



LUNGU THREATENS

TO ARREST HH

“If he’s unlucky, we’ll get him, what he sold during privatisation is too much”

8 die of COVID

By Ulande Nkomesha
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama says the country has recorded 181 new COVID-19 cases out of 1,608 tests done in the last 24 hours, with eight deaths. Five of the COVID-19 deaths were Brought in Dead (BID). During the routine COVID-19 update, Monday, Dr Malama said the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases recorded now stood at 13, 720.
Story page 6

6
ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA
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ONLINE VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION.

The Zambian public is hereby notified that the Electoral Commission's Online Voter Pre-Registration starts on **21st September, 2020** and ends on 6th November, 2020. Eligible voters are encouraged to commence their application by visiting the website: www.ovr.elections.org.zm

By Julia Malunga
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema wants to rule the country so that he can sell assets, adding that if he is unlucky, he will be arrested for his involvement in the sale of state-owned enterprises during privatisation.
Story page 4

Police charge Mucheleka with aggravated robbery

By Julia Malunga
POLICE in Northern Province have arrested UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and two others and charged them with aggravated robbery.

Artists drag ECZ to court over “voter verification” exercise

By Zondiwe Mbewe
MUSICIAN Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu, Brian Bwembya and two others have applied for leave in the Lusaka High Court to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the decision of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers for verification under a new register for the 2021 general elections.
Story page 6

Confirming the development in an interview, Northern Province Police Commissioner Richard Mweene disclosed that the trio allegedly attacked a mobile NRC registration office, stole a printer and genset, among other items. “On 13th September, 2020, at 13:00, some UPND cadres attacked and robbed a mobile NRC registration office of one printer, a genset, laminating machine, an adapter, blank NRC cards, processed NRC cards, carbon paper and a camera. In addition...”
Story page 7

Parents need more time to pay school fees - CSPR

By Ulande Nkomesha
CIVIL Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says government should have given ample time for parents and learners to prepare for the imminent re-opening of schools to help cope with financial challenges.
Story page 4

Mambilima must act in public interest, remove Simusamba - Chifire

There's nothing for opposition to fix, PF is working – Musukwa



By Ulande Nkomesha

PF national mobilization chairperson Richard Musukwa says there is absolutely nothing for the opposition to fix because the ruling party has delivered on many fronts.

And Musukwa says Zambians should not change presidents like they change babies' nappies.

Speaking during the PF Media interactive forum, Musukwa who is also Mines and Minerals Development Minister, wondered how the opposition would fix climate change or COVID-19 if elected into office.

"There are a lot of things that the PF has achieved in terms of development trajectory across the Republic of Zambia. There are other things that we certainly need to improve on and continue building on. We cannot finish development across the country in nine years or 10 years. That is why when we hear many sounds that speak of a lot of things, we wonder how people want to think that they can fix things in a flash of a second, it doesn't happen. There must be a process that must be followed. What are you going to fix about climate change? What are going to fix about COVID-19? What are you going to fix about commodity prices?" Musukwa wondered.

"How can you be wasting your time with people who are talking about a key which they do not have? How can you be wasting your time on people who are talking about fixing, fixing what? We have seen what you have fixed before. We have seen what you have fixed before in Luanshya, it is able to be seen. There is nothing to fix, what is supposed to be fixed? There is a President and the party of choice will channel resources that everything is fixed. In 2021, we are launching a serious robust campaign across the country and we will ensure that we provide a defeat to the opposition who are always postulating on social media while PF is busy working. The things that we have been able to do in terms of infrastructure, people are able to see. Yes we are alive to the challenges that our people and the country at large face, but that His Excellency the President of Zambia and the PF have provided leadership. We are determined to ensure that we build on where we have been operating from."

Musukwa said PF was aware that UPND was trying to gain advantage by registering minors in Southern Province.

"I want to say that first and foremost you must ensure that at all times we promote legality. In these issues, the rules of obtaining a National Registration Cards are well spelt, in terms of the Home Affairs Ministry. We only expect people that are eligible are people who should get the NRCs. Us as PF, as a party in government will not promote such levels of irregularity. We are aware that for many years in the past, the UPND has been doing that in Southern Province. So when you do evil things you think that is what your friends are doing, we are not. We cannot promote such an attitude and we urge the UPND and indeed other parties to ensure that they should not have underhand methods of winning elections by registering underage people across the country," Musukwa said.

"The same virtue goes to PF, we cannot expect to win an election using illegal means by registering underage [people], we cannot do that. So I want to set the record straight that there is no agenda from PF to issue green registration cards to minors in order to win

an election no! What we are doing as PF is to encourage our people across the country who are eligible to register so that we can come and defeat UPND and other political parties with a landslide victory, that is what we are doing. We are aware that there is cheap discourse across the country in terms of these electioneering and hired masonries who have been sitting on computers saying 'oh, this time around we just want to make sure that when we defeat you, you go into retirement'."

And Musukwa said presidents should not be changed like nappies.

"Leading a country at a level of President is not like changing our babies' napkins everyday. Leading a country requires consistency, leading a country requires long term focus. It is not just a matter of people who are excited about going to State House. State House is not for experiments; that is why the Zambian people have invested their trust in Edgar Chagwa Lungu as their President and their candidate for 2021. That is our scoring number nine," Musukwa said.

He called on party members to ensure that the party won the 2021 elections by a landslide victory.

"As PF, we have actually technically commenced the party mobilisation for ensuring victory in 2021 for Edgar Chagwa Lungu and PF. To that effect, I am calling on all party members across the country including structures and mobilisation teams to work closely and ensure we secure the victory that is needed in order to have a landslide victory; which does not bring us to the 14 days is 14 days like last time which caused a lot of panic and despair among our people. The philosophy of PF is to ensure we listen to the grassroots, we listen to our people across the country," he said.

"Our mandate is also to ensure that we bring back all those old PF members that are loitering around like people without a father. You have a party, you have a father; Edgar Chagwa Lungu, come back to your party so that you contribute. The doors are open to everybody and we are very confident that there are many more rooms and many more spaces for everyone to fill the boat in PF. We are aware that some of the people that left PF left because they were frustrated, some of them genuinely."

Musukwa said PF was also aware of the UPND's propaganda together with some foreign agents in pushing for regime change.

"We are aware that our opposition has been propelling propaganda of all sorts together with agents of the so called regime change who have been promoting and supporting some of this discourse. Zambians will never be influenced by foreigners and foreign elements whose interests is to exploit our resources to the advantage of a few individuals. These foreign agents and the opposition will never succeed in Zambia because this country is for Zambians," said Musukwa.

"You can see UPND in its propaganda, in some instances they are even behaving like a party in government, they are not in government. Do not mistake the humility of PF, we are in charge and we are responsible for Zambia. We can assure you that the Zambian people will trust what we have done and the record that we have built. The people who are responsible for putting leaders are the people of Zambia and they cannot be swayed by propaganda which seems to be one of the recipes that are highly funded in order to sway the Zambians."

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IS WHAT LUNGU PROMISED US
BY THE END OF HIS TERM. SO
FAR HE HAS GIVEN US ONLY
ONE JOB.
THE JOB OF GETTING HIM OUT



NO MORE PF PROMISES

#BallyWillFixIt



By Ulande Nkomesha

POLICE in Livingstone have arrested a 38-year-old man in connection with the murder of Patrick Mapulanga, a village headman of Siamatete village in chief Mukuni's area.

In a statement, Monday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo stated that the man, who was identified as Brian Sibajene, an artist by profession, allegedly murdered the victim on suspicion that he had an intimate relationship with his wife.

"Police in Livingstone have arrested a male adult, identified as Brian Sibajene, aged 38, in connection with the murder of Patrick Mapulanga, aged 60, also a headman of Siamatete Village in Chief Mukuni. This followed a report on 9th September, 2020, from

L/stone man kills village headman for having an affair with his wife

Joseph Mapulanga, aged 43, of Dambwa Site and Service in Livingstone, who reported that his elder brother Patrick Mapulanga was found lying dead on the ground in a pool of blood with multiple deep cuts on the head and the face in Muntumuswana Village of Chief Mukuni about one kilometre away from the deceased's village. Investigations were instituted into the matter and led to the apprehension of Brian Sibajene, aged 38 years, also of chief Mukuni, an artist by profession," narrated Katongo.

"According to preliminary investigations, the suspect allegedly murdered the victim on suspicion that he had an intimate relationship with the suspect's wife, aged 35, who he was intending to reconcile with as they were on separation. A stick stained with blood suspected to have been used in the act has been recovered. The suspect is with murder and will appear in court soon."

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recovered. The suspect is with murder and will appear in court soon."

Don't allow anyone to lie to you that PF has failed – Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

WHEN someone starts telling stories that things are not working, that 'no, the PF have failed', just tell him that 'sir, just sit, because we can make a mistake we insult you', says President Edgar Lungu.

And President Lungu has assured the people of Luapula Province of more development in the area, insisting that PF is still a pro-poor party.

The Head of State was speaking at a rally in Luapula Province, Sunday, when he went to drum up support for PF candidate in the Mwanabombwe Parliamentary by-election, Kabaso Kampampi.

The Head of State said the works that had been done under the PF administration from 2011 to 2020 surpassed those which had been done

under former Presidents Kenneth Kaunda and Frederick Chiluba.

"From 2011 ukufika lelo, 2020 ifyo ba PF balebomba mu chalo cha Zambia mulefimona. Nga mwabika pamo ifyabombele batata ba Kaunda naba Chiluba, mwaisa chita compare nokulinganya nefyo tubombele fwebo ba PF, fyachilamo. Fyachilamo filemoneka no kumoneka (From 2011 to this day, 2020, what the PF is doing in Zambia can be seen. If you put together the works that were done under former Presidents [Kenneth] Kaunda and Chiluba and compare with the works that the PF has done, the works under PF are much more and that can be seen)," President Lungu said.

"Umuntu nga ayamba ama stories ati iyo tafilebomba, iyo ba PF nabafilwa, kumweba ati awe tata ikalafye, pantu kuti twalufyanya, uleke tuku tute. Pa PF balebomba. Efyo ndelandila ifi pantu kuli abashikwete scopodonono. Balebepa abantu ukweba ati bakesa chinja ifintu. Ifintu nafitampa kale uku chinja, ifintu fileya filewama ati iyo mubikepo umbi MP ku Mwanabombwe elyo ifintu fikanjinja. Ubo bufi tabulepanga na sense pantu uleisa onse alalolesha kuli Edgar Lungu nangu Bwalya Ngandu abakwete ichuma cha chalo. Right now the treasurer or the Minister of Finance is Bwalya Ng'andu who is appointed by me, the President is me. (When someone starts telling stories that things are not working, no the PF have failed, just tell him that 'sir, just sit, because we can make a mistake and insult you.' PF is working. I am saying this because there are some people without brains. They are lying to people that they will come and turn things around. Things have already started changing and getting better [then someone says] that 'no let's put another MP in Mwanabombwe that's when thing will change'. Those lies don't even make sense because every new MP looks to me or the Minister of Finance for resources.)"

President Lungu also said PF was still a pro-poor government.

He urged the electorates to vote for Kampampi so that he could easily lobby for development if elected member of parliament from other ministers.

The President was accompanied by Mansa Central PF member of parliament Chitalu Chilufya, Pambashe PF member of parliament Ronald Chitotela, nominated member of parliament Raphael Nakacinda, PF secretary general Davies Mwila, PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri, among others, who also urged the supporters to vote for Kampampi.

Earlier, President Lungu paid a courtesy call on Senior Chief Mwata Kazembe of the Lunda Speaking people in Mwanabombwe District.

Senior chief Mwata Kazembe welcomed the President and expressed gratitude over the visit to the chieftdom.

The senior chief however, hoped for peaceful campaigns ahead of by-elections without any fights.

The Head of State in turn said government would continue working with traditional leaders as they were partners in national development and further commended the senior chief for his call for peaceful campaigns.

"I know that from the time campaigns started, people who have come here have told you many different things. They have told you of what they plan to do for you. But what is needed in Mwanabombwe is someone who can finish the works that Rodgers Mwewa left behind. And the one who can carry out these works is someone in PF, Kabaso Kampampi. You have seen the works that are being done under PF, schools are being built. Now another person comes to tell you that no vote for me, saying he will bring development to the area, who is he going to work with? Akabomba nabani? Pantu ba Minister ba PF, ubuteko bwa PF bwa Edgar Lungu. Akafumya kwiisa amaka nangu ichuma ichakuti akesa pwisha umulimo walebomba Rodgers Mwewa? (Who is he going to work with because the Minister is PF, government under Edgar Lungu is PF. Where is he going to get the powers and resources to finish up the works that Mwewa left behind?)" President Lungu asked.

CEC's sales volumes in DRC market up 25% – Silavwe

By Diggers Reporter

COPPERBELT Energy Corporation Plc (CEC) has disclosed that it has continued to grow its business in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), resulting in a 25 per cent sales volume boost in 2019 despite increased pressure on its margins.

Reviewing the Company's performance last year in the company's much-delayed 2019 annual report, managing director Owen Silavwe stated that CEC's business in the DRC market had continued to grow each year, as the Company delivers on meeting the increasing power demand of mining customers in that country.

"Our business in the DRC market, where we work closely with our partner, SNEL, the State-owned utility, has continued to grow year after year as we deliver on meeting the increasing power demand of mining customers in that country. With our local office well established, we continued to step up our marketing activities," Silavwe wrote in the CEC 2019 annual report released last week.

"We also worked on improving our understanding of the market landscape. Our sales volume for the year increased by 25 per cent though we saw increased pressure on the margins due to factors, such as artificial transmission path constraints in Zambia, which affected overall pricing. We continue to work on resolving some of the transmission path challenges facing the business."

And Silavwe stated that to avoid grossly affecting the company's commercial viability, there was need to quickly resolve the challenges surrounding Statutory Instrument (SI) Number 57 of 2020, which made the company's transmission and distribution infrastructure common carrier, while CEC was still being blocked from accessing Zesco's power infrastructure.

"...This action [SI 57 promulgation] was immediately followed on 31 May 2020 by a decision by the ERB [Energy Regulation Board] declaring an interim transmission tariff for use of the CEC network, which is about thirty percentage points of the normal CEC transmission tariff. The Company's view on this matter is that the combination of the actions of the Minister of Energy [Mathew Nkhuwa] and the ERB have the effect of taking away the Company's property and commercial rights, which if not redressed, may in the medium-term grossly affect the viability

of the Company," Silavwe added.

"With no doubt, government and ERB actions were taken to aid KCM to continue receiving service from CEC without meeting its payment obligations. This has the further effect of allowing the state-owned utility, Zesco, access to the CEC infrastructure at very sub-economic rates. It should be noted that while CEC's transmission and distributions lines have been declared common carrier, state-owned nationwide infrastructure operated by Zesco has not been declared common carrier and Zesco continues to block CEC's access to its infrastructure – a matter that remains unresolved despite having been brought to the attention of the Minister of Energy on several occasions."

Recent information from the Ministry of Energy indicates that the Ministry was still reviewing Zesco's transmission and distribution infrastructure, which could be considered as common carrier.

According to Ministry of Energy acting Permanent Secretary Sandra Ndhlovu the process to review was ongoing as at September, 2020, but should be concluded soon.

And Silavwe stated that KCM's failure to settle its outstanding US \$144.7 million electricity bill to the CEC reduced the power utility's profits by 78 per cent last year.

"Non-payment by our largest customer, KCM, constituted the largest risk to the Company's financial performance during the year. Subsequent to the action in the High Court for Zambia by ZCCM-IH to commence winding up proceedings of KCM, followed by the appointment of the Provisional Liquidator, KCM struggled to pay its electricity bills. This resulted in significant accumulation of arrears. The consequential impairments due to KCM's debt accumulation negatively affected the Company's annual financial results," disclosed Silavwe.

He added that total revenue decreased by three per cent from about US \$421.0 million in 2018 to around US \$408.0 million in 2019, mainly on account of an eight per cent demand reduction by mine customers in Zambia, while domestic wheeling services to non-mining consumers also reduced by seven per cent year-on-year.

"Profit after tax came in at about US \$12.3 million compared to US \$55.9 million in 2018, representing an annual decrease of 78 per cent. There was an increase of US \$53.3 million in net impairment provision, necessitated by the challenge of the KCM payment default."

Meanwhile, Silavwe revealed that mining companies' overall energy demand dropped considerably last year, mainly induced by the 2019 mining fiscal regime, combined with KCM's operational challenges following the appointment of its provisional liquidator in May last year.

"Our customers consumed about 13 per cent less energy at 3,206GWh compared to 3,673GWh in 2018. This is attributed to operational challenges that some of our customers experienced, triggered by unrelated factors that included the lag in adjusting to changes effected in the mining fiscal regime in 2019, the winding up proceedings of KCM commenced by ZCCM-IH (one of the mine's shareholders) and planned smelter outages at MCM [Mopani Copper Mines] and KCM for purposes of effecting plant overhaul," he stated.

Silavwe, however, stated that prospects for a rebound in energy demand within the mining sector remained strong.

"Fundamentally, the prospects for a rebound in demand going forward remain good as MCM returns its smelter to commercial operation and a number of customer expansion and new projects continue to ramp up demand over the next 3 – 5 years. The key downside risks to demand performance is the KCM liquidation, as uncertainty remains with respect to timeframes to resolution of the impasse affecting the business and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which are yet to be fully understood," he stated.

He further stated that CEC had continued to engage with both government and Zesco in its pursuit of a win-win solution to contractual arrangements following the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA).

"Resolving this contractual matter remains a top priority for the Company given its importance, not only to CEC and Zesco, but to the Zambian economy as a whole as it underpins service provision to the entire Copperbelt Province," stated Silavwe.

By Julia Malunga
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema wants to rule the country so that he can sell assets, adding that if he is unlucky, he will be arrested for his involvement in the sale of state-owned enterprises during privatisation.

And President Lungu

If HH is unlucky, we will get him – Lungu

has urged residents of Mwansabombwe to vote for PF candidate Kabaso Kampampi, saying voting for another party will put them at risk of not having any development. Drumming up support for Kampampi in Mbereshi, Monday, President Lungu claimed that the assets that Hichilema sold were too many. Speaking in Bemba, President Lungu accused the UPND leader of seeking the

presidency so that he can sell more assets.

Bakesa shitisha Zambia, bakesa shitisha State House naimwe bakesa mi shitisha kumo. Pantu balibelela ukushitisha ifintu. Inchito mwatupela ifwe kumi bombela, we are your servants. We should focus on the sufferings of the Zambian people. Not to make ourselves rich. This is what I am hearing from some political party leaders who want to take over political power, we will not allow that. Abena Zambia tabakasuminishe ukushitisha ichalo. Abene beka nabaisosela ati twaleshipula elyo baleshitisha ichalo eflyo bashitshishe fyafula nga bashama, twalabakonka. (He wants to sell the country, State House and you will also be sold, because some people are used to selling stuff. Our Job is to work for you. Zambians will not allow this country to be sold. He [Hichilema] admitted that government was dozing when he sold some state owned companies, he sold a lot of stuff, and if he will be unlucky, we will nab him),” President Lungu said.

The President then reacted to critics who accuse him of wasting money on a presidential jet, saying it was not his plane but for the republic.

“Abanensu balalanda ati nali

wina nalikwata indalama sana, finshi bachitapo? Balanda landa fye. Echo balefwaya chakuti nga mwabasala bakashitisha ichalo. Nalibomfwa balelanda ati ine nganaba President, nkashitisha indeke iyendalamo Lungu, imwe bushe ni ndeke ya Lungu? Ni ndeke ya chalo. Ubuteko ngawashitila President indeke olo ubuteko, fya buteko, tefya Lungu iyo. (Some people claim that they are rich but what have they done for you? They just talk, what they want is that when you elect them, the sell the country. I heard someone [Hichilema] say ‘when I become president, I will sell the presidential jet’, but is that my jet? That is a government property. When government buys a car or plane for the President, it doesn’t mean that it is his, it is for the government),” President Lungu said.

He said only the PF had the mandate to develop the country.

“Nabalanda kale ati ba UPND tabakwata amapange ayakuti batwale ubuyantanshi mu Zambia. I thank you the people of Mwansabombwe and Mbereshi for being peaceful, continue with this until you vote. Abale leta ulubuli ukufuma ku Copperbelt naku Lusaka mubebe ati awe ulubuli fiko tatulefwaya. Uwaku pyana kuno afwile aba wamu PF,

pantu uwaliko ali wa PF. Eicho, ngamwapusa mwabikapo umbi ushili wa PF, chikatushupa uku pwisha imilimo ya pelela pa nshila. Isukulu iyo ile kulwa, ungapwisha imilimo ni Kampampi pantu ewubomba mu PF, abashala bonse bufi. Kuli abaleisa kuno noku bepa ati iyo bakapwisha imilimo, bakafumya kwisa indalama? Ichalo chonse epo chapela chisungwa naba Finance Minister ba Bwalya Ng’andu; nganabeba ati mpeleni impiya tupwishe isikulu, balampela (You have been told that the UPND have no plans to bring development in this country. The people from Lusaka and Copperbelt who are bringing violence here, castigate them and tell them you don’t want to be involved. The person who should be elected should be a PF member and not from any other party because the person who died was a PF member. If you vote for a candidate from another party, you will not have development. Have you seen that school being constructed? The only person who can have it completed is Kampampi because he is in PF. There are people coming here lying to you that they will bring development, where will they get the money from? We finance the developments in this country. I can simply tell my Minister of Finance Dr Bwalya Ng’andu to release money and the school will be completed),” said President Lungu.A

Mambilima must act in public interest, remove Simusamba - Chifire

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SOUTHERN Africa Network Against Corruption (SANAC) executive director Gregory Chifire says it is gratifying that the wheels of justice have caught up with Lusaka High Court Registrar David Simusamba.

In a statement, Monday, Chifire said the recommendation by the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) to remove Simusamba, who still sits as magistrate to dispense his cases, as judicial presiding officer, is long overdue.

Chifire stated that the recommendation is a serious indictment on the chief justice who has ignored people’s calls to have Magistrate Simusamba removed.

“The action to recommend the removal of Magistrate David Simusamba as a Judicial Officer by the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) is long overdue and should be used as a reflection point by other Judicial officers. This action is a serious indictment on Her Ladyship the Chief Justice who has on several occasions been called to put her house in order but to no response. Members of the public are aware that a number of complaints have in the recent past been lodged against Mr. Simusamba by a number of citizens that include opposition UPND President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, Socialist Party Leader Dr. Fred M’embe and recently Dr. Chishimba Kambwili. It is gratifying that finally, the wheels of justice have caught up with him,” Chifire stated.

Chifire charged that the integrity of the judiciary in the recent past had been reduced due to misconduct by some of its officers.

“The Judiciary has in the recent past attracted public criticism for professional misconduct and wanton corruption involving Judicial officers. The integrity of the Judiciary is at its lowest. The judiciary should seize this opportunity to do a self-introspection and weed out those that fall short of the standard. There is no better time than this to call for serious Judicial reforms because it is an open secret that most of the men and women charged with the responsibility of dispensing justice are found wanting. We need a judiciary that is above reproach. A judiciary that inspires confidence as opposed to what we currently have,” he stated.

He stated that Zambia had become an object of

scorn in the SADC sub-region.

“Zambians are envious of judicial systems obtaining in other jurisdictions in the SADC sub-region like South Africa and Malawi. Yet Zambia, as compared to South Africa, is much older and thus should provide leadership, but unfortunately not. We have become an object of scorn in the sub-region. A few months ago, despite pressure from the ruling elite, judges in Malawi refused to succumb. They stood for justice and allowed the will of the people to prevail. And today the Malawian Judges are being celebrated world over. The same cannot be said about our judges. It’s time our judiciary redeemed itself before the people demanded for drastic actions. Our judiciary must work up, shake up, albeit out of own volition. However, there is hope in the Judiciary because it’s not every Judicial officer that is corrupt, but it is the corrupt few that are destroying the good image of the Judiciary. As such, the nation may, in the near future be compelled to go the Kenya way if the Judiciary does not take deliberate steps to cleanse itself,” Chifire stated.

And Chifire appealed to the chief justice to show leadership and act in the best interest of the general public by removing Magistrate Simusamba.

“For now, our eyes are on Her Ladyship to provided leadership. Otherwise we want to state without malice that we are disappointed with her inability to act on complaints falling within her administrative sphere and in particular more recent on the case of Magistrate Simusamba over a complaint lodged by Kambwili regarding solicitation of bribe by the former. The Chief Justice should be able to act in the best interest of the general public because judicial authority is derived from the people. She is answerable to the people of Zambia,” stated Chifire.

“Her ladyship’s continued failure to administratively deal with criminal elements such as Honourable Simusamba is a personal indictment on her. Further, her continued refusal to deal with corruption in the Judiciary which we have known about for years now, reflects badly on her administrative skills. From the evidence we have seen and assessed Honorable Simusamba does not only need to immediately be removed as a judicial officer but must be prosecuted for his many crimes.”

Parents need more time to pay school fees – CSPR

By Ulande Nkomesha

CIVIL Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says government should have given ample time for parents and learners to prepare for the imminent re-opening of schools to help cope with financial challenges.

Commenting on General Education Minister Dr Dennis Wanchinga’s directive to re-open schools next Monday, CSPR programmes coordinator Chimuka Nachibinga observed that the one-week period was insufficient for parents to brace for their children’s resumption of learning, as many parents lacked resources to pay school fees arising from the stressed economy.

“For me, my take, basically, on this issue is, I think government should have made an assessment in terms of resources as far as parents are concerned because the majority of the parents are crippled in terms of resources. I think opening of the schools, as it has been put, is the right way to go to ensure that the education sector is not affected in one way or the other. But I think maybe government should have given a month to parents so that they are able to prepare themselves in terms of taking their school children

back to school,” Nachibinga advised.

“I feel that maybe the days that have been given about a week may not be enough in terms of looking for resources. Definitely, this will mean that most of these pupils will get back to school at a later date compared to what was announced by the Minister himself due to the fact that majority of the parents don’t have resources to take their children back to school, because of the many effects that have crippled our economy, and the consumers, who are citizens have been affected in one way.”

And Nachibinga urged schools to allow children to learn for a month before requesting parents to meet their financial obligations.

“So, the recommendation from us is that maybe the school managers be reluctant, they can make up a plan to allow parents for at least a month in which they can be bringing their children to school so that towards the end of the month, people will have resources coming from their salaries, those who are employed,” said Nachibinga.

Last Saturday, Dr Wanchinga urged learning institutions to engage parents and learners facing financial challenges

on payment plans for school fees.

“I would also like to encourage our parents to adequately prepare their children by providing them with face masks. Parents are also encouraged to pay school fees in full in order to facilitate effective teaching and learning. However, in cases where parents may be experiencing financial challenges, I wish to urge our learning institutions to engage parents and learners to make payment plans and accept payments in instalments. In certain instances, especially in our rural schools where cash payments may be a challenge, payments in-kind should be considered so that no learners are sent away from schools,” said Dr Wanchinga.

“In order to sustain the availability of face masks, school authorities, in collaboration with the parents, should work together and ensure that face masks are provided to the learners all the time. I also wish to direct our learning institutions to effectively and efficiently make adequate arrangements to cover the material that was lost during the closure without compromising quality. Further guidance on the school calendar will be provided in due course.”

By Ulande Nkomesha

ECONOMIST Trevor Hambayi says it will be difficult to revive the economy in 2021 due to focus being on elections.

Commenting on President Edgar Lungu’s pronouncement that the economy would be revived in 2021 once COVID-19 is contained, Hambayi said in an interview that political pronouncements should be separated from the reality of economic performance.

He said going into an election

year, government would be pre-occupied with winning elections and would ignore economic fundamentals.

“If you look at 2021, you have an additional challenge to this, this is our election [year]. When we go into elections, the government in power has no concern about economic fundamentals, they are more resigned to winning their elections. So what you will see in 2021 is that our Kwacha will continue to depreciate because we have not put anything in place to try and support this. This is a very big challenge that we have,” Hambayi said.

“We must separate political pronouncements and the reality of the performance of the economy. The President pronouncing that the economy is going to rebound in 2021 has no economic fundamentals to support it. There are key factors that would speak to the economy rebounding but you must remember that our economic recession started from 2015; it has been a gradual decline with economic performance to now. All the factors that have contributed to that decline to 2015 are still in place.”

He said Zambia had more problems than just COVID-19.

“There is nothing that we have done that is going to change the economic performance. Where we are now is actually worse off than we were in 2015. The first aspect to our economy being depressed is our national debt. The county’s debt is unsustainable and we now have a liability of \$1.5 billion per year to pay in debt servicing. The second one is fiscal expenditure, we are spending more money than we are generating, we have a budget deficit,” he said.

It’ll be difficult to revive the economy in 2021 – Hambayi

“The third one is that we have a power deficit, we have continued to have a power deficit for the last two years and that has not been resolved at all. The fourth one is the dispute with the mines [such] that we are not generating than we need to be generating from the mines. The fifth is obviously the liquidity constraint in the market. All those factors need to come into play for the economy to start to pick and then you can speak about COVID-19.”

Hambayi insisted that there were no economic fundamentals indicating that the economy would boom in 2021.

“What you see with our economy is that since 2015, our economic performance has continued deteriorating. Every macroeconomic indicator you look at in 2015 to now 2020 has been deteriorating. Whether you are looking at GDP growth which has dropped from five percent to 1.9 percent as we have seen 2019, 2020 we are in a recession of minus five percent GDP growth. If we are looking at our debt to GDP ratio, we have seen that it has been increasing 27 per cent to now over 90 per cent which is above the threshold for viable debt management,” said Hambayi.

“If we look at our interest rates, we look at our exchange rate, we look at the inflation rate, everything has been deteriorating and there is nothing that seems to be changing. We just want to be politicizing what we are saying but we are not putting the underlined fundamentals to support this. Our exchange rate in terms of having to change it requires a fundamental base of export that we are generating more export than imports.”



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



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Have Zambians Raised the Bar on Ethical Culture?

OVER the past few weeks, we have read, watched, and listened to intense discussions on corporate governance and how the privatization process of the 1990s is said to have lacked the minimum benchmarks of ethical conduct. Ordinary citizens rose to the occasion to pinpoint areas they felt the standards for ethical conduct were violated during the process.

The focus later shifted to declaration of interest and how part of the public felt the perceived lack of it during the transactions that took place transgressed corporate governance tenets. Though the whole debate degenerated into a single individual and reduced to political interests, I was excited about one thing: Zambians were apparently awake to the right thing on ethical conduct which, unfortunately, they seemed not to be doing.

It is one thing to know and understand minimum benchmarks about certain conduct, practices and behaviour and another to behave as required. If indeed we have reached that level of demanding accountability on ethical behaviour, I am sure we would not be where we are in terms of economic performance. The Auditor General's reports would have fewer than three pages and even those pages would simply be highlighting incidents of excellent performance and good financial management by all public entities.

The reports of the Financial Intelligence Center would, on the other hand, not be attracting that high level of interest because there may be nothing to read. In addition, if indeed we had elevated the benchmarks for ethical conduct to levels I have read in the past few weeks, the Anti-Corruption Commission would not be under that high level of scrutiny by citizens as is the case now.

The positive in all this is that Zambians at least know that a country succeeds on the back of good corporate governance in which ethical leadership at all levels is mandatory. Whether we are truly practicing this value as a country, we are comforted by the fact that Zambians appear to have raised the bar on ethical conduct.

In this article, I wish to amplify this point on the need to promote and defend an ethical culture in government systems, and much more critically, in companies. We should move the focus from what one politician may have done or not done when he was a corporate consultant but begin to redirect the question on what is best for us; what should we start doing? What is the expected conduct of corporate entities today and tomorrow? This is for everyone and not for one person.

It has been proved that an ethical culture ensures organisational success. Lack of an ethical culture can spell disaster for any country, organization or company. As has been documented by researchers, an ethical culture guides decision making when the boundaries

of right and wrong are unclear and it is from this perceptive that several citizens came to the table when discussing possible conflict of interest. This was benchmarked on a culture that we believe governs all public entities.

An ethical culture also enhances corporate reputation and image. Having worked in multinational and international corporations, image is an important part of the success of the business. I have shared before how in SABMiller, we had the adage, 'Your reputation before a crisis will take you out of a crisis.' When people accuse you of having stolen or abused resources, they will get down to your conduct, not only on one occasion, but throughout your life. A business that invests in a dynamic ethical culture will have invested in a sustainable operation, winning the support of a broad range of stakeholders such that if calamity befalls it,

As has been documented by researchers, an ethical culture guides decision making when the boundaries of right and wrong are unclear and it is from this perceptive that several citizens came to the table when discussing possible conflict of interest'.

the stakeholders will support its way back into business.

I have shared on various platforms that an ethical culture, a good reputation, forms part of risk management. During a crisis, you can only look back to your ethical culture to reposition your business. Costain Chilala, a great Zambian farmer, may have gone through a few challenges as read in the papers. I have talked to top banking executives who confidently told me Mr. Chilala will reposition his businesses on the back of a great ethical culture. He is still trusted by all banks; he is a credible investor and they know that he still possesses potential to be among Africa's top farmers. It is a solid reputation anchored on an ethical culture that can help any entrepreneur avoid litigation or assist in mitigation. Generally, society always wants to stand by good people.

Every business, irrespective of its size, should have a well-defined code of ethics.

We should never assume that by virtue of the operating environment, businesses and individuals working under them will behave as expected. When I worked in Zambia State Insurance Corporation, we wanted to do business, in partnership, with an insurance company from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Just from entry at Kasumbalesa Border Post, we became aware of a huge mismatch in ethical culture. Our colleagues receiving us at the border were buying their way into clearance processes, something we could not even think of. It was clear the counterparty was not governed by a code of conduct; if they were, no one reinforced it.

It is stated as follows about a code of conduct, "Companies should have a code of ethics and statement of business practices, which should be implemented as part of the corporate practices of the company."

"The Board should be responsible for formulating the code of ethics and business practices. All directors, management and employees of the company should be required to abide by the codes. The Board should monitor adherence and ensure that breaches are effectively sanctioned."

What do we, therefore, need to do as a country in order to build an ethical culture in our country and in all entities operating in Zambia? How can we leverage the clear high bar on ethical culture that Zambians now appear to pre-occupy their minds with?

First, leadership at all levels should set the tone for an ethical culture. It is interesting that the high bar set on ethical culture was on an individual who practiced in a private business but only happened to have conducted business with a public entity. Even then, the nation has now stated that he needed to have declared interest (though, in my opinion, it remains a presumption allegation).

If that be expected of a consultant working in a private company, how much more those in national leadership, board members who oversee public utilities? Should we wait for the World Bank and other partners to signal to us the expected transparency levels in all public tenders? The ethical culture in this regard is non-negotiable. All public and private companies should develop policies that relate to an ethical culture that all employees should sign.

There was a time the Anti-Corruption Corporation, possibly guided by Cabinet Office, rolled out an ethical code for all public servants. Unfortunately, we have read more of ethical code violations (going by the Auditor General and FIC Reports) than we have celebrated the impact of accountability to our national economy. It means something is amiss somewhere. Policies do not exist in a vacuum; they produce results. An effective monitoring, whistleblowing and reward policy can, therefore, effectively promote an ethical culture in our country.

8 die of COVID-19 in last 24 hours

By Ulande Nkomesha
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama says the country has recorded 181 new COVID-19 cases out of 1,608 tests done in the last 24 hours, with eight deaths.

Five of the COVID-19 deaths were Brought in Dead (BID).

During the routine COVID-19 update, Monday, Dr Malama said the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases recorded now stood at 13, 720.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded a total of 181 new COVID-19 cases. These were from 18 districts, including Lusaka (50), Ndola (48), Kitwe (21), Chililabombwe (17), Mufulira (11), Kabwe eight, Kasama six, Chingola five, Kalomo three, Solwezi three, Kalalushi two, Mansa two, Chipata one, Livingstone one, Luwingu one, Nakonde one and Serenje one. This again goes to show that the virus is in our community and through interactions and movements. Our surveillance will continue to be upped, so that we can pick those new cases and ensure there is self-isolation or isolation in a designated facility so that we curtail that transmission trajectory," Dr Malama said.

"These new cases are among the 1,608 tests we conducted in the last 24 hours, representing a positivity of 11.3 percent. Hospital screening continues to confirm quite a number of cases and of those, 36 were from Lusaka, 19 Ndola, 12 Chililabombwe, nine Mufulira, six Kasama, three Solwezi, one Kabwe and one Luwingu. So these are the ones we picked when we did the screening in the hospital settings, you can see that they are 95. We also had 63 through routine screening, which was made up of 22 from Ndola, 12 Kitwe, seven Lusaka, five Chililabombwe, four Chingola, three Kalomo, two Mansa, two Kalalushi, one Chipata, one Kabwe, one Livingstone, one Mufulira and one in Nakonde. We also had 16 contacts to known cases. We also have a health care worker who tested positive through screening in Ndola and we had five persons who were brought in dead at the Ndola Central Hospital. The cumulative number of cases in the country therefore stands at 13, 720."

He said from the eight deaths recorded in the last 24 hours, five were brought in dead, bringing the cumulative total to 320.

"Eight deaths have been recorded, bringing the total number of deaths to 320. These have been classified as follows: 107 deaths due to COVID-19; 205 COVID associated deaths; eight deaths are being reviewed pending classification and we will update once this is concluded. Today, as a country, we have discharged 120 patients: in Lusaka, 103, Muchinga six, Southern Province six and Eastern five. The number of patients still under health facility isolation and treatment is 45 with 15

on oxygen. As at today, we have recorded a total 12,380 recoveries as a country and this gives us a recovery rate of 90 per cent," Dr Malama said.

He said a programme was being devised to systematically screen learners and staff regularly as part of the early warning system for action, following the announcement of the reopening of all learning institutions.

"Today, our teams shall conduct targeted screening to focus on our honourable members of parliament and National Assembly staff in view of the resumption

of parliamentary sitting. We continue to heighten surveillance activities, particularly in healthcare facilities, to timely identify and isolate all the COVID-19 patients. It is also important to mention that as it was announced by his excellency the President, classes will resume for all learners and a program is being devised to

systematically screen learners and staff regularly as part of our early warning system for action, this is important. We are closely working with the

education sector as part of the monitoring and surveillance platform. We are going to heighten engagement with the learners and the school

authorities so that we can assure our parents and the Zambian people through our early warning systems," said Dr Malama.

Artists drag ECZ to court over "voter verification" exercise

By Zondiwe Mbewe
MUSICIAN Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu, Brian Bwembya and two others have applied for leave in the Lusaka High Court to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the decision of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers for verification under a new register for the 2021 general elections.

In their notice for leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings filed in the principal registry, Pilato, Maiko, Bwembya, aka B Flow and two youths - Nawa Sitali and Muleta Kapatiso - on behalf of the people, have argued that the decision by ECZ which required currently validly registered voters in terms of the law to participate in a process that amounts to re-registration of voters in a period of one month is illegal.

Pilato and others are represented by lawyers Nchito and Nchito and Mwenye and Mwitwa

Advocates.

Pilato and others have further argued that ECZ's decision amounted to deregistering voters without notice and following laid down procedure, which was contrary to the law.

The applicants are seeking an order quashing ECZ's decision for being irrational, procedurally improper and illegal.

They are also seeking an order, compelling ECZ to re-take its decision and act within the powers vested in them by the law.

The applicants stated that if leave was granted, hearing of the Judicial Review application should be expedited and that it should operate as a stay of ECZ's decision which requires already registered voters to present themselves before a registration officer again or be precluded or prevented from voting in the 2021 general elections.

Pilato and others stated that on June 12, 2020, ECZ at a media briefing by its chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano, announced that it would undertake a fresh

registration of voters.

It is alleged that Nshindano had said the ECZ would ensure that current registered voters would still be retained on condition that they present themselves for verification, update and capture of additional information required, including biometric capture (10 figure prints and portrait).

Nshindano directed that every eligible voter would have to register or verify their details under the new register for the 2021 general elections.

But Pilato and others submitted that they were Zambian citizens who were already registered voters on the existing register and objected to being disenfranchised by their valid and otherwise lawful registration invalidated unlawfully and then required to present themselves for re-registration in a very limited time during a period when the world was dealing with COVID-19 and when ECZ, by its own admission, says that it is grossly under funded to carry out the full

registration envisaged in the proposed time period of 30 days.

Pilato and others contended that ECZ's decision to require every registered voter to present themselves for verification under a new register as a condition for voting was unlawful as ECZ did not have the power under the law to discard the existing register and deregister people who were lawfully and validly registered without lawful cause.

The applicants stated that ECZ was required by Section 7 of the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016 and Regulation 8 of the Electoral (Registration of voters) Regulations 2010, to carry out continuous voter registration, which they had neglected to do for the ostensible reason that they did not have required monetary resources.

Pilato and others further argued that ECZ had no authority to deregister or conduct itself in a manner that deregistered a registered voter.

"ECZ now intends to

exercise

require every registered voters to present themselves before registration officials in a manner that amounts to discarding a current register of voters which had approximately 6 Million registered voters built over many years and require those who were previously registered effectively to re-register," they stated.

The applicants also argued that the decision by ECZ to undertake a fresh registration of voters, which would effectively discard the current register and had the effect of de-registering and disenfranchising duly registered voters who may not verify their details, without lawful cause for their de-registration is contrary to the law.

"ECZ claims that it intends to register approximately 9 million voters in a restricted period of 31 days commencing on October 19, 2020 to November 18, 2020 as announced by its chief executive officer where he announced the projected number of voters it seeks to register," the applicants stated.

They stated that to carry out the full registration of voters, ECZ needed K880 million yet only K100 million was approved by the Treasury and that even the approved amount had not been dispensed.

"Notwithstanding the clear shortage of financial resources and short time left before the general, presidential and parliamentary elections, ECZ is proceeding in a manner that amounts to discarding the current register which has been building up from 2005 to date and arbitrarily deregistering approximately 6 million registered voters to try and register 9 million new and old voters in 30 days without adequate financial resources," they stated.

Pilato and others also contended that the ECZ's failure to apply the law correctly was prejudicial to them and other citizens like them, by requiring new registration when they were already registered voters.

HH tips Luapula to chew PF money, vote UPND

By Ulande Nkomesha
UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has called on Lukashya residents not to be bought by the PF like tomatoes in the market ahead of the upcoming by-election this Thursday.

Speaking during a rally in Lukashya of Kasama District in Northern Province, Sunday, Hichilema urged local residents to get more money whenever PF officials offered it, but that they should vote for UPND candidate Davies Mulenga instead.

"People of Lukashya, you are very wise; don't be bought like tomatoes in the market, like vitumbwa ku market. Please, on Thursday (September 17), if they bring money, get! If they bring anything, get. If the PF gives you K1,000, they are coming Monday, Tuesday they will be giving money. If they give K2,000, say, 'I also have a lot of people at home who are also voters give me K10,000!' If they give you K10,000, put in the pockets yah nakuchita ububi chik*la iwe! If they buy you after two, three months, they will run away, you remain suffering here, be wise. I have not insulted, I am just saying the truth. 2021, we need to change. They lied that they will build roads, look at the Kasama-Mpika road, is that fixing?" Hichilema

wondered.

"People from Northern Province, are you not tired? In 2006, you voted for the PF; in 2011, you voted for the PF; in 2015, you voted for the PF; in 2016, you voted for the PF, but there is no development here. They said, 'load shedding will come to an end when we have rains, load shedding will come to an end...' But God gave us the rains and load shedding is still there. I will come here after 'Big Mule' has won the election, I will come with a truck and cattle so that we celebrate here in Lukashya!"

He said that the UPND would promote agriculture in Lukashya.

"The PF has failed to manage the country, children are failing to go to school, forget about Coronavirus. Before Coronavirus came, children were still suffering. The PF government has failed! When a child completes school, there are no jobs, women go to the markets to sell her products; there is no money to buy because no one has money. Do you have money in your pockets? These are PF lies! Are you working? These are PF lies," he charged.

"There is hunger in homes! UPND is an agriculture party, I am a farmer, I have cattle, I will bring cattle here so that

even you can have cattle. We work on agriculture, we will ensure that the price of fertiliser is reduced. We will save US \$100 million from importing fertilizer because these mwankole are stealing! There is too much corruption, that is why the prices of fertilizer is high. We will reduce. But to do that, you have to vote for 'Big Mule.'"

And Hichilema added that the PF had continued to spread lies about him when he was an upright person.

"We have suffered a lot, the PF has made us suffer. They like talking about nonsensical things...that HH 'did this and that.' No! I am an upright person. I am an upright person, they just lied; everything they are talking about that I 'stole a house' how can I steal a house? I bought the house when I was young at 29 years, I bought the house at K61 million in 1994, how can I steal money? When thieves are stealing, they think that HH is also stealing, but I am an upright person. They are lying that, 'if you elect HH as (Republican) President, he will divide the nation, that he will sell the country.' How can I sell the country? Do you know of a market where they sell countries? That is madness and nonsensical! There is no market where they sell nations. These are the lies of the PF," said Hichilema.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
TOURISM and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela says Zambia is a leading country in the tourism industry within the SADC region for being the first to have opened safari hunting.

And Chitotela says he has written to President Edgar Lungu to move the land adjacent to ZNBC Mass Media Complex from the Ministry of Community Development to his Ministry so that they can construct a hotel and an arts centre.

Speaking when he featured on the ZNBC Sunday Interview, Chitotela said Zambia was the leading African country in the SADC region in the tourism sector after having established safari hunting.

"Zambia is a leader on the African continent, and I want to thank His Excellency, the President, for positively considering opening up the tourism sector slowly. Today, I can proudly say that we are the only country in the SADC region that had even opened for safari hunting. We have had tourists coming for safari hunting from as far as the United States of America. We have seen hotels closing, people permanently losing employment. Others have been sent on forced leave and these are people with families, people who live in rented houses, people who have a lot of social and economic responsibilities behind them. Today, I am proud to tell you

Chitotela seeks Lungu's permission to construct hotel next to ZNBC Mass Media

that we are the first country in the southern African region to have the Emirates flying back into Lusaka," Chitotela said.

And Chitotela disclosed that he wrote to President Lungu to move the land adjacent to ZNBC Mass Media Complex from the Ministry of Community Development to his Ministry so that they could construct a hotel and an arts centre.

"The next thing we want to do, so that we appreciate the artists, the land adjacent to ZNBC here when the Department of Arts was under Ministry of Community Development, the land to-date belongs to the Department of Culture and Arts. We have written to His Excellency, the President, that we formally move the plot from the Ministry of Community Development to the Ministry responsible for Tourism and Arts so that we can build the hotel. And that hotel will come with an Arts Centre. And we can have the Centre for Excellence where the artists and those that would want to perform and excel will be able to be given a platform where they will be able to go and do programmes of the art nature and show themselves to the international world. That is a great achievement," Chitotela said.

He also hailed the PF government as the first in Zambia's history to create a stimulus package for artists during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The PF government is the first government in the history of Zambia to have thought of artists and to create a stimulus

package for them so that they can sustain themselves, not just during the COVID-19 [but] even going forward. I have spoken to them to say, 'if somebody creates a seed fund for you, it's not for consumption, but for growth.' We are the first government under President Lungu to have signed an insurance cover for our friends in the arts industry. Today, the artists that have been captured are covered by the insurance. In an event of a misfortune, the insurance company will move in. And the artists will be compensated. This was launched this year. We signed the MoU between the National Arts Council of Zambia and various artists and the insurance provider," he said.

He said the K30 million artists stimulus package had nothing to do with the disgruntled youths' bush protest, but was something borne out of President Lungu's desire to grow the arts sector.

"His Excellency visited Victoria Falls and I have heard a lot of people have been saying, 'it's a political plan' and that maybe it's because of those referred to as the bush protests. This was not the idea. We were in Livingstone the time when His Excellency went to open up Victoria Falls. After our visit to Victoria Falls, he chose to interact with the craftsmen and women at Mukuni Park. As we were walking, he asked them and they narrated moving statements that others complained that they had not sold for the past three to four months, and that they were living in rented houses. They were unable to pay for social services," he said.

"Then, the President whispered to me and said, 'when we get back to Lusaka, speak to the Ministry of Commerce

and Ministry of Finance.' In fact, the K30 million [artists stimulus fund] was suggested by the President. In fact, the artists complained that, 'we are unable to access the K10 billion stimulus package that has been set by the Bank of Zambia because of the conditionalities set by the bank; can you, Mr President, set us a fund under CEEC i(Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission) in collaboration with the National Arts Council of Zambia so that we can come up with our own regulations?' And the President called me and said, 'call the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu) and Commerce (Christopher Yaluma) and yourself, sit down, and let's have this idea be actualised. So, this had nothing to do with the bush protest. It is the desire by the President to grow the art sector industry."

Chitotela predicted that with the K30 million stimulus package for artists, Zambia would be a "beacon of envy" in the next five years.

"With this K30 million set aside, in the next five years, Zambia will be a beacon of envy within the region and within the continent. To answer the question of who is eligible for this fund? We called the National Arts Council of Zambia and said, 'you are the ones responsible for all the artists in Zambia,' they came up with their own guidelines on how they must be able to access that money and conditions on how to access. So, the National Arts Council of Zambia, working with all the Arts associations, constituted the working group of people from different arts backgrounds and they came up with the guidelines on how this money would be accessed. What we did, as government, was just to endorse and approve their own guidelines. We never attempted to change, not even a comma. So, if there will be a failure by certain groupings within the arts sector, they will not blame government because it is they who came up with the guidelines," said Chitotela.

Police charge Mucheleka with aggravated robbery

By Julia Malunga

POLICE in Northern Province have arrested UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and two others and charged them with aggravated robbery.

Confirming the development in an interview, Northern Province Police Commissioner Richard Mweene disclosed that the trio allegedly attacked a mobile NRC registration office, stole a printer and genset, among other items.

"On 13th September, 2020, at 13:00, some UPND cadres attacked and robbed a mobile NRC registration office of one printer, a genset, laminating machine, an adapter, blank NRC cards, processed NRC cards, carbon paper and a camera. In addition, they maliciously damaged three type writers and a kiosk. Thereafter, they fired two gunshots in the air and threatened people with machetes. This occurred at Chitamba village in Kasama. In connection with the matter, we have detained three people, namely, Patrick Mucheleka, aged 55 of Luwingu, Elias Mubanga, aged 53, and Samuel Ngwira, aged 42. We have charged them with offences of aggravated robbery and malicious damage to property and will appear in court soon. Their offences are non-bailable," said Mweene.

And in a statement, Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja stated UPND cadres' behaviour was uncalled for.

"I wish to sound a strong and timely warning to the suspected United Party for National Development (UPND) Cadres who stormed a registration centre in Chitamba village in Lukashya of Northern Province on 13th September, 2020 and destroyed some machinery being used during the on-going mobile National Registration card (NRC) exercise, stealing some equipment as well as beating up officers they found at the centre. As Police, we strongly condemn the action taken by suspected UPND Cadres. We are all aware that the mobile registration exercise is not a hidden process because there has been maximum publicity about this activity way back before this process was commenced. Further, this exercise is being done in broad day light and not at night. Therefore, the action taken by UPND cadres to ransack the registration office and steal equipment is a bid draw back to this process being undertaken countrywide and can not be condoned," Kanganja stated.

"If there are any suspicions or concerns, police are open and ready to receive complaints from anyone concerned regarding the exercise. In addition, this process has no bearing on the by-elections currently taking place in Lukashya and Mwansabombwe Constituencies but it is being done in preparation for the 2021 general elections. It is therefore disheartening to note that Political Parties that pledged to maintain peace during and after the by elections are the ones in the forefront perpetuating violence. I wish to warn that police will follow this matter to the latter and will take punitive action against all those found wanting. Let us respect Government workers who have sacrificed to perform this noble task of serving members of the public through issuance of National Registration Cards unlike victimising them."


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In our editorial opinion of yesterday, we showed the contrast in a procurement scandal in Malawi and in Zambia. This is a matter where Malawians are complaining over that government's decision to award a US\$2.2 million ambulance supply tender to Grandview International of Zambia. We learnt that while Malawians were objecting to the procurement of ambulances at US\$63,000 per unit, Zambia spent US\$288,000 on the same vehicles with the same basic specifications.

As this debate rages on, we have observed that some people are trying to use the Grandview case in Malawi to divert people's attention from the scandals at the Ministry of Health in Lusaka. This is very unfortunate. We are not here to launder Grandview. We are the same organisation that reported the US\$42 million fire tender scandal. We are also the same people who sounded the alarm around 2015 when government was making a consideration to award that tender to Grandview International. And in 2017 when Zambians finally woke up to protest as the fire trucks were being unveiled, we told them it was too

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Using Grandview to divert public attention from the HoneyBee drug scandal

late. When we wrote against Grandview, there was nothing personal, a wrong had been committed by our government and the story needed to be told.

To this day, some Zambians react very negatively at the mention of Grandview, and we note that this effect is spilling over to Malawi. But there is a challenge that comes with such a preconception because it blinds the population from new cases of impropriety involving other companies. Here is an example: in 2019 when the Ministry of Health awarded contracts for the supply of Health Centre Kits to HoneyBee Pharmacy, Artemis

Pharmaceuticals and Pharmanova, some people approached us with information that the owners of Pharmanova were the same owners of Grandview International, which was behind the controversial fire trucks tender.

But when we looked at the tender documents of the three companies, it was clear in black and white that despite the fact that it got the smallest contract, Pharmanova was the only company that met the requirements for the award of the Ministry of Health tender. Artemis Pharmaceuticals had financial audit queries and they also did not have the required wholesale licences, while HoneyBee was

the dirtiest as they were not even a registered company at PACRA.

Clearly, those who pointed us towards Pharmanova wanted to divert the attention from the illegalities surrounding HoneyBee and Artemis. For sure, many people in Zambia want to read more scandals involving Grandview or companies linked to it because of the alleged fire tender corruption. But look at what has come out of these companies! If we did not act vigilantly to expose the corrupt activities around HoneyBee Pharmacy, Zambians would not have known about the toxic drugs that they have supplied to the Ministry of Health.

Today, Zambians are aware that government is on course to lose US\$17 million worth of medical supplies because the Ministry of Health overlooked the procurement rules.

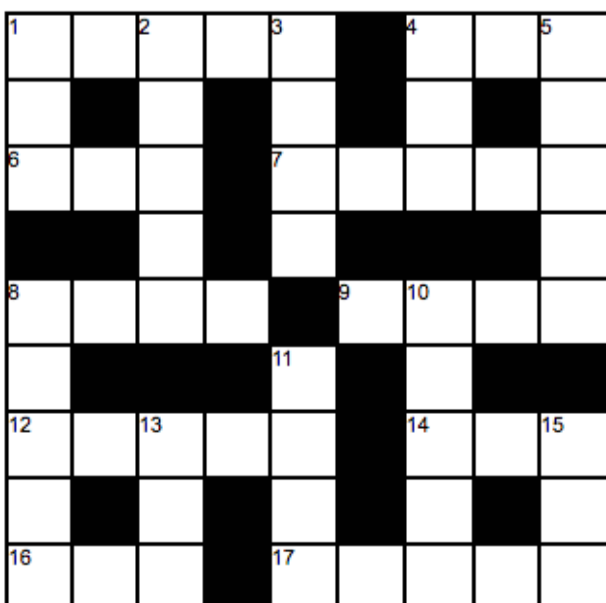
Our point is that watchdog institutions must examine suspicious government procurement cases without any preconceptions. If Grandview is involved in any form of corruption in the Malawi ambulances tender, they must be exposed and the contract must be terminated. If Malawians feel another company is offering a better deal than Grandview, the Malawian government must do as demanded by the citizens of that

country. But, like we stated yesterday, whatever they do, it should not be because of the fire tender scandal in Zambia.

Our view is that some unscrupulous people in the name of 'whistleblowers' are trying to divert people's attention from the HoneyBee scandal in Zambia where a pharmaceutical company has supplied toxic drugs to the government. Again, we have nothing against the owners of HoneyBee Pharmacy. If they put their house in order and meet the requirements for the award of a government tender in future, we will defend and support them. But until then, we will continue to tell the story of their corrupt activities without any distractions from Malawi.

We will end by sharing with our brothers and sisters in Malawi a few things we have discovered in our line of duty. In procurement scandals, we have learnt that many 'whistleblowers' are interested parties sponsored by companies that lose a given government tender. Playing along with such 'whistleblowers' is not fighting corruption but aiding another entity that has probably lost a corruption contest. Corrupt people are very corrupt-minded and they know the art of using corruption to sway public opinion.

Crossword puzzle No 690



“Keep your innocence and ignorance aside, and expose yourself to dangerous situations, and understand the deeper secrets of life.”

- Michael Bassey Johnson

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence 4. Supply with weapons 6. Canadian Z 7. English assignment 8. Wound 9. Practice boxing 12. Learner 14. Perform in a play 16. Informal room 17. Sudden fright | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispenser candy 2. Sequence of items 3. Be anxious 4. TV spots 5. City official 8. Wished 10. Run-of-the-mill 11. Trim 13. Writing utensil 15. Muscle spasm |
|--|--|

Crossword puzzle No 689



Readers' Feedback

DIGGERS' OPINION: Don't leave the fight against tyranny to politicians alone

Editor,

"The problem during these periods is we focus too much on those in power. We amplify their failures and in some cases manage to dislodge them from power. But we forget to also focus on those aspiring for power from the opposition. The end result is we end up bringing in people

that may be worse. A closer look at the class of those wishing to take over in 2021 leaves one bleeding. The current caliber of men and women in politics from all sides does not spell any hope but despair. It's our duty as citizens do demand for the best out

these politicians than being told what to do, besides we are the ones that put them in these positions". - Masabuka Mwanakalando

"It's true. looks like everyone has stopped condemning the undemocratic practices being experienced. almost all the NGOs, churches and the cooperating partners such as the EU, the UNDP, the US and many others have gone silent". - Chanda Pochoko

"Very eloquent

1. Empowerment funds at the eleventh hour
 2. Frequent visits to provinces perceived to be stronghold
 3. Loadshedding coming to an end on the eleventh hour when citizens has immensely suffered for far too long
 4. Character assassinations and propaganda to disengage electorates
 5. Sugar coating FSIP with early delivery of inputs
- Wait a minute ...a lot roads will be tarred to bituminous standard. Cry my beloved country!" - Aubrey Simwanza

'FDD should go ahead and expel Nawakwi'

Editor,

"They should have expelled her a long time ago. She now gets less votes than an MP country wide". - Sandwe Simate

"Who else is in FDD apart from Nawakwi herself? Asking for my neighbour!" - Ian Malekhanie

"I feel this is a good move". - Kennedy Raken

"That will be her chance to join the PF and be chosen as a running mate in 2021. All well calculated". - Agrey Siyunda

"They will end up like NAREP". - Lubasi Lubasi

"Let them throw her out.


She is not adding value to Zambia's democracy". - Chanda Pochoko

"FDD is dead. The stance taken by Edith has killed the party and it will never be the same again". - Frederick Chinyama Chiteta

"Better do it quick. Otherwise she will spend all the party money on the case in court she was suide for". - Emmanuel Sikalundu

"Just join UPND and effect change, that party FDD has been a joke for some time now". - Shaka Zulu

"Otherwise our mother has killed the party, FDD will always be remembered for privatization talk". - Innocent Mufalo



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Chama's claim that Bill 10 will ensure peaceful polls

Dear editor,

"It is not Bill 10 that ensures peaceful polls. It is those in Government using the powers already given to them by the people through the current Constitution, that ensures peaceful polls. All the Zambians including babies know this. So what is Bill 10 going to change? We had Elections in 2015, we had Elections in 2016 and both were peaceful. So what kind of peace are you looking for? Why can't you as a human being understand simple things like this? Just why are you insistent on this Bill? Is it because of eligibility issues of your candidate? Please tell us. The vigour with which you want to push through this Amendment is raising red flags? This is not for the people. This is for you and if it serves marrow interests, it does not deserve to be part of our constitution". - Kanyata Mubita

"We have been having peaceful elections without your Bill 10, we see you. We know what you are scared of". - Nakweti Nam

"Which bill 10? So you mean there has never been peacefull elections? The people are actually peacefull but the system seems to be handicapped". - Reedwell Chibumbu

"We have had peaceful elections without even bill 10, don't be too dull to issue that statement,you think people are dull to accept that statement.I wonder how some people found themselves in certain positions". - Governor Leonard Kasengo

"What kind of a person is this Bill 10 whose ability to solve all problems the country is facing surpasses the entire PF leadership?!" - Dhanx Car Lee Mbwe

"As defense minister for that matter??? Hasn't there been peace during elections in Zambia? No wonder you bought those riot gear vehicles its now clear..." - Boyd Lubinda Wamundila

"This man also...what sort of thinking is this.Bill 10 is a non starter.We have had peaceful elections before.Why should everything be tied to that useless bill". - Jacob Kanyika

'Lungu wrong on PF putting detractors to shame!'

Editor,

"No one is being put to shame, everyone wants a better Zambia which is corruption free and strong economically!" - Humphrey Willombe

"No one is against building roads. Every responsible government does it. It is the inflated cost of building roads that we are against. Zambian roads are the most expensive in Africa, but the poorest in quality. We deserve better". - Daniel Maswahu

"What is shameful is that you are proud of your failure to grow the economy!" - Richard Waga

"Are these the first roads to be constructed? KK built the most expensive roads IE former Hell Run, Chirundu Road, was he distracted the way you are being distracted? Before putting to shame your imaginary detractors ask yourself, why the criticism?" - Josephine Ngulube

"Can you boast to your opponent that you have put him to shame if you built a house on credit and have not even started repaying the loan?" - Luis Chanzi

"Roads are important but the quality matters your Excellency. A road worth millions of kwacha is commissioned and after 3 months it's closed for renovations how serious are we?" - Moses Zim

"Always bad attitude, dividing always, never uniting! What a curse!" - Kaluwe Kelly

"Hehehe, it's clear the man has absolutely no clue whatsoever on where the country is economically. Mwanawasa was a lawyer who at least understood how to deal with the economy and had commercial awareness therefore knew how business works and he was a farmer so understood the critical things about the economy". - Sylvester Chongo

"He is clearly in an Ivory tower, completely disconnected from the plight of masses". - Chabu Kapale Chabu

"I wish you could put to shame those saying that the economy is bad due to high exchange rate for Kwacha, inflation and unemployment especially that you are now in charge". - Rogers Kapila



By Julia Malunga
SINDA District UPND chairperson James Banda says President Edgar Lungu is trying to divert Zambians' attention by bringing up the privatisation debate because he fears facing UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema at next year's polls.

In an interview, Banda charged that President Lungu remained fearful of Hichilema and did not want him to appear on the ballot paper at next year's general election, as evidenced by the sudden emergence of the decades-old privatisation debate.

"Are Zambians sure that president (Fredrick) Chiluba was dull not to have discovered wrong doings in the privatisation of the mines, hotel and houses? Is Edith (Nawakwi) sure that Chiluba and his then finance minister Emmanuel Kasonde were foolish not to have discovered that there were wrong doings? Is she sure that president (Patrick) Mwanawasa with his legal background and his minister of finance Ng'andu Magande were dull not to have

Lungu pushing privatisation debate because he fears HH in 2021 – Banda

discovered wrongdoings in the privatisation of the mines and sale of the houses she is talking about? The answer is obviously no! Are you sure President Lungu is the most intelligent out of all the presidents that we have had that can discover that there was wrongdoing?

Ugandan carrying child's severed head arrested outside parliament

A man carrying a parcel containing the severed head of a child has been arrested at the gate of Uganda's parliament.

Joseph Nuwashaba, 22, is being held by the country's Criminal Investigations Department (CID).

It is not yet clear what he intended to do with the parcel or where and how he acquired the head.

A CID source said that a child was reported missing in Masaka, south-west of the capital, Kampala, on Sunday.

A headless body has also been recovered in that district.

Investigators are working to find out whether it may be related to the head that Mr Nuwashaba was carrying when he was detained, reports the BBC's Patience Atuhaire in Kampala.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Uganda experienced a wave of kidnappings and killings of children. Their body parts were believed to have been used in rituals.**BBC**

Let us look at the economy because that is where we judge. He is the worst! He is not the most intelligent as shown by the performance of this economy. This is the worst we have ever had so he cannot be the most intelligent to discover that there was wrongdoing. It is politics at play; he is scared of the other fellow. Personal differences must never come into national issues. It is

good that Hichilema has taken this issue to court so that he clears himself," said Banda.

"The simple reason is that they are so frightened of this man, they don't want him to appear on the ballot. But in the same vain, for the sake of transparency, they, too, must be prepared when the time comes to go and clear themselves in court as to how they incurred a debt

of US \$20 billion and above towards the Eurobond of which 40 per cent has been stolen through corruption. They have to account for the 50 people that died during the gassing (incidents); they have to account for the 48 houses; they have to account for the ambulances and many other issues that have arisen. They have diverted attention of this country from real issues, which involve ordinary people. People cannot afford to pay rent and take their children to school because they took all the money in the reserves that should have multiplied by this time and that would have helped our citizens."

IT'S an extraordinary possibility - the idea that living organisms are floating in the clouds of Planet Venus.

But this is what astronomers are now considering after detecting a gas in the atmosphere they can't explain.

That gas is phosphine - a molecule made up of one phosphorus atom and three hydrogen atoms.

On Earth, phosphine is associated with life, with microbes living in the guts of animals like penguins, or in oxygen-poor environments such as swamps.

For sure, you can make it industrially, but there are no factories on Venus; and there are certainly no penguins.

So why is this gas there, 50km up from the planet's surface? Prof Jane Greaves, from Cardiff University, UK and colleagues are asking just this question.

They've published a paper in the journal *Nature Astronomy* detailing their observations of phosphine at Venus, as well as the investigations they've made to try to show this molecule could have a natural, non-biological origin.

But for the moment, they're stumped - as they tell the BBC's *Sky At Night* programme, which has talked at length to the team. You can see the show on BBC Four tonight (Monday) at 22:30 BST.

Given everything we know about Venus and the conditions that exist there, no-one has yet been able to describe an abiotic pathway to phosphine, not in the quantities that have been detected. This means a life

Is there life floating in the clouds of Venus?

source deserves consideration.

"Through my whole career I have been interested in the search for life elsewhere in the Universe, so I'm just blown away that this is even possible," Prof Greaves said. "But, yes, we are genuinely encouraging other people to tell us what we might have missed. Our paper and data are open access; this is how science works."

What exactly has the team detected?

Prof Greaves' team first identified phosphine at Venus using the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii, and then confirmed its presence using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array in Chile.

Phosphine has a distinctive "absorption line" that these radio telescopes discern at a wavelength of about 1mm. The gas is observed at mid-latitudes on the planet at roughly 50-60km in altitude. The concentration is small - making up only 10-20 parts in every billion atmospheric molecules - but in this context, that's a lot.

Why is this so interesting?

Venus is not at the top of the list when thinking of life elsewhere in our Solar System. Compared to Earth, it's a hellhole. With 96% of the atmosphere made up of carbon dioxide, it has experienced a runaway greenhouse effect. Surface temperatures are like those in a pizza oven - over 400 degrees.

Space probes that have landed on the planet have survived just minutes before breaking down. And yet, go 50km up and it's actually "shirtsleeves conditions". So, if there really is life on Venus, this is exactly where we might expect to find it.

Why should we be sceptical?

The clouds. They're thick and they're mainly composed (75-95%) of sulphuric acid, which is catastrophic for the cellular structures that make up living organisms on Earth.

Dr William Bains, who's affiliated to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, is a biochemist on the team. He's studied various combinations of different compounds expected to be on Venus; he's examined whether volcanoes, lightning and even meteorites could play a role in making PH₃ - and all of the chemical reactions he's investigated, he says, are 10,000 times too weak to produce the amount of phosphine that's been observed.

To survive the sulphuric acid, Dr Bains believes, airborne Venusian microbes would either have to use some unknown, radically different biochemistry, or evolve a kind of armour.

"In principle, a more water-loving life could hide itself away inside a protective shell of some sorts inside the sulphuric acid droplets," he told *Sky At Night*.**BBC**

Hotel Rwanda hero charged with terrorism



Don Cheadle (L) played Mr Rusesabagina (R) in the film

THE man portrayed as a hero in a Hollywood movie about the Rwandan genocide has been charged with terrorism, murder among other crimes.

Paul Rusesabagina declined to enter any pleas in court but his lawyers denied the charges against him.

Mr Rusesabagina is the leader of the opposition MRCD group which is said to have an armed wing, the FLN, which stages attacks on Rwanda.

He was brought to the court under heavy security in Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

Mr Rusesabagina is a fierce critic of President Paul Kagame and had been living abroad.

An ethnic Hutu, he became well known after the 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda* depicted his efforts a decade earlier during the genocide to save hundreds of Tutsis at a hotel where he was a manager.

Paul Rusesabagina's family allege the political exile was kidnapped in Dubai earlier this month and taken to Rwanda.

Mr Rusesabagina, who is also a Belgian citizen and a US green-card holder, left his home in San Antonio, Texas, and landed in Dubai at the end of August, his family told the BBC.

"We believe he was kidnapped because he would never go to Rwanda on his own will," his daughter told the BBC.

Rwandan officials said Mr Rusesabagina, 66, was arrested under an international warrant for leading "terrorist movements".

Why was he charged now?

Mr Rusesabagina's name featured recently in a terrorism case in Rwanda. The court had heard allegations that the National Liberation

Front (FLN) rebel group had received help from Zambia's President Edgar Lungu because of his close friendship with Mr Rusesabagina.

Mr Lungu's spokesman denied the allegation in a BBC interview.

In 2011, Mr Rusesabagina was accused of funding subversion in Rwanda, but no charges were brought.

At the time, he denied any wrongdoing and said there was a smear campaign against him.

President Kagame's critics accuse him of not tolerating any opposition. Several opposition leaders have been jailed and others fled into exile. He says he is trying to prevent a return of ethnic hatred.

What is *Hotel Rwanda* about?

The 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda* told the story of how Mr Rusesabagina, a middle-class Hutu married to a Tutsi woman, used his influence - and bribes - to convince military officials to secure a safe escape for an estimated 1,200 people who sought shelter at the Mille Collines Hotel in Kigali.

Don Cheadle played Mr Rusesabagina in the film.

Rwandan genocide survivors' group Ibuka has in the past said that he exaggerated his own role in helping hotel refugees escape the 100-day slaughter.

In 2007, Mr Rusesabagina said a UN-backed war crimes court should put some members of the RPF on trial for their alleged role in the genocide.

"I'm just a normal person. But I've always defended human rights," he said at the time.

"I'm trying to be the voice of millions of Rwandese who have no-one to speak out for them."**BBC**



Planet Venus: The phosphine is detected at mid-latitudes

United should sign defenders over Sancho - Berbatov



DIMITAR Berbatov believes Manchester United should be prioritising a move for a centre back over a transfer for Jadon Sancho ahead of the start of the new season.

United are still trying to agree a deal for the Borussia Dortmund winger and are also keen on strengthening in defence, but former club striker Berbatov thinks a defender should be the main focus ahead of the October 5 deadline.

"Centre back, for sure, needs to be the priority in my opinion. Who that is going to be and if they are going

to buy a player I don't think we will find out until the end of the window, but that should be the priority, along with right back," Betfair ambassador Berbatov told Goal.

Victor Lindelof and Harry Maguire were Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's first choice centre-back pairing last season, but Berbatov isn't convinced by the consistency of the pair despite them keeping 13 clean sheets in the league last season.

"I think Lindelof is good enough but sometimes he makes unnecessary mistakes where he is out of position,

and that is not good for the team. That's why they need someone, not only to push him but also for Maguire as well," Berbatov explained.

"Even if you are captain and they spent a lot of money on you doesn't mean you have to play every game and I think he can do even better.

"He has had his ups and downs, he has had some good games and bad games like every player has in their career but obviously and the most important thing is that Ole trusts him and gave him the armband and made him the captain. **GOAL.COM**

By Abraham Kalito

THE FOOTBALL Association of Zambia (FAZ) has confirmed that it has received the first US\$500,000, the first batch of the US\$1.5 million FIFA Covid-19 relief funds.

FAZ president Andrew Kamanga said the disbursement will commence this week adding that various stakeholders, including clubs have been notified of the development.

"On a good note, we have finally received the first batch of the FIFA Covid-19 relief funds amounting to USD500,000. In line with our belief in transparency, we have informed our members with the verification of accounts details underway. The disbursement is expected to be in full swing this week with our members kept abreast with the process. Our plea will be that the relief funds be prudently used by our clubs. We expect that prudent usage will make it easier to dispense the second cycle that we expect

FAZ commences COVID fund disbursement

to receive in January 2021," Kamanga stated.

And Kamanga expressed confidence that many aspects of football, including allowing spectators into the stadia, are closer to being opened up following President Edgar Lungu's decision to open schools and bars.

"We had activities that draw similar group conditions with football given the guidelines on how to proceed. With the roadmap for the re-opening of schools and bars given, it could open up more sectors that were previously closed. This is definitely a good sign that we could be closer to

opening up more aspects of our lives especially football. We are confident that if schools and bars can get the act of observing Covid-19 guidelines right, it should put us in a better position to manage the football end of business," he stated.

"In the background, we have been doing a lot of ground work for the next season that we have tentatively projected to re-open next month. We are hopeful that our engagement with the Zambia Medical Association (ZMA) and other key stakeholders will result in better preparedness once the

season kicks-off. We are especially keen on getting the health protocols right and one of the proposals on the table is the purchase of testing kit exclusively for our members. This will help us have more control of the test and result chain."

Kamanga said the association is constantly engaging the health sector on how they can best kick-start the season.

"We are constantly engaging our parent Ministry of Sports and their health counterparts to ensure that we cover enough ground before we kick-start the 2020-2021 season," stated Kamanga.

SAFA confirms friendly with Zambia but FAZ says 'we're yet to confirm'

By Abraham Kalito

THE South Africa Football Association (SAFA) has announced that it has secured an international friendly match against Zambia but sources from the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) have told Goal Diggers that the two federations are yet to confirm the arrangement.

According to SAFA, the Chipolopollo boys are to play Bafana Bafana next month at the FNB stadium, adding that the two federations had sealed the agreement.

Goal.com quoted a SAFA spokesperson Dominic Chimhavi as saying that South Africa will host Zambia during the international break in October after the two countries reached an agreement.

"We have approached and managed to get Zambia and Namibia for friendly matches. Plans are that we play Zambia at home and Namibia away. Our opponents have agreed but everything is dependent on lockdown regulations. These plans are in anticipation that we will go into Level One of the nationwide lockdown and our borders would be opened soon. We looked within the Cosafa region due to travel restrictions and the countries we approached have been very receptive and they agreed to play us. They also want to get their national teams back in action," said Chimhavi.

But sources at FAZ said a confirmation is yet to be made on whether or not Zambia was available for the friendly match.

Clubs want fans at stadia

By Ngosa Chalwe

FOLLOWING the partial reopening of bars and night clubs by President Edgar Lungu, some football stakeholders have appealed to the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) to engage Government on the possibility of having fans at stadiums next season.

Super Division promoted side Kitwe United acting board chairman, Patrick Tembo, has said Football House should begin to engage relevant ministries on the possibility of allowing fans back into the stadium.

After the resumption of the just ended league, matches were played behind closed doors in a bid to avert a possible spread of the Coronavirus.

With the season reportedly set to start next month, there has been no indication as to whether

games will continue being played behind closed doors as part of the measures to prevent COVID-19.

However, with the head of state having opened social places such as bars and nightclubs which were closed in March, football lovers also want to watch the game from the stadium.

"It is a two way thing, you know clubs lose out on revenue if there are no fans and it is hard to run football under the current circumstances so I think FAZ should consult the government on a possibility to have games opened to the public," Tembo said.

The former referee said implementing social distancing at stadiums would "not be too big of a problem" because Zambian venues were rarely full.

"Regardless, our stadiums are not usually full to capacity so I believe

issues of social distancing would not be too big of a problem, if churches can be crowded in a small room or marketeers, if they can be at the market from morning to afternoon every day, what more at a football game?" wondered Tembo.

And Chipolopollo Soccer Fans Association (CSFA) chairman Yotam Mwanza echoed Tembo's sentiments.

"It is prudent that FAZ begin to engage the Ministry of Sports on the matter, we have a number of big stadiums that can accommodate fans while meeting all the COVID-19 preventive measures such as social distancing," said Mwanza. "We have seen other countries have started a phased introduction of fans back into the game, we can also have a regulated number."

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By Ngosa Chalwe
NEWCOMERS Zanaco showed their class in the Division 1 of the Futsal League after beating Blue Bombers 21-1 as the league entered Week Two at the weekend.

Although known to be a force in football, Zanaco last month started a Futsal team and the club is proving to be crafting itself a reputation of being 'a baby born with teeth.'

After beating DS Academy 8-4 in Week One two weeks ago, the Bankers shot to the summit of the lower division table in style with a 21 goal thriller.

Zanaco started the match in dominant form as they continued to pin Bombers in their own half to ensure they ran home with all the three points.

In the Premier League, an immaculate performance by Kitwe Bullets against CSS Petauke saw them

ZANACO THRASH BLUE BOMBERS IN FUTSAL LEAGUE

dislodge Kabwe K-Line from the top of the league.

In a Week Two league match at the Automotive Futsal Arena, Bullets beat Petauke 9-1 to take charge of the log with

six points after two straight wins.

The Kitwe side bossed the game from the onset to ensure that they keep their unbeaten run since their 3-1 victory against Monze George in the

opening round.

The victory saw Bullets take charge of the log with six points, at par with Lusaka Automotive, K-Line and Livingstone Pirates who all recorded victories over the weekend.

Pirates and K-Line beat Kafue Saints and Siavonga Beetles 4-1 and 4-3 respectively while defending champions Lusaka Automotive were too strong for DS Isoka in a 6-0 bashing.

In the other fixture played over the weekend, Monze George lost their second straight game after going down 3-1 to Chipata Boys who registered their first win of the season.



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