



48 HOUSES OWNERS DRAG ACC TO COURT ...demand all rentals collected since seizure



By Zondiwe Mbewe
A TANZANIAN national has dragged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to the Lusaka High Court seeking an order that he is the beneficial owner of 'the famous 48

houses' and as such he should be granted possession of the properties.

Uziel Bashire, who is currently residing in Norway, along with two other plaintiffs; Zuberi Bigawa, also a Tanzanian

national and Bashire's cousin, as well as, Charles Loyana who is currently operating at the Ministry of Finance as senior accountant, have sued ACC for seizing their property.

Story page 3

PF moves to discipline MPs who didn't vote for Bill 10

By Ulande Nkomesha
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has written to three PF members of parliament asking them to exculpate themselves for absenting themselves from voting for Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019.

The three members of parliament are Kamfinsa MP Elalio Musonda, Chifubu MP Frank Ng'ambi and Mwansabombwe MP Kabaso Kampampi.

In a similar letter sent to all of them, Mwila questioned

why they decided not to vote when President Edgar Lungu directed that all MPs must vote for Bill 10 as it had progressive clauses.

"It has come to my attention that during the voting for the Constitution

Amendment Bill No 10 of 2020, on Thursday 29th October, 2020, you decided to absent yourself from voting for the Bill. Hon Member, you are aware that His Excellency, the President had directed that all our..."

Story page 4

BoZ has stabilised kwacha - Mvunga

By Natasha Sakala

BANK of Zambia (BoZ) governor Christopher Mvunga says despite the economic challenges the country is facing, the Central Bank has managed to stabilise the kwacha at an average range of K20.30 per dollar.

Speaking when he officiated at the PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Zambia bank and non-bank survey launch, Mvunga said the Central Bank had managed to stabilise the kwacha using Monetary Policy instruments.

However, the local currency was trading at around K20.50 per dollar by lunchtime, Wednesday.

Story page 6

Nkombo accuses ZICTA of recording private conversations

By Natasha Sakala
MAZABUKA Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo has alleged that the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) are infringing on people's right to privacy by recording conversations.

But Transport and Communications Minister

Mutotwe Kafwaya has refuted Nkombo's allegation, saying ZICTA does not have the capacity to carry out such an exercise.

Speaking in Parliament during debate on the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nkombo said this trend had to come to an end.

"I know you work very closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs on this ZTE CCTV that..." *Story page 5*

MoH single-sourced Covid-19 suppliers - AG

Story page 2



Ruth Sule, the auntie to late opposition Republican Progressive Party leader James Lukuku thanks UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and the alliance partners for the support rendered to the family - Picture by Tenson Mkhala (Story on page 5)

HH asks High Court to dismiss case in which he was sued over Kalomo land

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has asked the Lusaka High Court to dismiss a case in which two individuals have sued him for allegedly illegally occupying a farm in Kalomo belonging to the estate of the late Samson Siatembo.

Hichilema wants the said action dismissed on points of law, arguing that Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo was created, surveyed, marked off (from the parent Farm 1924, Kalomo) and assigned to him in 2005.

He adds that he was registered as a proprietor of the said Subdivision "A" of 1924, Kalomo measuring 2222.6549 hectares and a certificate of title was issued to him by the

Registrar of Lands and Deeds on September 22, 2005.

Hichilema submitted that since 2005 to date, it has been 15 years of his ownership and occupation of the said farm and that the plaintiffs have never taken him to court for the cancellation of his certificate of title or charged him rentals or let alone evict him from the said farm until when they sued him on October 28, 2020.

In this matter, an administratrix of the estate of the late Samson Siatembo and another have sued Hichilema for allegedly acquiring and procuring a farm in Kalomo illegally, fraudulently or without consent of the administratrix on behalf of the estate of the deceased.

Pheluna Hatwimbo suing as administratrix of the estate of the late Samson Siatembo and Milton Hatembo are seeking an order that assignment of Subdivision A of Farm No.1924 be reversed on account of fraud or misrepresentation, as well as, an order for damages for trespass to land without consent or license of the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs also want among others, cancellation of certificate of title No.42578 on account of fraud, misrepresentation and or mistake.

Hichilema has however, asked the court to dismiss the action on points of law.

According to an affidavit in support of summons to dismiss action on points of law filed in the Lusaka High Court, recently, Hichilema stated that he had perused the plaintiffs' pleadings which showed that they pleaded fraud and misrepresentation but there was no mention as to when they discovered the fraud or misrepresentation with regards to his acquisition and occupation of Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo.

He however, stated that the said Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo was created, surveyed, marked off and assigned to him some time in 2005.

"The parent certificate of title in possession of the first..."

Continues on page 4

MoH irregularly single-sourced eight COVID-19 material suppliers, reveals AG

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources has revealed that the Ministry of Health single-sourced eight suppliers of COVID-19 materials with a total contract value of K35,090,425.

According to the Report for the period February 1 to July 31, 2020, the Ministry of Health procured items valued a K159,277,590 from various suppliers between March and July 31, 2020, without subjecting the procurements to competitive bidding.

"Contrary to the Public Procurement Regulation No. 39 (4), which states that, 'Where an emergency situation affects the choice of procurement method, the procuring entity shall not automatically exclude competitive methods of procurement, but shall obtain competition to the maximum extent practical in the circumstances.' It was observed that between 19th March and 5th May, 2020, the Ministry single-sourced eight suppliers with a total contract value of K35,090,425. In addition, although the Ministry had invited bids for various items, it was observed that the suppliers' quoted for items that were not quoted by the other suppliers. In this regard, items valued at K159,277,590 were procured from various suppliers between March and July 31, 2020, without subjecting the procurements to competitive bidding," the Report disclosed.

"In response, the controlling officer, Ministry of Health, acknowledged that competition was a primary enabler of a very key fundamental principle of public procurement - Value For Money (VFM). Following a surge in reported cases, there was urgent need to source commodities from vendors, who had them available ex-

stock or with competitive delivery periods. An example in point was when the Ministry urgently needed to equip the Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital COVID-19 Isolation Centre. This needed a quick delivery turnaround time for linen, ventilators and other essential commodities."

But the Report added that the controlling officer at the Ministry of Health stated that the Public Procurement Regulations 2011 supported the Ministry of Health procurement approach.

"The controlling officer further stated that, 'With respect to Regulation 39 (4) of the Public Procurement Regulations, 2011, it is our considered position that the regulation actually supports our procurement approaches thus far.' In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Ministry of Health in a letter dated 13th March, 2020, applied for a no objection from the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) to deviate from using full standard solicitation documents and instead use simplified requests for quotations irrespective of the threshold. In the same application, the Ministry requested the Authority to issue a circular specific to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of ensuring that Zambia successfully fight the pandemic," read the Report.

"The ZPPA on 14th April, 2020, granted the Ministry a 'No Objection' to deviate from using full standard solicitation documents and instead use simplified requests for quotations irrespective of threshold. The authority granted is available for verification. However, a review of the letter from ZPPA revealed that the Ministry was granted a 'No Objection' to deviate from using a full solicitation documentation, but did not

exclude the need to adhere to other procurement regulations, such as the Public Procurement Regulation No. 39 (4) of 2011, which requires the need for the Ministry to apply maximum competition practical under the circumstance."

The Report also revealed that the Ministry of Health over-committed government expenditure in the procurement of various medical items.

"As at 26th June, 2020, the Ministry of Health had engaged 100 suppliers to supply various medical items to be used in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic at a total cost of K779,783,529. As at 31st July, 2020, the Ministry of Health had received funding of K60,884,345 against which K52,326,519 was paid to suppliers. It was, however, observed that the total contracts entered into by the Ministry of Health exceeded the overall total budget provision of K716,000,000 (K659,000,000 - Multi-Sectoral Contingency and Response Plan and K57,000,000 - Epidemic Preparedness Fund) by K63,783,528 resulting in over-

commitment of expenditure," the Report narrated.

"In response, the controlling officer at the Ministry of Health indicated that the commitments were entered into based on the adjustable emergency plans, which initially costed K57 million and then increased to K1.2 billion, leading to the current draft of K3.4 billion. Hence, the contracts were within the approved budgets. However, the approved adjustable emergency plan and the Treasury Authority for the budget of K3.4 billion were not availed for audit as at 14th August, 2020."

The Report further indicated that Ministry of Health delayed in submission of procurement plans to ZPPA, which was against the ZPPA Circular No. 1.

"The ZPPA Circular No. 1 of 2020 dated 15th April, 2020, requires Procuring Entities (PEs) to identify all COVID-19 procurement requirements and prepare procurement plans and submit a copy of the plans to the ZPPA in line with Section 42 (2) of the Public Procurement

Act No. 12 of 2008. Contrary to the Circular, the Ministry of Health procured medical supplies and services between 3rd March and 5th April, 2020, amounting to K129,010,714 without a procurement plan. The Ministry prepared the procurement plan on 26th May, 2020, two months after the outbreak of the pandemic," read the Report.

"In response, the controlling officer stated that management endeavours to adhere to the procurement plan, with the flexibility to respond to the evolving pandemic and that the procurement plan was adjusted based on the evolving pandemic and needs. Further, it was stated that the initial procurements were not haphazard as they were based on the adjustable contingency plan. Although management indicated that the procurement plan was based on the adjustable contingency plan, the Ministry had only submitted one procurement plan to ZPPA, which was dated 26th May, 2020, and the adjustable contingency plan used was not availed for audit."

We need to prosecute erring controlling officers to stop abuse, says Mbula

By Ulande Nkomesha

LESLIE Mbula says there is need to implement punitive laws to stop controlling officers from abusing or mismanaging public funds.

Commenting on Secretary to Cabinet Dr Simon Miti's statement that 25 controlling officers from various Ministries and provinces were charged and would soon face disciplinary action due to the mismanagement of public funds, Mbula, a former secretary to the cabinet, said the lack of implementation of existing punitive laws had led to increased mismanagement of public

funds by controlling officers.

"This is very close to my heart, a proper civil service is extremely close to my heart and I am glad that the Secretary to the Cabinet gave that warning. The more he talked about it, the better, because his permanent secretaries would be aware that if they did something, they would be punished. First of all, this money is given to Zambia, it has been created by people who have sacrificed their comfort to give away that money. Money is given so that it can serve the affected poor people and not to enhance administration. It is not money for administration, but

for helping the people that are affected by COVID-19. Anyone who touches resources that are given to help the poor people must be punished because those people (donors) suffered for that money, they could have used it for themselves, but they said, 'let us help the poor people in poor countries like Zambia, so that the people can benefit,'" Mbula said.

"So for an official who is paid by government to misuse the money, it is not fair! The laws are there, it is just implementation, the laws are very clear that if you steal, you should be prosecuted..." *Continues on page 3*

Lungu is not worried about those who want to challenge his nomination – Chipampe

By Julia Malunga
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu is not worried by the eligibility case and he is standing in next year's general election, says Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe.

And Chipampe says Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya was quoted out of context on her remarks to traditional leaders about social cash transfer.

In an interview, Chipampe said President Lungu was not moved by the ongoing national debate surrounding his eligibility ahead of next year's general election because the period from 2015 to 2016 did not count as a term.

"The President is going to stand, he is going to be the (PF) candidate because he is eligible, he qualifies to stand. This issue was resolved by the court judgement which everyone saw. The matter is closed as everyone is saying. The matter is not in any way related to Bill 10. If you remember very well, in Bill 10 if you check, there is nowhere where there is mention of the President's eligibility or ineligibility to stand. As far as he is concerned, it is closed. He is not worried in any way, he is going to stand and he is not moved, he is going to stand because that was not a term as the ruling from the

ConCourt stated. The 2015 to 2016 (period) was not a term. A term should be at least three years as you know that is what the ruling said and that is what the President is saying. The President did not cover three years between 2015 and 2016," Chipampe said.

And Chipampe said Siliya clarified that she was lobbying for traditional leaders to have access to the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) rather than trying to defraud government.

"I think the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Honorable, clarified on Tuesday on that issue that she is not a tribalist as people were portraying her. And also that she did not try to defraud... from what I heard, she was just lobbying for them (traditional leaders) to have access to those donations. She did not in any way try to defraud. And also that she was quoted out of context. I am not trying to speak on her behalf, but that is what she said. So, based on that, it's better we let this case rest," said Chipampe.

Last week, when addressing traditional leaders, Siliya advised them to lie that they were poor and vulnerable whenever they faced SCT officers so that they can benefit from the funds to "buy clothes and look smart."

"I have heard that you traditional leaders don't benefit from Social Cash

Transfer (SCT). We are here to tap about issues that affect our lives, we must not forget. I have heard that you are not benefiting, but the government has said if that was the case, it must not continue. Headmen should be taking social cash transfer as well. So those of you who would like to benefit

from SCT, you must go to the DC's office so that you can be told how to do it. They will ask you questions:

Does your house have iron sheets? Yes

Do you own cattle? Yes

Do you own a bicycle? Yes

How many times do you eat? You say we manage to eat

four times a day..." said Siliya.

"As you are answering the machine is recording. It will say that you are not a poor person and you cannot benefit with such answers. Let me share some wisdom with you: if you want to benefit from Social Cash Transfer, the DC will teach you that even when

you live in a house with iron sheets, don't say the truth so that you can be included on the Social Cash Transfer programme. That way, you can have money to buy shoes and bicycles so that you look presentable. As a government, we know that you traditional leaders have a lot of problems."

3 claim 48 houses, drag ACC to court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A TANZANIAN national has dragged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to the Lusaka High Court seeking an order that he is the beneficial owner of 'the famous 48 houses' and as such he should be granted possession of the properties.

Uziel Bashire, who is currently residing in Norway, along with two other plaintiffs; Zuberi Bigawa, also a Tanzanian national and Bashire's cousin, as well as, Charles Loyana who is currently operating at the Ministry of Finance as senior accountant, have sued ACC for seizing their property.

The three want a declaration that the Notice issued pursuant to the Anti-Corruption Commission (Disposal of Recovered Property) Regulations, 2004 directed to Loyana and certain other individuals regarding Bashire's properties no longer has effect in light of the rightful owner claiming the properties.

Bashire, Bigawa and Loyana also want a declaration that the arbitrary seizure and continuation of holding on of the properties by ACC despite the claim made by the rightful owner is unlawful and illegal.

The plaintiffs who are in this matter represented by Willis Muhanga of Messrs AKM Legal Practitioners further want an Order for ACC to account and pay to Bashire all the income received as rentals from the date of the seizure to the date of the Order and or in the alternative mesne profits.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court principal registry, the plaintiffs stated that Bashire was involved in international business among others investing in Real Estate, while Bigawa was involved in provision of general construction services.

They added that Loyana was currently operating at the Ministry of Finance as Senior Accountant and outside his employment conducts various businesses.

The trio stated that in 2011, Bashire decided to invest in real estate in Zambia.

The plaintiffs added that to achieve this, Bashire through a Power of Attorney dated November 25, 2011, appointed

his cousin Bigawa and gave him power to nominate and delegate to a trusted Zambian to purchase and develop real estate properties in Zambia for which Bashire would be the beneficial owner and or subsequently as an absolute owner.

Bashire, Bigawa and Loyana stated that pursuant to the said Power of Attorney, Bigawa searched for a trusted Zambian and finally settled for Loyana who by a Special Power of Attorney dated January 5, 2012 was appointed to among others: Negotiate, sign and execute with the seller any document related to any real estate purchased by him on behalf of Bashire.

"In addition to the powers granted in the Power of Attorney, it was agreed by all the parties that Loyana would receive a commission of 5 percent for any property purchased. It was also agreed that Bashire would channel funds to be used for purchasing the properties to his cousin Bigawa, who in turn would give cash to Loyana to effect payment to any seller or provider of any services. Instructions were also given to Loyana to prioritise finding suitable land for construction of several residential housing units," read the claim.

"Loyana will aver that he seized the opportunity to earn a commission and executed the Power of Attorney. He began searching for suitable land and he finally saw an advert in the paper that Lombe Bwalya and Associates of Lusaka had some land for sale. Together with Bigawa they contacted them, viewed the land and were happy with it."

The plaintiffs stated that on May 23, 2012, Loyana received the first payment of K60,000 cash from Bigawa, signed for it and on May 26, 2012 he paid to Lombe Bwalya & Associates for purchase of Plots 36 H & I at K30,000 each.

They stated that on 27 and 29 May 2012, Loyana received a total sum of K120, 000 cash from Bigawa and signed for it, adding that on May 29, 2012, he made two payments of K60,000.00 each to Lombe Bwalya & Associates for Plots 36 N and O and Plots 36 D and E.

The three further stated that between July 23, 2012 and December 30, 2013, Loyana received, on different dates and

in different amounts, total cash amounting to K885,000 from Bigawa to purchase a number of Plots from Lombe Bwalya & Associates.

"Bigawa will aver that he received various amounts of money from Bashire through various Tanzanian payment Systems which he withdrew and converted to the Zambian Kwacha, brought it to Zambia and gave cash to Loyana who signed for it and paid to Lombe Bwalya & Associates. Once a Plot was identified and part payment made towards it, Lombe Bwalya & Associates granted access to him and he commenced construction works on behalf of Bashire," read the claim further.

The plaintiffs stated that construction commenced in 2012 and in or about June 2014 completion of construction of the first 12 units was completed and about August 2014 the units were occupied by various tenants.

They added that the money received from rentals in addition to some money from Bashire was used to build more units and by December 2014 another 12 units were completed bringing the total to 24 units as being complete.

The plaintiffs stated that in 2016, Bashire travelled to Zambia to check on the said project of constructing residential housing units in Lusaka, adding that he visited the site and was impressed with the development.

"Loyana through his brother-in-law a lawyer by the name of Charles Sinkala, assisted and Mr Chali Chitala of then GM Legal Practitioners of Kitwe was identified as a lawyer to help them deal with the issue of ownership of the property in favour of Bashire. Mr Chali Chitala was retained. It was further agreed that until all the legal formalities were completed, the properties would be dealt with through Mr Chali Chitala as the Lawyer who accepted the responsibility and charged K200,000 for his services," read the claim.

The plaintiffs stated that arising from the said discussions and agreements, Chitala signed forms which resulted in the properties being held in his name and the Tenancy Agreements for the 24 units were then effected in his name.

They stated that in December

2017, six more units were completed bringing the total to 30 units.

The plaintiffs stated that income realised from the properties was equally being used to construct more units.

They added that the various properties referred to herein were not yet on title and were only bearing property descriptions as stated on various receipts issued by Lombe Bwalya & Associates.

The plaintiffs further stated that sometime in 2018, Loyana was summoned by ACC officers for an interview, wherein he was asked about his family matters and what business he was doing.

They stated that during the interviews, ACC officers never asked Loyana about the properties that were under investigations now in question.

The trio stated that after the interviews, the officers conducted a search at Loyana's bakery, home and at his office.

The three stated that on or about August 15, 2018, ACC issued a Restriction Notice under section 60 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act no.3 of 2012 directed to Loyana, and five others being his wife Suzan Sinkala, Mr Chali Chitala, Bruce Shikahu, Messrs Lombe Bwalya and Associates and Khankara and Company.

They stated that ACC stated that it was conducting investigations into offences alleged or suspected to have been committed under Part III of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act no.3 of 2012.

"It came to the knowledge of Loyana that about nine days after the Restriction Notice aforesaid, on or about August 24 2018, ACC had issued a Gazette Notice now directed to Loyana and six other persons; his wife Suzan Sinkala, Mr Chali Chitala, Bruce Shikahu, Messrs Lombe Bwalya and Associates, Ishmail Zuneid Mohamed Yousuf and Khankara and Company, wherein the defendant issued a Schedule in which they described properties whose Plot Numbers in the notices were completely different from those appearing on the receipts as issued by the seller Lombe Bwalya & Associates and in which Notice it was stated that the said properties described therein had been..." *Continues on page 4*

We need to prosecute erring controlling officers to stop abuse – Mbula

From page 2

"...but it is the question of implementing that, who is going to implement? If many people are involved in that kind of thing, it starts from the top, middle, then bottom. If we can clean up all these areas, then we can see action. During Mwanawasa's time, he talked against corruption everywhere he turned, he mentioned that and people were aware that if they do this, this will happen to them. Indeed, there are examples...if you did something, the president took action and you found that fewer people were getting involved in corruption because they knew the consequences. The laws are quite adequate, I can tell you. But it is people to implement and enforce those areas. Enforcement is the weakest area."

And Mbula called for the arrest and prosecution of all controlling officers found wanting.

"Now, it is also important to realise that sometimes when they say, 'misuse', it's either it was used for public purposes, but not for the purpose intended, that is not too bad. But someone pockets the money then that is theft, it is not misused. If someone puts the money into his pocket instead of the intended purpose, then they must be dealt with. If the Auditor General could be very specific because sometimes money is not put to the exact use or intended, but it is taken to another use, which is for public interest as far as the Auditor General is concerned. In that case, it becomes difficult to criminalise a person because he didn't use that money for his personal purpose. But where cases are approved and in fact money was taken into the pockets of an individual, then that is a criminal offence, so that case can be built on the concerned parties," said Mbula.

"Otherwise, it becomes difficult to prosecute someone who did not use the money for himself, but for government purposes. There are cases where funds are donated and people want to use that money to buy fuel to go to the project; they want to use that money to get talktime so that they can communicate that is abuse, that is misuse. They are supposed to be paid fuel allowances or they are supposed to draw from the government reserve so that they can visit those projects."



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By Ulande Nkomesha

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has written to three PF members of parliament asking them to exculpate themselves for absenting themselves from voting for Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019.

The three members of parliament are Kamfinsa MP Elalio Musonda, Chifubu MP Frank Ng'ambi and Mwansabombwe MP Kabaso Kampampi.

In a similar letter sent to

Mwila threatens to discipline 3 PF MPs who didn't vote for Bill 10

all of them, Mwila questioned why they decided not to vote when President Edgar Lungu directed that all MPs must vote for Bill 10 as it had progressive clauses.

"It has come to my attention that during the

voting for the Constitution Amendment Bill No 10 of 2020, on Thursday 29th October, 2020, you decided to absent yourself from voting for the Bill. Hon Member, you are aware that His Excellency, the President had directed that all our Members of Parliament vote for the Constitution Amendment Bill No 10 of 2019 as it had progressive clauses that would have seen us uplift the lives of the less privileged in society, I find your action not line with the party's interest and in breach of article 74, regulation 29)d) and (l) of the party constitution. I therefore give you seven days to exculpate yourself why disciplinary action should not be taken against you," wrote Mwila.

But Monze Central UPND MP Jack Mwiimbu yesterday rose on a point of order wanting to know whether Mwila was in order to try and discipline the three MPs

when they had Parliamentary privileges.

"I would like to raise a point of order on the privileges of MPs in this House. Madam Chairperson, I would like to raise a point of order on the PF, and Her Honour the Vice-President who is also the Vice-President of the PF. Madam Chairperson, my point of order is based on section three of the Parliamentary Privileges Act. I am raising this point of order on Her Honour the Vice-President as Vice-President of the Party and also the Secretary General of the PF. Madam Chairperson, are the three individuals I have mentioned in order to take disciplinary action against three members of Parliament who enjoy privileges in this House?" asked Mwiimbu.

"Three letters have been issued and have been written to the honourable members for Mwansabombwe, the honourable member for

Chifubu and the honourable member for Kamfinsa for having not voted for Bill 10. I am raising a point of order to know why these three individuals I have mentioned are violating the rights of members of parliament who enjoy privileges in this House. Are they in order to take disciplinary action against the three members of parliament whilst they enjoy privileges in this House? I seek your serious ruling."

In her ruling, First Deputy Speaker Catherine Namugala said while she could not dictate anything regarding PF's internal affairs, she could only act if Mwiimbu provided evidence that the three MPs had happened in the House.

"My ruling, of course as you will guess is that I am not competent to rule on a matter that has to do with the internal issues of the Patriotic Front. Unless of course as you have

said yourself you can show evidence that those particular members are being punished for what they have done in the House, while enjoying their privileges as members of parliament. That is my ruling. But as to what the Patriotic Front does with its members, how they manage their party, I am not competent but to the extent that the freedoms of the members of parliament that are to be enjoyed in this House are undermined or they are being frustrated, and you can lay on the table evidence to that extent, then of course I will have jurisdiction to deal with that matter. For now, that is my ruling," said Namugala.

On Friday last week, Ng'ambi rose on a point of order and asked the National Assembly to add his vote to the 105 MPs who voted for Bill 10, claiming that even if he supported the Bill, his vote did not count as the electronic system froze.

HH asks High Court to dismiss case in which he was sued over Kalomo land

From page 2

"...plaintiff (Hatwimbo) shows that my Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo consisting of 2222.6549 hectares was marked off by the Surveyor General from the parent title of Farm 1924 of Kalomo, on October 11, 2005, leaving a remainder of 192.9053 hectares," Hichilema stated.

"At no time since 2005 did the plaintiffs or any beneficiary of the estate of the late Samson Siatembo ever complain to the Police or me about the missing certificate of title to the said parent property in Farm No. 1924, Kalomo."

Hichilema stated that Hatwimbo and himself were the signatory of the deeds of assignment relating to Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo prepared by senior counsel Noah Kaponda Dindi of Messrs Dindi and company.

He added that he was registered as a proprietor of the said Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo measuring 2222.6549 hectares and a certificate of title was issued to him by the Registrar of Lands and Deeds on September 22, 2005.

Hichilema stated that the marking off of Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo (from the parent Farm 1924 Kalomo) and the conveyance of the same to him by Hatwimbo was a culmination of his purchase of the distributed portions from Bernard Mazuba who bought 2048 hectares from the estate and from other beneficiaries of the estate including but not limited to Hatembo sometime between 2000 and 2005.

He stated that he had reason to believe that the memories of Hatwimbo and Hatembo have faded since it had been over 15 years since they transacted with the disputed Subdivision "A" of Farm 1924, Kalomo.

Hichilema said he had been on the same farm since 2005 and that Hatwimbo's brother Douglas has lived on the remaining extent of Farm 1924 Kalomo.

He added that the same Douglas was a witness to the note dated March 4, 2005 signed by the plaintiffs' brother Smith Hatembo when he sold him the portion of 78 hectares.

Hichilema stated that this is a suitable matter for the court to dismiss the plaintiffs' action on a point of law.

3 claim 48 houses

From page 3

"...recovered during the course of an investigation and that they intended to be forfeited to the State if no claim was made within three months of the publication of the said notice," read the claim.

They stated that at the time of ACC seizing the properties, a further 21 units were still under construction bringing the total seized to 51 units.

The Plaintiffs stated that sometime in 2019, they were

shocked to learn through the Newspapers and social media that the Director General for ACC was interviewed and revealed that Mr Chali Chitala the lawyer retained to deal with the property on behalf of Bashire had actually disowned the properties.

"It was also discovered at this point that despite the notices referring to different properties, the defendant had actually taken over the properties for Bashire and the properties were now

commonly referred to as "the famous 48 houses." Bashire will state that upon learning that his properties were seized by ACC, he travelled to Zambia and was interviewed by the defendant's officers and he explained how he was sending money to Bigawa, his cousin for the purchase of plots and construction of houses in Zambia.

The plaintiffs stated that despite Bashire explaining that he was the beneficial owner of the properties, ACC has

continued holding on to the properties illegally and without any lawful justification.

"Bashire through his lawyers then Hobday Kabwe & Co. wrote to the defendant twice requesting for removal of the seizure notices on the properties in Chalala but the defendant has neglected, ignored and or refused to hand back the properties to Bashire and they continue to claim that they do not know of any owner," read the claim.

Nkombo accuses ZICTA of recording private conversations

By Natasha Sakala
MAZABUKA Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo has alleged that the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) are infringing on people's right to privacy by recording conversations.

But Transport and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya has refuted Nkombo's allegation, saying ZICTA does not have the capacity to carry out such an exercise.

Speaking in Parliament during debate on the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nkombo said this trend had to come to an end.

"I know you work very closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs on this ZTE CCTV that you are mounting in the country and with ZICTA which is under your department. Minister, many people have argued that those cameras are there in order to monitor crime. Well, that is correct, we are also told that ZICTA have this tendency now of recording conversations thereby infringing with the rights of people's privacy. It is a matter that we have argued even with the people from ZICTA that if this is happening, it better stop. We should not record people's conversations because people require their privacy," Nkombo said.

He urged the ministry to take full advantage of the growth recorded in the ICT sector.

"I think that you have made strides in the internet section because of the social distancing and also the issue of people not co-mingling, the world has generally gone into more sophisticated ways of communicating internet, although it is slow but is has provided a solution. And I think that you as minister responsible for that must take full advantage of the growth of this sector," he said.

He proposed that the ministry should consider clearing the Kafue River and make it navigable for heavy goods.

"My expectation however, minister was that you were speak a little bit more about the other four modes of transportation. You talked about Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, fine. With this COVID-19 in our midst, you will now appreciate that that airport that you built may not get the full potential for this country in terms of being a communicating hub or transport hub in the region and also worldwide. The waterways is something that you did not quite delve on but I want you to know that our rivers require to be cleaned up at every stage. Kafue river for instance is chocked with weed which is commonly known as water hyacinth and it is possible as a matter of fact, we have argued before that if we allow for a bypass at Ithezhitzezi, you could actually make the Kafue river navigable that you can move cargo from Copperbelt up to Kafue and make Kafue an inland border so that you can now load heavy stuff in Kafue onward

to Chirundu and for export or through Livingstone," said Nkombo.

"Minister, the rail transport, it is your government that borrowed money from the Eurobond and you put a staggering US\$120 million into the rail sector. You know very well, you inherited this problem minister, I think you should find a way to make sure that the frail transport system starts to function once again in our country and this is the reason why the cheap methods that your government

has adopted to build our roads, you see that every three months you are resurfacing the roads especially in cities were traffic generally becomes slow, the roads get damaged due to heavy load and cargo."

And Mongu Central UPND member of parliament Dr Mwilola Imakando urged the minister to prioritise investments in economic roads as they will give economic

benefit to the country.

"When you look at the movement of goods and people, they need an intermodal transport system that provides efficient linkages but at the moment we have serious challenges particularly

with economic roads Madam Chairperson. Economic roads leave us wondering whether this ministry does take time to lobby for economic roads. Madam Chairperson, We need to do a lot to create Zambia into a regional hub. There

is need for robust resource mobilisation to ensure that most economic roads are passable all the time. There is need to prioritise investments that give us maximum benefit," said Dr Imakando.

Continues on Page 7

By Natasha Sakala
VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina has urged members of parliament to trust the country's electoral process and engage the Electoral Commission of Zambia whenever they feel aggrieved.

She was speaking in response to a question from Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu who asked whether the Electoral Commission of Zambia had any plans to discard the 2016 voters register, if there were such plans, why and if there were no such plans, how the newly registered voters

would be included in the 2016 register and what mechanism the government used to determine that over 1.4 million voters needed to be deleted from the 2016 voters register.

In her response, Vice-President Wina said the need for a new voters register was as a result of recommendations by stakeholders and an external audit of the register.

"Mr Speaker, in response to the question raised by honourable Mwiimbu, I wish to inform this August House that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) will compile a new register of voters for

Trust electoral process, Wina urges MPs

the 2021 general elections. B, the commission took into consideration the following factors in arriving at the decision made. Credibility of the current register of voters, the House may wish to note that stakeholders questioned the credibility of the voter register that was used in the 2016 general elections. They further requested for an audit of the register before the elections on 11th August 2016. Arriving from stakeholder concerns, external auditors

were engaged with the help of the UNDP under a program called electoral cycle project to audit the 2016 register of voters. One of the recommendations of the auditors was for the commission to compile a new register for the 2021 general elections," Vice-President Wina said.

"Delimitation of electoral boundaries, constituencies, wards, polling districts, polling stations including shifting, renaming of some polling stations. Enhance the integrity of register strengthening, enhanced security features including the capture of biometric data, 10 finger prints and portrait. This will be a requirement of the new register. The UPND petitioned in the courts of law that the 2016 general election results on the basis that the voter register was flawed. International and local observer missions recommended that the commission compiles a new register for the 2021 general elections in order to maintain a credible free and fair electoral process as demanded in a democratic dispensation. Mr Speaker based on these factors, the commission resolved to compile a new register of voters for the 2021 general elections in 2020."

And in response to Chitambo MP who wanted to find out which region the majority of the 1.4 million dead people on the register come from, Vice-President Wina said lack of trust in the process is what causes conflicts after elections.

"Mr Speaker, it is not possible to give statistics as to which province lost more people than the other but what

I urge honourable member of parliament is to have trust in these systems, if we continue to erode that trust, that's where conflicts arise after elections. We should try to ensure that we support ECZ where it is faltering, we give advice and ECZ is committed to consult stakeholders at every move that they make is the electoral process so honourable members have a platform to engage ECZ where they feel that they are not very pleased with the process that is being undertaken by ECZ. That will help us to ensure that there is trust in the electoral process," she said.

In response to a follow up question on whether the current register would be used from Mwiimbu, Vice-President Wina said it would be used because it was the one being cleaned to come up with a new register.

"Mr Speaker, if the honourable member may recollect, what I said was that the old voter register will be used but it will be cleaned and whoever is on that voter register will have to be registered on the new register so that their biometric features are captured and this is I believe what I said. So we are still using the old register, we are taking out the voters from that register unto a new voter register. So the people who appear on the old register have to show themselves before the registration officers so that these new features are captured and then they are included in the new register," said Vice-President Wina.

HH, Kambwili extol Lukuku

By Ulande Nkomesha
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the best way to remember Republican Progressive Party (RPP) president James Kasanda Lukuku, who was on Tuesday afternoon put to rest at Leopards Hill Memorial Park in Lusaka, is by fighting for justice and fairness.

Lukuku passed away on Saturday after being admitted to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) following an illness.

Speaking during the funeral service at Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Lusaka, UPND president Hakainde Hichilema said Lukuku had dedicated his life to fighting for fairness.

"All our members across political parties, the clergy and, indeed, fellow mourners, time is not with us. We would have said a lot of things about our young brother, president Lukuku, but time is not with us. Time is not with us because things that are supposed to be normal, such as a post-mortem takes hours, files go missing as though James was sick for a long time. James was only sick for a few days, how does a file go missing? You create suspicions in the minds of family, in the minds of all of us, but it is a demonstration of the breakdown in systems, the breakdown in institutions leading to, if you like, absence of fairness and injustice to citizens of our country. This is what president Lukuku was fighting against such as what happened this morning," said Hichilema.

"We need to apologise to the mourners that have been here long, it is because systems have collapsed in the country and across all spheres of life, things have collapsed. That is what James fought against, that is what James represented. Our interactions with James

were broad, they were deep. We reached a point where we had gone beyond political party comradeship. I want to thank the family for allowing us as James' extended family, as James' colleagues in the political struggle for a better Zambia. I want to thank party leaders for supporting James, even in his death, this is what we want this country to be, this is what we want citizens of this country to be across the 10 provinces of the country. Let us work more towards inclusion and not exclusion, work towards love and not hatred, but also a just society is all James and all of us are looking for in this country nothing more and I guess nothing less, because this is the only country we have."

And National Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili said it was disheartening that government had not sent a message of condolences to the Lukuku family.

"James, I came to know you when you were in MMD as provincial secretary, very young and vibrant, committed. You wanted a better Zambia. You went into politics, not for positions, but to contribute. If it was not so, you could have been in PF because at one time, you were PF, but you decided to remain in the opposition because your political journey was nothing, but a service to humanity and make Zambia a better place to live. My young brother, I can only say you run your race, you fought your fight, may your soul rest in eternal peace," said Kambwili.

"Fellow mourners, my heart bleeds today, if this is the way we are going to handle politics in Zambia then we are not fit to be called human beings. I am extremely disappointed that from the time James died,

there has not even been a word from the ruling party and the government. Even a word of saying condolences just because he was in the opposition. If it was somebody in the ruling party, all public newspapers, the entire ZNBC could have been [filled] with messages of condolences, but because James was in the opposition, those in government are not even here. This country has got a Minister of Religious Affairs (Rev Godfridah Sumaili) who is paid by taxpayers' money and I personally expected that she was going to send a message of condolences to the Lukuku family, but alas! To no avail. You people in government should be ashamed of yourselves! Politics is not about only those who are in government and politics must not make us look like we are sworn enemies, we are supposed to be a brother's keeper and live side by side as all citizens of Zambia."

Puma sues Disabled Multi Purpose Association over K1.5m debt

By Zondiwe Mbewe
INTERLANDS Motors Limited trading as Puma Filling Station has dragged Disabled Multi Purpose Association of Zambia to the Lusaka High Court, claiming payment of over K1.5 million accrued by the defendant on its fuel and lubricants account.

Puma Filling Station wants an order directing Disabled Multi Purpose Association of Zambia to immediately settle the sum of K1,580,975.43, an order for interest on all payments due until full settlement, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court on Monday, PUMA stated that the defendant (Disabled Multi Purpose Association of Zambia) holds and maintains a fuel and lubricants account with

it and had been making drawings on both fuel and lubricants.

It stated that Disabled Multi Purpose Association of Zambia had accrued the total sum of K1,580,975.43 as drawings under the said fuel and lubricants account.

"The plaintiff will aver at trial that despite several verbal and written reminders to the defendant, Disabled Multi Purpose Association of Zambia has failed or neglected to settle the said sum. As a result of the defendant's failure to settle the outstanding amount, the plaintiff has suffered loss, injury and inconvenience," read the claim.

Puma stated that the failure by the defendant to settle this claim was deliberate and that unless the court makes appropriate orders, the defendant was unlikely to settle the said amount.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Auditor General has revealed that over K6 million was misapplied at various levels under the Ministry of General Education.

According to the Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Republic for the Financial Year ended 31st December, 2019, the General Education Ministry

headquarters misapplied K2,030,195 meant for the school feeding program.

“During the period under review, the Ministry Headquarters misapplied funds in amounts totalling K2,030,195 meant for Primary Education – Home Grown School Feeding and Secondary Educations programmes on

Ministry of General Education misapplied K6m – AG

administrative activities,” the report read.

“Provincial and District Education Offices During the period under review, twenty (20) stations misapplied funds in amounts totalling

K4,695,155 meant for school grants on activities such

as procurement of fuel, imprest, and payment of subsistence allowances.”

The report further revealed that over K9 million in school fees was uncollected by 31 institutions.

“During the period under review, school fees in amounts totalling K99,708,153 were expected to be collected by thirty-one (31) institutions out of which K90,098,389 was collected leaving a balance of K9,609,764,” it read.

It was further revealed that 42 officers who were no longer with the ministry were retained on the payroll and were irregularly paid a total of K1,363,185.

“Public Service Management Division (PSMD) Circular No. B1 of 2019 provides that deceased employees who are not

eligible for posthumous retirement should be deleted from the payroll with effect from the date of their demise and clause (d) stipulates that employees who are separated from employment by way of resignation, dismissal or discharge should be terminated from the payroll with effect from the date of resignation, dismissal or discharge. However, forty-two (42) officers who were separated from the service through death, resignation or dismissal were retained on the payroll for periods ranging from one (1) to forty-two (42) months. In this regard, the officers were irregularly paid amounts totalling K1,363,185,” the report read.

Further, 169 teachers were paid allowances totalling K1,676,587 without authority. *Continues on P10*

By Stuart Lisulo

FIRST Quantum Minerals (FQM) Limited has posted a record quarterly copper output of over 211,000 metric tonnes in the third quarter of this year, up 10 per cent compared to the same period last year, mainly boosted by its Kalumbila-based Sentinel mining unit.

And FQM says it is working to manage the logistical challenges presented by the closure of trade borders in response to the Coronavirus pandemic by using alternative routes where feasible.

In a statement announcing its 2020 third quarter financial results, FQM posted a total of 211,396 tonnes of copper in the period ending September 30, up from 192,510 tonnes produced in the corresponding period last year, mainly boosted by increased productive output at Sentinel Copper Mine, among other units.

“211,396 tonnes of total copper production in the quarter, 10 per cent higher than the same period in 2019, due to record production at both Sentinel and Cobre Panama. Sentinel performed exceptionally in the quarter, achieving its highest ever quarterly production of 70,829 tonnes and record low cash costs. Increased throughput and higher grades resulted in the 25 per cent increase in copper production from the same period in 2019, while lower maintenance costs, lower fuel prices and currency depreciation drove improved unit costs,” FQM stated in a news release.

“Performance at Cobre Panama was strong as it ramped up from preservation and safe maintenance in July to full production levels in August, slightly ahead of expectation. Copper production in the quarter was 62,055 tonnes, significantly higher than the same period in 2019. Kansanshi performed consistently during the quarter. Copper production of 54,430 tonnes was slightly lower than Q3 2019 as a result of reduced grades and recoveries despite increased throughput. Cash costs were lower driven by currency depreciation and lower fuel costs. Production guidance for 2020 has been updated. Total copper production expected for 2020 has been increased to between 750,000 – 785,000 tonnes; gold production expected is now to be between 245,000 – 260,000 ounces and nickel production expectation has been reduced to 13,000 – 15,000 tonnes.”

On the other hand, sales revenues jumped 42 per cent to over US \$1.4 billion in the period ending September 30 compared to the corresponding period last year,

FQM posts 211,000 tonnes in Q3 copper output

partly driven by increased sales volumes at its Solwezi-based Kansanshi Mining unit.

“Sales revenues for the quarter of \$1,402 million, an increase of 42 per cent from the comparable period of 2019, were primarily driven by the commercial sales volumes of copper and gold from Cobre Panama, increased sales volumes at Kansanshi and higher realised metal prices,” it stated.

And FQM stated that it

was working to manage the logistical challenges presented by the closure of trade borders in response to the Coronavirus pandemic by using alternative routes where feasible.

“COVID-19 had a direct impact at Cobre Panama where the operation was placed on preservation and safe maintenance beginning April 7, 2020, following Panamanian government restrictions related to COVID-19. The company’s other operations

have not been significantly impacted by restrictions arising from COVID-19. The company has not experienced any significant disruption to supply chains and product shipments since the onset of the pandemic. The company is working to manage the logistical challenges presented by the closure of trade borders, using alternative routes where feasible. Border restrictions, if ongoing, could result in supply chain delays,” stated FQM.

BoZ has stabilised kwacha to K20.30 per dollar, claims Mvunga

By Natasha Sakala

BANK of Zambia (BoZ) governor Christopher Mvunga says despite the economic challenges the country is facing, the Central Bank has managed to stabilise the kwacha at an average range of K20.30 per dollar.

Speaking when he officiated at the PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Zambia bank and non-bank survey launch, Mvunga said the Central Bank had managed to stabilise the kwacha using Monetary Policy instruments.

However, the local currency was trading at around K20.50 per dollar by lunchtime, Wednesday.

With dollar liquidity constrained, the USD/ZMW has been trending upwards in recent days and nearly broke through the K21.00 threshold in Tuesday’s trading session.

“I am sure that by now it’s on the public domain that government does take cognisance of the fact that it’s critical that we resolve the debt issue to create the fiscal space and enhance the ongoing conversation that is taking place between the Ministry of Finance and the various creditors to try and see how we can deal with the debt sustainability issue, including debt restructuring, which would, in-turn, as alluded to that we have foreign currency loans that once you do your debt restructuring and deferment, will create some form of space in order to decelerate the demand for foreign exchange, which hopefully will lead us to a situation where we can stabilise the exchange rate,” Mvunga said in Lusaka, Tuesday.

“I am also glad to say that despite these hard times, we have managed to stabilise it, somehow around the K20.30, K20.40 on the last couple of weeks and I am sure we still be looking at that in terms of what other measures can we put in place to ensure that one of the key macro-economic indicators is actually stable, which is good for business as well. But those are things that we will cover during the analysis of the (Monetary) Policy Committee and a comprehensive feedback will be provided once we have completed that exercise.”

He observed that the K10 billion

Medium Term Refinancing Facility was insufficient, hence the need for the banking sector to come on board and support the country’s economic recovery.

“So, from the central bank point of view, we are engaging, yes, there have been some bottlenecks in terms of challenges on the disbursement of this facility. But I met commercial bank CEOs last week, that’s one of the topical areas that we discussed in terms of how we fast-track this process and ensure that we pass on the much-needed benefit to the businesses out here that are hurting because of lack of financing and support in terms of credit extension. I should also hasten to say that given where COVID-19 is in Zambia, I don’t even think that the K10 billion is adequate and we need to think beyond more stimulus for the businesses out there in terms of what we, as the central bank, as the banks themselves, do. It should not be restricted to the central bank. The banks have a role to play because they have got customers and if those customers disappear off your balance sheet, your business is in trouble. So, it’s a collective responsibility between the private sector and the central bank and the government at large to ensure that we embark on a journey where it’s collaborative, supportive because the benefit is for all of us,” he said.

“And I am urging the banks that, in such a situation, we need to preserve the businesses out there to ensure that they don’t die because it’s very difficult to revive them once they have been closed. How do we do that? The commercial banks and the non-bank institutions have a critical role to play and when we talk about innovation, let’s not just talk about innovation of products, let’s talk about innovation of thinking and the processes as well. I have got no doubt in mind that the businesses need support from the financial service providers. We are not seeing as much as we would love to see as a central bank in terms of credit extension to private sector by the commercial banks and my ask is: can you relook at your processes, can you innovate given the circumstances

that we are in, given the constraints that we’re faced with to ensure that that credit goes to the private sector so they can actually resume their business activities? The more we starve them of the credit, the more the industry is vulnerable and the more the economic activity will reverse.”

And Mvunga announced that K500 million from the K10 billion facility was expected to be disbursed this week, bringing the total to around K3 billion.

“Of that, I can actually give you an update that we are pushing hard as a central bank in conjunction with the commercial banks and the non-banking financial service providers, who qualify to administer this facility on our behalf. The latest position as we stand is that the total approved is K6.4 billion. So, approved, it’s approved by the central bank for the financial services providers to onward lend to their customers. There is a process before that, which the financial services providers themselves need to look at their customers internally and do an assessment whether they should proceed or not. For the amounts disbursed, so far we have disbursed K2.45 billion. I am very confident that there will be an additional disbursement of K500 million within the course of this week, which will bring the disbursements to K3 billion,” said Mvunga

And Bankers’ Association of Zambia (BAZ) chairperson Herman Kasekende said that investments in social sectors could only be done when the country’s debt reached sustainable levels.

“There are conversations with the IMF, conversations with G-20 and, of course, there are conversations with lenders from China and all these I think are meant to ensure that the country gets to a debt sustainability level of affordability and that will bring a lot more confidence into the economy, but also will create space for investments into the social sectors.

We have got a higher percentage of Zambians under the age of 16, they need to be educated. We have got the challenges of COVID-19, we need a lot more interventions or investments into the health and there are others in areas of infrastructure, but that cannot happen until the fiscal space is actually created and key on that is to ensure that the debt service gets to a level where it’s affordable and it’s sustainable and that is I think the key intervention or the key actions around that,” said Kasekende, who is also Standard Chartered Bank Zambia Limited chief executive officer.

Meanwhile, PwC country senior partner Andrew Chibuye said that Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) had increased to 12.6 per cent from around 8 per cent last year

“For commercial banks, we had started to turn a corner between 2018/2019 with the Non-Performing Loan ratio reducing from 9.5 per cent to just above 8 per cent. If you extrapolate that to June, 2020, that is now at 12.6 per cent. So, we have started to see a fairly significant reversal in the gains that have been made,” said Chibuye in a presentation of the findings.

“We then analysed the trends on the loans disbursed on a quarter-by-quarter basis going back to the first quarter of 2019. And you see that the first quarter of 2019, K14.7 billion was disbursed; quarter two was K5.8 billion. We are currently at the end of quarter two of 2020 and we are at K4.781 billion so, it’s trending downwards. Obviously, there is a lot more selectivity around credit risk in this particular environment, but it’s hoped that that will start to turn around as the country continues to open up and more business activity begins to take place. If you look at the absolute number of loans issued, you can see that between quarter two of 2019, where two million loans were issued; quarter two of 2020, 745,000, so that’s a fairly dramatic turnaround reduction.”

By Julia Malunga
LUSAKA Lawyer Joseph Chirwa says after reading the judgement of the Constitutional Court, it is clear that President Edgar Lungu is eligible for 2021 because he has only served one term.

In an interview, Chirwa said the duration of President Lungu's stay in office the first time he was elected does not constitute a term of office.

"After reading the

ConCourt judgement clear, Lungu eligible for 2021 – Chirwa

judgment of the Constitution Court, [it] is [clear] that the President is eligible. The court was asked whether the time from 2015 to 2016 amounted to a term, the court ruled that,

that was not a term. Based on the ruling of the court, I conquer with it that President Lungu is eligible to stand in 2021. I don't know whether the President Lungu wants to

stand or he doesn't want, it's up to him. This is a person who has already stood, he knows the political terrain, so instead of going to look for another candidate, he should be the

one to stand," said Chirwa.

"The beauty of being a lawyer is that you are allowed to express your own opinion. There is politics and what the law says. When you start

advising a party on what it should do then I don't think you are speaking as lawyer but as a politician. The Central Committee of the PF endorsed President Lungu as the presidential candidate for 2021 as the highest authority, so whatever ordinary members say does not carry weight. And the President has not said he doesn't want to stand."

On Monday, Constitutional Lawyer John Sangwa, State Counsel, said with the defeat of Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019, his next assignment was to make sure that he challenged President Lungu's nomination next year.

"Well, even if Bill 10 had succeeded, I already told you that we had plan B on challenging Lungu's nomination. That has not changed. In fact the only thing that has changed is that we are going with the original plan. Thea petition is already written and polished, I am just waiting for the date when the President will file his nomination, that's it. The law is very clear that the man doesn't not qualify and so with the downfall of Bill 10, my next assignment is to challenge his nomination," said Sangwa.

Mobile NRC issuance phase 2 was 87% successful – Kampyongo

By Natasha Sakala
HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says the second phase of the mobile issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) was a success, with 632,363 NRCs issued out of the 730,000 target.

Speaking when he rendered a Ministerial Statement in Parliament, Tuesday, Kampyongo announced that the NRC mobile issuance programme had achieved an 87 per cent success rate.

"Mr Speaker, phase two of the mobile issuance of National Registration Cards started on 20th September, 2020, in Central, Lusaka, Muchinga, Southern and Western provinces after the successful completion of phase one in the other five provinces. Operations during the first five days were slow owing to logistical challenges during the movement of materials and equipment from the phase one provinces. As a result of this, registration teams could not be deployed to far-flung areas during these first few days. It is for this reason that government saw it fit to extend the mobile registration period for five days to end on 4th November, 2020," Kampyongo said.

"Mr Speaker, the target for phase two of the mobile national registration exercise was 730,000 National Registration Cards. So far, 632,363 NRCs have been issued, representing 87 per cent success rate. I wish to thank the honourable members of parliament, traditional leaders and other stakeholders for participating in the exercise by encouraging all eligible persons to obtain National Registration Cards."

He, however, noted that there were some challenges in the process such as isolated cases of foreign nationals who tried to obtain NRCs, among others.

"Mr Speaker, it goes without saying that some challenges were encountered during this mammoth undertaking, but the

Ministry worked closely with stakeholders who were at hand to address them. Mr Speaker, some instances, where unscrupulous individuals were taking advantage of unsuspecting applicants by charging for affidavits were reported in Lusaka District and the Ministry quickly moved in to deploy police officers to keep the situation in check. In addition, isolated cases of foreign nationals attempting to obtain National Registration Cards and Zambians attempting to obtain two or more NRCs were reported. Fortunately, law enforcement agencies were on hand to arrest perpetrators and the said offenders will be appearing in court soon," he said.

He added that the lack of communication with district commissioners was what raised concerns among members of parliament, who complained about the execution of the process.

"Mr Speaker, arising from complaints received on the floor of this House that the issuance of National Registration Cards was selective, I personally went on the ground to Southern Province and established that, in fact, the problem was the lack of coordination and proper communication on the ground. Mr Speaker, it was discovered that the district leadership in the province made a schedule and allocated dates when registration teams were going to visit each identified registration centre. However, because of the lack of communication between the office of the district commissioners and some members of parliament, applicants were being ferried from centres, which were yet to be attended to, to the district office or to registration centres where registration was ongoing. This, in many cases, created long queues and led to the many complaints that honourable members of parliament were receiving from their constituencies. I am happy to report that

during my visit this situation was addressed," he said.

"The challenge has been lack of communication and lack of respect for the district commissioners' office in many cases. That's what has caused a number of challenges in many areas. Other challenges are where people want to take advantage of the exercise by representing people, who are not their relatives as deponents must be either parents, blood relatives or official guardians."

He said all sub-district and district registration offices will remain open for those that missed the mobile exercise.

"I wish to conclude by saying that all district and sub-district registration offices will remain open in case there are eligible persons who might have missed the mobile registration exercise. In order to afford those who have lost National Registration Cards easy access to replacement, I have extended the suspension of the requirement of a police report, until the end of the voter registration exercise," said Kampyongo.



Nkombo accuses ZICTA of recording private conversations

From Page 5

BUT in response to Nkombo, Transport and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya dispelled allegations of ZICTA recording private conversations saying they do not have the capacity to undertake the activity.

"The MP for Mazabuka central said very important things which I really

appreciate and worried me when he intimated that ZICTA may be recording conversations. I think I want to make it very clear that ZICTA is a regulator of the ICT sector, ZICTA is not an operator. Operations of

telecoms happen at Airtel, MTN and Zamtel. ZICTA does not have capacity to record conversations, they only regulate the business that goes on in these operators' and beyond telecoms to ICTs generally," said Kafwaya.

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Arrest debt, not Kandeta

THE arrest and detention of Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta has been boggling our minds for days now, and the longer we wait to understand the real story behind the scenes, the more confusing the matter gets. On the surface, this is a matter that doesn't make sense even to the police who arrested Mr Kandeta. So, we have been thinking that there must be something else that motivated this arrest than meets the eye.

We must also hasten to mention that it shocks us to learn that Mr Kandeta is the person who could be going into police cells for allegedly leaking a government document. Frankly speaking, Mr Kandeta is not the most accessible Ministry spokesperson. A few journalists will agree with us that it is common to call Mr Kandeta without getting your call answered, and it is also common to send a message to his phone and not get a response. So, we are impressed that there are journalists and media houses out there, which had this level of access to Mr

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Kandeta. But that is a story for another day. Today, we would like to understand the forces behind the arrest of this otherwise tightly-lipped civil servant, on a charge that relates to leaking government information.

According to the police, Kandeta and his colleague Lazarous Mwelwa, a Budget Analyst at the Ministry of Finance were arrested for the offence of "Communication of Certain Information", contrary to section 4 chapter 111 of the State Security Act. Police say the duo was released over the weekend, pending court appearance, at the discretion of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Now, like many people, we don't understand this charge and it does not make sense to us.

Surely, we must be ashamed as a country

that a charge such as this one exists in our penal code. We would be happy to interview the person who drafted the penal code so that we understand the reasoning behind this senseless classification of a crime. But we are certain that this is a case of copy paste, a case of using laws copied from other jurisdictions. A charge in a criminal case has to, at the very least, make sense even in the framing. What is "communicating certain information?" What is the definition of certain information? We ask because this charge sounds like something a police officer can use to arrest any citizen walking on the street. How do you even defend yourself in court when you are accused of "communicating certain information?" These are the laws our government must be revising, not sticking to Bill 10, like a tick on a

dead animal. Even if we were to assume that the "certain information" that Kandeta and Mwelwa are accused of communicating is the 2021 budget speech, is this government telling us that there is no one left to do some reasoning inside there and advise against such embarrassment? You have a debt crisis on your hands, your budget has failed to meet the aspirations of the people. The creditors are knocking heavily on your door and you have no repayment plan for your colossal debt, and the best you can do is to arrest a Ministry spokesperson for leaking a budget speech? Come on! The problem Zambia is facing is not the leaked budget, it is the debt mismanagement. Arrest the debt, not Mr Kandeta.

The PF government

cannot vent its budget frustrations on Kandeta and Mwelwa. There is nothing these two poor civil servants did to warrant this harassment. They are not in charge of the Treasury, they are not responsible for the uncontrolled borrowing, and they are not the ones who advised government to get the Eurobond. The government must not behave like the budget would have had better fiscal solutions if it was not leaked to the press. What was in that budget speech that deserved to be kept secret anyway?

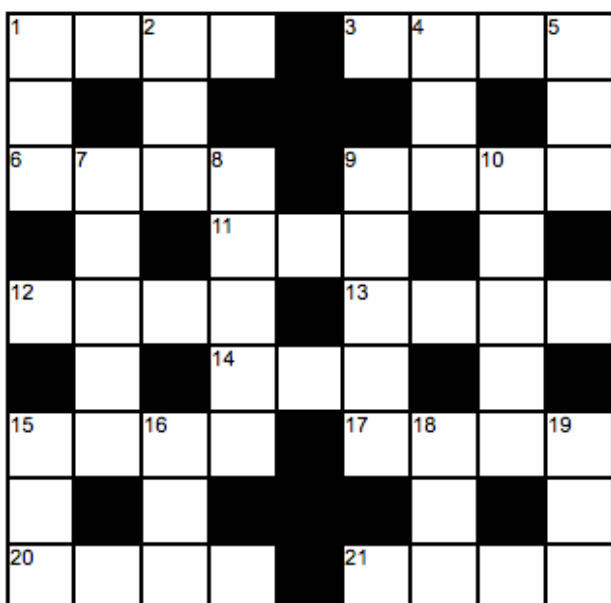
Like everyone has already pointed out, if Kandeta is guilty of releasing the budget speech to selected media houses before it was presented in Parliament, this is simply because that is what a competent Ministry spokesperson is expected to do. As a media practitioner,

Kandeta knows that a big volume document takes time for journalists to digest and report, and so it is common practice that a speech of that kind is released ahead of time under embargo.

So, we wonder how the entire DPP's office is going to spend money prosecuting a case like this one. Doesn't it hurt to waste such precious time? Are there not enough crimes that deserve the time and resources? From where we stand, criminals in this government are so plenty and some of them are occupying the most powerful offices in the land. These are the criminals who have jeopardised Zambia's State security. Since they got into those offices, they have been making selfish decisions and exposing our country to foreign criminal elements. These criminals have been seen wining and dining with other most powerful leaders, cutting corrupt deals within dubious government contracts. Those are the criminals who must be arrested.

Free Kandeta and Mwelwa!

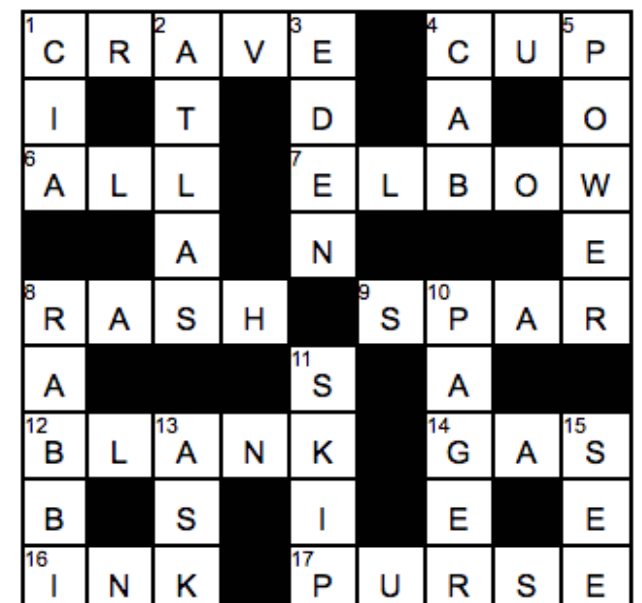
Crossword puzzle No 725



"Do not be afraid to bare your teeth - you were not brought into this world covered in blood to become a gentle, tamed thing"
- Nichole McElhaney

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tootpaste container 3. Bouncy toy 6. Skewer 9. Innermost part 11. Kanga's kid 12. Capable 13. Repulsive to look at 14. Earth's atmosphere 15. Extend credit 17. Second hand sound 20. Stitched up 21. Scot's family | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Between las and dos 2. Constrictor snake 4. In the past 5. Tell a fib 7. Dining room furniture 8. Sandwich covering 9. Legal setting 10. Museum piece 15. Part of UCLA 16. Not used before 18. Ailing 19. Mattel doll |
|--|--|

Crossword puzzle No 724



Readers' Feedback



'Dora exposing her arrogance for refusing to apologise for asking Easterners to emulate how Southerners vote

Editor,
 "This arrogance by Dora is immeasurable but expected as Edgar her appointing authority is toothless to deal with such people fueling division". - Keith Moono
 "The Presidential vote eludes them for that very arrogance. How does one in a position of leadership add salt to injury of costly remarks cement it with the arrogance that is so lacking in remorse? I pity her followers". - Usas Alawayum
 "We shall apologize for you in the ballot box, hope you are ready to be in the opposition". - Zulu Taciturn
 "The same way she made MMD unpopular she has gone ahead to do it to PF...she is specialized in helping ruling party's lose power..too bad PF are drunk with temporal political power and they can't see it". - Elias Musyani
 "Very sad for a leader who represents the govt in power to encourage such which in her thought is just about elections, whilst not knowing that they are influencing hatred across the Zambian tribes". - Noah Prince Banda
 "2021 won't be PF vs UPND its going to be wrong vs right, good vs evil. The arrogance is very worrying". - Sikalele M. Xulu
 "So being an Easterner she expects me to vote using emotions rather than my brain?!" - Maimbolwa Kamanga

Mismanagement of K1.3 Billion Covid funds

Editor,
 "Whenever PF sees money, it's an opportunity to steal. When these were being donated all these fears were rised. Inonge Wina defended the whole process. These are people who steal and as long as they are in government they will continue". - Siciabi Mooya
 "This money was a donation to the Lungu administration by the West, which seeks to finance the corrupt regime's reelection campaign. We all knew where the grants would end up". - Mudukula Mudukula
 "Ninshi kulaibafye anything and any how? Where is ACC, DEC and other law enforcement agencies? Surely we can not live like this as a country!". - Jeff G Chungu
 "They are looting money from public accounts into their individual accounts so as to fund their 2021 campaigns. Donors should stop giving money to this corrupt government. They are shameless thieves!". - Chanda Pochoko
 "This is PFs legacy. A group of intellectually challenged thieves!". - WeGather
 "PF is on record as the worst nightmare to be in charge of the once prosperous Zambia. Sadly, when we talk some humble guy calls us fools. Listen you government officials, you are there to manage prudently and not loot. A day of reckoning is coming. We won't spare you. Nothing like this is a Christian nation to cover up your thuggery. Anyone found guilty must be jailed!". - Kgosi George

'Police a joke for arresting 3 UPND members for holding private meeting'

Editor,
 "Wait, what crime did they commit exactly? Ninshi UPND members aren't allowed to meet to discuss party affairs in their own homes? They need permits? Since when???" - Anisha Namutowe
 "What kind of nonsense is that...3 People in there house at a private meeting? We see PF officials going round campaigning tribal remarks without being arrested. That woman should repent her evil acts!". - Robert Ned
 "I said it and will say it loud. You people always calling on police, government this and president that to be fair are wasting time. We must wake up and realize that PPolice would care less. Smell the coffee and go vote and reclaim your long-lost freedoms. A real revolution is needed on a cataclysmic scale". - Evans Kaimoyo
 "Even if they informed you where you ever going to give them a permit under the prevailing conditions? let's be serious!". - Mwiche Mangala
 "Soon we are going to be arrested for discussing family matters ati mulibe permit what a country!!" - Musonda M Maliko
 "If the law states that the assembly was unlawful for the UPND then its suppose be unlawful for PF when they assemble in a similar manner as well!" - Mulenga Paul Chilolo
 "3 people surely, olo ni chifukushi of losing Bill 10. 56 years after independence, and now we are back to colonial days. it's a pity the police have become tools of oppression!! #dununareverse". - Thantwe Kwenda
 "At the rate we are going, we may one day wake up to find the freedom statue back in chains!" - Michelo Mweetwa
 "katanga you as well go back and arrest those 3 PF cadres who illegally assembled in Kitwe since they did not notify your police, unless you are telling us you have two sets of laws one for PF cadres, the other for ordinary citizens!" - Callaghan Mwamba

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.

Affected workers at ARKAY PLASTICS

Dear Editor,
 "Allow me space in your esteemed paper to air our complaints. We are workers from ARKAY PLASTICS, Zambia limited off Chawama road plot no.21/397A, Chipwenupwenu road, Makeni Lusaka, Zambia. This company does not remet money to NAPSA for 1year 6 months now but every month they deduct 5% from each employee, in total we are 70 employees, this company is owned by Indians whose director is in Malawi,they also use us to work on machines as machine operators but we are paid as general workers, only few are paid as machine operators. Additionally, the company does not want to give us contracts. Because with a contract they can specify the kind of work one should be doing. Workers are also abused in terms of language by the Production Manager whose name is Aron Khondowe. We also have a human resource manager whose name is John Ryan Limba this man doesn't speak for us instead he is in the forefront of saying he will fire anyone who complains because that way he says others are being influenced. The company also has a tendency of delaying salaries at will to see who will protest and then later fire those people. In addition to this the company has no plans of providing PPEs to its workers. We have been complaining but they don't listen to us. We work in shifts, day and night, the Production Managers locks the door from outside and goes home until morning the following day, now in case of a fire at night there is no escape. We call for the authority to be serious when it comes to such matters. Publish this as a way of exposing this company to the public and notify us here. Yours, Affected workers at ARKAY PLASTICS, LUSAKA ZAMBIA.

ETHIOPIA'S Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister on Wednesday ordered the military to confront the country's Tigray regional government after he said it carried out a deadly attack on a military base overnight, citing months of "provocation and incitement" and declaring "the last red line has been crossed."

The statement by Prime

Minister Abiy Ahmed's office, and the reported attack by the well-armed Tigray People's Liberation Front, immediately raised concerns that one of Africa's most populous and powerful countries could plunge back into war. That would send a shock wave through the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Addressing the nation on



Ethiopia nears civil war as PM orders military into restive Tigray region

TV, Abiy announced "several martyrs" in the attack in Mekele, the northern Tigray region's capital, and Dansha town. The prime minister said "the end is near" for the regional force, which is based in Ethiopia's most sensitive region, neighboring Eritrea. The two countries made peace in 2018 after a long border war.

The TPLF had been the dominant part of Ethiopia's governing coalition before Abiy took office in 2018 and announced sweeping political reforms that won him the Nobel last year. Those reforms, however, have opened space

for old ethnic and other grievances. The TPLF, feeling marginalized, left the coalition last year. It remains a strong military force, observers say.

Ethiopia on Wednesday declared a six-month state of emergency in the Tigray region, saying that "illegal and violent activities within the National Regional State of Tigray are endangering the constitution and constitutional order, public peace and

security, specially threatening the country's sovereignty."

There was no immediate word from the TPLF, and all internet and phone lines were cut in the Tigray region following the announcement. Tigray TV reported that airspace has been closed over the region, and it asserted that the northern command of Ethiopia's military had defected to the Tigray government. The prime minister's office told The

Associated Press the defection report was "not true."

Ethiopia was already stressed by a dispute with Egypt over a massive Ethiopian dam project that has drawn rare attention by President Donald Trump to Africa, and by a multi-layer crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic, deadly ethnic violence and a locust outbreak.

Now the greatest test of Abiy's rule has come. *France24*

Trump, Biden locked in close race as vote-counting stalls

DEMOCRATS expecting a comfortable victory in the presidential election found themselves in a nail-biter instead, as the race remained in limbo past midnight Tuesday.

By early Wednesday, Joe Biden led with 236 electoral votes to 213 for President Trump, both well short of the 270 necessary to win the presidency. Biden also had a narrow edge in the popular vote.

On the eve of the election, Biden led in virtually every national poll and in most battleground states. But Trump appeared to gain ground in several states in the final week of the campaign, during which he crisscrossed the country, concentrating on Florida and the Midwest, holding multiple rallies nearly every day.

Biden addressed supporters in Wilmington, Del., shortly after midnight, saying, "We feel good about where we are. We really do. I'm here to tell you tonight we believe we're on track to win this election."

At 2:20 a.m., President Trump spoke to a crowd in the White House, running down the list of states where he was ahead or in a position to take the lead. "We had such a big night," he boasted. "They knew they couldn't win, so they said, 'Let's go to court.'"

"Frankly, we did win this election. We will be going to the U.S. Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop."

Trump's remarks met with criticism from some unexpected sources, including Rick Santorum, a former Republican senator, who said on CNN, "I was very distressed by what I just heard the president say."

Bolstered by unexpected strength among Hispanic voters, Trump won comfortably in Florida and Texas, states that Democrats had hoped to flip to their side. Biden won Arizona, and although he was behind in the count in Georgia, he had a shot at winning that Republican state as well, after a burst water pipe delayed the counting of

votes in the heavily Democratic suburbs of Atlanta.

But the election appeared to be coming down to the same three states — the traditionally Democratic "blue wall" of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — that decided the 2016 contest for Trump.

Trump held a lead in early returns in those states, reflecting the expected Republican advantage in same-day voting, which got counted first. Democrats were hoping to make up the difference with mail-in ballots. The coronavirus pandemic led many states to expand early-voting options, and a record number of ballots, more than 100 million, were cast either in person or by mail before Election Day.

Most states allowed mail ballots to be opened weeks ahead of Election Day so they could be counted quickly, but in the three key states, Republican-controlled legislatures refused to allow election clerks to open mail ballots in advance.

Trump, who had for months been attacking the use of mail ballots on the grounds that they could be used fraudulently, insisted that the vote counting should stop on election night. Republicans

brought lawsuits in state and federal courts seeking to prevent election officials in various states from counting late-arriving mail-in votes. Most of those efforts failed, although appeals were planned or still in progress in some cases.

"If people wanted to get their ballots in, they should have gotten their ballots in long before [Election Day], a long time," Trump told reporters Sunday, adding: "We're going in the night of — as soon as the election is over — we're going in with our lawyers."

Groups that included Trump's own former Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and former Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee, launched \$6 million in TV ads this week trying to educate the public that Trump cannot stop the counting of legitimate ballots.

Trump has also said he does not want mail ballots in Pennsylvania to be counted if they arrive after Election Day, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled they can be counted up until this Friday, Nov. 6, as long as they were postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or if they had no postmark or an unclear postmark. *Yahoo News*

Ministry of General Education misapplied K6m – AG

From Page 6

"DURING the period under review, double class and responsibility allowances in amounts totalling K1,676,587 (Double Class – K9,055) (Responsibility – K1,667,532) were paid to 169 teachers without authority from the responsible officers, Terms and Conditions of Service for the Public Service No. 34 (d) requires that a seconded officer should not receive a salary from the Public Service during the 124 period of secondment as payment of his or her salary should be the responsibility of the organisation they are seconded to. It was however observed that six (6) officers who went on secondment during the period from March 2017 to December 2019 were irregularly paid salaries in amounts totalling K427,794 for

the period they were on secondment. As at 31st August 2020, no recoveries had been made," read the report.

"Section 7 of the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) Circular No. B.31 of 2017 stipulates that teachers eligible for payment of responsibility allowances are: a. Degree holders teaching 'A' level classes, b. Advanced diploma holders teaching either senior or 'A' level classes at a Secondary School, c. Diploma holders teaching senior classes, and d. Certificate holders teaching Upper Basic / Secondary School classes. Contrary to the circular, responsibility allowance in amounts totalling K157,145 were irregularly paid to thirty-one (31) teachers who were not eligible."



The Witches film faces backlash over disability

A NEW film version of Roald Dahl's novel *The Witches* has been criticised for its depictions of limb difference.

The film, which stars Anne Hathaway, features evil characters who have distinct hand and feet impairments.

Comedian Alex Brooker, who has hand and arm impairments, told the BBC that the images "jarred quite a lot" and could "add to the stigma" around disability.

Film studio Warner Bros said it was "deeply saddened" to learn the movie "could upset people with disabilities".

In a statement, the company said: "It was never the intention for viewers to feel that the fantastical, non-human creatures were meant to represent them".

Directed by Robert Zemeckis, *The Witches* is the second big-screen version of Dahl's novel about disguised

witches plotting to turn children into mice.

In the original book, the witches are described as having "thin curvy claws" instead of fingernails, and feet that "have square ends with no toes on them at all".

In the new film, Anne Hathaway's Grand High Witch and others are revealed to have three elongated fingers on each hand.

A trailer for the film also features a lesson on "how to identify witches" that highlights their "claws" and lack of toes.

The Witches had originally been set for a cinema release but, following the Covid-19 pandemic, was distributed on digital platforms last month. Shortly afterwards, the hashtag #NotAWitch began trending on social media.

Brooker said that when he first watched the film he was expecting "something very different" beneath the witches' gloves.

"It clearly looked like they'd removed some of the fingers," he told BBC reporter Matt Graveling. "I was like, 'I'm not sure that's on'."

"What sort of message does this give? To me It sends

out a message that we should be scared of people with missing fingers.

"A lot of kids and adults have that - that's a life people live. It doesn't need to add to the stigma."

Actress and TV presenter Grace Mandeville said she was "really disappointed with the decision to give the villains in the movie a disability for absolutely no reason other than to make the character seem scarier".

She told BBC News: "The truth is children will watch this movie and some will then be scared of people that have limb impairments or ectrodactyly [a split hand] thanks to this film."

"I thought we were moving forward in this industry, but once again a movie has used scars and a disability to create a scary character."

She added: "I'm aware that this is just a movie to some people, but this affects the perception of disabled people more than you'll realise."

"I dread to think how a class of children would react to a new classmate who has a scar or a limb impairment after they've all watched this film."

BBC



Paralympian Claire Cashmore, who received an MBE in 2007, said the film had left her "very confused/upset"

Messi sends well wishes to Maradona following successful brain surgery

BARCELONA and Argentina coach had to undergo surgery for a blood clot in his brain. Maradona had taken the decision to admit himself to the Ipena Clinic in La Plata on Monday due to health concerns,

before being transferred to the Olivos Clinic in Buenos Aires province.

At first, it had been suspected that the 60-year-old, who just recently celebrated his birthday,

had been suffering from fatigue due to dehydration.

Indeed, his last public appearance before being admitted had caused public concern, with the South American icon having looked extremely weak and needing assistance to walk while receiving a commemorative plaque ahead of Gymnasia's clash with Patronato.

It soon became apparent after a series of tests that Maradona had a subdural haematoma, an issue that has since been operated on successfully, according to his personal doctor.

Tributes and well wishes have been pouring in since the news of Maradona's ill health broke, and Messi has added his name to the list of those hoping

to see the former Argentina boss back on his feet as soon as possible.

"Diego, all the strength in the world," Messi wrote on Instagram. "My family and I want to see you healthy again as soon as possible. A big hug from the heart!"

Regarding the surgery itself, Maradona's physician, Dr Leopoldo Luque, relayed that the procedure had gone well and his patient was now in recovery.

"I was able to evacuate the haematoma successfully and Diego tolerated the surgery very well," Luque said. "Diego is under control, he has a small drain [to remove fluid] that we are planning to take out tomorrow."

"His stay at the hospital will

depend on his recovery but the start of it has been great. The way he reacted after the surgery is promising."

Maradona's personal lawyer also chipped in, adding: "I've just talked with the clinic authorities. Diego is okay and continues his recovery. Detecting the haematoma on time was decisive and it happened because of the medical team's professionalism and the studies they decided to conduct."

"Yesterday, Diego was very anxious about what was going to happen. In September, he underwent the same haematoma test and nothing appeared then. If this hadn't been detected on time, Diego's destiny would've been a different one." GOAL

Real Madrid yet to offer Ramos a new contract

...Spain captain set to drop into free agency pool in 2021

Real Madrid have yet to offer Sergio Ramos a new contract despite the fact his current deal expires next summer - according to Cuatro.

The 34-year-old wants to see out the remaining years of his career at Santiago Bernabeu, but he is still waiting to be handed a renewal by club president Florentino Perez.

Ramos scored the 100th goal of his Madrid career during a 3-2 victory over Inter in the Champions League on Tuesday night. **GOAL**



ZCS needs K2m for President Stadium rehab

By Tim Zulu

ZAMBIA Correctional Service Commissioner General Dr. Chisela Chileshe says they will need K2 million to have the President Stadium back to its previous greatness.

Speaking during the spot check of the works at the Eminence Arena, Tuesday, the Correctional Services Chief said once the stadium is finished to satisfactory standard, the people of mine area, Makululu and all residents of Kabwe in general would watch games in a favorable environment as well as utilise the facility to promote their activities.

"As Correctional Service, we need to bring back life to this arena and if any organizations want to partner with us and support this cause which can likewise be opened for functions other than

football, then the better," Dr. Chileshe said.

"If you recall, this infrastructure has been seating here since the first Republic and it has some sort of great experiences connected to it largely because of the numerous players that went through here when Kabwe United were at the pinnacle. This presently being our home ground, and utilizing it at a more significant level in the super league, we need to find resources to bring it into shape, hence our vision begins by having the change room revamped, set up another border wire, take a shot at the VIP show off, the open wings, among other works."

He said they were also keen to improve the water reticulation system by putting up boreholes to take care of the playing surface.

"We would like to have a secured car park and install flood lights, among others things," Dr Chisela said.

The Prison Leopards strong man said this being a mammoth task and depending on the availability of funds, the service would phase out the works until they changed the face of the stadium to inviting standard.

"In any case, until such

a time, we can securely say we are good to use for what its worth while we keep searching for resources as work continues," Dr Chisela said.

Leopards, who are currently MTN/ FAZ league leaders, will have their initial test home game at the same venue (President Stadium) against Power Dynamos in the mid-week two clash.

Shepolopolo take top slot of group B at COSAFA Championships

By Ngosa Chalwe

ZAMBIA thumped Lesotho 8-0 to take charge of Group B of the Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) women's championship in Port Elizabeth South Africa.

Skipper Barbra Banda bagged a hat trick while Grace Chanda managed to pick a brace with other goals coming from Prisca Chilufya, Maylan Mulenga and Ireen Lungu.

Lesotho looked compact in the first half, restricting Zambia to a one goal lead at the break.

Zambia created a myriad of chances but their showing in the first half was not impressive despite getting their goal through Banda on the 32nd minute.

After the break, Bruce Mwape appeared to have given the team a raved up half time talk as they came back with more hunger and appeared more clinical. Banda doubled Zambia's

lead in the 52nd minute before Chilufya scored the third in the 56th minute.

Mulenga scored Zambia's fourth goal in the 65th minute before Chanda contributed another two minutes later.

At this point, Zambia were leading 5 - 0 and looked like they are far from being done.

Banda ensured that she got the match day ball when she scored Zambia's sixth on the 70th minute before Chanda completed her brace seven minutes later.

Lungu put her name on the score sheet to complete the dismantling.

Assistant coach Beauty Mwamba said the team needed the three points.

"We could have scored more than what we scored but we thank God for the eight goals that we scored today," said Mwamba.

The win sees Zambia go top of Group B table with three points while Malawi and Lesotho are on zero.

FAZ, FIFA wrangles meeting on today

By Ngosa Chalwe

AFTER failing to take off on two previous occasions, the meeting with FIFA that is aimed at resolving the long-standing wrangles in the local game is expected to take place today.

Despite the exclusion of Kalusha Bwalya, who contested his failed attempt to challenge incumbent Andrew Kamanga, the much anticipated meeting will go on as scheduled.

Football administration in Zambia has not been immune to wrangling. Prior to the postponement of elections in March, there was a dispute against FAZ following the unsuccessful filing of nominations by Kalusha, Richard Kazala and Ricky Mamfunda, among others.

The trio had filed to challenge Kamanga who was seeking a new mandate following the imminent expiry of his team this year, but were unsuccessful after they allegedly failed

an integrity test.

In the run-up to the presidential elections, FAZ was conducting provincial elections for members who will form part of the executive for the next four years but saw this process halted after Mufulira-based football administrator Damiano Mutale obtained an injunction against the process.

With a threat of Zambia being banned from international football hanging, it was agreed that Mutale drops his legal redress against FAZ while they sorted out their issues outside the courts.

FIFA originally proposed to host a meeting on September 1 but it failed to take off and was later moved to October 30 where it flopped again.

However, all indications show that the meeting is set to take off today with the agenda already set.

The team termed as the aggrieved party will be represented by Mutale,

Lusaka and former Power Dynamos chief executive officer Ricky Mamfunda.

Government will be represented by Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development Emmanuel Mulenga, his permanent secretary Joe Kapembwa and director of sport John Zulu.

The National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) will have chairman Patrick Mutimushi and acting general secretary Raphael Mulenga while Football House will have Andrew Kamanga and Adrian Kashala.

On Tuesday, Kashala confirmed in a statement that the agenda has already been set.

"FIFA, who are the conveners of the meeting, have also shared their agenda which includes remarks from the football governing body, the sports minister, NSCZ, aggrieved parties, response by FAZ and the way forward and the closing remarks, which will be made by FIFA," said Kashala.

FOREST GO TOP AFTER

FAZ, FIFA wrangles meeting on today

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Football administration in Zambia has not been immune to wrangling. Prior to the postponement of elections in March, there was a dispute... *Story page 11*

DERBY DELIGHT

By Ngosa Chalwe

GHANAIAN striker Adams Zikuru's goal was all Forest Rangers needed to beat town rivals Zesco United 1 - 0 and storm to the summit of the Super Division.

After their 2 - 0 win over Nkana, Forest proved their worth yesterday when they took on Zesco who were looking to record their first win of the season.

However, it was not meant to be for Mumamba Numba's side who suffered a defeat at the hands of their bitter rivals.

The Ghanaian, who is also a former Zesco player, reminded his former bosses of how good a player they let go when he beat Kenyan keeper Ian Otieno on the 27th minute.

With this win, Forest move top of the table with six points at par with Green

Eagles who beat Zanaco 1 - 0 at the Independence Stadium in Choma.

Anos Tembo's 34th minute strike was enough for Eagles to beat the Bankers.

At Sunset Stadium, Lusaka Dynamos played out to a 1 - all draw against Napsa Stars.

Jacob Ngulube scored his debut goal for Napsa Stars on the 36th minute but the lead was cancelled two minutes

later when Dickson Chapa scored an own goal to restore parity.

In Ndola, Indeni played to a scoreless draw against Green Buffaloes with Nkana and Lumwana, Prison Leopards and Power Dynamos playing to the same score line.

At Nkoloma Stadium, Red Arrows beat Kitwe United 1 - 0, thanks to a James Chamanga 43rd minute strike.

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Just arrived is a 32 seater luxury business class coach that includes a coffee making machine and a toilet inside with an excellent aircon facility. The business bus has been scheduled to depart from both Lusaka and Livingstone at 08:00 from Monday to Friday and Saturday Sunday it will be scheduled at the same time from Lusaka to Kitwe.

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