



# UPND DOWNPLAYS BY-ELECTION DEFEAT

## We'll wallop PF in 2021 - Kakoma

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
UPND Spokesperson Charles Kakoma says the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) will be badly defeated in the 2021 elections because it will not have the resources to bribe every voter like it has at the

moment. And Kakoma says his party is happy with its performance in the just ended local government by-elections in Western, North Western in Luapula Provinces, because it gave PF a good run for its "stolen money". Meanwhile, Kakoma has lamented that UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is technically on house arrest, giving him no option but to use social media to connect with the voters. *Story page 3*

## Zambia records 119 new COVID cases, 5 deaths

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary for administration Kakulubelwa Mulalelo says

Zambia has recorded 119 new cases of COVID-19 and five deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the country's cumulative total to 6,347.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo has insisted that people should avoid weddings, funerals and drinking places to lower the risk of infection.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 briefing in Lusaka, Sunday, Mulalelo said 40 patients were currently on oxygen support.

"The 119 cases are in Lusaka and cases include: 76 cases identified through healthcare facility screening in Lusaka, 23 contacts to known positive cases in Lusaka, 13 individuals identified from routine community screening in Lusaka, three health care workers screened in Lusaka and four BIDs in Lusaka. Amongst the active cases, we have 40 patients on oxygen support, five of whom are in the ICU. Today we have discharged 363 persons, this brings the cumulative recoveries to 4,493 since the beginning of the outbreak," Mulalelo said.

*Story page 7*

*Story page 10*



119 NEW COVID-19 CASES RECORDED

Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of administration Kakulubelwa Mulalelo addresses journalists during a press briefing yesterday

## Court allows Kasonde to withdraw from representing Prime TV

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
LUSAKA High Court Judge Catherine Lombe Phiri has granted Lusaka lawyer Linda Kasonde's law firm, LCK Chambers, permission to withdraw as advocates for Prime Television.

This is in a matter where the television station is challenging government's decision to cease all cooperation with it.

*Story page 7*

## Chitalu's corruption case hasn't derailed COVID-19 fight - PS

*By Natasha Sakala*  
MINISTRY of Health permanent secretary in charge of administration Kakulubelwa Mulalelo says Dr Chitalu

Chilufya's corruption case has not affected the fight against COVID-19 in any way. And Mulalelo says donations from

corporations and well wishers had slowed down because there were no daily COVID-19 updates, not because of fears of misappropriation. *Story page 7*

## Netizens roast HH over 'social media politics', as Bally promises to address their concerns

*Story page 10*

# Matero PF bans Kaziya from speaking to the media, as Kamba warns Kapeso

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MATERO PF Constituency chairman Crispin Kabole has banned area member of parliament Llyod Kaziya and his councillor Annie Chinyanta from speaking to the media until their differences are finally resolved.

Meanwhile, PF provincial secretary for Lusaka Kennedy Kamba says Deputy Inspector General of Police Bonny Kapeso is maliciously dragging the ruling party into an aggravated robbery case involving its Eastern Province chairman Emmanuel Banda, popularly known as Jay Jay.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Kabole announced that both Kaziya and Chinyanta should not speak to the media until their ongoing quarrel over illegal land allocations in the constituency was resolved.

"Over the issues, which have transpired in Matero, as a constituency, we took up steps. We wrote to the Honourable MP and the councillor to exculpate themselves against what was going on in the press. And about that, we are waiting for the seven days from

which we are going to act. We even advised the MP and the councillor that they are not supposed to speak to the media until this issue is resolved. And that is why, as a judge, because it's us, the constituency, that are going to make a decision, we are just waiting for the seven days to elapse, that is when we are going to make a decision. Both the MP and the councillor are not supposed to talk to the media. In fact, we don't allow the people to speak to the media. We have got systems of speaking to the media," Kabole said.

He said the concerns raised by Kaziya were internal and that the ruling party had channels of airing out grievances rather than resort to using the media.

"The issues which the MP is raising are internal matters and the party has got structures in which all the issues can be conveyed. We don't go to the press. We have got channels. This is a very well established party where we have got a system of doing things. All we are appealing to the MP is that if he has got any other information, he

should use the constituency and we will be able to take this information to the higher authority or take action. So, I am appealing to Honourable Kaziya that we are still waiting for his exculpatory letter. We have already received the exculpatory letter from the councillor and as a party. It's from this that we will be able to make a decision," Kabole said.

Meanwhile, speaking at the same briefing, Kamba urged Kapeso to stop dragging the PF into the aggravated robbery case involving Jay Jay when the suspect should be investigated as an individual.

"We take strong exception to the remarks made by the Deputy Inspector General of Police Bonny Kapeso, who is seemingly dragging the ruling party, the PF, in the case involving Eastern Province Youth chairperson Emmanuel Jay Banda, popularly known as Jay Jay. The Deputy Inspector General of Police Bonny Kapeso featured on a Radio Programme at UNZA Radio where he said PF members know where Jay Jay, who is facing aggravated robbery-

related cases, was hiding. We strongly feel Mr Kapeso is maliciously dragging the PF, as a ruling party in the alleged misconduct of individuals, who must personally face the law if found wanting rather than dragging the entire party into the misdeeds of a few individuals," Kamba said.

He insisted that Jay Jay's criminal conduct did not have the ruling party's blessings.

"It is not so long ago that we had a meeting with the police command where we assured them that the PF was not above the law or reproach. We assured the police of utmost respect in the discharge of their duties and that no PF supporter, member or leader was expected to undermine the police or police officers. The cases facing 'Jay Jay' or any of the PF members, who were accused of raiding the Lusaka Central Police Station, had no blessings of the party and Mr Kapeso knows this very well. If one or two members of the PF have crossed paths with the law, the police must deal with those individuals without dragging the party into such matters," Kamba said.

And he warned Kapeso not to force party members to demonstrate against some officers, who he said had been "working against the ruling party."

"To demonstrate how we respect the law and police officers as a party, President Lungu on Saturday during the Central Committee meeting directed Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo to make sure 'Jay Jay' was brought to book to face the law. Why, then, should Mr Kapeso turn to the PF and its general membership and say, 'we know where Jay Jay is hiding?' Such comments are sheer slander and malicious against the PF! Mr Kapeso should not force us to demonstrate against some police officers whom we know are working against the PF! Jay Jay or any other person, who has issues with the police have no backing of the party and will not be shielded. The police should deal with the matter without involving the PF. The PF is a distinguished party headed by a distinguished man, President Edgar Lungu, who respects the law and the custodians of it," said Kamba.

**News Diggers!**  
Ear to the ground

News Diggers Media Limited  
Temp 8 off Alex Chola Road  
Nyumba Yangga, Lusaka  
P.O Box 32147  
Cell: 0977708285  
Email: editor@diggers.news  
www.diggers.news

July 31, 2020

Mr. Joseph Mwenda

Editor-In-Chief

News Diggers Media Limited

Temp 8, off Alex Chola

Nyamumbayanga

LUSAKA

Dear Sir,

COMPLAINT AGAINST A STORY HEADLINE

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 31, 2020 in which you have assured me that you have taken note of my earlier complaint regarding a story headline where i was quoted reacting to a statement from the police Deputy Inspector General.

Indeed i raised concerns in the manner the headline was made , as it insinuated that i warned the the Deputy Inspector General of Police.

I am delighted you have taken my complaint seriously and i expect your distiguished institution to pay extra attention to detail and interpretation of such healines.

I have no doubt that you are professionals in your work as a media institution and measures to do better next time will be taken.

As a politician i have always endeavoured to work closely with all media houses in diversity and i hold journalists in high esteem as they are the country's fourth estate.

Wishing you the very best with your work.

With Kind Regards,

Kennedy Kamba

Lusaka Province Secretary

31 July 2020

Mr Kennedy Kamba  
Lusaka Province Secretary  
Patriotic Front

Dear Sir,

**REF: Your complaint about our story headline**

Please refer to the subject above.

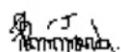
I write to inform you that we have taken note of your complaint on the headline of your story where you were quoted reacting to the statement from the Police Deputy Inspector General.

We appreciate your feedback and on behalf of the Newspaper, I wish to assure you that we will endeavour to exhibit the highest levels of professionalism in our work. Any media house is only as relevant as the concerns of the people who speak through it. Your feedback helps us get better at our work.

Lastly, I wish to assure you that our agenda is to provide an objective platform for the exchange of views between those who are governing and those who are being governed. Despite our interest in making the government of the day accountable to the electors, we hold no partisan agenda. This is clearly outlined on our editorial policy.

Once again, I thank you for providing us with your valuable feedback.

Yours faithfully,



Joseph Mwenda  
Editor-In-Chief

*This page is sponsored by PF Lusaka Province Secretary Kennedy Kamba*

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
UPND Spokesperson Charles Kakoma says the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) will be badly defeated in the 2021 elections because it will not have the resources to bribe every voter like it has at the moment.

And Kakoma says his party is happy with its performance in the just ended local government by-elections in Western, North Western in Luapula Provinces, because it gave PF a good run for its "stolen money".

Meanwhile, Kakoma has lamented that UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is technically on house arrest, giving him no option but to use social media to connect with the voters.

In an interview, Kakoma said it did not matter that PF won 10 out of the 15 ward by-elections because the most important thing was that the UPND had begun penetrating the ruling party strongholds and registering good numbers of votes.

"We are happy that we performed very well because the PF thought that they would sweep all the local government by-elections. But we won in Chavuma central ward and we lost one in Kasempa and we won another one in Mufumbwe. So in that stronghold in North-Western Province, we actually beat the PF pants down. In Western Province, they were targeting Mongu and Limulunga ward, we also beat them. You will recall that in the past in Mongu, it has been a problem because the PF has been winning those ward elections which they have been inducing. But this time around, they've not had it that easy. So they must be very embarrassed, especially looking at how much effort they put in and the amount of money they spent. The relief food meant for disasters which they took

# By-elections shouldn't blind PF, we'll wallop them in 2021 – UPND

there, but they still lost. This shows that if they can even still lose by-elections while they are still in power, then in the general elections, they will be wiped out," Kakoma said.

"For us, even in the PF strongholds like Chiengi, we are very proud of our performance there because the numbers are really very interesting. Those are difficult places where we could even get zero votes from a polling station. But now we are even getting more than 500 votes from one ward, so that is encouraging for us. So we are happy about our performance and only the PF should be worried about their performance. For us, we would therefore like to congratulate ourselves and thank all our people that campaigned and took part in the elections, they did a very commendable job under very difficult circumstances."

And Kakoma said UPND was not worried about the way it performed in the by-elections because it gave PF a good run for its "stolen money".

"We are not worried. The fact is that we have given PF a good run for their stolen money. They thought they would have it easy and get everything but they failed lamentably. I think next time they will think twice before buying any more councilors because they will not have it easy. They've seen that it's not easy, and basically, they are just cheating themselves because they can't base their popularity on winning ward by-elections. By-elections are very deceiving because the whole system descends on a ward; ministers, Permanent Secretaries, DCs... all of them using government resources, like using DMMU and the relief food which is meant for

disasters and disadvantaged people, but PF are using relief food for campaigns, that is serious abuse of national resources. So even if they think they've won now, they cannot be celebrating such a win and in a general election, some of those things will be impossible to implement. Where will they find the mealie-meal

to give to everyone in a general election? So they will be walloped very badly. With us, we have no access to relief food but we still win elections, meaning that we have a better formula for winning the elections than

themselves," Kakoma said.

Meanwhile, commenting on concerns by some UPND followers on social media that the party was not reaching out to the electorate in the remotest areas, Kakoma said UPND was using all the

necessary channels to reach out to the people.

He said it was difficult for Hichilema to physically reach out to the people because the police would arrest him.

*Continues on P4*

## Behavioural change an effective social vaccine for COVID-19 – UNZA Don

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
BEHAVIOURAL change is the effective social vaccine for COVID-19, says University of Zambia founding Dean for Centre Health System, Metrics and Evaluation in the school of Public Health, Professor Charles Michelo.

And Professor Michelo says the fact that cases are increasing shows that as a country, there is something that we are not doing right.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health Assistant Director for Health Promotion Dr Kalangwa Kalangwa says 80 percent of people who test positive for COVID-19 show only mild or no symptoms at all, but warns that people should not treat the virus as a hoax.

The two were speaking when they featured on Diamond TV's Night Live program, Friday, with the topic "COVID-19 and Health".

The program was sponsored by News Diggers and Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

Professor Michelo urged Zambians to embrace behavioural change, saying the fact that cases were increasing

showed that as a country, there was something that we were not doing right.

"It is not easy to differentiate [between a common flu and COVID-19] especially in a time and period like now when you have an outbreak. One way in which we are able to tell is by testing. The fact that the cases keep going up means there is something we are not doing well. And we should be asking ourselves 'what is it we are not doing well in the response'? It maybe that there's something we are not doing well now but it also means there is something we did not do well before at the time that we got exposed. What this is telling us is that there is community transmission going on," said Prof Michelo.

"The vaccine that we have been talking about will take time. But we have something in our hands. Let's describe this as a social vaccine, behavioural change."

And Dr Kalangwa called on Zambians to up their game and sustain the COVID-19 preventive measures, saying the battle was not yet over.

He said 80 percent of people who tested positive for COVID-19 showed only mild or no symptoms at all, but warned that people should not treat the virus as a hoax.

"When we started with the response, we had good adherence to the public health measures. [But] there is a time when people started feeling that this COVID-19 is a hoax, it doesn't exist and we saw relaxation in terms of people observing measures; masking, social distancing and handwashing. People have lowered their guard, but we are saying the battle is not yet over. This is the time people need to up their game. People have been asking that 'how come in the beginning we had few cases'? We had few cases because people were doing very well. As soon as they lowered their guard we [have] seen cases going up. We are saying that this is the time when people need to sustain the preventive measures," Dr Kalangwa said.

"In terms of COVID-19, over 80 percent of the people who actually get the infection tend to have mild or no symptoms. So when we say someone has gotten COVID-19, people should not expect the worst outcome

from everyone. If you look at the number of people who tend to actually get serious complications, we have people who are in the risk groups, the elderly and people with underlying conditions. So if someone hears that their neighbour has COVID-19 and they were not admitted or had serious complications, that should not be taken as the disease not being serious. So the stages of the infection will differ in different individuals."

Dr Kalangwa explained that COVID-19 was a respiratory virus which spread through droplets produced when someone was sneezing, coughing or talking.

"The virus itself [coronavirus] is a respiratory virus. Meaning that it spreads via droplets which are produced when someone is sneezing, coughing or talking. If someone coughs or sneezes and is within a short distance next to another person [and] if they (droplets) land in someone's eyes, nose or mouth

and they inhale, they are able to get it. The other way is, if someone coughs into their hands, for example and then shakes [another person's] hands, while shaking hands if you touch your mouth, nose or eyes, you are able to get the virus," he said.

And on the notion that the virus could be transmitted through the air, Dr Kalangwa maintained that COVID-19 was transmitted through droplets.

"From recent studies which were conducted and the guidance, is that the transmission is droplet based. So the virus in terms of the weight is not able to go beyond a metre. So in terms of transmission, when you say it's airborne, for example TB, it means if someone coughs from this end, it can spread on a larger area. But for COVID-19, it's droplet based. That's why we are saying people should observe social distancing of one metre," said Dr Kalangwa.

## Lungu's govt an Animal Farm – Kambwili

**By Natasha Sakala**  
NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu's decision to fire David Mabumba is proof that government is being run like Animal Farm.

In an interview, Kambwili noted that other ministers were not punished for anything.

"It's Animal Farm, that's what is happening. I have been saying it and the inconsistencies have continued. On mere allegation, I was fired. Kabanshi, on mere allegation, she was fired. Chitalu Chilufya, not fired. Chitotela, not fired. Mabumba, fired. Lawrence Sicalwe, on a similar case of pornography, not fired. So it's Animal Farm, who you know, who you eat with, that's the order of the day and it is very, very unfortunate. I think people need to be treated fairly," said Kambwili.

Mabumba had appeared in an obscene video that went viral last Tuesday in which he was seen fondling with his private parts during what appeared to be a WhatsApp video call with an unknown

person. On Wednesday, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe announced in a statement that President Edgar Lungu had with immediate effect terminated the appointment of David Mabumba as General Education Minister and replaced him with Dennis Wanchinga.

Chipampe said the President in his termination letter to Mabumba, thanked him for the service which he rendered.

"In exercise of the powers vested in me under the provisions of Article 92 (2) (e) read with Article 270 of the Constitution of Zambia and Section 26 of the interpretations of the General Provisions Act Cap 2 of the Laws of Zambia, I hereby terminate your appointment as Minister of General Education. I wish to thank you for the service you rendered to the Government of the Republic of Zambia and to wish you well in your future endeavours" stated President Lungu in the letter.

# APOLOGY



In our Friday July 31, 2020 edition No. 743, we erroneously published the above picture with the caption: **Luapula Province Minister Nixon Chilangwa (c) yesterday visited former General Education Minister David Mabumba (l) to encourage him to stay strong.** It has come to our attention that the Minister did not in fact visit Honourable David Mabumba but made a solidarity phone call to him. We regret the inconvenience caused to Honourable Nixon Chilangwa, Honourable David Mabumba and the rest of our readers. - News Diggers! Editor

By Natasha Sakala

OVER 200 contractors have threatened to take the law into their own hands and confiscate whatever assets they can to recover the US \$18 million owed to them by Mabiza Resources, operators of Munali Nickel Mine in Southern Province.

The contractors say they have finally arrived at this decision because they have exhausted almost all the formal avenues, including the courts, but still nothing fruitful has come out of it.

But Consolidated Nickel Mines (CNM) chief executive officer Anton Mauve has stressed that he is doing everything possible for the company to dismantle the outstanding debt, explaining that the huge stock of arrears was as a result of reckless management, who allowed the mine to access supplies on credit.

In an interview, suppliers' representative Andy Mtonga, who was flanked by Richard Mwenya and Brian Chanda, appealed to government to take over the mine, similar to Konkola Copper Mine (KCM) if the current owners had failed to run it.

"We can assure you if government is interested in this and not even the government, the President (Edgar Lungu) or the (Mines) Minister (Richard Musukwa) takes supervision of that mine, they will pay. If government took supervision, the way they did with KCM, we will see how things will turn around. There won't even be a week that will go by, all of us will be paid. So, it's better if government takes over, that's all. We are doing business with KCM and things have changed at KCM, we know that they are struggling, but they are paying, they are on current. If they delay, it's

# 200 suppliers threaten to grab Munali Nickel Mine assets over \$18m debt

90 days, but they are paying," Mtonga said.

"After we had the meeting in March, they said, 'in May they will start paying, they will clear most of the debt...' Today is July and they have not paid even one cent! So, we have decided, we have been to the Ministry of Mines and nothing has come out of it so we decided to write to the British High Commissioner (Nicolas Woolley), we did that last week, and we have heard nothing from them. We also sent that copy to the Ministry of Mines, we heard nothing from them. So, yesterday, we sent a letter to the PF secretary general (Davies Mwila) because the next thing, now, is we are going there and we are going to grab what we have to grab! We are going to close down that business! So, we don't want to be seen to be working against government, no. We want this to come to an end and the only way it's going to come to an end is government intervention or we take things into our own hands!"

He alleged that the Mazabuka-based mine was generating sufficient revenues

amid high Nickel prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME), which had leaped to US \$13,716 per tonne from over US \$11,055 by March 31, this year.

"The actual price of Nickel on the LME is twice the price of copper. So, we can see on a minimum, every month, they are making US \$5.4 million, this is a worst-case scenario. There is no way the mine can be producing one truck a day, they do more! And the problem is that they are not banking in the country so government can't see what they are making because they are banking in the UK or whatever and they only talk about bringing US \$500,000 to pay salaries and stuff like that when we know for a fact that why are making more than US \$5 million," argued Mtonga.

"So, now, you see the situation that these guys have been, like he said, from January, 2019, we financed the mine until they started selling; their first truck left the mine in May, 2019, the moment they started selling the concentrates in May, they started kicking out all those, who had invoices building

up and they started slowly phasing out and they are now dealing with new suppliers. So, every time there is a rift between the supplier and them, they fail to pay, they don't engage the supplier, they look for an alternative supplier and continue. So, that supplier is kicked out and the money is not paid and that's the situation. We understand it's their business decision to change suppliers, fine, but then, those that have done the business should be paid."

In a letter addressed to Mauve, the contractors gave him an ultimatum of five days to respond to their concerns or risk having the aggrieved contractors use their own means to recover their funds from the mine.

"Our position for a long time we have listened to your updates and endured your arrogance, crookedness and silence. You have been given an opportunity to redeem yourself using amicable means, Mr Mauve, but you have chosen otherwise. You have your strategy, and we have ours. The suppliers have resolved as follows: We will obtain our funds by

formal or informal means! It is our money. We are almost exhausting all formal avenues, sending an official letter to you is also one of the steps. Though it is the most preferred approach, please note that our success is not dependent on your response. We are not settling for anything other than 100 per cent settlement for each supplier. We are not interested in creating opportunities for further engagements with your team. You have proved to be very unreliable with the opportunity you have been given. In the settlement of our debt, all suppliers shall be treated equally without discrimination," read the letter in part.

"Mr Mauve, we have given your office an ultimatum of five working days from tomorrow, Friday July 31, 2020, to respond to this letter after which date, all doors for potential negotiation will be closed! At that point, we will take it upon ourselves to recover the funds. Your response to this letter should be officially signed and in writing. You will utilise the below stated e-mail address

and contacts. Yours faithfully, Disgruntled Mabiza Suppliers Committee (Zambia)"

But when contacted for a comment, Mauve bemoaned the poor manner in which the operation was managed during the time the debt was accrued, and disclosed that new management, in collaboration with him, had come up with a plan to ensure that the debt was restructured and dismantled as quickly as possible.

He explained that the company was prioritising the recovery of the suppliers' cash and a plan to have the funds paid was likely to be approved unanimously by the board with only three members left to vote on the plan.

"...And so, obviously, the plan needs to be funded and that is where you are basically asking the investors to dig deep and put some more money in the restructure plan for debt. But it looks like that is being accepted by the board. It hasn't been resolved yet, but it does look bright. I am on a call again this (Thursday) afternoon, I'm on a call every single day to try and get these guys over the line, and I have agreed and three of my other directors have agreed, but we need three more to have a unanimous position and then that will trigger the mechanics of the plan we put together. That is, we will give all the press the details of the plan, but firstly, we have to put the details to the owners of the money, they have to decide if they accept that plan or not and so the expectation is that this should be done within the next couple of days and most of the groundwork has been done to make sure that the plan is sound. It can be well-communicated and it is something that the mine can afford and that meets suppliers' expectations," said Mauve in a separate interview.

"I have been here since November, last year, trying to rectify some very poor management that occurred since the restart, which was in December, 2018. It is irresponsible of the previous management to have got as much debt as that. What you are basically doing is you are taking supply of certain goods in credit then stretching that credit to ridiculous levels, and a mine this size, if we look at our cash flow model, shouldn't carry more than US \$8 million. And so, when you have a debt of US \$18 million that the previous management didn't even realise they had accrued, it's unforgivable and we've been very harsh with those guys! I can only sympathise with the suppliers and through people like you (the media), make it very clear that we are actually committed until we are forced to close because we simply cannot meet expectations or until we are super successful and able to very rapidly pay it all off."

## I wasn't in Kafue during kidnapping incident, Kaizer's co-defendant tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

I WAS not in Kafue, but in Mkushi, Central Province on the day when the kidnapping and assault incident allegedly took place, Kaizer Zulu's

friend and acquaintance Mpange Kachingwe, has told the Lusaka High Court.

Kachingwe states that he was out of Lusaka Province from September 5 to 8, 2019, attending to a business transaction in Mkushi District and, therefore, was not privy to whatever transpired in Kafue.

In this matter, four Lusaka men: Bernard Nshindo, Sengelwayo Jere, Saul Masikoti and Mason Mweemba sued President Edgar Lungu's former special assistant for political affairs Kaizer Zulu and his two acquaintances; Kachingwe and Raffiq Rashid in September, last year, for allegedly beating and kidnapping them on accusations that they were taking pictures of Zulu's speed boat at Chita Lodge, in Kafue.

Others sued are Chita Lodge Limited and Bella Mwanza, an employee of the said lodge.

However, in their defence, Chita Lodge and Mwanza denied being aware of the alleged assault on the plaintiffs, nor participating in it.

They argued that Zulu and his two acquaintances were admitted into the premises as visiting guests, and that if at all the assault took place, which is denied, they acted in their individual capacities as guests.

And in his defence filed in the Lusaka High Court, July 30, 2020, Kachingwe denied

the kidnapping and assault allegations, stating that he was out of Lusaka on the said day when the incident allegedly took place.

He stated that he was in Mkushi on September 7, 2019, inspecting mining projects with the then Mkushi District Commissioner Luka Mwamba.

Kachingwe, however, admitted to the Court that Zulu was his friend and acquaintance.

"The second defendant (Kachingwe) will aver that he was out of Lusaka Province from September 4 to 8, 2019, attending to a business transaction in Mkushi Province. The second defendant will further aver that on September 7, 2019, he was in the company of then Mkushi District Commissioner Luka Mwamba in Mkushi where they inspected mining projects and only returned on September 8, 2019," he stated.

Kachingwe, who is represented by Dickson Jere and Associates, further stated that he could not make any comment on what happened in Kafue on the material day as he was not at the said place and, therefore, not privy to whatever transpired.

"The second defendant denies each and every allegation put forth in the statement of claim as if the same was traversed seriatim," he stated.

In their statement of

claim, the four plaintiffs claimed that while at Chita Lodge in Kafue on September 7, 2019, they were approached by Zulu, Kachingwe, Rashid, Mwanza and other unknown acquaintances, who accused them of taking pictures of Zulu's speed boat.

They stated that they denied taking any such pictures, but offered to delete all personal pictures taken on the phones, while at Chita Lodge to satisfy the demands of Zulu and his acquaintances.

The plaintiffs stated that at this point, Zulu, Kachingwe and Rashid, while armed with pistols, immediately proceeded to begin to physically assault the second plaintiff, Jere, leading to Masikoti and Mweemba attempting to drive out of Chita Lodge's establishment.

They claimed that it was Mwanza, an employee of the lodge, who ordered security guards of Chita Lodge to close all exits at the establishment leading to the apprehension and unlawful detention of Masikoti and Mweemba.

The plaintiffs added that this was after a car chase characterised by gun shots fired by Zulu, Kachingwe and Rashid.

They claimed that Zulu in particular fired several shots in the air and from time to time pointed his pistol at their heads with the threats of killing them on an allegation that they were assassins sent to kill him.

## By-elections shouldn't blind PF, we'll wallop them in 2021 – UPND

From P3

"I THINK our approach is to use all protocols or means of communicating; those that we can manage to communicate with on social media, fine, and the message is going and it is having an impact. And you will be surprised even when you say people in rural areas might have no access to social media, they are actually receiving messages on social media. If you went to rural areas, you would hear people saying that they got the information on social media. So it is not as useless as some people think, social media is working and we also using other means, we have been going to community radio stations and HH has been talking to the people on community radio stations and that is where it is having an impact and that is why you have seen the PF now beginning to attack radio stations," said Katuka.

"So HH is in touch with the people in rural areas. Obviously some people want to see HH physically in the areas that they are concerned about, but time for that will come for now I think what is doing is enough ground work, he's talking to the people somehow. At the moment we are battling with things like COVID-19 situation. You know HH is the most popular politician in Zambia and wherever he goes, he will draw crowds. You can imagine if HH appeared in Zambezi district today, the whole town will come to a standstill, how are we going to manage such a situation under this COVID? The other thing is that we have this funny piece of legislation called the Public Order Act (POA) which the police are abusing. Technically speaking, HH is under house arrest, if he comes out to go to a particular place, the police will descend on him. So we are finding other ways of beating them at their own game; there are so many HH's but for them they are just looking at one HH, but there are so many other HH's that are on the ground and meeting people."



## CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

This is a weekly column aimed at sharing CTPD's perspective and steering public debate on various issues pertaining to Trade & Investment Law, Public Finance Management, Extractives and Human Development.

**TODAYS TOPIC:**

**COVID-19 and Tobacco Linkages with Chileshe G.Mange**



# COVID-19 and Tobacco Linkages

IN OUR previous article we introduced the Tobacco Products and Nicotine Products Control Bill 2018 (the "Tobacco Control Bill"), a domestication and codification of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ("WHO FCTC") to which Zambia became a signatory in May of 2008.

The article highlighted the burden that tobacco consumption imposes on health systems and local economies. According to the Ministry of Health (2018), tobacco related illnesses and deaths cost the Zambian economy approximately ZMW 2.8 billion, which equates to 1.2 % of the GDP. The Ministry of Health has further reported that there are over 7,000 tobacco related deaths yearly with youths and adolescents being the most at risk. The number of tobacco related deaths in 2020 is expected to reach 7,312. In addition, tobacco appears to be the most labour-intensive agricultural crop and a conduit for child labour.

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) holds the view that the Tobacco Control Bill in its current form is comprehensive and addresses diverse issues under one statute- including taxation; prevention of illicit trade; licensing; strategies to curb/prevent tobacco consumption; mechanisms to remedy harmful effects of tobacco exposure.

This week's article makes a further case for the Tobacco Control Bill in light of the COVID 19 pandemic with a focus on the Zambian context.

COVID 19 and tobacco consumption

The pandemic has once again shed light on the fundamental importance of health to development, the global economy and every other aspect of human life, including social interactions. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC has intensified its efforts to support parties (countries) to the convention that are willing to work, to the extent possible, in creating a healthier environment for their citizens by implementing the WHO FCTC or the country specific domestications thereof.

Tobacco use kills more than 8 million people globally every year and negatively

impacts the lung health of countless others. While the science of COVID-19 is evolving, the limited evidence available shows that smoking worsens outcomes for COVID-19 patients. And while the media has reported on research examining the relationship between tobacco use and the risk of contracting COVID 19, those studies are of variable quality and do not support a solid definitive conclusion.

It has been observed that COVID-19 fatalities are higher among people with pre-existing conditions including noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular and chronic respiratory conditions, cancer, and diabetes. Tobacco use is the main common risk factor linked to all of these diseases.

South Africa, which has the highest incidence of COVID 19 infections and fatalities in the Southern African region took a sweeping stance by banning all cigarette sales earlier this year in an effort to contain and prevent the spread of COVID 19. Although, the tobacco industry has since pushed back through legal action, the South African government has stood its ground, which is commendable especially when one considers the combined effect of COVID 19 and tobacco related illnesses on the health system and overall economy.

**Tobacco Industry Interference**

Another concern that has emerged with the COVID 19 pandemic is the increased interference by the tobacco industry in policy matters. The tobacco industry, as it has been stated in many high-level political fora, has an irreconcilable conflict of interest with public health.

Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its implementation guidelines require member states to protect public health from the vested commercial interests of the tobacco industry and of those who work to further those interests. The tobacco industry appears to once again be taking advantage of the vulnerable situation of many member states under the guise of philanthropy or corporate social responsibility through donations of money, personal protective equipment, ventilators and other resources, in an effort to make the industry look good and enhance its reputation. Here in Zambia specific tobacco companies have made donations of COVID 19 preventive materials and equipment towards

the fight against the pandemic.

While it is recognized that governments may face a moral dilemma in these challenging times as there is an urgent need to save as many lives as possible with limited resources and capacity, the fact remains that tobacco companies have a clear record of working against public health interests.

The paradox is glaring - the tobacco industry produces and aggressively markets an addictive product that kills up to half of its users and increases the incidence of NCDs which worsen outcomes of COVID-19 patients, and at the same time offers help to the government through meagre donations. The risk is that by claiming to provide support to governments during the pandemic, tobacco companies have an opening to then pressurize or interfere with the efforts of the government to strengthen tobacco control.

Considering the lives that have been lost both here in Zambia (over 154) and globally (679,000), as well as the implications on trade and financial markets there has never been a more appropriate time to support and protect, to the extent possible, the advances made in tobacco control including passing relevant legislation. The Tobacco Control Bill specifically addresses measure to prevent the tobacco industry from interfering in tobacco control policies by minimizing interaction with state actors and other policy makers.

CTPD therefore, remains steadfast in its support and advocacy for the Tobacco Control Bill to eventually be passed into legislation. In the meantime the government is encouraged to strictly implement smoke-free environments; ban on all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and increasing taxes and prices on tobacco products which have been defined by WHO as very cost-effective measures to prevent and control NCDs. Furthermore, tobacco taxation increases revenues for governments (therefore addressing the issue of resource constraints), avoids future health-care costs and eases the burden on health-care systems.

**About the Author**

**Chileshe G. Mange is a Researcher at CTPD, an Advocate of the High Court for Zambia and a part-time tutor with the University of Zambia.**

**We would like to hear from you, drop us a comment using the details below:**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
P.O. Box 50882, Lusaka, Zambia  
Plot 123, Kudu Road, Kabulonga  
Tel: +260 211 264409  
Email: [info@ctpd.org.zm](mailto:info@ctpd.org.zm)  
or [nyimbilimwaka@yahoo.com](mailto:nyimbilimwaka@yahoo.com)



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## WE INVITE THE OPPOSITION TO A CONTEST IN THE PEOPLES ARENA OF TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENT: AS WE WILL NOT BE DRAWN TO A BRAWL IN THEIR MIRE OF FAKE NEWS

*By Hon Davies Chama*

**T**HERE is no doubt that the wind of change is sweeping across formerly United Party for National Development (UPND) strongholds. The people of Western and North Western Provinces have proved in recently held by-elections that they are ready for politics of real development and unity of purpose preached and practiced by the Patriotic Front and not the lies, hatred, falsehoods and fake news championed by the UPND. The ground is shifting in opposition strongholds because UPND for example has failed the test of providing alternatives like they did under its late leader Anderson Kambela Mazoka and Sakwiba Sikota, SC especially now that they do not even have a manifesto worth writing home about.

The good people of Southern, Western and North western Provinces together with the rest of Zambians want development not meaningless chatter and sponsored falsehoods. They want to see the Opposition providing alternatives and not lies, hatred and bitterness. They want to see and read the UPND manifesto. They want to see and read the UPND Party Constitution which has been hidden from the public for many years. Why hide a Party Constitution and still think you can be trusted as true advocates for constitutionalism?

I watched a video clip of Kenyan Vice President William Ruto in which he provided thought provoking gems of wisdom when he challenged the opposition in his country to compete in the arena of tangible development rather than attempt to draw the ruling party into the gutter of fake news, cynicism and innuendo.

We in the Patriotic Front (PF) in

Zambia relate to the Kenyan Vice President's sentiments in the said video and wish to adopt them to the Zambian context.

We dedicate this wisdom to some of our colleagues in the media who specialise in fake news and sensational headlines and we also dedicate it to the purveyors of malice and ill intent in the opposition, who find fault with everything we do just for the sake of opposing and criticising.

We now wish to address them directly as follows:

As you enjoy the freedom of expression and carry fabricated stories, lies and fake and malicious headlines against His Excellency President Edgar Lungu and the Patriotic Front Government, we shall not join you in that futile expedition. We will wait for you and your sponsors and your darlings in the opposition to exhaust your energies on propelling cheap propaganda against the ruling party.

Its very clear that the opposition and their hired publicists in the media space have nothing to talk about and have no issues to raise except to imagine corruption with every development project we roll out as Patriotic Front.

Because the opposition with its rented choir and sour faced conductor cannot offer tangible alternatives, all they do is attempt to pollute the media space with malicious anti-PF sentiment. They cannot promise good roads, schools, hospitals, universities, airports, a growing agricultural sector, and constant power supply (with load shedding a distant memory); all they can do is croak bitterly off key to discredit our works.

They perennially concoct spiteful headlines where they attempt to cast His Excellency President Edgar

Lungu and the Patriotic Front in bad light.

Our competitors in the opposition are not motivated by decency and development; but rather sadly by envy, jealousy and sour grapes because they cannot match our development record.

Once they're through with their insolent headlines, corruption propaganda and racist phobias, we invite them to meet us in the development arena of the people of Zambia because that is where the real contest is.

On our part, we will not allow ourselves to be drawn into competing in their quagmire of fake news and bitter manoeuvres.

We would like to point out to them that the real contest is in the development arena; the roads, the hospitals, the schools, the universities the advancement of women the empowerment of youth, and other things that matter to the ordinary people...things that change ordinary Zambian lives for the better.

That is what the Zambian people elected us to pursue through our 2016-2021 manifesto and the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP).

The area of Development is our natural element and those are the grounds where we as the Patriotic Front compete and win.

A final word to our brothers and sisters in the opposition: ... let us have a contest of noble politics in the people's arena of development for all; rather than a political broil in their mire of fake news for the aggrandizement of one.

*The author is Patriotic Front Deputy National Chairperson and Minister of Defence*

**By Natasha Sakala**  
 MINISTRY of Health permanent secretary in charge of administration Kakulubelwa Mulalelo says Dr Chitalu Chilufya's corruption case has not affected the fight against COVID-19 in any way.

And Mulalelo says donations from corporations and well wishers had slowed down because there were no daily COVID-19 updates, not because of fears of misappropriation.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo has insisted that delays in the release of COVID-19 results is as a result of shortages of reagents.

Mulalelo, who struggled to categorically determine whether or not Dr Chilufya's corruption case had negatively affected the COVID-19 fight, was speaking when she appeared before the Budget Committee in Lusaka, Thursday.

The committee is currently scrutinising the K15.1 billion supplementary budget unveiled by Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu last Wednesday.

Mulalelo was responding to Chairman of the Committee, who is also Mbala PF member of parliament Mwalimu Simfukwe, who asked if Dr Chilufya's court case had any impact on the Ministry's fight against COVID-19 following her earlier revelation that donations towards tackling the virus had reduced.

"PS, you have mentioned that donations have reduced, obviously, there are reasons behind that. But we have been receiving a lot of concern from members of the public as a Committee and it has been a shared concern in this Committee that you have your commander, your general of the COVID war, attending court sessions. The top leader of the campaign against COVID has got matters, now, you are saying the donations have dried up. Would you reassure us, PS, as controlling officer that the fact that the very hard working Minister has been brought before

# Chitalu's corruption case hasn't derailed COVID-19 fight - PS

court on matters some of which appear to connect to financial aspects has not affected the battle against COVID now that the top leader of this campaign has to attend to court and also has to command the troops against the COVID battle? Please assure the Committee and the nation that the court matters has not affected the campaign against COVID," Simfukwe asked.

In her response, Mulalelo observed that the reduced donations were as a result of the reduced daily updates where most donations were made.

"Honourable chair, we have systems that are in place, we have a command centre under Zambia National Public Health Institute that runs with the response. When I made reference to donations reducing, you may have observed that there was a period within which updates were not being given out and most of the donations that we were receiving were as a result of various corporate entities that were making donations through the updates. Ever since we resumed the updates, our corporate entities have been coming forward and the various donations have been announced and mostly in the form of sanitizers and PPEs," Mulalelo replied.

But Simfukwe, who was not satisfied with the response, repeated his question on whether the struggle to contain COVID-19 had been affected by Dr Chitalu's corruption case in court.

"Has the battle against COVID-19 been affected by your top leader, the Minister of Health's matters with the courts?" he asked.

After a brief, uncomfortable silence and what seemingly sounded like a technical glitch, Mulalelo insisted that the Ministry remained committed to upholding good governance.

"Honourable chair, as a Ministry, we are committed to uphold good governance in the response towards COVID and....," she replied, before being cut off by another technical glitch.

"Honourable chair, I did state that we have the Zambia National Public Health Institute that is responsible..."

After a failed second attempt

to address his main concern, Simfukwe stressed on the need for Mulalelo to categorically reply and provide clarity to the nation on the state of the country's health systems.

"Honourable PS, I know that the Honourable Minister is the political head of the campaign against COVID, but you have technocrats like yourself everywhere, we are aware of that. What I am asking is: has his court matters, some of which appear to link to financial matters, have those slowed down the COVID campaign or affected the COVID campaign in any way? If not, the nation would like to be assured that everything remains the same and the campaign is in full throttle, there is no problem, that's all we want to know and we want to reassure the country. Your campaign against COVID, has it been affected positively or negatively by the fact that the Minister of Health is undergoing a court process and with matters that are connected with resources. Please just give us the situation as it is at the Ministry of Health, and we are reading reports in the media that the health system

has collapsed! So, when you have a chance like now when the whole country is watching, it's a chance to reassure the nation that everything is okay or not," emphasised Simfukwe.

And in response, Mulalelo said Dr Chilufya was not affected by his ongoing corruption case as they were unrelated to the Ministry, but again failed to provide a categorical response as to whether or not it had affected government's COVID-19 response.

"Honourable chair, thank you very much. Like I said, the Ministry of Health is committed towards good governance, and the Honourable Minister is not affected in any way by the matters that are in court as they are not related to the Ministry of Health. And in response towards the COVID fight, it's being handled under a multi-sectoral approach and is going as expected," she argued.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo highlighted the cost of testing kits as she outlined the need for adequate resources to effectively support the COVID-19 relief efforts.

"Honourable chair, I will

give just some indicative costs of some of the items that we use in the process. For example, one swab costs approximately US \$4 together with the transport medium. One test kit costs between US \$20 to US \$30 and for that test to be done, we need to extract, and an extraction kit consisting of 250 extractions costs about K48,000. So, on those costs, I have not added that cost, for example, of the platforms that are required for us to process the testing. Those platforms, including the reagents, the laboratory reagents, those have not been costed that's why you see that this whole process requires adequate resources in order to support it. So, as a Ministry, we need adequate resources for us to do mass testing," Mulalelo said.

In response to a separate question, she revealed that the number of COVID-19 donations had reduced.

"The PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment) that we distributed are those that we received following donations from various corporate entities, those are the ones that we gave

to the various MPs to assist us in terms of distribution across the country. Honourable members, I am sure you have noticed that the number of donations have reduced from our corporate entities, hence the reason why they also suspended distribution through the various constituencies. When the donations do improve, we will also be in a position to support the constituencies in terms of giving them additional PPEs for distribution," she said.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo reported to the Committee that the average time for one to get results was three to four days and that delays were only caused by lack of testing reagents.

"The average lead time is three to four days. We have received reports of it taking much longer and we are looking into expediting the process of processing the tests. Sometimes, it takes longer because we run out of reagents to process. Otherwise, the average time is three to four days," said Mulalelo.

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**

LUSAKA High Court Judge Catherine Lombe Phiri has granted Lusaka lawyer Linda Kasonde's law firm, LCK Chambers, permission to withdraw as advocates for Prime Television.

This is in a matter where the television station is challenging government's decision to cease all cooperation with it.

"The application for LCK Chambers to withdraw as advocates for the petitioner is granted. There's no order as to costs," Justice Phiri said in her ruling.

In this matter, Prime Television has petitioned the Lusaka High Court for an order quashing Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya's decision to cease all cooperation with the station.

The television station, which has cited the Attorney General, TopStar Communications Company Limited and Multichoice Zambia Limited as respondents, is seeking an order declaring government's decision to cease

## High Court grants Kasonde permission to withdraw from representing Prime TV

all transactions and business with it, unconstitutional.

Prime Television further wants an order that all media houses have the right to access and disseminate information from government without undue hindrances and an order that TopStar and Multichoice Zambia cannot remove it from their platforms at the direction of government.

LCK Chambers had, however, applied for leave to withdraw as advocates for Prime Television in the matter due to receiving insufficient instructions.

This was according to an affidavit in support of summons for an order for leave to withdraw as advocates sworn by Kasonde.

"I am counsel on record representing the petitioner (Prime Television) under the name and style of LCK Chambers. That we have

ceased to receive sufficient instructions from the petitioner, and as such, we would like to withdraw from the record," she stated.

Last month Lusaka High Court Judge, Catherine Lombe Phiri ordered that the proceedings be stayed and accordingly referred the case to arbitration.

This was after Topstar applied to have the matter stayed and referred to arbitration.

It argued that the arbitration clause had not been exhausted by Prime TV and that the proceedings were, therefore, in conflict with the said clause and, thus, improperly before court.

Topstar stated that the relationship between it and Prime TV was commercial in nature and governed by a Service Level Agreement.

It submitted that where an arbitration clause is contained in an agreement and a party decides to institute court proceedings, then the said party would be said to be in breach of the Agreement.

However, Prime Television's proprietor Gerald Shawa asked the Court to proceed and hear the matter on its merit.

He argued that the Service Level Agreement between the Television station and TopStar was a commercial dispute agreement.

Shawa submitted that TopStar did not invoke the Arbitration clause when it wrote to the television station on March 27, this year, informing it that it was being removed from the TopStar platform following a directive from the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services that all government institutions should desist from engaging with Prime TV.

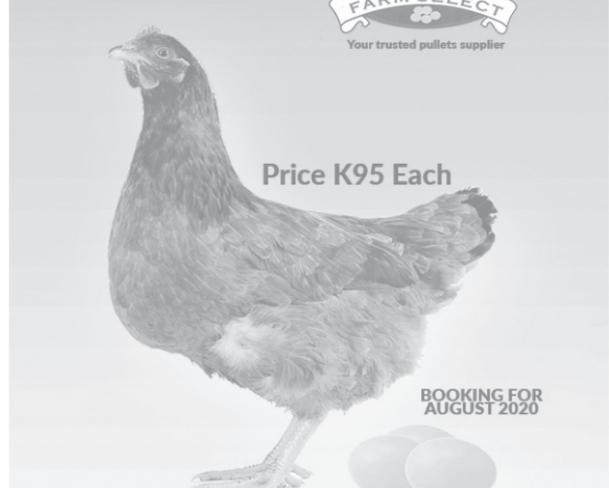
He added that the Service Level Agreement between the station and TopStar did not extend to constitutional matters such as the ones before court.

But ruling on the same, Justice Phiri granted TopStar its application to stay proceedings and refer the matter to arbitration.

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# Media regulation Bill was drafted without research

**I**N 2018 when the Zambian government announced a move to start hippo culling in the Luangwa River on grounds that the animals were destroying crops and dying from anthrax due to overpopulation, former US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote raised a very wise argument. Despite being a conservationist, the diplomat did not condemn the Cabinet decision, instead he challenged the government to provide scientific proof showing that the grounds for culling were researched and factual.

"With all due respect to Zambia's sovereignty, and I am not telling Zambia what to do, but reports today that Cabinet has approved a hippo cull on Luangwa River leaves me confounded. I have heard different reasoning, including anthrax and environmental degradation, carrying capacity of the valley, and now I'm hearing that it damages crops. I have heard all kinds of different reasons, all of which could be viable reasons, but I think anytime that we are talking about culling animals, we need to produce and publish the analysis and science behind that as to how that will lead to better sustainability of the species and better environmental balance

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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before proceeding. As I said before, culling can be a viable conservation too, but there is a science behind it. I think it's important to go through the scientific steps and to publish the results before carrying out culls," said Ambassador Foote.

Like Ambassador Foote, news that last week's Cabinet meeting approved the Statutory media regulation bill has left us disturbed. We are not here to simply rubbish the proposed Zambia Council for Journalists Bill in Parliament, which they say will provide for the establishment of a "self-regulatory professional body for journalists". We are here to ask what research they did before arriving at this Bill.

We have heard all kinds of different reasons for this decision, some of which look like they make a lot of sense at a glance. We have heard that there is too much fake news being spread with the aid of social

media; we have heard that journalism standards have fallen to unrecognisable standards; we have heard that the profession has been hijacked by unscrupulous individuals who abuse press freedom to perpetuate hate speech; we have heard that there is no professional body which oversees the conduct of journalists or an institution where people can report their complaints against journalists or media institutions.

Unfortunately, all this rhetoric is nothing but propaganda meant to deceive people who do not understand the media landscape in our country; people who are gullible enough to believe that the Patriotic Front government means well with this agenda. We say this because there is no research that has been done for the movers of this Bill to understand the level of qualifications among journalists in these media houses. There is no research that has

been done to understand the trends in the spread of fake news - how it originates and what mediums are used. Our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not done a research to know why well-qualified journalists engage in unethical conduct such as taking brown envelopes to publish propaganda. If we ask our government leaders today how they think media houses survive and how much they pay their journalists per month, their answer will be a guess.

So we wonder why they want to impose statutory regulation in an industry that they have little knowledge about. Yes, we are saying they want to "impose" because this Bill has not come from journalists but from themselves. The consultation process which they refer to is an event where they transported journalists from all over the country, paid for their accommodation and food before asking them to

state, by a show of hands, if they were in support of the Bill that the government was proposing.

Like the American Envoy said, when you make policies as government leaders, they should be backed by research and proof indicating that your decision is viable and sustainable. This Bill that they wish to take to Parliament, according to what they have told us, will dictate that all journalists affiliated to this council should have a prescribed level of qualification, without which, they will not be issued with a practicing licence. We have also been told that erring journalists will be punished by this council, which punishment could include withdrawal of the practicing licence.

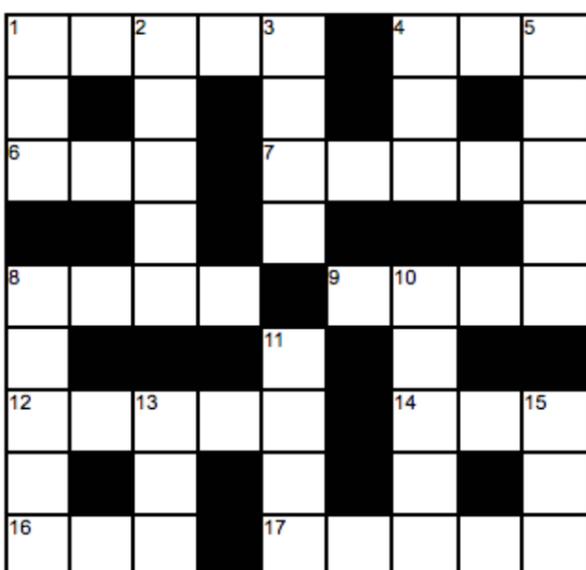
This says everything that one needs to know about the agenda behind this bill. The target here is private media, and it has nothing to do with fixing the said lack of

professionalism in the media. If they were displeased with the manner in which public media upholds journalism ethics, they would simply pick a call and give orders. But they don't see anything wrong with how the public media operates, their issue is us the private media journalists. We are the target and they will not rest until they wield the power to give and take our rights to report news independently.

But we will not get tired reminding the Patriotic Front that these laws they are enacting will haunt them soon when they leave power. Good laws are those that you make for the benefit and enjoyment of ordinary people who are outside government because public service is not permanent. This particular statutory media regulation law being proposed is bad because it will be a subject of abuse once enacted. The current Minister of Information can claim to have good intentions, and maybe she means her words, but how much time is she remaining with in that office before another person takes over the instruments of power? What is the guarantee that the next minister will resist the temptation of abusing the law?

Dear readers, the Patriotic Front is up to no good with this Bill, mark our words.

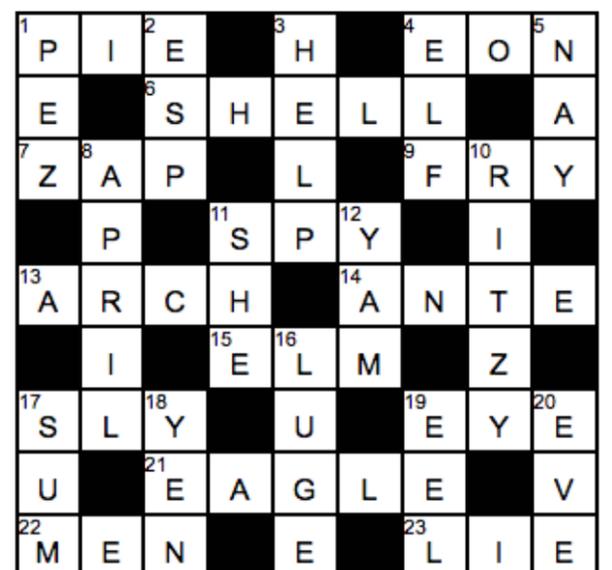
## Crossword puzzle No 659



*"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."*  
- John Adams

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surgical beam</li> <li>4. Used to be</li> <li>6. One of the 5 W's</li> <li>7. Promise</li> <li>8. Two together</li> <li>9. Internet auction site</li> <li>12. Zealous</li> <li>14. Drink cooler</li> <li>16. Investigate</li> <li>17. Risk money</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rule</li> <li>2. Holler</li> <li>3. Impulsive</li> <li>4. Miniscule</li> <li>5. Feeling regret</li> <li>8. Sandwich necessity</li> <li>10. Take along with you</li> <li>11. Bird in a cornfield</li> <li>13. Comedian's bit</li> <li>15. Unit of corn</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## Crossword puzzle No 658



# Readers' Feedback

## ND! OPINION: We must first unite, defeat COVID to create conducive environment for businesses, 2021 campaigns

Dear editor,

"Diggers, we squandered the goodwill shown by various organizations and sympathisers from the the time COVID-19 landed in Zambia. The people who, by virtue of their positions in society, were supposed to lead the onslaught against the Pandemic lowered their guard. They were seen all over the country on working visits and campaigns. The people got the message that the Pandemic was in Europe, America and China and also went back to their normal way of life. When leaders send a message, the followers receive it because they trust their leaders". - Kanyata Mubita

"The PF had the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the Covid-19 fight but actually accelerated its spread by wanton campaigns in total disregard of health guidelines. Now we're at the mercy of the coronavirus with a health minister who looks defeated and weighed down by the spikes and the corruption charges against him". - Kelvin Pumulo

"We just have a dishonest man in charge of the difficult health crisis and somehow that should make sense". - Richard Waga

## 'Masebo 100% right on Lungu being weak President!'

Editor,

"That was the trait they needed and have utilised. You thought they did it for Zambia? It was for their gain". - Lukonde Chama

"You are very right my sister, we are in this predicament because, we have a pretender at the top". - Boyd Mfunda

"They call it humility, that which we see as weakness. Lungu became PF candidate because ministers wanted job security". - Richard Waga

"This analysis of our kateka being weak is very true and on point". - James Zulu

"Ooh, she is back on track!" - Alick Banda

"She is 100% correct". - Chiluba Mutende Mwape

## 'Lungu should explain difference between Sichalwe and Mabumba'

Editor,

"We just don't have honest leaders  
- State house could not even mention why they fired the minister  
- Minister of religion does not have a problem with mabumba but only with people who watched the video  
- Police are just saying the law is straight forward, but yet the investigation will take forever.  
- The PF MPs are publicly defending someone who has not apologised so far. So much confusion over a man part!" - Richard

Waga

"The "difference" is in the personal relationship with the individual ministers". - David M Mwanangombe

"The difference is just the same, only that it's either Mr Mabumba is no longer popular politically in his constituency such that he does not pose any threat to PF, or Lungu is just trying to blindfold

Zambians that he does not support immorality". - Kajuba Mazuba

"\*Shots fired\* ...but we are likely to hear that one unintentionally shared while the other unintentionally became the lead actor". - Genie Wi

"We have become a nation of double standards". - Coswell Banda



## Kafwaya's explanation into RTSA-IMS speed camera contract termination

Editor,

"Minister Kafwaya surely you can even make such a pronouncement proudly. 'Speed camera contract was terminated because proceeds went to private account.' Day light robbery of State Funds. Zambia Airways is already operational as employees are there. Government will soon issue an operational licence for flights to commence. These employees are they already on payroll? Where does

the money paid to them come from. Wonders will never end!!" - Brendah Mutanga Sipalo

"No wonder our roads are still in bad shape regardless of having a number of Toll plazas country wide, because money is deposited in an offshore account. God will punish you!" - Stanley Muswema

"Still PF is winning by-elections, who bewitched our people in rural areas aini? It really hurts to see how much money has been stolen". - Reuben H Siwila

"Taxpayers money has always ended up into private accounts, and culprits have systematically defended each other against Zambians". - Martin Nyanjagha-

# EDITOR'S NOTE:  
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# Netizens roast HH over 'social media politics', as Bally promises to address their concerns

By *Miriam Chabala*

OPPOSITION United Party for National Development (UPND) president Hakainde Hichilema's followers took to social media to express their dissatisfaction at his silence over the party's loss in the just ended local government by-elections.

On Friday morning, Hichilema shared a post on his Facebook page which read "the youth are saying 'Bally will fix it', and many are saying, 'how?' Pay close attention my friends, as I'll continue to elaborate on how we will fix Zambia together."

And later that night, he shared another post which read "The future of our country is bright because nothing can shake our collective determination to deliver ourselves from our undesired struggles. Have a great weekend!"

But his followers, who did not seem excited by these posts, took turns advising him to improve his style of politics as others castigated his practice of ignoring important matters like the perceived loss of base in UPND strongholds.

The following are some of the comments on Hichilema's two posts, by press time.

Trisha Whites: "Us Facebook disgruntled youths we don't even have voter's cards...The pipo (people) who vote are in remote areas, they don't even have smart phones. Anyway, continue making memes and comedies on social media to entertain us, as we are

waiting to be employed by the government."

Matthew Nyumbu: "These elaborations need to reach even the most remote places in Zambia. We can't afford to have PF in power after 2021 due to ignorance of electorates, that will be the end of Zambia."

Temba M'gabadelo Deliz Kamocha: "Can you please change some of the individuals leading your party. Those guys are failing us. Come out from those comfort homes and visit Western Province in person to get firsthand information [on] why we are losing every by-election. Those guys around you are cheating you boss."

Thabo Maz: "Mr Hichilema and your team work on the grassroots, otherwise those good programs you have will go under the bridge careful. I'm in Magodi, UPND is nowhere to be seen."

Frank Musonda Nkole: "Bally our determination can't be shaken but my concerns is on the selection of candidates to contest and serve in these various political positions. How is it done? Because it seems most of these pipo (people) are not much known by their pipo (people) because they don't share the same struggle. Try and look into this issue sir coz it's now becoming so costly. #Bally2021."

Mulanda Squared: "Bally am not happy with the way we performed in the just ended ward by elections. We need to do more on grass root level if we were to win

2021 general elections, am scared."

Burasa Gashema Phiri: "I think you ought to take your losses in the by elections. The audience on social media is mostly convinced. It's the people in the rural areas and the people with no social media presence. That's where you have always performed badly."

Handson Gondwe: "President HH, be magnanimous enough to do some introspection on your campaign strategies due to the loss you have gotten from Western Province. It now seems to be a trend losing from your strong hold."

Hon Fred Kabombo Chansa: "Yes u can fix it bally and u have done that all across the line of rail. The elite know exactly what they need. So don't waste your time across the line of rail. My advice is that you go flat out in the rural areas. Preach well to the people and come 2021, the UPND team will be smiling. All the best Sir. If you need my services am available."

And in his response to these comments, Saturday morning, Hichilema assured his followers that he had heard their concerns and seen their comments, committing to do everything possible to work on them.

"Today I wish to briefly discuss the issues surrounding our performance, especially in Western Province in the by-elections that took place two days ago. To our supporters in Western Province, we wish to say we may not be

happy with the outcome, but we acknowledge your groans and hear your concerns and will strive to attend to them with utmost urgency. This we promise you. To our gallant voters that gave us victory and significant inroads in areas which not too long ago, would have been impossible to penetrate, we say thank you! We shall visit you too and thank you personally. Please continue supporting our crusade in bringing economic emancipation, justice and equality to our nation that has been captured by thieves and criminals," stated Hichilema in another Facebook post.

"To the rest of the citizens that are bearing the brunt of the mismanagement of public affairs and massive corruption of the PF, we urge you to continue being resolved and focused in your concerted efforts to dislodge this

corrupt government come next year. Do not be discouraged and give in to the treacherous agenda of thieves that have looted our treasury to near bankruptcy, by agreeing to the crumbs they are throwing at you. Eyes on the ball fellow citizens! There's plenty of work to be done and everyone has a role to play. Let's not settle for less but total victory against dictatorship, corruption and the abuse against the public good."

Meanwhile, in a statement issued by State House Spokesperson Isaac Chipampe, Saturday, President Edgar Lungu congratulated his Patriotic Front (PF) for winning 10 out of the 15 by-elections held in Western, North-Western and Luapula Provinces on Thursday.

"President Edgar Lungu has congratulated all political parties that participated in the Thursday,

30th July, 2020, local government by-elections. The President has paid glowing tribute to the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) for winning 10 of the 15 by-elections conducted in North Western, Western and Luapula Provinces. President Lungu also congratulated the five candidates from the opposition who won the elections. The President has also commended all parties for their peaceful conduct during the campaigning and the voting. "This is as it should be. At the end of the day we are one, no matter the political differences and the different political parties sponsoring us. I wish to salute all PF structures and all members at grassroots for sticking to issue-based campaigns founded on the PF's developmental agenda." The President called for discipline and unity of purpose among party members," stated Chipampe.

## Zambia records 119 new COVID-19 cases, 5 deaths

By *Miriam Chabala*

MINISTRY OF Health Permanent Secretary for administration Kakulubelwa Mulalelo says Zambia has recorded 119 new cases of COVID-19 and five deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the country's cumulative total to

6,347.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo has insisted that people should avoid weddings, funerals and drinking places to lower the risk of infection.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 briefing in Lusaka, Sunday, Mulalelo said 40 patients were currently on oxygen support.

"The 119 cases are in Lusaka and cases include: 76 cases identified through healthcare facility screening in Lusaka, 23 contacts to known positive cases in Lusaka, 13 individuals identified from routine community screening in Lusaka, three health care workers screened in Lusaka and four BIDs in Lusaka. Amongst the active cases, we have 40 patients on oxygen support, five of whom are in the ICU. Today we have discharged 363 persons, this brings the cumulative recoveries to 4,493 since the beginning of the outbreak," Mulalelo said.

"On a sad note, we have lost another patient in the Levy Mwanawasa isolation centre. This is a patient who had co-morbidities of diabetes and hypertension. The total number of COVID-19 related deaths in the last 24 hours thus is a total of five. The cumulative number of COVID-19 related deaths stands at 170. Following the reclassification of deaths in which the virus has been detected, it has been determined that 51 are COVID-19 deaths while a 104 are COVID-19 associated deaths. Cumulatively, 11 deaths are yet to be classified. The cumulative number COVID-19 cases in the country stands at 6,347 including a 170 deaths and 4,493 recoveries."

Mulalelo insisted that the ministry's delay in giving COVID-19 test results was caused by inadequate reagent supplies.

"Fellow Zambians, we have noted the concerns from the public over delayed COVID-19 test results. A few days ago, we did mention that there is a global challenge of inadequate reagent supplies to meet the demand due to the following reasons: the supply chain constraints owing to the high disease burden and demand

for testing globally, there is no production capacity in Zambia or Africa for required diagnostic reagents, reagents consumables as well as PPEs; there is limited availability of high-through-put laboratory equipment. However, the government through the ministry is doing everything possible to carefully manage the situation. The Ministry of Health guides that the following approach will help rationale use of available resources, patients attending health care facilities, symptomatic individuals, contacts to positive cases who are high risk, the elderly, the children, those with underlying conditions, and any other as determined by healthcare specialists should self-quarantine if they have been exposed to positive cases," she said.

Meanwhile, Mulalelo warned members of the public to continue avoiding events like weddings, kitchen parties, funerals and other public gatherings.

"Members of the public are encouraged to minimize the number of persons to attend such events. If you are not a very key person to any event you have been invited to, we request that you avoid it altogether. Do not go drinking; all these places have been associated with increased risk of getting COVID-19 infections. Keep practicing physical distancing of a minimum of one meter and stay at home as much as possible. There are so many ways of keeping in touch and accessing our needs using the various technologies that are now available. Lastly, report suspected cases as well as yourself and get tested," said Mulalelo.

"Fellow Zambians, the government has lifted some restrictions, allowing for resumption of some economic and social activities. He did emphasise that while resuming these activities; we need to adhere to the public health measures. We all need to individually and holistically follow up on these measures if we are to control this disease and prevent further infections."

## ZUFIAW drags Barclays, Absa to court

By *Zondiwe Mbewe*

ZAMBIA Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (ZUFIAW) general secretary Msiska Chingati has sued Barclays Bank Zambia and ABSA Bank Zambia, seeking a declaration that the unilateral and non-consensual transfer of unionised employees of Barclays Bank to the new entity, ABSA Bank, is unlawful, null and void.

Chingati also wants a declaration that the so-called name change from Barclays Bank Zambia to ABSA Bank Zambia is a sham intended to mask the real nature of the corporate transaction, being a transfer of the business undertaking from Barclays Bank Zambia to the ABSA Group Limited and therefore unlawful, null and void.

He wants a declaration that the unilateral and non-consensual transfer of the employees of Barclays Bank to ABSA Bank is a terminating event entitling the employees of Barclays Bank Zambia to payment of redundancy benefits under the applicable Collective Agreement being 4.7 months' pay for each year served.

Chingati is further seeking an order for the payment of all other accrued benefits and rights being among others, pension benefits, long service award, leave days and repatriation allowance under the applicable Collective Agreement.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, July 20, 2020, Chingati stated that ZUFIAW represented all unionised Banking and Financial Institutions employees in Zambia as well as allied institutions in the Finance and Banking sectors.

He added that the union commenced this action on behalf of all its members, being unionised employees working for Barclays Bank Zambia Plc, pursuant to the Recognition Agreement signed between the bank and the Union.

Chingati stated that ABSA Bank Zambia was a newly created Zambian subsidiary of ABSA Group Limited of South Africa, having its registered office in Lusaka.

"In terms of context, the plaintiff (Chingati) shall state at trial that Barclays Bank UK Plc

of the United Kingdom (UK) (henceforth the parent company) has served on the African Banking market for over a century now. The parent company was the Holding Company of all Barclays Banks operating on the African continent. For operational efficiency, the Parent Company incorporated a subsidiary in Africa called Barclays Africa Group Limited through which it owned all Barclays banking entities on the African continent which included Barclays Bank Zambia," read the claim.

Chingati stated that the Parent Company held majority shares in Barclays Africa Group Limited and therefore had the controlling voice in all Barclays Banks on the African continent.

He further stated that all the Barclays banking entities in Africa collectively belonged to "the Barclays Group" of Banks, adding that Barclays Bank Zambia being a member of the Barclays Group was a subsidiary of the Parent Company.

Chingati stated that the Parent Company had however, reduced its presence on the African Banking market by selling its majority shareholding stake in its African subsidiary, Barclays Africa Group Limited, by remaining with only 14.9 percent minority shareholding and simultaneously disposing of its majority shareholding stake to ABSA Group Limited of South Africa.

He stated that therefore, the sale by the Parent Company of its majority stake in Barclays Africa Group Limited, through which it owned all Barclays entities in Africa, had inevitably resulted in the said Barclays Bank UK Plc ceasing to be the Parent company of all Barclays entities in Africa.

Chingati stated that instead, ABSA Group Limited has now become the Parent Company of all Barclays entities in Africa which includes Barclays Bank Zambia Plc.

He stated that ABSA Group Limited, being the new Parent Company of all Barclays banking entities in Africa, had embarked upon the process of integration of all former Barclays entities in Africa into its group structure.

Chingati stated that the integration process involves among others, extinguishing and

transferring Barclays Bank Zambia to a newly created subsidiary of ABSA Group Limited, which is ABSA Bank Zambia.

"The extinguishment and permanent transfer of Barclays Bank Zambia Plc to the ABSA Group of Companies has been masked and camouflaged in Zambia as a mere name change from Barclays Bank Zambia Plc to ABSA Bank Zambia Plc. The alleged name change is a facade or camouflage and is intended to mask the actual real transfer of a separate and independent legal entity being Barclays Bank Zambia Plc to a new entity the ABSA Group of Companies through its local subsidiary ABSA Bank Zambia," read the claim further.

He stated that further, the integration process also entailed permanently transferring all employees, customers and assets from the extinguished Barclays Bank Zambia Plc to the newly created separate and independent legal entity ABSA Bank Zambia Plc.

Chingati stated that ABSA Bank Zambia had also assumed all legal obligations which fell upon the shoulders of the extinguished Barclays Bank Zambia such as the payment of all statutory contributions on behalf of Barclays Bank.

He stated that at the time of the alleged name change, ABSA Group Limited existed as a separate and independent legal entity operating in 12 African countries.

Chingati stated that the so-called name change from Barclays Bank Plc to ABSA Bank Zambia Plc was a sham intended to disguise the actual transfer of the employees' contracts of employment.

He is now seeking, a declaration that the unilateral and non-consensual transfer of the Unionised employees of Barclays Bank Zambia Plc to the new entity ABSA Bank Zambia Plc is unlawful and null and void for breaching Sections 28 and 55 (I) (c) of the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019 and the Recognition Agreement.

Chingati further wants, among other claims, damages for the unilateral and adverse alteration of the existing Conditions of Service, interest, costs and any other relief in favour of the employees.

By Tim Zulu

A 2-1 win over Kafue Celtic and a 3-0 walkover for no show Zesco Malaiti Rangers was enough for Young Green Eagles to be catapulted to the Eden University League One Summit with 53 points.

"We are happy to be back on top after a long time and I do not see us giving it up. We are set for promotion as Eden University National League Champions," said Club Chairman Colonel David Chinunda.

On the appealed case, the Eagles chief said Malaiti told them their predicament on match day minutes before kick off.

"Just like them, we had players who tested positive and went into isolation so FAZ must be very objective when dealing with this matter but we have no fuss about it," Chinunda said.

# Eagles soar to Eden summit

And Zesco Malaiti Rangers chairman Denovan Katuta, who confirmed the team's appeal, told Eden Sports that he is ready to go to division one with a head high by doing what is right, not staying and doing what is wrong.

"This COVID-19 fight is not about Eagles or Malaiti, it is for all of us. You know how difficult it had been to do these tests and because of wanting to speed up matters we ended up doing random tests and 10 of our players tested positive and we put them into isolation immediately. So tell me, how can I travel with 8 players alone for the game?" Katuta wondered.

"So other officials and

I travelled to Kafue to let our colleagues know our precarious situation on match day. Otherwise for me, I have no problem if they have given them

three (3) points but if the act we did was to help not spread the virus, then our conscience is free so the decision will be up to them (FAZ) because these

instructions of health guidelines and adherence is coming from them and the government, for us we had to act like that as responsible citizens."

The Week 25 Eagles vs Malaiti Rangers was declared a walkover by match officials after the latter failed to pitch up last weekend.

## Barcelona will not sign Lautaro or Neymar this summer, admits Bartomeu

BARCELONA will be unable to complete a deal to sign either Laurato Martinez from Inter or Paris Saint-Germain attacker Neymar this summer, according to president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

Although both players have long been linked with a switch to Camp Nou - in particular the Argentina

attacker - Bartomeu has admitted that the coronavirus crisis has put the club's finances into a state of uncertainty to the extent that they cannot complete a deal for either.

Barca fans had been hoping that the offensive line would be reinforced this summer after looking threadbare at times last season, with Martin Braithwaite signed from Leganes as emergency cover due to an injury crisis at the club. Bartomeu has now indicated that it is simply not possible.

"Barca have spoken to Inter about Lautaro over the last few weeks but the conversations have been put on hold by mutual consent. The current situation doesn't

allow for major transfer fees," he admitted to Sport before confessing that Brazil star Neymar is similarly out of reach.

"In the current situation, no. PSG don't want to sell either, which makes sense as he's one of the best players in the world. Last summer we tried really hard to sign him but this summer we won't even try.

"The club lost €200 million (£180m/\$235m) between March and June. If the situation doesn't improve, there won't be people in the stands, at the museum or the shops and we'll keep losing money. This will cause us to revise our spending plans and which ones can wait. We have

to adapt.

"All the big European clubs have been impacted by this and we are all working to adapt. This won't be for just one year, it could be for up to three or four years."

Bartomeu, meanwhile, did take time to assess the one signing that the club have completed - Miralem Pjanic from Juventus, with Arthur going the other way.

"We've been following him for a while but every time we moved for him it wasn't possible because his club didn't want to sell," he said. "He was always excited about the chance of coming to Barca. This isn't a surprise signing. He's going to be an important player for us." **GOAL**

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## Chamanga poised for golden boot

By Abraham Kalito

RED Arrows striker James Chamanga is poised to become Zambia's oldest Golden Boot winner as the 2019/2020 campaign comes to a close mid-week.

Chamanga, 40, has defied age by continuing to score and is currently leading the charts with 15 goals.

The former Chipolopolo striker's exploits in the Super League have since helped Arrows to avoid finding themselves in the bottom half of the league.

Earlier in the campaign, the 2012 AfCON winner

had vowed to help his side qualify for continental football, but that dream will not be actualised as Arrows have fallen further away from booking a spot in the top four.

However, with the league coming to an end on Thursday, Chamanga is still favourite to win the Golden Boot accolade.

Baba Basile, Idris Mbombo and Jesse Were are following behind with 14, 13 and 12 goals respectively.

Chamanga started his career 20 years ago and has played for various, clubs including

Bush Bucks, SuperSport United and Moroka Swallows in the Premier Soccer League in South Africa.

In Zambia, Chamanga has played for Zanaco, Red Arrows and National Assembly after graduating from Amakumbi Stars.

He also played in China where he spent ten years with Dalian Shide and later joined Liaoning Whaowin and became the first African player to play over a 100 games with the side. He has been at the Super League club, Arrows, for just over a year.

## Arrows clamp Kalampa's chance for top slot

By Abraham Kalito

RED Arrows held Nkana FC to a two all draw on Saturday, a result that saw the Kitwe-based side miss the chance to go top of the table.

A win against Arrows would have seen the 12 time super league champions on the verge of claiming another title but the team's failure to overcome the Arrows challenge has proved more damaging.

The side, locally known as 'Kalampa', put up a spirited fight to level matters and after going behind by two goals.

The draw, however, felt like defeat

for some Nkana players who were seen shedding tears after the final whistle was blown.

Going into the match, Nkana players were privy to the fact that their opponents for the final day, Nakamba Leopards, were most unlikely to travel as their COVID-19 situation did not allow them to.

That meant Nkana being handed three points and three goals, which further implied that the Kitwe-based side would have gone into the final day of the campaign on top of the table, guaranteeing them

a title.

Arrows' Joseph Phiri opened the score charts when he hit the back of the net within five minutes before veteran striker, James Chamanga, added another shortly after the interval.

Nkana needed inspiration to overcome the burden before them and they found it through skipper Idris Mbombo who scored twice to save his side from a painful defeat. "We didn't start well, we conceded very early in the game, we wanted to win this game in order to have a realistic chance of winning the

title. It's so painful to give away points in such a manner. Now we just have to play well against Nakambala and see how results go elsewhere," Mbombo told reporters after the match.

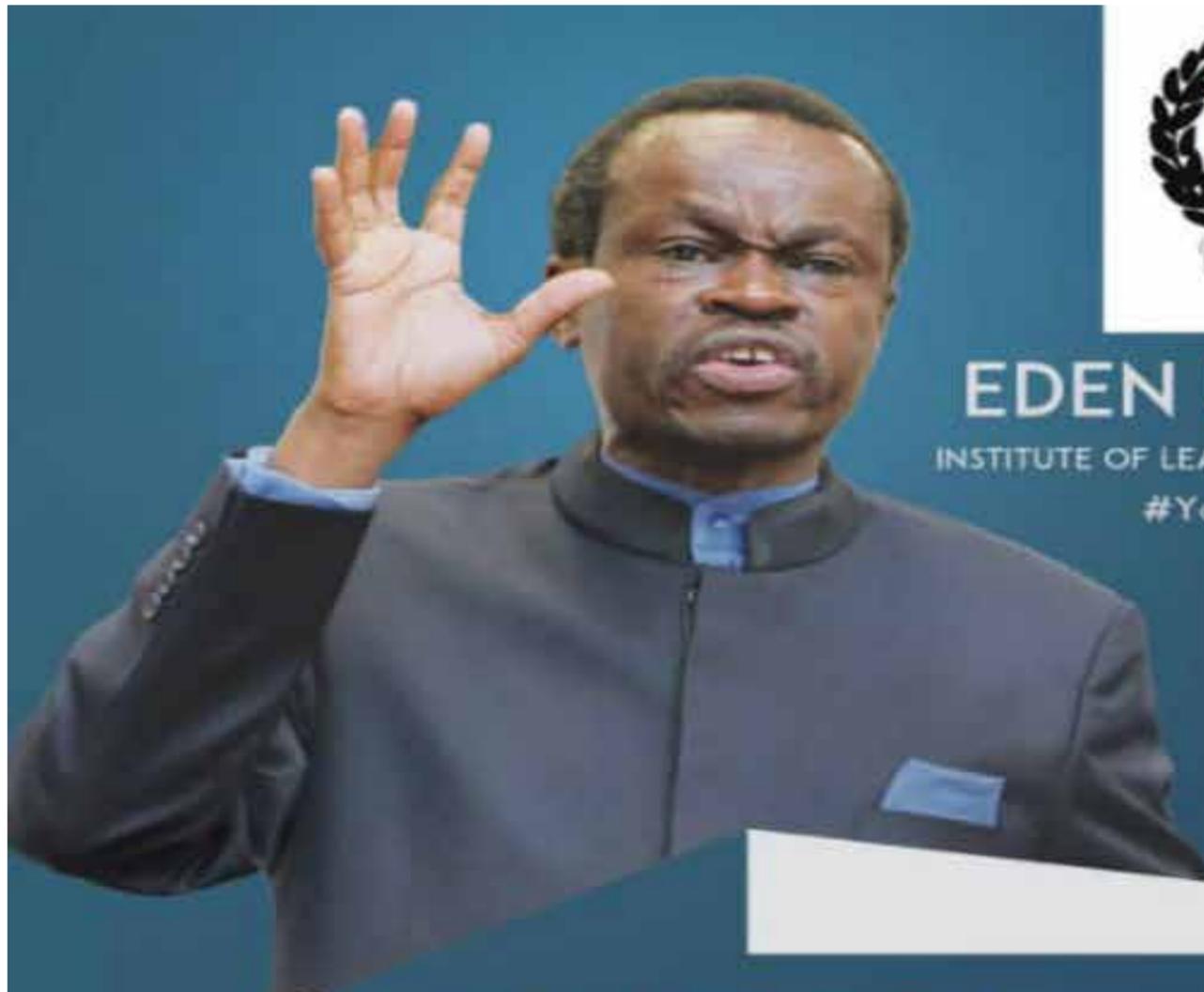
In others games on Saturday, Zesco benefited from an own goal to claim victory against Lusaka Dynamos. The current champions have since stormed the top four. Elsewhere, Kabwe Warriors claimed a 1-0 victory over Lumwana Radiants.

The match between Kansashi Dynamos and Green Eagles was

postponed at the request of the hosts and it is unclear at this stage what will happen with those points.

Napsa Stars' win on the other hand catapulted them into the lead on the table with 48 points from 26 matches.

The league will come to an early close on match day 27 after the Football Association of Zambia revealed that there was no capacity from the Ministry of Health to conduct COVID-19 tests on time. The last games will be played on Wednesday and Thursday.



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