



PF DECLARES 'WAR'

By Ulande Nkomesha
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu should not transfer the differences he had with the late Micheal Sata to President Edgar Lungu.
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ON TELESOPHORE

He is a UPND supporter, we'll treat him as a political opponent - Mwila



President Edgar Lungu (left) speaks to BoZ governor Christopher Mvunga at a swearing-in ceremony at State House yesterday

I'll not compromise BoZ - Mvunga

By Natasha Sakala
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has challenged newly-appointed Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Christopher Mvunga to prove his critics wrong by restoring macroeconomic and foreign exchange

market stability to Zambia's economy. And Mvunga says there is no way he will compromise the operational independence of the Central Bank. Speaking during the swearing-in ceremony for Mvunga at State House,

Tuesday, President Lungu urged Mvunga to apply his over-30 years' experience in the financial sector to restore macroeconomic and foreign exchange market stability to Zambia's economy.
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Military recruitment will be above board - Chama

By Julia Malunga
DEFENCE Minister Davies Chama has promised that the military recruitment exercise will be above board and based on merit. In an interview, Chama revealed that he had resisted several requests from people to "help them" get selected.
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Cost of living still exceeds household incomes - JCTR

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) says the reality of living a dignified life in Zambia is still far from being attained given the high cost of living, which remains above household average incomes. And JCTR says the Ministry of Finance's suggested interventions to stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard livelihoods and protect the vulnerable are contradictory as far as addressing key macroeconomic issues is concerned. In a statement, Tuesday, the JCTR stated that while Zambia's

poverty reduction efforts had not yielded considerable results, especially for the rural population, COVID-19 had pushed the masses into a poverty trap.
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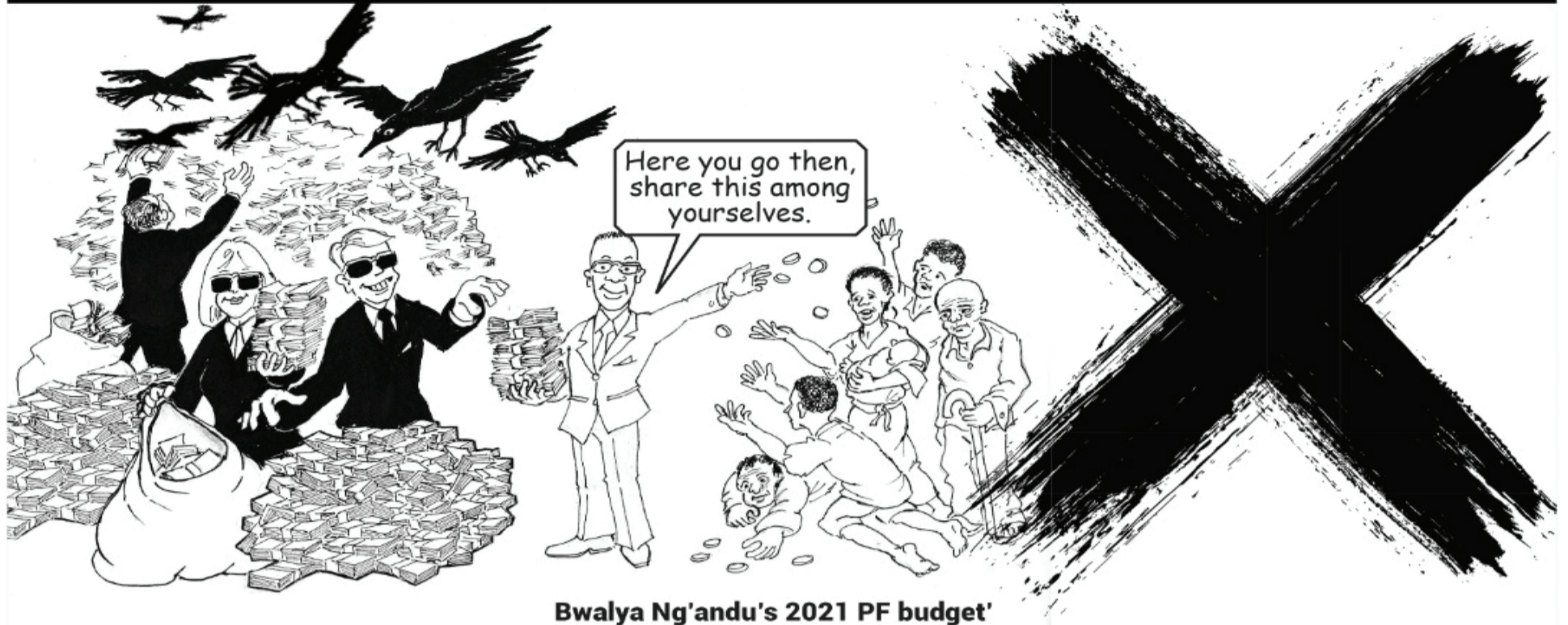
Prayer day attendance will be strictly by invitation - Sumaili

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ZRA cracks whip on maize smugglers

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THIS IS WHAT IT HAS COME TO



Bwalya Ng'andu's 2021 PF budget'

FIKAPWA!

#BallyWillFiXIt



By Zondiwe Mbewe
COPPERBELT Energy Corporation Limited (CEC) has submitted to the Lusaka High Court that it is legally entitled to restrict power in the event of failure to settle outstanding amounts for power supplied by it to Konkola Copper Mines (in liquidation).

And CEC has insisted that Zesco Limited and KCM conspired between themselves and Energy Minister Mathew Nkhwa to enter into a Term Sheet, which can only be performed or actualised by use of CEC's transmission system, hence the declaration by Nkhwa of its transmission and distribution lines as common carrier.

In this matter, Zesco Limited and KCM have sued CEC in the Lusaka High Court seeking a declaration that CEC's action to restrict power supply to KCM contravenes the law.

Zesco and KCM are seeking an order of injunction restraining CEC by itself, its directors, officers or agents from interfering in the Time Sheet Agreement between Zesco and KCM through restricting KCM from receiving supply from Zesco, pending determination of the matter.

They also want, among others, an order restraining CEC from effecting or taking steps to take out any supply units, lines or delivery points to KCM as they are Common Carriers as declared under S.I. No 57 of 2020.

But in its defence, CEC argued that Zesco and KCM were not entitled to the reliefs they were claiming or any relief at all.

It also counter-claimed, citing Zesco, KCM and KCM Provisional Liquidator Milingo Lungu as first, second and third defendants, respectively.

In its counter-claim, CEC is seeking an order that Zesco Limited pays it US \$144 million

We're entitled to restrict power to KCM following debt default, CEC tells court

as compensation for the power supplied to KCM, which it could not recover due to the conspiracy between Zesco and KCM.

It's also counter-claiming a declaration that the KCM Provisional Liquidator's refusal or failure to settle the sum of US \$144 million owed to CEC is in breach of Milingo's statutory duty to CEC.

CEC is further counter-claiming, among others, compensation for loss of its income following an abrupt end to negotiations between it and KCM for renewal of the PSA, and an order that Zesco pays it by way of compensation, the value of the power supplied to KCM from June 1, 2020, until date of judgement.

But Zesco in its reply and defence to CEC's counter-claim, stated that it had continued to sell power to CEC, but added that the trade was not based on any agreed and executed PSA, but on a schedule of supply Terms given to CEC before April 1, 2020, which supply Terms were received and acknowledged by CEC.

Zesco stated that at no time did it impose non-negotiable and unilateral terms to CEC, but rather proposed commercially viable terms commensurate to its operational costs of generating power.

It stated that it had continued to supply power to CEC, but denied that it was supplying the power on the same terms of the expired BSA.

"Zesco shall aver that it did not conspire with the Minister nor KCM to injure CEC's business,

but rather exercised its legal right to enter into a PSA with KCM to supply power and wheel the power using CEC's infrastructure, which was duly declared as common carriers by the powers given to the Minister via Statutory Instrument No. 57 of 2020," it stated.

But in its reply to Zesco's defence to its counter-claim filed recently, CEC stated that the terms were not mere proposals as Zesco had made it clear in its communication to it (CEC) that the terms were non-negotiable.

It stated that Zesco imposed non-negotiable and onerous terms, which conduct amounted to an oppressive bargain.

"The plaintiff (CEC) will further say that the first defendant (Zesco) cannot use its dominant position to impose unfair terms on the pretext of achieving 'commercially viable terms.' The plaintiff will say that the first defendant, therefore, has continued to supply power on the terms as before and not on the terms contained in the purported express Schedule of Supply Terms," CEC stated.

It stated that Zesco was fully aware that CEC was supplying power to KCM and further that the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) pursuant to which power was being supplied had expired and that CEC was engaged in negotiations for renewal of the PSA with KCM.

CEC added that Zesco and KCM negotiated and signed a Term Sheet for the intended PSA, while KCM was still in negotiations with CEC for renewal of the PSA.

"As further proof that Zesco was aware that CEC and KCM were engaged in negotiations, Zesco signed a Term Sheet with KCM. While there may be no legal restraint to Zesco and KCM negotiating and entering into a Term Sheet for the PSA, the manner in which Zesco and KCM conducted their business is clear proof of the conspiracy intended to injure CEC in its business," it stated.

"The plaintiff will say that as a result of the first and second defendant's conspiracy, the second defendant (KCM) is no

longer under compulsion to settle its indebtedness to the plaintiff in the sum of US \$144 million."

And in its reply to KCM's defence, CEC stated that it was legally entitled to restrict power in the event of failure to settle outstanding amounts for power supplied to KCM by it.

It added that KCM has never disputed owing the sum of US \$144 million to CEC.

"The plaintiff will say that the first and second defendants conspired between themselves and the Minister of Energy to enter into a Term Sheet, which can only

be performed or actualised by use of the plaintiffs transmission system and hence the declaration by the Minister of Energy of the plaintiffs transmission and distribution network as common carrier. The effect of the proceedings commenced by the first and second defendants was to enforce the Minister of Energy's declaration so as to give effect to the Term Sheet for the PSA agreed between themselves," stated CEC.

In reply to Milingo Lungu's defence, CEC stated that Milingo was personally liable to pay the accrued debt of US \$144 million as damages as a result of his breach of his statutory duty and for carrying on the business of KCM with intent to defraud creditors, contrary to Section 175 (1) of the Corporate Insolvency Act.

Telesphore on the wrong side of politics by supporting UPND - Mwila

By Ulande Nkomesha

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu should not transfer the differences he had with the late Micheal Sata to President Edgar Lungu.

And Mwila says the opposition should stop making baseless accusations about the Electoral Commission of Zambia's online preregistration exercise because it is not mandatory.

Commenting on Archbishop Mpundu's recent statement that President Lungu's leadership was worse than that of former British colonial masters because he exhibited intolerance for opposing voices, Mwila said the Catholic priest had jumped at the wrong side of politics by supporting UPND.

"Ba Mpundu, if he differed with the late president Micheal Sata, those differences should not be transferred to President Edgar Lungu. Those differences were there and he should not transfer those differences to President Lungu. President Lungu has delivered on his promises and that is the more reason the by-elections are being won by

the PF. If ba Mpundu has become a politician, he should tell us, then we will treat him as a political opponent, but those differences he had with Mr Sata he should not transfer them to President Edgar Lungu," Mwila said.

"How have we failed? If we have failed, people were going to vote us out even during the by elections but look at the performance of the party. We have been winning Lukashya, they thought they were going to win Mwansabombwe, we won Chilubi and we are going to win the council chairman. They are not ready that is why they are giving these excuses and Bishop Mpundu has jumped on the wrong side of the game because he is supporting a wrong party. How do you support the UPND which is a failed party? He is no longer a clergyman, he is a politician and I can tell you that no one will respect him, because he is now a politician. That is how we will treat him as a political opponent not as a Bishop and he is a retired Bishop by the way."

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97.7 FM



By Ulande Nkomesha
FORMER home affairs deputy minister and PF member Colonel Panji Kaunda says the PF have no right to be given another term in office because they have failed to govern the country.

In an interview, Col Kaunda, who is First Republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda's son, lamented that the ruling party had failed to deliver on several key developmental areas that were lacking, hence did not deserve to be re-elected next year.

He argued that the PF had

PF shouldn't be given another term in office, they've failed to govern - Panji

continued to win by-elections only because they had taken advantage of institutions like the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU)

to distribute mealie meal to voters in areas where elections were being held.

"It is disappointing that our elections are not based on the economy or the promises of the party; our elections are based on chitenges, mealie meal, which is not even an election. You see, the PF are winning elections because they are able to get mealie meal from DMMU. You saw in Chilubi, you also saw the same thing also happening in Kasama where literally people were given mealie meal as a way of buying votes, which is illegal. So, if they can do that during elections, good luck to them. But, basically, the way things are run in the country, today, our party has no right to be in government for the next five years because there is nothing they can show for. Take our city here in Chipata, for example; look at our roads here in Chipata! Our infrastructure, there is nothing here. The cost of living is extremely high in this country," Col Kaunda said.

"The big question is: where are they getting their confidence from that they will win in 2021? Maybe because they are living comfortably

in their homes and they think that everyone is living well. But if you go around the country, us who live in villages, you will see the poverty of the villagers. Most people in the villages are not educated, they don't know anything about the economy, all they want is their daily bread. So, if Kaunda goes there with a bag of mealie meal, they will vote for them, that is the problem we have got."

He lamented that the PF government had abandoned their party manifesto in trying to better the lives of Zambians.

"Governance is like an exam where you, as a student, set your own questions. As parties, we have a manifesto; those are the questions that will give to ourselves, 'this is what we are going to do.' When you divert from the manifesto, you get lost, you start doing things contrary to what you promised the people. You promised Zambians they will be youth employment, there will be less taxes, there will be a new Constitution that will stand the test of time. So, we are not doing what we promised Zambians," said Col Kaunda.

"So, we are not supposed to be in government when the promises we made [to the people of Zambia], we have not honoured them. So, what confidence have you got that within the next five years, they will do what they promised the people of Zambia? So, I don't know where this confidence is coming from, maybe the few by-elections that they have won, but the people will decide in 2021."

Military recruitment will be above board - Chama

By Julia Malunga

DEFENCE Minister Davies Chama has promised that the military recruitment exercise will be above board and based on merit.

In an interview, Chama revealed that he had resisted several requests from people to "help them" get selected.

"That is the reason why we have put it in the public domain, we have advertised and there will be a board to select the candidates. And when people apply, they are being given a reference number. So I can assure you that this selection will be above board to make sure that we pick the best as required by our various services. For instance, if you are looking for an engineer, how can you say 'it will not be above board'? Because we are looking for qualified engineers. If you meet the criteria, you will be selected. That is why we are looking for Zambians irrespective of which political party they belong to and irrespective of how connected they are. So this issue of saying 'no, only those who are connected will be selected' will not work because there will be an officers' selection board which will be able to interview the candidates. As long as you are medically fit because if you would want to join the Defence Service when you have an ailment, definitely you will not make it," Chama said.

"My phone number is not a secret and I have never changed my number for a long time. There are people who are calling me from the entire country to say 'please can you help us' and I am resisting. I am telling them you have seen the advert, apply. If I were to succumb to each and every person then there would be no point for us to advertise because I also have my relatives who are qualified. I would have just selected my family forest and put them there. They would have filled all the vacancies that are there. The entire country knows me because of the positions I have held in the party so if I was to select people that I know, there would have been no point of us advertising."

He said only the best candidates would be selected irrespective of which political party they belonged to.

"For us as a government, we don't want to discriminate, every Zambian must be treated equally. If you are PF official, FDD official, nashala neka party official, you are NDC, UPND and if you are a Zambian who is not involved in politics, that is the reason we have put an advert so that Zambians can apply without any bias. The only thing is that we cannot pick everyone because the places are limited. Not everyone who will apply will be picked. If for instance, we are looking for 100 people, we will only pick 100 people. It is quite competitive but we will select the best of the best because we want the best in the defence force," said Chama.

Telesphone on the wrong side of politics by supporting UPND - Mwila

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And Mwila said he had not pre-registered to vote online because he preferred to wait until the physical exercise commences on October 28.

"First and foremost, ECZ called for a meeting for all stakeholders that includes all the political parties to discuss this matter and we all agreed. I want to say that online registration is not mandatory. Like me I don't want to register online, I will do it manually when they start on 28th of October. I don't want to register online so anyone who is not comfortable should just wait for 28th of October, it ends there. That is the more reason there hasn't been much publicity in our party, on our side because it is not mandatory. If it was going to be mandatory, yes it is going to be a problem but anyone is free to register, whoever wants can register online, who doesn't want can't do it, like me I don't want to do online," said Mwila.

"So all the stakeholders agreed, for them to protest, it will not make any sense. All that is needed is for them to approach ECZ and get the views of ECZ and also submit their grievances. The parties that want to protest are not ready, we have told you, they are not ready for elections. They just want to start giving excuses. We have told them during the period of getting NRC we have told them can you go and tell the people as we have been telling our people to go and get NRCs even when it comes to voter registration. They should go in the field and sensitise and inform their people that there is voter registration as we will do that, we are ready and we are geared for 2021."

Reflections on the cleverly formulated popularist Budget

By Bright Chizonde

ON FRIDAY, 25th September 2020, the Minister of Finance presented the much anticipated 2021 National Budget under the theme "Stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard livelihoods and protect the vulnerable". This theme was drawn from the Presidential Speech, during the official opening of the Fifth Session of the Twelfth National Assembly. The 2021 budget, therefore, aims to stimulate economic recovery through practical and tangible support to businesses and to enhance the social protection response programs to prevent the worsening poverty levels amidst constrained fiscal conditions.

The 2021 budget has led blame on COVID-19 for the majority of the current economic challenges. According to the Minister of Finance, COVID-19 and electricity rationing are responsible for the projected 4.2 percent contraction in the economy. The execution of the 2020 budget has also been challenging due to the effect of COVID-19. The reduced revenue has been attributed to subdued economic activity while the higher than programmed expenditure is mainly attributed to COVID-19 mitigating measures and agricultural-related expenditure. Consequently, Zambia is expected to record a fiscal deficit of 11.7 percent of GDP by the end of 2020 against the target of 5.5 percent.

As part of the macroeconomic objectives, the 2021 budget seeks to achieve a real GDP growth rate of at least 1.8 percent and reduce the inflation rate towards the 6-8 percent medium-term target. For increased economic resilience, the gross international reserves are expected to increase to 2.5 months of import cover while the fiscal deficit will be reduced to 9.3 percent of GDP. The specific measures to be employed are contained in the newly developed medium-term Economic Recovery Programme as a successor to the Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme which ended in 2019.

Out of the total budget of K119.6 billion, the government has increased its allocations towards the Social Cash Transfer by K1.3 billion, drugs and medical supplies by K491 million, Farmer Input Support Programme by K4.6 billion, and Food Security Pack by K978 million. The government has even reduced its allocation towards Road Infrastructure from K10.55 billion in the 2020 budget to K6.2 billion in the 2021 budget. These favorable changes in allocations, coupled with several tax changes such as the reduction in PAYE taxes, support the assertion that the 2021 budget is a popularist budget.

This budget has, however, been cleverly formulated to appeal to the ordinary Zambian that government is on top of things with regards to economic management. It is easy to overlook the hidden picture of a fiscally constraining government seeking to compromise debt sustainability and other longer-term economic considerations. Within the silence of the 2021 budget, the government plans to upscale its borrowing to finance the budget. The 2021 budget seeks to finance about K51.6 billion or 43.1 percent of the budget through contracting more foreign and domestic debt. This means that Zambia's debt stock will increase by about US\$ 2.58 billion in 2021. Furthermore, there is limited focus on reverting to private sector-led economic recovery.

In the 2020 budget, the government's strategy for economic stabilization was anchored on dismantling domestic arrears. The 2021 budget has, however, not only allocated a limited amount towards dismantling these arrears but also omitted to provide an update on the current stock of arrears. In 2020, the stock of government securities increased from K80.2 billion to K114.3 billion as at end August 2020. Though credit to the private sector grew by 10.4 percent, credit to the government grew by 46.9 percent in June 2020 as compared to December 2019. This means that the government has continued to dominate the domestic financial market and thus continues to crowd-out the

private sector. The financing of the 2021 budget through domestic borrowing will therefore result in limited economic recovery.

Although COVID-19 has been blamed for the economic challenges and fiscal constraints, government allocations have not been responsive to the pandemic. The 3 percent increased allocation to Health and reduced allocation to Housing and Community amenities are shocking to many stakeholders. The Education budget has also been increased by less than 5 percent, from K13.1 billion in the 2020 budget to K13.8 billion in the 2021 budget. These allocations have translated into reduced budget shares for both Health and Education, from 8.8 percent to 8.1 percent and 12.4 percent to 11.5 percent respectively.

Finally, the 2021 budget has a strange inflation objective. The objective has been adjusted to a highly flexible one through a change in the wording of the objective from "Achieve and maintain inflation within the target range of 6 to 8 percent" in the 2020 budget, to "Reduce the inflation rate towards the 6 to 8 percent medium-term target" in the 2021 budget. Any decrease in inflation from 15 percent would be acceptable under the 2021 objectives, even though inflation remains above the 6 to 8 percent range. The double-digit inflation, which is expected to continue under such an objective will reverse the gains from PAYE tax adjustments and social welfare programs.

About Author

Mr. Bright Chizonde is the senior economist at the Public Financial Management Consult. He is a macroeconomist and a public finance management expert. Mr. Chizonde is passionate about simplifying economic issues for effective dissemination to the general public. To contact the author, please email: pfmconsult@gmail.com. Special thanks to Mr. Gabriel Simungala and Mr. Gerald Soko.

Cost of living still exceeds household incomes – JCTR

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) says the reality of living a dignified life in Zambia is still far from being attained given the high cost of living, which remains above household average incomes.

And JCTR says the Ministry of Finance's suggested interventions to stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard livelihoods and protect the vulnerable are contradictory as far as addressing key macroeconomic issues is concerned.

In a statement, Tuesday, the JCTR stated that while Zambia's poverty reduction efforts had not yielded considerable results, especially for the rural population, COVID-19 had pushed the masses into a poverty trap.

"On Friday September 25, 2020, the Minister of Finance presented the 2021 national budget to Parliament dubbed: 'stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard livelihoods and protect the vulnerable.' The JCTR acknowledges the timeliness of this theme given the challenging context in which the budget is unveiled. With the onset of a global pandemic, Zambia's

economic performance worsened, thereby, compromising livelihoods, particularly for the most vulnerable. Undoubtedly, while Zambia's poverty reduction efforts have not yielded considerable results, especially for the rural population, COVID-19 has pushed many more individuals into a poverty trap," the JCTR stated.

And although its September Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB) recorded a slight reduction in prices of goods and services, the Centre observed that the escalating cost of living had far exceeded average incomes.

"The Centre notes the increased allocation to social protection in the 2021 budget and the revision of the tax exemption threshold for Pay-As-You-Earn from K3,300 to K4,000. The JCTR, however, cautions that the reality of living a dignified life is still far from attainable given the high cost of living whose cost level is significantly above household average incomes. The Centre is also cautious that Zambia's debt is compounding government's fiscal space to effectively respond to providing the much needed sustainability towards improved livelihoods beyond 2020,"

JCTR stated.

It outlined that various price reductions were recorded for food items last month.

"The JCTR's BNNB for the month of September, 2020, stood at K7,071.37, a reduction of K106.85 compared to K7,178.22 recorded in August. The slight reduction is mainly due to reductions in the prices of some food items such as vegetables, which reduced from K493.39 to K413.96 for 40kg. The price of kapenta reduced from K301.21 to K231.62 per kilogramme. The cost of tomatoes reduced from K62.19 in August to K51.26 per 6kg, while the price of onion reduced from K51.42 to K41.10 per 4kg. The cost of rice reduced from K99.99 to K90.48 per 4kg, representing a reduction of K9.51," the statement read.

"Other notable reductions were in cassava flour, sweet and Irish potatoes, eggs, including prices of non-food but essential items, such as bath soap and Vaseline. The reduction in some food items can be attributed to the harvest season for items, such as vegetables, potatoes, cassava flour, pounded groundnuts, onion and tomatoes. However, there were

notable increases in the prices of food items such as bananas, which went up from K142.17 to K181.66 per 16kg. Other fruits also saw an increase from K244.33 to K261.19. Other slight increases were on food items such as mealie meal, cooking oil, salt and tea. Notable slight increases on non-food items were also observed such as lotion which increased from K16.77 to K25.43. Other increases were on toilet paper, sanitary towels, charcoal and wash soap."

And the JCTR added that government's suggested interventions to stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard people's livelihoods were contradictory in addressing key macroeconomic issues due to the resultant widening fiscal deficit, which delayed full recovery.

"Overall, the suggested interventions to stimulate economic recovery and build resilience to safeguard livelihoods and protect the vulnerable are somewhat contradictory as far as addressing key macroeconomic issues. The scenario of a widening fiscal deficit, inflation that has been on the rise in recent times, kwacha depreciating

by over 41 per cent as at September, 2020, constrained domestic resource mobilisation and indeed the weakened stimulation of the domestic economy presents a gloomy picture," the JCTR stated.

It further noted that government's promise to increase power generation had not reduced load shedding.

"More so, the promises of increased energy generation have not yielded significant reduction in load shedding. High fuel costs and grave hours of load shedding have continued to disrupt businesses and impact negatively on costs and levels of production and consequently economic growth. The JCTR, therefore, calls on government to urgently provide a clear road map outlining the wide range of policy proposals that will be used to reduce inflation to the desired target of 6-8 per cent. We urge government to ensure the realisation of increased energy generation beyond mere promises. The JCTR further reiterates the need for rapid interventions that speak towards the agenda of decent employment creation in line with Seventh National Development Plan aspirations," stated JCTR.

Open letter to Hon Esau E. Chulu

4th October 2020

I WISH to address some issues with Hon. Justice Esau E. Chulu, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Zambia, ECZ.

From the outset, Mr Esau Chulu must know that the credibility of any election in Zambia is a product of the trust people hold in ECZ. ECZ has an obligation, not only to do the right thing, but to demonstrate in the eyes of the people that it is doing the right thing.

It is quite a paradox that today the Electoral Commission of Zambia is telling Zambians that it has the capability and capacity to scrap off all the current registered voters from the current Voters' Register and start registering new voters and re-registering the same people all over again to the tune of 9 million voters in one month. MrChulu and his Commissioners know very well that this is not possible, it is wrong at law and does not make economic sense even if our economy was vibrant.

Not too long ago, this same ECZ admitted to having no capacity to sponsor opposition parties and other stakeholders to witness and be party to the process of printing of ballot papers in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is today.

MrChulu is aware that for one to pre-register online, one needs to:

- Know about the process
- Be literate
- Have a smart phone
- Be where there is internet coverage

- Have money to buy bundles

The ECZ and MrChulu are very alive to how low the above conditions are obtaining for ordinary 17 million Zambians. Does Mr Esau Chulu have Zambia at heart?

I do not need to remind MrChulu and ECZ that it took ECZ years to come up with the current Voters' roll. It therefore beats any common sense to hope to register twice as many voters (9 million) in

just a month. Is MrChulu really being true to himself?

It is also interesting to note that MrChulu has overlooked the fact that the Voters' Card, just like the National Registration Card, has only two dates: the birthday of the holder and the day one registered. Why, against legal provisions, should my voters' card be declared "expired" by MrChulu and his ECZ? The Voters Card, like an NRC, has no expiry date.

The law is very clear under which circumstances ECZ is authorized to replace a Voters' Card. Mr Esau Chulu still has an opportunity to be on the right side of this country's history. No Zambian has forgotten how he read out and announced to the nation, wrong results from Eastern Province and how he announced results from a none-existent constituency. If he resigned today, some of us would give him some little respect. He must resign and preserve some respect in his old age.

Mr Esau Chulu and the ECZ must assure the people of Zambia and the international community that it means well and that it is not part of the ruling PF regime's schemes to demean and rob the legitimacy of the 2021 general electoral process by doing the following, at the minimum:

- The ECZ, must maintain the current voters' register, and guided by the constitution, should continuously keep updating it.
- The ECZ, must publish the 2021 Voters' Register in good time for the opposition parties and other stakeholders to scrutinize and make recommendations on it, if need be.
- Importantly, the ECZ must publish the number of registered voters for each polling station. This will help the ECZ to conduct quick audits of the voting process and avert a lot of acrimony during the 2021 general Elections.
- The ECZ must publish the list

of polling stations in each district and constituency for the 2021 General elections. This will guard against the mushrooming of kangaroo polling stations.

- The ECZ must ensure that no voter is disenfranchised in the process.
- The ECZ must not use the confusion it is brewing to postpone the 2021 elections.
- The ECZ must, very important and crucial, ensure that each ballot paper is unique. A ballot paper for 2021 must have a unique serial number to denote district, constituency, polling station and the ballot paper itself. This will mean a particular ballot paper can only be found in one polling station, nowhere else.
- The ECZ must hold consensus meetings with the ruling party, opposition parties, Civil Society Organizations, and the Church on various electoral processes long before the 2021 elections.

We know all stakeholders cannot agree on one plan, but they can and will come up with a common ground on which to move on towards the 2021 general elections.

The ECZ must for once demonstrate that they are in control by annulling results or even cancelling some of these elections where the PF carders are wantonly exhibiting barbarism of the highest level. MrChulu must know that he is creating a very dangerous platform on which the 2021 General elections will be held by condoning the electoral malpractices that have characterized the Zambia political field. He still has some little time to make a positive statement.

This country will never be sorry for Mr Esau Chulu at the rate he is going. Whatever goes up, must come down.

Otherwise the near-honorable thing he must do for now is to leave the stage, he must just resign. He has been a spineless disgrace to Zambia.

Lundazi Warrior

By Julia Malunga

MAZABUKA UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says the ruling Patriotic Front has ruined the country beyond its imagination.

On Sunday, PF media director Sunday Chanda said UPND had lamentably failed to present a viable alternative vision and plan for the country.

He said citizens can have confidence that the ruling party under President Edgar Lungu was better equipped to address the problems distressing the country, such as fighting corruption at all levels and lowering the cost of living.

However, in an interview, Nkombo said the ruling party had brought the country to its knees.

"The last kicks of a dying horse are extremely dangerous. The people who are peddling tribalism and regionalism are well known

PF has ruined Zambia beyond imagination - Nkombo

because they have made public statements, especially during campaigns. And it is clear that the President has been quiet about it. The PF have run this economy down and if we constantly remind the people that the troubles of this country are not being addressed by the governance of this country, that does not mean we are bitter. The fact of the matter is that Zambians are worse off now than they were before PF came into power. So who has then outlived their usefulness? Those who have brought the country on its knees or those who intend to salvage the country?" Nkombo asked.

"They have ruined this country beyond imagination. And the fact of the matter

is that Zambians should not entertain another day of PF's administration after August 12, next year because they are going to multiply the suffering of the people. The people of this country are going to respond to our message. What can PF say to change their situation? Zambians have been fooled for a long time, they cannot be fooled anymore."

He said President Lungu was a weak man leading a pack of violent individuals.

"PF does not care about the Zambian people, you can see from their behavior. They are clumsy, they are reckless, and they are violent. President Lungu is a weak man leading a pack of violent individuals. Where does that violence come from? It is running out of ideas

that one resorts to violence. If one has ideas to share, you do not use your limbs to fight. If you recall, two days ago, the PF went to destroy a social amenity in Kamanga. Why would a normal human being do that?" wondered Nkombo. "No matter how many trumpets this Chanda is going to blow, he should be advised that the trumpet is ringing in his own ears because Zambians have made up their minds. There is nothing that they can do to reverse the situation. President Lungu has failed lamentably, he is not in control of anything. Here is the man who, in the midst of poverty, buys an expensive Jet, is he responsive to the people's plight? The answer is no! He has lived beyond his shelf-life."



By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA High Court judge Mwila Chitabo has refused to summarily terminate the matter in which NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili and two others have sued Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba for defamation of character.

Judge Chitabo declined to grant magistrate Simusamba's invitation to terminate the proceedings summarily at preliminary issue stage, saying this is not a fit and proper case to do so.

He added that no prejudice would be suffered by magistrate Simusamba if the case proceeded and dealt with on its merits and demerits.

In this matter, Kambwili and his lawyers Cheelo Mwiinga and Christopher Mundia have sued magistrate Simusamba for defamation for alleging that they attempted to bribe him in order to deliver judgment in Kambwili's favour in the forgery case which is before the Subordinate Court.

The trio is seeking, among other claims, a public retraction of the false and malicious allegations contained in a letter to the Chief Justice and an apology to them to their satisfaction in respect of all the defamatory utterances attributed to magistrate Simusamba.

High Court refuses to dismiss Kambwili's defamation case against Simusamba

However, magistrate Simusamba applied to have the matter dismissed on point of law, arguing that no action could lie against a judicial officer in his or her capacity for acts done or words spoken by an adjudicator in the honest exercise of judicial office.

He submitted that the action by Kambwili and his lawyers was misconceived at law as he enjoyed judicial immunity, adding that he was not the right party to be sued as he was a government employee and the Attorney General should therefore have been the one cited.

But in their joint affidavit in opposition to magistrate Simusamba's affidavit in support of summons for an order to dismiss the action on a point of law, Kambwili and his lawyers argued that soliciting for bribes did not include functions of a judicial officer as magistrate Simusamba allegedly did, as it was a crime.

They added that magistrate Simusamba could not hide under the wing of immunity.

The plaintiffs further stated that magistrate Simusamba did



not, in any way, enjoy judicial immunity for being allegedly corrupt because corruption was not one of the functions of a judicial officer.

In his reply, magistrate Simusamba insisted that he enjoyed judicial immunity from lawsuits.

"The subject matter of the suit herein arose in the course of criminal proceedings and the defendant being a presiding magistrate in the case enjoys judicial immunity from lawsuits arising from his exercise of judicial functions provided under Section 55 of the Subordinate Court Act Cap 28," magistrate Simusamba stated.

"The first plaintiff (Kambwili) wrote a letter of complaint against me in

my honest conduct of court proceedings as a presiding or sitting magistrate exercising judicial office in the criminal matter 'The people v Chishimba Kambwili' to the Hon Chief Justice and I enjoy judicial immunity."

He stated that he was not an accused person in any criminal proceedings and that he had not been found guilty of committing any crime and further that a presumption of innocence applies to him.

"The Chief Justice is the overall superintendent of the Judiciary and exercises supervisory functions over me, among others, and my written response to her Ladyship's letter to me following the first plaintiff (Kambwili's) complaint was an administrative issue

done with the strictest of privacy or confidence as stated in Kambwili's letter to her ladyship dated December 17, 2019 and her ladyship's letter to him dated January 22, 2020," magistrate Simusamba stated.

"I wrote my letter to the Chief Justice in response to her memorandum to me concerning Kambwili's complaint in my exercise of judicial functions as a sitting magistrate, equally in confidence and the letters were not in public domain."

He further stated that the subject matter was not capable of being adjudicated upon by the court as it was outside the jurisdiction of the court.

"The defendant enjoys judicial immunity from lawsuits arising from his exercise of judicial functions. The defendant is still presiding over the criminal proceedings in the Subordinate Court in which Kambwili is an accused person. The court has power to set aside a writ and or dismiss a matter where the subject matter is outside the jurisdiction of the court," magistrate Simusamba added.

But in his ruling dated September 29, 2020, judge Chitabo said he did not think this was a fit and proper case to terminate Kambwili's action without giving him an opportunity to be heard.

He added that conversely, magistrate Simusamba, as the defendant, ought to be given an opportunity to counter the alleged libelous publication by the defendant.

"It has been conceded that complaints lodged with the Honorable Chief Justice and the Anti-Corruption Commission per se are not proceedings before Courts. At this stage, the sole fact that the plaintiffs had launched

complaints before other fora other than in this cause cannot be a ground to dismiss this claim for multiplicity and or duplicity. The plaintiffs' action shall stand on its merits or fall on its demerits," judge Chitabo said.

On magistrate Simusamba's argument that he was not the right party to be sued as he was a government employee, judge Chitabo said the Attorney General was the rightful party to sue in respect of acts or omissions done by Government officers in the execution of their duties.

He, however, added that it was also trite law that a master could only be vicariously liable for acts or omissions done by its servant in the lawful execution of his duties.

Judge Chitabo said it was for this reason that the Court at this stage cannot enjoin the Attorney General at its instance, there being no application on the part of the Attorney General to be joined to the proceedings in this legal contest.

He declined to grant the invitation to terminate the proceedings summarily at the preliminary issue stage and appointed October 8, 2020 as date for scheduling conference.

"I have already observed in one of the preceding paragraphs that this is not a fit and proper case to summarily terminate the plaintiffs action. I agree, no prejudice will be suffered by the defendant if proceedings proceeded and the matter is dealt with on its merit and demerits," judge Chitabo said.

"On the foregoing, I decline to grant the invitation to terminate the proceedings summarily at the preliminary issue stage. Issues of tremendous public interest and administration of justice have been raised. The justice of the case is that I make no orders as to costs."

Judge Chitabo, however, granted leave to appeal to the superior Court.

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It was never a question of how or if, but when the Zambian government would admit the fact that it would never be able to settle Eurobond interest payment. Everything, from the failed implementation of austerity measures to the depleted Central Bank reserves, pointed to this chapter of Zambia's book on debt. All indicators showed that this time would come when the government would concede that there is a looming debt catastrophe.

The only thing that suggested to the contrary was the political rhetoric. No one in this PF government was willing to admit that Zambia was flirting with a debt crisis. They found all sorts of fancy names for it, but not a crisis. The President, the Minister of Finance, the Chief Government Spokesperson, as well as the Patriotic Front leadership all spoke with confidence that they had everything under control.

To fool the world, they even came up with fake and illusionary debt repayment strategies. In the face of large fiscal deficits, the government claimed it was capable of creating "A Sinking

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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depleted our reserves. This is the lowest we have ever gotten to in many years and the creditors in Europe had been warning us as a country that we were getting into a junk bond, but government did not do anything drastic.

Today, lending institutions are beginning to knock on our Treasury, demanding their dues. In our layman understanding, this is how a debt crisis develops. To understand the depth of Zambia's financial problem, we no longer need a calculator, we just need to analyse the responses and excuses from the government.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Bond! Bond who? Bondholders!

Fund for Eurobond". They created the Sinking Fund in July 2015, claiming this would answer the long term debt problem. Where is that Sinking Fund and how much is in it? How has it helped the country to avoid defaulting on Eurobond?

Experts warned the PF regime to tone down on Kaloba and the flamboyant spending, but they didn't want to listen. The government's expenditure pattern and increased borrowing were a recipe for defaulting on the country's loans and other obligations; everyone could see this apart from those

in government. This government didn't want to listen when economists advised them to meet the IMF conditions in order to (a) assure bond holders of the government's commitment towards sustainable debt management and (b) to cut down on continued borrowing and government spending.

We recall the stubborn statement that President Edgar Lungu made at State House in July 2017. Mr Lungu, while being applauded by PF cadres, said "If IMF thinks we have gone beyond norms of good governance and democracy, they are

free to go. We cannot sacrifice Zambian people for economic expedience. I say it again, if they think we have gone astray, let them go...Fear nothing, the country is in safe hands."

But the moment of truth has come now, and there is nowhere to hide. The bondholders are knocking heavily and are refusing to take any pleas for delayed repayment. When you look at the statements from the Ministry of Finance, you can tell that there is a desperate cry for mercy, but without a viable payment plan. Nothing in the 2021 budget is assuring to the creditors, apart

from emphasis that we are in deep, deep trouble.

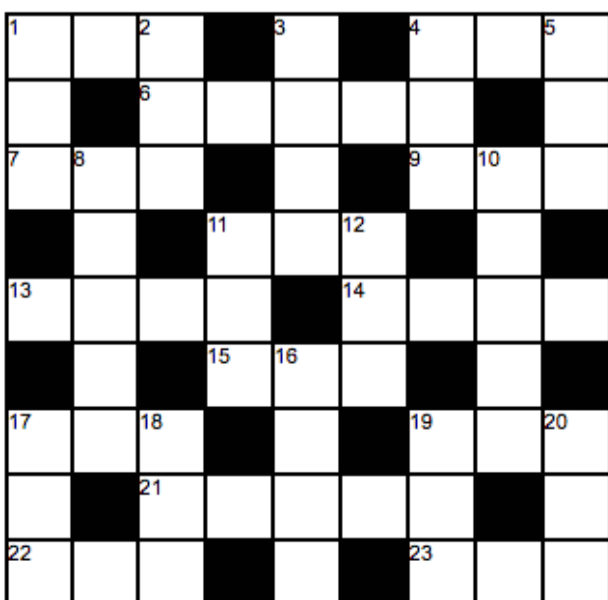
Minister of Finance Dr Bwalya Ng'andu wants the bondholders to fill pity for Zambia because the country is now spending half of government revenue collections on servicing interest on debt, compared to a few years ago when only 20% of revenues would be channeled towards interest obligations. How can we dismantle US\$18.5 billion debt while we are in breach of the benchmarks for a bailout programme? This is the question that the minister can't find an answer to.

We have completely

Dr Ng'andu must open the door for the bondholders. They are here. They want to see what has been happening. To them, Zambia has been too secretive about its actual debt position, and the country is not deserving of a moratorium. What's the plan now for Mr Lungu and his debt-addicted government?

Like we said, every fool can borrow money, any fool can spend money, but not everyone has the ability to pay back. Knock! Knock! It's the bondholders!

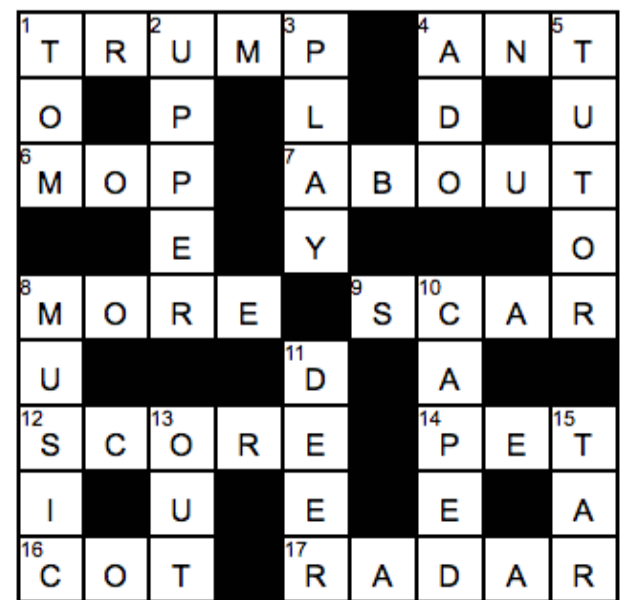
Crossword puzzle No 706



*"The inevitable fate of large groups is to perish because of lack of unity."
- Napoléon Bonaparte*

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young man 4. Not the beginning 6. FBI officer 7. Quick swim 9. Stun 11. Secret agent 13. One sheet of paper 14. Consumes food 15. TV spots 17. Halloween mo. 19. Part of a circle 21. Impromptu 22. Meat from pig 23. Car for hire | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abbott, Lou's partner 2. Small dog sound 3. Hold on to 4. Airport acronym 5. color your hair 8. Sir _____ Newton 10. H₂O 11. Neptune's realm 12. Affirmative 16. Cold cuts place 17. "-la-la" 18. Highland headgear 19. Beginning of alphabet 20. Chicago player |
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Crossword puzzle No 705



Readers' Feedback

ND!

OPINION: Prosecuting in public interest, without evidence: Case of Patrick Mucheleka

Editor,

"We have the weakest DPP in history. I remember the case of a journalist who charged with sedition just for interviewing a politician who disputed results of the 2016 election. After undergoing an expensive trial, the DPP entered a nolle prosequi. And there have been many similar cases!" - Andrew Sakala

"The current DPP seems to be acting on instructions from the Executive. Look at the many nolle she has entered, and private prosecutions she has taken over, only to discontinue the cases!!!!" - Kamona Mubita

"I think the Criminal Procedure Code should be amended issuing a certificate of committal to the high court on non bailable offences shouldn't be at DPP's discretion. If the DPP delays then the accused person are detained inordinately which is against the fundamental human right of presumption of innocent until one is proved guilty." - Aaron Njovu

"It's the fault of the DPP. She has allowed the cadres to overrun her office. She's weak. Very weak & inept. With this same PF, Mutembo Nchito entered a number of nolle prosequi. But with Lillian Siyuni one doesn't know whether she's coming or go". - Haggai Gondwe

'Lungu only fixing his life, but destroying Zambia'

Editor,

"So he is simply saying President Sata left a mess. A lion and cheetah will do all the hard work to earn a meal but hyenas will just come to still and destroy in the name we are fixing the real hunters. President Sata did all the hardwork but boom behold real hyenas came to reap what they found was good. The pain I feel is too much to bear. I can afford to eat as much as I want but when I think of my brothers and sisters who also do their hard works and yet still can't feed their families well, honestly I see no reason I would cast my vote for PF. it's not being an opposition, it's about being a Zambian!" - Justin Memory Chifumba

"He inherited a strong Kwacha, low electricity tariffs, low cost of living, great economy, stable mining sector, list goes on. I think the minister is speaking with his belly!" - Godfrey Mulenga

"Mmmm mr Headboy your mean he is fixing the mess Micheal Sata left? When he himself came out in the open to say I don't have a vision, I am riding on Sata's vision? Stop contradicting yourself Disgruntled Headboy!!! Fix the economy!" - Nchimunya Hindam Moonga

"Lungu found a Reserve of Cash and a Foreign Debt of only \$500m. Today we have No Reserves and the Foreign Debt is \$18 billion. We have even FAILED to pay back interest. President Lungu in his ignorance of how businesses work thinks he can revive the collapsed economy by dishing out K500s to a few marketeers who are paraded to first dance for it. Now Bowman borrows the term "fix" without understanding in which context it is being used by the opposition. Well let us see how far it goes". - Christopher Kalima

"He is only fixing his life and destroying Zambia. Edgar Lungu is a clueless president whose preoccupation is to get rich and leave the

Zambians masses impoverished!!" - Mundia Bwalya

'Wina misleading Zambians on Privitisation Inquiry not targeted at HH'

Dear editor,

"These are results of having a Leadership with no vision. Their preoccupation is just wanting to remain in Power instead of concentrating on Prudent economic management and good governance. They want to divert our attention on real issues resulting from their mismanagement of the Zambian economy". - Emmalito Lias

"And IMF is watching you waste money on nonsense and then soon you'll want to go back at debt relief... Ala

may the mercies of the Lord by pass you for your wicked ways!" - Ray Junior

"Any person who talks about the economy and democracy is an enemy to pf, busy pursuing senseless things, Madam vice president, it pays to be good and truthfully, it's also never too late to do good, You know very well that what your advisors are telling you is wrong, Why are you being driven by people whose academic qualifications are questioned? You and Mr lungu have better education yet you allow yourselves to be dominated by common cadres

WHY ? YOU KNOW WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT'S WRONG remember how God turns things around, who knew That you were going to be a vice-president? And Mr Edgar a president? It's God's direction which can happen to a very person you are targeting!" - Iden Mweetwa

"I have already said that this will be the first government to arrest a dead person such levels of desperation and incompetence!" - Mubonda Kalumbilo Pascal



'HH right, it's time we defend ourselves'

Editor,

"There is a difference between advising people to defend themselves and telling them to attack others. So what do you want him to advise those who are attacked? Run away and hide under your bed? No, this will only embolden the attackers. Can't you see that this violence is being deployed systematically as a political tool? If you don't see this, wait till you are the next victim of it and I am afraid by that time, it will be too late for you and others". - Kanyata Mubita

"It is amazing how the ones initiating the violence turn around and become victims when the same measure they delivered is now placed on their heads.

The current wave of PF violence has the blessings of the commander in chief of the security wings. PF cadres can even storm a police post and destroy property with impunity. ECL has not condemned these acts of violence, but has stood silently supporting this violence. Self defence is a constitutional right". - Daniel Maswahu

"Lungu has failed to control his violent cadres and so better we defend ourselves and if anything we retaliate with full force. zambia is for us all. zambia is not for the pf cadres alone. better fire to fire or tooth for tooth. ba pf, stop political violence and intimidation. I will defend myself if am attacked". - Chanda Pochoko

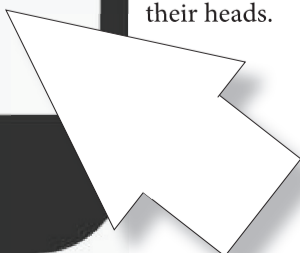
"He is right. Just crying every day will not help us because the people (PF) we're dealing with does not know peace. More UPND members have lost their lives in the name of peace. President Lungu enjoys all this stupid drummer caused by his cadres, and it is believed that the mischievous cadres are sponsored by him. Now its PANGA FOR PANGA!" - Luckson Luhanga TJ Jr.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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By Natasha Sakala
ACTIONAID Zambia says the 2021 national budget lacks progressive fiscal reform to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation and risks plunging the country into a debt trap.

In a statement, ActionAid country director Nalucha Ziba stated that Zambia risked sliding into a debt trap that will see a situation where more than 70 per cent of the budget is financed through borrowing.

"We are of the considered view that the 2021 national budget is short on progressive fiscal reform to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation, hence risks plunging the country in more debt. The budget did not also demonstrate the prioritisation of both education and health sectors, which have been adversely exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the agriculture sector, which is key in much-talked about economic recovery post-the COVID-19 pandemic," Ziba stated.

"Debt Sustainability: Government has already committed to finance more than 40 per cent of the 2021 national budget by borrowing.

2021 budget will slide Zambia into debt trap – ActionAid

We observe that this is likely to worsen without a realistic revenue projection and fiscal reforms to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation. We risk sliding into a debt trap and likely to see a situation where more than 70 per cent of the 2021 national budget will be financed through borrowing. We wish to remind government that, apart from the recent advent of COVID-19, we are in this economic malaise largely due to huge and unsustainable public debt levels. It is, therefore, unfortunate that we do not only want to continue on the same trajectory, but we also want to increase our commitment to financing our national budget by borrowing in the 2021 national budget. Prioritising fiscal fitness should have not only been pronounced, but it should have been demonstrated in the 2021 national budget."

She also urged Parliament to solicit for an upward adjustment of the budget allocation towards the health and education sectors before it is passed and comes into force, January 1, 2021.

"The health sector budget share remains below the 15 per cent Abuja Declaration commitment and it has decreased from 8.84 per cent in the 2020 national budget to 8.07 per cent in the 2021 national budget. The health sector budget share has continued to decrease since 2018. This is disappointing in the wake of the COVID-19 battle, which seems far from over. Likewise, the education sector budget share has not only continued to remain below the recommended 20 per cent, but has also been decreasing since 2014. In the 2021 national budget, the sector's budget share has decreased to 11.5 per cent from 12.38 per cent in 2020. The development is shocking and questionable, especially that defense, public order management and roads have continued to receive significant share of the national budget. Therefore, ActionAid wishes to implore Parliament to solicit for upward adjustment of budget allocation towards the health and education sectors," Ziba stated.

She further wondered why government continued to prioritise the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) when both programme produced lower productive returns.

"Additionally, while we note that there is an increase in the agriculture sector budget share from 3.7 per cent in 2020 to six per cent in 2021, we, however, note that government

continues to prioritise FISP and FRA, which have lower productive returns and are less of agricultural activities. More resources of the agriculture budget go towards FISP at the expense of invested in key areas, such as extension and research services, which have shown to have return rates. These areas should be prioritised," she advised.

Ziba, however, welcomed the thorough review of existing tax incentives to make them effective in improving economic activity, but expected a variable profit tax or "solidarity tax" for the information and technology sector, which is expected to grow.

"ActionAid welcomes the commitment to undertake a thorough review of existing tax incentives to make them more effective in reinvigorating economic activity. We, however, wish to remind government that this should not only be about reinvigorating economic activity, but also about assuring tax revenues to finance public service provision. All detrimental incentives and tax treaties, such as the recently-cancelled Mauritius Tax Treaty must be suspended. On the other hand, once again, as observed in our submission, the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu) observed that despite the negative growth in most sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic, sectors like information and communications technology were expected to register positive growth. The 2021 national budget could have introduced a variable profit taxes or an excess profit taxes or solidarity tax for such sectors," stated Ziba.

Data from the 2021 budget

shows that K27 billion will be due to be spent servicing Zambia's external debt alone, up from this year's K21.1 billion allocation, representing 23 per cent of the total budget amount.

Domestic debt servicing has equally increased to K18.3

billion next year, up from K12.6 billion allocated in this year's budget.

Next year's K119.6 billion budget represents an increase from this year's K106 billion, and is intended to be partly financed by domestic borrowing amounting to K17.4 billion and K34.2 billion emanating from external resources, representing 14.5 and 28.6 per cent of the total budget, respectively.

Prayer day attendance will be strictly by invitation - Sumaili

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NATIONAL Guidance and Religious Affairs minister Godfridah Sumaili says attendance to this year's commemoration of the national day of prayer and fasting will be strictly by invitation.

Delivering a ministerial statement in parliament, Tuesday, Rev Sumaili said the main event to be held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre would be graced by President Edgar Lungu while Vice-President Inonge Wina would be in Chipata, Eastern Province.

"The national day of prayer is being organized by the clergy from various denominations, working hand in hand with the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs, provincial administration officers and the district commissioner's offices. The arrangements for this year's commemorations will be different from previous years. The event will be conducted under strict adherence to the Ministry of Health guidelines. Attendance to this year's commemoration will be by invitation only. Proceedings will be aired live on both national television and radio, including community radio stations. Since 18th October 2020 is falling on a Sunday, we expect churches to observe this important day and the theme and pray accordingly," Rev Sumaili said.

She urged Zambian missions abroad to also observe the day and participate in the prayers.

"Our Zambian missions abroad are expected to observe this day and participate in the praying with fasting. The venue for the main national event in Lusaka will be the Mulungushi International Conference Centre and will be graced by His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia. Her Honour Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina MP, the Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia will grace the commemoration that will be held in Chipata, Eastern Province," Rev Sumaili said.

She said provincial ministers would grace the commemorations at their respective provinces while district commissioners would do so at their districts.

And Rev Sumaili said the dress code for the prayer day would be formal such as lounge suits, church uniforms, Chitenge outfits and Zambian colours.

"Interdenominational gatherings in all provinces and districts will be held in their designated convenient places, following strictly the COVID-19 health guidelines. The dress code will be formal: A lounge suit, church uniforms, Chitenge outfits and outfits in Zambian colours," said Rev Sumaili.

The 2020 National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance, and Reconciliation will be commemorated under the

ZRA cracks whip on maize smugglers

By Ulande Nkomesha

A COMBINED team of officers from the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Zambia National Service (ZNS) and Zambia Police have impounded 23 trucks laden with smuggled maize which were bound for Zimbabwe.

In a statement, ZRA commissioner customs Sydney Chibbabbuka stated that the trucks were impounded after an operation in Lusaka, Kafue and Chirundu which led to the interception and seizure of various 30 ton trucks laden with maize going to Zimbabwe.

"A combined team of officers from the Zambia Revenue Authority, Zambia National Service and Zambia Police have impounded 23 trucks of laden with maize for attempted smuggling into Zimbabwe (2 have mealie meal and 21 with maize). The trucks were impounded after an operation was conducted in Lusaka, Kafue and Chirundu by the joint team leading to the interception and seizure of various 30-ton trucks laden with maize going to Zimbabwe," Chibbabbuka stated.

"We will not allow any smuggling of goods especially maize because it borders on national food security. Country men, this maize is mostly financed and grown by our farmers on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and government has invested millions on Kwacha to ensure we have a solid food security. The ban on Maize exports is purely meant to support the local food security and avoid price escalations for the local citizenry."

Chibbabbuka said four trucks had already crossed to the Zimbabwean side but were impounded by officers on the Zimbabwean side as they had no Zambian clearance and export documents.

"The smugglers thought they would take advantage of the one stop border post in Chirundu because the set up requires that a truck only stops in Zimbabwe and does not stop in Zambia. Despite the one stop border set up, the Zambia Revenue Authority officers have full presence on the Zimbabwean side with full legislative powers," Chibbabbuka said.

"Four of the trucks had already crossed to the Zimbabwean side but were impounded by our officers on the Zimbabwean side. The trucks had no Zambian clearance export documents and were seized in accordance with Sections 149 and 151 of the Customs and Excise Act, CAP 322 of the Laws of Zambia. SI No. 64 of 2019 that restricts the export of Maize and Maize products has been invoked."

Chibbabbuka said the Authority had apprehended 12 drivers to assist with further investigations on the matter.

"The Authority has further apprehended 12 drivers to assist with further investigations. Other trucks have also been impounded in the hills and the bushes along the Chirundu road with drivers faking breakdowns but we are determined to bring them to Lusaka and as we speak, they are being tolled into Lusaka," said Chibbabbuka.

"The Authority working with other security wings will not spare any smuggler, clearing agent, transporter and even ZRA officers involved in smuggling or any form of tax evasion. Our enforcement teams are fully resourced and re-engineered in order to stop any form of food security and revenue leakage."

I'll not compromise BoZ – Mvunga

By Natasha Sakala

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has challenged newly-appointed Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Christopher Mvunga to prove his critics wrong by restoring macroeconomic and foreign exchange market stability to Zambia's economy.

And Mvunga says there is no way he will compromise the operational independence of the Central Bank.

Speaking during the swearing-in ceremony for Mvunga at State House, Tuesday, President Lungu urged Mvunga to apply his over-30 years' experience in the financial sector to restore macroeconomic and foreign exchange market stability to Zambia's economy.

Mvunga's takes over from dismissed BoZ governor Dr Denny Kalyalya, who was abruptly relieved off his duties on August 22, in a surprise move that triggered widespread criticism at a time when the kwacha hit around K19.50 per dollar, now trading above an historic K20 per dollar.

"I am aware that your

appointment generated a lot of interest from various sections of society. However, this should not detract you from focusing on the huge task and responsibility that has come with your new position. As governor of the central bank, you will always be at the centre of criticism. You should, however, prove the critics wrong by putting in the best of your ability," President Lungu said.

"I want to emphasize that as governor of the central bank, you have an enormous task ahead of you. You will oversee the operations of the entire financial sector as well as the performance of the country's economy."

President Lungu challenged Mvunga to immediately tackle the kwacha's weak performance against major currency convertibles, while ensuring macroeconomic stability and closer coordination with fiscal policy.

"These challenges, notwithstanding, I note that the central bank has taken measures to mitigate the

situation. your immediate task, as you take up this new position, is to ensure that there is closer coordination between fiscal and monetary policy to consolidate the existing measures. I expect the Bank of Zambia to re-double efforts to achieve and maintain stability in the foreign exchange market by closely working with the Ministry of Finance. At the same time, the Bank of Zambia must continue to review and strengthen policies, where appropriate, to improve performance and ensure that the financial sector remains stable, while inflation is brought back to the single digit range over the medium-term," said President Lungu.

"We must create a win-win situation for all the players in the financial sector and the economy, at large, particularly, finding more efficient ways of financing agricultural inputs and managing the oil procurement sector. The current efforts to address debt sustainability and reduce the country's debt service burden need to be sustained and a

successful outcome achieved."

And speaking to journalists after the ceremony, Mvunga promised that he would not compromise the operational independence of the Central Bank.

"I also want to reassure stakeholders that the operational independence of the Central Bank will be retained. There's no way that we are going to compromise, that I can compromise the operational independence of the Central Bank and it will be in line with the relevant legislation such as the Bank of Zambia Act and also in line with international best practices," said Mvunga.

And the Head of State swore-in four others including Dr Emily Sikazwe, who was elevated to serve as Electoral Commission of Zambia Vice-Chairperson and Major General Vincent Mbaulu Mukanda, (Rtd), as an ECZ member, together with Mumba Tembo and Mervis Sooli, who were both appointed as public policy specialists at Cabinet Office.

By Ngosa Chalwe
 CHIPOLOPOLO coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević yesterday cracked his first whip as Zambia trainer when he dropped Tanzania based duo Clatous Chama and Aubrey Chirwa for failing to make it to camp on time.

Zambia has a tight schedule ahead of their back to back Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Botswana next month, starting with an international friendly against Malawi today.

After Malawi, Chipolopolo is expected to play Kenya and South Africa as Micho shapes up his charges for the must-

Micho drops Chama, Chirwa for failing to turn up on time

win encounters against Botswana.

Speaking at a briefing when unveiling his team at Football House yesterday, the Serbian said no player was bigger than the country, stressing the need to treat all players equally.

He said throughout his career, he had anchored his work on four pillars of discipline, hard work, family values and order.

"We are having a

situation where I have always looked like a nice guy in front of you. I have tried to be generator of positive energy, however all my life, living last 30 years in Africa, I have worked under the four pillars for my survival in African football. First pillar is discipline, second pillar is absolute order and organisation, third pillar is fanatic hard work followed by science and fourth pillar

[is] family atmosphere based on good; in this case Zambian tradition of respecting [others] and being respected," Micho said.

The visibly disappointed coach said he has been left with no option but to excuse the two players who have failed to pitch up as expected.

"Players from Tanzania were supposed travel on Monday night. However,

they missed the flight. We have been flexible and set another flight for [Tuesday morning], they have missed the flight again, now they are asking to come tomorrow [today] and whatsoever. When someone comes from Russia 10,000 kms away and someone is here bordering us, with all due respect, based on that pillar that I told you, I will not allow that anyone is bigger

than the nation," said Micho.

"Therefore, with my unilateral decision supported by this institution, I have decided that I remove from these matches until further notice the gentlemen Chama Clatous and Aubrey Chirwa. We wish all the best to them but there is no person that is bigger than the nation and we cannot allow this."

Full Team named ahead of the three matches:

Full Team

Goalkeepers: Jackson Kakunta, Sebastian Mwange, Lameck Siame

Defenders: Kabaso Chongo, Mwape Tandi, Chiboni Kondwani, Banda Luka, Dominic Chanda, Chilongoshi Zacharia, Benedict Chepeshi

Midfielders: Klings Kangwa, Sakala Benson, Leonard Mulenga, Kelvin Kapumbu

Godfrey Ngwenya, Gozon Mutale, Chilufya Edward, Lubambo Musonda, Amity Shamende, Bruce Musakanya, Chaniza Zulu, Collins Sikombe, Kelvin Mubanga

Strikers: Evans Kangwa, Fashion Sakala, Gamphani Lungu, Emmanuel Chabula Akakulubelwa Mwachiaba

Ozil offers to pay Gunnersaurus's wages after mascot is let go by Arsenal after 27 years



MESUT Ozil has offered to pay Gunnersaurus's wages after seeing the mascot let go by Arsenal after 27 years of service.

Jerry Quyy was relieved of his mascot duties at Emirates Stadium at the start of the week, with the club deciding that his services were no longer required in the absence of supporters.

Quyy became a much-loved figure at Arsenal after donning the famous dinosaur suit in 1993, three years before the arrival of legendary manager Arsene Wenger.

Gunnersaurus was on the touchline during

a golden era for the club which saw the team win three Premier League titles, but has now become the latest victim of cost-cutting measures amid the financial uncertainty of the coronavirus crisis.

Arsenal announced plans for 55 redundancies in August as they set

about reducing their costs without the safety net of weekly match-day revenue from ticket sales, broadcasters and commercial companies, but invited criticism by pledging to continue investing in new players in the transfer market. **GOAL.COM**

Orlando Pirates offload Mulenga

By Ngosa Chalwe

AFTER a less inspiring stint at South African side Orlando Pirates, Chipolopolo striker Augustine Mulenga has been declared surplus to requirement, a year before his contract expires.

Mulenga joined Pirates in 2018 after an impressive show with Zanaco and the Zambia national team but has failed to live to the billing at the highly demanding club.

According to a club statement released yesterday, the 30-year-old attacker is among the eight players the club has released ahead of the new season.

"Orlando Pirates Football Club can confirm that it has met with the



following players and their respective representatives and both parties have agreed to mutually terminate," Pirates confirmed on the club's official website.

Those released are Alfred Ndengane, Diamond Thopola, Xola Mlambo, Meshack, Maphangule, Brian Hlongwa, Thembele Sikhakhane, Augustine Mulenga and Tercious Malepe.

The former Nkana,

Nkwazi and Zanaco striker joined Pirates in 2018 at the back of winning the 2017 Zambian Footballer of the Year with Zanaco.

He leaves Pirates after a stint that saw him score six goals in 36 matches in all competitions.

His departure is not a good indication for his compatriots Justin Shonga and Austin Muwowo, who have also been struggling at the club.



EDEN UNIVERSITY

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

DATE: Wednesday, October 7th, 2020



Eden University Council, Management and Staff would like to express their heartfelt condolences to the Mweemba family, its corporate partner The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and the football fraternity on the loss of the FAZ Vice President, Mr. Rix Mweemba who died in the early hours of Tuesday, October 6th, 2020.

The sports fraternity has been pivotal in the social economic development of our country and having individuals like Mr. Mweemba who contributed to the welfare of football cannot be over emphasized.

The University never failed to recognize the dedication and hard work contributed by Mr. Rix Mweemba in the FAZ/Eden University National Division One League. Mr. Mweemba played a great role in strengthening the partnership between FAZ and Eden University.

May his soul rest in peace and may God grant the bereaved family, FAZ and the football fraternity the courage and strength to bear the loss.

Issued by:

Ms. Emmah Banda
Public Relations Manager

FAZ veep Mweemba dies

By Abraham Kalito

FOOTBALL Association of Zambia (FAZ) vice-president Rix Mweemba has died.

Mweemba died Tuesday shortly after being admitted at Coptic Hospital.

FAZ General Secretary Adrian Kashala stated when he announced the passing of Mweemba that the association was saddened by the death of the FIFA

instructor.

"The Football Association of Zambia is mourning the loss of a dedicated and a respected servant of Zambian football. Mr Mweemba struck us as an admirable family man. His great work ethics and selflessness cannot be doubted," FAZ secretary general Adrian Kashala said in a statement issued by FAZ spokesperson

Sydney Mungala.

"Prior to being appointed as Vice President in April 2017, Mr Mweemba served as FAZ Treasurer and also played a huge role in the restructuring of the Zambia Premier League as chairperson of the League Restructuring Working Group. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the football fraternity in Zambia."

MICHO CRACKS FIRST WHIP

...drops Chama, Chirwa for failing to turn up on time

By Ngosa Chalwe
CHIPOLOPOLO coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević yesterday cracked his first whip as Zambia trainer when he dropped Tanzania based duo Clatous Chama and Aubrey Chirwa for failing to make it to camp on time.

Zambia has a tight schedule ahead of their back to back Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Botswana next month, starting with an international friendly against Malawi today.

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Mwape ditches Black Leopards

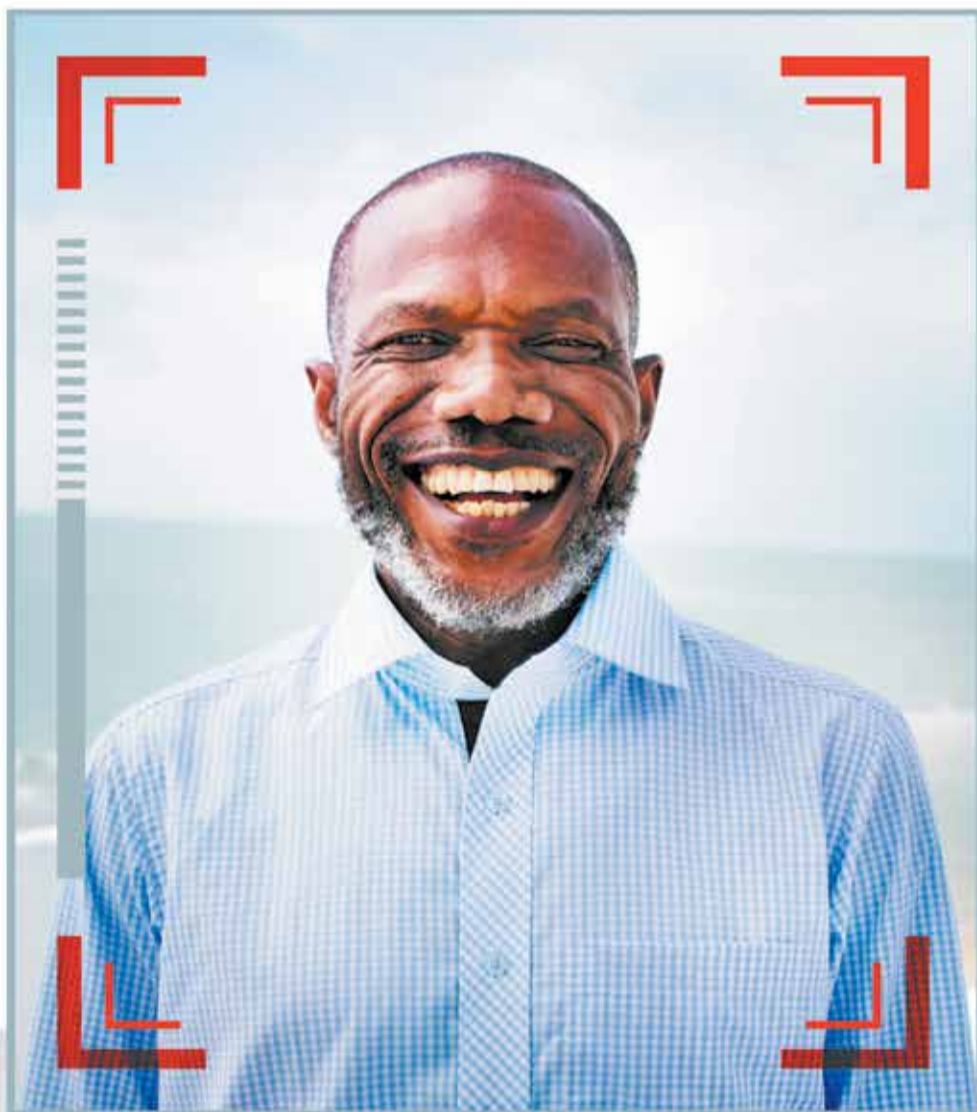
By Ngosa Chalwe
STRIKER Mwape Musonda has ditched South African side Black Leopards for a mega money deal at Hatta Club in the United Arab Emirates.

South African publication FarPost reported that Musonda left last weekend to start his new life in Western Asia.

"FARPost can reveal that Black Leopards striker Mwape Musonda has been sold to UAE side, Hatta Club. The Zambian striker jetted out of the country over the weekend after a sale agreement was reached between the two clubs. The 29-year-old is set to join on a season-long contract," added the report.

Chipolopolo coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević also confirmed that the player had left his South African club for the UAE move at a briefing.

Is online pre-registration final?



✓ Biometrics Capture

Online Pre-registration will start on 21st September to 6th November, 2020. Visit the website: www.ovr.elections.org.zm to lodge your application. Note that pre-registration is not final, applicants will have to visit a registration center to have their biometrics captured in order to complete registration.



#VotingSquad