



Magistrate commits Jay Jay to High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others have reappeared before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on the same charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal.
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YOU'VE A WEAK PARANOID GOVT

...led by people who see enemies everywhere - Lumumba

By Julia Malunga
KENYAN Professor of Law Patrick Lumumba says he will not respond to unfounded rumors that he and other foreigners are mobilizing funds to help

the opposition unseat President Edgar Lungu because it's a sign that the Zambian government is weak and paranoid.
Last week, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said government

was aware that some opposition leaders were soliciting funds from their collaborators who were asking them to cause lawlessness in the country.
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Fight political battles through ballot, don't intimidate people with state machinery, Kambwili's wife tells PF

By Julia Malunga
POLICE spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili's wife Carol has been released but his daughter, Chanda, is still in custody, charged with assault.
And Carol has wondered why PF isn't using the ballot

to fight political battles instead of intimidating people with state machinery.
Meanwhile, Carol has lamented that her daughter has gone on a hunger strike because she does not understand why male police officers manhandled and left her bruised.
On Tuesday, police

in Lusaka picked Carol and Chanda at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on allegations that the two misconducted themselves as officers were performing their duties.

Updating journalists, Wednesday, Katongo said Carol and two others had been released after paying an admission of guilt fine while her daughter was still in custody.
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Lungu determined to destroy Zambia's democracy - Katuka

By Natasha Sakala
UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says police's actions against Chishimba Kambwili's wife and daughter is an assault on women's rights to participate in politics.
And Katuka says President Edgar Lungu is determined to destroy Zambia's democracy at all costs just to maintain power.
In a statement, Katuka questioned the logic behind the blocking of Carol Kambwili from attending her husband's case in an open court, Tuesday.
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There's enough fuel, assures Nkhuwa

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Zambia needs a stronger debt management system - Saasa

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By Natasha Sakala
ECONOMIST Professor Oliver Saasa says despite the Ministry of Finance being the only one allowed to contract sovereign debt, several ministries, with authority from a higher office, have also been contracting debt, which sometimes creates the impression that Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu is misleading the country and international community.

In an interview, Prof Saasa, the Premier Consult managing consultant, said both the World Bank and the Finance Minister were correct on Zambia's debt position, but noted the need for improved debt reporting and monitoring mechanisms to guarantee accurate debt reporting.

He was commenting on the World Bank's International Debt Statistics 2021 report, which disclosed that Zambia's total external debt escalated to hit US \$27.3 billion by the end of last year, up from US \$19 billion by end of 2018.

"The only Ministry that's allowed to contract sovereign debt on behalf of Zambians is the Minister of Finance. Nobody else is allowed to negotiate and contract debt for Zambia, except through

Zambia needs a stronger debt management system – Saasa

the Minister of Finance. The problem we have in Zambia is that there are many ministries, without the knowledge of the Ministry of Finance, without actually working within the parameters of what government has given as the limits within which they are operating, there are many Ministers that try to negotiate and sometimes get clearance from, you know where, and then it's reported to the minister and the minister just endorses because it has been reported to State House and it was agreed. But then, it's running counter to what the Minister of Finance would have expected of his colleagues in Cabinet. You recall the case of the Minister of Foreign Affairs," Prof Saasa said.

"Now, in a situation like that, reporting becomes very difficult. So, when the minister says, 'it's US \$11.8 billion (as external debt),' and then someone says, 'in fact, there is something that you have forgotten in terms of movements, it's not that the (Finance) Minister is dishonest, we have to put in place a system that when the Minister says,

'it's US \$11.8 billion external sovereign debt,' he actually is correct. He can only be correct to the extent that the system of reporting is accurate and that is really the contention with the World Bank, the IMF and multilateral institutions. Unless we have that system in place, a debt management system, debt monitoring and debt reporting system in place, he himself even if he says, 'no, it's US \$11.8 billion...' In the back of his mind, he knows there are frailties in the existing system that need to be corrected and that's why the IMF, World Bank and a number of multilateral systems are insisting, 'please, Zambia, before we can talk about forgiving you or restructuring your debt, we must make sure that even what you are telling us is correct'"

He observed that not all debt recorded as Zambian was contracted by government.

"...It's just that sometimes when we discuss these values, these volumes, we do not fully appreciate the differences. If you have realised, each time I make reference to the external debt, I am talking about sovereign debt, sovereign means country or government, which means it's not private sector. Sovereign debt only speaks to the debt that is owed by government or that is guaranteed by government, that is sovereign debt. There is private debt where companies like mining companies or the manufacturing companies or trading companies borrowing from the markets or other sources of borrowing. Those actually are private sector and in most countries, private sector debt is higher than government debt, I think actually here in Zambia it may be about 50 per cent, I don't want to confirm that, but it's actually quite high, it may be above 50 per cent, and these are the private sector," Prof Saasa said.

But he said despite Dr

Ng'andu's honesty about Zambia's debt position, there was still need to improve on the monitoring and reporting of debt.

"So, yes, the Minister is right. Now having said that, the Minister should be, and I think he has, is among those that would admit, and anyone who knows the debt stock in Zambia would admit that a number of things still need to be done. That even for the domestic, the sovereign debt one, there are still issues of reporting. The Ministry of Finance has accepted that we still need to improve upon the monitoring and reporting of debt because it comes in different forms. Take, for example, the Chinese loans, Chinese debt is where a Chinese firm bids for a government project like road construction; they win it, after winning it, the same Chinese company will go to China and find a financier, that financier will be paying for the services rendered through a construction by a Chinese company in Zambia so the money would not come to the Treasury and, therefore, reporting and monitoring is important. So, sovereign debt is due to the fact that that road was floated by the Zambian government and is a Zambian road and the debt is Zambian debt...Only that the contractor and the financier are Chinese and money doesn't come into our Zambian system," Prof Saasa said.

"At that level, it has nothing to do with the government trying to cheat, it's about the government not having the requisite capacity to be able to capture properly because of the dynamism and complexity involved in the debt acquisition and we have to understand that because of that, there is a problem."

He also explained that private sector debt usually emanated from private investors

who invested in the country.

"Now, the private sector are treated as individual companies or as private individuals when you are borrowing and their servicing is purely commercial, there is nothing like cancellation and the like as you would hope

for sovereign debt because you just go and borrow, you invest in a mine, when you see an investor coming in, when you hear that there is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) coming into the country, it doesn't mean that these investors are plucking money from their savings, no, they borrow. **Story Continues on P4**

Chamber calls for ramped up copper production to exploit global supply gap

By Abraham Kalito

ZAMBIA Chamber of Mines president Goodwell Mateyo says local mining firms should take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to supply more copper on the international market, while other suppliers are still contending with the situation.

Mateyo observed that there was currently a sharp demand for copper on the international market as other suppliers in COVID-19-hit areas, such as Chile, were unable to operate normally, adding that local firms in Zambia could take advantage and supply more.

"The prices of copper are okay. It kind of crashed between January and March, but it has recovered and it's difficult to focus on what the prices of copper will be in the long-run for as long as the virus is concerned and this is because South America has been badly affected by the Coronavirus, far worse than Africa, and as a result of that, it result in deficits of supply, while on the other hand, China, which has more demand of the metal, has seen its economy recovering. Therefore, its demand is rising. And as a country, we should have taken advantage of this situation to supply more," Mateyo said in an interview.

"But until things get a little bit more stable, that's when we will be able to predict what the prices will be like. But during this period, we should have taken advantage to supply more since other suppliers have been badly affected by the situation. The macroeconomic environment is still highly volatile, but with regards to the prices locally, initially, the impact was negative. But subsequently, the impact was not very, but highly positive. It was the initial impact that caused some mines to go under care and maintenance."

He, however, acknowledged firms might not fully take advantage of the situation as increasing production may be costly for some mining operations.

"So, the logic is to increase production action, but the thing is that increasing production in the mining sector is not like turning a speed boat on and then start cruising. It's not like you press a button and then overnight, production increases; to increase production, you have to make certain significant investments and then you will be able to reap the benefits months, if not, years later. So, unfortunately, it's not as easy as pressing a button and increasing production. But logically, we should be supplying more copper during this period," said Mateyo, who is also Mopani Copper Mines' senior legal counsel.

Lungu determined to destroy Zambia's democracy to stay in office – Katuka

By Natasha Sakala

UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says police's actions against Chishimba Kambwili's wife and daughter is an assault on women's rights to participate in politics.

And Katuka says President Edgar Lungu is determined to destroy Zambia's democracy at all costs just to maintain power.

In a statement, Katuka questioned the logic behind the blocking of Carol Kambwili from attending her husband's case in an open court, Tuesday.

"The police tried to stop UPND president Hakainde Hichilema from entering the court premises to attend Chishimba Kambwili's court case. Why? The matter was being heard in open court and the public have the right to attend open court sessions. Where is the logic of blocking the wife of Dr Kambwili from attending her husband's court case? Where is the logic of refusing to allow Dr Kambwili's daughter to attend her father's court case? Further, the conduct by police is also an assault on women's rights to participate in politics. Many women, who may want to join politics, will be deterred from joining upon seeing such barbaric behaviour! In view of the above, we demand for the immediate release of Dr Chishimba Kambwili's wife, daughter and UPND official Mrs Patricia Situmbeko," he stated.

He noted that ideally, the police were not supposed to be at court brandishing guns as judges and magistrates need to be given their space to dispense justice.

"In an ideal situation, police are not supposed to be at the Court to conduct such kind of operation. The Judiciary is supposed to be given space as they dispense justice. The judges and magistrates should not be in an environment of police brandishing guns, while they dispense justice. The behaviour by Edgar Lungu's administration is a serious indictment on the justice system as such an assault on the freedoms of citizens, who are presumed innocent until proven guilty," Katuka stated.

And Katuka said President Lungu was determined to destroy Zambia's democracy at all costs just to maintain power.

"We also want to warn Edgar Lungu not to push his luck too far by arbitrarily arresting citizens. What Edgar Lungu ought to realise is that this country belongs to all Zambians and not to him. We urge Mr Lungu to immediately keep his hands off the police and Judiciary and respect the rule of law. We cannot have unlawful arrests, even when it is Lungu himself who is provoking citizens. We shall not just watch Edgar Lungu destroying the country's democracy. We also wish to call upon other international and regional bodies to immediately take serious interest in this country. Our view is that Edgar Lungu is determined to destroy this country's democracy at all costs and we shall not sit back and watch. We wish to call upon our people to be alert at all times given this barbaric behaviour by Mr Lungu's administration," stated Katuka.

Revise consent age on access to sexual health, NAC urges govt

By Natasha Sakala

NATIONAL Aids Council (NAC) director policy and programmes Dr John Mwale says government should consider revising the consent age for access to sexual reproductive health because adolescents under the age of 16 are still shunning the services due to parental consent required.

In an interview, Dr Mwale said that children under 15, who were the main victims of teenage pregnancies, were being turned away from health centres due to lack of consent from parents.

"What we are saying is, can we have young people access these services without necessarily getting consent because right now, we have also noted that in terms of new infections, they have gone up. HIV new infections have gone up, in 2016/17 somewhere there, we were reporting that we have 43,000 new infections

every year and in 2019, as the National Aids Council, we were reporting higher figures: 51,000 new infections and when you look at the age brackets that are actually more affected, it's the young people whom we are not actually providing these services to," Dr Mwale said.

He explained that the age of consent should not always refer to sexual consent, but access to reproductive health services.

"What we are saying is that, I think when one hears about the age of consent, what comes to mind is the age at which someone should have sex, that's not what we mean. I think what we are saying is that, young people should actually be free to access these services. A young person aged say, 15, 14, 13 should actually be free to access these health services. Now, our age of consent as a country is at 16 so meaning that if you are 16

years and below, you cannot access certain services without consent. Here, you are saying 15 years and you want to go for an HIV test or you want to access certain services like condoms and many other services, before doing that, you are supposed to go to your parent or guardian to get consent to do that. If you, as a young person, you test positive, there are initiatives like self-testing now. If you test positive before you link yourself to care, you have to go to your parent to actually get consent and in most cases we have seen that young people are shunning these services because you can't go to your parent or guardian to get this consent," he explained.

He added that the rise in the number of teenage pregnancies was a sign that young people were not protecting themselves, hence the need for them to access SRH services without restriction.

"An interesting thing you note when it comes to statistics, you note that teen pregnancies and I will use the Zambia Demographic Survey, in 2007, we were at 27 per cent, the latest data in the 2018 Survey shows that we have gone to 29 per cent and when you look at the age bracket, you will note that these are young people that are doing their primary school so probably it's age 10 to somewhere around 15 mainly, these are the young people that are falling pregnant. When you look at the Ministry of General Education, every year, we have a minimum of about 16,000 girls, young girls, teenagers, falling pregnant and drawn out of school. When one gets pregnant that means they had sex without protection so to us in the HIV response and others, what we think is happening is that young people are not protecting themselves because of some of these guidelines that we have," said Dr Mwale.

By Julia Malunga

POLICE spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili's wife Carol has been released but his daughter, Chanda, is still in custody, charged with assault.

And Carol has wondered why PF isn't using the ballot to fight political battles instead of intimidating people with state machinery.

Meanwhile, Carol has lamented that her daughter has gone on a hunger strike because she does not understand why male police officers manhandled and left her bruised.

On Tuesday, police in Lusaka picked Carol and Chanda at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on allegations that the two misconducted themselves as officers were performing their duties.

Updating journalists, Wednesday, Katongo said Carol and two others had been released after paying an admission of guilt fine while her daughter was still in custody.

"Carol Kambwili aged 48 who was arrested for Conduct Likely to Cause the Breach of Peace at the Lusaka's Magistrate Court yesterday and two others identified as Patricia Situmbeko age not known and Frank Chiona whose age is not known, arrested for misconduct at Kabwata Police Station have been released after they paid Admission of Guilt fine," Katongo said.

"Chanda Kambwili, daughter of Dr Kambwili, is charged with Assault contrary to section 250 (e). She is detained in police custody."

In a separate interview, Carol's lawyer Christopher Mundia said police had refused to grant Chanda bond.

"It is just the wife who has been released and not the daughter. It is just the same promises that they will give her bond but nothing is happening. The wife was charged with conduct likely to cause the breach of peace so she paid that fine and the case is over. The daughter was charged with assault," said Mundia.

And narrating her ordeal on Diamond TV, Carol lamented that male police officers roughed her up and left her daughter bruised.

"Yesterday, I arrived at court and while I was at court, my daughter phoned me that 'I have been refused to enter'. So I went to the gate to go and ask the one who was in charge. So I asked the person to tell me the person in charge and I was directed to him. I actually pleaded with him if he can allow my daughter to come into court so that we can hear the case. He totally refused. And I asked him why because we are the immediate family and we really need to be there to know what is happening to my husband and to their father. And then he said 'oh you are here to cause trouble.' I was actually manhandled, and when he did that, I walked away. So when I was walking towards the car, I just saw a police officer manhandling my daughter and then I went in front of

Fight political battles through ballot, don't intimidate people with state machinery, Kambwili's wife tells PF

the police officer and I said why are you doing this?' and he said 'why are you here, we told you not to be here!' I told him but you told me to go and we are going. But then they started kicking my daughter, grabbing her and they actually removed her clothes. That is when I was so upset and I said this is uncalled for, you should not be doing this. What could I have done as a mother and a woman at that point but to protect my daughter? That is what I did," Carol said.

"As I was doing that, policemen came and manhandled me, naked, actually throwing me into the police car. I was defenseless, my daughter was defenseless and on top of that, they lied that I slapped a police officer. The videos are there. Did they see me slapping any officer? No. I was fighting for my rights to go into court to listen to what the judge was going to say about my husband's case. As if this was not enough, they get my daughter, trampled on her, she is so bruised everywhere. They can even allow her to have medical attention, they didn't even allow me to have my medicine."

She said there was no social distancing in the "smelly cell" in which they spent the night.

"They took me to that police cell, there was no social distancing, it was dirty, it was smelly, they didn't care. They just bundled us in there and they didn't want to listen to us, to hear what we have to say. And we were not told anything, each time they called us, a lot of police men in the room to interrogate us without our lawyers, I think that was wrong, I think we have been intimidated enough. If they are fighting in politics, I am not a politician,

my daughter is not a politician, why should they involve me in their fight? I did not go there to fight anyone, all I want there for was to hear what would happen to my husband," she lamented.

She said political battles should be fought through the ballot.

"It is not easy having the father of the house, a husband in incarceration and you don't even know what offence he has done, this should stop. Police brutality should stop. I haven't even heard anyone... the First Lady is a woman like me, the Vice-President has not said anything, today it is me, tomorrow it will be somebody else. I am appealing to well-meaning women to stand up and say 'we are choking, we can't breathe with this police brutality.' And let us say no to this. If you cannot fight in the ballot box, why intimidate people, using state machinery?" she asked.

"To the women police officers, they were in the forefront of manhandling me, pushing me around, how can you do this to a fellow woman?"

She wondered on whose instruction the police officers were acting.

"Everyone you ask, they are saying 'we are working under instruction'. Who is instructing them? Who is that person who is heartless instructing the police to work against their code of conduct? I can only say to that person who is instructing those police officers to be brutal to innocent people to say he is a coward. Instructing police to beat up women who are defenseless. My husband has been a politician for a long time and when he was in PF, if he was not allowed to campaign and talk, would

the PF be in power? No! They came in the night accusing us of having a phone and

pushed us around. And took the blankets away from us to say this is not your home, you

cannot sleep like you are at home.

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Magistrate commits Jay Jay, others to High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others have reappeared before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on the same charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal.

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has since committed the five to the High Court for trial.

Banda and the others had earlier appeared before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court and were committed to the High Court for trial where they pleaded not guilty to the same charge.

But on October 12, this year, when the matter was scheduled for commencement of trial in the Lusaka High Court, the State entered a nolle prosequi in favour of the five.

But Banda and the others were rearrested shortly after the case was discontinued.

Banda, 35, a businessman of Petauke, Eastern Province, John Lungu, 26, a general worker of Garden House, Lusaka; Maxwell Pito, 20, a peasant farmer of Lusaka West; Moses Silyonde, 27, unemployed of Kanyama and Lyford Phiri, 21, unemployed, of unknown residential address have now been charged with the same offence of aggravated assault with intent to steal.

It is alleged that on July 6, 2020 in Lusaka, the five jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown and with

intent to steal, assaulted Allan Mbahwe.

When the matter came up yesterday, Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale allocated it to magistrate Nthandose Chabala where the charge was explained to the accused persons.

Magistrate Chabala however, informed the five that they would not take plea before her as the offence they were facing was tried in the High Court.

She committed Banda and the others to the High Court for trial.

This was after State prosecutor Micheal Nyundwe said he was in receipt of instructions to commit the accused persons to the High Court for trial.

Earlier this month, the five accused persons pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal in the Lusaka High Court.

However, when the matter came up for commencement of trial before High Court judge Timothy Katenekwa, Monday last week, State Advocate Angelica Mwanza said the State was unable to proceed with trial that day.

She said the State intended to call the victim (Mbahwe) who was the key witness in the matter but unfortunately, they encountered challenges to secure his attendance.

And detective chief inspector Mubita Moya

informed the court that the complainant in the matter was unwell and further produced a sick note.

This was after he was called upon to explain the reason why Mbahwe was not in attendance.

"He is an outside patient at Zambian Italian Hospital. He is unable to walk as both legs and the right wrist are swollen" detective Moya said.

At this point, Mwanza said "under the circumstances, we are left with no option but to discontinue the matter for now so that it comes in the next session to allow the victim to get better. We will be discontinuing this matter by way of nolle prosequi with instructions to rearrest".

Judge Kantanekwa then discharged the accused persons but warned that such discharge was not an acquittal.

But shortly after this, Banda and others were rearrested and subsequently released on police bond.

They have now been charged with the same offence.

On Tuesday this week, Chipata Senior Resident Magistrate Boniface Mwala acquitted Banda of unlawful assembly on account that the prosecution team failed to prove its case against him beyond reasonable doubt.

Magistrate Mwala said in his ruling that an essential element of the alleged offence had not been proved and that the prosecution evidence had been discredited by cross examination that no reasonable tribunal could safely convict on it, even when Banda remained silent in his defence.

He said the prosecution stated that Banda neglected to at least give the police seven days' notice of the intention to convene a procession.

Magistrate Mwala added that Banda through cross-examination consistently laboured to establish that there was a Programme for the youths convened by the Minister of Sports and Child Development which he was in attendance.

He added that this was exhibited through a video clip in court and through an unmarked official ministerial government Programme for the Youth Empowerment and was un rebutted by all the prosecutions witnesses.

The Magistrate therefore dismissed the charge and acquitted Banda.

In this matter, it was alleged that Banda on August 20, this year in Chipata, jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown held a procession from Protea Hotel to Luangwa House.

The matter was in the Chipata Magistrates' Court.

Truck drivers' strike erupted due to unions' misinformation - PTAZ

By Abraham Kalito

PETROLEUM Transporters' Association of Zambia (PTAZ) secretary general Benson Tembo says the recent strike by truck drivers was instigated solely because of misinformation relayed from the unions to the drivers.

Tembo says his association, whilst working with government, had endeavored to address all conditions of service for the drivers, but that unions failed to relay that information to the drivers.

He complained that unions had not been faithful in their dealings, especially with regards to government's intention to come up with a sector-based minimum wage for vulnerable truck drivers.

"From all this, what I am getting is that there is too much misinformation and when somebody is misinformed, especially being told what you didn't expect, they opt to react! From the time that the drivers made their demands, I am sure you have seen the reaction from the government. They talked about the certificates where they were made to go for besome lessons every day. Government immediately removed that requirement. And they don't go for these refresher courses to renew their certificates," Tembo said.

"They talked about the validity of the license; you have seen government

has three categories of the validity of the licence from one year to three years. The drivers talked about the conditions of service; it's not hidden that government has constituted a Tripartite Consultative Council. That council was constituted because drivers thought there was need to come up with sector-based minimum wage and government responded so I'm falling to understand what it is that the drivers feel that government is not doing good? Because what it is that a consultation cannot be done in one day. And especially a consultation of this magnitude where you are talking about a sector-based minimum wage."

He explained that his association, together with government, had been working hard to address the challenges being faced by drivers, but that all the issues could not be dealt with at once.

"We are talking about companies or employers with one truck, employers with two trucks, three trucks and the one with 100 trucks, and put together, you want to come up with a common ground. You cannot do that in a day or two or even one month or two. Some of us have seen the progression of the consultation over the sector-based minimum wage, we have

seen that a lot of work has been done. And all this information should have been relayed to the drivers through their unions, but it seems the drivers are not informed," he said.

"So, they have a good cause by striking. The unions have not been faithful and fair to their members. Because this strike implies that the drivers would rather we heed to their demands every time they do so, it can't be. Then, the other issue that was misinformation is the issue of who is covered under the minimum wage? Is it a driver who is unionised? No. Is it a driver on contract? No. It's a driver who is not unionised, a driver who is not on contract."

Tembo said the situation was, however, returning back to normal and that drivers would soon resume their normal operations.

"A vulnerable driver who is not represented. As such, drivers are being employed, what should we look at? Otherwise, other drivers are supposed to be represented by their unions and if they want salary increments, their unions can negotiate and bargain based on the state of the economy. But everything is coming back to normal now," said Tembo.



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By Stuart Lisulo

BICON Zambia Limited, the consultants responsible for the supervision of the structural engineering works at Society Business Park in Lusaka, say the column strengthening works on the office block are expected to be completed in December, 2020.

In a statement, Wednesday, following widespread concerns on the safety of the structure located in Lusaka's Central Business District (CBD) area, Bicon Zambia announced that the column strengthening works were set for completion after next month.

The announcement follows concerns from stakeholders that the columns were inadequate to withstand the load of the structure, which was upgraded back in 2011 following an execution of contract between NAPSA and Yangts Jiang Enterprises Limited (YJL), who in-turn engaged a team of consultants to deliver the project as a "design and build" turnkey project.

The scope of the project involved the conversion of the then existing 18-storey office block, which was formerly occupied by the Zambia National Building Society (ZNBS) into a 148-room hotel as well as the demolition of Central Arcades and the construction of a Retail Mall, Parkade and an Office Block on top of the parkade.

"The entire Society Business Park Project was completed on a sectional basis starting with the Retail Mall and Parkade in 2016, followed by the Office Block in 2017 and then the Hilton Garden Inn in 2018. On the 13th of October, 2019, one column on the 1st floor failed by way of crushing at the intersection of the column and slab which also and as a result of the failure stressed the three neighbouring columns on the 1st floor level. As a precautionary measure, the owners of the Building

Society Business Park work upgrades set for December completion

NAPSA ordered an evacuation of the Tenants of the office block in order to facilitate a detailed examination of the office block structure," read a joint statement issued by Bicon Zambia chief executive officer Renatus Mushinghe and Broadrick Masasa, the company's Associate Director/Project Structural Engineer.

They stated that repairs to the failed and stressed columns on the first floor were inspected by all stakeholders, including the Independent Engineer, the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) and the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACEZ), among others.

"...NAPSA subsequently engaged the services of an Independent Consultant to undertake a detailed investigation in order to determine the structural integrity of the entire office block and the supporting parkade structure below. The summary of the Independent Engineers findings are as follows: - 1. The slabs for the parkade and the office block were found to have adequate capacity to carry the design load, 2. Although not showing any signs of stress, 153 columns in the parkade and office block out of a total of 258 columns, which carry the parkade and office block, had column capacities lower than the design capacity due to lower concrete strengths than the specified concrete strength. This entailed that all these columns have been earmarked to be strengthened in order to increase the load bearing capacity and factor of safety of the columns," they stated.

Mushinghe, however,

announced that the column strengthening works on the office block were expected to be completed after next month.

"In view of the foregoing, BICON Zambia as the Design

Structural Engineers were required to submit a proposal for the strengthening of the columns identified by the Independent Engineer. In conclusion, EIZ has on

three occasions with other stakeholders visited the site and have been kept informed of the column strengthening works. In addition to the foregoing, BICON Zambia has on several occasions shared with EIZ and NCC copies of the reports in connection with the column

strengthening works. BICON Zambia has also attended a hearing called for by EIZ in connection with this project. The contractor, who has taken over from YJL who is currently executing the column strengthening works under the full-time supervision of BICON Zambia, is working diligently in order to complete the column strengthening works on site as soon as possible," stated Mushinghe.

"The Independent Engineer contracted by NAPSA is also providing regular oversight and closely monitoring the ongoing works on site. Based on the current programme, the column strengthening works are expected to be completed in December, 2020. EIZ as the regulator of the engineering industry has unfettered access to the site to inspect the ongoing works and to request from us any information, they may wish to obtain with respect to the ongoing works to enable them issue informed statements to the public with respect to this project."



MDC leader Felix Mutati interacts with traders at John Chinena market on Great North road -Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Zambia needs a stronger debt management system – Saasa

From P2

Your ability to borrow is based on your asset value, it's like you have collateral and many of these companies, foreign investors, are borrowing from the local banks for investments and some are even borrowing in dollars, so this is how it works," said Prof Saasa.

"So, the (Finance) Minister is right. I think the World Bank have to look at the figures and look at them correctly. Now, I don't know how fully captured private external debt is in that World Bank [statement], but of course, you know, World Bank figures are usually more reliable than domestic, local, and it's not only for Zambia, but for many countries. So, I do not think that they can cook figures or anything only that now, we are combining, we are talking about two different things, and if they are combined, because when you talk about Zambia, you can actually talk about those that are based in Zambia, but you know, when

you combine them like that, sometimes it's confusing because the one that you are including in the Zambian debt stock at the private level, they are foreign investors, they are not Zambian."

According to the World Bank's International Debt Statistics 2021 report released last week, Zambia's total external debt escalated to hit US \$27.3 billion by the end of last year, up from US \$19 billion by end of 2018.

The report, which comprises detailed breakdowns of what each borrowing country owes to official and private creditors by creditor country, discloses more detailed and disaggregated data on external debt than ever before, taking important strides in filling existing data gaps for low and middle-income countries.

Data compiled by the World Bank revealed that Zambia's external debt stock stood at an unprecedented US \$27.3 billion, of which public and publicly-

guaranteed debt was recorded as US \$11 billion, while the private sector debt, which included the US \$3 billion worth of Eurobonds, stood at a cumulative total of US \$14.7 billion.

The US \$27.3 billion amount compares to just US \$3.6 billion 10 years prior in 2009.

Earlier this year, the World Bank Assessment Report on Debt Transparency among International Development Associations (IDA) countries exposed Zambia's lack of transparency on debt reporting.

The Assessment Report on the availability, completeness and timeliness of public debt statistics and debt management documents posted on the national authorities website published on April 1, this year, revealed the lack of transparency on Zambia's debt reporting and that there was partial information available about the country's contracted loans.

By Julia Malunga

SLAIN Monica Chabwera's family says murder convict Beatrice Hangwende's release has come as an utter shock to them because their hearts are still bleeding.

On Tuesday, the Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS) said Hangwende, who is also a Lusaka business woman, had been released from prison because she exhibited "good behaviour".

A News Diggers investigation revealed that Hangwende was released from Prison on September 5, 2020 but her co-accused who were convicted along with her had remained in prison.

In January 2018, News Diggers reported that the Zambia Correctional Service had transferred Hangwende from Mukobeko Maximum Prison in Kabwe to Lusaka's Chimbokaila Remand Prison with the aim of providing her comfort.

But Monica's family members, who sought anonymity, said their sister was turning in her grave over Hangwende's release.

"This is a surprise to us as a family that a person can be jailed for 13 years and yet she was committed to life imprisonment. After 13 years, do you think that she deserves to walk the streets of Zambia while Monica is turning in her grave? Where is her justice? The State is the one that committed her to life in prison. So the people of Zambia could have been the ones to release her. We are very disgusted with the judiciary system, it is

Beatrice Hangwende's release enrages Monica's family

not working for us innocent Zambians. They did not consult the State or her family on her release. We thought justice had prevailed. This woman has never changed. We had incidents where even in prison, she never went to Mukobeko, she was in Lusaka. Zambia is a Christian nation, we uphold the values of Christianity in the Bible but we are not upholding them now," said a family spokesperson.

"This has come as a total surprise because our hearts are still bleeding for Monica

for her to come back and run her company Chabmore Enterprise Limited. In the last 13 years, we have just tried to fill in her shoes, she would put this company at another level. We don't want this company to die, she has thousands of people that she still looks after even in her grave."

Another family member said the family had not taken Hangwende's release well.

"The murder was all planned. She planned it for months on how she was going to kill our sister. She used to

victimize her husband. She was a very violent woman, I don't know how many times she went to break my late sister's house windows. We have not taken the release well. And she mentioned on TV that she apologized to the family, we never even saw her, she is lying. Who did she apologize to? It is different when someone mistakenly does something and says; 'it was by accident' but it was planned for months, they used to meet at a named guest house to plan to shoot. If at all she was sorry, she could

Monica's family

have come to apologize to us. Honestly, we have not taken it well. She was supposed to stay there because other people's lives can be in danger, she was a very aggressive person," said the family member.

"Even the husband now is scared she may come for him. To me, she is not a repentant soul. She is lying that she was in an abusive relationship, that

is why the husband wanted to leave her for my sister because he was being abused. So we are not happy as a family."

Hangwende, a famous Lusaka business woman was sentenced to death along with her elder brother John and two others for murdering her husband's lover Monica Chabwera Phiri in cold blood 13 years ago.

By Abraham Kalito

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has seized 3,830 litres of Cooking Oil worth K999,708.54 which was smuggled into the country by HITVIK trading limited.

ZRA corporate communications Manager Topsy Sikalinda stated that the authority has since sealed off HITVIK trading area in Kafue for various suspected smuggling activities.

"The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has seized 3,830 litres of Cooking Oil worth K999,708.54 smuggled into the country. ZRA has also sealed off HITVIK TRADING LIMITED warehouse situated at Sub 124, Farm 498A Shimabala in Kafue District for various suspected smuggling activities. Facts are that the Authority has been monitoring the operations of HITVIK

ZRA seals off HITVIK trading area, seizes 3,830l of cooking oil

Trading Limited from 29th September 2020 for suspected conspiracy to defraud the state tax revenue through smuggling related offences that range from document falsification, false representation and misclassification contravening the provisions of Sections 41(2) and 141 of the Customs and Excise Act of the laws of Zambia," read a statement issued, Wednesday.

He stated that the company had been importing bulk cooking oil using forged imports permits from the

Ministry of Agriculture and used the same to contravene the provisions of the law.

"After gathering enough information, the Authority has decided to move in a seal off these premises and issued seizure notices for the cooking oil. HITVIK Trading Limited has been importing bulk cooking oil using suspected forged import permits from the Ministry of Agriculture and declaring the commodity as crude oil when in fact it is processed cooking oil. Cooking oil is a controlled substance in

Zambia that requires import permits. This is one way to protect the local manufacturing sector and the farmers who grow inputs used in the production of cooking oil," stated Sikalinda.

"Businesses must learn to adhere to the requirements of the law and should always avoid being found in such unfortunate situations. To

those that are evading tax or contemplating doing dubious activities, our warning to them is to stop immediately and start complying. The Authority will definitely catch up with them and take all measures to collect taxes, penalties and interest due, while smugglers will also be taken to court for possible custodial sentencing."

We've abided by law in mobile registration exercise, State tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

GOVERNMENT has not only abided by the provisions of the National Registration Act, but has also strictly followed the provisions of the Constitution in implementing the mobile registration exercise and in the issuance of NRCs, deputy registrar general in the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship under the Ministry of Home Affairs Alick Mvula has submitted.

This is in a matter in which Chapter One Foundation Limited has petitioned the Constitutional Court seeking a declaration that the limitation of the period within which voter registration will be conducted to 30 days is unconstitutional.

It also wants a declaration that ECZ's decision and intention to disallow currently registered voters from voting in the 2021 general elections and future elections is unconstitutional and, therefore, null and void.

The non-governmental organisation is further seeking a declaration that the geographical limitation to the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) will result in the disenfranchisement of many Zambians in contravention of the national values and is, therefore, unconstitutional.

Chapter One Foundation which has cited ECZ and the Attorney General as respondents, also wants

the court to make an order of mandamus directing the Attorney General to implement the mobile issuance of NRCs throughout the country and an order of mandamus directing ECZ to carry out continuous voter registration between elections.

But Mvula, the Attorney General's affidavit in support of the answer to the amended petition, stated that prior to the commencement of the mobile registration exercise, the Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo issued a ministerial statement in Parliament on how the mobile exercise would be conducted.

He stated that with regard to the current mobile registration exercise, due to unfavourable economic factors currently prevailing in the country, government decided to implement the said exercise in two phases and had, as at the date of the filing

of the petition by Chapter One Foundation allocated 40 days to each province.

"Further to the above, the first phase commenced on August 1, 2020 on the Copperbelt, in Eastern, Luapula, Northern and North-Western provinces. The phase was scheduled to end on September 9, 2020 while the second phase was to commence on September 10, 2020 in the remaining provinces: Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Muchinga, Southern and Western," Mvula stated.

"Due to some initial challenges in the first 10 days of the first phase, government extended the first phase to September 19, 2020 and the second phase commenced on September 20, 2020."

Mvula further stated that the total number of days for the second phase would be determined by how the exercise would proceed but

the same would never be less than 40 days which was the minimum number of days as pronounced by Kampyongo in Parliament.

He stated that when determining how the current mobile registration exercise would be conducted, the provincial and district administration authorities in all the provinces were engaged by the Ministry of Home Affairs and that through the engagement, the Ministry of Home Affairs was able to develop a plan to effectively and efficiently register as many citizens as possible through out the country.

Mvula stated that in between the mobile registration exercises or cycles, any provincial authority may, at its own cost, request the registrar general for the department to conduct a targeted mobile registration exercise.

2 brothers deny theft by director charge

By Mukosha Funga

TWO Lusaka siblings, Chansa and Kelly Kapijimpanga, have taken fresh plea in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court and denied the charge of theft by director in a case in which they are accused of stealing over K52,000 belonging to a company.

The two took fresh plea after the prosecution substituted the initial charge sheet with another one.

In this matter, Chansa Kapijimpanga 48, and Kelly Davies Kapijimpanga 40, both directors are charged with one count of theft by director.

Particulars of the offence allege that between December 21, 2019 and March 10, 2020 in Lusaka, the two jointly and whilst working together, being directors of Seal Six Squad Services Limited, stole money amounting to K52,480 cash, the property of the said company.

And when the matter came up before magistrate Alice Walusiku for commencement of trial yesterday, State prosecutor Lewis Kandeke informed the court that the State had an application to have the indictment before court substituted, which application was granted.

After the indictment was substituted, the accused persons took fresh pleas of not guilty.

But when Kandeke was about to call the first witness, defence lawyer Gilbert Phiri applied for an adjournment to enable him to get further instructions.

He added that he also had another matter before another magistrate and requested for an adjournment to a nearest date.

But Kandeke objected to the application for an adjournment saying it was aimed at delaying the matter.

However, in her ruling magistrate Walusiku said the application for an adjournment by Phiri was reasonable and granted the adjournment to a nearest date.

The matter comes up on November 25, 2020 for commencement of trial.

Fight political battles through ballot, don't intimidate people with state machinery, Kambwili's wife tells PF

From P3

THIS is a police cell, you should suffer today' whoever is instructing the police to act in such a way has no heart. I cannot wish him what happened to us because I am human," Carol said.

When asked how Kambwili was doing, Carol said his blood pressure was under control.

"Well, he felt much better that I was released but he is worried for the daughter. At this point, my daughter is

not eating, she is not drinking because she cannot understand what really happened. How can the police lie that she assaulted a police officer? A young girl slapping an armed officer? Honestly, I can't understand. He is

okay, he is a strong man. If they want to break him, they are not God. We are cooking for him and we are taking for him the right diet. He has got his tablets, he has his insulin, the blood pressure is under control," said Carol.

By Tenson Mkhala
MUMBWA Police Commanding Officer Isaac Nyanjala on Monday stopped Court bailiffs from executing the eviction court order on Luiri Gold Mining Limited which has allegedly been operating illegally.

The mine which Luiri Gold is claiming belongs to Bukomo Mining.

Court bailiffs arrived at the mine around 11:00 hours in the company of uniformed and plain clothed police officers but were stopped by Nyanjala from going ahead to execute the order, citing the uncertainty surrounding security of the people during and after the execution exercise.

And a check at the site by journalists only found Bukomo Mining Limited workers who were illegally evicted from their houses.

Nyanjala said he could not allow the Court bailiffs to go ahead with the execution of eviction because of security issues.

"Execution attempt has been stopped because of uncertainty concerning security of the people during and after the execution.

However, we advise them to re-strategise and plan properly for the next execution process," Nyanjala said.

After hours of confrontation, bailiffs were seen leaving the premises at around 16:00 hours.

And speaking to journalists, Bukomo Mining Limited Operations manager Calvin Marko expressed shock that the police could stop the Court bailiffs from executing their duties.

He said it was unfortunate that Nyanjala would compromise himself in the gold mining issues.

"What happened today was, we came with an order of eviction but we have the officer commanding who is saying the...court bailiffs can't execute, which means he is defying the Court order that has been issued. So this vindicates our cry to say, the police command in Mumbwa has been compromised," Marko charged.

"Instead of executing the Court order, these people are saying no, there is violence here. Are you seeing any violence here? So

Police stop bailiffs from pouncing on Luiri Gold Mine in Mumbwa

we are going back to Court to tell them that their people have failed to honor the execution. The police have

failed to respect the order that is coming from the High Court judge."

Recently, eleven families

of Lwili village of Chief Shakumbila were evicted from their houses after being caught up in the fight

of ownership over a gold mine between Luiri Gold Mining and Bukomo Mining Limited.

There's enough fuel, assures Nkhuwa

By Stuart Lisulo
ENERGY Minister Matthew Nkhuwa says Zambia has sufficient fuel stocks, which should not necessitate a countrywide panic buying of the commodity.

Speaking during a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Nkhuwa assured all stakeholders that the country had sufficient fuel stocks following weeks of uncertainty caused by acute fuel shortages on the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces.

Nkhuwa said that despite the truck drivers' strike in protest over poor conditions

of service, which disrupted the supply of fuel to various parts of the country, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had told him that supply was being normalised.

"I wish to assure the nation that there is enough fuel stocks in the country and more stocks are on the way imported by various OMCs. This (Wednesday) morning, I held a meeting with various OMCs at my office at which they assured government that they had enough stocks in their depots and they were expecting more to arrive in the country," Nkhuwa told journalists.

"I, therefore, wish to state that the erratic supply of fuel that has been experienced in some parts of the country is being normalised. During the meeting with the OMCs, it became clear that the shortage was mainly due to the strike by the truck drivers, which disrupted the delivery cycle of fuel to the depots and filling stations around the country. This triggered panic buying by members of the public."

He announced additional measures to ensure speedy and timely delivery of fuel at all depots to avert unnecessary shortages of the

commodity.

"Government is happy that the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) assured the OMCs during the meeting that it has come up with measures to speed up the mandatory inspection of fuel deliveries by OMCs to ensure that as little time as possible is lost in the process. Further, fuel tankers have been allowed to transport fuel to their destinations, even after 18.00 to ensure a steady and stable supply of fuel across the country," said Nkhuwa.

"I also encouraged the OMCs to make use of the Zambia Revenue Authority pre-clearance facility to ensure speedy delivery of fuel in the country. With these other measures, there is absolutely no cause for panic. Government remains resolute in ensuring that there is security of supply of fuel in order for the wheels of the country's economy to continue running."

Nkhuwa's remarks follow acute fuel shortages on the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces where consumers have cited non-availability of fuel at various filling stations, even before the truck drivers' strike erupted in the last one week, raising speculation that other driving factors were at play in cutting supply of the commodity.

Fuel tanker drivers are currently locked in a bitter dispute regarding poor conditions of service, which had compelled some truckers to down tools in protest.

Mines' ongoing construction projects have slowed copper production – Musukwa

By Natasha Sakala
MINES and Mineral Development Minister Richard Musukwa says there is need to invest in alternative economic sectors such as agriculture to avoid copper price shocks on the economy.

And Musukwa says Zambia's low copper production has been as a result of mining companies' large-scale construction projects, which had slowed down production.

Speaking in Parliament, Tuesday, Musukwa observed that resources being realised from the mining sector should be invested in the agriculture sector, among others.

"It is good to know that Zambia's comparative advantage is our mineral endowment so we need to make resources in the mining sector and invest in other sectors, such as agriculture, tourism and construction. And, yes, indeed, government has been working in terms of diversification from copper to various minerals, such as gold, gemstones, manganese, in order to ensure that we promote this diversity so that when there is a shock on (the) international market in terms of copper, we must be able to rely on these various minerals, which we are endowed with," Musukwa said.

He, however, emphasised the need for a stable mine tax policy to make Zambia more competitive on the global market.

"Yes, indeed, as a government, we need to show consistency in terms of the tax measures and the entire mechanisms and incentives that we give to the

mining industry in order to attract investment because mining happens in a global space and you need to be competitive and I'm glad that it is coming from you members of parliament, who need to know that we need to provide long-range in terms of mining tax regime, stability, and also anchored on the provisions of the law in order to guarantee investment. Mining investment requires huge outlay of financial resources and it needs to be seen in terms of the laws and the PF government is actually anchored on those provisions," Musukwa added.

And he explained that the reduced copper production in recent years could be attributed to large mining companies, such as Mopani and Konkola Copper Mines, who had invested in expansion projects.

"Let me quickly go to the issue of production. Now, it is true that the focus of government is to ensure that our production hits in excess of two million tonnes as a priority in the last couple of years, and it has nothing to do with MMD. The last couple of years, most mining houses, especially the big ones, Mopani Copper Mines were doing construction. In a construction phase, you are not producing at optimal, you are investing in ensuring that you grow production at the level of construction. This is the same, which has been happening at Konkola Copper Mines where they have been exploiting the resource at KDMP project. This is a project that has been behind for four years. This is

an investment pledge, which was made by the investor, to develop this resource and has been behind. So, what is expected is that when four key operations that have been at construction stage begin to ramp up, this production will actually double and we are hoping to actually get more than the two million tonnes that has been projected," said Musukwa.

Speaking earlier, Kalomo Central UPND member of parliament Harry Kamboni said the country was still not benefiting from its mineral endowment because of poor management.

"Frankly speaking, our

country is endowed with a lot of mineral resources and minerals are one of those where the country would really benefit, but look at the main budget now, we are expecting to get only about K5 billion, why? When so much copper is going outside the country and other minerals. The prices for copper have been very good of late, what has been lacking is proper management. We are not, as a country, getting much from these minerals, sometimes it's even better if we didn't have them at all because we are supposed to benefit a lot from these Minerals, but we are not. Somebody is talking of a lot of

gold being mined, do you see that reflection on the budget? Where is the money?" said Kamboni.

Meanwhile, Msanzala PF member of parliament Peter Daka urged the Ministry to invest in the Inspectorate Department to ensure safety of miners as there were a lot of deaths, especially among artisanal and illegal miners in his constituency.

Zambia remains behind the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as Africa's second largest copper producer, with an average 850,000 metric tonnes, while the latter boasts an outturn of around 1.5 million tonnes.



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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
 INFORMATION Minister Dora Siliya says citizens have a right to choose leaders of their choice in a peaceful environment.

And Siliya says government will ensure that the media operates in a violence free environment during the upcoming general elections.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry's press and public relations unit, Siliya was speaking when United States Charge d'Affaires David Young paid a courtesy call on her at her office yesterday.

Citizens have the right to choose leaders of their choice in peaceful environment – Siliya

Siliya, who is also Chief Government Spokesperson, said citizens must value their right to vote by ensuring that they fully participate in the on-going online and physical voter registration exercise.

She said elections are a matter of choices by citizens and should never be seen to be synonymous to violence and intimidation.

"Elections costs money, citizens must value the right to vote. First of all its their taxpayers money that is used in elections and so nobody should deny themselves a liberty of putting in place a government of their choice," she said.

Siliya also encouraged eligible citizens to turn up in huge numbers to register as voters in

the 2021 general elections as it is their right.

She said while there are different opinions on who should govern, the country should not be divided through vices such as hate speech, regionalism and tribalism among other ills.

And Siliya advised media houses across the country to preach peace and togetherness

among citizens in the country.

"During such sensitive period, we expect, as citizens, that the media will continue promoting national peace and avoid being sensational in their reporting. Politicians must respect that the journalists are there to do their job and nobody should attack them. This will allow them to work professionally. As Government, we get concerned when we see journalists tasked to cover elections being attacked especially female journalists. We need a safe environment for the media and that is MISA Zambia has called for a meeting of all stakeholders including the police to ensure that we operate smoothly without," said Siliya.

Meanwhile, Siliya thanked the American Government for the support it has continued to render to the Zambian Government in various sectors of the country's economy.

And Young urged the government to uphold the values of democracy by ensuring that people exercise their rights to vote in a free and fair manner.

"It is very important to register so that you can be able to vote next year. We are ready to partner with your ministry, ECZ and the media throughout the country so that people can be able to register in numbers," he said. And Mr. Young has assured Government that regardless of the out of the forthcoming elections in the United States of America, his country's support to Zambia's development agenda will continue," said Young.

Zambian govt weak, paranoid – Lumumba

By Julia Malunga
 KENYAN Professor of Law Patrick Lumumba says he will not respond to unfounded rumors that he and other foreigners are mobilizing funds to help the opposition unseat President Edgar Lungu because it's a sign that the Zambian government is weak and paranoid.

Last week, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said government was aware that some opposition leaders were soliciting funds from their collaborators who were asking them to cause lawlessness in the country.

A publication called Batoka Bulls claimed that MMD leader Never Mumba was in East Africa where he was sent to

meet partners of the opposition coalition, among them Prof Lumumba, who gave him US\$400,000 for joint activities.

But in an interview, Professor Lumumba said only a very weak government could be bothered by a foreign civilian.

"I have no response to unfounded rumours which are figments of the fertile imagination of idle conspiracy theorists. What message can I have to people who are paranoid and see enemies everywhere? They need prayers. What interest do I have in Zambia? I wish I had the power they claim I have over Zambian politics. It must be a very weak government that is bothered by a foreign civilian," said Prof Lumumba.

Kampyongo had said an opposition leader was recently in East Africa to solicit for funds from people who were encouraging them to cause lawlessness in Zambia.

"I also want to say that government is aware of some schemes of political parties wanting to dare government and when government acts, they want to cry victims and claim that the democratic space is shrinking. We are equally aware that one political leader was recently in East Africa where he went to solicit for funds from their collaborators who have also encouraged them to engage in lawlessness activities. We are not going to allow people to trade off the sovereignty of this country or a piece of silver. We shall not sit and watch as foreign

interests come and disturb the peace that this country has enjoyed," warned Kampyongo.

"Government is equally aware of the schemes by a known political grouping to begin attacking the government procured equipment which includes motor vehicles for police service using all sorts of weaponry, gadgets, including explosives. The source of the explosives is already established and the culprits are also being monitored and very soon we expect the police to do the needful. But I want to say that the anti riot equipment and other modern equipment has been procured at a high cost and it is irresponsible and criminal for any individual or organisation to begin scheming to destroy the equipment."

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“Today, we have a Caesar in our midst, it is His Excellency the President. 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 to him. Caesar is created in the image of God. Your Excellency, in case you have been doubting, you don't need to campaign next year. 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.”

A nation that forgets God, but remembers to pray

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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The above message was delivered to President Edgar Lungu on October 18, 2020. It was not a campaign rally, it was not a PF mobilization event, it was not a party card renewal exercise, it was not even a private event for a group of people from the same organisation. This was at a government event called the National Day of Prayer and Reconciliation, at which Mr Lungu was officiating in his capacity as Head of State. The priest who was delivering this sermon was not a man from some bogus Pentecostal church like “bootlicking ministries” or something like that. This was a respected Catholic priest who is in charge of a congregation.

This leaves us wondering; what has remained of our men and women of the collar? Where do we draw the line between politics and religion? How do we define ourselves as children of God? Who do we really worship? What is our interpretation of the phrase “Christian

nation?” Do we mean a God fearing nation? Are we trying to say Zambia is a nation where the majority of citizens are Christians? Or perhaps, are we saying Christianity is the official religion to consider when assessing someone's faith? We need to be clear about what we are trying to communicate.

This is why we say church leaders must not be using the word of God to campaign for their preferred political candidates. It sends a mixed message which takes away the seriousness of our religious beliefs. We know this is a delicate subject, but what needs to be said must be said if we are to build a nation anchored on the truth, morality and love for one another.

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. He says the role of the clergy is to speak to the moral consciousness of the country and not to

endorse a political party candidate.

“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? 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,” says Fr Chikoya.

No person with a clear conscience can disagree with what Fr Chikoya is saying. Our religious leaders have to learn to choose their words carefully. They must make efforts to ensure that their thoughts and teachings are in line with the teachings of the Scripture.

In fact, we must blatantly put it here that biblically speaking, there must not be any such thing as a “Christian nation.” This is very important to understand so that we know what God expects from us.

We say this because if we call ourselves God's children, then we are disciples of Jesus, and if we are disciples of Jesus, we are subjects of a kingdom that knows no national boundaries. It cannot be defined in earthly terms. This kingdom is a timeless, transcendent reality. It's a place where “there is neither PF nor UPND, neither the rich nor the poor, neither Christian nor Muslim. This is a kingdom where we are all one in Christ Jesus. That's what Galatians 3:28 teaches us: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

We are not suggesting that as a country we must never incorporate biblical principles and Christian ideals into our foundational documents,

governmental policies, and cultural values. In a sense, this is exactly what our founding father, Kaunda and his fellow freedom fighters were trying to do when they formed this nation. This is what they had in mind when they came up with the very first Constitution of this land and established the motto One Zambia One Nation.

Our country is not God's kingdom on earth, the Patriotic Front is not God's wing for the righteous. Therefore, our religious leaders must stop using the Bible and biblical nomenclature to paint our politicians as God's chosen saints who must worry not about their political obligations and Constitutional processes. Such priests like Fr Lastone Lupupa and such sermons like “Give Caesar the vote because it belongs to him, because he is the chosen one by God”, do not build or unite a nation. Such sermons divide Christians and when Christians are divided in the so-called Christian nation, it means we are headed for destruction. Such double-tongued priests are dangerous and

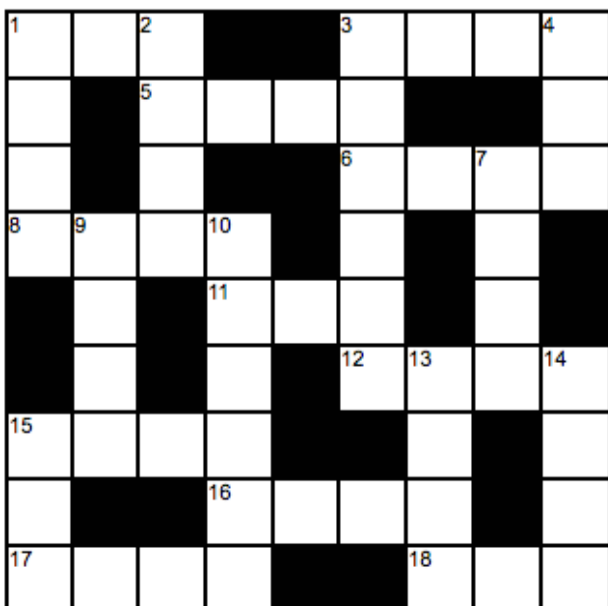
must be known for what they are - bootlickers.

This is what happens when a nation forgets God but remains only with a sense of obligation to occasionally meet and make meaningless references to the scripture. We must be worried when our clergy lead us into prayer but don't lead us to God; we must be afraid when they lead us to Lungu instead of leading us into repentance. Our religious leaders have withdrawn their trust in God and have bestowed it on man. We must be worried. It is a serious matter when a nation forgets God.

We have lost economic direction as a country; we have lost political direction too and now we are losing spiritual direction as well. We must not pretend or claim that the Church is holding us together at this moment. That can only happen if our church leaders stand firm on the principles and values of the Creator of heaven and earth. But we have forgotten God. If we have not totally forgotten God, we have at the very least replaced Him in the frontal lobe of our minds with other things such as money, food and power.

A nation that forgets God and His values but remembers to merely fulfill the obligations of kneeling down and closing eyes in front of cameras is far more dangerous than a secular nation that makes its evil intentions clear. We must be ashamed to even call ourselves a Christian Nation.

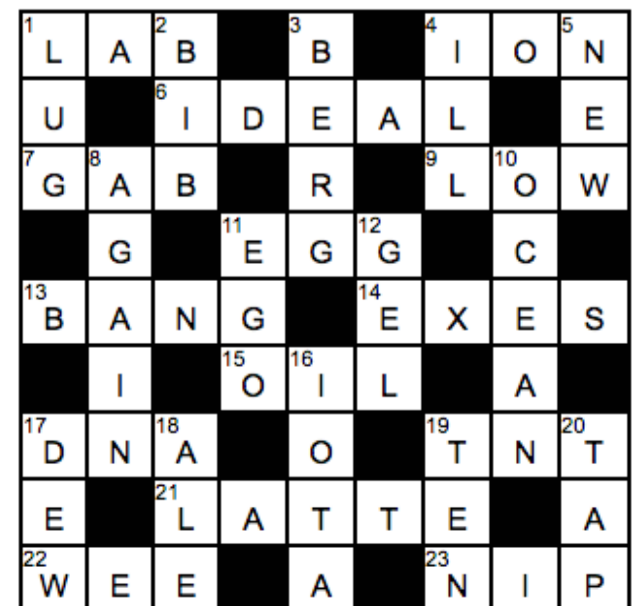
Crossword puzzle No 716



“It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slammer 3. Close tightly 5. Give off 6. Kind of pudding 8. Despise 11. Junior 12. Othello or Clue 15. Arcade name 16. "Clue" Professor 17. Pack animal 18. Hankering | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hiker's route 2. Shipshape 3. Guitar part 4. Golf peg 7. Storm preceder 9. Large lot size 10. Getaway 13. Military group 14. Level 15. Total |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 715



Readers' Feedback



IG's 'stupid' call-out to HH

Editor,

"Zambia has gone to the dogs and if ECL, Kanganja and Kampyongo don't tone their selective rule of law by using state machinery on opposition one day they ll set this peaceful country on fire, there's so much people can take before they react"> - Mutinta Mulonda

"Its a stupid call indeed..." - Mwila Chibwe Chaz

"Very stupid actually. Just ignore Mr President" - Racheal Ray

"Pride is a sign of a fall ahead.

What can u lose if u attend to that call?

HH must humble himself and respect the rule of law even when he feels persecuted let him do the right thing as a leader". - Francis AK Lungu

"INDEED ITS A STUPID CALL MR BALLY, LET THEM ADRESS THE SHORTAGE OF FUEL IN THE COUNTRY!" - Moses Kalenga

'Release of murder convict fishy'

Editor,

"There is some thing wrong here. Who was involved in the release of this woman. Did her case come up for the prerogative of mercy for consideration? Who did she bribe. There are many prisoners who have reformed and are doing a good job but are still in prison". - Geoffrey Samusungwa

"To kill Monica, she had organised a hit squad which has remained in prison. So what's the guarantee that she won't do it again?" - Mike Phiri

"There is a big rotten fish somewhere.It can not happen like this.They want to use this woman for some operation.UPND must be alert!" - Jacob Kanyika

"Investigation Discovery here is a piece for a documentary". - Anayawa Sililo

"How can a convicted cold blooded killer who meticulously planned a murder and was arrogant throughout court proceedings qualify for parole based on good behaviour? Madness". - Mwimanenwa Kamona

Beatrice should make a public apology and ask for forgiveness from God and family. Monica's death was very harsh...nobody deserves such a death. Am sure she has regrets and positive reflections but no matter the case one of us still mourn Monica. We all forgive but we don't forget". - Emelda Litana

Siliya's fear on UPND forming govt

Editor,

"Siliya's admission proves that these people have really destroyed the country. They're afraid that we're going to know the gassers and their masterminds. They're afraid that we're going to know how much money they've looted through corruption. Siliya should know that everything that has a beginning has an end. Your end will be ugly!" - Kelvin Pumulo

"The catchy headline

is that someone is scared of what will happen to her/ them and him. You mwankoles (ravens)! you think we are happy with your failed regime huh? Reasonable people resign on moral grounds but for you its immoral to do it. Madam the clock is ticking FORWARD". - Aubrey Simwanza

"The ruling party should tone down. They have all the

power to stop the violence. They wont be inpower forever. We know people like Siliya will cross the floor to avoid ttributionbut we need a commision of inquiry". - Samson Chisulo Phiri

Honourable Dora, just bear in mind that the Zambian people are watching PF every move in awe and disbelief. The day of reconning is fast approaching unfortunately!!!!" - Emmanuel Kalebela

'Zambia's Judiciary in a mess!'

Editor,

"Why should a Magistrate who has been found wanting for Misconduct proceed to preside on Court matters, Only in Zambia we hear and see such embarrassments". - Evaristo C Mwenya Snr

"Our Judiciary is in a

mess. These are the people who passed ZIALE examinations, but behaving like nincompoops". - Frederick Chinyama Chiteta

"Section 3 of PF constitution says only cadres can head key government

institutions.... So madam Chief Cadre if Justice we understand why Simusamba is still adjudicating in a court of law". - Phield Ngwewa

"Mediocrity, cowardice and lack of principles have permeated professional ranks". - Clive Nyambe

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

BUILDINGS have been set aflame and there are reports of gunfire in Nigeria's biggest city after demonstrators were shot at a protest.

Rights group Amnesty International said at least 12 people were killed by soldiers and police in Lagos on Tuesday.

Nigeria's army dismissed the reports as "fake news" in a post on Twitter.

Authorities have imposed an indefinite round-the-clock curfew on the city and elsewhere, but some defied the order.

Protests against a police unit have been taking place for two weeks. Demonstrators have been using the social media hashtag #EndSars to rally crowds against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars).

President Muhammadu Buhari disbanded Sars on 11 October. But protests have continued, with demands for more changes in the security forces, as well as reforms to the way the country is run.

Witnesses have told the BBC what they saw when men in military camouflage opened fire on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, buildings were set alight across Lagos and police put up roadblocks. A major Nigerian TV station with links to a ruling party politician was on fire after people attacked it with petrol bombs.

Police in different districts of the city fired shots in the air to disperse protesters defying the curfew, the BBC's Nduka Orjinmo reports from the capital, Abuja. He also reports that the palace of the most senior traditional leader in the city was looted, though

Unrest in Lagos after shooting

the leader had been evacuated beforehand.

What happened in Lagos?

Witnesses said uniformed men opened fire on a crowd of around 1,000 demonstrators in the wealthy Lekki suburb on Tuesday.

Soldiers were seen barricading the protest site moments before the shooting, BBC Nigeria correspondent Mayeni Jones reports. Social media footage streamed live from the scene shows protesters tending to the wounded.

A witness who did not want to be named told BBC News that shortly before 19:00 local time (18:00 GMT) soldiers "pulled up... and they started firing directly" at peaceful protesters.

"They were firing and they were advancing straight at us. It was chaos. Somebody got hit straight beside me and he died on the spot," he said.

The protesters had gathered at the Lekki toll gate for the last two weeks to block cars from using the road.

Shortly before a curfew was due to start, officers turned up and began to kettle in the demonstrators. The street lights were then shut off before the shooting began.

In a statement, Amnesty International Nigeria said at least 12 protesters were killed in Lagos on Tuesday.

Evidence from hospital records and witnesses showed "the Nigerian military opened

fire on thousands of people who were peacefully calling for good governance and an end to police brutality" at Lekki toll gate, the organisation said.

Apart from the shooting in Lekki, at least two people were killed and one "critically injured" in the Alausa district by "a team of soldiers and policemen" at about 20:00, the group added.

"Soldiers clearly had one intention - to kill without consequences," said Osai Ojigbo, Amnesty International Nigeria country director.

Demonstrators defy the

curfew in Lagos

By Mayeni Jones, BBC Nigeria Correspondent

This morning we drove over the Lekki-Ikoyi toll bridge, passing through gates that had been burned out the night before. Broken glass from a number of businesses was scattered on the floor, cash machines burned out.

Closer to Lekki, where there are a number of shopping centres, the streets were mainly empty. It's a bustling area usually, but no cars were on the road, just young men on foot.

At the Lekki toll gate

itself there were around 200 people, who crowded round us, wanting to tell their stories of the night before, angry but also determined to stand their ground. Pools of blood could be seen on the floor.

Protesters were waving flags that looked covered in blood - they told me that the Nigerian flag, usually green-white-green, turned green-red-green yesterday from all the killing. Many of them had been at the site of the shooting the night before and recounted horrifying stories of seeing other protesters shot before

their eyes.

The calls for police reform have morphed into chants that President Buhari must go. Demonstrators say they are sick and tired of the status quo.

How have officials responded?

Lagos state governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said about 25 people had been wounded, adding that authorities were investigating the death of one man by "blunt force trauma to the head". It is unclear if he was a demonstrator.

On Wednesday he called for flags to be lowered at government buildings and an "immediate suspension" of all state activities over the next three days. **BBC**

POPE Francis says in a film released on Wednesday that homosexuals should be protected by civil union laws, in some of the clearest language he has used on the rights of gay people.

"Homosexual people have a right to be in a family. They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or be made miserable over it," he says in the documentary "Francesco" by Oscar-nominated director Evgeny Afineevsky.

"What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered. I stood up for that," he said.

The pope appeared to be referring to when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires and opposed legislation to approve same sex marriages but supported some kind of legal protection for the rights

Pope says homosexuals should be covered by civil union laws



of gay couples.

Papal biographer Austen Ivereigh told Reuters that

the pope's comments in the film were some of the clearest language the pontiff has used

on the subject since his election in 2013.

The pope, who early in his papacy made the now-famous "Who am I to judge?" remark about homosexuals trying to live a Christian life, spoke in a section of the film about Andrea Rubera, a gay man who with his partner adopted three children.

Rubera says in the film that he went to a morning Mass the pope said in his Vatican residence and gave him a letter explaining his situation.

He told the pope that he and his partner wanted to bring the children up as Catholics in the local parish but did not want to cause any trauma for the children. It was not clear in which country Rubera lives.

Rubera said the pope telephoned him several days later, telling him he thought the letter was "beautiful" and urging the couple to introduce their children to the parish but to be ready for opposition.

"His message and his advice was really useful because we did exactly what he told us. It's the third year that they (the children) are on a spiritual path in the parish," Rubera says in the film.

"He didn't mention what was his opinion about my family so (I think) he is following the doctrine on this point but the attitude towards people has massively changed," he said.

The Catholic Church teaches that homosexual tendencies are not sinful but homosexual acts are. It teaches that homosexuals should be treated with dignity. **Reuters**

Anglo American sued over alleged mass lead poisoning of children in Zambia

A CLASS action lawsuit has been filed against the mining company Anglo American over its alleged failure to prevent widespread toxic lead pollution in the Zambian town of Kabwe. The town hosted one of the world's biggest lead mines for many decades and scientists have reported "alarming" levels of lead in people's blood.

"The public environmental health disaster left behind by Anglo means there are more than 100,000 children and women of childbearing age in Kabwe who are likely to have suffered lead poisoning as a result of pollution caused by Anglo," according to the filed legal documents.

The lawyers argue that Anglo American's South African subsidiary is liable as it was responsible for the mine from 1925 to 1974 and that this was when the majority of the pollution was caused. Anglo had "a duty of care to protect existing and future generations of residents of Kabwe", according to the legal documents.

Lead has long been known to be highly poisonous and there is "no level of lead exposure that is known to be without harmful effects", according to the World Health Organization. A scientific study of 1,190 people in Kabwe published in 2019 called exposure levels there "alarming". It concluded: "This is the first study that has revealed the true extent of lead exposure in the whole Kabwe town, which poses a serious

public hazard and should be given urgent attention."

"Childhood lead poisoning has devastating effects on neurological development and causes overt clinical signs including convulsions and coma," said the scientists. They found average blood lead levels were above that classed as high by US authorities in all but one of 13 districts in the town. In the most affected district, the average level was nine times above the US threshold.

The lead pollution is in the soil and dust that children play in, and two-year olds had the highest blood levels. Some young children had levels more than 20 times higher than the US threshold, which can cause severe brain damage or death according to the WHO.

The case is being brought by 13 representative plaintiffs. Some are children with very

high blood lead levels and others are women, as lead pollution poses great risks to foetuses during pregnancy.

The class action alleges that Anglo America is liable for substantial emissions of lead into the local environment due to deficiencies in the operation of the mine and for failing to ensure the clean-up of contaminated land. The mine was transferred to a Zambian state-owned company in 1974 and closed in 1994.

Anglo American's human rights policy states: "Where we have caused or contributed to adverse human rights impacts we will contribute to their remediation as appropriate."

Richard Meeran, at Leigh Day, a UK-based legal firm acting for the plaintiffs, said operating a large mine close to communities was a clear risk: "Unfortunately, it appears that

Anglo failed to ensure that sufficient measures were in place."

Zanele Mbuyisa, at law firm Mbuyisa Molelele in Johannesburg, which is also acting for the plaintiffs, said a 1970s study showed high blood lead levels: "The very same lead poisoning that was happening at that time is continuing happening now."

Another scientific study, published in 2018, found that Kabwe Town "belongs to the most contaminated districts in Africa" and that "the development of a program of health care ... is of utmost importance". The legal action is seeking the provision of a screening program, treatment, a clean-up of the pollution and compensation for those poisoned.

"[Anglo American] need to do something about it because



Mwange rules self out of 2021 CHAN

By Ngosa Chalwe
GOALKEEPER Sebastian Mwange has ruled himself out of the 2021 Africa Nations Championships (CHAN) slated for Cameroon after joining South African Club Maritzburg United.

Maritzburg announced the signing of Mwange on Tuesday evening to replace Ghanaian keeper Richard Ofori, who joined title contender Orlando Pirates.

According to a club statement, Mwange would be at the KwaZulu – Natal club for the next two years with an option to extend his stay based on his performance.

“Maritzburg United

have announced the signing of Zambia number-one goalkeeper Sebastian Mwange. The 28-year-old has signed a two-year deal at the Harry Gwala Stadium, with the option for a further two years on his contract,” the statement reads in part.

Club chairman Farook Kadodia described Mwange as a quality keeper.

“Our technical team and scouting network have worked tirelessly to identify Sebastian as top quality goalkeeper and a good fit for our club. We are all very pleased to have secured his services. Maritzburg have shown that we have a solid record when it comes to bringing in players from

the African continent and we expect Sebastian to continue this tradition and make a strong impact in South African football,” Kadodia told the club’s website.

However, this transfer

means that Mwange would not be eligible to make the Zambian squad that would play at the CHAN, a tournament exclusive to players plying their trade in their domestic league.

Mwange is a late bloomer

who caught the eye of many with his golden glove winning performances at the Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Senior Challenge Cup in South Africa last year.

The former Nchanga rangers goal minder was part of the Green Eagles team that has played at the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) inter – club competition for the last two seasons.

Zesco players in tune with Numba’s tactics

By Ngosa Chalwe
BARELY a month after the shock departure of George Lwandamina, Zesco United goalkeeper Ian Otieno says players have adjusted to the training methods of new coach Mumamba Numba.

Numba joined Zesco last month as a

surprise replacement for Lwandamina, who was excused despite having had unprecedented success with the club over two spells.

The Kenyan goal minder told the club’s website in an interview that the players have adjusted to Numba’s system and requirements.

“Firstly, I have to say that the coach has settled in very well and he has been like a father figure to us all. There is nothing more that we can do but to

do our best for him like we did for the former coach. Remember, this is work for us and work has to go on, whether there is a new coach or not. We have to keep our heads down and hit the ground running. That is what is crucial for us now. I like the fact that he wants us to play from the back and he is giving us a lot of confidence to do so. I think people should expect to watch a very entertaining ZESCO United side when the season starts,” Otieno

said. He said the players were determined to reclaim the Super Division championship, having lost it to nemesis Nkana.

“We all know the significance of starting the season on a positive note because we will be fighting on one front. There is no taking chances because every game will be like a final to us. Whether playing a small team or big team, [the approach is the same],” said Otieno.



Mwakapila off to Israel

By Goal Digger
COPPER Queens midfielder Mary Mwakapila has left the country for Israel to join her new club, Hapoel Beer-Sheva.

Mwakapila, who was playing for Green Buffaloes,

has landed a two-year contract with Hapoel Beer-Sheva, which she penned in August, 2020.

“Over the years, Mwakapila has grown to be an influential figure in women football, and she stamped her

authority in the game when she scored the opener in the Copper Queen’s 2-1 win over Cameroon in the Tokyo 2020 qualifiers to aid the country to a history Olympic place,” according to the Football Association of Zambia.

Man Utd debt soars by 133 per cent to £474m

MANCHESTER United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward said the club are having to adapt to “significant economic ramifications” of the coronavirus pandemic after they announced a severe hit to their revenue with net debt rising by 133 per cent.

The club released their quarter four financial results on Wednesday which highlighted the full impact the pandemic has had.

The report showed a revenue drop of 19% to £509 million (\$664m) and a loss of £23m (\$30m) compared to a £19m (\$25m) profit made last year.

United estimate that Covid-19 has cost them £70m (\$91m) in revenue, with the lack of Old Trafford matchdays and the closure of the club shop contributing a

large chunk of that sum.

While their principal debt remains the same, the club’s net debt is up 133% to £474m (\$618m). It is understood the drastic rise in that figure is due to a decline in cash income due to the coronavirus pandemic and money spent on player transfers.

Woodward said: “Our focus remains on protecting the health of our colleagues, fans and community while adapting to the significant economic ramifications of the pandemic.

“Within that context, our top priority is to get fans back into the stadium safely and as soon as possible.”

United signed Donny van de Beek, Alex Telles, Edinson Cavani, Facundo Pellistri and Amad Diallo in the summer transfer



window, which the club say has contributed to their debt rising.

Woodward added: “On the pitch, we have strengthened the team over the summer and we remain committed to our objective of winning trophies, playing entertaining, attacking football with a blend of academy graduates and high-quality recruits, while carefully managing our resources to protect the long-term resilience of the club.”

While the figures made for bleak reading, there was some positive news in that the club have extended their partnership with shirt sponsor Chevrolet for another six months and talks continue as to who will replace the American brand at the end of their deal.

Commercial revenues were also up nearly 6% and those commercial deals accounted for 72% of the club’s income between March and June, while football was suspended.

Micho expects tough Ethiopia encounter

By Ngosa Chalwe
CHIPOLOPOLO coach Milutin ‘Micho’ Sredojević is expecting a tough encounter against Ethiopia when the two teams clash in an international friendly in Addis Ababa today.

Last week, Zambia secured two international friendly matches outside the FIFA calendar as Chipolopolo coach Milutin ‘Micho’ Sredojević continues to fine-tune his squad ahead of future engagements.

Zambia has a packed schedule starting next month with a back

to back Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Botswana before playing at the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) in January.

While the match against South Sudan hangs in a balance, Zambia today will take to the field against Ethiopia in what will be their fourth international friendly match in 14 days.

Micho said in an interview before departure yesterday that today’s game is a test of character for his charges.

“It is a test of character and

measurement of values, we want to see where we are at present. It is a test try and experiment match. I expect that we will put a good account of ourselves. We show where we are at present so that we see what is supposed to be corrected before Botswana.

“Ethiopia is a team I have the highest degree of respect for. I have been there between 2004 to 2010 for five years as coach of St George and Champion of Ethiopia. Ethiopia will test us now and every coach will be happy to be tested against a really good competitive

team that would stretch your players over sport and human limits...we shall have a good team and we shall show where we are at present,” Micho said.

Meanwhile, the coach said the friendly against South Sudan is uncertain.

“We [have been] assured of the Ethiopia friendly but we are having some problems with South Sudan that are having financial constraints. However, we believe until the match is played those problems will be sorted,” said Micho.

MICHO EXPECTS TOUGH ETHIOPIA ENCOUNTER



Are you eligible to register to vote?

www.ovr.elections.org.zm

✓ 18 yrs +

Are you 18 years and above or will you be 18 years on / or before the 9th of May, 2021?

✓ Zambian

Are you a Zambian citizen?

✓ Green NRC

Are you in possession of a green NRC? If you answered "yes," then you are eligible to register to vote.



#VotingSquad

By Ngosa Chalwe
CHIPOLOPOLO coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević is expecting a tough encounter against Ethiopia when the two teams clash in an international friendly in Addis Ababa today.

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