



Polling streams will act as polling stations to increase transparency - ECZ

By Julia Malunga
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says during the 2021 elections, all polling streams will transmit results directly to the totalling centre without waiting for the combination of results at polling stations.
The move is aimed at increasing transparency, eliminating suspicions and achieving time efficiency, says ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano.
In an interview, Nshindano said the polling streams which will be turned into polling stations will have their own General Regulations Form 20.
"The change will firstly enhance the time for processing and announcements of results, each stream converted to a polling..." *Story page 5*

I'LL REMAIN PRESIDENT ...whether Hichilema like it or not - Lungu

By Julia Malunga
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says whether Zambians like it or not, he will be re-elected for a third successive time as Republican President in next year's general elections.
Speaking, Wednesday, when he drummed up support

for George Chisanga, the PF candidate in today's Lukashya parliamentary by-election, President Lungu vowed that whether voters liked it or not, he would still end up being re-elected for a third time at the 2021 general election.
The President said it's

not him who doesn't want Hichilema to appear on the ballot paper, but the people of Zambia who are asking him to account for selling the country.
"Ati ndemutina mu 2021 ndefwaya ekabako (They are saying that I am scared of HH, I don't..." *Story page 6*

ERB rules out fuel price hike

By Ulande Nkomesha
THE Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has ruled out any immediate hike in fuel prices despite the kwacha's continued depreciation against major currency convertibles, saying the latest oil consignment is yet to be received to determine any price changes. *Story page 4*

Probe HH, he is not special - Mwila

Story page 5

ZAMRA recalls toxic HoneyBee drugs

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ZAMBIA Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) director general Bernice Mwale has ordered HoneyBee Pharmacy to recall all batches of Paracetamol tablets which it supplied to the Ministry of Health within

14 days, saying it does not meet some specifications.
And Mwale has asked HoneyBee to further submit to the authority a detailed report of the recall process, which should include the quantity of drugs imported and those supplied to health facilities. *Story page 7*

Northern Police nab 2 PF cadres for damaging UPND vehicle

Story page 2

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Zambia records 68 new COVID-19 cases, 2 deaths

By Ulande Nkomesha
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama says Zambia has recorded 68 new COVID-19 cases out of 847 tests done.

And Dr Malama says the country has recorded two COVID-19 related deaths in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Dr Malama says three million Zambians are at a higher risk of infection due to old age or underlying conditions.

Speaking during the routine COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Malama said the cumulative figure currently stood at 13,887.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded a total of 68 new COVID-19 cases reported in 12 districts. These districts include Lusaka, 39, Kitwe, 12, Solwezi, five, Ndola, two, Livingstone, two, Chipata, two, Zimba, one, Petauke, one, Monze, one, Kazungula, one, Kalomo, one and Choma, one. These new cases in the last 24 hours are among the 847 tests we conducted as a country giving us a positivity of eight percent. The cumulative number of cases in the country is therefore 13,887," Dr Malama said

"The new cases include in broad terms 37 which we identified through health care facility screening in which 11 are from Kitwe and 26 in Lusaka. We also had 24 which we detected through routine screening coming from Choma, one, Kalomo, one, Kazungula, one, Kitwe, one, two from Livingstone, nine from Lusaka, one Monze, two Ndola, five Solwezi and one Zimba. We also had five contacts to known cases, these are Chipata two, Lusaka three. We also had one health care worker who tested positive from Petauke Eastern

Province."

And Dr Malama said the country recorded two COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours which brought the total number of deaths recorded to 326.

"We had one BID within Lusaka who tested positive from COVID-19. On a sad note we lost an adult male patient in Livingstone Central Hospital due to COVID-19. He had co-morbidities. Following the two COVID-19 related deaths we are reporting today, the cumulative number of deaths in our country stands at 326 which we have classified as follows: 110 deaths due to COVID-19, 210 COVID-19 associated deaths and six deaths which we are reviewing pending classification and we shall update the nation in due course," Dr Malama said.

He said 279 patients in Lusaka were discharged.

"Today, we have discharged 279 patients in Lusaka district. The number of patients still under health facility isolation country wide stands now at 34 with 10 on oxygen therapy and these are disaggregated as follows: Lusaka has 19 patients with six on oxygen at Levy Mwanawasa isolation and treatment center, Copperbelt we have seven patients, Ndola Teaching Hospital has got four, two on oxygen, Kitwe has three with two on oxygen, North Western Province we have two at Solwezi General Hospital; Muchinga we have two at Chinsali General Hospital; Central Province we have two at Kabwe District Hospital; Luapula we have one at Mansa General Hospital; Southern we have one in Kazungula. This therefore in summary gives us confirmed cumulative numbers of COVID-19 cases in the country 13,887 out of a

total of 134,236 tests we have conducted since the pandemic was confirmed in Zambia with 12,869 recoveries, giving Zambia a recovery rate 90 percent and 326 deaths," he said.

Dr Malama said three million Zambians were at a higher risk to COVID-19 by virtue of old age or having underlined conditions.

"The decision by His Excellency the President Edgar Lungu to relax some restrictions to enable economic and social activities was based on surveillance data that indicated an improving situation, particularly the reduction in positivity as we continue testing. Nevertheless it is important to amplify that this is not to say that COVID-19 outbreak is over. All of us remain at risk of the infection. We respond, we react to the infection to COVID-19 differently. We do have about three million Zambians who may be having a higher risk by virtue of old age or having underlying conditions," said Dr Malama.

"That is the main reason we should not under play with COVID-19 where as the majority may mount an effective response at individual level in terms of humanity we still have many other Zambians who may not do so. So it is imperative that we work to protect all Zambians. Our positive [numbers] have been reducing but let us not take this for granted. As we have eased the restrictions, allowed social economic activities to run, people are interacting more and more, there is a risk of a surge. We need to ensure that within the spirit of the new normal adherence to the public health and social measures is maintained and are improved on."

Northern Police nab 2 PF cadres for damaging UPND vehicle

By Daniel Chansa

NORTHERN Province Police have arrested two PF cadres for damaging a motor vehicle belonging to a UPND official in broad daylight at Kasama Shoprite.

And Police have launched a manhunt for a group of PF cadres led by Mubanga commonly known as "Bargadi" of Ndola for threatening violence and damaging UPND property.

In a statement, Wednesday, Zambia Police Public Relations Officer Esther Katongo identified the two PF cadres arrested in Kasama as Jannie Yamba Yamba and Witson Mutanda.

She said the two allegedly damaged a motor vehicle, a Toyota Vista registration number ABT 375, property of Jairos Simbeye.

"The complainant who was in the company of his friend were about to come out of shop rite where they had gone to buy commodities when a group of people clad in PF regalia surrounded their motor vehicle painted in UPND colours. Upon seeing the group, they went back in the shop but one of them only identified as Gideon was recognised and followed by the thugs and assaulted him and he sustained injuries. The thugs later damaged the said motor vehicle which was parked at Shop rite. The suspects are detained in police custody and will be appropriately charged," Katongo said.

She said Yamba Yamba also reported that he

was unlawfully wounded.

"During the same confusion, Janny Yamba Yamba aged 34, the suspect in the case of Malicious damage, reported to have been unlawfully wounded by suspected UPND cadres using a Matchet. The victim sustained a deep cut in the head. Investigations have been instituted in the matter. We are warning all political players, that Police shall not tolerate any tuggery by any individual under the guise of politics. We urge political players to be tolerant and concentrate on promoting their ideals as opposed to taking the route of violence. Police shall not spare any individual that will be found wanting," she said.

Katongo has also revealed that Yamba Yamba 34 is also facing a charge of assault.

She said Yamba Yamba is alleged to have assaulted Mwila Kampamba aged 26 of Site and Service in Monze District.

And Northern Province Police Commissioner Richard Mweene said the police are looking for a group of people seen in a video threatening violence and damaging UPND property.

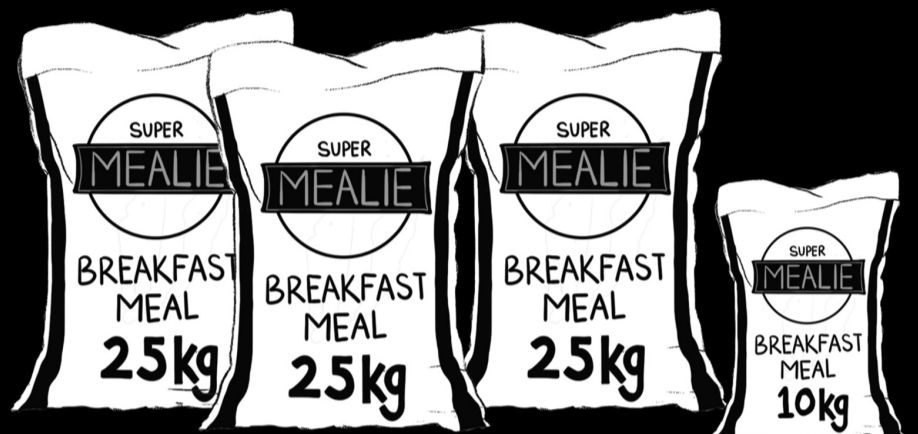
"I can say we are looking for that group. That information has just come to our attention," said Mweene.

Bargadi, as he is commonly known on Ndola, is part of the Security committee of the PF on the Copperbelt.

POWER HUNGRY

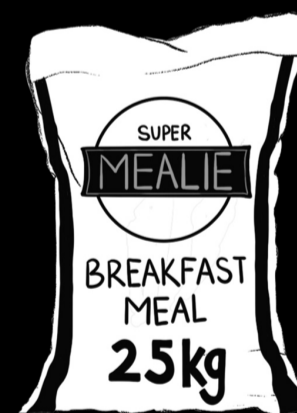
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THE NOLLE PROSEQUI IN ZAMBIA: A POLITICAL TOOL OR A PROSECUTOR'S NECESSITY?

INTRODUCTION

The retention of the nolle prosequi has been of growing debate in most jurisdictions around the world. In Zambia, most people have complained that the nolle prosequi has been used as a political tool in order to punish and "silence" political opponents. This is not withstanding the fact the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is an "independent" constitutional office not subject to political control. This piece seeks to argue for and against the retention of the nolle prosequi in light of the socio-legal discourse surrounding it.

DEFINITION, RATIONALE AND USE OF NOLLE PROSEQUI

Definition

According to the Black's Law Dictionary a nolle prosequi is a formal entry upon the record, by the state in criminal proceedings, by which the state declares that it will no further prosecute the case, either to some of the defendants, if jointly charged, or altogether. It is entered into pursuant to section 81 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia. The DPP, on her own or through prosecutors and state advocates, has the power to enter a nolle prosequi in any matter and at any time before judgement is delivered. It must be borne in mind that by Article 180 (3) the DPP is the Chief Prosecutor for the Government and head of the National Prosecutions Authority. By Article 180 (4) (c) the DPP has the power to discontinue, at any stage before judgement is delivered, criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by the DPP or another person or authority and this includes private prosecutions.

Is the DPP above scrutiny in as far as entering nolle prosequi is concerned?

The DPP can enter a nolle prosequi in any matter that the DPP feels right to do so and this power gives the DPP wide discretion. It must be noted that the DPP, according to a plethora of authorities, can enter a nolle prosequi in any matter that the DPP deems right and this power is incontestable and cannot be challenged. This was the position of the Zambian Supreme Court in the celebrated case of Director of Public Prosecutions v Mbayo Mutwala Augustino (1977) ZR 287 (SC). This is so because a nolle prosequi is not an application but rather the court is merely informed of the decision taken by the DPP to enter a nolle prosequi. The position is thus that neither the court nor the defence can ask the DPP to furnish reasons as to why she intends to discontinue a matter through a nolle prosequi. This position was somewhat clarified in the matter of The People v Fred M'membe and the Post Newspapers Limited Ex Parte Rupiah Bwezani Banda HPR/06/2014. I am fortified by this case to submit that a nolle prosequi may be challenged in a matter where a DPP has a vested interest.

Are there any other ways in which the DPP may discontinue cases in Zambia?

The correct procedure to discontinue a matter before the High Court is through the DPP entering a nolle prosequi as guided by the centennial case of R v Train Viyuwi 5 NRLR 78. This is not to say that a charge in the Subordinate Court cannot be withdrawn via a nolle prosequi but rather that in the High Court entering a nolle prosequi is the 'correct' procedure of withdrawing a charge against an accused person. However, there other ways in which the DPP may withdraw a matter in line with the powers under Article 184 namely: withdraw (section 88 of the CPC); Offer of no evidence (R v Frackson Samson (1961) R & NRLR 108). It must be noted that the use of offer of no evidence is rarely used as the effect is that the accused is acquitted immediately hence the shock when the Rosemary Khuzwayo-led Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) opted for this when they could have simply entered a nolle prosequi under the auspices of the DPP.

Rationale of Nolle Prosequi

The nolle prosequi is an essential to available to prosecutors and if used in the public interest it serves a greater and 'holy' good. The nolle prosequi was designed by the architects of English law to help prosecutors resolve complicated cases and help in the dispensation and general administration of justice. Thus the nolle prosequi may be used for one of the following reasons:

- i. Where a prosecution has already commenced and new facts are found warranting the change of a charge.
- ii. Where the prosecution using its powers under statute such as the Plea Negotiations Agreements Act No. 20 of 2010 intend to make one of the offenders as a state witness.

iii. Where people participated in a crime together but the other accomplices are on the run then when apprehended the person already appearing in court may be a subject of a nolle prosequi so that their co-accomplices are joined to the charge.

iv. Where there is non-appearance of witnesses and to avoid dismissal of the case the prosecutor may enter a nolle prosequi to preserve the charge.

v. What the prosecution cannot and is expected not to do is to arrest someone without evidence hoping to 'fish' evidence as the case proceeds and when that proves difficult enter a nolle prosequi.

THE NOLLE PROSEQUI AFTER THE MUTEMBO NCHITO DEBACLE

In my Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, supervised by Zambia's foremost criminologist Professor Kalombo Mwansa, I opine that:

On 10th March, 2015 the Pandora box of prosecutorial misconduct, abuses and excesses was opened by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu who set up a tribunal to investigate alleged misconduct by Mutembo Nchito, S.C then DPP. The terms of reference for the tribunal comprising three former Chief Justices of the Republic namely; Annel Silungwe, Matthew Ngulube and Ernest Sakala were as follows:

- (a) allegations that the DPP had repeatedly abused the authority of his office by indiscriminately entering nolle prosequi in cases he had interest in, for example, The People v Shubert Sinkala, The People v Hakainde Hichilema; The People v Lameck Phiri; The People v Rajan Mahtani & John Sangwa among others;
- (b) establish if the DPP was in order to enter a nolle prosequi in his own case namely; The People v Mutembo Nchito Ex Parte Newton Ng'uni;
- (c) investigate the DPP's alleged uttering of a false document and fraudulent representation to Supreme Court Judge Gregory Phiri;
- (d) investigate the DPP's intentional disrespect to judicial proceedings and to High Court Judge Nigel Mutuna between 1st January, 2011 and 31st December, 2015 by walking away from the court;
- (e) investigate allegations that the DPP had taken over matters in which he has a conflict of interest relating to his business partners, for example, Fred Namakando M'membe and the Post Newspapers Limited; and
- (f) investigate the DPP on allegations that he planted illicit drugs on Brebner Changala and Agnes Kawandami to have them prosecuted.

Aside the politics or lack of them surrounding this case, our interest must be drawn to the allegations in (a), (b) and (c) as they impact on the administration of the nolle prosequi in Zambia. The allegations against the Chief Prosecutor and Head of the NPA were serious and surely blighted the reputation of all prosecutors in the country seeing as the top most was put under scrutiny for misconduct, alleged or otherwise. The DPP was unceremoniously relieved of his duties by the President after the tribunal found him guilty on some allegations. These allegations, true or trumped up, have surely raised legitimate concerns among the general citizenry on the administration of the nolle prosequi as to whether it must be abolished or maintained.

My good friend of mine, Law Don Munyonzwe Hamalengwa argues that the nolle prosequi is a colonial relic and a politically abused tool that must be gotten rid of from this jurisdiction. He, and many others, notes that the founding principles and motivations surrounding the introduction of the nolle prosequi cannot be entrusted in political institutions as individual interests, both political and economic, have taken over and have made the nolle prosequi a dangerous relic to both individual freedoms and national interest.

NOLLE PROSEQUI IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

United Kingdom

The power to enter a nolle prosequi is almost obsolete in Britain as it is rarely used by the Attorney-General and the Crown Prosecuting Services (CPS). It is used in rare instances where a defendant is permanently physically or mentally unfit to stand trial, or when the Attorney-General takes over a private prosecution if he or she considers it not in the national interest for that prosecution to continue. The Attorney-General can only enter a nolle prosequi in Britain acting in national interest and the Attorney-General's decision to enter a nolle prosequi is challengeable in the courts of law.

The United States of America

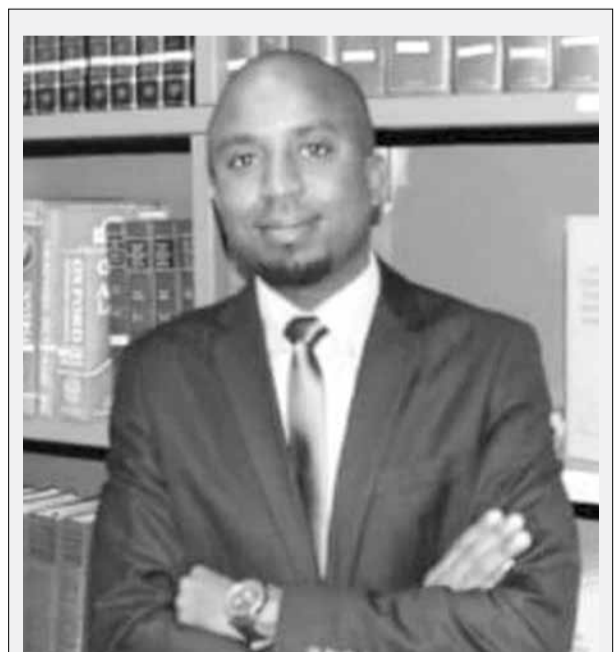
The motion to enter nolle prosequi in the United States rests with the prosecutor who may enter a nolle prosequi either before or during trial. The courts will, as a matter of formality, usually sign a dismissal order prepared by that particular prosecutor. Rule 48 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which govern how federal criminal prosecutions are conducted in the US provides for a mandatory application to seek leave of the court before a matter is dismissed via a nolle prosequi.

Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Attorney-General has similar powers as that of the DPP in Zambia in as far as commencement, taking over and discontinuation of criminal proceedings are concerned. And these powers are unchallengeable as can be seen in the case of Attorney-General v Engati (1986) 3 NWLR 28. The power to enter a nolle prosequi is only available to the Federal Attorney-General and has been available since the political independence of the Republic. However, in order to avoid abuse of the legal process, the Attorney-General is required to act in the interests of justice and have regard to the public interest as held in DPP v Akozo (1962) 1 All NLR 235. It is not necessary for the Attorney-General to ask for the consent of the court before he or she can enter a nolle prosequi.

CONCLUSION

Most African countries, especially those in the Commonwealth of Nations, still have the nolle prosequi in their CPCs modelled on English law. My view, having been a prosecutor myself, is that the nolle prosequi is a necessary and an indispensable evil in the prosecution process. If used in national interest and not as a political tool to silence and settle political scores, have enormous and fulfilling benefits to the prosecution process. The only recommendation that can be offered is not to get rid of the nolle prosequi but rather to regulate its administration. Modelled on the Prosecution Guidelines of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for New South Wales, rules and indeed legislation may be promulgated to regulate the entire prosecuting process by the DPP and NPA from the decision to arrest to the decision to charge and finally the decision to prosecute. The DPP and the operations of the NPA must be clearly regulated by rules or legislation and the independence of the Office of the DPP must go beyond paper and exhibited by the DPP in practice so as to restore the confidence of the public in as far as the administration of the nolle prosequi is concerned. The author is a criminologist and practicing lawyer in Zambia. He teaches law at the University of Lusaka and is author of Criminal Procedure and Practice in Zambia: An Introduction (Juta, 2020) and Prosecutorial Misconduct and police excesses in Zambia (LAP, 2020). His new thought-provoking book Chirwa's treatise on Criminal Justice Management in Zambia which was published by LAP will be released locally on 1st November, 2020. This article expresses his personal views and not that of his employer or professional associations he may belong to.



The author, Joseph Chirwa is a lecturer and researcher of law at the University of Lusaka where he currently teaches Administrative Law. The views in this article are his and do not in any way represent those of his employer and/or professional bodies to which he belongs

By Zondiwe Mbewe

AN investigations officer at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has testified that investigations revealed that beneficiaries of the Social Cash Transfer programme was not funded on time as ZAMPOST, which was the payment service provider, would put the funds in a fixed deposit account for some days to earn interest.

Victor Mutantabowa, told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that the social cash transfer funds were not paid to beneficiaries within the stipulated 72 hours as ZAMPOST would put these funds in a fixed deposit account to earn interest for seven days.

The State witness was testifying in a matter in which former Minister of Community Development and Social Services Emerine Kabanshi is charged with two counts of willful failure to comply with the law and applicable procedure or guidelines relating to procurement involving the Social Cash Transfer programme.

When the matter came up for continued trial before Chief resident magistrate Lameck Mwale, Wednesday, Mutantabowa, who is also the arresting officer, testified

ACC officer tells court how ZAMPOST used to delay funding to SCT

that on September 20, 2018, ACC received a report of alleged corrupt practices and mismanagement of a social cash transfer programme under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.

He said the allegations was against an officer at the said Ministry and ZAMPOST.

Mutantabowa said to that effect, a joint investigations team was set up comprising himself, another investigations officer at ACC and another from the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC).

"The joint investigations team set up commenced investigations in September 2018 and extended investigations to the Ministry of Community Development, ZAMPOST and to other entities such as banks and government institutions relevant to the case," he said.

Mutantabowa said in the process of investigations, evidence was retrieved from the Ministry of Community Development, ZAMPOST

and other entities, which was analysed.

He added that the joint investigations team further conducted interviews at the said Ministry, at ZAMPOST and with other key stakeholders in the social cash transfer program such as beneficiaries and the ministry's district officials in various parts of the country.

Mutantabowa said it was established that there was

a contract signed between the Ministry of Community Development and ZAMPOST on August 21, 2017 which was marked as contract number MCDSS/SP/10/2017.

He said the contract signed with ZAMPOST was such that ZAMPOST was going to act as an agent for the Ministry of Community Development in paying social cash transfer on behalf of the Ministry.

Mutantabowa said the

contract had some special conditions indicating that ZAMPOST would have among other responsibilities and obligations; to pay beneficiaries of the social cash transfer on behalf of the Ministry in line with instructions received from the ministry in all districts of Luapula and Western Provinces.

"The second one was that ZAMPOST was to manage the process of payments and

to ensure that the payments are effected within 72 hours of receipt of funds from the Ministry. ZAMPOST was to also avail monthly reports to the Ministry by the 14th day of the following month, among others," he said.

Mutantabowa said disbursement of funds under the social cash transfer program commenced with the first disbursement being for the July/August 2017 circle, the amount being over K29 million.

He added that the said amount included the commission for ZAMPOST of about K2 million..*Story continues on P7*

Lungu's Parley speech best ever, it inspired hope among Zambians – Tutwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

KABWE Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says almost every constituency in Zambia is a beneficiary of PF development projects.

And Ngulube says President Edgar Lungu's speech to Parliament last Friday inspired a lot of hope in Zambians as it was the best ever received by Parliament from the time he was elected as member of parliament back in 2016.

Speaking in Parliament, Tuesday, Ngulube, who is also deputy Chief Government Whip, said that almost every constituency in Zambia was a beneficiary of PF developmental projects.

"Mr Speaker, first of all, I wish to state that this is one of the best speeches that this House has ever received from the time I became a member of parliament. I want to support this speech, Mr Speaker, by adding that Zambia is a unitary State and that Zambia shall develop progressively. And also, we know, Mr Speaker, that some members of parliament have been complaining that, 'in my constituency, this is at foundation level' and that 'in my constituency, I can even see trees growing!' That is evidence that the PF government has actually gone to all the constituencies in actually bringing development to this country, Mr Speaker," Ngulube argued.

He claimed that Southern and Western provinces had benefited the most from government projects since

2015 when President Lungu ascended to power.

"The PF government has actually not looked at provinces and said, 'this province, we will not touch it.' And that is why if you go to Southern Province, the PF has more than 300 projects. If you go to North-Western Province, if you go to Western Province...I also know that Western Province received the Mongu-Kalabo road under the PF government. I also know that the PF government has huge fuel infrastructure projects in Mongu. I also know that the township roads in Mongu of Western Province were done by the PF government. And most of these projects, Mr Speaker, started in 2015 when President Lungu became Head of State. And some projects were started by the late president Michael

Sata," Ngulube added.

He insisted that President Lungu's speech at the official opening of the Fifth Session of the 12th National Assembly last Friday inspired hope among Zambians as the Head of State illustrated the numerous achievements under his tenure since 2015.

"So, we will not allow people to mislead the nation that the PF government has not done anything in Manyinga (District of North-Western Province). I am aware, Mr Speaker, that in Manyinga, the PF government has started more than 11 projects. So, we want to state that this speech inspired a lot of hope in the people of Zambia. And also, we are aware that almost every constituency in this country is a beneficiary of the PF projects.

Mr Speaker, we are aware that some constituencies may complain because they want to personalize development. All the huge infrastructure, which we are seeing in the capital city, Lusaka, are part of Zambia," said Ngulube.

"I am aware, Mr Speaker, that this government has delivered. The PF government has done more than what any other government would have done in the short space. Let me also state that the Patriotic Front has actually worked even in very tough conditions [like] when we had climate change, when we had gassers, when we have been talking about COVID-19. Almost all the projects that the PF government has been talking about are actually working. This is because the PF has not abandoned any project."

Market players predict continued Kwacha depreciation

By Diggers Reporter

THE kwacha is expected to continue depreciating against major currency convertibles, given the heightened demand for dollars on the local market, coupled with dwindling supply, market data shows.

According to financial market players, the kwacha is set to maintain a weak position, depreciating further beyond the K20.00 per dollar mark, compared to an average K18.60 per dollar just one month ago.

The kwacha's huge losses mean that the local currency has depreciated by around eight per cent since mid-August, while losing around 10 per cent in value from its trading position at the start of the third quarter.

According to FNB, the kwacha is expected to continue losing value on account of heightened dollar demand, compounded by little supply of the greenback, offering almost no support for the local unit.

"USD/ZMW was little changed in yesterday's (Tuesday's) trading session, opening and closing at K19.82. Volumes ticked up slightly due to US dollar supply from some corporates, which was used to meet part of the demand pipeline. The central bank issued a statement on the state of the currency yesterday (Tuesday), in which it attributed the easing of the currency to reduced FX (foreign exchange) sales from the mines due to COVID-19 related supply disruptions, coupled with elevated demand for health-related supplies, energy, agricultural inputs and debt repayment obligations," stated FNB in its daily market update.

"The central bank also indicated that the supply of mining tax receipts has increased the reserves and enabled it to provide some FX supply to the market over the past two months. In closing, the central bank reiterated the importance of the exchange rate in inflation outcomes and addressing exchange rate volatility would be key to maintaining price and financial system stability. Given the central bank's position, we expect to see more support for the local unit in the medium-term. For now, we expect the currency to continue to trade on the back foot given the US dollar demand/supply imbalance."

And Cavmont Bank revealed that the struggling local currency is receiving almost no support from exporters, who usually offload the greenback on the financial market to buy kwacha.

"The kwacha has seen very little support from exporters in recent weeks, while importers have been seen trading the currency pair actively, especially energy and agriculture players," stated Cavmont in a separate market report, Wednesday.

Some bureaux, such as Golden Coin, quoted the kwacha at K19.90 and K20.29 per dollar for buying and selling respectively, while commercial banks, namely, Zanaco Plc, held the local unit at K19.76 and K20.13 per dollar for bid and offer respectively, by close of business, Wednesday.



President Edgar Lungu campaigning for Patriotic Front Lukashya Constituency Candidate George Chisanga at Tazara Market on Wednesday, September 16, 2020..

Picture by Salim Henry

ERB rules out fuel price hike

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has ruled out any immediate hike in fuel prices despite the kwacha's continued depreciation against major currency convertibles, saying the latest oil consignment is yet to be received to determine any price changes.

The kwacha plummeted to a record low of K20 per dollar last week, while Brent Crude oil prices have stabilised at an average US \$40 per barrel on the international market.

Fuel pump prices were last adjusted last December, which saw petrol prices hiked to an unprecedented to K17.62 per litre from K15.98 when the kwacha was at K14 per dollar and crude oil prices peaked at US \$70 per barrel.

Commenting on whether the kwacha's sustained depreciation since last month would force the ERB to hike pump prices for the second time in 10

months, ERB executive director Langiwe Lungu announced that the regulator would only determine whether a fuel price adjustment was necessary once it received the next cargo shipment.

"I think for us, we only price fuel once we have received it. We use the Cost Plus model. So, what happens on the international markets, on the Zambian market, does not immediately affect the price of fuel. What needs to happen, first, is that the cargo is received, we also have refined products that have come in by road or rail and then we get the weighted average of those products. That is the only time that we will know (what) the price is. Then, as the ERB, we are not the importers of the fuel, so we will not know the price at which it has landed until we get the necessary documentation from the Ministry (of Energy). So, only when we get the necessary documentation to conduct our assessment can we review

the price, then we will be able to advise whether we have had a 'cancelling effect,' meaning the price remains the same; also, if it hasn't exceeded the 2.5 per cent trigger ban because we only change upwards or downwards if it exceeds the 2.5 per cent trigger ban," explained Lungu in an interview in Lusaka.

"If the conditions are favourable, we would reduce the price; if the conditions are not favourable, we will then review the price. So, we are never able to say until we get the necessary documentation to run it through our pricing model and see what the factors have led to. There has been a delay, remember, that Indeni (Petroleum Refinery in Ndola) was shut down for a while so we are just waiting... as soon as we get that documentation, we do get alerts when the ship has come in. Once the ship has docked and once the documentation is ready is then when we get alerted and begin the assessment."

By Zondiwe Mbewe

AN administrator of the estate of the late Jethro Namakobo has dragged Chilanga PF member of parliament Maria Langa to the Lusaka High Court seeking an order of interim injunction restraining her from trespassing upon the deceased's property in Mwembeshi.

Malelo Ilukena claims that Langa is in the habit of ferrying political cadres for the purposes of subdividing and allocating them plots on the property.

Ilukena, who has further claimed that the late Namakobo was the registered holder of Farm No. 7026 and equitable owner of Farm No. 7027 in Mwembeshi, has also sued the Attorney General; Simon Kabamba a holder of

Chilanga PF MP in court for working with cadres in land encroachment

Plot No. L/9437, which was super-imposed on Farm No. 7027 and Joe Zulu, a resident of Lusaka and in charge of the group that is demarcating and allocating plots.

He also also sued Dismus Mutale as Zulu's assistant, who had equally been seen on the subject property demarcating and allocating plots.

Ilukena wants a declaration that the late Namakobo's estate is the equitable owner of all the land currently known as Farm No. F/7027 that initially consisted of Farm No. 1942 and a declaration that Kabamba's lease having expired, a certificate of title relating to Farm No. F/7027

must be issued to the estate of the late Namakobo.

He is further seeking damages for trespass and a declaration that Langa whether in her personal capacity or in her capacity as member of parliament for Chilanga constituency, as well as Zulu and Mutale have no authority to enter upon the subject property for the purpose of subdividing and allocating plots to anyone.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court recently, Ilukena explained that in 1970, the late Peter Namakobo, who was his grandfather, negotiated and purchased Farm No. 1942

from its previous owners where he lived until his demise on August 3, 2006.

He stated that in 1987, the UNIP government exercising its power of eminent domain compulsorily acquired a number of farms, including Farm No. 1942 for which government offered to compensate.

"Amidst protests by the late Peter Namakobo, government did compulsorily acquire Farm No. 1942 and subdivided the same into a number of plots namely F/7026 and F/7027 and subdivided F/7027 into smaller plots, including L/9437, which was granted to one Simon Kabamba on a 14-year lease," read the claim.

Ilukena stated that after the change of government from UNIP to MMD, the MMD government rescinded the policy decision and ordered the reversal of all properties that were compulsorily acquired.

He stated that all the properties were returned to the original holders, who were asked to pay compensation to those who had developed properties and had lost out owing to the reversal, which compensation was paid.

Ilukena stated that owing to old age, the late Peter Namakobo transferred his interest in the land via a Deed of Gift to his son, Jethro Namakobo, now deceased.

"Following the reversal, all the people that had been granted plots on Farm No. 7027 returned their lease except for



Mr Simon Kabamba," read the claim further.

He stated that the Attorney General had numerously been advised by the Kafue District Council to cancel the lease granted to Kabamba on the basis that the plot he had been given was super-imposed on a farm that already had a sitting tenant in the name of Peter Namakobo, but that the Attorney General remains adamant much to the inconvenience of the estate of the late Jethro Namakobo.

Ilukena further stated that Langa was in the habit of ferrying political cadres for the

purposes of subdividing and allocating them plots on the said property.

He stated that Zulu and Mutale were the ones appointed for the purpose of supervising and overseeing the illegal demarcation and allocation of plots and were on the ground every day for the illegal purpose.

Ilukena stated that the late Jethro Namakobo's estate as equitable owner runs the risk of losing the land to political cadres as without title to the subject property, it was difficult to adequately secure the land.

Money circulation schemes aren't the same as village banking - BoZ

By Diggers! Reporter

THE Bank of Zambia (BoZ) has cautioned members of the public to clearly distinguish between money circulation schemes and village savings banking groups given the rise in financial crimes.

In a statement, Wednesday, the BoZ cautioned consumers on the need to clearly distinguish between the two sources of credit, especially in view of rising financial crimes and fraud, as it had become increasingly easier to fall victim and be lured by the promise of high returns.

The central bank pointed out that the key difference between the two was that money circulation schemes remained an illegal activity as they involved the pooling and distribution of funds by recruitment of subscribers, who were usually promised high returns or interest rates that were often too good to be true.

"...The core business model depends on the continuous recruitment of subscribers and not any meaningful underlying economic activity, which makes it unsustainable. It is, thus, a risky with no assurance that subscribers or investors will get the money they have invested," cautioned BoZ.

"Members of the public are

urged to be diligent and remain vigilant in their financial dealings, especially in light of increased financial crimes as well as companies that lure people with the promise of high and unrealisable returns. The BoZ licenses, regulates and supervises entities that are covered by the Banking and Financial Services Act, 2017, and these do not include village banking/savings groups. This, notwithstanding, the BoZ recognises the relevant role village banking/savings groups play in communities, including transitioning their members into formal financial

services and in driving the financial inclusion agenda."

Village banking/savings groups are hugely popular small savings and lending schemes organised outside the formal financial sector.

They usually consist of members who are familiar with each other and share certain commonalities through their family, friends and community.

Accumulated savings and interest earned on loans extended to members are the main source of benefits, which are shared out at the end of the respective cycle.

There's nothing special about HH, he must be investigated for privatisation - Mwila

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front secretary general Davies Mwila says there is nothing special about UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema so he should be investigated for his role in the privatization of state owned enterprises.

And Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says when it comes to the law, no one will be favored.

Speaking when they drummed up support for George Chisanga at a rally in Lukashya, Wednesday, Mwila said if Hichilema wanted to rule the country, he must wash himself of any wrong doing.

He said President Edgar Lungu allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate and prosecute his ministers, therefore, there was nothing special about the

UPND leader.

"Ba President Edgar Lungu has made a commitment to fight corruption without segregation. Dr Chitalu Chilufya was investigated, taken to court and acquitted. Honorable (Ronald) Chitolela was investigated, taken to court and acquitted. In this case, no one is special. HH must be investigated," Mwila said.

"Abena kalo chalo baletila ba HH balondolole bwino efyo bashitische Intercontinental (Hotel). Balondolole efyo basendele ilya inganda baleikalamo. Ifi nibantu balefwaya, teifwe ba PE. Tulenkonka fye ifyo abantu balelanda. Ulefwaya ukuba kateka afwile aisambaika, he must be clean. That is all what the people of Zambia are saying. Belatukaika fye ngachafika palibena awe! Tule fwaya umuntu onse alondolola. Filya balelanda ati corruption awe nicho tulebomba. Chakweba ati ngabalumbula corruption pakweba ati tutine twilabomba tuletwalila ukubomba because those are the promises that we made. Efyo twalaile abantu misebo, ifipatala, social cash transfer. President Lungu at work. And I have said no political party has done what we have done since independence (People of Zambia are saying Hichilema should explain how he sold Intercontinental Hotel and how he acquired the house he was staying in. It is not us the PF who want this, it is the people of Zambia. If you want to be a President, you should be clean. He should not be insulting when he is told to explain himself. We want everyone to explain.

They (opposition) keep on stating that we are corrupt, it is because we are working. When they accuse us of being corrupt, they want us to be distracted so that we should not work. We promised the people of Zambia good roads and hospitals."

And Kampyongo said anyone who broke the law would be arrested indiscriminately.

"We sent people to come and issue National Registration Cards even here in Chisanga area they are here. So all those who are 16 years and above you have an opportunity to go and get one instead of going to the local authorities which are in far places. And to those who lost your cards, ensure that you get your cards here. We sent our officers to come here using the money that we were given by the Finance minister and then a person comes to damage that property and beat our officers, is that a reasonable person? What do you do to such a person? And I want to assure you that we don't work with favor, when you break the law we arrest you, we don't choose!" exclaimed Kampyongo.

He also warned people to drink responsibly within the allowed trading hours for bars.

Polling streams will act as polling stations to increase transparency - ECZ

By Julia Malunga

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says during the 2021 elections, all polling streams will transmit results directly to the totalling centre without waiting for the combination of results at polling stations.

The move is aimed at increasing transparency, eliminating suspicions and achieving time efficiency, says ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano.

In an interview, Nshindano said the polling streams which will be turned into polling stations will have their own General Regulations Form 20.

"The change will firstly enhance the time for processing and announcements

of results, each stream converted to a polling centre will tally its votes and the presiding officer will announce the results and send them directly to the totalling centre immediately, it will also enhance transparency in that each converted stream will have its own results form (General regulations form 20) in addition to disaggregated data such as number of voters and votes cast," Nshindano said.

"Previously, polling stations would have as many as 16 streams or more and the current system entailed that all these votes have to be aggregated at the polling station before being sent to the totalling centre, which took a lot of time

but also raised suspicions because of the movements in the aggregation process."

When asked if this would mean an increased number of election monitors from stakeholders, Nshindano said this would be at their discretion.

"This doesn't necessarily mean more monitors for organised stakeholders who already used to place monitors in each stream but if the monitors were placed per polling station it means that they need to be per stream which now has been converted to polling station as everything will be concluded there and there will be no aggregating of the votes at the polling station as was the case." Nshindano said.

I remain president, whether HH likes it or not - Lungu

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says whether Zambians like it or not, he will be re-elected for a third successive time as Republican President in next year's general elections.

Speaking, Wednesday, when he drummed up support for George Chisanga, the PF candidate in today's Lukashya parliamentary by-election, President Lungu vowed that whether voters liked it or not, he would still end up being re-elected for a third time at the 2021 general election.

The President said it's not him who doesn't want Hichilema to appear on the ballot paper, but the people of Zambia who are asking him to account for selling the country.

"Ati ndemutina mu 2021 ndefwaya ekabako (They are saying that I am scared of HH,

I don't want him to appear on the) ballot paper it is not me who is demanding that HH should account for his past. It is the people of Zambia. HH, whilst we were sleeping sold the country. The Zambians have woken up for goodness sake they have seen that they want an answer. So let me warn the UPND that we have woken up. I am ready to go for the commission of inquiry if that will be the best line so that we know," he said

And President Lungu has charged that he cannot be scared of UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema because he is "too small for him" and that in 2021, "nkamufikinya".

He also said if he were to die today, Vice-President Inonge Wina would take over as President.

"Nangu chibe shani namailo litali, na 2021 litali, lelo kufika next election

mu August pa 12 mu 2021, president ninebo! Nangu alefwaya olo talemwaya, president ninebo! Nobo mukasala afwile abomba naine. Nga chakutula ati nafwa lelo, ba President niba Inonge Wina, chapwa! Ulelanda ati aleleta ubuyantashi alebepa pantu ubuyantashi uli kuli George Chisanga, ine na Minister of Finance, chapwa! Ba PF nabausana nefipani fyashala ifi pantu ba PF tulabombela abantu. We are a poor people's party. Onse umuntu eflyo engakabila mu bumi bakwe buteko wingaleta! (No matter what, next year, August 12, 2021, I will be the President! Whether you like it or not, I will be the President. If I were to die today, the Vice-President will take over from me, that's all! A person who is saying they will bring you development is lying to you, the only ones who can

bring you development is myself, George Chisanga and the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu). The ruling PF is different from other political parties because we work for the people. Whatever a person may desire in their life, the government is able to provide)," President Lungu said.

"Kuli ulefwaya ukuteka ichalo ala ichalo cha kwata one leader at a time. Pali kano kanshita ni 'one Zambia, one nation,' one leader and that leader is Edgar Lungu, period! Nga watoba ifunde, kukakwa, umulandu taubola. Chaba sana ukwibila abantu, ngabalibile mu privatization, balebalonga, teine iyo... Iyo Lungu aletina pantu mu 2021 tukabikapo uyu kuti alusa Lungu. Lungu takaluse mu 2021. Nalifye from Chawama shaishibe nangu chimo naisaba

president namu nyankula, that was 2015. Mu 2016, naisa shiba ama tactics naisa muma one, nauno mulungu nala mu kanda. Ilyashi lyakubepa abantu yalipwa; kwaliba ama television abantu balemona. Kwaliba abantu bambi balanda ati Lungu alwala fyabufi; nangu ndwale, ndapola. (There is one opposition leader who desperately wants to take over the country, there is only one leader at a time and that is me. When you break the law, you have to pay for it, a crime committed can never be forgotten, and it was too much stealing from the people. If he stole during privatisation, he will be arrested. It is not me, no! Some people are saying, 'Lungu is scared because he will lose in 2021, we should field another candidate' I cannot lose in 2021! I was from Chawama, I did not know anything, but I managed to defeat him. In 2016, I knew some tactics, I still beat him, even in 2021, I will defeat him! Time of lying to people is long gone, they were saying, 'Lungu is sick,' even if I get sick, I will recover)."

He said if money was important in life, he would not have been elected President.

"I ndalama ngashalebomba, lelo nga nshali minister, nga nshali president. Abalelwisha mu party abakwete indalama, abakwete ama contracts balibakana pantu balimona ati ine ninebo mufimbwa nabantu. Abantu abengi ababula amano, ababula skopodonono balanda ati 'taukwete indalama,' indalama teti ikushike. (If money was that important, I would not have been a minister or a President. Some people in the

party who had money and contracts and wanted to take over the party were rejected because they saw that I put people first. Some people who don't reason say, 'you don't have money' but money cannot bury you)."

And speaking when he addressed Lukashya residents at TAZARA grounds, the Head of State insisted that Hichilema was the one frightened of him.

"Nomba naumfwa abantu baletila Lungu aletina HH mu 2021, eflyo alefwaya ati atitikishe HH pali uyu umulandu. Lekenye myebe, HH shimutina, shakamutine pantu achepa sana. HH atina ine that's why alwisha ati ba PF bafunyepo ine babike umbi pakuti ese akabe president. Nomba ine ndelanda ati umulandu taubola. Nga waliba indalama, leka abantu beshibe ngawaliba... Umuntu ewo nachitile flya mu 2015 ewo ninga tina? Elo nafumine Ku chawama nalifye fontina, namunyunkula. Nomba alemona ati 2021 elo ningatina? Achepa sana. (I hear some people saying, 'I am scared of HH, that is why I am bringing the issue of privatisation and want to stop him from contesting the 2021 elections.' Let me tell you, I am not scared of him, I will never be scared of him because he is too small! He is the one who is scared of me, that is why he wants PF to field another candidate so that it will be easier for him. But I am saying that a crime committed will never be forgotten. If you stole money, tell the people so that they know. Can I be scared of a person I defeated in 2015? When I came from Chawama, I was a greenhorn, but I defeated him. He thinks I will be scared in 2021? He is too small!")" said President Lungu.

"Nga alefwaya kuti aiminina mu 2021, nkamufikinya nomba umulandu tawakabole. Zambians want to know what happened to the privatisation process. Fino ndelanda, abantu nabalemba ama kalata ukutula mpange commission of inquiry pakuti twishibe ichachitike finshi. Eflyo balentinina is that I am becoming better and better as President. Epo nafumine ku Chawama, tapali nefyo naishibe, nalifye black black, naishibako nechisungu, naikalako natampa nokufwalako ama suit (If he wants, he can contest, I will still defeat him. But a crime he committed will never be forgotten. As I am speaking, I have received letters requesting that I constitute a commission of inquiry for privatisation so that people know what happened. He is scared of me because I am becoming better as a President. I did not know anything when I came from Chawama, I knew how to speak English, I have known how to wear suits)."

Violence, use of offensive language in Lukashya, Mwansabombwe by-election campaigns worry HRC

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Human Rights Commission (HRC) has condemned the political violence, hate speech and tribal talk that characterised the Lukashya and Mwansabombwe by-election campaigns.

In a statement, Wednesday, HRC spokesperson Mweelwa Muleya said the Commission had observed some isolated cases of violence, use of offensive language among others and called for all stakeholders to take practical steps in stopping the escalation of these vices before the 2021 general election.

"The Human Rights Commission calls for a continued peaceful environment during the Lukashya and Mwansabombwe parliamentary by-elections to ensure that the rights of all participating parties and candidates, as well as the electorate, are upheld and protected. The Commission also calls on all the registered voters in the two constituencies to turn up in large numbers and exercise their democratic and constitutional right to vote for candidates of their choice tomorrow (today)," Muleya stated.

"The Commission, however, observed some isolated cases of violence, use of insulting language and hate speech bordering on discrimination based on tribes or place of origin during the campaign period. The Commission strongly condemns such acts of lack of respect for others and human rights and reputation and calls upon stakeholders to take practical steps towards stemming their escalation during the countdown to the 2021 Presidential and General Elections."

He stated that although vices of intimidation were observed, most political parties were able to freely campaign.

"The protection and enjoyment of the right to vote are fundamental in a constitutional democracy like Zambia and that must be the case during the Lukashya and Mwansabombwe by-elections. The Commission has been on the ground monitoring the on-going by-election campaigns and the overall preliminary observation is that all political parties and their candidates were to a large extent able to freely campaign in accordance with the agreed election campaign schedules," Muleya stated.

"The initiative by the Electoral Commission of Zambia, the political parties

and the Zambia Police Service to draw up, agree on, observe and manage the election campaign schedules is commendable and must be upheld as one of the best practices during the countdown to the 2021 Presidential and General Elections."

He called on the police to act within the confines of the law in maintaining law and order during the by-elections.

"The Commission also calls upon the Zambia Police Service in Lukashya Constituency to ensure that their efforts are legal, reasonable and proportionate to the legitimate objective of

maintaining law, peace and order. The police must desist from taking actions that may reasonably be seen to be disadvantaging some political parties, their candidates and the electorate at large as that is a violation of civil and political rights and a recipe for breakdown of law and order," stated Muleya.

"Finally, the Commission calls upon politicians and their members to always avoid taking the law into their own hands but allow and respect the police to professionally carry out their constitutional mandate without any form of interference, intimidation or victimisation."

It's a good idea, but diaspora vote impossible in 2021 - AVAP

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ANTI-Voter Apathy (AVAP) executive director Richwell Mulwani says it is not possible for government to create a platform for its citizens in the diaspora to vote in the 2021 general election because implementing the scheme could prove challenging.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chalwe Lombe, the Ministry is due to engage the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to see if it could create a platform for Zambians living in the diaspora to vote during the 2021 general election.

But Mulwani said while the initiative was progressive, it was a scheme that required time to be tried and tested before implementing at next year's general election, given the huge volume of citizens living abroad that may want to cast a ballot.

"It's a serious undertaking which can't be done right now. I think it can't work for Zambia in the 2021 election, maybe in the 2026 election. But at the moment, it's not possible because all political party leaders need to agree. Yes, indeed, this is a very good undertaking and everything needs to be very transparent and there must be accountability. But in the absence of that, people will question the results. They will even petition the results," Mulwani cautioned.

He wondered if the ECZ even had the capacity to send representatives to go and

supervise elections in all the countries where Zambians are based.

"We should also not forget that there is variation in terms of time. Remember that, elections in Zambia are held from 06:00 hours to 18:00 hours and all those that are on the queue, once it's 18:00 hours, a police officer has to stand behind that queue and only those in front of him are allowed to vote. Now, if you allow one who is in America to vote from there, what time will it be in America? What time is going to be in the UK? What time is it going to be in the other countries? And those variations can create problems. We want to urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it is a very good idea, but the question is how are we going to prepare ourselves in terms of making sure that those in the diaspora vote in a peaceful and transparent manner? Is ECZ able to send their staff everywhere in other countries so that they can register voters and conduct elections in those particular countries? Where are they going to do this? Are they going to do it at the embassies or they are going to create certain places, which they are going to use as voter registration centres or polling centres? How is it going to be done? Are the opposition going to be engaged in these matters?" Mulwani wondered.

"This is a serious consideration in terms of how that can be done. We should not forget that the Zambian government has people in embassies and those that

represent us. And the issue is, how are they appointed in those positions? We know that these people in these missions vote from embassies and the question is: who is going to conduct those elections? Are political parties going to accept the results coming from those countries where Zambians are voting from? We need to also have a register of voters, which is also a very serious undertaking."

He added that it required all stakeholders to extensively deliberate and agree to.

"As AVAP, we still feel that there is a lot that can be done for us to reach that conclusion. It's not a matter of rushing. It's something that needs to be discussed, agreed to, and looking at the modalities of how it's going to be done. Yes, those Zambians living in other countries need to be given a platform so that they can participate in the affairs of their country. It has been an issue that we need to provide a platform for the people of Zambia living in other countries to vote in an election. It's true that we have seen other countries doing the same and we have not seen any problem with that in other countries doing that and we don't hear any allegations of election rigging. It is a very important undertaking so that Zambians living outside the country can also vote," said Mulwani.

From P4

Mutantabowa further said the disbursement was made by the Ministry of Community Development to ZAMPOST on September 28, 2017 with the scope of coverage being for Luapula and Western Provinces, according to the contract.

He however, said investigations revealed that after the disbursement was made, there were challenges on ZAMPOST's end in paying the money to the beneficiaries.

Mutantabowa said apart from funds being delayed, some beneficiaries were walking long distances to get their funds while others could not get the money entitled to them.

"The first challenge was that these funds were delayed. According to the contract, funds were supposed to be paid within 72 hours. However, these funds were not paid within the stipulated time of 72 hours by ZAMPOST. It was established that part of the reason was that ZAMPOST would put these funds in a fixed deposit account to earn interest for seven days," he said.

"The implication of that, was that the beneficiaries would not receive payment within 72 hours because funds were committed to a fixed deposit account for seven days."

Mutantabowa said the challenges were brought to the attention of the Ministry,

ACC officer tells court how ZAMPOST used to delay funding to SCT

in particular the permanent secretary at that time, Reverend Howard Sikwela.

The witness, however, said that while there were these challenges in executing these payments, the then ZAMPOST Postmaster general McPherson Chanda wrote a letter addressed to Rev Sikwela, advising the PS that ZAMPOST was ready to pay social cash transfer in Northern, Muchinga, North-Western and two districts on the Copperbelt Province namely Mpongwe and Masaiti (Lifwanyama).

Mutantabowa said their investigations further established that when Rev Sikwela received the letter, he met Kabanshi, who was the then Minister of Community Development, to advise her that the said provinces listed were not covered under the scope of contract signed with ZAMPOST.

He however, said according to Rev Sikwela, his (Sikwela's) advice was not yielded to and he was further directed to proceed to ensure that payment was made to the said provinces.

Mutantabowa said following that meeting, the director for Social Welfare was instructed to allow ZAMPOST to go ahead.

"Honourable Kabanshi instructed the director for Social Welfare to process payment and he was warned that those resisting to effect that instruction will be dealt with as previous directors were dealt with. From our investigations, the previous directors were terminated in national interest because they opposed at

one time or the other the engagement of ZAMPOST," he said.

"After being instructed to proceed to pay to these three Provinces and two districts on the Copperbelt, payment was prepared around December 2017. Funds of about over K69 million were disbursed to ZAMPOST for the September/October, 2017 circle. These funds were for Western, Luapula, Muchinga, North-Western, Northern Province and two districts on the Copperbelt Province. The commission which went to ZAMPOST was over K5 million."

The witness continues with his testimony today.

Earlier, a Banker at Zambia National Commercial testified that he was not preview on whether Kabanshi was a signatory to the bank account belonging to the Ministry of Community Development held at Zanaco.

Wishikoti Katambi, a banker at Zanaco's Lusaka Business Center branch testified that on August 27, 2019 he was approached by two officers, one from the ACC and another from DEC who presented a warrant to check the records of the bank's customer, Ministry of Community Development in regard to the transfers that were performed in 2017.

He said he therefore proceeded to give the officers a bank statement of the transactions recorded on December 14, 2017

"On December 14, 2017, the opening balance (of the account) was K74,971,516.91. There is a debit transfer that was done on this day of an amount of K5,175,225.60. This transfer went to ZAMPOST, (as the) commission. The balance reduced to 69,796,241.31.

The second transaction was for K64,690,320, then the balance came to 5,105,875.31. This transaction went to ZAMPOST," Katambi said.

In cross examination by defence lawyer Jonas Zimba, the witness said there were various signatories to the said account, adding that he was not

preview on whether Kabanshi was a signatory to the account.

In this matter, it is alleged that Kabanshi between August 21, 2017 and April 26, 2018 in Lusaka, as a minister concerned in the administration and management at the ministry of Community Development and Social Services, did willfully fail to comply with the law, applicable procedure and guidelines relating to procurement by extending the

scope of coverage of contract number MCDSS/SP/10/2017 between ZAMPOST MCDSS to include three provinces and two districts under Social Cash Transfer programme.

In count two, it is alleged that Kabanshi during the same period did willfully fail to comply the law, procedures and guidelines relating to procurement when re-engaging ZAMPOST as payment service provider under contract number MCDSS/10/2017 for Social Cash Transfer programme following the termination of the said contract.

ZAMRA orders HoneyBee to recall damaged paracetamol

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZAMBIA Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) director general Bernice Mwale has ordered HoneyBee Pharmacy to recall all batches of Paracetamol tablets which it supplied to the Ministry of Health within 14 days, saying it does not meet some specifications.

And Mwale has asked HoneyBee to further submit to the authority a detailed report of the recall process, which should include the quantity of drugs imported and those supplied to health facilities.

"The authority wishes to notify you that samples of paracetamol tablets BP 500mg batch numbers PPYP-03 and PPYP-04 manufactured by Prashi Pahrma Pvt Limited, India, and supplied by your company were analysed at the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory and were found out of specification with respect to appearance (refer to the Certificate of Analysis numbers ZAMRA/0017/20/0020-1 and ZAMRA/0017/20/0021-1 attached). In view of the foregoing, you are directed to initiate an urgent recall of ALL batches of paracetamol tablets

BP 500mg from circulation within 14 days from the day of receipt of this letter. Use of press media with wide coverage is highly recommended," Mwale stated.

Mwale further directed HoneyBee to notify the manufacturer of the drugs, who should, in-turn, provide feedback on the product defects as well as preventive measures.

"You are further required to submit to the authority a detailed report of the recall process, which should include the quantity of the products imported and the quantity collected from the various health facilities. You are also instructed to notify the manufacturer of the product to investigate and provide feedback on the product defect and corrective and preventive actions put in place to avoid

occurrence of such a defect in the future. The authority wishes to inform you that it will closely monitor the recall to ensure that the products are completely removed from circulation in the interest of public health. Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat," stated Mwale.

Last week, News Diggers! published an article about the controversial US \$17 million Health Centre Kits awarded to HoneyBee Pharmacy, which culminated into a supply of damaged and toxic drugs to the Ministry of Health.

But HoneyBee Pharmacy manager Zackir Motala argued that the discolouration on the drugs was the fault of the manufacturer, who he said had been contacted to recall the drug.


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Lumumba is right, there's a lot Lungu can do after leaving office

KENYAN Professor of Law Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba says President Edgar Lungu must consider leaving office with dignity at the end of his current term so that he can join other former African heads of state who are leading the continent in other capacities. Prof Lumumba contends that there are many things one can do after leaving the Presidency.

"President Lungu is a lawyer. He knows that his arguments are lame. His argument that he inherited a presidency and, therefore, that he is eligible again is without basis. He has not served Zambia well, he knows it. What is he going to do in his third term, even if he gets it? He should leave the stage and do so in dignity. There are a lot of things to be done when he leaves office, let him ask many presidents who have retired. Let him ask president Olusegun Obasanjo; let him ask president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete; let him ask president Joachim Chissano; let him ask Festus Mogae; let him ask

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Thabo Mbeki. There are beautiful things he can do after leaving office in dignity, he can form Edgar Lungu Foundation," Prof Lumumba said.

We agree with him on that point. In fact, we have offered the same advice to President Edgar Lungu on various occasions in the past, and we have since arrived at the conclusion that our Kateka has other fears about leaving office, rather than just losing power. But what our Kenyan brother is saying has a lot of wisdom.

Mr Rupiah Banda was not the best president we ever had. He had flaws, many of them. But one single gesture of accepting electoral defeat and democratically handing over power to an

opposition leader has earned him so much global accolade. Mr Banda is now a busy man; where there is electoral conflict on the continent, the African Union, European Union, the United Nations, not to mention SADC, all look to him as a peacemaker.

Mr Banda left power with dignity and the world is rewarding him with the respect he deserves. What Prof Lumumba is asking President Lungu to do is to create his own legacy of upholding democracy by letting other people in his party to lead. He must do the honourable thing and drop the third term bid.

If we may ask again: how does he want the people of Zambia to remember him? In 2016, he assented to the Constitution

amendments that the people were asking for, but now he wants to reverse those gains by manipulating the Constitution in his favour, why? By 2021, our President will have served seven years. What is so difficult about passing on the mantle of leadership to someone else? Is he saying there is no one else in PF who can lead the party apart from himself? How does he want Zambians, both inside and outside PF, to remember him?

Our President thinks the people of Zambia still want him to remain in office because he is surrounded by people who have made him believe so. But President Lungu must ask himself: if he lost power today, what would be left of him? Will people respect him and treat him with

the dignity deserving of a former head of State? What is the symbol of the Edgar Lungu Presidency? Is it corruption? Closing down media houses? The depreciating kwacha? Or maybe load shedding and the unprecedented fuel prices? What exactly will Zambians remember President Lungu for?

Prof Lumumba says the other reason why Zambians must remove the Patriotic Front from power is the fact that the President has embraced corruption. He says the whole continent knows that our Head of State is not committed to the fight against corruption because he allows Ministers who are arrested for graft to stay in office.

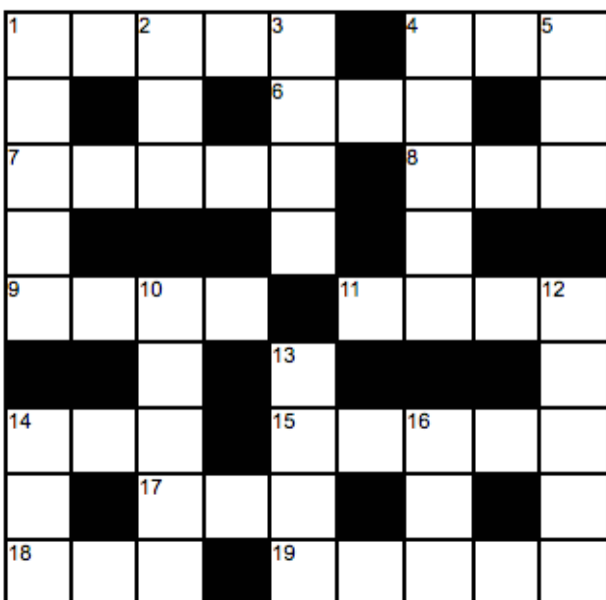
"Your President

is not interested in the fight against corruption. We know it, he is not interested in the fight against corruption. If you have Cabinet Ministers who are engaged in corruption and an anti-corruption authority investigates them and they are found to be culpable, then they ought to be taken to court. If you then interpret that as a regime change, then that regime ought to be changed. A corrupt regime needs to be changed," he said.

Again, we agree with Prof Lumumba. The amount of money that Zambia is losing to corruption is enough to finance another small African country's national budget. It's just too much! Like we have suggested before, it appears that the Head of State is reluctant to genuinely fight corruption because he is a beneficiary.

We also believe that some of the corruption that happens in his name, through government tenders and smuggling of natural resources, happens with his blessings. This is, indeed, a good ground for the people to seek regime change.

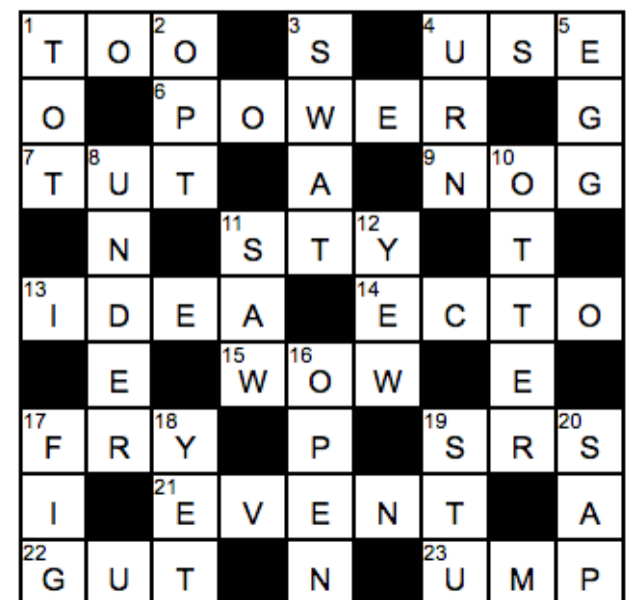
Crossword puzzle No 692



"No soldier outlives a thousand chances. But every soldier believes in Chance and trusts his luck."
- Erich Maria Remarque

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imagine 4. Practical joke 6. Freudian subject 7. Pageant topper 8. Elderly 9. Not shut 11. Ogles 14. Gorilla or Chimp 15. Rental agreement 17. Wee drink 18. Youngster 19. Web-footed mammal | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Likewise 2. Estimated Time of Arrival 3. Nasty 4. Pal of Mickey 5. Heavenly father 10. Goings-on 12. Control direction 13. Food for Fido 14. Beautiful creation 16. Perform in a play |
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Crossword puzzle No 691



Readers' Feedback

'Lungu should be above board and not engage in baseless privatisation discussions'

Editor,

"Sometimes I fall short of words and wonder what has become of this country. This whole privatisation talk is not worth a breath especially from the President. It's an issue for people who specialise in making noise on useless issues or engaging in retrogressive politics that offer no solutions to socio-economic challenges the country is currently facing. The President should be above board and not engage in baseless discussions because he has more important issues to address and all of us are looking up to him to show leadership and inspire us to rally behind him to solve our collective life challenges". - Nervious Siantombo

"What plan does he have for this failing economy? Can he for once just instill confidence and act like the CEO of the

country and take the bull by its horn as opposed to HH this, HH that, infact if he has evidence that HH stole let him be taken to court. Remember he who comes to equity must come with clean Hands". - Jeff G Chungu

"Here's the bottom line, both of You yourself sir and HH played a role in Privatization. One was a valuations expert, the other one was a lawyer drafting the contracts of sale. You both generated hefty service fees legally and legitimately from your work. One used the money he made to buy cows, land and stock in companies, his cows multiplied and his stocks grew, that's how he became a millionaire. The other one spent all his money in bars and nightclubs

such that by late 2000's he was broke and even swindled a widow of her K36,000 inheritance. So which of these two is smarter? Which one would Zambians prefer to be their president? The one who multiplied his wealth or the one who went broke? The one who went broke has now made the country broke too by the way and is threatening his opponent!" - Kris Mubanga Malama

"The man has no message for the people, only threats for HH and the UPND. I listened to him speaking yesterday, I thought he would talk about the failing kwacha and how he will fix it, I didn't hear him saying anything tangible to mitigate the high levels of

poverty in our country. All I heard was, HH...HH...HH!!!" - Moses M Simanga

"ECL a president and master of intimidation and using state machinery to fix opponents while failing to fix the economy and unite the nation! What a disgrace to have such a leader!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Bane fix the economy not individuals". - Mwamba Edgar Swizz

"Edgar Lungu has planned to arrest HH on trumped-up charges for a long time; every Zambian knows that HH is innocent. Lungu is a fraud,he's just looking for scapegoats". - Chivunda Samusungwa



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

'Lumumba right, Zambians should try HH'

Editor,

"Zambians continue to suffer because of taking anyone who offers a piece of advise as being the enemy of PF! The time we adopted multilateralism, u cant talk about sovereignty. He just like any Africa who has seen where Andrea Masiye's company went has the right to fear for Zambia! If we don't remove these guys, Zimbabwe will be heaven. This president has led

us to the worse ever economic crisis, over 70 percentage of our GDP goes towards debt servicing, foreign reserves at an all time low of \$700m and reducing, unemployment is very high, poverty has risen. Lumumba is right". - Che Guavara

"You are very right prof, Zambian people should indeed try MR HH to control the economy". - Chimuka Mwaanga

'2021 will be a dead year economically'

Dear editor,

"2021 will be a dead year economically. Investors and business houses will be gripped with uncertainty being an election year. But with prudence in management of natural resources the country is endowed with, we should be doing fine economically going forward". - Asa Amisi

"The guy that said has taken charge of the economy. What is his plan?!" - Chiza Chirwa

"Alot will have to be put in place to repair the damage caused by the current regime. putting a road here and there does not mean all is well!" - Musheke Sishekanu

"If Zambia were a tree, which was growing

bearing fruit. I only takes a few minutes to cut down a tree but decades for it to grow. We are at shouting "Timber" stage". - Krash Infinix

"The humble one has allegedly humbled Zambia, and he is allegedly extremely determined to continue humbling Zambia!" - Mwenya Kay

Chitotela's request to ECL to construct hotel next to ZNBC Mass Media

Editor,

"Always thinking of stealing and not coming up with initiatives and ideas that can benefit the people of Zambia and impact there lives. So you will find that he has already found people, his fellow crooks that will fund the project and he will be part and parcel of the beneficiaries". - Bamuna Boh Nzuna

"From your money or tax payers money?!" - Chanda Ch

"Construct a Hotel at what Cost? Am asking because abena Chitotela no bwino bwino. He constructed a Toll gate at a cost of K52 Million. What more a Hotel..." - Mwamba Edgar Swizz

"Was wondering when he will spend those trunks of money he was caught with". - Musukwa K-uncle

"Right hand mwankole to the chief mwankole aka Mukala 1....take that development to other parts of the country... And why ask the president? Is he in charge of plots?" - Fortunato Fishinka

"Lusaka is almost congested. When will our leaders start to think of taking such developments. To parts where there is less development. Those are projects that should be taken to other towns to free Lusaka. Take it to towns like Kafue or Chongwe if the hotel needs to be closer to Lusaka". - Chadlee Mondoka

"We need factories not hotels, where people will be paid meagre salaries. A Factory will create employment for the youths". - Catherine Mukange

"Is it ministry of tourism's role to built hotels mwebantu? So he had already clinched a deal with Chinese mwankole sponsors..." - Rhodes Chipengu



'I hate these primary school face masks. I've brought home the wrong child again'

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZAMBEZI East UPND member of parliament Brian Kambita complained bitterly to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini yesterday, accusing him of not recognising some members of parliament through the virtual parliament system when they indicate to speak on the floor of the House.

And Nkeyema UPND member of parliament Kapelwa Mbangweta says there is no development that the PF government can talk about in Western Province because most of the roads and bridges are "disasters-in-waiting".

Speaking when he raised a point of order in Parliament, Tuesday, Kambita complained that the digital system, which Parliament was using for its sessions was not functioning properly.

"Mr Speaker, we seem to have a technical problem in line with indicating and actually the list on the screen for those who have questions or those who are indicating. I think I raised this point of order a long time ago and this is when probably you are recognising me, which is quite unfortunate. So, I would like to find out whether the House is in order to continue sitting in this manner when the system is not functioning the way it is supposed to function?"

Speaker not recognising us during virtual Parliament sitting, complains UPND MP

I am debating from my room at the National Assembly Motel, but we don't seem to get recognition when we indicate to speak. So, I would like that addressed, Mr Speaker. Could you please make a ruling on that point of order," Kambita urged.

But in his ruling, Dr Matibini said he would have to ascertain if the problem was due to a technical failure or if the MP had personal challenges with the system.

"Honourable member for Zambezi East, I am not able to conclude on this point of order now, for obvious reasons, because the issue you have raised is a technical one. I, therefore, need to investigate and verify your concerns. We have actually positioned at the motel, a cadre of technocrats, who are on standby to respond to challenges of this sort. Therefore, I will reserve my ruling. But as I reserve my ruling, I would also urge you to get in touch with the cadre of our technocrats, who are on the ground right at the motel so that, if possible, they may come

to your aide. I am not able to say firmly or conclusively whether there is a malfunctioning of the system or perhaps there could be some personal challenges you are facing yourself. We need to establish that. That is my ruling," Dr Matibini said.

And debating on President Edgar Lungu's speech to re-open Parliament for the final session last Friday, Mbangweta argued that the PF was not delivering development to Western Province.

"This government is saying that they have delivered in infrastructure because they have now placed in a road network and state-of-the-art bridges. If you come from Western Province, you will say that all the roads, which touch us, have not been worked on for the last eight years since the PF government has been in power. Our bridge in the Kafue National Park is a disaster waiting to happen; the Lusaka-Mongu road; Kasempa-Kaoma; Livingstone-Sesheke; Shang'ombo-Sioma and Lukulu-Katunda, all those roads are still in the same state

which the MMD left them. So, we cannot say that the PF has delivered if we come from Western Province. And because we have been paying taxes, those taxes have not worked for us. So, for us, there is no delivery because we are back to square one where we were eight years ago," Mbangweta said.

He further said that President Lungu's rhetoric on economic growth were "interesting" because the country's growth rate was projected at -4 per cent this year.

"He talked about the universities [but] the King Lewanika University is still in the soil, the stadium is still in the soil. So, there is no delivery there. The other thing, Mr Speaker, which is very interesting is this: last year, he said that for this country to develop, we needed to develop at a minimum of seven per cent GDP annually. And when MMD was going away, the GDP at some point was reaching eight per cent. Now, he is estimating that at the end of this year, the GDP growth will be negative four, which means in real terms, we have walked backwards by 12 steps, as a country, and as individuals. And I don't see what sort of delivery that is even if we relate to the speech he gave last year," said Mbangweta.

Lungu isn't God to decide who'll rule Zambia – UPND



By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has no magical powers to determine who will govern Zambia after the 2021 general election because it remains the preserve of the collective will of citizens to change government, says UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma.

On Wednesday, President Lungu predicted that the ruling Patriotic Front party would win next year's general election, adding that only ignorant people were going to "a party that would never rule the country."

But commenting on President Lungu's remarks, Kakoma insisted that President Lungu was not God to determine Zambia's fate after any general election because that power only remained with voters.

"The people that will make (elect) a (Republican) President in 2021 are the voters themselves, the Zambian citizens. It is not Edgar Lungu who will make a President for Zambia, he only has one vote. He can add his wife's votes and his children's votes; they will not make him win! He has no magical powers to determine who the President of Zambia will be. We have heard these predictions before where people pronounce that, 'so and so will never be president of this county,' including the late president Michael Sata; some people used to say, 'he will never be president as long as they live!' But even when they lived, they saw Sata becoming president. So, it is not correct to say, 'HH will never be president of this country'; they are not God for them to decide," Kakoma said in an interview.

He also lamented President Lungu's remarks that voters in Mwanabombwe constituency risked not having development if they voted for another party, which amounted to lawlessness.

"For the Head of State to pronounce that, 'if voters don't vote for his party, then people will never see development...' is lawlessness! It is an offence under the Constitution of Zambia to deny people development on the basis of how they voted and as President, he should be at the forefront of upholding the Constitution. So, he cannot break the Constitution, that is promoting lawlessness. The money that is used for development is not from the President's pockets, it is taxpayers' money! Taxes also come from people in the opposition. So, to deny the people who are contributing to the taxes because they didn't vote for the candidate is not correct. Probably he is getting away with it because as a nation, we have not reached a level of consciousness because such remarks can lead to the impeachment of the President. In other countries, he can be impeached for issuing such remarks," said Kakoma.

Armed criminals rob Chinese-owned mine in Mkushi, snatch K40,000 cash

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

CRIMINALS have attacked and robbed SHI and Yan Copper Mining Company in Mkushi of Central Province and fled with property worth over K90,000, including K40,000 cash.

The criminals also beat up mine staff found at the company, including three Chinese.

Central Province Police Commissioner Chola Katanga disclosed in an interview to News Diggers! that the robbery took place Tuesday evening.

"Aggravated Robbery O.B#13275/20. Reported on 16/09/20 at 01:00 hours and occurred between 15/09/20 at 23:00 hours and 16/09/20 at 00:30 hours at SHI and Yan Mining Company at Mkushi Copper Mine," Katanga said.

He narrated that the mining company's human resource officer, Saidi Mtonga, reported to the police that 10 unknown criminals, who were armed with unknown types of guns, robbed the company.

"A telephone call was received from Mtonga Saidi, aged 33, the human resource officer, also of Chinyumba village in chief Mphamba of Lundazi District, who reported on behalf of the company to the effect that about 10 or more unknown criminals, who were armed with two unknown type of guns and sticks went at the Chinese hostels within the company premises and attacked three Chinese nationals, namely, male Li Wen Jun, aged 40 years, a production manager who was tied with a wire near the toilet

in which he was beaten. He sustained painful teeth, some bruises on the legs, swollen face, bruises on the back, both legs and arms after kicks and sticks were allegedly used to inflict the injuries," Katanga narrated.

He said the criminals further proceeded to the manager's room and stole various items and cash amounting to K40,000.

"In the process, the criminals went in his room and stole K40,000 cash money, a Samsung cell phone valued at US \$500 (K10,000) and ACER laptop valued at US \$2,000 (K40,000) all property valued at K90,000. (02) Ru Yingguo, aged 46, a mechanical engineer was beaten and sustained

bruises on the face, both legs, painful teeth, swollen part of the head, bruised neck after being strangled. Kicks and fists allegedly used. (03) Chen Shun Jiang, aged 35 years, a stores officer was attacked and beaten in his room and sustained swollen and painful right eye, swollen head, and chest pains after fists and a butt stalk of unknown type of gun allegedly used to inflict the injuries. In the process, undisclosed amount of cash money got stolen," Katanga said.

"Two Zambian citizens were also attacked, namely, Shepherd Mulenga, aged 28, a machine operator of Lubuto area, Shachabu village in chief Mukonchi of Kapiri Mposhi

District, who sustained painful left and right knee, painful nose, and bleeding from the nose and mouth. Fists and kicks allegedly used and Benard Phiri, aged 45, of Copper Mine area, a security guard of village Nkopeka in chief Mwanjabantu in Chipata District, who was also beaten and sustained painful chest and right leg after a butt stalk of unknown type of gun allegedly used."

He said the victims were rushed to Tusekelelo Private Hospital in Mkushi where they were admitted on observation, but were all in a stable condition by press time.

Katanga, however, added that police had not made any arrest so far.

Mucheleka, others appear in court

By Diggers Reporter
UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka

and two other party officials yesterday afternoon appeared before the Kasama Magistrates Court on two counts of malicious damage and aggravated robbery.



Mucheleka, Elias Mubanga and Samuel Ngwira could, however, not take plea as instructions to prosecute the matter had not been received from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Facts before court are that the trio caused damage by use of force to three type-writers and a printer valued at K13,970, the property of the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

The matter has since been adjourned to September 30, 2020 for possible plea should instructions from the DPP be ready.

The trio has since been transferred to Milima State Correctional Facility as one of the charges they are facing is non-bailable.

Meanwhile, five UPND youths arrested in Kasama last night have been released on bail.

The youths, who include Ron Chivube, Evaristo Mwenya, Steven Kunda, Emmanuel Sitikuso and Steven Sichilongo, appeared before the Kasama Magistrates' Court on two counts of assault.

The five, whilst acting together, allegedly assaulted Gilbert Mulenga and Justin Mulenga, causing actual bodily harm.



Hoeness' Alaba comments irritate Bayern

BAYERN Munich chiefs have been left irritated by public comments made by their former president Uli Hoeness relating to David Alaba and the ongoing contract negotiations with the Austria international, Goal can reveal. The 28-year-old - who is considered one of the most important players at Bayern - is yet to agree a new deal with the Bavarian giants, with his current contract coming to an end in 2021.

Alaba played a key role in helping Hansi Flick's side seal the treble last season and the Champions League winners are naturally desperate to retain the services of the versatile defender for the long term.

Indeed, Flick has been planning for the 2020-21 Bundesliga campaign with Alaba very much part of his thoughts, despite the Austrian having been linked with a move to the likes of Barcelona and Manchester City.

However, a frustrated Alaba was forced to respond to comments made by former Bayern president Hoeness, who criticised the player's agent Pini Zahavi and suggested that the negotiations are being held up due to his wage demands. **GOAL.COM**

Zamalek coach Carteron resigns before Caf Champions League semi-finals

PATRICE Carteron has resigned as Zamalek manager a few weeks before their Caf Champions League semi-final outing against Raja Casablanca.

Carteron's shocking exit comes three days after he led the Whites to a 1-0 victory over El Entag El Harby in an Egyptian Premier League encounter on Sunday.

The 50-year-old succeeded Zambia coach Milutin Sredojevic at the helm of affairs at Zamalek in December 2019, and he guided the Egyptian club to success on the continent and at home during his brief stay.

Thanks to his impressive start to life at the Cairo International Stadium, the Egyptian giants offered Carteron a new contract and he signed to remain at the club until the end of the 2020-21 season.

He helped the Cairo-based outfit win the 2020 Caf Super Cup in February after a 3-2 win over Esperance de Tunis. Six days later, they lifted the Egyptian Super Cup after defeating Al Ahly on penalties.

Zamalek confirmed Carteron left the club due to personal reasons with an apology note from the former France defender to the club faithful.



"Patrice Carteron apologises to Zamalek for not completing his assignment as the football team coach, due to personal reasons," the club tweeted.

The former Raja Casablanca and Phoenix Rising manager left Zamalek second on the Egyptian Premier League table with

an unbeaten run in their last five games. They gathered 55 points after 27 matches, which put them 17 points behind leaders Al Ahly.

Zamalek travel to Morocco for the first-leg of their Champions League match against Raja Casablanca on October 17 after it was postponed last week due

to increasing number of coronavirus infections in the North African country.

They will host the Moroccan giants for the reverse fixture a week later at the Cairo International Stadium as they chase their first title in the elite African competition since 2002. **GOAL.COM**

Scoring motivates me - Daka

By Abraham Kalito

PATSON Daka says he loves scoring because it fires him up and motivates him to become an even better footballer.

Daka told Sky Sports Austria that while it was his job to score and help the team win trophies, he loved doing it because of the feeling it brought afterwards.

"Yeah, the last time I played here, it was a draw and it's always difficult to play here. And for us to win here was really important, being the first game. And

we still need to work hard and the goal that I scored, it was important for the team. We had an advantage of an extra man and I think we utilised the one man advantage that we had," Daka said.

"I think the performance earlier was a 50/50 situation because I think they played really well and it was intensive and we had the right attitude and the right mentality because we know that today, it was going to be more than a game. Yeah, it's always fine to do what you love and for me as a striker,

I love to score and that's my job to help the team and for me to be able to do that, it's a big motivation and thanks to my teammates who are always passing the ball to me."

Daka has scored five goals in two games this season thus far.

He scored four goals in the league Cup and one in the league. Daka has been linked to a move to English champions Liverpool and premiership side Arsenal, but he has reportedly rejected a move to join Tottenham Hotspurs.

I'm done talking, says Micho

By Abraham Kalito

NATIONAL team coach Milutin Sredojevic feels he has done a lot of talking since taking up the position to drill the national team for the next two years.

Micho, as he is commonly called, is yet to be in charge of a match for the Chipolopolo boys, having taken up the reins early this year.

He should have been in charge much early but for the Coronavirus pandemic which disrupted the footballing calendar.

Since his appointment, a number of senior Zambian footballers, most notably James Chamanga and Kennedy Mweene, have indicated that they will be unavailable should the national side come beckoning.

Mweene, the former Chipolopolo goalkeeper, recently told a South African journalist that he will only reconsider his decision once the impasse at the Football Association of Zambia has been resolved. When asked to comment on the matter, Micho declined.

"No comments, I have already said this on press conference," he said.

When asked what the prospects of the Zambia national soccer team rising to

mount title challenges were, the former Orlando Pirates gaffer said he will let his work do the talking.

"Let's just work; for me, I don't want to talk anymore, the work I will be doing will talk best for me. So let's work and you will see. You will see for yourself," Micho said.

When he arrived in the country, Micho submitted a seven point plan on how he would revamp the Zambia national soccer team to perform as one of the best teams on the continent.

His plan included integrating the older and younger players to make a stronger team and transition smoothly from the senior players to the youthful ones.

He also indicated that he intends to record a win in all the remaining AFCON qualifiers so that Zambia stands a better chance of qualifying to the continental games, which had been postponed to 2022.

His enthusiasm had raised the expectations of Zambia on the national teams performance. Micho is likely to be in charge of his first Chipolopolo match in less than a month as Zambia is scheduled to play a friendly and a qualifier within that period.

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Zamalek coach resigns before Caf Champions League semis

Story page 11

Chama expresses interest to move back to Zambia

Ngosa Chalwe

TANZANIA-BASED midfielder Cletous Chama has refused to rule out a move back into the Super Division one day.

In 2018, Chama left Super Division side Lusaka Dynamos to join Tanzanian giants Simba Sports Club where he has proved to be an instant hit.

A league winner with Dar es Salaam side, Chama says he is enjoying his time at the Sven Vandebroek tutored side since

switching there.

The former Zesco United, Power Dynamos and Nchanga Rangers player, however, says he would not mind moving back to Zambia should a right move come for him.

“Yeah, I would go back to Zambia, let’s not forget, Zambia is my home. If a deal comes through, which is a very good one obviously, I wouldn’t take much of the time to think twice,” Chama said “This is because I know I will be close to my family and this is one thing that I always look forward

to...so if a deal comes through from Zambia, I would take it.”

Meanwhile, Chama urged Zambian players who intended to join East African clubs to research the clubs before moving.

“I would encourage them to first research because you might end up at a club which is not financially stable, which will affect your career and your next move,” he said.

Chama said this when he appeared on Tanzanian’s Youtube Channel Safari Soccer.

I'M DONE TALKING

...the work will speak for itself - Micho

Story page 11



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