



PF MOCKS UPND

By Julia Malunga
PATRIOTIC Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is enjoying the comfort of his house while the ruling party is campaigning so he shouldn't complain when he loses elections.

HH is confined to his house while we are campaigning - Mumbi

And Phiri says the ruling party is here to stay and will rule for over 100 years.

Meanwhile, Phiri says President Edgar Lungu shouldn't be blamed for the crowd that turned up to witness the commissioning of

the Makeni overpass because people are difficult to control.

Speaking when she featured on a Joy FM programme dubbed The Platform, Monday, Phiri said

Hichilema was seated in his house while her party was campaigning.

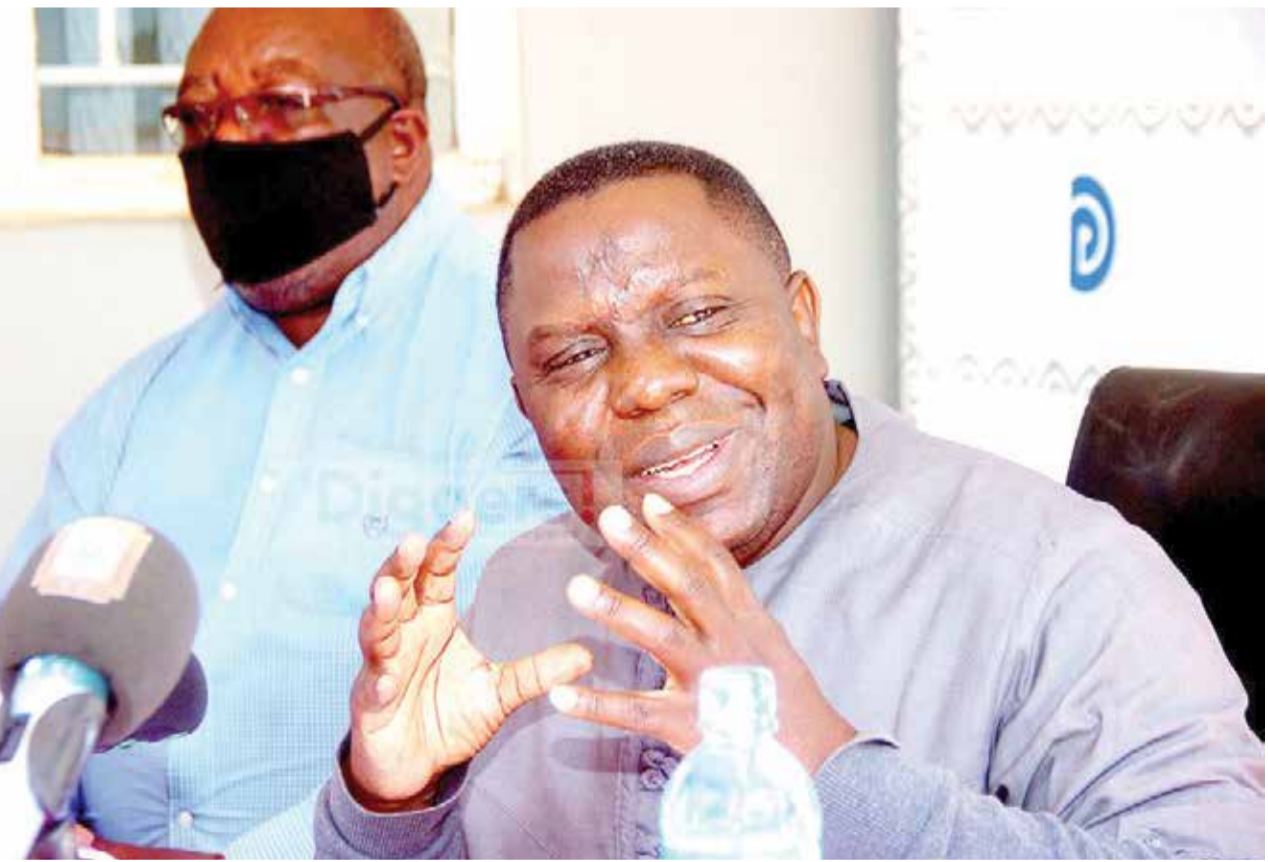
She was agreeing with a caller identified as Diana who said the PF secretary general

Davies Mwila was campaigning in Mwanabombwe and Lukashya when the opposition were watching.

"The by-elections which have been talked about and

I congratulate my party for winning 10 out of the 15 by-elections we just had. And when you listen to people down playing this to say 'those councilors are being bought'.

Continue talking like that because you think everybody is cheap. When you start looking down on people at abantu (those people) who voted..." *Story page 7*



Harry Kalaba addresses journalists during a press briefing at his office in Lusaka - Picture By Tenson Mkhala

Govt will deploy police for Covid guidelines enforcement - Chitalu

By Natasha Sakala
THE Ministry of Health has announced that the country has in the last 24 hours recorded 125 new COVID-19 cases out of 454 tests done and six deaths, five of which were brought in dead cases in Lusaka.

And the Ministry says the Home Affairs ministry will deploy police officers to ensure that people are following COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has announced that President Edgar Lungu has directed all non essential workers to work remotely to avoid contact among individuals in work places.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 update, Monday, Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya said 104 persons had been discharged in the last 24 hours. *Story page 10*

Gawa cancels Kulamba

By Diggers Correspondent
WE cannot hold Kulamba traditional ceremony amid the Covid-19 pandemic, says the Chewa Royal Establishment.

Announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Kulamba ceremony of the Chewa people in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique that was slated for this monthend, Kulamba Ceremony organizing committee chairperson Chief Mbangombe said the supreme leader of the Chewa people Kalonga Gawa Undi had decided to cancel this year's ceremony because of the threat caused by the pandemic. *Story page 10*

DP won't join an alliance to escort another party to power - Kalaba

By Natasha Sakala
DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba says he will not enter into an alliance where he is treated like a "flower girl" escorting the bride and groom

to enjoyment. And Kalaba says that Zambia has collapsed due to rampant corruption, which has become endemic.

Speaking when he featured

on Muvi TV The Assignment programme, Sunday, Kalaba said that he would only enter an alliance with other political parties ahead of next year's general election if it led to

a meaningfully beneficial mutual relationship.

"We have said we have got nothing wrong, we have got no qualms with any alliance, there is nothing wrong with

being in an alliance. What we are refusing, as Democratic Party, is to be in an alliance where the DP will be like, you know, at a wedding, tukabe kwati nifwebo ba (we should be like a) flower girl nangu nifwe ba (or we should be like a) page boy abaku shindika bashibwanga baya mukulila elo ifwe tube be (to just escort the bride and groom and they go to enjoyment or maybe like a) knife girl. What we want, as DP, is a relationship..." *Story page 2*

PS to pay K100,000 in a case he is accused of adultery *Story page 4*

DP won't join an alliance to escort another party to power – Kalaba

By Natasha Sakala

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“We have said we have got

nothing wrong, we have got no qualms with any alliance, there is nothing wrong with being in an alliance. What we are refusing, as Democratic Party, is to be in an alliance where the DP will be like, you know, at a wedding, tukabe kwati nifwebo ba (we should be like a) flower girl nangu nifwe ba (or we should be like a) page boy abaku shindika bashibwanga baya mukulila elo ifwe tube be (to just escort the bride and groom and they go to enjoyment or maybe like a) knife girl. What we want, as DP, is a relationship that is mutual, is a relationship that will respect both sides. But then, in this country, when

you talk of an alliance, you are thinking of only one particular political party. No, bafwile bali muli alliance nailya (with that) political party, that's not the way we behave ourselves, there are several political parties that we are talking to that we can't mention names here. We are talking to them because we want to form an alliance; we want to be stronger because they say, united you stand and divided you fall. So, we know ourselves that we will not be in a hurry to go in alliances with

those who think we should be the ones to escort them so that when they win, they start settling scores, no. For us, we are not winning the election next year to come and start punishing people, we will be wasting time doing that, there will be the ACC, DEC to deal with those issues,” Kalaba argued.

And he bemoaned that corruption in the country had become institutionalised.

“Corruption has become endemic in this country, it

has been institutionalised; you can't get anything without oiling somebody for something to move, unless somebody has gotten a kickback. It is that kind of behaviour that is coming to an end. We should be careful because the Office of President must be an office of integrity,” he added.

“Some leaders in the PF work genuinely, there are some who work genuinely hard, it's the case of one bad groundnut when you are chewing, it spoils everything. We have leaders

there, whom I know myself, who carry themselves with a lot of dignity. I would love to mention them here, but the moment I mention them, they will say, ‘they are working with Kalaba, let's punish them!’ Then there are others who are in the majority, who are literally looting and making sure that government systems are undermined at all costs. Appoint somebody you know will be doing what you want them to do...”

Continues on page 10



Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba

Accessing COVID-19 supplies a major challenge – ZNPHI

By Julia Malunga

ZAMBIA National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) says the major challenge which the institute is facing is where to get COVID-19 supplies from because every country is looking for them.

And the Institute says Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya will relaunch a reviewed strategic plan which will make non adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures punishable by law.

Speaking when he

appeared on ZNBC TV's Sunday Interview, ZNPHI Country director Professor Victor Mukonka said there was a challenge of supplies.

“In terms of the diagnostic side, we have had major challenges. I must confess it is not only us but globally. The issue we have is where to get the supplies of the commodities because every country, they are looking for them. So there is high demand globally and because of that, we have to be very careful of

what we have, what is the best way we can utilize. The ideal situation would have been to test everyone and know the status but in the reality, that is very difficult. So what we are advising people basically is that if you have been exposed, isolate yourself for at least 14 days. Should you have any symptoms, get in touch with us very quickly. The problem is that we don't have the capacity, challenges of supplies,” Prof Mukonka said.

And Prof Mukonka said non-compliance of COVID-19 regulations would be punishable.

“We have reviewed in terms of our key interventions in the recent past and in the coming week, our honorable Minister of Health will be relaunching our reviewed strategic plan to move in very aggressive, equal force to the way the numbers are coming in terms of the pandemic. In the new strategy, our focus now is at a community level, public engagement. To ensure that they are part of the response and they do their part. So basically, what we want to do is to first make the public aware of the magnitude of the problem in the country and the severity of it. But more importantly, the key actions each individual needs to do to stop the transmission. And we will also put the issue of non-compliance will become quite aggressive now. Both with the health inspectors, we will work closely with the local authorities and Home Affairs to ensure there is compliance. Meaning if you have a shop and you allow people without, a mask, we will not only charge those people but we will also take you accountable for allowing it. If you are in a market, you don't sell to a person without a mask because that person is causing danger to you. So we want to strengthen on the issue of compliance. That's the only way we can protect the nation. If we don't act and act now, we will end in a catastrophic situation,” he said.

Prof Mukonka said the

Institute planned to use politicians to help fight the pandemic.

“This is why we have to use whatever platform available to us. Number one, we need to use our political leaders, Parliament adjourned and we are hoping that MPs are in their constituencies helping sensitizing the public. Secondly, we have said let's work with traditional leaders. They have a lot of influence at community level. We have said let's work with our religious leaders every Sunday if one is preaching, give about 5-10 minutes to ensure compliance is done in church. Because once they see that, they will take it home. The media, you have been instrumental to change the behaviour. The more you run these programs, it's making a difference. We have had some of our colleagues who have been exposed and recovered who can give testimonies. So we need to use all the various avenues available to us to bring the change,” Prof Mukonka said.

He appealed to Zambians to comply with the COVID-19 regulations.

“The number of calls we are receiving have totally doubled. In fact, they have gone four times than in the beginning. People have become conscious. If you go to private hospitals, you see a lot of higher class moving in. Even our call centres have overrun. We are even planning to expand it. Which is a good sign. But compliance is our weak point now. We have tried our level best to manage our brothers and sisters so that they don't die. What we are seeing is something unusual. We have never seen in a day 21 people brought-in-dead. Zambians to take action is what I am asking for. If they are afraid and not doing anything, they will die. What is important is for them to take a brave stance. COVID is a clever virus, it is playing around with us. And also we need equal force to sort it out,” said Prof Mukonka.

Nkana Water lost K72m in 2yrs due to high administration costs – AG

By Natasha Sakala

THE Auditor General's report has revealed that Nkana Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC) Limited incurred losses of K37,970,000 in 2017 and K33,888,000 in 2018 due to high administration expenses, bringing the cumulative amount to nearly K72 million over two years.

According to the Auditor General's report on the accounts of water and sanitation companies for the financial year ending December 31, 2018, the high administration expenses accounted for 92 per cent and 95 per cent of the turnover for 2017 and 2018, respectively.

“As can be seen from the Statements of Comprehensive Income, the Company incurred losses of K37,970,000 in 2017 and K33,888,000 in 2018. The losses were attributed to high administration expenses, which accounted for 92 per cent and 95 per cent of the turnover for 2017 and 2018, respectively,” the report read.

It further revealed that Nkana Water operated with a negative working capital of K151.1 million in 2017 and K119.5 million in 2018, indicating that the company had challenges meeting its short-term obligations as it took 274 days in 2017 and 166 days in 2018 to pay its trade payables.

“The current ratio measures the ability of an entity to meet its current financial obligations using its current assets. It is determined by comparing current assets against current liabilities. The NWASCO recommended current ratio for the sector is a minimum of 1:1. During the period under review, the

current ratio for the company was 0.4 in 2017 and 0.6 in 2018, which were below the recommended ratio. As a result of the poor ratios, the company had challenges to meet its short-term obligations as and when they fell due. Further, analysis of the current assets and liabilities showed that the company operated with a negative working capital of K151,129,000 in 2017 and K119,540,000 in 2018. The negative working capital indicates the challenges of the company to meet its short-term financial obligations. In this regard, it was observed that the company took 274 days in 2017 and 166 days in 2018 to pay its trade payables,” the report read.

The utility was also reported to have been inefficient in its debt recovery as receivable days for the period under review increased from 255 days in 2017 to 282 days in 2018.

“According to the Company's Debt Management Policy No. 10, the company will withdraw service to a customer when there is default in settlement of bills for a period of 14 days and above. It was observed that the company was not efficient in collecting receivables from its clients as the receivable days for the period under review increased from 255 days in 2017 to 282 days in 2018. Further analysis of the receivables revealed that an amount of K184,436 was owed by members of staff and had been outstanding for periods ranging from one to 60 months,” it read.

“Collection efficiency is a proportion of the total billed amounts against actual collections. Billed amounts in this regard refers to the revenue that a utility company expects from the provision of water and

sanitation services and excludes charges like reconnection fees, penalties and meter charges. The acceptable NWASCO benchmark for collection efficiency is 85 per cent. The company failed to meet the benchmark as it only achieved 69 per cent in 2017 and 72 per cent in 2018.”

And the utility wastefully spent K434,411 on a procurement module that was later abandoned because it failed to meet the requirements of users even after conducting detailed scoping and agreeing to specific system requirements between the supplier and the company.

“On 12th December, 2013, NWSC engaged Advance Net Pty Limited a South-African based company to supply and deliver a SUNFLOW procurement module at a total cost of K314,237. The scope of works included supply of 33 sunflow licences, documentation and development of procurement process by the supplier, administrator training in South Africa for IT/Procurement Super Users and End user training in Kitwe and deployment (Go live). As at 31st August, 2019, the supplier had been paid amounts totalling K434,411 comprising the contract sum of K314,237 and associated license fees of K120,174. It was, however, observed that the system was never used as it failed to meet the requirements of users, even after conducting detailed scoping and agreeing to specific system requirements between the supplier and the company. As at 31st December, 2019, the sunflow procurement module had been abandoned rendering the expenditure of K434,411 wasteful,” read the report.



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By Natasha Sakala

THE Ministry of Finance has revealed that the country recorded a 43 percent increase in the use of public transport in 2019 due to the increased fuel pump price which hiked the cost of travel for private motorists.

And the report stated that the wholesale and retail industry accounted for the highest share of GDP at 22.4 percent with the mining sector contributing 13.2 percent in 2019.

According to the 2019 annual economic report, the use of public transport increased because it was a cheaper alternative mode of commuting.

"The number of passengers transported by registered public service motor vehicles increased by 43.0 percent to 81,864,720 in 2019 from 57,230,580 in 2018. The increase was explained by the opening of new routes both local and intercity bus terminus. In addition, the upward adjustments of fuel pump prices, which increased the cost of travel for private motorists, also made it cheaper to use public transport as an alternative mode of commuting," the report read.

The report revealed that the subdued GDP growth which was recorded at 1.9 percent for 2019 was due to the lower growth in agriculture and mining sectors which contracted by 7.5 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

"Preliminary data showed that real GDP growth in 2019 based on three quarters was 1.9 percent compared to 4.0 percent recorded in 2018. The outturn was largely attributed to lower growth in agriculture and mining sectors which contracted by 7.5 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively. In addition, the electricity sub-sector recorded lower growth due to reduced electricity generation which also affected all other sectors of the economy. This notwithstanding, the information and communication sector grew by 18 percent, while the

Zambia recorded 43% increase in public transport usage in 2019 – report

wholesale and retail sector grew by 4.3 percent. In terms of contribution to GDP, the wholesale and retail industry accounted for the highest share of GDP at 22.4 percent. This was followed by mining and quarrying which accounted for 13.2 percent, while the construction, manufacturing and transportation and storage sectors respectively accounted for 8.6 percent, 7.7 percent and 7.3 percent of GDP in 2019," it read.

The report, however, highlighted the growth of the tourism sector at 7.1 per cent from the 1.7 per cent recorded in 2018.

The growth was attributed to the increased marketing of Zambia as a tourist destination through various platforms with increased international arrivals at airports and land based ports of entry.

"Preliminary data indicates that the tourism sector grew by 7.1 percent compared to 1.7 percent in 2018. The growth was attributed to increased marketing of Zambia as a tourist destination through

various platforms such as fairs, exhibitions, roadshows and hosting of international conferences, as well as provincial expositions. The utilization of digital marketing and the eVisa online services also contributed to the growth. Preliminary data indicates that international tourist arrivals increased by 12.9 percent to 1,209,898 in 2019 from 1,072,016 in 2018 (see Table 2.13). International tourist arrivals at Harry Mwanga Nkumbula, Kenneth Kaunda and Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airports increased by 9.6 percent, 6.0 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. Mfuwe, however, recorded a decrease of 29.9 percent. Similarly, land-based ports of entry Jimbe, Mokambo and Nsumbu recorded notable increases of 377.7 percent, 148.1 percent and 378.8 percent, respectively. Kasumbalesa, however, recorded a decrease of 12.6 percent despite it being traditionally a high traffic border in the region. This was on account of rerouting of traffic from Kasumbalesa to Jimbe and Mokambo," it read.

However, despite the

increase in tourists, visits to the Victoria Falls decreased while visits to the Mutanda, Unawake and Ntumbacushi Falls increased by 49.7 percent, 29.4 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively.

"Tourist visits to waterfalls generally decreased by 22.3 percent to 173,103 visitors from 222,713 visitors in 2018. Visits to Mutanda, Unawake and Ntumbacushi Falls increased by 49.7 percent, 29.4 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively, while visits to Nyambwezu, Kundalila, Chipoma, Lufubu and Victoria Falls decreased by 63.4 percent 50.4 percent, 39.7 percent 30.2 percent and 24.0 percent, respectively," it revealed.

And the report revealed that there was an increase in the mobile penetration rate which increased to 99.1 percent with MTN Zambia limited continuing to dominate the market with a market share of 43.7 percent of total mobile subscriptions.

"As a result of the increase in mobile network subscription, the mobile penetration rate which represents the number of mobile subscriptions over total population increased to 99.1 percent from 91.6 percent in 2018. In terms of the mobile subscription market, MTN Zambia Limited continued to dominate with a market share of 43.7 percent of total mobile subscriptions. Airtel Zambia Limited and Zamtel had market shares of 33.9 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively," the report read.

The report further revealed that in the year under review, severe malnutrition increased to 2.7 per 1000 population and underweight prevalence among children 0 to 23 months increased to 0.8 percent from 0.6 percent in 2018.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that in 2019, the country recorded a 418 percent increase in fish and fish products export

quantities.

"During the year under review, the country recorded a 418 percent increase in fish and fish product export quantities from 532 Mt in 2018 to 2,756MT in 2019 as shown (see Table 2.6). The exports were valued at K1.46 billion compared to K8.53 million the 2018. The Democratic Republic of Congo continued to dominate the export market for Zambia's fish and fish products. Other common export destinations Fresh frozen or chilled Tilapia constituted the largest exported fish as well as dried or smoked Tilapia. On the other hand, the quantity of imported fish and fish products dropped from 103,202 Mt to 95,536 Mt between 2018 and 2019 representing a 7.4 percent reduction. The imports valued at K50.14 million compared to the 2018 figure of K1.16 million. The major import sources were Namibia, China, Zimbabwe and South Africa," read the report.

PF's decision to claim NRC registration as party exercise beginning of rigging – Kabwita

By Natasha Sakala

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) national youth chairperson Charles Kabwita has called on the church and civil society to rise up and ensure that the issuance of NRCs is available to all and not just the preserve of the PF.

And Kabwita charged

that PF's announcement that it takes the issuance of NRCs a party program is the beginning of rigging.

In an interview, Kabwita said the careless talk by PF secretary general Davies Mwila, if not carefully handled, had the potential to divide the nation.

"It's a pity that Davies

Mwila has continued and insisted that the issuance of NRCs will be conducted as a PF program. However, you ought to be mindful Davies Mwila that not everyone is associated to the PF and other people do not even have interest to belong to political parties and if this is tolerated, the people who are not

interested in politics will be disadvantaged from getting their NRCs which they are entitled to as Zambians. I therefore appeal to all well-meaning civil society, church and political parties to rise against this pronouncement by Davies Mwila and condemn this pronouncement in strongest terms. This is uncalled for and if not carefully handled, will divide the nation. Because look, if I am not PF and I do not have an NRC in my possession, it will be very difficult for me to obtain an NRC because from what Davies Mwila is saying, preference will be given to the members of the PF," Kabwita said.

"Unfortunately, Zambians are so docile, if it were in other countries like South Africa, today as we are talking, people would have been on the streets and demonstrate against this careless talk by Davies Mwila, but anyway, we all understand who Mwila is. This is a man who managed to get a grade 12 certificate at 49 years old, so he is still learning. Now you need a lot of people who understand the operation of a government institution to lecture Mwila, since he is learning, so the PF has a huge task to lecture their secretary general."

Kabwita asked Mwila to distinguish between government and party functionaries.

"It is unfortunate that the ruling party, as announced through its Secretary General Davies Mwila, that they will conduct voter registration as a party program, it is unfortunate that the secretary general of the ruling party does not distinguish

government programs and party programs. I want to educate Mwila, being a secretary general has absolutely nothing to do with government functionalities. There is a distinction between government and a political party. The issuance of NRCs is conducted under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs has absolutely nothing to do with a political party in government. Davies Mwila's power or control starts and ends within the Patriotic Front structures and its administration. This is a total abrogation of the rules of the issuance of NRCs and this is a beginning of rigging the 2021 elections," said Kabwita.

"As Secretary General, his job is to ensure that all his structures are functioning according to the PF policy, not to direct government officers to give preference to the PF for them to have a lot of people can have NRCs and subsequently come and vote for then in 2021. This is partly the beginning of rigging of elections for 2021. I therefore appeal to all the youths in Zambia to come together so that we can speak with one voice and ensure that this corrupt regime in 2021 is removed. Already, I have seen vehicles branded with PF open vans, ferrying people from different parts of the district, taking them to the NRC issuance centre. I am in Luanshya right now and yesterday I witnessed this at a place where they are issuing NRCs. Two PF vehicles were ferrying people to go and register for their NRCs, this is very unhealthy to our young democracy."

PS to pay K100,000 in a case he is accused of adultery

By Zondiwe Mbewe

MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary Ronald Simwinga and Lusaka businessman Lombe Okpara have entered into an agreement that the PS be removed from the case where he is accused of committing adultery with the latter's wife on condition that he pays K100,000 as full and final settlement of the matter.

In this matter, Okpara has dragged his wife, Musamba Mulenga, an investments officer at the Development Bank of Zambia, to the Lusaka High Court for dissolution of their eight-year marriage for allegedly engaging in adultery with Simwinga and former Central Province deputy Permanent Secretary Patrick Mwanawasa.

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

But according to a consent order filed in the Lusaka High Court, August 4, 2020, Simwinga and Okpara have agreed that the court orders that the first co-respondent pays K100,000 as full and final settlement of the matter and that he be struck out of the proceedings.

The said consent order is, however, pending authorisation of Lusaka High Court judge Nicola Sharpe-Phiri.

"By mutual consent of the petitioner (Okpara) and first co-respondent (Simwinga) hereto, it is hereby agreed as follows; (i) That the first co-respondent shall pay the sum of K100,000 as full and final settlement of this matter in regard to the claims against the first co-respondent.

(ii) That the first co-respondent be and is hereby struck out from these proceedings as first co-respondent and that the petitioner shall not commence any other action based on the same or similar previous facts against the first co-respondent upon execution of this consent Order,

(iii) That the petitioner shall not avail evidence linking the first co-respondent directly in regard to the settled matter. (iv) That each party shall bear his own costs in regard to this consent Order," read the document which has been signed by both Simwinga and Okpara.

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

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

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

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

Okpara claimed his wife asked him

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

But in his answer, Simwinga denied committing adultery with Mulenga, and that he shall put Okpara to strict proof over his allegations against him.

He also denied ever being invited for a party, adding that he would state at trial that he had only attended a luncheon at the home of Mulenga's elder sister, with whom they are good friends.

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

In his reply to the petition, Patrick also denied Okpara's allegations, saying Mulenga was a mere friend whom he had the privilege of discussing business with by virtue of their employment.

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

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

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



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

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Creating Climate of Dissent in Board Meetings

I SIT on a board with Ms Sherry Thole, a former banker and permanent secretary. Over time, I have come to incredibly value her level of independence in board meetings. Whenever she moves her fingers on the board paper, flattens them while starrng broadly across the board room, you know she has a dissenting view on a given subject matter. She will start as follows, 'But Chair.' The Chairperson, who is equally effective in his role, will immediately create that environment to allow her to express her mind, 'Go on Director Thole.'

The room would be attentive, anticipating a diverse viewpoint on a defined subject matter. The beauty of it is that we would now all be ready for debate and discussion. She has a way of opening everyone of us to come out of groupthink.

That is what an effective board should be about. Ms Thole and I often times disagree on a few subject areas, at times it gets heated and then we smile at each other. At tea break, she will serve me coffee. It signals that everything we may have disagreed on ends there. We have done our job as directors, ensuring that every material matter with the potential to disrupt the company is dealt with amicably. Such robust discussions are attained only when the Chairperson is effective.

To have an effective board meeting, some procedural issues are important. First, there should always be a climate of trust. The board is a team. Trust is important because almost all boards have diverse membership with diverse interests. This is critical in public bodies where the Act usually demands diverse representation on the boards. Some of the members are union leaders, the usual suspects whenever there is some leakage. I recently shared how in one of the board meetings, the matter under discussion started featuring on social media even before the board meeting had concluded business. Since it had to do with the board's rejection of salary increments, the immediate suspect was the board member representing unions.

I also participated in board meetings where the CEO, Board Chairperson and the Company Secretary were always in conflict. The CEO felt the constant collaboration between the Chairperson and the Board Secretary (usually without his knowledge) had contributed to the board's hostile stance on his performance. The issues got so tense that at one time, there was a near punch up. This kind of conflict happens in boards where trust is absent. Trust among boards means that everyone believes contributions or actions are in good faith and of noble intent. In other words, there is nothing personal in disagreements, it's all business.

The second important procedural issue is that the board should constructively evaluate strategic options available before it. In my previous articles, I highlighted one finding to the effect that most boards spend very little time on strategic issues of the business. Strategic issues are about how

the business will be positioned in future given the existing climate and anticipated opportunities. This is where many boards lose a huge opportunity for business growth in Zambia. We are not prepared to discuss issues of strategy. As a result, companies are not maximising available opportunities in a timely manner.

The questions boards ask themselves in evaluating strategy are: Do we have the right strategy, given what we do well? Is our strategy matched to the external environment (economy, social expectations, etc.)? Are we capable of executing the strategy? Do we have the right top management team? If the answer to one or more of these questions is "no," what do we need to change? These questions are part of the template on corporate governance training.

Where there is an effective board, members will frankly debate and discuss available options and some resolutions can be terminal in the same that they can lead to a total abandonment of the business's mission. Just two weeks ago, Bridges Limited was involved in the strategy formulation process for one of the large statutory bodies. Members raised very critical strategic issues that changed the entire future goals of the organization. Through an open discussion, that

‘There are many decisions that have been made for most public entities in Zambia that would never have been made if the directors had personal financial stake in those organisations’.

involved senior government civil servants, there was strategic focus to the extent the organization now has very clear and easy to measure strategic objectives and KPIs for management. That is how it should be. The chairperson has the responsibility to open the flow without intimidation so that individual can challenge the status quo.

Third procedural issue, and the focus of this article, is the need for the board chairperson to foster or encourage constructive dissent. Jonah Bailey, a process designer writes, 'Disagreement from within the ranks can be a great resource for a leader. A functional organization allows people to voice disagreement, debate the issues, and then commit. Disagreement lets you know that the people you lead trust you enough to be honest with you about how they're feeling. When engaged in properly, disagreement can offer teachable moments to leaders and followers alike.'

One of the roles of board leadership is providing the oversight role in which risk oversight

is critical. Determining risks that can face the organisation, particularly strategic risks, requires broad thinking. There are many decisions that have been made for most public entities in Zambia that would never have been made if the directors had personal financial stake in those organisations. Individuals will not mind a bad decision provided it does not cost them individually.

My observation is that in Zambia, we do not want to create conflict in board meetings even when doing so is in the interest of the business. There is conflict that is healthy, especially when some members are privy to information that would be beneficial to the business. The chairperson should deliberately encourage constructive dissent by those who feel otherwise. Personally, when I chair a board meeting, I look at body language. Since I know and have chemistry with all board members, I would quickly know when some members are not agreeing with the resolution. I will encourage them to speak out their mind based on historical experiences, intuition, and facts. At the end of the day, we should arrive at a resounding resolution.

The final procedural issue is that every board member should be aware of their individual

accountability to decisions made. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to remind members of the board that they owe it to themselves to exercise independence though decisions are collective. There are individuals who cede their responsibilities to the most influential or talkative members of the board. There are board members who

are easily subdued by permanent secretaries because of the influence the latter wield. Unfortunately, the fear to express oneself and make a contribution does not make anyone immune to any possible backlash.

I love what James Klusman, a corporate governance advisor, says on the subject, 'Personal accountability may also be enhanced when board leaders exercise their roles on a personal level. Restricting the bulk of board members' interaction to board meetings, especially in the case of a large board, reduces both their perceived responsibility and sense of personal accountability. But, when the board chair communicates personally with other directors, outside of board meetings, the increased individual attention and opportunity for interaction can increase expectations of accountability.'

Chibamba Kanyama is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors – Zambia and also Trainer of Trainers on corporate governance.



HOLDING MEETINGS IN THE BUSH

**By Charles Kakoma,
UPND Spokesperson**

A STRANGE phenomenon is developing in Zambia where people have resorted to holding meetings in the bush to run away from a repressive regime. Examples abound. Recently, youth in Lusaka decided to hold their gathering in the bush after police refused to allow them to hold their protest even after following the laid down procedure under the Public Order Act.

The United Party for National Development (UPND) has also been a victim of police infringement on the rights of its members to freely assemble and carry out political activities.

One of these political activities is the holding of elections within the party. The Constitution of Zambia demands that for a political party to participate in the presidential and general election, it must first hold internal democratic elections within its party.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Republican Constitution, the UPND has been trying to hold intra-party elections at ward, constituency and district levels to usher in democratically elected representatives of the members at the lower organs of the party. After holding these lower organ elections, the party will proceed to hold elections at the provincial and national level.

It is interesting to note that the ruling Patriotic Front is also in the process of holding its intra-party elections. PF Secretary General Davies Mwila recently told a press briefing that his party will go ahead to hold elections in six remaining provinces despite the prevailing COVID 19 situation.

This revelation by the PF Secretary General confirms two things. One is that the PF has been holding infra-party elections without interruption from the police. Two is that the PF will proceed with the internal elections with

or without Corona Virus.

The UPND been notifying the police to hold its meetings for the purpose of holding internal elections but police have been refusing because they have "instructions from above" not to allow UPND to hold meetings. This instruction from above is unlawful. It offends the provisions of the Republican Constitution.

The UPND has had so many cases where police have not only denied its members their right to assemble but, also abused police powers to arrest innocent members of the party. Recently, police on the Copperbelt arrested UPND Chairman for Research and Policy Dr Choolwe Beyani and several others for holding intra-party elections. The implications of this action is to stop the UPND from holding internal elections so that come 2021, the party will not qualify to participate in the presidential and general elections. As a party, we are seeing through this scheme by the PF and its government.

We will not allow that to happen. We have had many cases where our members have been forced to hold their meetings in the bush to hide from the police. In places like Eastern Province, our members have been told that they cannot hold meetings because it is a PF bedroom. Our members have devised strategies to beat the PF regime in their so-called bedroom.

But why should Zambians be subjected to holding meetings in the bush to run away from the police more than half a century after gaining independence in 1964? Our fathers, mothers and forefathers and foremothers fought for independence from colonial rulers because they wanted freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of speech and many other rights and freedoms. By today, these rights and freedoms should have been A GIVEN. Why

should we be fighting for rights and freedoms which we already won from the colonial rulers?

In case, the PF and its government have forgotten, suppressing people's rights and freedoms is not a guarantee to continued stay in power. The white colonial rulers had the army, police, messengers and other instruments of power but failed to suppress the Africans whose only weapon was the mouth and brain. Using their brains, the oppressed people also resorted to holding meetings in the bush. Sometimes, the female organizers would gather women at a well or water drawing point and tell them how they were going to fight the colonial rulers. If the colonial police or messenger appeared on the scene, they would all pretend to be busy drawing water. There was no case to answer. In some cases, the freedom fighters would gather in the bush, at someone's field carrying hoes pretending to be tilling the land in case the authorities found them. History is repeating itself. We are back to a situation where people are going back in the bush to hold meetings.

In urban areas, people will devise methods of meeting to beat the regime. Some are meeting in buses, churches, workshops and other allowed places to discuss their plight and find a way forward.

It is shameful and embarrassing for the government to be seen to be oppressing its citizens in such a manner in this time and era. Pictures and videos have gone viral on social media about oppressed Zambians holding meetings in the bush. What image does it show to the world about the state of democracy in Zambia? The country has become a dictatorship similar to or worse than colonial rule. The solution is very simple: restore people's rights and freedoms. You can suppress the people once, but you cannot suppress them forever.

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is enjoying the comfort of his house while the ruling party is campaigning so he shouldn't complain when he loses elections.

And Phiri says the ruling party is here to stay and will rule for over 100 years.

Meanwhile, Phiri says President Edgar Lungu shouldn't be blamed for the crowd that turned up to witness the commissioning of the Makeni overpass because people are difficult to control.

Speaking when she featured on a Joy FM programme dubbed The Platform, Monday, Phiri said Hichilema was seated in his house while her party was campaigning.

She was agreeing with a caller identified as Diana who said the PF secretary general Davies Mwila was campaigning in Mwanabombwe and Lukashya when the opposition were watching.

"The by-elections which have been talked about and I congratulate my party for winning 10 out of the 15 by-elections we just had. And when you listen to people down playing this to say 'those councilors are being bought'. Continue talking like that because you think everybody is cheap. When you start looking down on people at abantu (those people) who voted in Western Province you think they are very cheap and they can be bought no bunga (they can be easily bought with a bag of mealie meal?). And you think people are smiling? They are listening. Natukwata ama by-elections flya fine ba Diana bachila landa (We have by-elections just like what Diana was saying) we lost two members of parliament

HH confined to his house while we're campaigning, he shouldn't complain when he loses – Mumbi

nabekala bali muma (they are seated in their) confinement of their comforts of their homes nga ba lusa elo bale tuka abantu ati (when they lose they start insulting people that) they have been bought Fili eko tuleya 2021 mukalila ama bucket yamenshi (they will cry in 2021)," Phiri said.

And Phiri said there was nothing the opposition could talk about to win the hearts of the people.

She was responding to a caller only identified as Mulenga who said the party could not rule for 20 years because of the difficulties people were undergoing.

"We are here to stay. In fact, we will be in power for over 100 years. And you in opposition have nothing to talk about," Phiri said.

She said the party had not lost focus and people were able to see the development brought by the ruling party.

"Our agenda for the development of Zambia since 2011 I think we haven't lost our focus. Remember when we lost our founding father President Michael Sata and when my President now Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu was taking over, because we have a manifesto and he knew we had a plan for this country he came out and said 'I have no plan but I will follow what my predecessor was doing.' People started laughing. And I think since we followed what we had in our manifesto and the plan we had for Zambia, we haven't lost focus. And people are there and they are able to see the development which has

taken place in the time PF has taken over. And in fact, they are saying it is unprecedented if the successive governments like MMD when they took over. If they were also doing

the developments the way PF has done it, I think this country could have gone a very long way. Our eyes are on the ball," Phiri said.

Meanwhile, Phiri said only

a few people were invited to witness the commissioning of the Makeni overpass.

"Umuntu ali shupa and safety kuisungwa wemwine (People are difficult to control

and you have to protect yourself). Let me also give you an example when Chief Mwanachingwala died, was there social distance? I even saw a video going round where Gary Nkombo was alone in the car. That commissioning of the bridge I was invited and if you see those who were invited, there was social distance. Did you hear at one time if there was an announcement to say 'the President is going to open a flyover bridge?' was anybody invited? They just went there. Are you telling me the President should stop working? They went on their own. Just like the funeral of Chief Mwanachingwala were those people invited? No face masks no nothing! It's nature in us. Until when we start having self discipline as individuals. We have to take responsibility because there was no announcement to invite people. Can you blame Gary because he was there that he invited them? Then you are being unfair," she said.

Phiri also said allegations that the government was corrupt were mere propaganda.

"I don't know if you came across that video which has gone viral where somebody from the CIA confessed and in fact, in that report, Zambia was mentioned... how the CIA were planning to bring down Cuba using propaganda. And that man came out clearly they asked him 'this person whom you are accusing of raping people was it happening?' he said that it didn't even exist. That is what is happening. Otherwise we are focused and doing the right thing. And mind you, we can't have an economy which we can't improve without infrastructure. Most of the places were not connected, now they have been opened up. And for me, I am very confident when it comes to sonta (point) in 2021 it will be very easy. There is so much propaganda and there is mudslinging and you know those who came up with this. It's propaganda people wanting to get power at all cost. It doesn't happen like that," said Phiri.

We stand by our figures – Chamber of Mines

By Julia Malunga

THE Chamber of Mines says it will stand by what it earlier stated that the Mineral Royalty Tax dropped by 12 percent and not the six percent announced by the Zambia Revenue Authority.

Last week, ZRA Commissioner-General Kingsley Chanda said the Chamber of Mines should not alarm the nation by issuing false statements on Mineral Royalty Tax.

But responding to a press query, Chamber president Goodwell Mateyo said the chamber stood by its position.

"I believe the Commissioner-General was referring to a report produced by the Chamber of Mines. The facts and figures you query are contained in the report. The report was meant to be a blue-print for debate, providing a credible plan for recovery of our economy post COVID-19, especially ahead of the budget preparation. We stand by the facts and figures in the report and are willing to engage stakeholders on the contents of our report," stated Mateyo.

The Chamber of Mines Report stated that the mineral royalty tax revenues were down 12 percent.

"As with the human body, an economy's ability to withstand the worst effects of COVID-19 is a function

both of its prior health – its resilience to external shocks – and the treatment it receives to coax it back to health. As for Zambia, the economy was already in poor health by the end of 2019. This was mainly due to significant increases in external borrowing over recent years, compounded by drought, the electricity crisis as well as a slowdown in mining activity, and thus revenues and foreign exchange. The Ministry of Finance show Real GDP growth at just 1.9% in 2019 compared to 4 percent in 2018. Total debt of \$17.4 billion was reported by the Ministry of Finance in 2019, consisting of external debt of \$11.2 billion (an estimated 50 percent of GDP) and domestic debt of \$6.2 billion (an estimated 25 percent of GDP)," stated the Report.

"With rising debt levels compounded by the depreciation of the Kwacha versus the USD (23 percent in 2019), debt service payments of around \$1.4 billion utilised an estimated 40 percent of annual tax revenue collections in 2019. In addition to the high cost of debt, copper (one of the country's key earners) saw a decrease in production in 2019, following years of continued, albeit muted growth. Despite higher rates of taxation introduced in early 2019, mineral royalty tax revenues were down 12

percent in 2019 compared to 2018, in US Dollars, which are the collection currency. The economic outlook for Zambia in December 2019 was therefore already troubling, and then in early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic hit."

But Chanda said alarming statements issued by the Chamber of Mines were malicious and designed to destabilize the Zambian economy.

"What I want to say to the Chamber is that; they must tell the truth. They may hate the leaders of this country, they may hate ZRA but they must not hate the country. We have a country to protect. If you issue such alarming statements and discourage investments in this country, it is not just those people in leadership you hate who will suffer, it is all the Zambians. I also want to state that there is no country that does not have confidentiality but when you want to speak about confidential issues, because tax matters are confidential and they are between the tax authority and the taxpayer. But when you choose to talk about confidential things, tell the truth, say facts not myths, not lies. I consider that statement by the chamber to be malicious and was designed to destabilize the Zambian economy," said Chanda.

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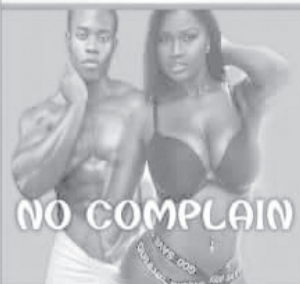
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UNLIKE other associations, the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) does not belong to its members alone. It is composed of lawyers, and its leadership is elected by associated legal practitioners, but the association itself was established to serve the interests of the people of Zambia, thereby making the citizens of this country interested parties of the organisation.

Shongga's LAZ

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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next elections. In some cases, they will want the Association to exercise a certain bias towards their interest. There will be disagreements among members of your Council and sometimes, you will stand divided after failing to reach a mutually agreed conclusion on an issue.

More is expected from you than was expected from the previous LAZ executive because your reign starts on the fringes of the general election campaigns. There are serious questions that you must answer: What legacy do you want to leave? How do you want to be remembered? Which direction do you wish to drive? Left, right or center?

Remember, you are in that office to exercise the powers given to you by the people of Zambia. You have to put people before self, you have to demonstrate that you are State Counsel worth your salt. Remember, you may be popular among the most vocal members of your association, but if your deeds fall short of integrity, you will receive disapproval from the public.

Congratulations on your election, you are now on trial before the people of Zambia. Good luck!

This is so because the Law Association of Zambia does not draw its mandate from the elected executive, but from an Act of Parliament through which it was established. Parliament, being an assembly of the people's representatives, we can safely say that the leadership of the association is, therefore, also answerable and accountable to all the people of Zambia rather than just lawyers.

According to the LAZ Act, the association was established for the following (top three) reasons: (a) to further the development of law as an instrument of social order and social justice and as an essential element in the growth of society; (b) to provide a means by which all lawyers, whatever their particular field of

activity, can participate together fully and effectively in the development of society and its institutions; and (c) to encourage lawyers as individuals to join actively in the life of, and identify themselves with, the people, and to utilise their skills and training in their service.

The above stated terms of reference for the establishment of LAZ are the reason why the people of this country gather around when the association pronounces itself on a matter of national governance. People want to see LAZ utilize the law as an instrument of social order and justice; they want to see LAZ members identify themselves with the people and use their training to help develop society and institutions of governance.

We feel it is very important for the newly

elected LAZ executive to understand our future praise or criticism of their work from that point of view. It is not just us; many beneficiaries of the legal system in Zambia expect a lot from the LAZ Council when it comes to interpreting the Constitution and fighting against the arbitrary exercise of power among those who have it. This is even accurate for politicians. All eyes will be on LAZ.

The Abyudi Shongga-led LAZ executive assumes office at a very critical time. State Counsel Shongga grabs the mantle of leadership of this critical organisation at the time when Zambia will be going to the polls in less than 12 months. By this day next year, Zambia would be electing new office bearers.

It is very important that you play a

professional role of stewardship in advocating for constitutionalism. Never make a mistake of hurriedly endorsing either what the masses say, or what those in power pronounce; sometimes, both might be wrong. The law cannot be what someone says it is or what a politician desires it to be. The law is simply as it has been enshrined in the Republican Constitution.

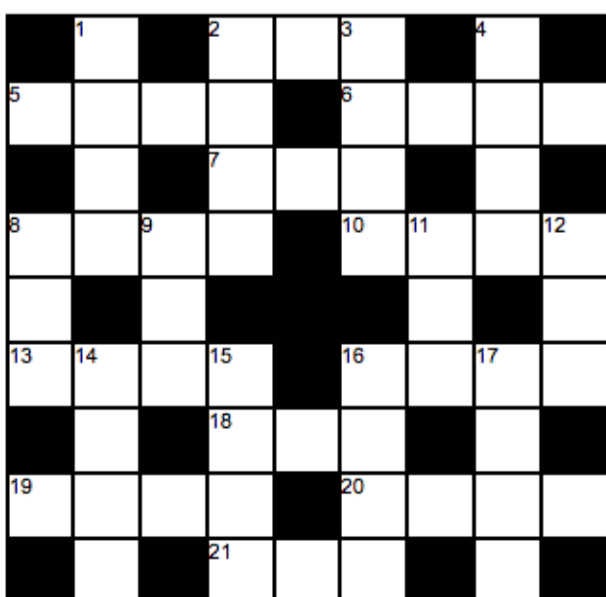
In this country, State Counsel Shongga, we have heard and seen many self-proclaimed legal experts get things wrong and misleading the masses. Some of these so-called learned experts occupy extremely powerful positions in society that when they interpret the law, no matter how wrong they are, no one is able to gather the courage to challenge them. These people have caused a lot of

embarrassment to the Judiciary, loss of public resources and loss of integrity to the offices they hold. They are a very dangerous people to themselves and society because they place the law beneath them.

These people can be brave and shameless sometimes. From time to time, you will hear them attempt to impose their will power on your executive, such as telling you who to gag or discipline. If you are not careful, you will fall for their canning mouths, but in the end, they will leave you in trouble while they enjoy the protection of the same Constitution they were advising you to overlook.

There will be many temptations along the way. Politicians will, if they have not already done so, approach you with an agenda to help them win the

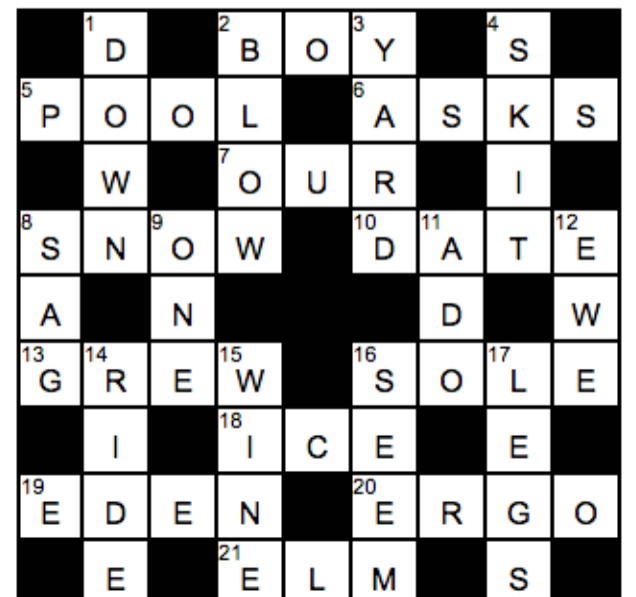
Crossword puzzle No 665



“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”
- Albert Einstein

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Business card abbr. 5. Tall leafy plant 6. Simple 7. Baseball stat. 8. So be it 10. In the vicinity 13. Midday 16. Withdraw by degrees 18. Yours and mine 19. Chew the fat 20. Come _____ my house 21. Eastern Standard Time | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unit of metric weight 2. High schooler 3. Slender 4. On the ocean 8. Grain bristle 9. Opinion of oneself 11. Wide shoe width 12. Faster than walk 14. ___ and aahs 15. Musical symbol 16. Legal document 17. Aardvark meal |
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Crossword puzzle No 664



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: A push for journalism ethics by a people with no 'moral ethics'

Dear editor,

"Regulation bodies are not bad, as long as they discharge their duties within the confines and preinstincts of the guidelines and regulations governing the body. Unfortunately, laws in Zambia are designed to target individuals or organizations, usually government is not comfortable with. For now, truly, it's hard to put trust in any formations or organizations which claim 'to regulate' professionalism...." - Kipamba Mwali

"We should also have a regulatory body for politicians because they are the worst criminals. Most crooks who have failed to make it in life, have instead joined politics. People with no morals, no management skills, no wisdom, no skills, no vision, etc. Have come together to form political parties, they use the backdoor to get into offices and mess up everything. Even the future of the unborn. They close down and sale companies, sent learned and skilled manpower onto the streets... People with families to look after, have been sent home in national interest just because they performed their work professionally". - Kramarson Johnson

"The bill should be rejected with the contempt it deserves, the main target is you in the private independent media". - Mubanga Mubanga

IBA's claim that it has powers to regulate online broadcasting

Editor,

"Ms Mungomba should know that this is the 21st century were everything has been digitalised. Zoom has come. This is the problem of appointing cadres in sensitive positions same problem with home affairs". - Solomon Kabize Choombe

"These rascals will do anything to please their employers. But they must be ready to face their actions individually in the impending change of government. It is not around but actually at the corner!!! You shall be joining your bosses in their new abodes. Eat and enjoy your last booties". - Mark Majuta

"Those at IBA should know that they are remaining with only 11 months of exhibiting their foolishness!" - Thomas Sankara

"Are they going to regulate each and every Facebook account and YOUTUBE CHANNEL in Zambia?" - Mike Lusaka

"They are lost, how will they regulate and what will they regulate when the space the online broadcasters use doesn't belong to IBA or Zambia? They won't give them any spectrum nor licence so how will they regulate them?" - Lutabito Mabele

"You only pride yourself in shutting down private media houses!" - Chanda Ch

'PF being arrogant about Lungu's eligibility in 2021'

Editor,

"For sure you still exhibit your arrogance, just like you did when your ministers were told to vacate office and never did. Are you not paying the money now? Continue with the same arrogance until that day when you find yourselves without a candidate". - Peter Silwimba

"The problem with PF is arrogance, you were arrogant on VAT which you wanted to replace with sales tax against advice, arrogant on borrowing, despite good advice given, arrogant on bill 10, arrogant on ECL's eligibility, mukashala muli mwamoni!" - Michael

Sandala

"If he is eligible why are they shaken to an extent of wanting to remove article 52 in our constitution?" - Muzumbwe Hakwaambwa

"THE TRUTH IS THAT A LOT OF THEM ARE SCARED OF GOING TO JAIL IF GOVERNMENT IS CHANGED!" - Doston Chokochani Sakala

"You are way below the level of Sangwa and Mpundu, so you can't understand anything they say. Keep your

ECL but you will cry, even Chiluba wanted third term but he left...." - Gershom Habile

"Why are you so worried if you are sure the ConCourt did make a ruling on Lungu's eligibility? The fact that you keep talking about it shows that you are not sure yourself. I hope you have a plan B because Lungu will not be president again. You are currently behaving like Pharaoh who kept ignoring God's plagues". - Simon Chinyama

HOW SOME LEADERS AND THEIR CADRES WEAR FACE MASKS!



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

ACC's suspension of investigations officer over U-turn in Chilufya corruption case

Editor,

"After public out cry...I thought the boss had preview data on what the junior officer was going to present every time he walks out of the office(awe bwafya pa zed yalikaba)". - Felix Mukonde

"Insoni ebuntu! Let ACC just join those selling cloths in their building! They are very useless. A thief has been cleared and all you do is suspend? Just give him a Nolle to salvage the little respect if at all exist that still remains! If you are under pressure just

give them Nolles so that when a normal government comes in they can be rearrested". - Thomas Sankara

"Where can we report ACC for corruption?" - Clarence Chikwela

"Does it mean officers at ACC work independently, how come they react to what their junior officer submitted as if they were caught unaware by suspending him. I believe this

a high profile which I expect the director herself is preview to what her junior officer will submit to court before anyone. Now to me this reaction shows lack of leadership, because this is an institution with well Coordinated lawyers, therefore I don't expect them to be reactive instead I expect them to be proactive. From this letter, one can conclude that the whole institution was not aware of what this man will submit before the court". - Mable Kayula

By Natasha Sakala

THE Ministry of Health has announced that the country has in the last 24 hours recorded 125 new COVID-19 cases out of 454 tests done and six deaths, five of which were brought in dead cases in Lusaka.

And the Ministry says the Home Affairs ministry will deploy police officers to ensure that people are following COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has announced that President Edgar Lungu has directed all non essential workers to work remotely to avoid contact among individuals in work places.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 update, Monday, Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya said 104 persons had been discharged in the last 24 hours.

"Zambia in the last 24 hours has recorded 125 new cases of COVID-19 out of the 454 tests done. This brings

Police will be deployed to ensure COVID-19 guidelines are followed, says Chitalu

the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases to 8,210. The cases that we have picked include 66 that have been identified through routine screening in Lusaka and Solwezi, Ndola and Kitwe. So 34 in Lusaka, 19 in Solwezi, Ndola, 11 and two in Kitwe. 23 contacts to known cases in Lusaka, five in Ndola, two in Chingola and 21 had been identified through hospital screening. 10 in Lusaka, eight in Ndola, two in Kitwe and one in Solwezi and three are health workers. We have recorded five brought in dead cases from within Lusaka and these are coming from the high density compounds. The deaths also include one facility death in Ndola. Therefore, we

have recorded six deaths in the last 24 hours. At the moment we have 72 patients admitted to the levy Mwanawasa isolation centre, 30 of these are on oxygen support and two are critical and are in the intensive care unit. We have discharged 104 persons in the last 24 hours and that brings our recoveries to 6,802. Looking at the cumulative numbers, our deaths now stand at 241 of which 72 deaths are due to COVID-19, 132 are covid related, we are still classifying 37 deaths. The COVID-19 associated deaths are those in whom covid was detected but is not the primary cause of death," he said.

Dr Chilufya said police and law enforcement officers would now be deployed to ensure adherence to COVID-19 guidelines and presidential directives.

"This morning, the President of the Republic of Zambia His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu addressed Cabinet and took note of the covid situation in the country and has directed, through Cabinet, immediate escalation in the response to stop the spread of COVID-19. The measures will include the following; the Ministry of Home Affairs will deploy police and other security officers in public places to ensure the enforcement of covid public health measures and presidential directives. Further, the Ministry of Local Government will aggressively



and non compromisingly enforce adherence to public health measures and presidential directives particularly in markets, trading places and bus stops. The operation of bars and night clubs that has been seen to resume in some parts of Lusaka will be frowned upon and security agencies will be on board to ensure that these do not operate. We are not issuing licenses or permits to operate bars neither are we allowing restaurants to operate as bars and these are places that are, these are places where people are getting covid from. So I wish to remind the public that in line with the presidential directives, all bars and night clubs still remain

closed," said Dr Chilufya.

"The President has also directed through, Cabinet, that all non essential workers will operate remotely in order to minimise personal interaction in work places. The Secretary to Cabinet will issue guidelines on this score and the public is encouraged to use alternative non contact modes of conducting business activities including electronic transactions. The President has further stressed the need to preserve commerce and trade even as the President encourages non contact in work places, he encourages leveraging of technology to ensure continuity in service delivery and non disruption in trade and commerce.

So that delicate balance is emphasized."

Meanwhile, ZNHPI executive director Dr Victor Mukonka emphasised the need for members of the public to adhere to laid down guidelines and avoid crowds as has been observed where people are patronizing bars indiscriminately.

He added that the current windy weather could lead to an increase in cases as particles can quickly move from one place to far distances.

And Ministry of Health permanent secretary Dr Kennedy Malama urged people to use masks properly by ensuring that both the nose and mouth are covered and not removing them while talking.

DP won't join an alliance to escort another party to power – Kalaba

From page 2

"...Going to the director to ask them for favours that are beyond them, 'can you give us this, can you do that,' natumako abo bantu mubatandize, mubapase (I have sent those people, give them), all those kinds of things. This country has collapsed, the system has collapsed."

He also complained about how some citizens were eulogising corrupt politicians.

"Where we have gone wrong is that, we have started eulogising politicians, who are taking from you and you are busy saying aba nibamuna (these are men), stop that kind of thing. Those are not to be celebrated, those are to be taught a lesson next year, get them out of power and a lot more that you want to know will come out. But if you want to bring it out here, they say, 'never tell a crocodile it's got an ugly face before you cross the river.' If you want to tell the crocodile, you are still in the canoe you are peddling, ati ah, chi crocodile ichi, nichoipa ichi, (this crocodile is ugly) it will deal with you! So, you don't start saying, 'ba ACC I have got this case, I have got that and that case,' no. Wisdom sometimes should play a hand, you look at issues and say nature has got a way of equalising. One day these things will come out. Umulandu taubola (crime does not rot), it can take 20 years, but if there is crime that has been committed, it will have to be rectified," Kalaba said.

"Where I come from they say, amenso yamupundilwa yengi (when you are in public office, people are watching you from different angles), people are seeing you from different perspectives so you have to be very careful. Look, the way corruption is being handled in this country is very cosmetic. I told you that even His Excellency, the President, doesn't believe in the fight against corruption; I told you right here that the only time the President fights corruption is when he is reading a speech written for him by government officials then he comes across a sentence on corruption, then he reads it, it doesn't come from within because if it did, we would have seen ministers who have been involved in corruption being shown the exit like president Sata did."

Meanwhile, Kalaba, the former foreign affairs minister, insisted that it was very embarrassing for President Lungu being mentioned in the Rwanda court case.

"The issue of Rwanda is an embarrassing episode for Zambia that our highest diplomat, the President, was mentioned, that was sad and very regrettable. I have always said that Zambia has been known for a good name, not for a bad name, Zambia has been a haven of peace, which is why we have people coming in from the east, west, north south, coming into Zambia; it's because of our impeccable record that we have had as a peace-loving nation. Our role in this country has never been to get involved in the territorial issues of other people's sovereignty. Our role has always been to heal the divide, we have always played that meaningful role: in Angola, the DRC, I can say even in the region we stand tall. So, to hear that the President is being implicated in those things is not only sad, but its an embarrassing chapter," said Kalaba.

Gawa Undi cancels Kulamba



By Diggers Correspondent

WE cannot hold Kulamba traditional ceremony amid the Covid-19 pandemic, says the Chewa Royal Establishment.

Announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Kulamba ceremony of the Chewa people in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique that was slated for this monthend, Kulamba Ceremony organizing committee chairperson Chief M'bang'ombe said the supreme leader of the Chewa people Kalonga Gawa Undi had decided to cancel this year's ceremony because of the threat caused by the pandemic.

"We have been sent by his Majesty Kalonga Gawa Undi that we should announce to the entire country and also other countries like Malawi and

Mozambique that because of Covid-19 pandemic this year's ceremony has been cancelled. You know this ceremony attracts a lot of people from within and outside and also well wishers from other tribes," chief M'bang'ombe said.

He said Gawa Undi had also taken into consideration the increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases.

Chief M'bang'ombe said the ceremony might be held next year in an event that the cases reduce.

He said the Royal Establishment would still update the nation about future plans regarding the issue.

Chairperson of the Kulamba Ceremony invitation and publicity committee Lucas Phiri said what was communicated was the truth about this year's ceremony.

Phiri said some people usually spend more days at Mkaika Chewa headquarters in Katete which is the venue for the ceremony.

"Mkaika is always crowded during the ceremony and that cannot be ideal because of the pandemic, so Gawa has seen it fit to cancel the ceremony to safeguard peoples' lives. During the ceremony, water becomes a challenge as well as toilets because of the crowd. Even after the ceremony some people remain in Katete," he said.

Phiri said Gawa had cancelled the ceremony because of the love for the people and because of his desire to abide by Covid-19 preventive guidelines.

Both chief M'bang'ombe and Phiri were speaking at a press briefing at VNT Motel in Chipata yesterday

THOMAS Meunier has opened up on the "outrageous" party culture at Paris Saint-Germain, while expressing his belief that the club's main players are "more than footballers".

Meunier racked up 128 appearances for PSG between 2016 and 2020, winning nine trophies in total, including three Ligue 1 titles.

The 28-year-old played alongside world-class players such as Kylian Mbappe, Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Thiago Silva at Parc des Princes, and managed to carve out a reputation as one of the most consistent performers in Thomas Tuchel's squad.

He also attended a number of large social gatherings to honour various players' birthdays, which often took place in lavish locations with scores of high profile celebrities in attendance alongside the rest of the squad.

Neymar's wild birthday parties have been well-documented in recent years, with Tuchel admitting that the Brazilian's 28th celebrations came as an unwelcome "distraction" for his side at a crucial point in the 2019-20 season.

Meunier, who signed for Borussia Dortmund on a free transfer in June, has now offered in an insight into the annual events at

Thomas Meunier opens up on 'outrageous' party culture at PSG

PSG, which he says mirror the size of one of Europe's largest clubs.

"Nothing but birthday parties - incredible," the Belgian defender told RTBF.

"When I was at Bruges, we'd celebrate birthdays by playing darts or pool in a bar, but here it's just outrageous.

"But that just reflects the club: hire a palace, hire a building, parties with hundreds of people.

"That's when you see that they're more than footballers; they're stars.

"I always had a good time but it was all a bit extravagant and 'did you see me?' But that's part of it, part of the game."

After reaching an agreement to join Dortmund, Meunier criticised PSG for refusing to allow him to remain on their books through to the end of their latest Champions League campaign.

The Ligue 1 champions' sporting director Leonardo rejected the defender's claims that he'd been



disrespected by the club, but he has doubled down on his comments ahead of their quarter-final clash with Atalanta on Wednesday.

"I would have liked to have played," said Meunier. "I was with my agent in Dortmund and I was almost on my knees begging for permission to let me end the season in the Champions League with PSG.

"I simply had to pack my bags and I received a letter from the club's lawyer

which said I was no longer welcome and could no longer come to training,

not even in my final week. I found that unbelievable." GOAL.COM

Atletico Madrid confirm Correa, Vrsaljko have tested positive for coronavirus

THE two positive coronavirus cases reported in the Atletico Madrid camp have both been returned by first-team players Angel Correa and Sime Vrsaljko, the Spanish side have confirmed.

News broke on Sunday that two members of the party set to travel to the Champions League quarter-finals in Portugal had tested positive for the virus, but there was no further indication whether those affected were members of the playing or backroom staff.

Goal learned that two members of Diego Simeone's squad were responsible for the two positive tests and on Monday the identity of these players was made clear. As such, they will not travel to Portugal or take part in the remainder of the competition.

They are in a stable condition and are observing isolation protocols in their own homes.

In response to the two positive tests, a fresh round of testing was carried out on Atleti's first team and members of staff who will travel, while there were also checks made on those who have come into close contact with the players.

The club confirmed, however, that these new tests did not throw up any unwelcome results.

"The first team and members of coaching staff underwent new tests yesterday [Sunday], the results of which have been negative in all of them," the club stated.

UEFA's medical protocol indicates that as long as there are 13 available players from the A list, the match will take place, with Atleti confirming on Monday that 21 members of the first-team squad will travel alongside academy players Alex Dos Santos, Manu Sanchez, Riquelme and Toni Moya.

Meanwhile, Sevilla defender Jules Kounde, who is currently in Germany with his side as they seek to win the Europa League,

previously took to social media to defend Thomas Lemar after the attacker was subject to abuse on the platform.

"I see messages wishing that it's Thomas Lemar who has covid. You really are scoundrels. Show a little respect. This is human life we are talking about, it's not a joke," the 21-year-old former Bordeaux man wrote on his Twitter account.

Spain has been one of the European countries most heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 360,000 people testing positive for Covid-19, while more than 28,500 have died. GOAL.COM

Madrid to offer Kroos or Isco for Dybala deal

Real Madrid will offer Toni Kroos or Isco as part of a deal to sign Paulo Dybala, reports Sport Mediaset.

The Spanish side's offer would have a total valuation of over €100 million (£90m/\$118m). Juventus, though, are determined to keep the Argentine going forward as the club looks to rebuild under Andrea Pirlo. GOAL



EDEN TOP SCORERS CHART 2019/2020 SEASON					
NO	PLAYERS	TEAM	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL GOALS
1	Albert Kangwanda	Kafue Celtic	8	4	12
2	Mwiza Siwale	Kafue Celtic/Now Arrows	8	3	10
3	Joseph Kanema	Indeni/ Now Buildcon	6	3	9
3	Landu Miyete	Prison/Warriors	7	2	9
3	Peter Lungu Daka	Police College	5	4	9
4	Alick Mvula	Chindwin Sentries	5	3	8
4	Francisco Mwepu	Kafue Celtic/Arrows	5	3	8
4	Adamson Mulawo	Young Green Eagles	3	5	8
5	Rodgers Mukenge	Kitwe United/Indeni	3	4	7
5	Kunda Nkandu	Gomes	3	4	7
	TShite Mweshi	Prison Leopards	4	3	7
6	James Kwame Abban	Nchanga Rangers	3	3	6
6	Kelvin Chomba	Nchanga Rangers	3	3	6
6	Joshua Chisenga	Gomes	3	3	6
6	Kilonji Mwepu	INDENI	3	3	6
	Clive Biyete	Kitwe United	4	2	6
7	Simon Mwenya	INDENI	4	1	5
7	Patrick Kasongo	Prison Leopards	3	2	5
7	Eric Chibuye	Chambishi	3	2	5
7	Pumulo Siyanga	Kafue Celtic	3	2	5
7	Konga Konga	Chambishi	3	2	5
7	Wezi Kumwenda	Police College	3	2	5
7	Elliot Kampukesa	Nchanga Rangers	2	3	5
8	Everisto Chisenga	Zesco Malaiti Rangers	3	1	4
8	Friday Konga	Nchanga Rangers	2	2	4
8	Robin Miyanda	National Assembly	2	2	4
8	Graven Chitalu	INDENI	2	2	4
8	Ashady Mwale	Young Green Eagles	3	1	4
8	Greenwell Witika	Young Green Eagles	3	1	4
8	Harrison Zulu	Police College	1	3	4
8	Rodrick Kembo	Chambishi	4		4
8	Rickson Ngambi	Muza F.C	1	3	4
8	Joseph Chanda	Prison Leopards	3	1	4
8	Danny Liomba	Sinazongwe United	1	3	4
8	Max Mulutula	Kafue Celtic	3		4
8	Chanda Mukuka	Gomes	1	3	4
9	Morgan Kaoma	National Assembly	2	1	3
9	Brian Ntalasha	Mumbwa Medics	3		3
9	Collins Muma	Zambeef	2	1	3
9	Ben Siamayuwa	Zesco Shockers	1	2	3
	COMPILED BY:	TIM ZULU	AS	OF	WEEK 27

By Diggers Reporter
SUPER Division champions Nkana's Ghanaian defender Richard Ocran says players are not bothered by insinuations that the club did not deserve to win the league this season.

The flow of the league this season has not gone according to script, with a number of boardroom decisions and unplayed games watering down the integrity of the campaign.

After alleged failure by clubs to adhere to Coronavirus preventive measures, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) called for a premature end to the league with seven games left to play.

This meant cutting the 34 week long campaign to 27 weeks.

Against this background, some sceptics have argued that the Kitwe side were not worthy champions, having won the title on goal difference and benefiting from boardroom decisions.

NKANA DESERVE TITLE - OCRAN

Nkana were on Friday awarded three points and a 3 - 0 scoreline for their Week 27 match against Nakambala Leopards after the Mazabuka side failed to pitch up.

This decision sent them top of the log with 50 points and only needed a minimum of a draw in the game between Forest Rangers and Zanaco to be declared champions.

Manfred Chabinga's side

were confirmed Champions on Sunday after Forest and Zanaco played to out to a scoreless draw.

Ocran said in an interview yesterday that Nkana players would give little thought to those criticising their eventual crowning as champions.

"We are not the ones who decided to cut the league, everyone knows why they decided to cut the league. If

the different team was on top the time they cut the league, they would have been the champions. We deserve to be the champions, it is our title, the heart is clear, the cup is for us. Everything went in our way and we worked hard for it," Ocran said.

The former Ashanti Gold Sports Club player said he was happy to have been part of the team that delivered the club's

record 13th title.

"I feel great, I am happy that the team won its 13th title; it has been long since we won the league so it feels great to be part of that team that has made history," said Ocran.

Meanwhile, Forest Rangers coach Tenant Chilumba has called on his players to forego the disappointment of missing out on the league title to

Nkana.

Forest were left hard done after playing to a goalless draw against Zanaco when all they needed was a win to bag their maiden title.

"We need to go back to the drawing board, work hard again and ensure that we wait for the Champions League and have a good run. We have to work on our fitness," said Chilumba.

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Just arrived is a 32 seater luxury business class coach that includes a coffee making machine and a toilet inside with an excellent aircon facility. The business bus has been scheduled to depart from both Lusaka and Livingstone at 08:00 from Monday to Friday and Saturday Sunday it will be scheduled at the same time from Lusaka to Kitwe.

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