



# I WON'T ANSWER IG'S

**IMF is Zambia's only chance of avoiding debt default - Simumba**  
Story page 6

# STUPID CALL - HH

## ...as police insist on his summon

By Ulande Nkomesha  
UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he will not answer Inspector General of police Kakoma Kanganja's "stupid" call to have interrogated in the alleged abduction of two police officers in Muchinga. Speaking when he addressed students from the University of Zambia, National Institute of Public Administration, Evelyn Hone College and... Story page 2

## Judiciary washes hands on Simusamba as JCC puts lid back on disciplinary case

By Sipilisiwe Ncube  
CHIEF Registrar of the Judiciary Charles Kafunda has distanced the judiciary from the recommendation made by the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) to have Magistrate David Simusamba removed from presiding as a judicial officer in a matter where he was found wanting for misconduct. And the JCC chairman William Nyirenda says he does not understand how the letter of recommendation to remove Simusamba found itself in the public space, as such matters are considered confidential. Story page 6

## Day of Prayer has become an image building event for political players - CCZ

By Julia Malunga  
COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Father Emmanuel Chikoya says the national day of prayer and fasting has turned into an image building event for political party players. During the National Day of Prayer and Fasting, Sunday, Catholic priest Fr Lastone Lupupa said there was no need for President Edgar Lungu to campaign in next year's general election because he was God-sent. "Today, we have a Caesar in our midst, it is His Excellency the President. Do we pay taxes to the President? No. We pay our taxes to the government and three things are very important to the Christians; they don't evade tax, Christians are the number one in obedience to paying tax. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar simply means when it comes to voting, Christians are number one on the queue to vote..." Story page 6



President Edgar Lungu jokes with an old lady in Chilubi district of Northern Province where he is on a two-day working visit

By Julia Malunga  
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he knows he will be re-elected in next year's general election because of the many works his government has done. Speaking when he drummed up support for PF candidate in the Chilubi Council chairperson by-elections Rosemary Chimhini, in Bulilo ward, Monday, President Lungu said he knows that he would be re-elected. "Ndemona abantu nabamitemwa sana muposeko amano mukabwele bwangu bwangu mukese umfwa abantu efyo balefwaya. Nga mwaya mwaililila, 2021 tamwaimone. Lekeni nsoke abo mwasala mu Zambia lyonse kuno kwine ku Northern Province, ngabamisala whether MP, council chairman, ulimubomfi wabantu, bombela abantu. Ipalamike kubantu, wishibe abantu efyo balekabila. Abo bakabwela mu 2021 ni abo abale bombela abantu, abo balecindika abantu, abo baleumfwa abantu efyo balelanda. Naine wine Edgar Lungu pano ndi ninjishiba abantu bakambweshwa mu 2021 pantu efyo ndebomba nabanandi filemoneka. Ama sikulu, ifipatala, ubulimi, ifikulwa ipanga yonse. (I have seen that you are the preferred..." Story page 10

**I know I'll be re-elected in 2021 because of my work - Lungu**



**Movement for Democratic Change leader Felix Mutati interacts with Kabwe Shoprite workers on Sunday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala**

**By Ulande Nkomesha**

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he will not answer Inspector General of police Kakoma Kanganja "stupid" call to have interrogated in the alleged abduction of two police officers in Muchinga.

Speaking when he addressed students from the University of Zambia, National Institute of Public Administration, Evelyn Hone College and Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM), Hichilema said it was disappointing that police were summoning him and other party officials when the real culprits who harassed and stoned his entourage in Mpika were not arrested.

"First and foremost we would like thank you for coming to show your solidarity to us. I want you to know that

## I won't answer IG's stupid call – HH

you have in us people who have a heart for students and for the people of Zambia. Let me tell you a short story of what happened when we went to Kasama. We went to Kasama to attend a court case for Mucheleka deputy SG, who was in detention not because he committed a crime but because of political ineptness. On our way and back the PF thugs were jealous of the support the people of Northern Province and Muchinga were showing us. They were pelting us with stones when the rest of the community were coming to greet us and they were saying we want bally now. Now because of the love Muchinga and Northern showed to us, the PF felt jealous and they know that they are going, they were stoning us and they stoned my

car in full view of the police," Hichilema said.

"To our surprise the police did not arrest those thugs, instead the police sent a call out to us victims. Have you ever understood a situation where victims are the ones called to be arrested. The PF thugs who were attacking us were not arrested and I said to Kanganja and to everybody that 'I am not answering your stupid call, why? I did not commit any crime, we are victims of the thuggery and this is our country. They must arrest those who were pelting us with stones and they are known, including the Mpika DC, they are known. You saw them carrying stones in the footage, let them arrest those people. We must not allow a breakdown in the rule of law. *Story continues on P4*

## It's foolish for police to say HH wasn't summoned when call out was delivered – Katuka

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**

UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says it is foolish for the police to deny that they summoned party leader Hakainde Hichilema when a call-out was delivered at the secretariat, Friday.

And Katuka says it does not make sense that trained police officers can be abducted by common citizens.

In an interview, Katuka rebuked the Police Command in Lusaka for contradicting a statement that came from Muchinga Province Police Commissioner Joel Njase who confirmed that Hichilema was among the UPND officials summoned for questioning in a case of abduction.

Commenting on the development, Katuka said police delivered a call out to the UPND secretariat last Friday but the people who were present refused to receive it on behalf of the party leader.

He said the confusion and inconsistencies was an indication that the Zambia Police Service was compromised.

"On Friday, the police from headquarters came to the secretariat to serve that call-out. Unfortunately, I was not in town myself and the boys they found at the secretariat refused to receive the call-out. And then they went away. But now, we hear they have changed their mind by saying that, 'they did not... [summon Hichilema]'. That's foolish! How can you say, 'we did not' when that document was delivered and it's just that we were not ready to receive it? That's the inconsistency we find in the police, having no direction. Kanganja's police is not the police worth talking about. And Kanganja has failed the Zambian people as IG, [he is] the worst in the history of this country! I even feel ashamed because the young man is from my village. I feel really ashamed by the conduct of IG Kanganja. So, the call-out was there, but now they are denying," wondered Katuka.

"The inconsistency of the police is a well-known thing. The police are not independent. They don't make their own decisions. They are

guided. You know, all the time we are told that, 'we have been instructed', meaning they are not independent. And that's what normally happens in a dictatorship. When a dictator takes over government, the first thing they do is to kill institutions of governance so that they don't make independent decisions [and make them only] answerable to this one individual, who is a dictator, who, in our case is Edgar Chagwa Lungu. So, the police are not independent. They want to depend on instructions."

He added that even if Hichilema was in the motorcade, which allegedly abducted the two police officers last week, he would not have known what was happening as his vehicle was in front.

"It is not possible for Hakainde to beat anybody. If

Hakainde was in a motorcade, he can't control everyone in those vehicles. There are more than 20 vehicles! He wouldn't know what is happening. And in every motorcade, the president's vehicle is always in front and there are so many behind. So, he can't also know what is happening behind. But they (police) wanted to behave in the same unprofessional manner they behaved in Mongu where this motorcade has so many people, but they only went for an individual. Meaning that they were not looking at what happened on that day, but they were witch-hunting and looking for a person. GBM was in that motorcade in Mongu, but did they pick him or did they even question him? No, they didn't because he was not their target," he recalled.

And Katuka said it was not

possible that a trained police officer can be abducted by common citizens.

"Similarly, how do you expect a trained police officer to be abducted? Is that possible? This is why we are saying that we have so many cadres wearing police uniforms. There are so many. They are training in Sikanze [Police] Camp, they give them uniforms and ranks and guns. Nowonder there is so much misuse and abuse of guns by the police. You have heard of stories of how a policeman has shot another officer, how a stray bullet has hit a citizen, it is because of these untrained police officers. A police officer is trained to defend himself using either minimum or maximum force. If a situation is life-threatening, he is allowed to use maximum force, which is shooting," said Katuka.

## Govt nearing end of 2020 census preps, says PS

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**

NATIONAL Development Planning Permanent Secretary Chola Chabala says preparations for the 2020 national census amid the COVID-19 pandemic are almost complete.

In an interview, Chabala explained that the 2020 census had been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, but stressed that that government was strategising on an appropriate mechanism to conduct the exercise before exposing the enumerators to the pandemic, which included timely payment of salaries for enumerators.

"There was a pronouncement that was

made by the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu) to the effect that the census has been postponed to next year. There are just too many circumstances... [that have led to the postponement]. The preparation has been affected by: (1) we had those gassing incidences. That also took a lot of time because we had to stop the activities. So, a number of activities were affected. Then, after the gassing, we have now COVID-19. And the decision we had to take was that do we have to expose more than 45,000 enumerators to gassing or do we wait for circumstances to change?" Chabala asked.

He, however, said the government remained ready to conduct the exercise, and that funds to pay salaries for the enumerators were almost ready.

"So, basically, those are the main factors that have affected the preparation of the census. But in terms of being ready, the mapping has been concluded. And we have a very strong commitment from the government to financing the activities. We have also prepared salaries for the team, which is about to be completed. As a government, I think now we can just say that the main activity, which is scheduled to be rolled out throughout the country, we need to strategise how it will be undertaken amid COVID-19," said Chabala.

"Census activities have got a lot of components. And I don't remember any particular case where enumerators walk away without being paid. Even those that did the mapping were paid. Even the people that are going to do pilot census are going to be paid. In terms of the figures, I will need to get back to you and give you the breakdown of various components of the census activities."

Last month, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu announced during the 2021 national budget presentation that this year's national census had been pushed to next year, citing gassing and COVID-19 as the reasons.

## ZICB targets lower interest rates on loans for SMEs

**By Natasha Sakala**

ZAMBIA Industrial Commercial Bank (ZICB) says it is currently trying to collaborate with other financial institutions as a means of making access to cheaper credit possible in view of the high lending rates obtaining on the local market.

In an interview, ZICB public relations manager Luke Njovu said the bank was exploring avenues to collaborate with other financial institutions to make access to cheaper credit possible for the SME sector in view of the high lending rates prevailing on the local market, which had remained at an average 30 per cent in recent years.

"The issue of interest rates is obviously concerning to everybody in the sector in the sense that if interest rates are high, then, obviously, as you have indicated, the productive sector suffers because at the end of the day, the rate of return might not be sufficient to sustain the business. So, even as we price out facilities, we take cognisance of the fact that we have to be mindful of customers' ability to pay. So, to assist our SME clients, we are in the market talking to various partners on how we can provide products and services that will be suitable in terms of pricing to the SME sector. So, we are still in discussions with a number of financing partners to see how we can access cheaper funding or cheaper deposits for onward lending to the SME sector," Njovu said in an interview.

"So, that's the discussion that really hinges on development financing and those are areas that we are very proactively looking at because we realise that, yes, if the cost of credit is too high, then definitely you are just choking the SME and that is one area because of our strategic mandate; that's one area where we need to find solutions because at the end of the day, if that sector is not supported, then the challenge that we are facing today, as a Zambian economy, might persist for decades to come. So, the SME sector is critical, it has to grow and it has to grow to a level where it becomes a meaningful contributor to the GDP of this country."

And Njovu urged financial institutions in the country to play their role of absorbing the economic shocks being experienced to avoid breakdown of the economy.

He observed that there was need to find middle-ground between financial services and the productive sectors.

"The challenge, really, is to find middle-ground between the financial services sector and the productive sector and this is where, really, banks should come to the table and be seen to be providing that cushion that is required to absorb the shocks that the economy is experiencing. And I think that's what the Bank of Zambia has been trying to do (with) the provision of the Medium-Term Refinancing Facility to provide that shock absorbing facility to ensure that

even as much as things are bad, they do not completely break the backbone of the economy, and that's what banks really should be able to do because at the end of the day, we are intermediaries; we have to be able to provide products and services that can help our customers to navigate," Njovu said.

"So, from our perspective, as ZICB, we have been talking to our customers, some of them we have gone through the process of helping them to access the COVID-19 Fund from the Bank of Zambia, and that process is ongoing. But for those customers that just require, for instance, to restructure their facilities, we are talking to them and we are finding solutions of how we can help them mitigate the challenges they are facing. There are some customers that have come and applied to restructure their facilities, we have been able to do that. Some have come to ask for top-ups on the facilities that they have, again, we have been able to do that."

Meanwhile, Njovu announced that ZICB was ready to break-even despite being on the market for only two years.

"We are very ready to break-even. We are a very ambitious bank, we have a team at ZICB that has been in the banking sector for many years. It's not easy starting a bank from scratch, but I think we are up to the task and we are more or less looking to the next couple of few years and we will be feeling a very good story to the market," said Njovu.



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**By Julia Malunga**  
MUCHINGA Province  
Police Commissioner  
Joel Njase says his office  
will advise when UPND  
president Hakainde  
Hichilema will be expected  
to appear for questioning  
in the police abduction

## HH has been summoned, insists Njase: "we'll advise when he will appear"

investigation. Njase said this when he was asked if there was miscommunication within

the Police Command on the summonses served on Hichilema, considering that Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo had denied reports that the opposition leader was among those expected in Mpika.

The Police Commissioner insisted that Hichilema was summoned, adding that there was no miscommunication, but agreed with Katongo that the opposition leader was not among those who were expected to appear tomorrow.

"For Tuesday, it's hon Kang'ombe and others, then on HH we will advise when. [There's] no miscommunication. It's an investigation," said Njase.

On Saturday, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said Sesheke

UPND member of parliament Romeo Kang'ombe was in the vehicle where two police officers and five civil servants were bundled after being abducted.

"The occupants of the vehicle on which the two officers were bundled included the member of parliament for Sesheke constituency, honourable Romeo Kang'ombe. So dear colleagues, besides the two officers, five other people including two civil servants, an agricultural extension officer, a veterinary officer and three community members who stood by the road side were also attacked by this militia group and they sustained serious injuries and multiple deep cuts. In addition, the seven casualties recorded, the UPND militia group also stole properties which included a Lenovo laptop, a wallet, a shaving machine, cell phones and cash money amounting to K2,400. All the stolen items were valued at approximately K10,000. Furthermore, one residential house had the spare bedroom

and kitchen window glass panes deliberately damaged. This damage of the residential house is yet to be ascertained," said Kampyongo.

And on Thursday last week, Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja claimed that two police officers from Mpika Police Station were abducted by UPND cadres who were in the company of Hichilema.

"I am greatly appalled by the conduct of thugs believed to be UPND cadres who are reported to have abducted two of our police officers of Mpika Police Station whom they assaulted together with other members of the public. The attack happened at Lavushimanda town Center in Muchinga Province today, 14th October, 2020 around 15:00 hours. The thugs are reported to have been in the entourage of the opposition UPND leader Mr Hakainde Hichilema. I am reminding politicians once again that anyone who would want to commit crimes under the veil of politics shall have themselves to blame as police shall not tolerate such kind of unreasonable behaviour. I am warning all those that took part in the commission of this crime that we shall not relent in our investigations, hence they should consider their days numbered," stated Kanganja.



HIVOS health food Africa manager William Chilufya speaks during the launch of Chongwe Food System Lab in Chongwe on October 15, 2020 Picture by Tenson Mkhala

## I won't answer IG's stupid call - HH

**From P2**  
We must not allow them to take away our fundamental rights and freedoms, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of association, freedom of speech, freedom of consciousness. So I want to assure you that all these things will come to an end, it is darkest before dawn. We should not allow thugs to arrest us or arrest students." Hichilema assured the students that when elected he would ensure that bursaries are awarded on merit regardless of their party affiliation.  
"One of my first assignments is to bring back bursaries. for all students. When I completed grade 12, I came from a village, because I passed to go to UNZA the bursary came to me automatically. So, everybody who passes, to go to UNZA, to go to college as bally comes, he will

fix it, you will all have bursaries. Your BC would be there. What is happening now BC, bursaries are given to students related to politicians. All of that will come to an end," Hichilema said.  
"When I completed school there, I was a tough monk, I wrote my final exam on Friday, I rested on Saturday, Sunday, Monday I had a full time job, that is what I want to happen to you. You cannot take care of people if you don't love them. If you steal from students it means you don't love them that is what is going on now. In order to keep you in school and give you bursaries and to give you an increase in the BCs and everything, bally comes in the morning, by afternoon we are sworn in, we are selling that jet."  
Hichilema urged the students to ensure they protect their votes in the 2021 election.

"Your job is to campaign, your job is to get NRCs, your job is to register as voters, your job is to vote, number five your job is to protect the vote. Once you have done that the rest now you live to bally to fix. What is bally going to fix? Education, jobs, more important business opportunities. I want to say to you, this country is a rich country, you guys should not be suffering, you guys should have a better life but the missing link is that there is no leadership. This leadership has no vision. What we will do ourselves is to manage this country for economic, social, political gain and we want you to be free again, the way we were free when we were students. Before we even form government we are already managing the 2021 budget, I am working on the 2021 budget," said Hichilema.



*By Ulande Nkomesha*  
 PF MEDIA director Sunday Chanda says Zambia's democracy is much better than the United States, because US President Donald Trump's concerns about the credibility of mail-in ballots show that its electoral process was not flawless.

And Chanda says the US Chargé d'Affaires to Zambia David Young should concentrate on talking to the UPND and other stakeholders to participate in the proposed reformation of the Public Order Act.

Commenting on the US envoy's remarks last week that the US government was concerned about the way the Public Order Act was being administered in Zambia, Chanda said despite Zambia's democracy being in its infancy stage, it was much better than the United States' because the latter is currently engulfed in uncertainties about the

# Sunday asks US Envoy to check Trumps remarks before commenting on Zambia's democracy

credibility of its election outcome.

The US President had told US media in recent weeks prior to the first Presidential Debate against his Democratic opponent Joe Biden that he may not cede control of the White House if there was reason to suspect the outcome of the November 3 poll would be fraudulent.

"Sometimes, we get these concerns where our colleagues would want to give this impression that our democracy is so bad, that there is nothing good to write home about, but we know what is happening in the run-up to the US elections. So, unless they want to tell us that this is the best mode

of democracy; we know the concerns that are coming from all the candidates in that (US presidential election) race. So, democracy has come on a serious litmus test if an incumbent (US President Donald Trump) is going to cry foul in the leading democracy about the democratic process and how people are going to vote. How much more of a developing country where democracy is still in its youth and infancy. We must be also fair in raising concerns and making prescriptions, we must be very very clear that we look at the oldest democracies and the so-called leading democracies and let's compare them to what we got here. By

any standard, in a number of ways, we are way way better!" Chanda argued.

"Let's look at the run-up to the election and let us look up to the run-up to Zambia's elections and the concerns. If President Lungu was to say that, 'I would not hand over power...' Do you know what would happen? Do you know how many people would say, 'abc' and raise alarm? That is happening in the leading democracy; you have the incumbent saying, 'I might not hand over power.' So, what are we learning about democracy? What lessons are there on democracy for those of us in the developing countries where democracy is

still an infant? What lessons are there from the upcoming US election?"

Chanda insisted that it was time for Africa to "Africanise" its fledgling democracy.

"Sometimes, as we look at all these standards that is the reason why over and beyond, there comes a time where Africa must say to itself that we need to Africanise democracy. How long has Zambia been a democracy? Some of these have been democracies and they have had their democracies over 200 years. Not so long ago they couldn't give some of their (Black) citizens the right to vote, we still have the civil rights movement making demands in the US. By our

own standards, Zambia is doing very well in terms of democracy. Can you imagine how Zambia is going to look like when our democracy is 200 years old? Clearly, our democracy would be way better than these democracies that have lived for more than 200 years," he said.

And Chanda said that Ambassador Young's remarks on the disputed Public Order Act did not hold water as the PF government was committed to reforming it.

"We need to be fair with ourselves and agree that whenever you have elections, you are going to get different stakeholders making different insinuations. Where we stand, the issue of the Public Order Act, we would call on the head of the Chargé d'Affaires at the American Embassy to take particular interest in what has been government's commitment with regards to the Public Order Act and reforming the Public Order Act in order to conform with the times that we are living today. We are all aware that the Public Order Act is an old piece of legislation and where Zambia is today, clearly, the Public Order Act needs to be reformed. His Excellency, the President, Edgar Lungu and the PF, have been very clear that we can reform the Public Order Act," Chanda said.

"The Minister of Justice (Given Lubinda) invited for submission, there has been no single submission from the largest opposition party in this country. So, sometimes even when the UPND cries foul, we fail to understand what is it they are crying about because the starting point is to ride on government policies of reforming the Public Order Act. Had the government said, 'they are comfortable with this piece of legislation, it doesn't need any reforms whatsoever,' then the arguments and the concerns of the American Embassy would then hold water."

He, however, urged the US envoy to concentrate on calling the opposition to join the process of transforming the Public Order Act.

"The emphasis should be colleagues, such as our brother at the American Embassy, should be calling members of parliament from the opposition, especially from the UPND in reforming the Public Order Act. Whether it was a government of angels in power and they would enforce this Public Order Act someone is going to cry foul. The starting point is reforming the Public Order Act. Who walks out of Parliament? It is the UPND! we would call on the American Embassy to prevail on some of these stakeholders and speak to them and that they should act responsibly. Who has been against reforms? It is the UPND, they don't want the Public Order Act reformed, so they must not even cry foul because they don't want to reform the Public Order Act."



Communiqué on Comprehensive Sexuality Education by Members of Parliament from the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) HIV/AIDS and Governance Project National Working Group, Zambia Women Parliamentary Caucus, Parliamentary Caucus on Children, members from the Portfolio Committees on Youth, Sport and Child Affairs; Local Governance, Housing and Chiefs' Affairs; Education, Science and Technology; and Legal Affairs, Human Rights, National Guidance, Gender Matters and Governance.

12th October, 2020

**Whereas we** acknowledge the efforts being put in place and implemented by the Government with regard to Comprehensive Sexuality Education, We the Members of Parliament participating in the multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) have taken time today to interrogate and deliberate on CSE with the goal of understanding its development and implementation in Zambia.

**We are cognizant** that in 2013, the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of General Education developed the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) framework to enrich the provision of Reproductive Health and Sexuality Education. CSE features as a cross cutting theme in the Zambia Education Curriculum Framework. CSE is not taken as a standalone subject, but its content is integrated in; Integrated Science (at Primary and Junior Secondary), Biology (at Senior Secondary); Social Studies (at Primary and Junior Secondary) and Civic Education (at Senior Secondary); Home Economics and Religious Education.

**We acknowledge** that the development of the CSE Framework was prompted by data from research indicating high alarming numbers of school dropout due to pregnancy, high infection rate of STIs including HIV prevalence among the 15 to 24 age groups.<sup>1</sup>

**We note** that the content of the CSE framework was subjected to wide stakeholder consultation including; religious leaders, Members of Parliament, traditional Leaders, CSOs, curriculum development experts and the public at large. The consultative process was meant to ensure that CSE was not only age appropriate, but was adapted to the cultural, traditional and religious beliefs and in line with the legal framework of Zambia.

**We Support** the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for all that benefit women and adolescents, and safeguard the health of their children and societies at large and recognize that CSE is an integral part of SRHR.

**We are committed to the following:**

**To leave no one behind.** We as the people's representatives are cognizant that Sexual Reproductive Health of Adolescents is of critical importance in attaining SDG Numbers 3 on good health and wellbeing, Number 4 on quality Education and Number 5 on Gender, by the year 2030. In this regard we, shall, through our constitutional mandate support the proposed consultative process by the Government on CSE and ensure that the children are protected from vices that negate the enjoyment of the right to health and education.

**To ensure that every Zambian child and young person** has unhindered access to the right to Education including age appropriate CSE, which seeks to promote human dignity and respect especially of the girl child and commit to continue being advocates of good quality education for all and to call upon the Executive to avail resources for the sexual reproductive health of children and young people so that they can freely attain their right to Education.

**To engage in appropriate consultation and review** of relevant policies in the Education Sector including the CSE policy with a view to demystifying the misconceptions surrounding the implementation and teaching of CSE in Zambia.

**To urge the Executive through the Ministry of General Education** to take the lead in explaining CSE as custodian of the policy especially in view of deep divergent views among members of the public.

**To urge the Executive through the Ministry of General Education** to carry out wide public sensitization on CSE, especially in rural areas where the bulk of the girl child are disadvantaged with regard to accessing good quality education and sexual reproductive health services.

**To accelerate continued advocacy for CSE** and the empowerment of men, women and adolescent girls and boys (with the involvement of traditional leadership, religious and civic leaders) – so that they can make informed decisions about their own lives and get empowered to be agents of change and contributors to Zambia's collective and transformative aspirations;

**To promote transparency and accountability** in the implementation of CSE programmes through the representative and oversight functions of national Parliaments and relevant parliamentary committees, and to ensure the adoption of public budgets in Parliament that are sensitive to Sexual Reproductive Health in general and CSE in particular.

**To urgently call upon all concerned parties** irrespective of divergent views, to come to a round table meeting and openly discuss CSE as it is being implemented in Zambia with a view to appreciating its content and implementation.

**In Conclusion, allow us to reaffirm our support to the teaching of CSE in the Zambia Education system and to the announcement by the Executive to carry out broad based consultations on CSE, taking into consideration a multi-stakeholder approach in the consultative process.**

**We Thank You.**

*By Julia Malunga*  
COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Father Emmanuel Chikoya says the national day of prayer and fasting has turned into an image building event for political party players.

During the National Day of Prayer and Fasting, Sunday, Catholic priest Fr Lastone Lupupa said there was no need for President Edgar Lungu to campaign in next year's general election because he was God-sent.

"Today, we have a Caesar in our midst, it is His Excellency the President. Do we pay taxes to the President? No. We pay our taxes to the government and three things are very important to the Christians; they don't evade tax, Christians are the number one in obedience to paying tax. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar simply means when it comes to voting, Christians are number one on the queue to vote. Caesar has been given to you, give him what belongs

## Day of Prayer has become an image building event for political players - CCZ

to him. And then in whose image is Caesar created? Caesar is created in the image of God, therefore, give Caesar to God. If there is somebody who is going in the wrong direction, God has created the state, the state has the police officers, the state has the army just to bring us back and it acts on behalf of God. To arrest you, to incarcerate, to put you behind bars, Caesar is the commander-in-

chief not only of the armed forces," said Fr Lupupa.

"Today, we are going to perform a ritual. Today, Caesar is going to be empowered not only to command the armed forces but begin to command the economy. You are God sent, God has given you to us. Your

Excellency, in case you have been doubting, you don't need to campaign next year. I am not campaigning for you but I'm telling you the heavenly settings, the operating system under which I perceive, I am not campaigning. Even if Caesar is going to change, his Excellency is going to be

there. If God is preparing another one from the opposition, don't campaign also. You will just come smoothly because these are heavenly settings, at the proper time they come into being. No need for political violence, no need for those sponsored rallies, Caesar is coming because he is God-sent."

But, in an interview, Fr Chikoya said the role of the clergy was to speak to the moral consciousness of the country and not to endorse a political party player.

"I stopped going to these prayers because they are camouflaged as prayers and yet they are an image building event for particular political candidates. That is unfortunate. Our role as clergy is to pray, to speak to the moral conscience of the country, to speak truth to power. How do you expect other political players and other stakeholders to be in attendance when it becomes an endorsement for one political party player? It is very unfortunate," said Fr Chikoya. "I think that for me justifies why some of us... The moment we begin to zero in on individuals and we begin to make pronouncements, it is no longer a national day of prayer, it becomes a campaign platform for other stakeholders...I believe in prayer, we must pray and we call upon the church to continue to pray well informed prayers. Pray without an already established position and bias towards a particular stakeholder."

## Lungu has imposed a political lockdown, criminalised dissenting views in Zambia

*By Natasha Sakala*  
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has imposed a political lockdown on Zambia and has criminalised dissenting opinions, as evidenced by the jailing of NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili, says former secretary to the cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika.

And Dr Sacika has urged President Lungu to learn valuable lessons from late president Frederick Chiluba after the latter toiled in court on corruption and abuse of office charges after leaving office in 2001.

Meanwhile, Dr Sacika says Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja will go down in history as the first IG to face abuse of office charges after leaving office.

In an interview, Dr Sacika noted that despite the judicial merits of Kambwili's fraud case, the former Roan PF member of parliament's conviction is a manifestation of President Lungu's repression of political opponents.

"Regardless of the judicial merits or otherwise, the jailing of Kambwili is seen by people as President Lungu's continued repression of his political opponents. If you look at our political situation in the country, Lungu has actually imposed a political lockdown on the country. He has criminalised opposition politics and has turned Zambia into a one party dictatorship governed for and in the interest only of himself and the Patriotic Front," Dr Sacika said.

"Many people are asking: 'what is the point of having opposition political parties if they cannot be allowed to operate?' Political parties right now cannot hold public meetings, cannot hold demonstrations, and cannot even feature on private radio stations without the PF or the police interfering. This is unacceptable."

He warned President Lungu that he would end up like late president Frederick Chiluba who spend most of his retirement time answering to criminal allegations.

"Now, the war that President Lungu has unleashed on the people through the police just to stay in power, is totally unnecessary. It does not matter how long it takes... One day, President Lungu will cease to be President,

but Zambia will still be there and he should not forget what happened to Mr Chiluba after he left office," he cautioned.

Meanwhile, Dr Sacika said that Kanganja had instituted a reign of terror using the police to intimidate Zambians into submission to the PF government.

"Inspector General of Police [Kakoma] Kanganja has instituted what amounts to a reign of terror using the police to intimidate the people of Zambia into submission to the PF government, but his actions are almost tantamount to a coup d'état against our constitutional order. But this is a wrong strategy, which is making the Patriotic Front government more unpopular. You can intimidate people, but you cannot make them love or respect you; you cannot make people vote for you out of fear, this is what Kanganja is trying to achieve," he observed.

"Now, the biggest challenge for the Patriotic Front in next year's elections is not the opposition UPND or Hakainde Hichilema, it is their failure to deliver, their failure to manage the affairs of our country in the best interest of all the people. The position of the PF, right now, is not different from the position in which UNIP was in 1991. The people see the PF government as the bad guys and the opposition as the good guys and no amount of police repression, and no amount of dictatorship can change this. What is happening in Zambia, today...No man has done more harm to the Patriotic Front than Inspector General Kanganja, no man has done more harm to the PF than Kanganja has done."

He charged that Kanganja would be the first former IG to stand trial for abuse of office and abetting crime.

"Kanganja has abetted crime in order to promote the political interests of the Patriotic Front and he may become the first former IG in the history of Zambia to stand trial for abuse of office and abetting crime. At present, Kanganja is protected by the office he holds, but when he is no longer IG, he will be an exposed person and vulnerable to legal sanctions. He should not forget that the crimes he is abetting or committing will follow him! In my career as a public officer at the highest

level of government, I learnt one important lesson: namely that the biggest challenge for the people in power is to learn how not to abuse the power they have, this is important; to learn how not to abuse

the power they have and that the exercise of power must always be in the best interest

of the people and never in the interest of the rulers," said Dr Sacika.

### - Sacika

## Judiciary washes hands on Simusamba as JCC puts lid back on disciplinary case

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
CHIEF Registrar of the Judiciary Charles Kafunda has distanced the judiciary from the recommendation made by the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) to have Magistrate David Simusamba removed from presiding as a judicial officer in a matter where he was found wanting for misconduct.

And the JCC chairman William Nyirenda says he does not understand how the letter of recommendation to remove Simusamba found itself in the public space, as such matters are considered confidential.

After Magistrate Simusamba convicted NDC president Chishimba Kambwili to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour,

MMD president Nevers Mumba said he did not understand why the court official was still working when the JCC had already recommended his removal from the Judiciary on ground that he had misconducted himself when handling the criminal trespass case involving him.

Asked to explain why the Judiciary had not acted on the recommendation from the JCC, Kafunda said the JCC was better placed to comment on the matter, adding that complaints connected to court cases and judgements are handled by the JCC while the Judiciary management handles administrative matters.

*Continues on P7*

## IMF is Zambia's only chance of avoiding debt default - Simumba

*By Abraham Kalito*  
ECONOMIST Trevor Simumba says Zambia should swiftly reach an agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an economic programme to allay investors' fears and avoid an imminent debt default.

The Zambian government wants relief on its debt interest repayments from commercial creditors, which is estimated to provide as much as US \$1 billion in relief, but has so far failed to get any positive feedback from Eurobond bondholders.

Last week, Zambia skipped a coupon instalment repayment on its US \$3 billion Eurobond, accelerating the likelihood of a debt default.

In an interview, Simumba observed that the country would attract investor confidence, but only if an agreement with the Fund on a recovery plan was reached.

"Remember, Mrs Mwanakatwe, when she was finance minister, said something very profound. She said that, 'debt is like a pregnancy, you can hide it for a while, but once it grows, there is no hiding it anymore.' This is the situation Zambia is in now. The Zambian government for sometime has not been giving us the whole truth about the debt situation. They have been hiding the pregnancy of debt. And now it has been exposed, and can you imagine all those 'lovers', who

thought they were number one in your life, suddenly realising that it's not even their pregnancy! That there are many others and that's what has happened with Zambia. Lenders are now realising that Zambia has several creditors," he said.

"There is Chinese money, Russian money, Israeli money, Indian money and money from European creditors. So, the Eurobond holders considered themselves in what we call in economics, 'the number one creditor.' But they are no longer Zambia's number one creditor and they have realised. Zambia's number one creditor, according to government figures, is China. Now, the issue is that with China, much of that debt is not transparent. It's not openly available. And so, we have ourselves in a situation where confidence and trust have gone. How do we fix it? We fix it by, number one, the government being fully transparent. Secondly, the government must move very quickly to agree and negotiate a deal with the IMF."

He urged government to start renegotiating loans and demand for deferred interest payments, but only after agreeing a deal with the IMF.

"The IMF is very important because when they say, 'we endorse this programme,' and, 'we are backing Zambia,' it immediately brings confidence among the international

creditors, including China. China as well is looking to see whether Zambia is able to get a programme from the IMF because even China does not want to lose money. China is not Father Christmas; they also want a return on their investment. It is in no one's interest for the Zambian economy to ground to a halt. And then, thirdly, renegotiate the loan. It will be much easier to renegotiate at a cheaper price if we have an IMF-backed programme and we have some credit that have been put into the Treasury so that our foreign reserves can settle down," said Simumba.

"And the fourth pillar is to look at our parastatals and identify some critical assets that we can immediately release into the private sector so that we receive and injection of foreign exchange. For example, KCM (Konkola Copper Mines), why don't we find a buyer for KCM so that it can operate as a private sector company and government can get an injection of foreign exchange? They should stop this process of buying shares from Glencore. Let Glencore sell those shares on the international market."

According to the World Bank Zambia's external debt stock had sharply risen to US \$27.3 billion by the end of 2019, but government, however, insisted the figure was the country's total indebtedness.

From P5

"We can't comment, those judgments are court cases. So, we can't comment as management on court cases. That recommendation you are talking about is JCC and not judiciary. So, you need to get in touch with the Judicial Complaints Commission. I can't comment on that. The JCC is the one responsible with dealing with complaints from the public or from a person who is affected. If a complaint relates to a case, the matter is for JCC. Such kind of recommendations are confidential and so we can't comment on them," Kafunda said.

Meanwhile, Nyirenda in an interview also said the JCC would not discuss the matter in public as that was not procedurally.

He added that the JCC did not know how the Simusamba recommendation leaked to the press.

"We don't make any public comments on issues that come to us because issues that come to us are very confidential and we do not comment on confidential issues with the press. Secondly, the issue of Mr Simusamba is of confidential nature and we do not issue any statements on matters that come to us because they are highly confidential," Nyirenda said.

Asked how the recommendation letter found

# Judiciary washes hands on Simusamba as JCC puts lid back on disciplinary case



itself in public domain if the matter was confidential, Nyirenda said: "I have no idea how [that recommendation] came in public domain, and certainly not from us. For us, we do not discuss our clients issues in the press."

In September, the JCC made a recommendation to the judicial service commission to have Simusamba removed from presiding as a judicial officer.

There had been various complaints against the conduct of Magistrate Simusamba, the latest being a case where Chishimba Kambwili reported him to the Anti-Corruption Commission before asking

the Chief Justice to compel him to recuse himself from handling the opposition NDC leader's case.

In December 2019, Kambwili wrote to Chief Justice, Irene Mambilima, complaining about the manner in which Magistrate Simusamba was handling the matter, i.e. his attitude towards him and his lawyers and attempts by the Magistrate to extort money from him in exchange for an acquittal.

The JCC however, acted in respect of a complaint filed by Mumba two years ago over the manner in which the Magistrate behaved in the criminal trespass case.

In April 2018, Mumba, through his lawyers Simeza,

Sangwa and Associates, wrote to Chief Justice Ireen Mambilima over Magistrate Simusamba's alleged judicial misconduct, which suggested that he was pushing a political agenda.

In a letter dated September 8, 2020, addressed to the MMD leader, the JCC stated that it had advised the judiciary management to commence an internal process that should result in the removal of Simusamba, who is now a Lusaka High Court Registrar.

"Dear Dr. Mumba RE: YOUR COMPLAINT AGAINST MAGISTRATE DAVID SIMUSAMBA. Reference is made to your complaint to the Commission

as indicated above, dated 10th April, 2018. The Commission considered the complaint and having noted the issues raised therein, resolved to submit a report to the Judicial Service Commission with a recommendable that proceedings be commenced by the said body for the removal of Magistrate Simusamba as a judicial officer," read the letter in part.

"The Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission has since responded stating that the Judiciary Management has been tasked to further enquire into the

allegations against Magistrate David Simusamba. Further, that the Commission shall be informed of the course of action to be taken by the Judicial Service Commission after completion of the internal processes. The Commission shall accordingly revert to you up receipt or the action taken report by the Judiciary Service Commission. I have been directed to inform you accordingly."

The JCC apologised for taking long to review the complaint against Simusamba.

"The delay in attending to your complaint, due to vacancies in the membership of the Commission and other circumstances beyond the Commission's control, is deeply regretted," wrote JCC Secretary, Naisa Makeleta.

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# Shonga is offside, *Diggers* has never attacked the Judiciary

**S**UPREME Court justice Mumba Malila has written a paper describing the state of the Judiciary in Africa, in relation to political interference. He observed that many judiciaries in the African region are still reeling from the devastating effects of political intimidation.

We would like to comment on this very interesting observation, especially that it is coming from a learned judge who is still serving the Judiciary at a supreme level. But we are reminded of the warning we received from Mr Abyudi Shonga against what he calls "attacks on the Judiciary". Mr Shonga, who is president of the Law Association of Zambia, has written a letter to our Newspaper, saying the last editorial opinion we published questioning the Patriotic Front's insistence on President Edgar Lungu's eligibility, was an attack on the judiciary and its "defenseless judges".

We thought we must first respond to Mr Abyudi Shonga and show him where he got things wrong before we can go ahead to express our views on the observations raised by Justice Malila in our next editorial. It is important that we make things clear for the LAZ president because even though our editorial comment would merely be agreeing with Justice Malila, it may be misunderstood as an attack on the Judiciary by our brother who is now in charge of the association for lawyers.

We are surprised, as a newspaper, to learn that Mr Shonga considers our editorial opinion of September 22, 2020, and the questions we asked, as an attack on the judiciary. In fact, when we look at the letter from LAZ and the fact

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that it was copied to the Chief Justice, we can see a grave case of misunderstanding which can attract all sorts of reactions, including threats and intimidation on our part.

We believe that anyone who read our editorial opinion can tell that, rather than attack, we were acknowledging the duty of our judges to adjudicate matters without fear, influence or intimidation from people who hold political office. Our opinion did not, in any way, attack the judiciary. To the contrary, it puts a spotlight on the conduct of senior members of the ruling Patriotic Front who have consistently disregarded the binding decision of the Constitutional Court in this matter.

We would have thought that Mr Shonga's LAZ would be applauding us for our efforts in protecting the independence of the Judiciary through our condemnation of lawless remarks from the party in power. We would have thought the LAZ president would instead be writing to the Patriotic Front and advising the party to desist from making statements that bring the autonomy of the judiciary into question.

If Mr Shonga has written to the Patriotic Front and advised them to desist from making the work of the Constitutional Court difficult, that is a commendable thing because there will come a time when questions will be asked about this conduct from the PF and what LAZ did

about it. Our concern is that when the Court is moved to pronounce itself on the eligibility of the incumbent President, and it is decided that in fact, the Head of State qualifies to contest the 2021 elections, the public will have cause to believe that such a decision was politically motivated, or that there was undue pressure from the Executive, because of the same statements from the ruling party that we are condemning today. This is the message we were trying to communicate in our editorial comment.

So, we are at pains to understand how our brother, the learned State Counsel at LAZ, failed to apply context to the message delivered in the opinion complained about. If we are allowed to speak freely, we would add that Mr Shonga's letter leaves us a bit confused because, in our view, we do not think it is possible that he can miss the context of a simple editorial opinion like the one in question. At the very least, we expected LAZ to notice that we were making a call for the separation of powers.

How can it be an attack on the judges when we question the ruling party's insistence that the Constitutional Court already ruled that President Lungu is eligible to stand in 2021, when everyone, including LAZ agrees that this is not true? How can it be an attack on the judiciary to ask what gives the ruling party so much confidence that the Constitutional Court will rule in favour of the

President?

If we stated it as a matter of fact that the judges have been compromised, LAZ would be in order to advise us to take that evidence to the Judicial Complaints Commission, but we did not. The context of our question was clear. In this case, we were asking a question to those who are undermining the ruling of the court. How can that be an attack on the judges?

As we will show in our next opinion, our judges deserve the support of every citizen, including us the media. This is not because they are defenceless, but because they are already operating under a very difficult and oppressive environment.

It might also be important for us to address the issue of judges being defenceless. Although our editorial opinion was not written to criticize the judiciary in any way, we do not fully agree that judges are defenceless. This is not only because they have the right to sue in their individual capacity, but also because they do use their powers to defend themselves from time to time.

This is shown in the case of Journalist Derrick Sinjela and Civil rights activist Gregory Chifire. When the Supreme Court judges found the corruption accusations levelled against them defamatory, they proceeded to cite the accusers for contempt and the outcome of that court case is a matter

of public knowledge.

This brings us to LAZ's caution about how we exercise our freedom of expression.

In the case of Editor Sinjela, Mr Shonga and everyone at LAZ are fully aware that the complainants in that case are the same judges that presided over the matter and sentenced their attackers without declaring any interest, or considering the so-called rules of natural justice. Is it the position of LAZ that, even in such a given example, citizens cannot publicly comment on that matter because the judges involved do not have the latitude to defend themselves? That, in our view, is not an accurate reflection of reality.

We are fully aware that the new LAZ executive has come with a fresh desire to contribute a positive change in the state of affairs in the country, and we support the approach that the association has taken. But we must also put it on record that we are a responsible news organisation that operates under a balanced and objective editorial policy. Therefore, we don't see any wrongdoing on our part from the editorial opinion in question.

This is why we are searching for the real reasons why Mr Shonga has written this letter to us. We don't think the message is contained in the words of the letter. As a newspaper, we feel the message is contained in the action itself. It would appear to us that some

people at LAZ are not comfortable with our argument against President Lungu's third term bid because we used the Association's interpretation of the ConCourt judgement to deliver our point. If this is the case, we take it as a very unfortunate development. We pray and hope that Mr Shonga's LAZ is not conceiving an idea of trying to instill fear in us. We don't need LAZ on the list of intolerant institutions.

The media in Zambia is already operating under a delicate environment. If the association looks at the number of media houses that have been closed in the past five years, it will notice that our operating space has been shrinking as a consequence of intolerance from those who wield power. Therefore, it scares us that Mr Shonga's LAZ is exercising similar intolerance to freedom of expression as that exhibited by the Patriotic Front. We also wish to bring it to the attention of Mr Shonga that when his Association writes such a letter to a private media house whose existence is already under threat, it gives political oppressors the impetus, basis and speed for effecting harsh decisions against the newspaper.

LAZ may wish to reconsider its approach as it seeks to provide counsel regarding freedom of speech and rule of law to the Fourth Estate, especially as we head towards a decisive general election that will need independent media to play its role. This is more so because the public media in Zambia does not provide a platform for citizens who hold opposing views to the government.

So, we agree with everything that Mr Shonga has done since he assumed office. But on this one, he is offside.



# Readers' Feedback



## US Envoy should apply pressure on Lungu to ensure credible 2021 polls

Editor,

"Just send peacekeepers in advance since some people have already told us they wont let go of power". - Victor Chansa

"Don't just talk, put pressure on those whose actions, thoughts, plans and desires are bent on diluting the credibility of the 2021 polls". - Asa Amisi

"We will not have credible elections next year when the whole process from the start is not transparent". - Allen Chileman

"We want credible polls too. Tell these fellows planning mischief to stop immediately". - Lastone Richard Tembo

"They are busy pushing for bill ten". - Mathews W Ks

"Don't just talk, caution this guy, if you are not careful, u will soon be sending peace keepers to Zambia, this time we will settle things in the streets if ECZ \*\*\*\*s up!" - Mze Aniesto

"It's not possible to have free and fair elections in Zambia with the current leadership". - Jay Jnr Micheal

## ND! OPINION: Public media must start giving equal electoral coverage now

Editor,

"They can't, headlines everyday takes this shape

1. President shani is saying!
  2. Vice president visited the kitchen.
  3. Minister of home shani was warning
  4. Minister of shani was dishing out money during mobilisation
  5. Disaster Chanda said boats can circumcise.
  6. Yali said HH is a thief
  7. Early ejaculation party president said HH cannot stand
  8. Lusaka province moonga said UPND is divided
  9. The Americans have said ECLipse will go beyond 2019!
- End of news". - Mze Aniesto

"This is what ECZ was supposed to be doing, pressurising public media to do the right thing but they let other people do the job on their behalf. By the way is there a judicial review or whatever is called in law that can compel a public institution to act according to its constitutional mandate". - Asa Amisi

"If public media can't cover the opposition parties then they should as well be exempted from paying tax towards the same organizations". - Zack Don

"I blame those who passed the useless TV Levy Law. The general citizenry does not benefit from TV Levy. Most civilized non aligned citizens including me do not watch znbc which is the only media house benefiting from TV Levy. Private media should have been accessing TV Levy fund for benefits to trickle down to citizens". - Alex Kalukangu

Editor,

"Too much arrogance, can such a person really be called a leader?? Zambia! How did we find ourselves with such kind of leadership?!" - Michael Sandala

"Ohh okay ba minister, he should not even be tamed... Let him continue this way. We are few months away, let us all watch the mess from the terraces and preserve our decision, until next year. Then come next year, no one should hear

another, we shall engage each other on the ballot, the communication will be from there, we shall communicate from there!!!" - Isaak EngZek

"It is just your way of expressing your shame... Just admit that you have been beaten by the NAC and forced to cancel the useless event". - Mwenya Elias Phiri

"This is the arrogance some

of us dont like in our current leaders. By the way what's GBM team doing now that there's a Boman Lusambo mobilising committee? GBM are you not regretting, try joining Mutati who knows you can retrieve your political relevance". - Asa Amisi

"Ok same applies to you, we won't vote for you since we don't like you too, we have no time to hear this drama! just bring Zodwa". - Winston Kameya

## Lusambo's remarks on having no time to engage NAC over botched Mafikizolo concert

## Ng'andu's insistence on external debt being \$11.97bn

Editor,

"Just resign together with your fake humble leader. You even want to go for prayers tomorrow while hiding the true debt figure? You will never turn around the economy even if you were to be in power for a thousand years!" - Kaseba Golden

"Minister, if you want, you can even say the debt is \$2 billion. Whatever the case, pay it off!" - Chola Mwale

"Debt is debt. Even \$1bn is one two much. This regime is

always arrogantly defensive for nothing. Even when people warned against over borrowing, it bragged about how 'on top of things' it was. And now it's 'the things on top of them'. Shame!" - Martin Nyanjagha

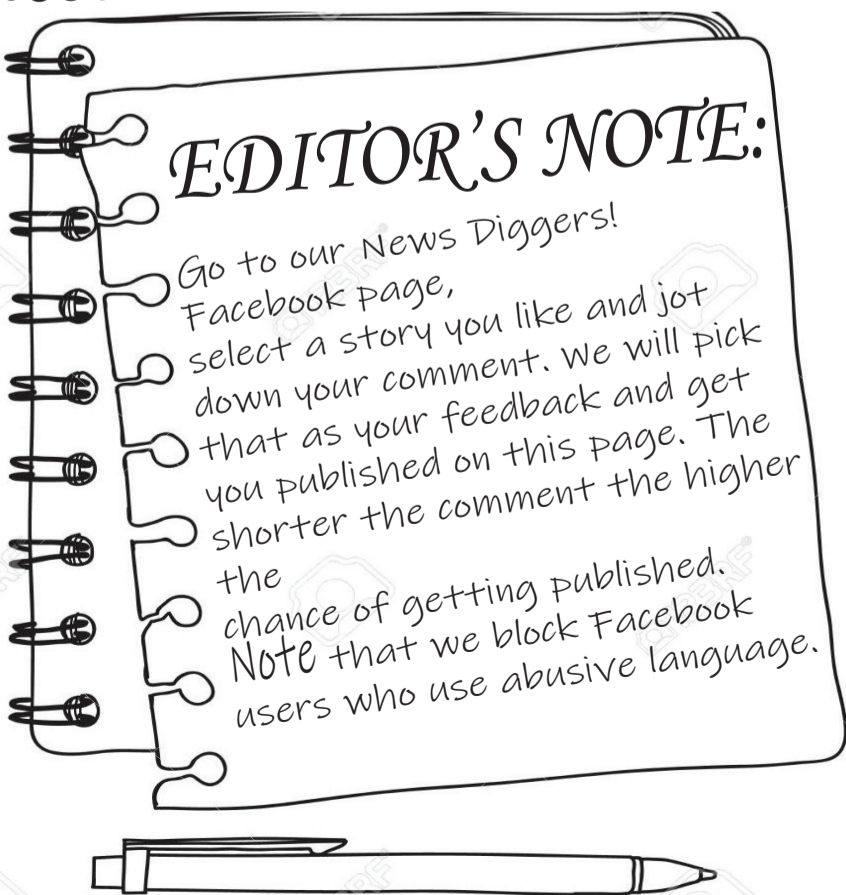
"As if \$11.97 billion is a good thing, it is still unmanageable!" - Lameck Nyirenda

"I think that matters less because the bottom line is that it's still debt which we have to pay back anyway". - Zombe

Nsokolo

"I think for some of you resigning is the best option. You need to save your names, you can't be standing for what is wrong all in the name of collective responsibility!" - Lengwe Governor Kabwe

"Still that figure is unsustainable! We failed to pay \$6 billion under ba Kaunda with all proceeds from copper, now with no strategic minerals gone into criminals' pockets, how on Earth are we gonna pay off the debt?!" - Jones Chiziwa



ACCORDING to the IMF's World Economic Output 2020 released recently, China has now overtaken the US to become the world's largest economy.

Yes, you read that right. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), using the more reliable and now widely accepted yardstick, called the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), has determined China's economy at \$24.2 trillion compared to America's \$20.8 trillion.

The PPP calculation method used by the IMF enables you to compare how much you can buy for your money in different countries. The economists have traditionally been using MER (market exchange rates) to calculate GDP, which doesn't reflect the real figures.

Was Indian ONGC Expelled From The Iranian Farzad-B Gas Field Long Before The New Media Reports?

The MER method is being viewed with extreme suspicion because it underestimates the buying power of the currencies of many countries. As a result, the currencies of many nations are undervalued against the dollar.

With PPP adjustment, IMF estimates China's economic output outmanoeuvring the US's by a huge margin. IMF is clear in its report, it says the PPP "eliminates differences in price levels between economies" and thus compares national economies in terms of how much each nation can buy with its own currency at the prices items sell for there.

After the IMF, the CIA also decided to switch from MER to

# IMF admits China Overtaking US as world's largest Economy



PPP in its annual assessment of national economies. The CIA Factbook notes that "the official exchange rate measure of GDP is not an accurate measure of China's output; GDP at the official exchange rate (MER GDP) substantially understates the actual level of China's output vis-a-vis the rest of the world; in China's situation, GDP at purchasing power parity provides the best measure for comparing output across countries.

New Book Reveals Why The US May Not Win The World War-3 & Where It Lags Behind China & Russia?

To tide over the inconsistencies with traditional methods, The Economist invented a new method called The Big Mac Index to determine whether the currencies were

at a correct level. The fact is one US dollar can buy nearly twice as much in China than in America itself, and the current market exchange rates hardly acknowledge that.

According to The Economist, "In 2019 China's workers produced over 99 trillion yuan worth of goods and services. America's produced \$21.4 trillion-worth. Since 6.9 yuan bought a dollar last year, on average, China's GDP was worth only \$14trn when converted into dollars at market rates. That was still well short of America's.

"But 6.9 yuan stretches further in China than a dollar goes in America. One example is McDonald's Big Mac. It costs about 21.70 yuan in China and \$5.71 in America, according to prices collected by The

Economist.

By that measure, 3.8 yuan buys as much as a dollar. But if that is the case, then 99trn yuan can buy as much as \$26trn, and China's economy is already considerably bigger than America's," The Economist adds.

China's economic growth rate has been growing at a mind-boggling rate of around 10% for almost the last 30 years. The country has witnessed startling growth in every sector, with the manufacturing sector being the engine of overall resurgence. It has made unstoppable advances in its military power, building and accumulating world-class defence equipment.

The country's military is rigorously pursuing its expansionist agenda, engaged in conflicts with a number of neighbours, backed with a strong economic advantage.

Bloomberg did its own calculations of the IMF data, which shows the proportion of worldwide growth coming from China expected to increase from 26.8% in 2021 to 27.7% in 2025. "That's more than 15 and 17 percentage

points, respectively, higher than the US share of expected global output," the report adds.

According to the IMF estimates, China will grow by 8.2% next year, down a full percentage point from the IMF's April estimate but strong enough to account for more than one-quarter of global growth.

So, why is the media not reporting this news? Why aren't the economists acknowledging this indisputable fact? Who gains from this silence?

Why Fall Of Pakistan PM Imran Khan Could Be Imminent Despite Unwavering Support From Pak Army & China?

The world can no longer deny China's superpower. It's now the world's most powerful economy, a fact we can no longer brush under the carpet. The country's rise to the top was inevitable, but no one had expected it to be so swift.

The catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic that devastated countries around the world has only made China stronger, which ironically was the place, where the virus originated. *BBC*

## I know I'll be re-elected in 2021 because of my work – Lungu

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he knows he will be re-elected in next year's general election because of the many works his government has done.

Speaking when he drummed up support for PF candidate in the Chilubi Council chairperson by-elections Rosemary Chimhini, in Bulilo ward, Monday, President Lungu said he knows that he would be re-elected.

"Ndemona abantu nabamitemwa sana muposeko amano mukabwele bwangu bwangu mukese umfwa abantu efyo balefwaya. Nga mwaya mwaililila, 2021 tamwaimone. Leken nsoke abo mwasala mu Zambia lyonse kuno kwine ku Northern Province, ngabamisala whether MP, council chairman, ulimubomfi wabantu, bombela abantu. Ipalamike kubantu, wishibe abantu efyo balekabila. Abo bakabwela mu 2021 ni abo abale bombela abantu, abo balecindika abantu, abo baleumfwa abantu efyo

balelanda. Naine wine Edgar Lungu pano ndi ninjishiba abantu bakambweshu mu 2021 pantu efyo ndebomba nabanandi filemoneka. Ama sikulu, ifipatala, ubulimi, ifikulwa ipanga yonse. (I have seen that you are the preferred candidate. You should work hard so that you do what the people want. If you don't work for the people, people will not vote for you in 2021. Let me take this time to advise those serving the people in various positions like members of parliament, council chairperson and other positions, you are a servant of the people, work for the people, listen to what the people of want. Those who will be voted for will be the ones that listen to the people. Even me, I know that people will re-elect me because people are able to see the works that my colleagues and I have done, schools, hospitals, agriculture country wide)," President Lungu said.

President Lungu said

constituencies would be delimited when the Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 is passed in parliament.

"We have no apologies to make to anyone because we are servants of the people. And we believe in the people's choice. So we work with the people and listen to the people and do what the people want. The people here in Chilubi want new constituencies, the people here in Chilubi want new districts to be created we will make sure that we get these things. To do so, we have to make sure that we pass Bill 10. Pantu Bill 10 eyakwata ifungulo pakwebu ati batupele amaka na authority pakwebu ati ba Electoral Commission of Zambia bakwate insambu ishaku chita create ama constituencies. Pali ino nshita ama constituencies yonse yaba locked muli constitution. ( Bill 10 is the law that will give ECZ the authority to delimitate constituencies)," said President Lungu.



## Visitors see worker being killed Bear



A CHINESE animal park has promised to improve safety after one of its workers was fatally attacked by bears in front of a tourist bus.

The accident at the Shanghai Wildlife Park took place on Saturday in the zoo's "wild beast area".

Video reportedly of the incident, which was shared on social media, shows a group of tourists yelling as they watch the bears from inside a bus.

The park has expressed its condolences to the worker's family.

In a statement on its website, the Shanghai Wildlife Park said it was "extremely distressed that such a tragedy occurred", adding that it also "apologised to tourists for any inconvenience caused".

The park says it is currently looking into the incident, would improve its safety management and "do our best to handle the aftermath of the incident".

It has since temporarily closed the wild beast area, refunded tickets for visitors and "strengthened its safety operations".

The video, circulating on China's Weibo, shows tourists yelling as they sit inside a bus, while several bears can be seen gathered

outside, crowded in one spot.

The area is only accessible to visitors by bus, with footage on social media site Weibo showing how animals are allowed to roam freely.

In the video, a man can be heard exclaiming "there's someone [there]", while someone else is heard asking "what's going on?".

The video quickly went viral and stirred debate about the existence of zoos.

Some argued that the bears were only acting as any wild animal would, proposing the only solution to eradicate such accidents was to "just close zoos... let animals be free".

Others condemned the zoo's lack of safety measures, and expressed sympathy for the tourists that witnessed the accident, saying they would be "deeply traumatised".

It is rare for zoo workers in China to be mauled to death by animals, but attacks are not entirely uncommon - although in most of these cases, these accidents are allegedly brought on by the visitors themselves.

In 2017, a man was bitten by a bear in a drive-through wildlife park in China after he ignored park warnings and rolled down his window to feed the bear. *BBC*

RONALD Koeman admits Lionel Messi's form "could be better" but insists he has no complaints about the Barcelona captain's application.

Messi attempted to leave the club during the transfer window but was unable to engineer an exit after something of a power struggle played out in public with president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

He has since affirmed his commitment to the Catalans for at least the final year of his contract, but his performances have not been up to his usual standards in 2020-21.

In four La Liga matches, Messi has scored just once - a penalty in the 4-0 win over Villarreal last month - and has zero assists.

He has created just six chances, well short of the league-leading numbers of David Ferreira (22), and only five from open play, eight fewer than Sevilla's Jesus Navas (13).

With 11 dribbles completed from 19 attempts, Messi has a success rate of 57.9, well down on last season's average of 64.3, which further highlights his relative struggle to impact upon Barca's play - a problem that came to a head in their 1-0 loss to Getafe.

However, speaking ahead of their first Champions League group game against Ferencvaros, Koeman made it clear he is

# Messi's form could be better but I'm not worried - Koeman

happy with Messi's efforts and believes the player himself is feeling positive.

"There is always pressure to win games as a player or coach at Barcelona. We know the club's situation; there are things outside the pitch that we can't influence," he said on Monday.

"What we can do is work with the players to adjust to the new system and we have a lot of new and young people, but we're optimistic about the game tomorrow. I think the best way to think right now is game by game.

"Maybe Messi's form could be better at this moment, but he's happy, he's training well, he's focused, he wants to play and he wants to be captain of the team and he's improving. I haven't got any complaints.

"He also had bad luck with the ball that hit the post and with the final play of the match. Normally, he puts it between the posts! I have no doubt about his form and we'll see that in the coming games.

"I'm not worried because we've scored eight goals in four games and I don't think many teams have done that. It's normal

that, against Sevilla and Getafe, it's more difficult to create chances.

"I'm not disappointed with the players. I see a happy team. I can never be disappointed with a player who works their hardest."

Given Barca's 8-2 humiliation at the hands of Bayern Munich in last season's Champions League quarter-finals, Koeman accepts his side are unlikely to be considered firm favourites for the trophy this time around.

However, he is keen to get their campaign off to a strong start in a week that ends with the first Clasico of the season against Real Madrid at Camp Nou.

"We know that, with what happened last time, we're not the ultimate favourites, but we can go far," he said. "You always play to win games and trophies at Barca, in Spain and in Europe, but there are more favourite teams, like us.

"We want to start the Champions League on the right foot. The most important thing is to prepare for two difficult matches at home that we have to win.

"It's not an easy game and we don't think about resting people for Saturday because Saturday isn't important right now, only tomorrow is." **GOAL**



# Liverpool will wait for Van Dijk like a good wife when husband is in jail - Klopp

JURGEN Klopp has promised that Liverpool will support Virgil van Dijk "like a good wife is waiting when the husband is in jail".

Van Dijk has been arguably the most influential member of Liverpool's squad since joining the club for a fee of £75 million (\$97m) from Southampton in January 2018.

He shored up a leaky defence which had previously undermined the Reds' attacking efforts under Klopp, and inspired their run to Champions League glory in his first full season at the club.

The 29-year-old also featured in all 38 of Liverpool's Premier League matches in 2019-20 as they won the title for the first time in 30 years, and is now revered as the best centre-back on the planet by many fans and experts.

Van Dijk was also playing a starring role in Klopp's line up at the start of their latest campaign, but he is now facing a lengthy period on the sidelines after suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury.

The Netherlands international had to be substituted in the first half of the 2-2 draw with Everton after being floored by a late Jordan Pickford tackle, and will undergo surgery on his knee before beginning an extensive rehabilitation

programme.

Klopp says the prized asset is feeling "okay" after the incident, and that he will receive all the help he needs from Liverpool's staff throughout his recovery period in the coming months.

"It's always the same, players love to be rather on their own in the moment and to deal in the first moment with it," the German head coach told a press conference on Monday. "I am long enough in the business to know that. I was injured myself, I had exactly the same injury if I'm right and it's not then that you are then pretty chatty.

"It all will start but we are in contact, of course, we are in contact. We are there for him, he knows that and we will wait for him like a good

wife is waiting when the husband is in jail and will do, meanwhile, all what we can do to make it as easy for him as possible."

Ahead of a Champions League group stage meeting with Ajax on Wednesday, Klopp was also asked when Van Dijk's operation will be pencilled in for, to which he responded: "That's all not sorted yet.

"A few things are clear, so he now will be out for a while, that's clear. We don't want to set any timeframe, to be honest, because each player is different and each individual is different and these possible timeframes are always for the x, y, z player. Virgil is Virgil and we don't want to set any timeframe, but he will be out for a pretty long time and that's what the situation is. **GOAL**



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# MULENGA JOINS AMAZULU

By Ngosa Chalwe

IN a bid to get game time, Chipolopolo striker Augustine Mulenga has signed for Premier Soccer League (PSL) side Amazulu, a few weeks after leaving Soweto giants Orlando Pirates.

Last week, Mulenga told South African media that he asked the club to release him because he needed game time to keep his national team position.

"I would like to tell the Pirates fans that it was my decision to leave Orlando Pirates. I wasn't getting game time and now they've signed more players. I can't stay and experience the same thing again. I'm also a national team player and If I don't get game time, then I will lose my place in the Zambia team. I'm 30 and I need to play regularly," Mulenga said.

Yesterday, the former Nkwazi and Zanaco hitman was unveiled alongside Bafana Bafana legend Sipiwé Thabalala as Amazulu players ahead of the 2020/2021 season.

"As confirmed by the club, Luvuyo Memela has been signed after parting ways with Orlando Pirates, while the likes of Xola Mlambo, Augustine Mulenga, Sicelo Mkhize, Sipehelele Nene, Makheheleni Makhaula, Thembele Sikhakhane, Limbikani Mzava, Samkelo Gwazela, Sipehelele Mthembu are some of the other signings announced by the KZN side," South African Publication Soccer Laduma reported.

**Messi's form could be better - Koeman**

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## When is voter registration starting?



### ✓ Online Pre-registration

Online Pre-registration will start on Monday 21st September, 2020 to Friday 6th November, 2020. Visit the website: [www.ovr.elections.org.zm](http://www.ovr.elections.org.zm) to commence your application.

### ✓ Mobile Voter Registration

The Mobile Voter Registration will be conducted from 07:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs every day at various registration centers in all the districts. The exercise will run from October 28th to November 30th, 2020.



#VotingSquad

