



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MATERO PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya says his party has been fighting him for exposing illegalities in his constituency because it embraces corruption.

And Kaziya says the Lusaka and Kitwe City Councils' three-month suspension is an embarrassment to both the ruling party and President Edgar Lungu because they will fail to account for all the wrong doing ahead of the 2021 general election.

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PF EMBRACES CORRUPTION

...I've more to reveal to ACC - Kaziya



UPND chairperson for policy research Dr Choolwe Beyani (l) after being granted police bond in Chililabombwe yesterday

We were arrested for holding elections in the bush - Beyani

By Natasha Sakala
UPND chairperson for policy and research Dr Choolwe Beyani and five others have finally been granted bond after being arrested and charged with unlawful

assembly for holding intra party elections in the bush on Saturday.

Recounting the ordeal, Dr Beyani said UPND was not intimidated by schemes to derail the party's growth on the

Copperbelt.

"What happened was that as the commissioner, I arrived, I was manning two elections; in Chingola and Chililabombwe..."

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Zambia hits 5,000 Covid cases, with 142 deaths

By Julia Malunga
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of Technical Services says hydroxychloroquine should not be used to treat COVID-19 patients unless under authorized medical prescription.

And Dr Malama has announced that Zambia has recorded 450 cases of COVID-19 and two brought-in-dead cases in the last 24 hours.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 updates, Tuesday, Dr Kennedy Malama said hydroxychloroquine was not being administered to COVID-19 patients because the drug could have dangerous side effects.

"We are aware that a lot of Zambians are

asking the Ministry about what we are doing about hydroxychloroquine..."

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PF members must know where Jay Jay is - Kapeso

By Julia Malunga
DEPUTY Inspector General of Police in charge of operations Bonny Kapeso says the service will not allow any more nonsense from political party cadres to dare the police in their own bedroom.

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Audit report reveals how Judiciary paid over K2m salaries to 'ghost' workers

Story page 10

By Mirriam Chabala

THE Auditor General's Report on the Provision of Special Education in Primary Schools has revealed a lack of specialisation among teachers handling pupils with unique education needs in Zambia.

In the performance audit on the Provision of Special Education in Zambian Primary Schools for the period 2014 to 2018, the Auditor General noted that special education in Zambia was not disability-specific.

The report explained that there was no specialisation among teachers and that students did not learn subjects in languages of the deaf nor the blind.

The Auditor General also observed that many trained teachers with diplomas in special education were not fluent in reading and writing Braille because the current special education training was too general.

"According to ZAMISE (Zambia Institute of Special Education), up until 2004, primary school teachers received mandatory basic specialised training in special education as part of primary school teaching in-service training. After 2004, in addition to primary school teaching, all teachers were now trained in teaching all disabilities. However, the institute indicated that this was not effective as some teachers struggled to grasp all the concepts and were not effective to handle all disabilities. The institute indicated that they received feedback from their students, which revealed that special education provision was not adequately integrated in most schools by the school managers," the report revealed.

"Teachers had pointed out that there was inadequacy, especially in the areas of sign language and Braille in the colleges and universities. Many trained teachers with diplomas in special education were not fluent in reading and writing Braille. This could be so because the current special education training is too general. It is not disability-specific, that is, there is no specialisation. In addition, students do not learn subjects in the languages of the deaf nor the blind. For instance, if a student is to be teaching mathematics, she/he should be exposed to learning the subject in Braille or sign language. Though students may graduate with distinctions in special education, they normally lack sufficient language of the learners they were to handle."

The report also revealed that visually-impaired teachers were being deployed to teach pupils with visual impairments even though they had no qualifications in special education.

"Interviews with management at Ndola Lions School for the Blind and Sefula School for the Visually Impaired revealed that teachers with visual impairments, who were not trained in special education were posted to these schools. Interviews with Curriculum Development revealed that this was because they were

Special education isn't disability specific in Zambia, reveals AG

able to assist with teaching in Braille, which most sighted special education teachers could not adequately handle. Interviews revealed that there was no in-service or pre-service institution training teachers in inclusive teaching methodologies. However, there were six schools that were piloting inclusive learning in Southern Province, and teachers in those particular schools had been trained with the support of a Community Based Rehabilitation Zambia Support Programme," the report revealed.

"Pre-service training for primary school special education teachers was conducted by lecturers, who had no experience in primary school teaching and methodologies as most of them were secondary school teachers, who had become lecturers at ZAMISE. This limited their ability to impart the practical skills and knowledge to the trainee teachers, which impacted on their performance. There has not been enough sensitisation provided to stakeholders on the implementation guidelines on special and inclusive learning. Special education activities were not sufficiently planned for as there were no key indicators in annual work plans on which performance could then be assessed. Further, a review of reports indicated that the number of teachers was not enough in many units and individualised teaching was not taking place. The reports also stated that the shortage of teachers also limited the implementation of Inclusive Schooling programme (INSPRO) activities. However, statistics on the required number of special education teachers and current SE teachers was not available from the Ministry for the period 2014 to 2017."

Meanwhile, the Auditor General regretted that some pupils with special education needs were unable to go to school because of the long distances they were required to cover to attend school.

"The Ministry of General Education has continued to increase the number of special primary schools and units to cater for learners with special education needs in the country. In 2014, there were 208 units available, which have increased to 250 in 2018. The number of schools also increased marginally from 24 in 2014 to 27 in 2018. This also saw an increase of learners with special education needs enrolled from 89,134 in 2014 to 103,218 in 2016 and to 110,320 in 2017. However, there were instances of learners with special education needs, who were not able to access education due to the distances to the available schools," narrated the report.

"For example, DEBS (District Education Board Secretary) officials in Zimba and Kazungula, and school

administrators at Sesheke and Mutende Primary in Mansa, indicated that they had identified children with disabilities, who could not enrol in school as the distances from their homes to the nearest unit or school was more than 5 kilometres. A review of annual reports also indicated this as a challenge to access education as well as the increased absenteeism of those enrolled. In addition, the introduction of inclusive education helped to improve access to education for learners with special education needs with mild disabilities. However, interviews revealed that this had not been fully appreciated or understood by all stakeholders. There were instances where physically-disabled learners were denied school places in mainstream classes, even when they were fully able to learn without any special assistance."

By Zondiwe Mbewe

MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Ronald Simwinga has denied committing adultery with an investments officer at the Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ), saying the allegations against him are frivolous and malicious.

In this matter, businessman Lombe Okpara has dragged his wife, Musamba Mulenga, to the Lusaka High Court for dissolution of their eight-year marriage for allegedly engaging in adultery with Simwinga and former Central Province deputy permanent secretary Patrick Mwanawasa.

He cited Simwinga and Mwanawasa as first and second co-respondents in the case.

According to his petition for the dissolution of marriage, Okpara claimed that his wife admitted committing adultery with both Simwinga and Mwanawasa.

He further claimed that on November 3, 2018, his wife and Mwanawasa spent time together at a short-term rented duplex apartment situated on Lukanga road in Roma township.

Okpara stated that his wife and Mwanawasa spent about

Foreign Affairs PS denies adultery allegations

five hours in the said apartment from 17:00 hours to 21:45 hours after which Mwanawasa allegedly complained of pain on his manhood following the alleged sexual encounter.

He also cited unreasonable behaviour, among other reasons, claiming that his wife arranged and hosted a party for Simwinga at her sister's house and convinced him that it was a kind gesture to appreciate Simwinga for the favours that he did for her family.

Okpara claimed his wife asked him to be present at the party and entertain the guests, little did he know that the primary guest was actually his wife's sexual partner.

But in his answer filed in the Lusaka High Court, July 22, 2020, Simwinga denied committing adultery with Mulenga, and that he shall put Okpara to strict proof over his allegations against him.

He also denied ever being invited for a party, adding that he would state at trial that he had only attended a luncheon

at the home of Mulenga's elder sister, with whom they are good friends.

Simwinga also denied leaving his house keys with Mulenga.

He argued that Okpara had failed to show how he and Mulenga allegedly committed adultery in his petition.

"The first co-respondent (Simwinga) objects to the prayers contained in the petition as the petitioner (Okpara) has failed to establish adultery and it will be unjust if the petitioner were to be awarded damages. The claim against the first co-respondent before this honourable court should be dismissed for being frivolous and malicious due to the foregoing reasons," Simwinga stated.

In his reply to the petition, Mwanawasa also denied Okpara's allegations, saying Mulenga was a mere friend whom he had the privilege of discussing business by virtue of their employment. *Story continues on P4*

ANNOUNCEMENT



On the reconstitution of the Board of Directors for Bridges Limited.



Mrs. Chitembo Kawimbe-Chunga
CHAIRPERSON AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



Mr. Sikambala Musune
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



Mrs. Mukalya Nampito-Mwangala
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr. Chibamba Kanyama
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO



Mr. Wilfred Sakala
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ms. Janett Mwafullwa
COMPANY SECRETARY

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We were arrested for holding elections in the bush – Beyani



UPND chairperson for policy research Dr Choolwe Beyani (l) after being granted police bond in Chililabombwe yesterday.

By Natasha Sakala

UPND chairperson for policy and research Dr Choolwe Beyani and five others have finally been granted bond after being arrested and charged with unlawful assembly for holding intra party elections in the bush on Saturday.

Recounting the ordeal, Dr Beyani said UPND was not intimidated by schemes to derail the party's growth on the Copperbelt.

"What happened was that as the commissioner, I arrived, I was manning two elections; in Chingola and Chililabombwe. So we agreed that we shall hold the Chililabombwe first in the morning. So when we met with our people, they made it very clear that they have never gotten permission of any kind to hold a meeting. So I told them that that's not a big problem because

the way it happens in Lusaka and elsewhere, you don't need a police permit as long as you are within your premises, you only need a permit if you are outside your office. So we went into the party office to hold the elections and as we were there, we began to conduct the election process, people began to vote. Then we began to see hordes of PF cadres outside on the perimeter of the offices. And there was one particular cadre who was holding catapults or malegeni... We didn't want a situation where someone would say there was a fight between UPND and PF. So we decided to halt it and move out of site," Dr Beyani narrated.

"We were aware too that if we move into a house of anybody, it will be called unlawful assembly so we went into the bush where there was no one and it was in the bush where we managed to almost conclude, we had only three voters left when police and PF cadres arrived on the scene and began to discharge live ammunition, one police officer and two officers discharged live ammunition, many of our people scampered and ran off. So us, the leaders stayed back and confronted the officers and wondered what the problem was there and one of the officers, I would call him the arresting officer, Mubanga, was very excited and accused us of holding an illegal meeting. So I asked him, I said 'how can we hold an illegal meeting in the bush where we are not talking to anybody and meeting anybody except ourselves?'. So anyway, there was no conversation, we were bundled, they told us to get the ballot boxes in the car, get to the police station and we got to the police station. That's how eventually, we were charged with a charge of unlawful assembly but that first night we were not charged, we refused to say anything without our lawyer."

He explained that even after the lawyer came to the station, there was political interference in the handling of the case.

"So Sunday, our lawyer came from Ndola and he advised us not to say anything but to accept that we should be charged but deny the charges. This was done and we actually thought we would be given bond shortly after the intervention of counsel but there was immediate political interference, we hear that they were calling, Ndola was calling and even Lusaka was communicated with and they were told that they even needed a docket, and the PF cadres were in and out of the police station. Even the commissioner for the area was in the police station. So they told our lawyers to come back at 15:00 hours to see how we could proceed with the matter which they did. But then they arrested another fellow, one of our members, whom they claimed corrupted a police officer and we believe this report was done by PF cadres and this is one of our members who was not at the meeting. So it seems that the PF had a bone to chew with him because he was part of what you may call foot soldiers in the campaign and in the politics of the party. So it looks like they wanted

to get revenge and have him arrested," Dr Beyani said.

"So he was arrested in the evening and he was interviewed and asked if he corrupted any officer, and he said no and we said if they want evidence, let them come to us because we were the ones on the fight and we didn't see him so that complicated the matter and when the lawyer came, they said 'well, we need to finish investigations with the young member of the party who was being accused of corrupting a police officer' and then their hands were tied and that's how eventually they interrogated him for three hours but the funny part is they never asked us whether he was present or not because as far as I knew as a commissioner, he was not present at the elections, he didn't come. But he is a party member but he never came. So I don't know how a party member who was not part of the meeting can be accused of corrupting a police officer when he was not on site. So that's how the district commissioner even came to be part of the interviews which makes you wonder what the district commissioner was doing in the interview and what exactly PF cadres were doing also in the police offices."

He said the presence of the DC in an interrogation room was a clear indication that the police in the area were working under difficult conditions.

"It became clear to us that the police command in Chililabombwe is working under difficult conditions. The police officers are always influenced, to some degree under the watchful eye of cadres who report them to anybody that they feel so and it's our understanding that the Minister of Mines, who is resident in Chililabombwe is a coordinator of these cadre activities. So, that is the difficulty that the police in Chililabombwe has," he said.

He said PF was panicking because it had lost support on the Copperbelt.

"So my view, in the end is that this reflects the kicks of a dying horse and I was able to gather from Chililabombwe that PF support in the area has completely collapsed. So they are in a panic mode and will do anything to block UPND from doing any activity in support of the party. The elections on the Copperbelt on the material day took place successfully except in Chililabombwe, there was no interference anywhere except here. So it's an interesting dimension that Chililabombwe appears to have a unique problem of cadres in the police station commanded possibly by a minister who is resident here, a situation that we didn't find in the rest of the Copperbelt. Not that there are no cadres but there was no interference of our elections in the manner that we saw in Chililabombwe. So I think it was basically meant to be an intimidation but it should be put on record that UPND cannot be intimidated," said Dr Beyani.

"We have come a long way, we are poised to form government next year and do what is good for the Zambian people including the police and the residents of our country."

SILENCE KILLS DEMOCRACY



LET PRIME TV OPERATE



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Commerce Trade and Industry Christopher Yaluma has bemoaned the impromptu closure of all Spar outlets in the country, saying government is working to ensure that this does not scare other chain stores.

And Yaluma has called on businesses to be more innovative and consummate business partnerships to either bridge the gap being left by the entities exiting the market or utilize the Buy Zambia programme as a foundation for innovative business partnerships anchored on home-grown solutions.

At a briefing, Tuesday, Yaluma said government, through the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) had engaged Spar and other potential investors to explore corporate finance strategies on how to manage Spar's smooth exit.

"In view of this unfortunate development in the retail sector instigated by the exit of Spar Zambia Limited from our economy, we cannot underscore the importance of the need for Government to intervene and explore robust strategies to help remedy the situation and avert potential material injury to the retail sector and the economy in general. We therefore call upon all concerned stakeholders to remain calm as Government through my Ministry pursue remedial measures anchored on "home-grown solutions for sustainability and inclusive participation". My Ministry through Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) has already engaged Spar Zambia and other potential investors to explore corporate finance strategies on how to manage a smooth exit of Spar Zambia from the local market. We are working smart to ensure that the closure of Spar outlets did not scare other Chain stores nor limit competition in the retail sector," Yaluma said.

"On behalf of Government, my Ministry has noted with dismay the impromptu on-going closure of Spar outlets at a time when the Chain store has grown to become one of the household names in Zambia. Since its launch through commercial presence on the Zambian economy in

Govt bemoans Spar outlets closure



Christopher Yaluma

2003, Spar Zambia Limited has been an active player in the domestic retail sector by providing effective demand for local products which are marketed and sold in its outlets across the country. The Chain store is said to be one of the world's largest retail chain operating in over thirty (30) countries. Spar Zambia Chain stores are known for providing wide variety of products which includes food and groceries, fruits and vegetables, wines and beverages, takeaway restaurants and in-store bakery section. Given this wide range of product lines, Spar Zambia and other similar stores in the retail sector play a significant role in stimulating value-chains development, job creation and contributes to government treasury through various tax remittance. Spar Zambia has over the last decade of operating on the local market established an admirable brand for itself among the Zambian consumers of which typically everyone would desire to safeguard in the interest of economic stability."

Yaluma called on the private sector to take advantage of the gap left to promote enhanced integration of local value chains and be innovative amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"My Government is therefore calling for the private sector and other stakeholders on the marketplace to seize this opportunity to promote enhanced integration of local

value chains. Cooperatives are hereby being challenged to come to the fore and occupy such spaces in the economy. Further, my Ministry stands ready to provide the necessary support to ensure that we have more viable local Chain stores from within our communities that supports the local producers and traders. However, this calls for every business entrepreneur to

By Natasha Sakala

THE Auditor General has revealed that the Luapula Water and Sewerage Company (LpWSC) delayed the implementation of the Integrated Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation (ISTWSS) project despite funding worth US\$33,453,611 being readily available.

According to the Auditor General's report on the accounts of water and sanitation companies for the financial year ending December 31, 2019, interest of US\$1,003,608 had accrued on the money and works had not commenced over two years since the signing of the financing agreement.

"On 17th February, 2017, government and Luapula Water and Sewerage Company (LpWSC) signed a financing agreement of US\$33,453,611 for the purpose of financing components 1 and 2 of the Integrated Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation (ISTWSS) project. The following were the terms and conditions of the loan

embrace change of mindset especially where quality assurance is concerned and consistent supply of the target product. In this regard, I wish to implore the relevant Agencies specifically the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) to work closely with our local suppliers to improve business linkages and enhance product quality respectively," he said.

"I wish to encourage the private sector at large to take advantage of the prevailing opportunities and be innovative even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic so as to remain resilient and survive the unprecedented trajectory that has affected the global economy including Zambia. We must all take note that the time when the pandemic will disappear from this world is not yet known but business has to continue. Therefore, all business entities are instructed to adhere to the prescribed public health guidelines for combating Covid-19 as doing so the infection and mortality rates would certainly reduce and business would steadily return to normalcy. **Story continues on P10**

Foreign Affairs PS denies adultery allegations



From P2

He added that at no time did he rent an apartment as alleged by Okpara in the petition and further stated that Okpara's allegations were malicious and not tantamount to adultery, which was the main issue in the petition.

Mwanawasa urged the court not to award Okpara damages and costs as it would amount to unfair and unjust entrenchment.

He stated that Mulenga was an adult and no one would take peculiar advantage of her as a married woman.

And in her answer to the petition, Mulenga had admitted that her marriage with Okpara had broken down irretrievably, but added that the reasons for the breakdown were none of the allegations by her husband.

She strongly denied committing adultery with Simwinga and Mwanawasa, stating that Mwanawasa was a friend, who was at the time working in Eastern Province.

Mulenga added that she simply went to pay him a visit as friends normally would when he was in town and used the rented duplex apartment to hold meetings.

Mulenga also denied having an intimate relationship with Simwinga and maintained that the relationship between them had always been plutonic.

Luapula Water failed to implement sanitation project despite available \$33.4m, reveals audit

agreement: The principal and interest shall be paid over a period of 25 years, including a grace period of eight years; the repayment shall be made in accordance with the amortization schedule set forth in schedule 1; the interest charged to the company on the principal amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time shall be 1.5 per cent fixed rate. However, despite the availability of the funds, works on the project had not commenced as at 31st December, 2019, and interest of US \$1,003,608 had since accrued," the report revealed.

And it also disclosed that K135,150 in housing allowances were irregularly paid to six workers that were accommodated in company houses.

"Irregular payment of housing allowance during the period under review; housing allowance in amounts totalling K135,150 were irregularly paid to six officers in that they were accommodated in the company houses," it read.

The report stated that K24,900 was also allocated for the implementation of the Municipal Billing Module in Pastel and provision of training to users, but was not implemented.

"Procurement of Software - Wasteful Expenditure On 18th August, 2016, a payment of K24,900 was made to GSM Micro Technology for the implementation of Municipal Billing Module in Pastel (K15,900) and provision of training to users (K9,000). It was, however, observed that as

at 31st December, 2019, the Municipal Billing Module in pastel and the associated training had not been implemented rendering the expenditure wasteful," the report read.

The Auditor General further revealed that the water utility only managed to hit a service target of 45 per cent, while sanitation services reached 31.9 per cent against a benchmark of 80 per cent.

"Water service coverage is the population serviced by domestic connections only through individual household connections, kiosks, public stand posts and shared taps. During the period under review, LpWSC did not reach its strategic goal and sector benchmark of 80 per cent as the water service coverage ranged from 30 per cent to 45 per cent. Consequently, a large proportion of the community in the province was not covered by the Commercial Utility (CU) and thus may not have access to clean water," read the report.

"Sanitation Coverage is the proportion of the urban population with access to sanitation services. The sector benchmark was 80 per cent. However, a review of the sector report revealed that the Company was operating below the standard at 14 per cent in 2015, 26.2 per cent in 2016, 31.9 per cent in 2017 and 31.4 per cent in 2018. As a result, a substantial number of urban households did not have access to sanitation services during the period under review which could compromise public health."

Gary wonders what miracle Lubinda will perform to resurrect Bill 10

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MAZABUKA Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says he is waiting to see what miracle Justice Minister Given Lubinda will perform to bring the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 back to life.

And Nkombo has insisted that Bill 10 lapsed last month and will never see the light of the day.

In an interview, Nkombo argued that Lubinda had continued with his treachery on Bill 10.

"Honourable Minister of Justice, in my view, has continued with his words of treachery. Any country must be governed by procedures and laws. There is no Bill that has a life for more than two years after Second Reading. There is nothing. The Freedom of Information Bill is one Bill that has been put on the shelf for a very long time and because it has not reached

that level. We will meet the Minister of Justice when he presents that Bill and the argument is now stale," Nkombo said.

"We should not even waste energy on an argument, which is stale, because we have now known that there is an Article, which Honourable (Brian) Mundubile spoke about, which is their survival plan. That is the only survival plan that they have on Article 52, I think. And if you go back to the...you will observe that even the Speaker of the National Assembly at the time when the Bill was presented, he made a repetition that a Bill has got a lifetime and that he was going to make it come on the Order Paper basically for the last time."

And Nkombo stressed that Bill 10 died on June 4 and would never see the light of the day.

"Now, on 4th June, as far as we are

concerned, the Bill lapsed. It ended and it shall never see the light of the day! So, we are waiting to see what miracle Honourable Lubinda is going to perform to actually bring that Bill before the House," Nkombo added.

And commenting on the resignation of two PF councillors, Nkombo said his party had a lot of difficulties advising councillors not to create by-elections, but cautioned PF that the writing was on the wall.

"The signs of the times are everywhere. We have had a lot of difficulties telling councillors not to create these by-elections. You heard what Mr Sikazwe (one of the councillors that resigned from PF) said yesterday. He said that 'because a by-election is coming anyway resulting from the unfortunate death of our members of parliament,' he said that he resigned from PF a long time ago," said Nkombo.

Last week, Lubinda insisted that whether Bill 10 critics liked it or not, it would be deliberated upon once Parliament resumed sitting.

"Standing Orders of Parliament do not provide that no, because Parliament has been adjourned, therefore, the business of the House has been killed, no! Whether they like it or not, when Parliament resumes, whatever was on the Order Paper and whatever should be brought to Parliament shall be brought. Whatever was on the Order Paper at the time of Parliament adjournment will be brought back on the Order Paper when Parliament resumes. It's as easy as that. I can give an example of you cooking. When you are cooking and then a child cries. You then stop cooking to attend to the child. After the child has stopped crying what do you do? You continue," argued Lubinda.

By Julia Malunga

MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of Technical Services says hydroxychloroquine should not be used to treat COVID-19 patients unless under authorized medical prescription.

And Dr Malama has announced that Zambia has recorded 450 cases of COVID-19 and two brought-in-dead cases in the last 24 hours.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 updates, Tuesday, Dr Malama said hydroxychloroquine was not being administered to COVID-19 patients because the drug could have dangerous side effects.

"We are aware that a lot of Zambians are asking the Ministry about what we are doing about hydroxychloroquine. As a country, we are guided by the World Health

Zambia hits 5,000 Covid-19 cases, with 142 deaths

Organization (WHO), and at the moment, we are not using hydroxychloroquine to treat the severe form of COVID-19. The other component of our response is risk communication and community engagement, supply chain and to ensure all the necessary commodities are available, and most importantly, to ensure that there is continuity in health service provision in our country," Dr Malama said.

"We appeal to our people not to rush to buy hydroxychloroquine. It can be dangerous! As you are aware, like any other drug, there are certain circumstances or conditions where hydroxychloroquine may be contraindicated. It's

important that before you take it, you consult medical personnel and they will guide you. In cases where they give it to you, there should be good reasons for that."

And he announced that Zambia had recorded 450 cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, with a total of 27 people who were on oxygen support.

"In the southern region, our country, Zambia, we are number three in terms of total number of cases and also mortality. We had 2,542 tests conducted in the last 24 hours in our country. We have recorded a number of 450 COVID cases. The distribution of cases include: 296, which we detected through



hospital screening. We also detected 37 contacts to known COVID-19 cases; 100 were identified during routine screening; we had 11 healthcare workers who tested positive; we had two alerts; one truck driver in Mazabuka and one was picked at the point of entry at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport. We also had two BIDS in whom COVID-19 was detected. In our country, we have a total of 27, who are on oxygen support and two are in critical condition," he narrated.

"We have also discharged 380 from our healthcare facilities. When it comes to a total number of tests we have conducted, we now stand at 79,269 since the outbreak was detected in our country. This brings the cumulative total

numbers of cases to 5,002. Cumulative recoveries 3,195, cumulative number of deaths now stand at 142."

And Dr Malama cautioned members of the public to adhere to COVID-19 health regulations or risk having the number of deaths increasing.

"The epidemiology of COVID 19 in Zambia is changing and changing very fast with more cases recorded every day. We have also seen an increase in the severity of COVID-19 cases we are seeing and its associated deaths. Last week into this week, we have seen a surge in the number of cases! What this means is that for Zambia, COVID-19 is established in the communities. We are emphasizing that we need to ensure that we adhere

to masking and physical distancing wherever we are. And this includes on public transport and other congregate settings. We now have evidence in the country, in the region and globally, that if we don't do things differently, the numbers we are seeing today can quadruple and it will mean catastrophic consequences to our people and economy," warned Dr Malama.

Meanwhile, speaking when he paid a courtesy call on chief Puta in Chiengi, Tuesday, Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya conceded that COVID-19 had taken a toll on medical supplies.

"COVID-19 has taken a toll on the human capital and medical supplies on the health sector. To assure resilience, the government has been putting more human capital and mobilizing more resources for medical supplies to ensure that there are provisional health services routinely for our patients and to ensure that while we do this, we do not have lapses in the COVID-19 response. We are going to work with our partners to unshackle the supply chain," said Dr Chilufya.

Suspension of LCC, Kitwe Council illegal, says Chapter One

By Natasha Sakala

CHAPTER One Foundation has asked Local Government Minister Dr Charles Banda to reverse his decision to suspend the operations of the Lusaka and Kitwe City Councils because his action is in contravention of Article 152 (2) of the Constitution.

In a statement, Tuesday, the Foundation stated that Dr Banda's action was unconstitutional and illegal.

The Foundation insisted that there was need for government to review the provisions of the Local Government Act as well as other relevant pieces of legislation containing provisions that directly depart from the requirements of the Constitution.

"Chapter One Foundation strongly urges the Minister of Local Government to revise his decision to suspend the functions of the two Councils in order to ensure his actions do not continue to run contrary to the requirements of the Constitution. We call on the State to review the provisions in the Local Government Act as well as other legislation containing provisions that directly depart from the requirements of the Constitution to ensure that all leaders and citizens alike, continue to uphold our constitutional values and responsibilities at all levels of society, for posterity, protecting the state from any potential forms of anarchy," the statement, which was signed by the foundations executive director Linda Kasonde, read.

The Foundation argued that Article 52 of the Constitution protected local authorities from central and provincial administrations and was actually in direct conflict with sections 56 and 57 of the Local Government Act.

"Chapter One Foundation understands that the Minister of Local Government

purportedly derived his powers to suspend the Lusaka and Kitwe Councils from sections 56 and 57 of the Local Government Act 2 of 2019, which state as follows: 56. The Minister may, by reason of the refusal, failure or inability of a council to adequately perform all or any of its functions, by statutory order — (a) appoint a public officer to be the Local Government Administrator for that council; and (b) suspend all councillors of the council from performing all of their functions as councillors and empower the Local Government Administrator to discharge all the functions of the Council. 57. (1) An order made by the Minister under section 56 shall, unless revoked, expire after 90 days of the date of making the order, except that the Minister may, in the interest of local administration, extend the order for further periods of ninety days at a time," stated the Foundation.

"Sections 56 and 57 of the Local Government Act are in direct conflict with provisions contained in the Constitution, specifically Article 152 (2) and, thus, the Minister's decision is unconstitutional and should be reversed immediately. Article 152 (2) of the Constitution states as follows: 'The national government and the provincial administration shall not interfere with or compromise a local authority's ability or right to perform its functions.' We believe that Article 152 (2) was created to protect the rights and functions of local authorities from any interference from central and provincial administrations as a means to ensure functional efficiency, transparency and effectivity at the local-level. Given that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, its provisions supersede any other legislation that is in conflict with its values and principles."

On Monday, Dr Banda suspended the Lusaka and

Kitwe City Councils for three months with immediate effect to pave way for correcting illegalities in the allocation of land in the respective municipalities.

The suspension of Council means that the Mayor, his deputy and all the councillors in the two municipalities were suspended for the stated period in which an administrator will then be appointed by Dr Banda.

Only 11 suspected COVID-19 cases have been reported in schools – Mabumba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

GENERAL Education Minister David Mabumba says only 11 suspected cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in schools so far.

And Mabumba says it is logistically impossible to test all the 1.1 million pupils who are currently attending examination classes.

Speaking during a live COVID-19 information dissemination programme which was hosted by Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya on ZNBC TV1, Tuesday, Mabumba said the 11 suspected cases had been reported to the Ministry of Health.

"From the time we opened the schools on 1st June, it's just to thank the President for the leadership. You know, many of the countries haven't been able to make this decision given that there is so much fear around COVID-19. Since the reopening of the schools, we have more than one million children who have gone into our school system. And from June, the number of cases in the context of COVID that have been reported are very minimal, around 11. These are the cases that have been reported. And as part of our protocol of managing the risk of COVID in our schools, once there are identified cases, we report them to the Ministry of Health. And this far, all the cases have been reported to the Ministry of Health," Mabumba said.

"So, when you look at the number against 1.1 million children who have gone back to our school system, I leave

it to the Zambian people to make a judgement whether our reopening has been successful or not. For us as government, 1.1 million children against 11 cases reported and all of them have been handled. And those schools where these cases have been reported have gone back to normal. As far as we are concerned, there is no Coronavirus in the schools. Coronavirus can only come from the communities into the school system because the children are living in the communities. So the notion that there is COVID in our schools is a wrong notion because our schools as far as we are concerned, we have been able to ensure that all the COVID-19 school guidelines that we have developed, they are implemented strictly."

Mabumba said Zambia had not declared 2020 as a dead academic year as other countries had done hence the need for examination classes to continue.

"Some countries have declared 2020 as a dead academic year. We in Zambia have not been able to reach that far in terms of declaring 2020 as a dead academic year as demonstrated by the examination classes that have already reported. What the President and Cabinet are doing is to give ourselves an opportunity to monitor how the COVID transmission, given that the curve is going up, how the transmission is going to be in the next few weeks or one month. And on that basis, Cabinet through the President is going to make a decision based on data that is based on facts, and that is based on science so

that we are able to protect the other 3.7 million children who have remained out of the school system," Mabumba said.

And asked why the 1.1 million pupils in examination classes had not been tested for the virus, Mabumba said it is logistically impossible.

"Minister, that is the argument from the Zambian people but you and I, for example, is it logistically possible that you can go and test everybody? When I have got COVID-19 in my body, I am going to have the symptoms obviously. I cannot live with it for two or three weeks, I should have the symptoms. And this is why we are saying that as much as the parents might want us to test everybody, I think our strategy at the moment, given the logistics, we shall do testing exceptionally. But from those schools where those 11 cases have been reported, all the children and teachers have been tested," he said.

And Mabumba said all schools must ensure that they have hand washing soap and sanitizers for their learners.

"There are standards that should be followed. We have developed the COVID-19 guidelines which provide the measures that must be followed and one of them is masking up. Every school as hand washing facilities, every school is supposed to have soap and hand-sanitizer. So, if there is a school of that particular nature, I wish you could have given us the name so that we send our standard officers to go and check the compliance levels," said Mabumba.

CONSTITUTIONAL MAKING IN ZAMBIA: A MYTH OR REALITY? PART ONE

JOSEPH CHIRWA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

MANY scholars have written or attempted to write on the constitution-making process in Zambia. In most law schools, the choice of a topic of research on constitution-making has become tired. In one of the research classes, His Lordship, Mr. Justice Mumba Malila, SC used the word 'tired' to signify that most people have either researched or written on the subject matter that virtually no new issue could be raised as all issues surrounding the scope of that topic have been exhausted.

As a scholar, I tend to disagree that a topic can become tired. It will be true to say that scholars and the audience have become tired but topics of a legal nature never become tired as the law continues to evolve and the trajectory surrounding many so-called tired legal issues keep changing. One of those tired issues that have been awakened is "constitutional-making" in Zambia. The awakening of this issue from the grave is as a result of the debate surrounding the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 10 of 2019 famously called "Bill 10".

1.2 GENESIS OF BILL 10

Protagonists of Bill 10, chief of which are members of the ruling Patriotic Front (PF), claim that the Siavonga Resolutions of 2018 culminated into what has become of one of the most contentious laws in the history of Zambia slightly behind the introduction of the One-Party Constitution in 1973. For avoidance of doubt, the Siavonga Resolutions were as a result of a meeting of political party Secretaries General, General Secretaries and National Secretaries collectively known as Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of various recognized and registered political parties. The meeting was held under the auspice of the Zambia Centre for Interparty Dialogue, a not-so Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which is an umbrella body for political reconciliation. The legitimacy of the ZCID as an independent arbiter of peace has been questioned by various political players since its inception.

After the ZCID-brokered meeting in Siavonga District, the National Dialogue Forum was born out of the National Dialogue (Constitution, Electoral Process, Public Order and Political Parties). As the name of the Act suggests, its main focus was to garner a multi-partisan reforms in the constitution, electoral process, public order and political parties.

The preamble of the Act provided that:

An Act to facilitate the implementation of the Siavonga resolutions of political parties relating to constitutional and institutional reforms, separation of powers and judicial independence, tolerance, freedom of assembly and civility in politics and electoral reforms; provide for a national dialogue process to facilitate the Constitution refinement process and regulation of political parties, public order and electoral process reforms; establish the National Dialogue Forum and provide for its functions; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing. [Emphasis supplied]

Section 4 of the same Act provided that:

(1) There is established the National Dialogue Forum which, subject to the Constitution, is a forum for the implementation and enhancement of the Siavonga resolutions for proposals to—

(a) alter the Constitution, based on the draft amendments proposed to the Constitution based on submissions from the stakeholders specified in the Schedule, following the enactment of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, 2016, and additional submissions from the church; and

(b) reform the law on the electoral process, public order and regulation of political parties

based on submissions from various stakeholders. [Emphasis Supplied]

Attendance to the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) was extended to a wider range of stakeholders but the Executive remained as the nominating authority. All political parties were to be represented and Members of Parliament (MPs) were required to attend under the pain of imprisonment for failure to do so. This created the perception of inclusiveness which will be dispelled in the text that follows.

It must be noted from the underlined words that the "refinement" of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 was to be done "subject to the constitution" and by being "accountable to the people of Zambia" and through "confidence building, engendering trust and developing a national consensus for the review process."

The NDF was hardly accountable to the people of Zambia because the representatives at the forum only represented factional and sectional interests as opposed to national and public interest. The best way to attain national interest is to ensure that all Zambians participate in the process through a national referendum. In that regard, all persons of age may be called upon to have a say on what is to be "refined" in the constitution as opposed to leaving the process to interested as well as warring parties.

1.3 REFERENDUM: THE ANSWER TO A DURABLE CONSTITUTION?

The making and remaking of Constitutions in Zambia has largely been based on the discrediting of the process adopted to make a particular constitution. This is so because the process is tightly related to the participation of the governed in the constitutional-making process. As a democracy, process and participation are key to having a constitution which invokes a sense of ownership as well as one that may stand a test of time.

The most preferred way of constitutional-making is a referendum. A referendum is a vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question. If a country holds a referendum on a particular policy, they ask the people to vote on the policy and show whether or not they agree with it.

The gist of a referendum is that an issue of national importance and one that hinges on the freedoms, liberties and rights of citizens must be subjected to the people as a whole and not to a faction or section of people such as Parliament. Parliament has the inherent right to make laws but these laws are subject to the constitution which is the grund norm that is made by and for the people. Parliaments are made up of political cadres whose aim is to channel a political interest which is usually partisan rather than national in character. These party cadres have their loyalty, first, to the party; second to themselves for self-preservation; and third, may be to the general will. This means that party cadres, in the name of MPs, are likely for vote on party lines as directed by the various party Whips for fear of being expelled or suspended for going against party orders. This was seen in the United Kingdom when the British Conservative Party withdrew the whip from 21 of its MPs who voted against Prime Minister Boris Johnson Brexit proposals and in the United States of America when Senator Willard Mitt Romney of Utah was vilified for voting to impeach President Donald Trump.

History in Zambia has shown that constitutions keep changing and remodeled because many feel the previous law was made to preserve self as opposed to national interest. The Country has seen constitutional regimes in 1973, 1991, 1996

and 2016 all fail due to cries by stakeholders as to lack of inclusivity and disregard of the widely accepted process. The 2016 amendment to the 1991 Constitution has seen it being attacked center, left and right due to the same reasons.

1.4 WE, THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA: IS THERE SUCH A THING AS WILL OF THE PEOPLE?

There is no general consensus on what the 'will of the people' is discerned and on how it is measured. However, in a democratic society like Zambia, the will of the people is usually expressed through the right of suffrage and defined by its elected representatives. Generally, it is taken to mean a decision by simple majority, or half-plus-one wins the vote. This definition brings about two implications. The first is that the will of the people can be settled by the people's elected representatives, this case MPs, by a majority of fifty per cent plus 1 or second by the majority of the general populace by the same margin of fifty per cent plus 1.

Thus, regardless of the mode adopted, the will of the people will only be carried if a simple majority of fifty per cent plus is met. Thus, Parliament may only represent the will of the will of the people if there is a simple majority and this is also true of a referendum. It is thus submitted that even if the Parliament of Zambia, the National Assembly plus the President, are allowed to carry the day, the threshold of fifty per cent plus one must be met if we are to make a constitution or any amendment to it that represents the "will of the people."

However, it must be noted that Zambia is a constitutional democracy and hence the constitution reigns supreme. In light of the doctrine of constitution supremacy that has been upheld in a plethora of court decisions, the preamble of the constitution settles the question as to what is the "will of the people." It states that: **"WE, THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA.....DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY ADOPT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION:"**

If the people give to themselves a constitution, it only makes sense that "the people" must make that constitution. It follows, as this authors submission, that the duty, mandate and role of constitutional-making is a preserve of "the people" and may not be delegated or usurped by anyone as doing so makes that constitution one that is not for the people because it is not by the people.

1.5 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT: HAS BEEN AN ANSWER TO CONSTITUTIONAL LITIGATION?

Many scholars have suggested that the United States Constitution adopted in 1787 by delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia has lasted over 233 years due to the role played by both State and Federal Courts in upholding it and giving it life to meet the current social and economic phenomena. The law must evolve with changing times as the paramount role of the law is to promote good governance, the rule of law and protect human rights.

Jurisprudential studies from Hart to Austin have been consistent in educating us that the law is what judges say it is. It is important to appreciate to appreciate the role that judges play in breathing life to the constitution. The law, without any pronouncement on its implications by a court of competent jurisdiction, is impotent. In the words of US Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes:

We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is, and the judiciary is the safeguard of our liberty and of our property under the Constitution.

Continues tomorrow

PF embraces corruption, I've more to reveal to ACC – Kaziya

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MATERO PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya says his party has been fighting him for exposing illegalities in his constituency because it embraces corruption.

And Kaziya says the Lusaka and Kitwe City Councils' three-month suspension is an embarrassment to both the ruling party and President Edgar Lungu because they will fail to account for all the wrong doing ahead of the 2021 general election.

In an interview, Kaziya lamented that the PF had allowed party cadres to engage in illegalities in the name of the party, but that he would not tolerate it.

"I have been vindicated! Look at what social media was writing about me. You know, there is more to that

(councillor Annie Chinyanta) altercation. But people don't know the background to that altercation and look at how I have been vindicated. Whatever they have been hiding, whatever they have been doing with Miles Sampa (Lusaka Mayor), whatever the Committee in the Council had been doing, approving illegal land allocations has been revealed! Imagine if they were to be fully investigated, how much land have they sold? There is this group that has been awarding land to Indians, and foreigners. How much have they eaten? And this has just exposed Emmasdale alone, but how much more damage have they done to Lusaka? You see that what happened in Emmasdale has now escalated to Kitwe and this is why they have

revoked licenses in Lusaka and Kitwe. And even Ndola was supposed to be revoked because Lusambo left a mess there!" Kaziya said.

He vowed that he would soon report the selling of the railway line in Matero constituency to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

"The problem which is there is that because it is involving cadres, we are concealing these issues. The Njanji railway line is gone! They have cashed in on it. And I am bringing this before the ACC to probe them. The Chunga Roundabout has been sold to Zambeef. Our own PF Constituency team sold that and shared the money," he said.

Kaziya said he had remained unpopular among PF cadres in Matero

because of his stance against illegalities, charging that even the PF secretariat was siding with criminals.

"You see, I have been fighting these kinds of illegalities in Matero for a long time and this is why I am not popular among the cadres in Matero. Even the secretariat has joined siding with criminals! The secretary general (Davies Mwila) is one person that has warned me that I should 'pay Miles Sampa for defaming him!' He claims to own Matero Stadium, which he doesn't own and he has dragged me to the High Court. He thinks he is going to get my benefits, in his dreams?" he wondered.

He said from the time he was adopted and elected, he had not given his party structures in his constituency latitude to corrupt his mind



Matero MP Lloyd Kaziya

into doing illegalities.

"So, you can see how much the PF cadres, the PF structures have fought me from the day of adoption. I can tell you that I have never worked with this group because they have tried to compromise me and I have never given them that latitude to corrupt my mind in any way. These illegalities, we have allowed them. We have allowed lawlessness in the country and more especially in Lusaka. How are people going to perceive all of us? To be the same, all of us to be corrupt? If the councils have been suspended, the licenses revoked and investigations are now ongoing, what picture is it painting to the masses? Who are we, as PF?" Kaziya wondered.

"And they thought they were fighting a nonentity, [but] now I have taught them a lesson. Sometimes when we keep quiet, it doesn't mean that we don't know anything. We are fully knowledgeable, we have been fighting these things quietly, but they brought it upon themselves. Had it not been for that video going viral, you wouldn't have known about this. And people are just watching to say, 'niba PF balekeni', but 2021 is coming. It's only next year. My message is that I am not going to tolerate any kind of illegal activities. And as a party, they have fought me, meaning that they embrace corruption, meaning that they embrace illegalities because it's not the first time I am exposing such things," he added.

And Kaziya said the suspension of the two councils was an embarrassment to both the ruling party and President Lungu.

"So, this is quite embarrassing on the part of the party, it's embarrassing

on my part, it's embarrassing to the President because how, then, are we going to explain to the people in 2021? That we mean well? When we have allowed our cadres to do whatever they want to do, when we have allowed the cadres to harass people in the markets? A poor marketeer, who is selling tomatoes earning a K10 each day, then you go and grab a K5 from that person, in the name of the party? What does that do to the community? A trader wakes up at 04:00 hours to order tomatoes at Soweto Market and goes to sell at the market, then during the day, a cadre goes round to collect a K5 from her when she has only sold a K20. Who is that trader working for? Cadres who are seated in their offices only waiting to go and collect money in the evening? Is this what we stand for when we talk about pro-poor?" he wondered.

Kaziya stressed that he had been restraining himself from speaking out despite his dismissal as Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection minister two years ago to protect the image of the ruling party.

"So, sometimes when some of us remain quiet, it doesn't mean that we don't want to talk about the injustices that are happening in the community. We are just trying to protect our image as a party. If I wanted, I would have been ranting a long time ago. I mean, how long have I been fired as a minister? From 14th February, 2018, but have I been ranting like my colleagues? No. I have respected my President, I have respected the party. I have never wanted to embarrass them in the manner the recording was done," said Kaziya.

Asked if he was not scared of not being re-adopted next year following his remarks, Kaziya said: "You know, they say, 'we will cross the bridge when we get there.' I wouldn't want to start telling you my intentions now."

At a media briefing on Monday, PF secretary general Davies Mwila said Kaziya had abandoned the party and he would be replaced in 2021.

Mopani will maintain operations beyond July, but talks continue – Mines PS

By Natasha Sakala

MOPANI Copper Mines Plc has agreed to maintain operations beyond this Friday, July 31, 2020, the date it was originally set to place its operations on care and maintenance, says Ministry of Mines Permanent Secretary Barnaby Mulenga.

In an interview, Mulenga said, however, that talks would continue on the way forward since Mopani had appealed this decision.

"We agreed, as you heard, even from the statement they issued to that effect. So, there've been discussions with them, which have concluded that they are not proceeding on care and maintenance, so operations will proceed beyond the 31st of July, but what will, however, happen is that they might continue because they've appealed that position and we are engaged in more talks to see how we can solve this in the light of that

appeal," said Mulenga.

Last week, Mopani revealed in a statement that it was going to appeal government's decision to reject their proposal to place the mine's operations on care and maintenance, citing operational challenges.

"At the beginning of May, 2020, Mopani Copper Mines Plc notified the government of its intention to place the mining operations on care and maintenance after 90 days. Mopani has been notified by the Mines Development Department that it has rejected its proposal to suspend the operations pursuant to Section 37 (2) of the Mines and Minerals Development Act (2015) (MMDA) and place them on Care and Maintenance (C&M). Mopani remains of the belief that the only way to protect the company's value and preserve the option to deliver its growth projects when conditions

further improve is to transition the operations to C&M. Mopani is currently assessing its options and will initiate an appeal pursuant to the MMDA against the Director of Mines' decision within the permitted time frame. Further, it will explore all options available to it to preserve the long-term value of the Mopani business. Mopani will continue mining operations, pending the outcome of the appeal processes, pursuant to the Director of Mines' decision and the MMDA. Mopani continues to engage with the relevant government ministries on identifying potential solutions to address Mopani's current challenges," read the statement.

In early April, Mopani announced it was placing the mine on care and maintenance for a three-month period owing to "very challenging" operating, regulatory and macroeconomic environments, which had placed significant pressure on

the business.

In addition, the miner cited the impact of a-then rapid decline in copper prices and the critical disruptions to international mobility, transportation and supply chains arising from COVID-19, such that a number of projects that had been earmarked for commissioning, the company said, had to be placed on hold until key personnel were able to travel to site.

Government, however, reacted swiftly to thwart those plans and accused Mopani of acting outside the law.

Following some heavy-handed action, including the prevention of the mines' chief executive officer, Nathan Bullock, from leaving the country on April 15, Mopani said it would stay its decision and remain open, subject to agreeing certain undisclosed conditions with government proposals, indicating the decision would be revisited after three months.

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We must first unite, defeat COVID to create conducive environment for businesses, 2021 campaigns

THE Ministry of Health says there is a sharp spike in the COVID-19 positivity rate and many cases in the communities are only being picked up now. As at yesterday, Zambia recorded 450 new COVID-19 cases, including 11 health workers. Every day that passes, we have people on oxygen, some in critical condition with little chance of survival. Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says we are now at an alarming stage and citizens must be concerned about this.

“When you look at the positivity rate in Zambia, we are seeing a sharp spike. If you look at the week beginning 1st June, we were at about 1.8 per cent positivity and when you look at the way we are proceeding, we are now at 25.4 per cent. This is a very steep rise in our positivity. It means that there are many more cases in the community that are picking up. And every week, we are seeing a rise in positivity and this needs to be stopped. The rate at which we are moving is alarming,” says Dr Chilufya.

Dear citizen, if you are reading this and you are still wondering if COVID-19 is real and if it truly exists in Zambia, you are a

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Ear to the ground

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target of our awareness campaign because you are potentially at highest risk of contracting the deadly virus. Over 140 people have so far perished in our country, out of about 5,000 cases recorded. More than 75 per cent of these deaths and positive cases have been recorded since last month only. There is cause for worry because it means the COVID has now officially arrived.

Indeed, it is true that everyone who needs to know about COVID-19 has heard about it, but we are concerned about citizens who are either underrating the impact of this pandemic or don't care enough to change their behaviour in order to minimise the spread of the virus. We are disturbed, as a newspaper, to see that a lot of people in Zambia are not taking the fight against COVID-19 very

seriously. Despite all these deaths, people are not sanitising their hands as guided by medical experts, people are not practicing social distance, and very few people are wearing masks in public. In the markets and at bus stops, the situation is so scary!

We would like to reiterate a message that we have shared in the past. Government has failed to contain this virus through effective policy guidelines, that's a given. We missed the opportunity to contain the spread about four months ago. It is now time to focus on behaviour change. Now, human behaviour is not something that we can expect the government to regulate, it has to take individual citizens' effort. This is an unexpected crisis, no country out there was prepared

for this pandemic. If major world economies are struggling to save lives, we should be very worried about what will happen here in Zambia in the next month or two.

Our organisation is desperate to play a role in sensitising the public on COVID-19. So, we have come on board to partner with the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Health to help escalate this awareness campaign. Our newspaper has offered government free advertising space, both in the print and electronic editions as well as social media platforms. With support from our partners at the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), we have gone further to partner with several radio and television stations in creating programmes for public health experts to

use in communicating and sharing their knowledge about this virus.

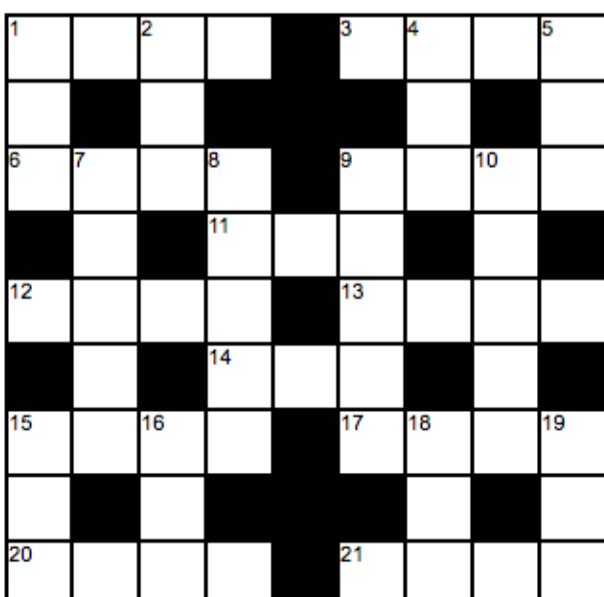
Some people may misunderstand our interest and wonder why we should be helping relevant authorities when we do not get any advertising support from the government. “This is a surprising partnership, why Diggers?” others have asked. Our position is simple. First, we recognise the fact that COVID-19 has destroyed many businesses, including the newspaper industry. The longer we have this pandemic in circulation, the more companies will close down. Many businesses thrive on people's movements, we cannot survive in a lockdown. This is the more reason why every well-meaning Zambian must take interest in fighting this pandemic.

COVID-19 is real.

In fact, what surprises us is that political parties in this country have remained divided on this score. Our political leaders are still finger pointing and doing less in sensitising citizens to effect behaviour change. Yes, government has failed to contain the virus and some government officials are using the pandemic to disadvantage their political rivals, but that is the more reason why all well-meaning citizens and organisations must come on board to help contain the pandemic so that we can go back to our usual lives.

It would be delightful to hear that political parties are forming intra-party COVID-19 task force committees to focus on spreading awareness messages to their members. Some people listen more to their political leaders than they listen to government officials because there is an understandable mistrust that exists. So, this means we must all first unite to defeat the spread of COVID-19 in time so that we secure a conducive environment for conducting businesses and for campaigns ahead of next year's general election.

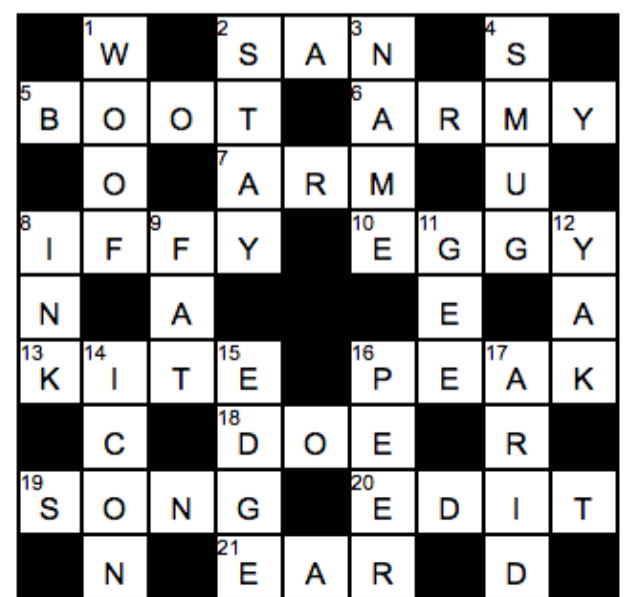
Crossword puzzle No 656



“Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory.”
- Ed Viesturs

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scenery 3. Substitute 6. Longest river 9. Bang your toe 11. Faster than walk 12. Blend 13. One time 14. Freudian subject 15. Ruffian 17. Eliot or Frost 20. Gruesome 21. East's opposite | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lg. family vehicle 2. Long fish 4. Drenched 5. Bar 7. Opening remarks 8. Flubbed 9. Be nosy 10. Cry of surrender 15. Warm greeting 16. Yours and mine 18. Rock containing precious metal 19. Egyptian boy king |
|---|---|

Crossword puzzle No 655



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: Lungu wants to gag lawyers who criticise him to leave only those who praise him

Dear editor,

"His rule has always thrived on weakened and compromised governance institutions. He appoints his own weak and vulnerable individuals, as chivala mulomo, he easily arm-twists at will. This other day he threatened concourt judges and warned them of 'chaos in the country', if they ruled 'the kenyaway' about his eligibility, and they have not disappointed him in any case. But the more learned and man of integrity John Sangwa SC, says, the State Counselship doesn't mean that you are lawyer for the state to stop you from defending the law. Aikona Man!!!" - Martin Nyanjagha

"President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's remarks on lawyers not criticise him openly when he ers show dictatorial tendencies. Late Presidents, Chiluba and Mwanawasa never bothered about any criticisms because they were good in the democratic dispensation". - Frederick Ntemena Kafumbe

"I said it that the new Laz president is a Chola boy and the reason they have put them there is to make sure PF remains in power,how can you bring Rupiah Banda's boy to start running LAZ? They will be Chaotic scenes at LAZ, watch the space". - Reuben H Siwila

"Criticism is a recipe for doing what is right because those close to the presidency just say what he wants to hear and this is dangerous". - Samson Makanjila

'Chitalu, Parley confusion over MPs' COVID-19 status serious'

Editor,

"Now this is serious! Clerk of National Assembly vs Health Minister. Matero MP vs his Councillor! Apparently, the MP appears to have won because Lsk City Council is saying they were irregularities in the manner the piece of land was allocated and disciplinary action will be taken against the council officers involved". - Peter Mmembe

"Whose portfolio is public health or indeed all health matters? Members of Parliament are not tested by the Clerk of the National Assembly but by Health professionals who report to the Ministry of Health even if the tests may have been carried out from National Assembly

premises. Why should there be confusion on matters that ought to be straightforward for crying out loud! What happened to behind the scenes dialogue and clarification by those in positions of authority. Can this season of public embarrassment stop already. It is getting tedious when we should be focussing on containing this pandemic killing our friends and family members". - Lucy Mungoma

"In a normal situation the Clerk is supposed to announce what she receives from the Minister of Health". - Oscar O

G Hatontola

"Confusion! I guess we will wait for another version in English from state house! Corrupt people!!" - Thomas Sankara

"From the article, Cecilia said 'affected'. Unless you want to add to the confusion, it's possible for 15 to be 'infected' but only 5 of them 'affected'". - David Mwendalubi Zulu

"Typical of these guys. Confusion everywhere, even just simple Covid statistics". - Mwila Bupe



'Kampyongo must name culprits enticing security officers to resign!'

Editor,

"Indeed Kampyobgo must point to the culprits and produce evidence before a court of law. Failure to which it is more treasonous for Kampyobgo to mislead the nation. These are very serious allegations and if they are false, he should resign. Is better to admit that PF cadres are now more powerful than our national police instead of pointing fingers aimlessly". - Daniel Maswahu

"People should understand that there are many Jayson Chipepos out there who are prisoners of their conscience daily grappling with the decision to set themselves but held back by lack of alternatives..... Do we ask ourselves why most government employees appear timid, lacking in confidence, looking very sorry for failing to speakout but continuing to do the very things they struggle against on a daily basis? Unless there are other misdemeanors this particular Chipepo may have committed focusing and punishing his decision will just look like victimisation of an innocent soul by a failed system.....address the issue not the person!!!" - Musonda Malama

"They are buying heavy guns for the police to carry and yet they don't pay them well for them to eat well and have enough energy and when they resign ati being enticed. Just pay them well and improve their conditions of service not ifyo, what can a constable do with a K2000 as a salary! Shame. It's not a service, remove those colonial articles from the act like desertion which is only applicable to a force and also allow them to have unions like their friends in South Africa and other nations". - Thomas Sankara

Nakacinda's decision to sue MMD over his expulsion

Editor,

"Meaning his faction is not true MMD but the one he's sued. Let him join the other party as former MMD members have done. After all he has more to gain if he does. They may even adopt him, who knows?" - Asa Amisi

"He's a member of parliament in the PF government. Why can't he just forget about MMD? This guy is ungrateful, he should just be dropped as a nominated MP so that he can concentrate on his battle to remain a member of MMD". -

Kafubu George Peneshi

"How do you sue the leadership you don't recognize? Raphael has refused to recognize Dr Mumba's leadership and has tried to run a parallel leadership but now sues against his expulsion. Skopo no bwino bwino!" - Anderson Kanyungu

"Insoni buntu. Sometimes it's not necessary to agree to disagree even when you are on the wrong side of history. Courts are being outweighed by such excited and backed up

figures". - Andrew Kasela

"I thought it would be good news to Nakachinda that, Mutati has formed a new party- it's only logical that he joins him. Could it be a case of trying to shield oneself from legalities that may befall him due to MMD assets that he most probably has amassed.....just thinking". - Lawrence Nyirongo

"How does he sue what he calls a faction". - Malewa Victor Kaona

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 Sipilisiwe Ncube

LUSAKA Apex Medical University chief executive officer Professor Peter Mwaba says people need to stop conducting body viewing and holding funerals to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

And Prof Mwaba says hospitals must be treated as dangerous places to visit amid a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Speaking when he featured on a live COVID-19 interactive programme hosted by Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliy on ZNBC, Tuesday, Prof Mwaba cautioned that the country would continue recording an increase in the

Body viewing, holding funerals must be stopped to prevent COVID spread – Mwaba

number of positive cases if drastic measures were not put in place.

He said body viewing and the holding of funerals by relatives should be stopped to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“For the funerals, it’s even worse because what I have observed from outside there is that people are still taking dead bodies from Lusaka, transporting them to outside

Lusaka to go and bury in the village. So, you are literally exporting the COVID to outside Lusaka. We can do what we have done when there is cholera where health workers supervise the funeral, no movements of bodies, no body viewing and everything else. But we are doing the opposite. And I am sure you have seen that on that account, we will continue recording an increase in the number of

cases if we don’t put in drastic measures,” Prof Mwaba said.

Prof Mwaba, who is also a former Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, urged people to stop travelling to various locations for funerals to curb spreading the disease.

“And I would not recommend somebody travelling from one town to another just to go and attend a funeral because even if you travel, are you going to

resurrect a person who has died? So, the low areas where we have recorded these cases must be protected so that we don’t export this virus to other areas. There is a lot of external transmission within our country from one place to another for various reasons,” he said.

And Prof Mwaba said hospitals must be treated as dangerous places to visit amid a spike in COVID-19 cases.

“People must know that hospitals are dangerous places. They are not places where you just visit and go there anyhow. Even pre-COVID, there are

other pathogens that abide in the hospitals. So, the hospital is not a place where you go in large numbers the way we have been doing before COVID. But now that there is COVID, it’s even worse,” Prof Mwaba cautioned.

He stressed that there was need to break the transmission chain by self-isolation.

“If you look at the long-term effects of wearing these masks, basically you are recycling your own air because when you are wearing your mask, you are breathing out carbon dioxide and part of it again you are inhaling. So, even the masks themselves are not the safest gadgets to have. The most important thing is that we should break the transmission chain so that we go back to normal,” said Prof Mwaba.

By Julia Malunga

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says he is worried about the huge meetings he held on the Copperbelt in light of his COVID-19 positive status.

And Lusambo has expressed concern over the behavior of Lusaka residents who take COVID-19 lightly.

In an interview, Lusambo insisted that the gatherings on the Copperbelt were not planned for as people decided to follow him on their own.

When asked if he was worried that those who followed him may have been infected, Lusambo responded in the affirmative.

“Yes, I am worried as well. Not only that, I am scared for Lusaka people because the levels of compliance have gone down. COVID-19 is now everywhere. This behavior which is in Lusaka, COVID-19 will wipe us [out]. For me, as a government official, this thing which I have passed through has been a well educative process both as a patient and a government official. When I

I’m worried about crowds that followed me in Kitwe – Bowman



go out there, I will know what people are going through,” Lusambo said.

“I am a government worker. And my job is to protect the people. We will continue protecting the people of Zambia. And I can assure

you that now our work has to double from where we have ended. Because there is no person who is going to work. I think it is not necessary to attract gatherings but for me, it is not that those gatherings were planned, no. People

would hear that ‘Bowman is this side’ and come. And when they come, definitely you cannot disappoint your supporters, you would want to talk to them.”

And Lusambo said he had helped health officials to trace all the people he had come in contact with.

“I am doing very well, I had symptoms of COVID-19. I have also helped with contact tracing. All my workers at the Ndola house were tested. All my brothers and sisters were tested. Here in Lusaka, the entire workforce at my house was tested. When you are moving from your house, you know that there is COVID-19 and what you are supposed to do. You are supposed to put on a face mask, carry hand sanitizer and practice social distance. No one should police your life. You have to protect your life. You can’t invest your life in me that ‘Bowman is going to protect my life, no,’” said Lusambo.

Meanwhile, Lusambo commended the health workers and the Ministry of Health for their tremendous job in treating COVID-19 patients.

Govt bemoans Spar outlets closure

From P4

I urge you all to strictly follow the public health guidelines so that together we can protect one another for the benefit of our society we live in because the pandemic does not discriminate and has demonstrated the ability to traverse all territorial borders and affecting both human capital and business entities.”

And Yaluma said the Proudly Zambia Campaign should be used as a foundation for innovative business partnerships anchored on home-grown solutions.

“At this juncture, let me take this opportunity to assert that Covid-19 pandemic has induced a different way of doing business under the “new normal business environment” and this demands for business entities to be more innovative and while Government continues to provide the necessary support. And this will only be achieved if all relevant stakeholders through public-private-partnership collaborated in good faith and for mutual benefit. It is, therefore, my Ministry’s desire that the private sector undertakes to embrace the Proudly Zambian Campaign (PZC) and consummate business partnerships to either bridge the gap being left by those entities exiting the market and or utilize the programme as a foundation for innovative business partnerships anchored on home-grown solutions. Further, the private sector players are encouraged to embrace a hybrid framework that is characterized by innovation and partnerships that guarantees cost efficiency and building of economies of scale for competitiveness on the market,” said Yaluma.

Judiciary paid over K2m in salaries to workers who were fired, resigned – Report

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Judiciary paid over K2 million in form of salaries and allowances to 74 employees who were no longer working for the institution, says the latest Auditor General’s Report.

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, this payment was contrary to terms and conditions of service for the public sector which required that such employees were to be removed from the payroll with effect from the date of resignation, dismissal or discharge.

“A review of personal files and other documents revealed that 74 officers in various stations, who had either resigned or dismissed and whose contracts were terminated, were paid basic salaries and other allowances in amounts totalling K2,120,330 as at 31st December, 2018. This was contrary to terms and conditions of service for the public service, which requires that such employees are terminated from the payroll with effect from the date of resignation, dismissal or discharge. As at 31st December, 2019, the

irregularly paid amounts had not been recovered leading to possible loss of public funds,” read the report.

“Contrary to Public Service Management Division Circular No. B21 of 2018, Section 5, allowances in amounts totalling K1,172,300 were paid to 115 retirees during the financial year ended 31st December, 2018, who were retained on government payroll. As at 31st December, 2019, the allowances had not been recovered.”

The Report also revealed that the Judiciary paid 73 officers amounts totalling K447,693 in terms of hardship allowances, which they were not entitled to.

“Contrary to Public Service Management Division Circular No. B2 of 2010 and the Public Service Terms and Conditions of Service, 73 officers were paid remote and rural hardship allowances in amounts totalling K447,693 despite not being entitled to the allowances. This resulted in loss of funds to government by paying allowances to officers who were not entitled,” read the Report.

It equally revealed that the Judiciary further processed 77 payment vouchers in amounts totalling K230,584, which were

not supported with any official documentation.

“Contrary to Financial Regulation Nos. 45 and 52, 77 payment vouchers in amounts totalling K230,584 processed at four stations during the period under review were not supported with documentation, such as receipts, invoices and Local Purchase Orders,” read the Report.

It further disclosed that the Judiciary also had an infrastructure deficit of 510 court rooms and 1,781 judges’ chambers.

“According to the establishment, the Judiciary was supposed to have 1,157 court rooms and 3,505 judges’ chambers countrywide. However, it was observed that the Judiciary only had a total of 647 court rooms and 1,724 judges’ chambers, resulting in a total deficit of 510 and 1,781 court rooms and judges’ chambers, respectively,” read the report.

“During the period under review, the Judiciary had a total of 529 local courts across the country out of which 123 were not operational as they were either dilapidated or lacked water reticulation or sanitation.”

PF members must know where Jay Jay is hiding – Kapeso

By Julia Malunga

DEPUTY Inspector General of Police in charge of operations Bonny Kapeso says the service will not allow any more nonsense from political party cadres to dare the police in their own bedroom.

Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio’s programme dubbed Lusaka Star, Tuesday, Kapeso said the ruling party must know where Patriotic Front Eastern Province Youth Chairperson Emmanuel J Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay was hiding.

“The storming of the police station was highly calculated. When they stormed the police station at Lusaka Central, it was a Sunday and remember that Sunday is a day of prayer and most of the police officers were not at the police station. It was probably a skeleton staff that was around and I think they took advantage of that. But we are not going to allow any more nonsense from any cadre to come and dare the police in our bedroom,” Kapeso said.

“If they will be ten maybe two will survive. If ever they dare the police station and come and confront the police station in our bedroom this time, I think they will regret the fact that they went to dare the police. And it doesn’t even make any sense for a civilian to gather that courage which I describe as very outrageous to go and dare the police officers in their own bedroom.”

Kapeso said Jay Jay must report himself to the police.

“And we are saying Jay Jay must own up if he has senses. That Jay Jay Banda, the one who is the youth chairperson in Eastern Province. And I think all the members of PF must know where he is. If he has girlfriends, brothers and sisters who are listening to this programme they must tell him. Even if he is in Mozambique, even if he is in Malawi even if he’s hiding let him own up. Because the longer he stays in hiding, I think the more the situation will be more volatile once we see him,” said Kapeso.

Police in Lusaka are on a manhunt for Jay Jay who is facing aggravated robbery charges.

Earlier this month, Banda mobilised PF cadres and stormed Lusaka Central Police where they beat up some unsuspecting officers on duty and got away with about K4,000 belonging to one of the officers.

Sources say the incident happened after the C5 anti-robbery squad shot and killed a suspect earlier, who happens to be a relative to Banda. The suspected robber died after sustaining four bullet wounds.

This infuriated the PF official who demanded to meet the officers involved in the shooting incident. However, the officers did not comply, prompting Banda to mobilise cadres and besiege the provincial police headquarters, with at least one visible firearm.



Real Madrid confirm Mariano Diaz has tested positive for Covid-19

REAL Madrid have confirmed that Mariano Diaz has tested positive for Covid-19 and is now self-isolating at home.

The Blancos are in the process of finalising their plans for the second leg of a Champions League last-16 encounter with Real Madrid.

Zinedine Zidane's side trail that contest 2-1 on aggregate and have it all to do at the Etihad Stadium on August 7.

Quarantine protocols have been put in place for those arriving in Britain from Spanish shores as the coronavirus pandemic continues to pose a serious threat to public health around the world.

Real had been granted exemption from those regulations, with there no need for them to isolate for 14 days once entering the UK.

There has been no suggestion as yet that a review of that situation will be carried out.

Mariano has, however, tested positive in the Spanish capital and been forced out of Zidane's plans.

The 26-year-old is said to have had no contact with other players and staff, with his being the only positive test recorded after an initial

round of screening.

Real announced via a statement on the club's official website: "After the Covid-19 tests carried out individually on our first team yesterday by the Real Madrid medical services, our player Mariano has given a positive result."

"The player is in perfect health and complying with the sanitary isolation protocol at home."

Mariano issued an update on his condition in a video to his followers on

Instagram, stating: "Hello everyone. I appreciate your messages of support."

"I am perfectly well, thank God my family and my environment are also great."

"Now I am recovering at home and I hope to return to normal soon and be able to be with my teammates and team. Greetings to all."

Mariano is set play no part against City, but Madrid will be hoping that a fixture in England goes ahead as planned. **GOAL**

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2nd Bus 06:00hrs
4th Bus 10:00hrs
5th Bus 13:00hrs
Boarding Time: 30mins before departure time

Lilongwe - Chipata - Lusaka
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Arthur refusing to play for Barca again



BARCELONA midfielder Arthur has told the club he does not want to play for them anymore as the midfielder refuses to return from Brazil, Goal has learned.

The Brazil international will join Juventus this summer after a deal worth €72 million (£66m/\$81m) plus up to €10m in bonuses was agreed in June, but his contract with Barcelona will run until the Champions League campaign is over.

Coach Quique Setien gave his players a break after their second-place finish in La Liga and the 23-year-old took the opportunity to return to his homeland.

He was expected back to undergo tests for Covid-19 this week and begin preparations for the second leg of the last-16 tie against Napoli on August 8, but he has notified the club that he will not return.

Barca have warned Arthur that he will be violating his contract and will face fines for his conduct, but he is standing firm and refuses to represent Setien's side again.

Arthur moved to Camp Nou from Gremio in a €40 million (£35m/\$47m) deal in 2018. He has made 72 appearances in all

competitions, with 28 of those in 2019-20.

His playing time this season was limited by injury until he was dropped altogether, with his last appearance being a four-minute cameo against Celta Vigo in late June.

Two days after that match and the day Barca confirmed they had reached an agreement with Juventus, Arthur insisted he would give his all for the club for the remainder of the season.

"I know I'm going to belong to a big club; many challenges await us before we can be together with the Bianconeri," he posted on social media.

"Now I'm focused on the present, we have important goals in Barcelona and I will continue to the end giving everything, for my team-mates and all the fans."

His absence could pose problems for coach Setien, who will already be without Sergio Busquets and Arturo Vidal for the match against Napoli due to suspension.

While Arthur will head to Juventus in time for next season, Bosnia-Herzegovina international midfielder Miralem Pjanic will move in the opposite direction in a €60m (£55m/\$67m) deal. **GOAL**

Micho is a tourist - Siwale

By Abraham Kalito

SOCCKER administrator Blackwell Siwale does not think the acquisition of the services of Serbian trainer Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho' will pay off for the country.

Micho recently put pen to paper as he officially sealed a two year deal to coach Chipolopolo.

Siwale however, said in an interview that the gaffer has turned into a tourist adding that it has been a waste of money to pay him.

"Six months ago I said it that the guy you will employ will be a tourist. And true to my words Micho has been a tourist. Take the pandemic


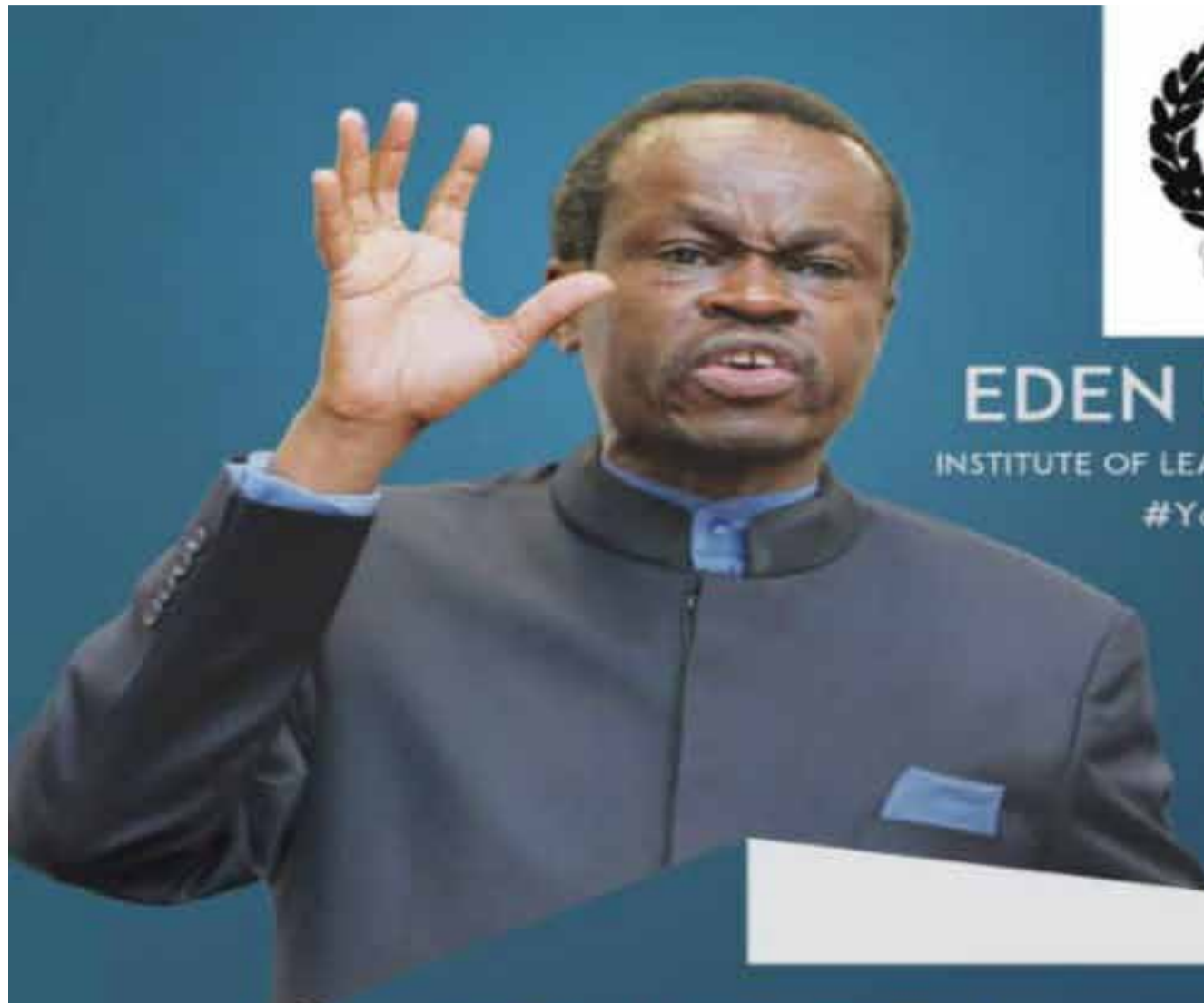
away and the only assignment that Micho would have had is the CHAN and some qualifiers. That has been suspended but 'Micho' still has to get paid," he said.

"The money that we have been paying him, we would have used to actually call a trainer from overseas to come and train our local coaches. That has been argument from the word go. I have never been for the idea of a foreign based coach. The guys running football today have a different agenda and it is personal."

Meanwhile Siwale is of the view that world soccer governing body FIFA has been biased towards

FAZ and have to clear themselves regarding the position.

"We have always feared that FIFA has been soft on FAZ. A case in point is where without following any FIFA, CAF or FAZ statutes or the Zambian constitution, Veron-Masengo Omba wrote a letter to FAZ in apparent reference extending their mandate. Clearly you can tell, how do you extend any mandate without any statutes? Meanwhile we have laws that clearly state what should be done. We waited for a calamity to happen instead of hosting elections. Why didn't we hold them on the 19th?," Siwale wondered.



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