have forfeited my freedom of expression by being a member of LAZ. I still have those rights and nobody, not even LAZ can curtail those freedoms. In fact, the countries that have developed, have developed on account of people having divergent ideas. It's different ideas and people's ability to speak freely that built most progressive countries. Any serious country committed to the development of its people is expected to tap into the brains of its brightest people, and not to intimidate them. The country must make use of its brightest lawyers, doctors, engineers and other professionals. Some of us were privileged to go to UNZA for free. It wasn't just to come and enrich ourselves. We have an obligation to find a way to give back to this country. And the knowledge I have acquired is not just meant to enable me charge higher legal fees. It is about sharing my thoughts with the rest of the country. It is not about enriching oneself, no!" he said.

Sangwa said the need for State Counsel to protect the Constitution could never be

over-emphasised.

"My primary responsibility [as a State Counsel] is to protect the Constitution, that's all. When the Constitution is protected, everything else becomes possible in a country. That is all, I have no any other role to play. I mean, I have no problem if the government acts within the law and within the framework of the Constitution. The government will receive my support. I can't comment about other people anyway, but I have never looked at the Letters Patent given to me as kavala mulomo, no! Letters Patent is not kavala mulomo, no! So let's put things into correct context, that's not what it's intended for," he said.

"It's wrong to suggest that when you are a State Counsel, you become the Government's cheerleader. You can't sit in the front bench in court and charge a higher legal fees, but keep quiet when the country is on fire, when there is lawlessness in a country. No! First, there has to be rule of law. All those things are possible when there is constitutional rule, when the



Lawyer John Sangwa

country is being run properly, when the country's resources are equitably distributed and the less privileged amongst us are properly cared for by the State."

Sangwa reminded President Lungu that he had personally written to him on three separate occasions during his presidency to share his thoughts on critical national issues. "The first letter was on the appointment of the Judges to the Constitutional Court. The second letter was to plead with the President not to change the Constitution as set out in the infamous Constitutional (Amendment) Bill No. 10. The last letter was on the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Head of State did not have the courtesy of acknowledging the correspondence," he observed. "How many times can one write to the President? I have written three letters to the President but he did not even have the courtesy of acknowledging. I occasionally

speak to the Attorney General to share my thoughts on various national issues and the last discussion I had with him was over the VID-19. I implored him to urge those in government to control the movement of people within the country as part of the efforts to contain the spread of the virus."

He said criticism was the lifeblood of any democracy.

"The point is that criticism, especially of those in power, is the lifeblood of any democratic system. It is a way of holding them accountable. If you don't like criticism, leave the political scene and live a private life. If you are in politics, you are being paid by taxpayers you should expect to be held accountable. When you are a leader, your decisions affect me, therefore, you must be under a microscope. Every step you take must be checked to make sure that it is consistent with the law," said Sangwa.

## Gawa Undi has power to install or oust subordinate chiefs, rules High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Lusaka High Court has declared that Paramount Chief Kalonga Gawa Undi of the Chewa people of Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique has power under the Chewa custom and tradition to recognise and install a subordinate Chewa chief and to remove or dethrone him for misconduct or insubordination.

And High Court Judge Mwila Chitabo has ruled that the dethronement of John Menyanani Phiri as Chief Mafuta by Gawa Undi (Frederick Daka) was and is valid under the Chewa customs and traditions.

He adds that Phiri has ceased to hold the office of Chief Mafuta and is restrained from holding himself as one.

In his judgment delivered July 21, 2020, judge Chitabo said Gawa Undi had sole power to appoint, disappoint or dethrone any Chewa chief.

He said going by the evidence, Phiri was not denying that the Gawa Undi could be in meritable situations to remove or discipline him.

Justice Chitabo said the clear evidence on record demonstrated that Phiri, who was dethroned, was only holding on tenaciously to the chieftaincy by virtue of the injunction granted to him on January 4, 2018, which interlocutory or interim order was to run until a further order of the court or until the determination of the action.

He, however, vacated the

said injunction.

"The substratum of the injunction having collapsed, that is, that the Gawa Undi had customary, traditional and legal authority to appoint, disappoint or discipline the plaintiff, the injunction cannot be sustained. I accordingly hereby and forthwith vacate the injunction granted on January 4, 2018," judge Chitabo said.

He further said Phiri had not led any evidence as to how his dethronement had attracted damages, as such, he could not be awarded the reliefs sought.

"The plaintiff's claims having collapsed in their entirety, there is no conceivable further relief that can be awarded to the plaintiff and this limb is devoid of merit and it is dispatched," judge Chitabo said.

On costs, judge Chitabo held that the successful litigant ought to harvest the costs of wasted litigation, although such costs were in the discretion of the court and awarded the Gawa Undi K15,000 as damages.

"Having held that the plaintiff was duly dethroned as Chief Mafuta by the defendant, it follows that the plaintiff has ceased to hold the office of Chief Mafuta and is restrained from holding himself as Chief Mafuta," judge Chitabo said.

He, however, granted Phiri leave to appeal.

On November 27, 2017, Phiri sued Gawa Undi, seeking a declaration that his purported dethronement as Chief Mafuta was contrary to Section 4 of the

Chiefs Act and was thus null and void.

He also sought a declaration that he could not be removed from the Mafuta chieftainship on the type of allegations insinuated by the Paramount Chief.

Phiri was further seeking a declaration that he was the reigning Chief Mafuta of the Chewa people as duly gazetted and an order directed to the Paramount Chief to restrain him from dethroning him or attempting to dethrone him from the throne, pending determination of the matter.

He was also seeking an order that the instruments of power retrieved from him by the Paramount Chief should be returned to him and an order of interim injunction restraining the Paramount Chief or whosoever from dethroning him or interfering with his administration of the Mafuta Royal Establishment.

However, Gawa Undi denied the allegations and counterclaimed a declaration that he has power under Chewa custom and tradition to recognise and install a Chewa chief subordinate to him and to remove or dethrone him for misconduct.

Gawa Undi also sought a declaration that the removal or dethronement of Phiri as Chief Mafuta was valid under the Chewa customs and traditions and an order that Phiri be restrained from holding himself out as Chief Mafuta or in any way performing chiefly functions.

## We've reached critical stage of COVID-19 pandemic, warns Chilufya as death toll hits 134

By Julia Malunga

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the country has recorded six deaths associated with COVID-19 and 206 new cases in the last 4 hours.

And Dr Chilufya says 18 patients are currently on oxygen, with two in a critical condition, saying the country has reached a critical stage of the pandemic with an unprecedented surge in Coronavirus cases due to the current cold weather.

Speaking at COVID-19 media briefing, Thursday, Dr Chilufya said out of the six deaths recorded, five were brought-in-dead at the University Teaching Hospital while one was recorded at Kalulushi General Hospital.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia has recorded six deaths associated with COVID-19, bringing the number of deaths to 134, and we have continued to see a rise in the number of cases admitted to our various facilities. We have recorded 206 new cases in the last 24 hours, an unprecedented spike in the number of cases. And if you look at the geographical spread, it is affecting all the parts of the country, every province is reporting a minimum of one district. So we have seen cases now in Kalumbila, in Southern Province in Choma and Livingstone and we continue to see cases in Lusaka and the key towns in Copperbelt, including Kitwe, Ndola and Kalulushi," Dr Chilufya said.

"We note that Zambia stands at 3,779 cases cumulatively. And out of the 206 cases we talked about, we see that these are from the community screening, the routine and those from facility screening and also those who are

found to be contacts of those who are already known positives. So the six cases we have recorded as mortalities are broken down as follows; five persons were brought in to UTH mortuary as brought-in-dead and one person who was identified through the community was brought in ill and died in our hospital. The sixth death was in Kalulushi General Hospital and this again is something that we are seeing for the first time in that facility. We have discharged 11 people in the last 24 hours, bringing our total discharges to 1,688 and we continue to see patients that are in our facility. As of today, we have 18 patients surviving on oxygen and two of them are in very critical condition."

He warned that there was going to be a surge in COVID-19 cases considering the current weather the country was experiencing if members of the public did not adhere to the stipulated regulations.

"We have reached a stage that is critical in the pandemic and it is important that we arrest the surge and we can only arrest a surge by ramping up measures. Therefore, we are going to see more testing so that we link people to treatment. We are going to see either self-isolation or institutionalized quarantine where we are going to stop community spread so that we don't have new cases," Dr Chilufya said. "We are going to see further re-engagements with the corporate world to ensure that we distribute masks in places where people work, and we distribute masks in public places...we will continue to see a surge with the current weather we have if we don't ramp up our observance of public health and social measures..."

## Shearer backs Greenwood to beat his Premier League scoring record

ALAN Shearer has backed Mason Greenwood to beat his Premier League scoring record while describing the Manchester United striker as a "potential superstar".

Greenwood became the first teenager to reach ten goals in a top-flight season since United legend Wayne Rooney when he netted in a 1-1 draw against West Ham at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

The England U21 international's second-half strike also ensured that he joined Rooney, George Best and Bryan Kidd as the only teenagers to have hit 17 goals in all competitions over the course of a single campaign for the Red Devils.

Greenwood has stepped his game up another notch

since last month's Premier League resumption, and his goals have helped Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side close in on Champions League qualification.

Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial are the only players to have outscored the 18-year-old at United this season, with both men currently on 22 goals, even though he was mostly used as a substitute before the coronavirus-enforced lockdown came into effect.

Shearer hit 260 Premier League goals over the course of his career, which stands as the highest mark in the competition's history, but he can see Greenwood surpassing that tally if he continues his current trajectory.

The former Newcastle and Blackburn centre-forward said on BBC's Match of the Day: "[He's] a potential superstar. I respect the power, left foot, right foot, and the way he gets his shot away early, he doesn't give the keeper a chance to set himself.

"Whether it's near-post or far-post. Everything is power, head down and hit it as hard as you can. I was taught at Southampton, by my old youth coach Dave Merrington, to concentrate on that right foot and make it unstoppable.

"Now, he can do it with his left or right foot. He gets it away early and the goalkeepers have no chance.

"I think in 12 or 13 years time, we could be talking about a Premier League record goal scorer. I know there are so many things that can happen in someone's career, but I think he's that good."

Greenwood and co will be back in action on Sunday when United take in a crucial trip to the King Power Stadium to face Leicester on Sunday, which will mark their final domestic outing of the campaign. **GOAL**



## Lampard questions Liverpool arrogance

FRANK Lampard warned Liverpool not to get "too arrogant" after Chelsea's 5-3 Premier League loss at Anfield on Wednesday.

Liverpool lifted the Premier League trophy after the thrilling midweek victory, in which they led 3-0 and 4-1 before closing out their win.

Lampard was involved in an exchange with the Liverpool bench before Trent Alexander-Arnold curled in a free-kick and the Chelsea head coach criticised the hosts.

"For me it wasn't a foul from [Mateo] Kovacic [on Sadio Mane] and there were little things that weren't going," Lampard told Sky Sports.

"On the bench, I've got no problem with Jurgen Klopp, he's managed his team and it's fantastic.

"Some of the bench, it's a fine line between when you're winning and they've

won the league, fair play to Liverpool Football Club, but also don't get too arrogant with it. In match play you get emotional and that was it."

Alexander-Arnold curled in a brilliant free-kick after Naby Keita's stunning opener, and Georginio Wijnaldum made it 3-0.

After Olivier Giroud gave Chelsea hope, Roberto Firmino restored Liverpool's three-goal lead, only for Tammy Abraham and Christian Pulisic to drag the visitors back into the contest.

But Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain sealed Liverpool's win, although Chelsea remain a point clear of fifth-placed Leicester City with one game remaining.

"It was extraordinary. Even when you say they threatened to run away with it, I felt we were in it because I could feel the way we were playing," Lampard said. **GOAL**

## Lwandamina seeks Gods intervention

By Abraham Kalito

ZESCO United FC head coach George Lwandamina feels it will take God's intervention to come up with a concrete decision regarding the prevailing COVID-19 situation where test results are only revealed hours before a kick-off.

Commenting on the late arrival of COVID-19 results, Lwandamina lamented that it is no longer possible to plan properly for a match.

The club's media team quoted the former Chipolopolo gaffer as saying that 'only God will decide if those who are in charge can't decide' and come up with a proper decision on the matter.

"There is nothing like good planning. You can plan but when COVID-19 test results are out, you find that everything that you had put on paper is gone. It is difficult for everyone. It's only GOD himself who will decide if those who are in charge can't decide, God will decide for us. It is very difficult when you are working on certain things and suddenly you receive that kind of news. I agree that we have a good number of players but it's not everyone who can play and more especially the time I got the news, it was when I had announced the team. I was forced to start calling those who were not in my team. Their(players) first impression was that I was calling them because they were affected by the test results," Lwandamina said.

"But I tried to talk to them and explained the circumstances. I encouraged them to prepare themselves for a game they were not supposed to play. That's not enough for players. We have been together in camp, including those who are sick. I know we will need to go through another test which I am sure is costly for the club, but to be certain, we have to do just that," he explained.

He said the current situation had not only affected ZESCO United players but others as well.

"Psychologically, this is going to affect everyone. When you are put in suspense, especially when you don't have results, that takes a toll on someone. The worst part of psychology is that it takes a lot of energy and stresses someone to the point that one can't play football," Lwandamina said.

He acknowledged that the football fraternity locally was not ready to deal with the situation surrounding COVID-19.

"The environment surrounding this pandemic, associated with football, I am sure we are not ready. We should have been doing these things before, even announcing the resumption of the league so that things are put in place. It's sad that people concentrated on preparing the teams for the games overlooking the important aspects of health. These players are connected; they are a family. So, when they feel that one is sick, they are also affected. It is a chain reaction. Having three sick players means that I have a total of six players out of the game," said Lwandamina.

## Emery returns to coaching at Villarreal

FORMER Arsenal boss Unai Emery is back in management, with La Liga outfit Villarreal confirming his appointment on a three-year contract.

The Spaniard was relieved of his duties at Emirates Stadium in November 2019 after a testing 18 months in north London.

He had been acquired by the Gunners as successor to the legendary Arsene Wenger, but found it difficult to fill big coaching shoes and deliver on expectation.

Various landing spots have been mooted for Emery since he vacated a Premier League post, with the ex-Sevilla and Paris Saint-Germain coach still held in high regard across Europe.

Villarreal have won the race for his signature, with the 48-year-old opting to take on a new challenge back his homeland.

The Yellow Submarine said in a statement on the club's official website: "Villarreal CF has reached an agreement with Unai Emery for the Basque manager to be Yellow's head coach for the next three seasons.



"Unai Emery is a well-respected coach with vast experience in football around the world, and has managed top-level clubs such as Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal FC. Furthermore, he also knows La Liga perfectly, after two successful spells at Sevilla FC and Valencia CF.

"Emery started his sporting career at Lorca Deportiva, managing to get them promoted to Segunda Division. After his first managerial experience, he moved to UD Almeria, who he also got promoted. This time, it was to the top flight of Spanish football.

"In the 2007-08 season, Emery arrived at Valencia

CF, the club he managed for four seasons. On the bench at Mestalla, the Basque coach finished third in La Liga on a total of three occasions, each of which saw Los Che qualify for the UEFA Champions League the following season.

"After a brief spell at Spartak Moscow, Emery returned to Spain in 2013 to take the reins at Sevilla. With the Andalusian club, he made history, winning three consecutive UEFA Europa League.

"In recent seasons, the Basque manager has been in charge of two top-level projects on the European stage.


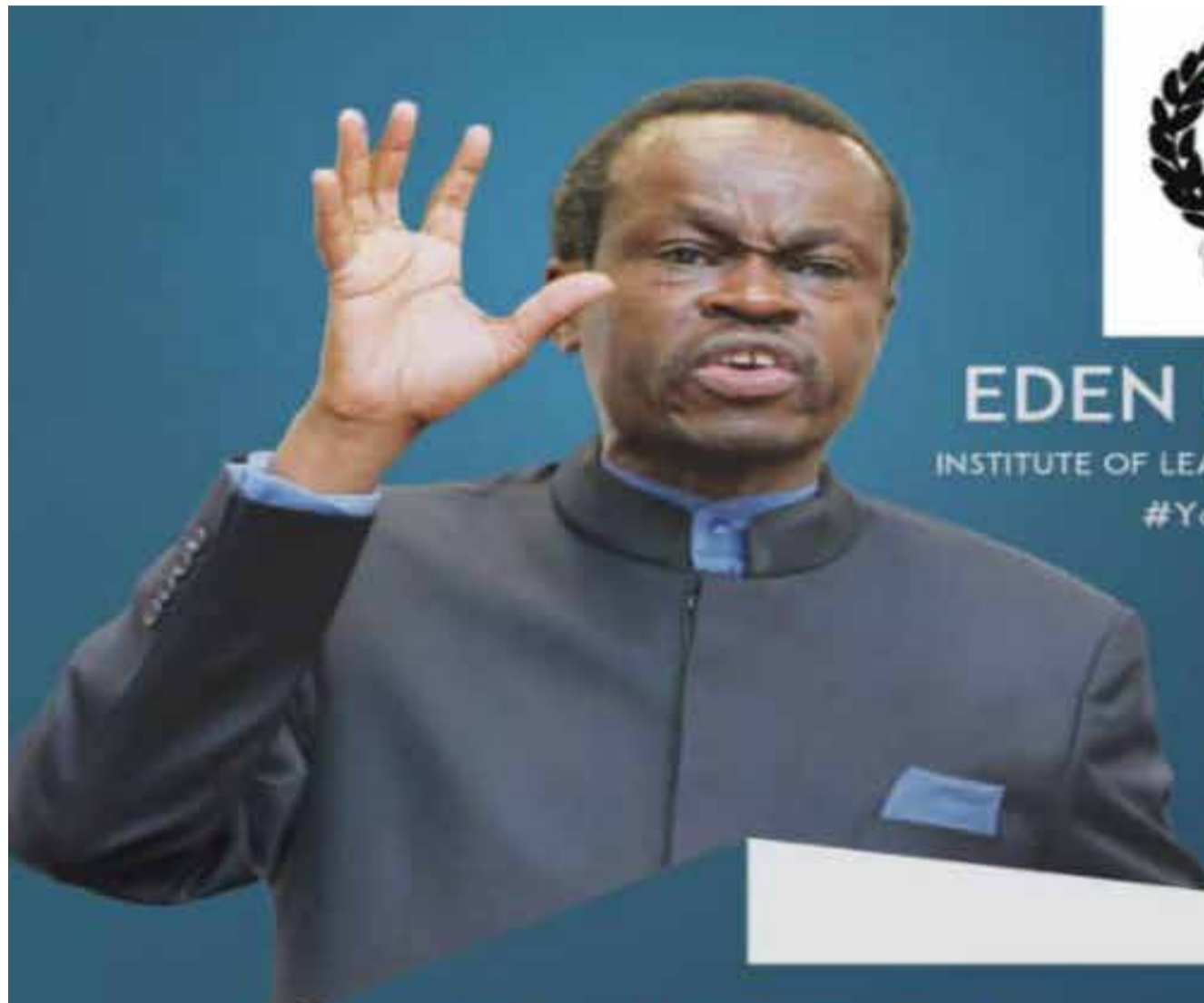
"After his successful

time at Sevilla, he moved to Paris Saint-Germain, with whom he added to his trophy cabinet, winning a Ligue 1, two Coupes de France, two Coupes de la Ligue and two French Super Cups.

"In his last role as manager, Emery took charge at Arsenal FC, with whom he was UEFA Europa League runner-up in the 2018-19 campaign."

Villarreal ended the 2019-20 campaign with a fifth-place finish in La Liga, meaning that they will be taking part in the Europa League next season – a competition that Emery boasts a rich history in.

**GOAL**



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