



Kelvin Bwalya Fube



Harry Kalaba



Felix Mutati

KALABA, MUTATI, KBF TO FORM 2021 PACT

By Julia Malunga DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba says former finance minister Felix Mutati and Lusaka lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube and himself are planning to form an alliance ahead of next year's general elections. Yesterday, a picture of the trio went viral on social media where they were seen holding a meeting. And when asked if the trio were forming an alliance for the 2021 general elections, Kalaba responded in the affirmative. **Story page 4**



First Lady Esther Lungu lays wreaths at the grave of Samuel Nkhoma, Director General, Office of the President (Special Division) at Leopards Hill Memorial Park in Lusaka on Tuesday - Picture by Salim Henry

I'd rather fear God than worry about my job - Kapeso

By Julia Malunga DEPUTY Inspector General of Police in charge of operations Bonny Kapeso says he would rather fear God than a human being in executing his duties. Meanwhile, Kapeso says police officers should act professionally when giving out permits to political parties which want to hold events. **Story page 6**

Lusaka police nab 43 bar patrons

By Diggers Reporter POLICE in Lusaka yesterday arrested 43 bar patrons for abrogating COVID-19 prevention guidelines. In a statement, Wednesday, police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said among those arrested were 16 females and 27 males.

Kaizar, his co-accused deny kidnapping, assaulting 4 men

By Zondiwe Mbewe PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu's former political advisor Kaizar Zulu and his acquaintance Raffiq Rashid have denied the kidnapping and assault allegations by four Lusaka men. Zulu and Rashid claim that the four men were the ones who posed a threat to them as they were armed with pistols and were hiding while recording and taking pictures of them.

In this matter, four Lusaka men - Bernard Nshindo, Sengelwayo Jere, Saul Masikoti and Mason Mweemba - sued Zulu and his two acquaintances Mpange Kachingwe and 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. **Story page 2**

“Police in Lusaka arrested 43 people in an operation conducted last night, 11th August, 2020. Among those arrested are 16 females and 27 males. Defiant premises include Shamrock Lodge where 17 people were apprehended, Scorpion Night club where seven people were apprehended, Zero Degree Night club where 12 were apprehended, KCC Night Club where three people were apprehended. All the mentioned night clubs are located in Kabwata. Others were...” **Story page 7**

Those caught without masks will pay K750 fine - Police **Story page 3**

Kaizar, his co-accused deny kidnapping, assaulting 4 men

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu's former political advisor Kaizar Zulu and his acquaintance Raffiq Rashid have denied the kidnapping and assault allegations by four Lusaka men.

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

But in their defence filed in the Lusaka High Court, Wednesday, Zulu and Rashid denied the said kidnapping and assault claims by the four.

The two, however, admitted that on September 7, 2019, they were at Chita Lodge in Kafue but that they would aver at trial that the four men were hiding while recording and taking pictures of them.

Zulu and Rashid added that at that time, they were having a private and confidential meeting within the vicinity of the secluded part of the lodge.

They stated that they will further aver that they alerted a police officer who was nearby to check on why the plaintiffs' were hiding and recording as well as taking pictures of them without authority.

Zulu and Rashid stated that in fact, the plaintiffs did admit taking unauthorized photographs and agreed to delete the same but the police officer discovered that they were armed with pistols and posing a danger to the lives of the first and third defendants (Zulu and Rashid).

"The first and third defendants will aver at trial that the plaintiffs attempted to drive off when accosted by the police officer and instead fired gun shots in the air as they attempted to escape from the police officer who accosted them," read the defence.

Zulu and Rashid stated that they would also aver that the plaintiffs were apprehended by police officers and in fact, one of the suspects escaped when they reached Kafue Police Station.

They stated that the plaintiffs were later moved to Lusaka Central Police by the police officers where they were detained.

"The defendants will aver that the plaintiffs do not deserve any of the reliefs sought, at least not from the first and third defendants herein. The defendants deny each and every allegation put forth in the statement of claim," Zulu and Rashid 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 began 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 characterized 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.

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 was denied, they acted in their individual capacities as guests.

Kachingwe, in his defence, also 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.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) has asked government to consider increasing the non-taxable income threshold to K4,300 from the current K3,300 to help citizens cope with the rising cost of living.

And the Centre has called on government to lower public expenditure and reduce external borrowing to revive the country's economy as part of the 2021 national budget.

In an interview, JCTR programmes manager Innocent Ndashe appealed to government to help citizens cope with the rising cost of living, which had gone far above K7,000 per month for the average family of five in Lusaka.

"Recognising that, generally, the cost of living has been on the increase, on average I think nationally it's not less than K5,500. I know for other areas, like Lusaka, the cost of living is already

Increase non-taxable income threshold to K4,300 in 2021 budget, JCTR urges govt

sky-rocketed to more than K7,000, but on average it's a minimum of K5,500. So, meaning one way in which even those that are possibly been put on maybe half salary and a few others because businesses have been hit by the COVID pandemic and not everyone is getting the required pay and income so how do you then bring relief to the people in employment, who are not affording the cost of living would be to ensure that government considers to adjust gradually the non-taxable income threshold. At the moment it's K3,300 and if you are talking of an average cost of living of a minimum K5,300, that is way below that, meaning we've been denying our citizens to afford decent nutritious food; we've been

denying our people to have access to clean water, to send children to school, to access quality healthcare services," Ndashe said.

"So, what government needs to do is to bring relief. How do you bring relief? Gradually, I think we can improve that and we are recommending that the threshold is reduced to a minimum of something around K4,300, at least an increment of K1,000 would help and then subsequently as things stabilise, I think we would hope that it's increased further possibly in 2022 to around K5,000 or even more depending on how economic activities will be."

And Ndashe said government should ensure that it tightens controls on public expenditure and reduce external borrowing in next year's budget.

"What we would want to see in next year's budget is for government to recommit to reduce external borrowing and try to utilise every opportunity that arises within the country to generate revenue. I mean, there are a lot of taxes, we know the few other enterprises that are missed in terms of government collecting taxes in different forms so they need to expand to see how we can capture those that are yet to be captured to ensure that we reduce external borrowing. And also, tighten measures that will reduce wastage," Ndashe said.

He urged government to consider creating a fund for small businesses to help keep them afloat in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The impact of the COVID

pandemic; I think government needs to ensure that how do we keep afloat, for example, small enterprises and other businesses that contribute to the Zambian economy would be to create a fund that would ensure that you keep them afloat. But more importantly, also, what we would be hoping to hear from the (2021) budget, commitment to ensure that there are clear guidelines that would help the ordinary person; those that are running small businesses to be able to have access to, for example, easy credit or soft loans, those where they can pay at minimum maybe small interest rates to ensure that people can grow their businesses," he said.

He observed that resources channelled through the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme needed to be increased.

"In this particular situation, I think we need to ensure that we allocate adequate resources that would ensure that the social protection programmes are more sustainable. Programmes like the SCT programme have been quite helpful at least from a few stories for those that have been able to get it, it has helped them to be creative. So, I mean all government needs to do is to allocate adequate resources, but more importantly would also to revise the monthly allocations. I know persons with disabilities get K180 per month, which means K360 bi-monthly and the vulnerable and the other categories get K90. But looking at the rising cost of living, I think those amounts moving into next year, at this particular time are nothing," said Ndashe.

I'm not sure if any inmate at Mukobeko has COVID-19 – Chileshe

By Julia Malunga

ZAMBIA Correctional Service (ZCS) Commissioner-General Dr Chisela Chileshe says he has not received any information on prisoners that may have tested positive to COVID-19 at Mukobeko Correctional Facility.

Reacting to some social media posts to the effect that some prisoners at the maximum facility had tested positive to COVID-19, Dr Chileshe said he was not sure because he had not received any results from tests conducted so far.

"I am not sure because I haven't been given any results unless I am given the actual results then I will be able to say. I haven't received any information of any results that there is a COVID-19 patient. So, I cannot confirm something that is not on paper. What is there is that we had had two cases of COVID-19 that were reported and one person from Kafue and another case was an outside case that somebody came with after some screening. So, these were isolated and taken to normal hospitals and those were declared to be okay. But at maximum, I am not sure because I have not been given any tangible results," said Dr Chileshe in a brief interview.

It's not just ministers from Luapula, entire PF a den of thieves, Syakalima tells Mwila

By Julia Malunga

CHIRUNDU UPND member of parliament Douglas Syakalima says it is not only ministers who hail from Luapula Province that have been caught up in the web of corruption, but the entire PF government.

Last week, PF secretary general Davies Mwila lamented that it pained him that only ministers from Luapula Province were being targeted with corruption allegations.

But in an interview, Syakalima argued that the entire PF government comprised of a den of thieves, and that officials from Luapula Province were not the only corrupt elements.

"The law is blind and it doesn't target anybody. It suspects a person who has committed a crime. If it happens that the people who the law is following are coming from the same area, they must also ask themselves: 'why are we finding ourselves in these things?' But generally

speaking, it doesn't matter whether you come from planet A or planet B, corruption is bad. I think that the many people who have been caught up in this web of corruption is the entire system of PF. So, he (Mwila) must not pick the people who hail from Luapula. It is a PF problem. The corruption of PF is endemic. It must be frowned upon by any reasonable human being. The problem with Davies Mwila is that some little education must be pumped in his head! He must be able to show contrition of his party, which has actually killed Zambians. We have no medicines in hospitals, it has not only affected people of Luapula, it has affected the entire country. So, wherever PF shows its ugly face, it shows corruption anywhere! He must not remove Luapula as a victim, no," said Syakalima.

"This PF has killed the institutions of the State. Nothing is working! The only thing I can say to the people of Zambia is that next year, let us vote these thieves out of

government. Not only are they thieves, but dangerous thieves. They should never have been given to rule this country. Look at how much they have messed us up, where are we going to begin from? The debt they have accumulated in the last eight years is not compared to what Dr Kenneth Kaunda accrued in 27 years. These characters, within seven years, we have a feared debt of more than US \$20 billion. This is a system of thieves! Look at the Auditor General's Report today. Let Mwila not show his ignorance and his little education to the fore. This is the problem when you give a person some little power with no knowledge at all, they start saying anything that comes from their head."

Last week, Mwila had wondered if PF ministers that hailed from Luapula were thieves due to the huge number of corruption-related cases that piled up in court since the president Frederick Chiluba era.

"Eifyo ba (Nickson)

Chilangwa bachilalanda ati baikata uyu baikata uyu ni jealous fye! (Ronald) Chitotela fyaile kwi? (This is what Chilangwa was saying that they keep on arresting government officials, it is jealousy! Where did Chitotela's case end up?) Elo ndaipusha pantu ifwe elo twali abaiche twatampa ukulalolesha (When we were young, we were observing this) ba (Frederick) Chiluba babasenda... (he got arrested) from Luapula; Xavier Chungu from Luapula, Chitotela from Luapula; (Chitalu) Chilufya from Luapula so ifwe nifwebo bakabolala? (Are we thieves?) Those are the questions I am raising. This province yaliba (it is) stable, politically. The Luapula people are very good. I am saying this because I am from Luapula so sometimes it pains me to see how my brothers are suffering, but we will pull through. God is with us. Fyonse nga wa chetekela muli lesa tapaba ichakosa (when you put faith in God, there is nothing that is difficult)," said Mwila.

No voter registration extension beyond October, says ECZ

By Ulande Nkomesha

ELECTORAL Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano says the Commission will not reschedule the voter registration exercise ahead of the 2021 general elections despite the continued increase in COVID-19 cases.

And the ECZ boss says there will be no extension of the voter registration exercise beyond October and has advised Zambians to ensure they take part in the process.

Meanwhile, Nshindano says the commission is still engaging political parties to find a lasting solution to the nomination fees for candidates in the 2021 general elections.

In an interview, Nshindano said the commission had put in place measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the voter registration exercise, hence, there was no need to reschedule the process.

"As a Commission, we are not changing any dates. First and foremost, we have reiterated this fact that the polls for next year are constitutionally enshrined, which is 12th August, 2021 and we were supposed to commence the voter registration in May but because of COVID-19, we decided to move it to October to put in place measures so that we can at least reduce the spread of the pandemic. In everything that we are doing, we have learnt and we have put in place measures for COVID-19 prevention both in terms of the by-elections and the voter registrations," Nshindano said.

Continues on P5

Those caught without masks will pay K750 fine – Police

By Natasha Sakala

THE ZAMBIA Police Service has warned that those without masks will be fined K750 or be arrested and taken court.

And Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says if they run out of space, some offenders will be detained at



Edwin Imboela stadium.

Speaking during a special interview on Radio Phoenix, Katongo said police would

find a way to deal with the offenders.

"We will find a way of dealing with them, all that

we want is to decongest. Those who don't pay, because initially when you are found without a mask, you are supposed to be charged K750, that is under the general term. So if you don't have a mask and you are picked up by police, you will be made to pay the K750 fine and if you say you want to go to court, it's either we detain you, if you have got sureties you go on police bond," Katongo said.

"But in instances where we feel that you can't be traced, we will not be giving police bond. But for those others like for Lusaka, those others who will opt to go to court or who will fail to pay a fine, we will have a meeting with the Lusaka City Council authorities so that a fast track court can be dealing with such people so that we decongest our facilities or we don't allow congestion in our detention facilities. Moreover, we have got grounds, we have got Imboela Stadium, we will pack them in the Imboela stadium if we don't have where to take them."

Katongo said there were a number of offences which those not adhering to COVID-19 regulations could be charged with.

"Any other province, there are so many ways of dealing with such because you can even be charged under the penal code where you get conduct likely to cause the breach of peace. So in instances where we see that we are overwhelmed with the numbers of people, we charge them with conduct likely to cause the breach of peace and there is a fine to be paid in that regard, we are going to find a way as police to deal with such. We wouldn't want to start talking about the challenges that we may face because we don't want to talk about the challenges, just know that we are going to enforce the law," Katongo noted.

Katongo, however, said police would engage people before arrest to make sure that they were masked up.

"We will give them chance, we will talk to them first to mask up, obviously there are always strategies, once we give people, even you the media, you've got a role to inform the people and tell them to say that now they are arresting. So like in the initial stages when they heard that police were enforcing the regulations, we saw a lot of people in masks. So it's not difficult even now people can still get back to putting on masks. So we will give them information first of all then if they don't want to follow that, we will pick them and the moment they hear that we have picked two, three, four people for it wearing masks, a lot of them will now see to say that it is serious that the officers are now arresting," said Katongo.

Govt releases K249.6m CDF

By Diggers Reporter

LOCAL Government Minister Dr Charles Banda has announced that government has released the entire K249.6 million Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for this year to all 156 constituencies.

Announcing the development during a press briefing in Lusaka,

Wednesday, Dr Banda said the total amount of funds would translate as each constituency receiving K1.6 million.

"The CDF budgetary allocation for 2020 is K249,600,000.00 and I wish to announce that government, as promised, has released the total allocated CDF as budgeted. This amount is meant for distribution to all the 156 constituencies. Each of the 156 constituencies will receive a total of K1.6 million," Dr Banda said.

"I wish to inform the nation through you that in 2018, K209,337,616.00 was released from the Treasury and the Ministry in-turn disbursed the funds to 132 constituencies because the allocation was not adequate to cater for all the 156 constituencies. The 24 constituencies not funded from the 2018 CDF were constituencies that had members of parliament, who were Cabinet Ministers. In 2019, given the country's financial constraints, the Ministry of Finance released a total of K29,962,384.00, which was in-turn disbursed to the remaining constituencies that never received the CDF in 2018. The members of parliament now have an onerous task to ensure that the implementation of the earmarked projects commences as soon as the funds are in the accounts."

And he urged all councils that had not yet submitted the 2020 CDF projects for approval to expeditiously do so.

"I also direct all the councils that have not yet submitted the 2020 CDF projects for approval to do so immediately. It is the cry of the large citizenry that development should be hastened in all areas without leaving anyone behind. There is no reason to retain the funds in the Constituency Bank Accounts when there are many development challenges that need to be urgently addressed," urged Dr Banda, who is also Kapoche PF member of parliament.

"In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my Ministry's commitment to ensure that the CDF allocated is used for the intended purpose in a transparent and accountable manner in accordance with the CDF Act No.11 of 2018, which prescribes the funding, management and accountability of the Fund."

2 out of 10 people we test are COVID-19 positive – Malama

By Natasha Sakala

THE Ministry of Health has announced that the country has recorded 226 new COVID-19 cases out of 732 tests done in the last 24 hours with five Brought in Dead (BID) cases recorded in Ndola.

And the Ministry says there is no discrimination in the treatment of COVID-19 patients because even if some wards are labelled "VIP", people are treated equally and by the same health workers.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has observed that currently, Zambia is recording a 20 per cent positivity rate in the number of COVID-19 cases, with a worrying trend of sicker patients being seen in health facilities.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya said Ndola and Solwezi had become hotspots for the pandemic as the number of cases had doubled in the last few days.

"Locally, we have observed that covid has evolved into a major outbreak and a major cause of sickness and death. This is happening at every part of the country and we see increased sickness and deaths in our communities with widening geographic spread across the country. Specifically, we have noted a spike on the Copperbelt, particularly in Ndola and in North Western Province particularly in Solwezi. These two districts have recorded double figures in the last few days. There is therefore a call for all of us to strengthen measures and re-enforce our strategies in response to the outbreak. We cannot afford to let down our guard and fail to respond appropriately to the prevailing situation," he said.

"The country, in the last 24 hours, we did 732 tests and we recorded 226 new cases of COVID-19, this brings the number of cases to 8,501 and when we disaggregate the cases, we see 74 that were picked through hospital screening in Lusaka 35, Ndola 19; Solwezi 18; while Kabwe and Kafue recorded one each. We also did identify through routine screening; 40 in Ndola again; Lusaka 22; Kitwe five and Kabwe one. We had 60 cases which were known contacts and these are disaggregated as follows; 47 from Lusaka; six from Choma; three from Ndola while Kazungula had one, Mazabuka one, Monze one and Rufunsa one. Kazungula; 11 truck drivers were identified. We unfortunately recorded five

of brought in dead cases in Ndola that were detected through mortuary screening. We now have 79 patients admitted to Levy Mwanawasa isolation facility with 32 on oxygen and three are still admitted to ICU, critically ill. We have discharged 229 persons in the last 24 hours, in various parts of the country and that brings our cumulative number of discharges to 7,233 that is out of the 8,501 cases that we have depicted."

Dr Chilufya said the country would, in the next three to four weeks, double its testing capacity so that the extent of the disease in Zambia is determined.

And Dr Chilufya noted that despite wards being labelled differently in hospitals, patients in the isolation facilities were being treated equally.

"First of all, all our patients are treated the same. The principle in that national health strategic plan is to reduce inequalities and that's a fundamental principal. Inequalities must be reduced and in public health, we treat all patients the same. There are those that may be labelled as such but the treatment is the same. The health workers looking at them are the same and there are some wards that are labelled for identification and for certain purposes in a normal set up. However, as we manage COVID-19, I want to emphasise one principal in medicine, the health workers treating patients, whether you want to classify them as VIPs or you want to classify them as ordinary are the same health workers. The drugs we use are the same and the treatment is the same. So we are not going to discriminate and this is the reason why I emphasised in my last update that the numbers that you will be scrolling on various media platforms will not discriminate or won't identify based on what these normal labelling in a ward situation and we will treat all the numbers as the same and people will be able to access information on their patients from those numbers," said Dr Chilufya.

Meanwhile, ministry permanent secretary Dr Kennedy Malama said at the moment, two out of 10 people tested are being found COVID-19 positive.

"Indeed, as a country, we have reached a stage which we feared most, we feared the stage where the number of sicker people who will be presenting to the health facilities will emerge and this is where we are. When we do the testing on a daily basis, we are finding that two out of 10 people are positive. On average, 20 per

cent of the sample when we do the daily testing are positive, this is worrisome. And when we look at the trend where we are coming from, it's like a worsening trend. So the key message for COVID-19 is not like any other condition, what we've gathered as Zambia is that COVID-19 can mimic any condition. It can mimic malaria, it can mimic pneumonia and indeed any other condition. The key message to our people, call for help, immediately you suspect you are not feeling well, call for help but what is even more important is to prevent COVID-19 from attacking us," he said.

"Honourable minister, we are now getting feedback from members of the public that we are repeating the same messages. The point is, things which are high impact or very good should be repeated. For instance, masking now, we should frown upon those who are not masking and we are calling upon Zambians, if you are in a congregate setting, if you are in a public place and you see someone who is not masking up, that one is a danger to society and a danger to you. We need to encourage each other."

He further warned citizens against self-prescribing oxygen as it should only be administered by trained health care providers.

"We have started receiving calls from people's homes that they are not breathing well, not long ago we received a call from a family where they were asking 'where can I buy oxygen, my husband requires oxygen', that's what we are discouraging, do not self-prescribe oxygen to your family members just because they are not breathing well. Oxygen should only be prescribed by the health practitioner, if a family member is not feeling well, call for help immediately or rush them to the relevant health facility for help. We are seeing some of our people with joint pains, others just getting tired from nowhere, you need to suspect this may be covid. We are also seeing an increase in the increased blood sugar in people's bodies like they have diabetes. We never used to see this but during this covid outbreak, some of our people are presenting with Sugar disease or diabetes mellitus; that is an indication. We have also shared that other people are losing a sense of smell and taste, suspect covid and take appropriate measures," said Dr Malama.

By Ulande Nkomesha
VICE-President Inonge Wina has launched the Presidential Choral and Arts Festival and the K30 million Youth Empowerment Scheme meant to assist artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking during the launch and when she presented the cheque to the National Arts Council of Zambia (NAC), Vice-President Wina said the launch of the scheme was an indication of government's commitment in promoting arts in the country.

"His Excellency President Edgar Lungu is a number one supporter of artistic expressions. It gives me great pleasure to join in the arts family on this historic day when the Presidential Arts Development and Empowerment Scheme is officially being launched! A number of pronouncements have been made about the arts and the special role they play in community development. Today is the day we turn the speeches and promises into action," Vice-President Wina said.

"Since the Patriotic Front formed government, we have shown commitment to promoting arts. Since the creation of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, my government has demonstrated that arts and the artists are key players in national development. I note with gladness that the country's arts sector has been registering tremendous growth, which has attracted both local and foreign attention."

She said government had created an enabling

Govt launches K30m artist stimulus fund

environment, which had seen the growth of the arts industry.

"We have seen an increase in local contents on television, an increase in demand for local arts and crafts, and an increase in attendance to Zambian concerts, festivals, fairs and exhibitions. All these are a result of the enabling environment that government in collaboration with stakeholders has put in place. Therefore, my government's desire is for the arts to make an even more significant impact in economic development," she said.

"I am very much alive to the challenges that artists face to access business development services that are readily available to other sectors of our economy; due to the nature of their work, artists struggle to get loans. In response to this, government has devised the youth empowerment scheme targeting the artists. This scheme is about listening to the artists, creating interventions that are realistic and understanding the unique dynamics that affect this work. I, therefore, urge the Council to take a consultative approach and ensure that the scheme benefits as many artists as possible. I am directing that artists, who would apply, must be given an opportunity to access the funds."

Vice-President Wina announced that government had targeted 15,000 artists to benefit from the scheme.

"Today, we are launching the two programmes of my government and these are: (a) The Youth Empowerment Scheme targeting arts; (b) the Presidential Choral and Arts Festival. These two interventions are structured to provide relief to the sector that has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The plan is a stimulus package for a sector that has continued to play a key role in diversifying our economy and creating jobs and income opportunities for thousands of our people. The scheme will offer relief to the sector," Vice-President Wina said.

"The Choral and Arts Festival will bring us together and empower artists. I am informed that the National Arts Council of Zambia is targeting to reach at least 10,000 artists through the first loan. My government plans to indirectly reach at least 15,000 artists across the country and the scheme is targeting artists' cooperatives and artists' businesses that are community-based. The scheme will empower artists with the means to continue producing their products and services. It will enable our youths from all parts of the country to transform communities through the talents that God gave them."

Vice-President

Wina further said that government had released K5 million through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to pay youths involved in the manufacturing of masks for examination pupils.

"Let me assure all the youths that were asked to make masks, including those youths that had gone into the bush, time has come for them to access some extra funding from DMMU, through the Ministry of Finance. K5 million is being released to pay all the youths through the Ministry of Youth and Sports that have made masks for our examination pupils, who are now back in school," said Vice-President Wina.

And Tourism and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela said his Ministry would ensure that the K30 million loan was made accessible to all artists.

"As Minister responsible for arts, I am pleased to inform you that the two programmes we are launching today (Wednesday) are as a result of consultation and engagement with artists across the country. The artists in Zambia have lost income opportunities, jobs and have struggled to earn a living. The last six months have not been easy for the arts sector. I want to assure you

that under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts and in partnership with the Citizens Economic and Empowerment Commission (CEEC) the procedure for accessing these loans are developed with closed consultations with artists to ensure that access to these funds is not an issue," said Chitotela.

"I am reliably informed that the National Arts Council of Zambia called all the associations to come and participate in the formulations of the guidelines so that we don't

blame anyone. If we fail to access the money, we will blame ourselves because government has made the money available and you are the ones who formulated your own policies and you are the one who formulated your own guidelines; the role of government is to supervise and making sure that things work according to what the government desires."

And NAC chairperson Patrick Samwimbila said the disbursement process to the intended artists will commence next month.

Mutati, KBF and I planning an alliance – Kalaba

By Julia Malunga

DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba says former finance minister Felix Mutati and Lusaka lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube and himself are planning to form an alliance ahead of next year's general elections.

Yesterday, a picture of the trio went viral on social media where they were seen holding a meeting.

And when asked if the trio were forming an alliance for the 2021 general elections, Kalaba responded in the affirmative.

"That is true, we are planning to work together. We have been talking as far back as last year and we have been comparing notes. But since you know about the picture, we are thinking of working together next year," Kalaba told News Diggers.

Speaking when he featured on Muvi TV The Assignment programme, Sunday, Kalaba had said that he would not enter into an alliance where he would be treated like a "flower girl" escorting the bride and groom to enjoyment. **Story continues on P10**

Sinkamba asks govt to expedite cannabis legislation process

By Natasha Sakala

GREEN Party leader Peter Sinkamba has welcomed Cabinet's approval of the introduction of Bills in Parliament to provide for cultivation, processing and exportation of cannabis for economic and medicinal purposes.

In an interview, Sinkamba, who is also Zambian Hemp Growers and Industries Association chairperson, asked government to expedite the legislation process so that cultivation can begin by October this year.

"For us, speaking from the two caps that I hold, we are very happy that the government has made the very essential step were now, the additional laws will have to be put in place to support the existing legislation on the management of cannabis such that now, you can now use it for medicinal and industrial purposes, the licencing part to come in as well. So we are happy and we only hope that the process of legislation is not going to take forever because as an association, we have already organised ourselves, we want to start cultivation by October. So we hope that government procedures will be hastened or will be fast tracked so that by October we

are good to go. We don't want to miss on this coming rainy season, we want to make sure that the next rainy season we do not just grow maize, cannabis or it's hemp is going to be part and parcel of the crops that we are going to grow and since we have already land, we have investors who are coming to partner with us to develop this industry, we only hope that we will not be unduly delayed by the bureaucracy within government," said Sinkamba.

On Monday, Cabinet approved, in principle, to the introduction of Bills in Parliament to provide for cultivation, processing and exportation of cannabis for economic and medicinal purposes in accordance with the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

Cabinet further approved the incorporation of relevant pieces of legislation aimed at domestication of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs by the introduction of an Agency which shall designate land for cultivation and issue licences to cultivators and the definition of cannabis to provide for medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp, separately.



Pallbearers in Personal Protective Equipment as they carry the remains of director general in the office of the President special divisions Samuel Nkhoma during church service at Anglican Cathedral in Lusaka

Mansa Trades Training Institute irregularly paid K88,000 to employees – AG

By Julia Malunga

THE Auditors General's Report has revealed that amounts totaling K88,508 were paid to 33 employees of Mansa Trades Training Institute as extra duty allowance without evidence of additional functions.

According to the Auditor General's Report on the Accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other statutory institutions for the financial year ended December 31, 2018, the irregularly paid amount had not been recovered.

"Part 16.3 of the Collective Agreement between National Union of Technical Education Lecturers and Allied Workers and Mansa Trades Training Institute

Management Board states that: 'extra duty allowance shall be paid to officers who have been seconded to alternative functions in addition to their substantive duties.' Contrary to the agreement, amounts totalling K88,508 were paid to 33 employees without evidence of additional functions. As at 31st December, 2019, the irregularly paid amount had not been recovered," the Report disclosed.

It stated that the Institute had not produced and submitted financial statements for three years.

"TEVET Act No. 13 of 1998 requires that the management board submits to the Authority the annual report, which includes an audited

balance sheet, an audited statement of income and expenditure and any other information. Contrary to the Act, the Institute had not produced and submitted annual reports and financial statements for the financial years ended 31st December, 2016, 2017 and 2018 as at 31st December, 2019," it stated.

The Report said the Institute also under-banked amounts totaling K41,877.

"In 2014, Mansa Trades Training Institute was selected by the Ministry of General Education to implement a two-Tier System Education in line with the 2012 Zambia Curriculum Framework. The framework requires the Institute

to run a technical and vocation training and academic sections (secondary school). Under the 2-Tier System, the secondary school uses the facilities for the Trades School. The user fees generated by the secondary school are used for educational materials and shared overhead costs. During the period under review, amounts totalling K332,559 were received from the pupils enrolled at the secondary school. However, an analysis of the bank statements revealed that a total amount of K290,682 was deposited resulting in an under-banking of K41,877, which was not accounted for," the Report disclosed.

It added that allowances in

amounts totaling K20,822 were paid to four employees, who did not have letters of acting appointment.

"Contrary to Conditions of Service for Management Staff for Mansa Trades Training Institute Management Board Part 16.1, acting allowances in amounts totalling K20,822 were paid to four employees, who did not have letters of acting appointment," read the Report.

Meanwhile, the Report stated that: "salary arrears in amounts totalling K223,720 were paid to 49 officers during the months of March and September, 2017, without evidence of the basis on which the arrears were paid."

From P3

“SO, THE voter registration [exercise] will go ahead as scheduled and we basically call upon all the citizens to come forward and register and also as they do that, let them ensure that they also abide by the health guidelines as stipulated. For us as a Commission,

No voter registration extension beyond October, says ECZ

we will ensure we put in place measures that will protect them from any risks in terms of getting affected.”

And Nshindano said the commission had no plans of extending the duration of the voter registration period

which was expected to take place in October.

“Currently, what is in place is the one month. If the commission gains time with regards to the numerous processes that are underway, that could be a possibility but that is a possibility that citizens

should not work with. We should work with what is on the table now that we have the 30 days that is stipulated and that is going to be the registration period and we encourage everyone to take full advantage of that,” he said.

“Don't say 'the commission will extend' because there are a number of processes that follow thereafter; so, if we see it fit that... based on the milestone that we have been able to achieve, we have gained some time that will allow us to meet the targets for the other processes, then that will be considered. But as it stands now, the timeline is extremely tight and we are working with that timeline. We just urge the citizens, let us follow the timeline and let us ensure that everybody registers and that no one is disfranchised for any reason,” he said.

Meanwhile, Nshindano said the commission was still engaging political parties on the revised nomination fees for the 201 general elections.

“We are still engaging so I can't give a position, but just to let you know that we continue to engage with stakeholders whenever they raise those concerns and it's not that we are closed



up as a commission. So we continue to be able to engage on this and on many other issues and we are still in discussions. But of course as a commission, we concluded with regard to the nomination fees, which we provided as final. We have gotten further feedback. So, based on that, we will still continue to engage and see how best all can be satisfied at the end of the day. It is an ongoing process, all electoral processes, we continuously continue to engage,” said Nshindano.



First Lady Esther Lungu breaks down during burial of Late Samuel Nkhoma, Director General, Office of the President (Special Division) at Leopards Hill Memorial Park in Lusaka on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Picture by: Salim Henry/ State House.

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POLITICAL /ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

ZAMBIA has undergone various administrative reforms but has not yielded efficiency in administration. The present administration has been riddled with wasteful expenditures and high level of bureaucracy as can be seen by successive auditor general's reports and abuse of authority.

When elected into power, the NDC shall do the following

- Constitutional, legal and administrative reforms are top priority. The NDC shall implement a small but effective decentralized administrative system that shall yield maximum results and cut wasteful expenditure on administration and wage bill.

- Under NDC the nation shall be run by no more than 24 ministries that shall be in accordance with the constitution. These ministries shall include;

1. Finance and National Development Planning
2. Defence and National Security
3. Home Affairs
4. Foreign Affairs
5. Education and Early Childhood Development

6. Health
7. Transport Communication, Works and Supply
8. Tourism
9. Mines, Energy and Mineral Development
10. Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry
11. Culture and Arts
12. Commerce, Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
13. Lands and Natural Resources
14. Justice and constitutional affairs
15. Youths and sports
16. Gender and community development
17. Local government, housing and social services

- We shall promote the use of video and conference calls. This shall result first, in fostering fiscal discipline amongst government officials by way of reducing travel and logistical expenses and secondly to ensure that decisions needed for implementation of government programmes do not suffer unnecessary delays regardless of whether the official responsible for decisions is in or out of station wherever they may be within or outside Zambia

- Decentralization of authority and responsibility of the central government on matters affecting local governments to city, municipal, district and rural council by way of amending the local government act of 1991.

- To enhance high autonomy of watch dog institutions such as Zambia Police, Ant-corruption Commission, Drug Enforcement Commission, Auditor General's Office, and all the law enforcement Agencies as well as regulatory authorities.

- Confer powers on the Auditor general's office powers to investigate and prosecute all matters of financial misappropriation

- Ensure security of tenure of office for constitutional office bearers in regulatory and watch dog institutions. This is in order to protect the sanctity of their offices, protect them from undue political pressure and obstruction of justice.

- Under NDC, promotion and implementation of freedoms and access to information bill and investigative journalism shall be put in place to fight against maladministration, corruption and theft of public resources by public service workers and all elected officials.

By Julia Malunga

DEPUTY Inspector General of Police in charge of operations Bonny Kapeso says he would rather fear God than a human being in executing his duties.

Meanwhile, Kapeso says police officers should act professionally when giving out permits to political parties which want to hold events.

Speaking when he featured on United Voice Radio's Add Your Voice programme, Wednesday, Kapeso also said it would be illogical for everyone to agree with what he says.

He was responding to a caller who told him that he feared for Kapeso's job because he stood for the truth.

"Uku landa ati (saying that) people fear for my job, chawamishapo na tina Lesa uwampela inchito iyi ampela (I would rather fear God. He is the one who gave me this job). I think the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In any organization, you cannot please everybody. It will actually be meaningless and illogical for everyone to agree with what I am saying. No it's not possible, other people will have different views. But I have listened to the President every time he has spoken on

TV he expects the police to do their job, to be professional," Kapeso said.

And Kapeso also explained why the police command had embarked on dialogue meetings with all political parties on the need to stop violence.

He said halting political violence must be an agenda for the top leadership of political parties.

"The motive was initiated by the Inspector General of Police who is Mr Kakoma Kanganja, the initial discussions were started by the Lusaka [PF] provincial Executive committee that rang us that they wanted to meet us on one or two things which they were led by the provincial secretary Mr Kennedy Kamba and when they came, [to] the Headquarters, we sat down and looked at the importance of collaboration between Zambia Police service and the political party. We discussed quite a number of things. And when we found out that the engagement made a lot of sense to us, the IG further discussed that 'I think it will be incomplete for us, if we don't invite the other political parties.' And therefore, he wrote a letter to request

I'd rather fear God than worry about my job – Kapeso

that the UPND should also consider our request to come and have a meeting with them. Fortunately enough, they also agreed they came on board and out of these two engagements, we found that when we engage people in dialogue, we can make progress. If a leader decides what to do, the others will follow. And we want to be trendsetters that before we go into 2021, I think the ground is leveled, we minimize hostilities, we minimize enmity between political parties and Zambia Police Service," he said.

"We need to speak the same language. The language is against violence. It is an advantage that the presidents have got their own secretary generals, provincial secretaries, they have district leadership, they have branch leadership, they have ward leadership. If all those people in all these leadership categories come forward and say 'we don't want this' and the police service says 'we don't want this' together when we have dialogue, we can flash out all these difficulties and

differences. And I am sure we can prepare the road to 2021. Dialogue is meaningful when you really mean what you are saying, when you face the facts and call a spade a spade. Obviously we may not be angels as police officers, we may have erred in one way just like political party leadership; they are also not angels. But once we realize that we have made a mistake, we must come at a round table."

Meanwhile, Kapeso urged police officers to act professionally when giving out permits to political parties.

"It is common knowledge that everybody talks about the Public Order Act. But again, within the description of the POA, certain systems are already established by which somebody should follow in order to ensure that the POA should be followed to the letter. And if all police officers that are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that they receive notifications from political parties, should be truthful to them and sit them down to tell them 'here we can do, here we can't do' and

where we can't do, they must give reasons why they can't do that. Because people expect the police officers to guide them and that is why the POA is there. It clearly establishes the kind of procedures that we have to adopt in order for you to have a meeting. The selective application of the POA is a general perception. It is entirely up to the regulating officer if it is in Kabanana where a meeting is supposed to take place, the officer-in-charge of Kabanana must make a decision. Mr Kakoma Kanganja (Inspector General of Police) will not direct what that person must do because he is the regulating officer. And we are only expecting that police officers be professional. I think that is the broader way that I can use. They must know when it is good and when it is bad," Kapeso said.

When asked by a caller if he was professional when he manhandled a PF cadre

at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court last month, Kapeso said responded in the affirmative.

"And as in the course of our investigations, the apprehensions of suspects, Zambia Police Act tells us that 'any person who resists and shows signs of resistance or shows signs of disregard to the police officers, reasonable force shall be used.' How reasonable? That should be determined by the people on the ground, and that is exactly what happened. A person who drives, ignoring the presence of the police officers without stopping and using their own property, using a police beacon and he doesn't want to stop at a particular checkpoint for him to identify who he is, in fact, he risks being shot at because we would think he is a terrorist. But we used reasonable force to find who exactly he was. So that was a professional way of handling such people who misbehave," said Kapeso.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Food Reserve Agency (FRA) says it is not compelling farmers to sell maize to them, contrary to assertions by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) who suggested that farmers were being threatened if they did not offload their produce to the Agency.

But the FRA says it is currently facing challenges in buying maize in the Southern Province as farmers in that part of the country are scared to sell their maize to the Agency following the drought experienced in the last farming season.

Last weekend, ZNFU president Jervis Zimba alleged that the Union had information that farmers were being threatened of being blacklisted from accessing the Farmer Input Support Program (FISP) if they do not sell their maize to the FRA.

"The ZNFU has discovered a scam where some civil servants, including camp officers and District Commissioners (DCs) have been threatening farmers of being blacklisted from accessing FISP if they do not sell their maize to the FRA. The Union would like to challenge the Ministry of Agriculture and the FRA to come clean and state their position on this matter. We are cognizant of the fact that FISP is a Social Cash Transfer meant to help vulnerable, but viable farmers with inputs. But what the FRA is doing is actually injecting more poverty in farmers with their

FRA not forcing farmers to sell their maize, insists Kafwabulula

pricing mechanism as farmers are being forced to accept a poor price. We know that the FRA is having challenges to buy commodities from farmers. We also know that the Agency will not meet its target to mop up one million metric tonnes because of its pricing regime, but using streetwise methods to bully farmers into taking a price offer is unacceptable," read the statement in part.

But in an interview, Kafwabulula urged Zimba to be factual in his sentiments and not get excited when speaking to the media.

"I saw that, and normally as a technocrat and as a professional person, I don't like talking unnecessarily in the press. I mean, I am self-respecting, really, but sometimes you see, you are forced to respond, normally I would not respond. I do not know, and I am speaking as CEO, I do not know any employee of FRA who was telling farmers to do that, but just in case there is someone or some members of staff of mine who are doing that, let me know in which district they are doing that and which satellite depots. Mr Zimba should learn to speak things with evidence, he is a mature person. When he speaks, he should speak with evidence. At that level, I expect when

he speaks, he should speak with evidence. I want to know which member of staff, even if for arguments sake they don't know the name, I want to know in which location. Let's not get excited. You see, when we are speaking to you, the press, we should be factual," Kafwabulula said.

"But for arguments sake, if there was to be such a thing, that will not fall within the precincts of FRA, that will be a policy issue, and again, Mr Zimba should learn to differentiate between policy issues and management issues. I am telling you if there was to be that kind of decision to say, 'those who got FISP then should sell to FRA,' that announcement or decision cannot come from FRA, it can only come from the policymakers because that is a policy issue. And you see, Mr Zimba has a tendency of entangling himself in issues; he has just entangled himself, he does not know the difference between managerial and operational issues on one side and also policy issues. If ever a thing like that was to happen in this country, that would be announced by the policymakers. In fact, we as FRA, if we were to start doing those kinds of things, we will be in problems, we would be in trouble with the policymakers because that's not our role. But the problem here is that Mr (Calvin) Kaley (ZNFU public relations manager) and Mr Zimba are failing to differentiate between operational issues and policy

issues, that's where the problem is."

But Kafwabulula expressed concern over Southern Province farmers' refusal to sell their maize to the Agency for fear of hunger, even when they had more than enough grain, which may go to waste.

"So far, in certain areas where it was a bit slow, I have seen some increment like in Chama, but the way we are going so far, I think we are not bad. Especially considering that we still have this month, August, we still have September, we still have October and part of November. We still have a bit of time ahead of us. Of course, we are having a few challenges in Southern Province. Southern Province

has got a lot of maize, but the challenge that we are having is that the farmers are scared because last year, there was a drought, so they are scared; they don't know whether to sell or not to sell. If you look at the national production, for Southern Province alone, first and foremost, the total production for the country was 3.3 million metric tonnes. But if you look at the figure for Southern Province alone from the 3.3 million MT production, the province is about 488,000 metric tonnes, it's a lot of maize, but the farmers there we've been talking to are scared to sell, they are saying, 'no, but last year, we had a drought so if we sell you, we may be at risk,'" revealed Kafwabulula.

"...But we are working

on strategies to convince them because 488,000 metric tonnes, even if they want to keep some for household food security, which is good, but still the maize that they are sitting on is just too much because the next thing, they may not be able to keep this maize. You know, maize is very sensitive; it has to be fumigated, otherwise, before they know it's going to be attacked by pests and it's quite expensive to keep maize and to control the pests. So, we are trying to work out modalities and strategies so that we can encourage them to sell to FRA on one hand. Then on the other hand, of course, we appreciate they should have household food security, so that's the challenge. They are saying, 'last year, we were depending on DMMU (Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit) to feed us so we are scared to sell.' But we are penetrating and we want to convince them, but we are also alive to the fact that farmers must have something to feed their families."

Lusaka police nab 43 bar patrons

By Diggers Reporter

POLICE in Lusaka yesterday arrested 43 bar patrons for abrogating COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

In a statement, Wednesday, police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said among those arrested were 16 females and 27 males.

"Police in Lusaka arrested 43 people in an operation conducted last night, 11th August, 2020. Among those arrested are 16 females and 27 males. Defiant premises include Shamrock Lodge where 17 people were apprehended, Scorpion Night club where seven people were apprehended, Zero Degree Night club where 12 were apprehended, KCC Night Club where three people were apprehended. All the mentioned night clubs are located in Kabwata. Others were apprehended from Chawama and Woodlands. They have all been charged with Conduct likely to cause the breach of peace. As for erring bars and night

clubs, a recommendation will be made to the local authority to have their trading licences revoked," Katongo stated.

"Among the arrested were bar attendants. These operations will continue countrywide hence members of the public are advised to adhere to Public Health regulations and avoid finding themselves in confrontation with the Police."

She urged members of the public to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

"We further advise members of the public to ensure that they mask up when in public places as that is a direction given by health experts in a bid to avert COVID-19. According to Regulation number 14 of the Statutory Instrument number 22, any person who fails to comply with a direction, prohibition or restriction of an authorised officer commits an offence. Wearing of mask is one such direction given by health authorities," stated Katongo.

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THIS Hip-hop culture among our political leaders, where government officials brag about having so much money as if they're rap artists, is very intriguing. In the entertainment industry, it is normal, poor and rich artistes all claim to have money, lots of it; but there is a science behind that.

One would wonder, why is money such an important belonging for an entertainer that they spend so much time in dedicating a big part of their art to it? The money will stay in their bank accounts anyway, even if people don't hear about it, but rappers want to show off the wealth around them. They post pictures of their money, the mansions they live in, the flamboyant cars they drive, the exclusive designer clothes they wear; and sometimes they even brag about the women or men whom they sleep with.

Experts tell us that when rapping, artistes culturally use braggadocio because they believe that painting a larger than life picture helps them connect more easily to the desirous emotions of their fans, as they lead them into a make believe world. In that industry, humility is a weakness while being gangsta is the befitting persona for success. You have to insult if you

Why should Zambians entrust their money in the hands of financial perverts?

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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can in order to get famous. Insulting your producers and fans is likely to increase the rapper's audience instead of the opposite. That's why even poor rappers claim to have a lot of money, and they can go to the extent of posing in a borrowed car while wearing borrowed clothes just to make a music video. It's normal, it's part of the culture for that music genre.

But in politics and public service, this is unimaginable for anyone to do. Even in a traditional set up, it is culturally incorrect for leaders to show off their wealth to the poor people they lead. Whether genuine or acquired through dubious means, wealth

is never to be flaunted when you are in a position of leadership. This is so because leadership is about empathy. A normal leader can never go on a podium and say my sh*t is better than yours, telling the people who elected you into power. Such behaviour shows how a leader is removed and completely disconnected from the realities of life.

Shockingly, this is what we are seeing in Zambia. We seem to have rappers instead of public servants. We are increasingly seeing our leaders ascribing to the commercialisation of government leadership and bragging about the money they have made

out of public service. It's become about braggadocio instead of public service. Like rappers, our politicians are seen every day, painting social media with pictures of their lavish lifestyles, their mansions, cars, clothes, and sometimes even their women. They want the public to know about their sweet lives and the wealth they have accumulated.

You find people who would ordinarily be paupers if they did not get into government, bragging about the power and money they wield. This is very surprising because everyone who has a memory and cares to use it, will remember that

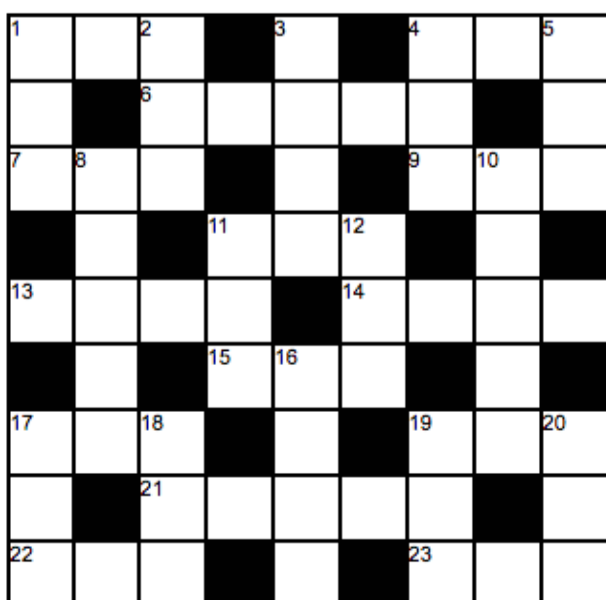
these were paupers who begged their way into adoption as members of parliament in 2011 and 2016; and some of them went further to beg from private individuals and companies for campaign funds. They had nothing but poverty written all over them. They claimed that they wanted to form a pro-poor government. Today, they are the kings of kwachamania and they have forgotten where they are coming from.

These people have become so rich that they can now arrogantly face the suffering masses and start bragging about their wealth without any sense of empathy at all. Now, we wonder,

why should people entrust their wealth in the hands of financial perverts who are so determined to rape the treasury and then have the audacity of bragging about such wealth accumulation to the poor people they stole from? How can a normal leader say those who failed to get rich while in government must not feel jealous of those who are accumulating wealth? That is a criminal mentality.

Those who run public institutions are our servants, our workers, our employees. And they are expected to lead exemplary lives, modest lives, lives full of humility and empathy. Leaders need to know that they are accountable to the people who put them in power. They must be ready to be criticised and to be accountable. Only a foolish leader can take the lifestyle of a rapper and start flaunting wealth all over, forgetting that in a democracy, power comes from the people and the people can take it away.

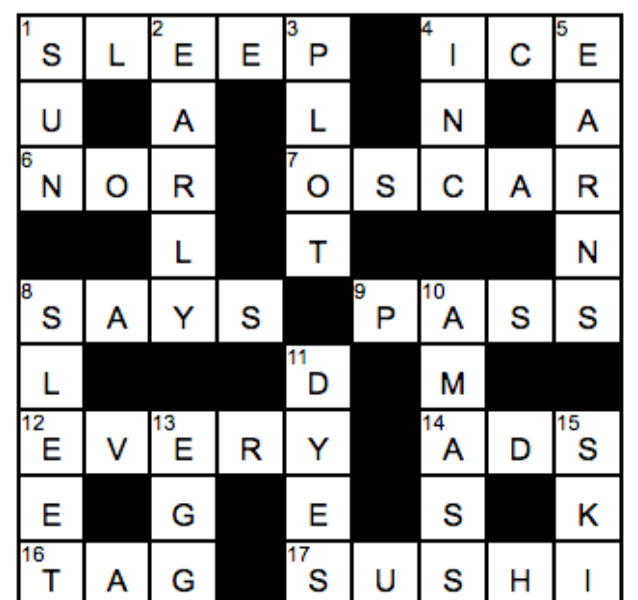
Crossword puzzle No 667



“The moment you stop chasing happiness, you become happy.”
- Sandy Hyatt-James

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant time period 4. Household critter 6. Hand warmer 7. Underground riches 9. Highest card 11. Deer relative 13. Capture 14. A very small amount 15. Empty space 17. A hot drink 19. Noah's boat 21. Leader of the pack 22. Cook spaghetti in it 23. Plaything | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Persona 2. Mature 3. Combine 4. Small round veggie 5. Golf peg 8. Home on the _____ 10. Feed a fete 11. Laid by a bird 12. Sleep, in British slang 16. Curved structure 17. Pinnacle 18. Suitable 19. Wall hanging 20. Answer sheet |
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Crossword puzzle No 666



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: We have no govt, but we have no opposition either

Dear editor,

"Politics is way too important to be left to politicians! We all have a collective responsibility to govern or oppose, leaving opposition to a selective few will not help us as a people! Let us all get involved if we want a better country". - Thomas Sankara

"I will take the BLAME if PF wins elections next year because the struggle is not between PF and UPND. However, the struggle to rescue the country from cluelessness and self-destructive Leadership is for every Zambian who wishes to have a future". - Richard Mhango

"Well I totally agree with this opinion! UPND think simply because PF has caused misery to the country Zambia they will automatically win the elections next year, no big officials travelled to western province and campaign or any other province during the just ended by elections, there's no hunger or enthusiasm from UPND to win, HH will never have a better chance of winning an election next year and if he fails he has to retire, and won't have anybody to blame but himself and his team". - Mutinta Mulonda

"With all due respect to News Diggers!, I think this is a miss... Especially when it is assumed there is no opposition in Zambia. News Diggers! shouldn't pretend they don't know what is happening on the Zambian political landscape. And I don't understand what you want the opposition to do regarding the many mistakes of the PF, when they have always risen to the occasion to enlighten the masses on those. The majority of Zambians, even in rural areas, know about these. Now it appears you want opposition to maybe take it to another level such as physically whipping the PF for you to see there is an opposition!" - Tebuho Mubita

"Just an effort to hold intra-party elections in Chililabombwe, 6 UPND members ended up spending 2 nights in the cells. It's not as easy as you think. Besides, there is serious COVID out there, ask Hon Bowman Lusambo if you want confirmation, this pandemic is bad news". - Peter Mmembe

'Kalaba's reasoning for DP not joining alliance can't stand'

Editor,

"You just lost respect...this is not the time for separation. Everyone knows who's the best opposition candidate for goodness sake...why do these other parties even stand if they claim to love Zambia? We can only have one president at a time...when the incumbent has failed to govern, it's only wise to push in the next one from the opposition and see their performance...that's how logical politics works...not 10 candidates just standing to get a few numbers in their tribal strongholds". - Tombani Banda

"This proves that you are not different from this same PF government that doesn't care about the people. If you cared about the people you would put your selfish desires aside and work with other political players to remove PF from government for subjecting Zambians to these levels of poverty". - Elias Zulu

"Hon Kalaba this opposition come together is the only time the opposition are to win. Otherwise, going solo in this election can be suicidal. The PF are doing everything possible just to win the elections. If it means using money, they will!" - Joe Mwale

"You should ask General Miyanda where Heritage party is now. United we stand divided we fall". - Simon Muchenje

"For a party which is scared to test it's popularity by participating in by-elections, that sounds unreasonably confident". - Mohlomphehi Mojalefa Kapelwa

"It is a sign that he is after state House for his riches and not for economical liberation of the nation. Good indicator". - Peter Manianga

'Mumbi's mocking of HH over PF's campaigns unreasonable!'

Editor,

"Mumbi Phiri is trying to remove the embarrassment she suffered on Fridays Radio Phoenix Let the people talk program where she was schooled about reducing government expenditure and corruption. It's irresponsible of a leader in the ruling party to be daring an opposition party leader to go for campaigns amidst the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases". - Emmalito Lias

"She was simply saying, 'HH is home observing Covid-19 health guidelines, saving lives while PF is breaking the health guidelines out there and spreading the virus to poor people.' What a shame!" - Kelvin Chiti

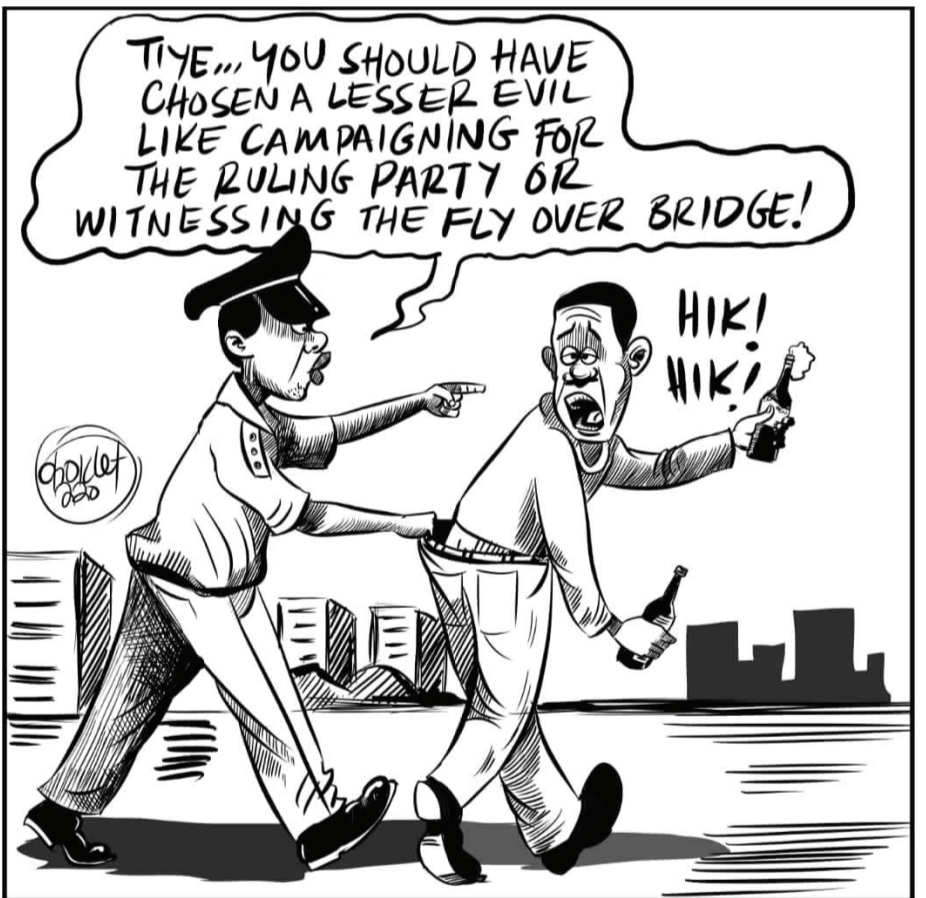
"It is a boxing bout where the challenger has his hands tied up while the champion is mocking him, teasing him to throw a jab. One thing our Christian nation forgets is that, there is no Christianity without justice". - Michelo Mweetwa

"When HH is in public, they send police battalions or cadres to chase him and keep him away from interacting with citizens then she mocks him out of it, really?" - Lengwe Governor Kabwe

"No need for him to go round with this covid thing we know him already and our minds are set kudala, we know what to do

come 2021". - Michael Musha

"Forcing a bird to fly who's wings you've clipped is both idiotic and unthinkable! How can UPND campaign when you are always thwarting attempts for its members to meet even over a cup of munkoyo? The constituents' minds are already made up whether UPND campaigns or not! PF is exiting from the alley of power! Who knows it, feels it and who feels it knows it! Today marks precisely 365 days before this moronic PF regime is buried with no iota of hope for resurrection! Writing is all over the wall!" - Norman Nyendwa



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'Sangwa's right on politicians who get rich in politics being thieves'

Editor,

"Correct, you can't get rich from politics unless you are a crook. Simple!" - Holyfield Bashi-Tasheni Mumba

"The gist of joining politics was so rare that if you were chosen back in the day it was a blessing yet a curse to some extent because that meant you had to take up so much of other people's burdens and tried to solve their problems leaving your own unchecked. That's why

it was so easy when time came to step down and let the next guy take up the mantle...with regards to the world today such a state of affairs ain't so because it has almost become a business to be in politics because of the power which is usually misguided and unchecked, with the right heart and mindsets not conforming to this ideology... See the rotten case of Zimbabwe.

May God give us leaders who can discern the heart of God to lead His people diligently with a sober heart and mind". - Michael Ngala

"No doubt, anyone who gets rich from politics is a thief, politics is not a business to make money, it's about serving your nation. It's only through abuse of privilege and power that politicians get rich". - Lassie Kakuta

From P4

"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 flower girl nangu nifwe ba page boy abaku shindika bashibwanga baya mukulila elo ifwe tube ba knife girl. What we want, as DP, is a relationship that will respect both sides," Kalaba had said.

When reminded about his statement and asked whether he was also not looking for partners in KBF and Mutati to escort him into power, Kalaba said the three had no

Mutati, KBF and I planning an alliance – Kalaba

superiority predispositions.

"We said 'we are not going to escort another party to power' because you people think an alliance is just an alliance when you go into an alliance with a certain political party which thinks it should form government. We are not going to play those politics as DP. We are going to go into politics where there is mutual relationship," he said.

"When we discussed with KBF and Mutati, it was mutual. There are no predispositions. There is no one who is

presuming that 'me it is this, me it is that.' It is the people that should talk. But when you go into a meeting and you say 'it is me', no. So the DP, we have said we will not be part of alliances that are cosmetic. We will be part of alliances that are people oriented. It is not that we don't want alliances, I said 'alliances are welcome' but where you want to make others in the alliance to be a knife girl and page boy balemishanina (they should be dancing for you), they are escorting you and when



you win, they begin settling scores, that is not why we are going into government. We are not going into government

to settle scores, no. We want to form government because Zambians need development."

And in a separate interview, Fube said the trio were having "consultations".

When asked what was the nature of consultations, KBF said "political strategies are never discussed like that".

Kalaba is a former minister

of Foreign Affairs and former Bahati member of parliament who resigned in January 2018 citing greed and corruption in the corridors of power of the Patriotic Front government.

Mutati is former minister of Finance who was moved to the Ministry of Works and Supply before being fired by President Edgar Lungu in November 2018.

Key Mozambique port 'seized by IS'



MILITANTS linked to the Islamic State group have seized a heavily-defended port in Mozambique after days of fighting, according to reports.

Local media say government forces that were in the far northern town of Mocimboa da Praia fled, many by boat, after Islamists stormed the port.

The town is close to the site of natural gas projects worth \$60m (£46m).

In recent months militants have taken a number of northern towns, displacing tens of thousands of people.

This was also one of several attacks on Mocimboa da Praia this year, as Islamic State-linked militants have stepped up attacks in the region.

The port is used for cargo deliveries to the oil projects about 60km (37 miles) away,

which are being developed by oil giants including Total.

This is a heavy blow for Mozambique's security forces. Low on ammunition, and facing a large, well-coordinated rebel attack, government troops are reported to have abandoned the port city of Mocimboa da Praia, with many soldiers fleeing by boat.

The question now is whether the rebels will - as they have hinted - try to hold on to this strategic city. That would mark a new escalation in a shadowy conflict that represents a major threat to Mozambique and to international plans to develop vast off-shore gas fields.

The rebels have formal ties to IS, but are also feeding on local grievances in a long-neglected corner of the country.

Mozambique's neighbours are watching

with growing anxiety. A private security contractor based in South Africa is supplying helicopter support to the army. But this latest attack appears to show the rebellion is still gaining in strength and sophistication.

Attacks began in 2017 in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, but escalated this year after the group responsible, Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jama, pledged allegiance to IS.

Earlier this week IS claimed, through its own media channels, that it had taken over two military bases near Mocimboa da Praia, killed Mozambique soldiers and captured weaponry, including machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Tanzania has said it is launching an offensive against the jihadists in forests on the border with Mozambique. **BBC**

Almost all oil removed from wrecked Mauritius ship

Almost all the fuel oil from the Japanese-owned ship that has caused a huge oil spill off the coast of Mauritius has been pumped out, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has said.

The operation had been a race against time, he added, amid fears that the MV Wakashio would break up.

The ship, believed to have been carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel oil, ran aground on a coral reef on 25 July.

Mauritius is home to world-renowned coral reefs, and popular with tourists.

The fuel has been transferred to shore by helicopter and to another ship owned by the same Japanese firm, Nagashiki Shipping.

France has sent a military aircraft with pollution-control equipment from its nearby island of Réunion, while Japan has sent a six-member team to assist the French efforts.

The Mauritius coast guard and several police units are also at the site in the south-east of the island.

Mr Jugnauth said more than 3,000 of the 4,000 tonnes of oil from the ship's fuel reservoirs had been pumped out. A small amount remained on board elsewhere.

Police spokesperson Shiva Cooten said they "still have work to do but the situation is all under control". **BBC**

International concern over vaccine 'groundless'

RUSSIA has dismissed mounting international concern over the safety of its locally developed Covid-19 vaccine as "absolutely groundless".

On Tuesday, it said a vaccine had been given regulatory approval after less than two months of testing on humans.

But experts were quick to raise concerns about the speed of Russia's work, and a growing list of countries have expressed scepticism.

Scientists in Germany,

France, Spain and the US have all urged caution.

"It seems our foreign colleagues are sensing the specific competitive advantages of the Russian drug and are trying to express opinions that... are absolutely groundless," Russia's Health Minister Mikhail Murashko told the Interfax news agency on Wednesday.

He added that the vaccine would be available soon.

"The first packages of the medical vaccine... will be

received within the next two weeks, primarily for doctors," Mr Murashko said.

Russian officials have said they plan to start mass vaccination in October.

The announcement on Tuesday was made by President Vladimir Putin, who said the vaccine had passed all the required checks and his daughter had already been given it.

But the World Health Organization (WHO) said

it was in talks with Russian authorities about undertaking a review of the vaccine, which has been named Sputnik-V.

It is not among the organisation's list of six vaccines that have reached phase three clinical trials, which involve more widespread testing in humans.

What has the reaction been?

The progress Russia says it has made on a coronavirus vaccine has been met with scepticism by health officials and media outlets in the US and Europe.

On Wednesday, Germany's health minister expressed concern that it had not been properly tested.

"It can be dangerous to start vaccinating millions... of people too early because it could pretty much kill the acceptance of vaccination if it goes wrong," Jens Spahn told local media.

"Based on everything we know... this has not been sufficiently tested," he added. "It's not about being first somehow - it's about having a safe vaccine."

Elsewhere in Europe, Isabelle Imbert, a researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research in Marseille,

said promising a cure too early could be "very dangerous".

"We do not know the methodology or the results of their clinical trials," she told Le Parisien.

And in the US, the country's top virus expert, Dr Anthony Fauci, said he doubted Russia's claims.

"I hope that the Russians have actually definitively proven that the vaccine is safe and effective," he told National Geographic. "I seriously doubt that they've done that."

Meanwhile the Moscow-based Association of Clinical Trials Organizations (Acto), which represents the world's top drug companies in Russia, urged the health ministry to postpone approval until after phase-three trials.

Acto executive director Svetlana Zavidova told the Russian MedPortal site that a decision on mass vaccination had been carried out after combined first- and second-phase tests on 76 people, and that it was impossible to confirm the efficacy of a drug on this basis.

But some countries have reacted more positively to Moscow's announcement.

In the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte offered to test the vaccine himself.

"I believe the vaccine that you have produced is really good for humanity," he said. "I will be the first one to be experimented on."

And Israel said it would enter negotiations to buy it if it is found to be a "serious product".

What do we know about the vaccine?

Russian scientists said early-stage trials of the vaccine had been completed and the results were a success.

The Russian vaccine uses adapted strains of the adenovirus, a virus that usually causes the common cold, to trigger an immune response.

But the vaccine's approval by Russian regulators comes before the completion of a larger study involving thousands of people, known as a phase-three trial.

Experts consider these trials an essential part of the testing process.

Despite this, Mr Murashko said on Tuesday the vaccine had "proven to be highly effective and safe", hailing it as a big step towards "humankind's victory" over Covid-19. **BBC**



Russia's health minister (l) has rejected widespread scepticism over the vaccine programme



De Ligt ruled out for three months after shoulder surgery

JUVENTUS have announced that centre-back Matthijs de Ligt has undergone shoulder surgery and will be sidelined for three months.

With the new Serie A season set to begin on September 19, the Dutch international could be sidelined for the first two months of the domestic campaign.

"This morning, Matthijs de Ligt underwent stabilisation surgery on his right shoulder, at the UPMC Salvator Mundi clinic in Rome," a statement from Juventus read on Wednesday.

"The operation, performed by Dr. Volker Mushal, assisted by doctors, Bryson Lesniak and Fabrizio Margheritini and in the presence of Juventus' Head of Medical Department, Luca Stefanini, was a complete success.

"The estimated recovery time is approximately three months."

The 21-year-old defender made 39 total appearances in his first season with Juventus, all but three of which were starts.

There were major expectations on De Ligt's shoulders after he rejected interest from all over Europe to join Juventus for €75 million (£68m/\$85m) from Ajax in July 2019.

De Ligt came in for major criticism at times during his debut season in Turin, but his performances stabilised as the season went on and he admitted he felt much more comfortable near the end of the campaign. **GOAL.COM**

Barcelona defender Todibo confirms he has tested positive for Covid-19

BARCELONA defender Jean-Clair Todibo has confirmed he tested positive for Covid-19 after the club stated earlier on Wednesday that they had one positive test result on their playing squad.

Todibo announced the diagnosis in a statement on Twitter, saying: "Hello everyone, I am informing you that I have tested positive for Covid-19, I am asymptomatic and I feel fine.

"I am at home following the proper health protocol. I really want to get back to training, but now it's time to stay home until the virus has passed.

"Thank you all for the support and I offer my encouragement to all the people who are also experiencing the virus."

Earlier in the day, Barcelona revealed that an unnamed member of the squad had contracted coronavirus, but said the player had not been a part of the team's squad for Friday's Champions League quarter-final with Bayern Munich and had no contact with any of the 22 players traveling to Portugal on Thursday.

"Following PCR tests conducted this Tuesday afternoon on the group of nine players due to begin the pre-season today, one of



them has tested positive for Covid-19," a club statement read.

"The player has no symptoms, is in good health and has been quarantined at his home. The club has reported the matter to the relevant sporting and health authorities.

"All persons who have been in contact with the player have been tracked to perform the corresponding PCR tests.

"The player has not been in contact with any of the senior team players who are scheduled to travel to Lisbon this Thursday to compete in the Champions League."

Todibo was part of a nine-player group who had returned to the club to begin pre-season training, which also included Pedri, Trincao, Matheus Fernandes, Moussa Wague, Carles Alena, Rafinha, Juan Miranda and Oriol Busquets.

The 20-year-old defender played sparingly for Barca in the first half of the 2019-20 season before heading to Bundesliga outfit Schalke on a half-season loan. Todibo made 10 appearances for Schalke before his loan expired.

Barcelona originally landed Todibo from Toulouse in January 2019. The centre-back has made five appearances for France at Under-20 level. **GOAL.COM**

Athletic Bilbao forward Inaki Williams tests positive for Covid-19

ATHLETIC Bilbao forward Inaki Williams has taken to social media to announce that he has contracted coronavirus.

The 26-year-old, who is eligible for play for either Spain by birth or Ghana via his parents, confirmed the result after taking a test ahead of the club's preparations for pre-season.

He admitted he has no symptoms and will undergo the necessary self-isolation measures in a bid to control the spread of the virus.

"Today they confirmed that I have tested positive in the PCR test. I am asymptomatic and I feel fine. It is time to be at home in isolation until I overcome the virus. I really want to join the pre-season," Williams posted on his Twitter account.

Williams played the entire 38 games during the concluded 2019-20 season, scoring six goals and providing two assists. All his strikes came before

the league was suspended in March due to the spread of Covid-19 of which Spain was one of the most affected countries in the world at that time.

Spain has the 11th most infections in the world with 326,000 confirmed cases, 28,500 deaths and 150,000 recoveries.

The rate of infections in the Iberian country had slowed down at some point, but a recent resurgence in some places like Catalonia has put the region under partial lockdown.

During the forced lockdown in March, Williams had narrated how he was keeping in touch with family, especially his Ghanaian mother, and keeping in shape with his teammates.

"At home, I am with my girlfriend, I train, I watch series like La Casa de Papel," he told Cadena SER.

"I honestly expected worse. My mother instead

gets bored and makes me a video call, we talk a lot.

"It's sad to see the city of Bilbao like this, all empty. Athletic has provided us with the tools to keep us in shape, but I can't wait to get back in."

Bilbao are the third club in Spain to have a team member test positive for coronavirus in as many days after Atletico Madrid confirmed two cases ahead of their Champions League quarter-final clash with RB Leipzig at the Estadio Jose Alvalade in Lisbon on Thursday. Barcelona announced one positive case.

Athletic finished the La Liga season in 11th place with 51 points, five points short of Europa League qualification.

Williams has played 196 times for the Basque club since his debut in 2014, scoring a total of 40 goals and providing 26 assists. **GOAL.COM**

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By Ngosa Chalwe
ZAMBIA Athletics (ZA) life member Charles Lupiya has called for the introduction of a term limit for executive members in the athletics body in a bid to save the sport from being personalised.

Formerly known as the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA), the truck and field sports mother body has had no term limit for its office bearers, a situation which has seen president Elias Mpondela stay in power for the last two decades.

Mpondela, who ascended to power in 1998, has previously indicated that he will leave office when the right time comes.

Lupiya, a former coach credited for

ZA NEEDS TERM LIMITS - LUPIYA

being among those that identified athletics legend Samuel Matete, said in an interview that it was high time a term limit was introduced in line with international practice.

“Our [ZA] constitution does not have a limit to

the office holder, but IAAF [International Association of Athletics Federations] has given a limit. Even us in Zambia, we should include in our constitution,” Lupiya said. “When someone has stayed for too long, they become so complacent.”

He called on the Ministry of Sport, through the National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ), to compel ZA to amend its constitution and allow the inclusion of a term limit.

“The only thing is government to put its

foot down. Those who have done more than five terms should step down. Zambia is dynamic, it has many people, it cannot depend on one person,” Lupiya said.

He suggested a maximum of two terms.

“Two terms are enough, the constitution

should state that anybody who has been there for more than two terms cannot contest for office, or maybe after serving for two terms, they would wait for a period of something like 12 years before they can be eligible again,” said Lupiya.

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