



AG tells MoH to change name of contract winner IT WAS AWARDED TO IMRAN LUNAT ...not Honey Bee Pharmacy Ltd - Kalaluka

By Julia Malunga
ATTORNEY General Likando Kalaluka SC says he has advised the Ministry of Health to execute a "Deed of Rectification" in order to change the name of the

company that was awarded the US\$17 million medical supply contract from Honeybee pharmacy Limited to Imran Lunat, the individual who was trading as Honeybee Pharmacy. *Story page 10*

Gazetting Bill 10 illegal - Hichilema

By Julia Malunga
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the gazetting of amendments to Bill 10 by Justice Minister Given Lubinda was unconstitutional and illegal. *Story page 4*

Police arrest Chellah Tukuta for criminal libel

By Julia Malunga
POLICE in Lusaka have arrested photographer Chellah Tukuta. Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo

confirmed the arrest saying he would be charged with four counts of criminal libel. "Police in Lusaka have arrested Chella Tukuta for Criminal Libel. This is in connection with some derogatory remarks alleged to have been produced and posted on social media by the accused person against Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Hon. Dora Siliya, Zambia Revenue Authority Commissioner General(ZRA), Kingsley Chanda, Northern Province Permanent Secretary, Charles Sipanje and Former Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations, Amos Chanda," stated Katongo. *Story page 10*

Nkhuwa hopes load shedding will end by December

Story page 5



Works and Supply Minister Sylvia Chalikosa hands over air conditioners to Ministry of National Development Planning permanent secretary in charge of development planning and administration Chola Chabala during the tour of the renovated and newly constructed office block in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We no longer fund Social Cash Transfer due to misuse in Zambia - DfID

Story page 2

By Mirriam Chabala

The UK Department of International Development (DFID Zambia) Head, Steven Beel says Zambia should not be heavily reliant on cooperating partners but begin to look out for its own interests by prioritising talks with the IMF and World Bank in order to secure financial support.

And Beel has revealed that the British government no longer provides funding directly to government towards social cash transfer but rather technical support to strengthen accountability in programmes.

Recently, British Prime Minister Boris questioned relevance of giving huge aid to Zambia when he announced the merger of the Department of International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) into one new department to bring together Britain's international effort.

He wondered why Zambia should get the same amount

We no longer Fund Social Transfer due to accountability issues in Zambia – DFID

of aid as Ukraine when the latter was vital for European security.

And explaining the implications of the changes in the UK's international relations, Beel told Choma-based Byta FM on a special programme, Thursday, that he could not state whether funding to Zambia would be reduced.

"The UK government will continue to keep under review how resources will be channelled in the coming years and to be honest, that's an annual process that we continue to go through. So it is very difficult for me to say where the numbers might be in the coming years. But also it's very important that Zambia starts to look out for its own interests and doesn't



Department of International Development (DFID) Zambia Head Steven Beel

end up being overly reliant on international partners. So that's where they kind of have to ensure that the engagement with the IMF and others is critically important to kind of make sure there is enough financing to support government," Beel said, on a phone call from London.

And Beel revealed that the UK was no longer providing direct funding to government.

"Good governance is important in terms of financial management as well as political governance. So we don't provide any funding to the government but certainly, whomever we provide the funding to, the way funds are managed is very important and we are just as interested, to be honest, in terms of how Zambia's tax payer's money is spent and accounted for. That's why for many years, we have been strong supporters of accountability and transparency arrangements to be put in place. So in the last few years, we've had a few challenges. Our role is to support all the stakeholders that have a role in strengthening systems of accountability, democratic processes etc. And actually coming up to next year's

election, that will be very important. All of that is about making sure that all funds, wherever they come from are used as effectively as possible," Beel said.

"There are certain areas like the Social Cash Transfer Programme which we have supported for many years but the last couple of years, we did stop funding directly to the government and now there is a kind of change in nature of the relationship and Zambia's own resources. We stopped funding directly to the government. But our commitment to the Social Cash Transfer Programme is still very strong, we still provide a significant amount of technical assistance through support to the UN and World Bank. Our belief is that this needs to be considered as a priority for government as well to kind of make sure that systems work as effectively as possible. It's probably worth saying that the amount of funds that UK provides in Zambia is a very tiny fraction of the government of Zambia in budget, we are probably talking less than two or three per cent of the resources that government has. So also, [that] influences how we use our money and where we spend it."

He said his government was providing technical assistance to strengthen the social cash transfer programme.

"So we are now providing technical assistance, this is about strengthening systems. So there has been kind of a lot of Parliamentary hearings on the Social Cash Transfer Programme and I think consistently, it's really a very important part of strengthening social protection

systems in Zambia and it's part of Zambia demonstrating its very much maturing and strong developing country that needs to have a strong social protection system. But clearly, with systems of these kinds, there are probably from time to time problems of targeting and making sure the right beneficiaries receive the money to make sure budgets are provided where needed to ensure people get their payment on time. So I think these are all the things for which the systems need to be strengthened," Beel said.

Beel, however, said his government was still committed to supporting Zambia.

"This doesn't change the fact that government remains committed to spending the same amount on supporting Zambia. So the merger shouldn't change that situation. The reason for the merger is to put development at the heart of our foreign policy so this should help us in engaging with Zambia more frequently than we have been to do so in the past. So it's a merger of two departments. We are not losing the support, we are not losing the funding. But we want to support other countries in that sense," said Beel.

We won't respond to people with clear motives, but insist Bill 10 is bad – Catholic Bishops

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZAMBIA Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) secretary general Fr Cleophas Lungu says the church will not respond to groupings of people with clear motives on why they insist that Bill 10 should go through.

In an interview, Fr Lungu maintained that Bill 10 is bad and further appealed to parliamentarians across the political divide to interpret the writing on the wall.

"The Bishops will neither be distracted nor tempted to respond to groupings whose motives are clear, at least to those who can read and interpret the writing on the wall. The Bishops still stand by what they said and their strong appeal to the conscience of all parliamentarians across the political and even religious divide. The statement was issued in a bid to respectfully provide moral guidance to the nation and our political leaders. ZCCB further strongly believes that the truth will set us free (John 8:32) and that truth will defend itself in the due course," said Fr Lungu.

He was commenting on remarks by the Association of PF Catholic parliamentarians chaired by Munali MP Professor Nkandu Luo who held a press briefing on Tuesday and disagreed with the Catholic Bishop's statement that Bill 10 contained retrogressive and highly contentious clauses.

Be accountable for all donations, Chilufya tells health officials

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya has asked all provincial health officers and their departments to be accountable and to prudently use donated equipment only on defined activities.

Speaking when he received a donation of vehicles, motor cycles, reagents, and supplies worth £2.2 million donated by the British government to the National Antimicrobial

Resistance Coordinating Committee (AMRCC) in Lusaka, Thursday, Dr Chilufya said accountability and integrity were key to winning public confidence.

"To all our provincial health directors, senior medical superintendents, and all the user departments that will be utilizing this equipment to be accountable, to be prudent, and to make sure that you utilize these on the activities that have been defined. Accountability and integrity are key and this will ensure that the public remains confident. Through health promotion, let us ensure that the community is brought to speed on the importance of that," Dr Chilufya said.

He said government would continue to push the agenda for health security, including antimicrobial resistance.

"The partnership with the UK government, through the Flaming Fund anchoring on the lead by CIDRZ that has resulted in the donation of two motor vehicles, motor cycles, laboratory equipment and reagents worth £2.2 million, is high impact investment in the fight against AMR. I would like you to join me in thanking the UK government for this generous donation. The Zambian government, under President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, will continue to push the agenda for health security, including antimicrobial resistance. I would like to thank you also for posting milestones in contributing to the data that is reported to the global antimicrobial resistance surveillance system," said Dr Chilufya.

PF joins case where magistrate is seeking de-registration of 'undemocratic parties'

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Patriotic Front has been joined as an interested party to a matter where a Livingstone Magistrate is seeking an order that the Registrar of Societies de-registers all political parties, which have not practiced democracy within their parties through regular elections.

The Constitutional Court joined PF secretary general Davies Mwila to the petition after finding that the party had sufficient interest in the matter.

In this matter, Benjamin Mwelwa, an Advocate of the High Court, has petitioned the Court, seeking an order and declaration that any political party, which was registered and in existence as of January 5, 2016 and which has not promoted and practiced democracy through regular, free and fair elections within its political party, has breached Article 60 (2) (d) of the Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 and, therefore, such a political party ceased to exist as a party in Zambia on January 4, 2017.

He wants an order that the Registrar of Societies de-registers all

political parties for having ceased to exist as political parties in Zambia on January 4, 2017, and since they violated Article 60 (2) (d) of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 and section 18 (1) and (2) Act No.1 of 2016.

Mwelwa cited Attorney General Likando Kalaluka and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) as respondents in the matter.

When the matter came up for hearing of the joinder application before Constitutional Court Judge Mungeni Mulenga, June 16 this year, none of the parties objected to Mwila's request to be joined.

Judge Mulenga, therefore, joined Mwila and gave him 14 days to file an answer to the petition.

Last month, the Constitutional Court joined the UPND as an interested party to the matter.

This was after Stephen Katuka, in his capacity as secretary general of the UPND, applied to join the case as an interested party, saying the petition targets all political parties in Zambia, of

which UPND was the main opposition party.

Consequently, Mwila also applied to join the case as an interested party.

He submitted that being a ruling party, PF had sufficient interest to be joined to the proceedings as any order or declaration that may emanate from the petition may have a bearing on it.

Earlier, UPND, through its secretary general, as an interested party, had asked the Court to dismiss the petition for want of jurisdiction as it did not disclose any violation of the Constitution.

According to an affidavit to strike out petition and dismiss the matter, Katuka stated that Mwelwa's petition did not meet the requirements for a matter that should be brought before the Constitutional Court.

He argued that the petition was founded on an Act of Parliament, adding that the petition was supposed to be taken before the High Court.

Katuka stated that neither the petition nor the affidavit verifying facts disclosed any alleged violation

of the Constitution on the part of the Attorney General, ECZ or any political party.

He argued that any person who approached the Constitutional Court to exercise its jurisdiction should indicate the violations of the Constitution that were alleged to have been committed and how they were committed or the provisions that required interpretation.

The UPND SG stated that failure to that, there was no way the Court could be moved to pronounce remedies in favour of such a party.

"A perusal of the petition reveals that that the petitioner alleges that the respondents and all political parties have contravened the Constitution by breaching Section 18 of the Constitution of Zambia Act No. of 2016. Clearly, the petitioner requires the honourable court to interpret an Act of Parliament, the interpretation of which falls outside the jurisdiction of this court. The matter which the petitioner seeks interpretation can only be determined by the High Court," argued Katuka.

THE ART OF DECEPTION FOR CORRUPTION



The PF Government has abused the Constitution
Article 63 (2) (c) (d).

There is corruption in Governement Procurement:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Digital Migration | 1. Over priced ambulances |
| 2. Mukula logs smuggling | 2. Over priced Presidential Jet |
| 3. Fire Tenders \$42 million | 3. Over priced Toll Plazas |
| 4. Defence equipment | 4. Over priced Infrastructure |
| 5. Fuel | 5. Over priced medical supplies |
| 6. Fertilisers | 6. Unsolicited loans |

MORE MONEY IN WHOSE POCKETS?



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

Catholic bishops should consult their flock before embarrassing us in the media - Mumbi

By **Miriam Chabala**

PATRIOTIC Front (PF) deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri has asked Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya to concentrate on the Anglican Church and leave Catholics alone.

And Phiri has asked Catholic Bishops to always consult their flock before making embarrassing statements on governance issues in the media.

In an interview, Phiri said it was unfair for Fr Chikoya to accuse Catholic PF Parliamentarians of not having the best interest of Zambians at heart with regards to Bill 10.

Phiri further advised Fr Chikoya to restrict his views on Bill 10 to members of

parliament belonging to the Anglican Church, adding that Catholic Parliamentarians would sort out their own issues within their Bishops.

“Fr Chikoya belongs to the Anglican Church and there are members of parliament who belong to his Church and whose rules he is very conversant with according to their rules in their Church. I am very surprised that he can say that MPs from the Catholic Church don't mean well, it is very unfair of him. Why should Fr Chikoya even direct the Archdiocese of Kasama to force the Catholic MPs to withdraw Bill 10 just because that's what he's thinking?” Phiri asked.

“Under the Catholic Church, we are always engaged as the Catholic faithful and on

Bill 10, I would actually ask Fr Cleophas Lungu who is the general secretary to tell us which Catholics he engaged to talk about Bill 10? Me as a Catholic faithful who belongs to Kalingalinga Parish and under my small Christian community, we have never been engaged on Bill 10. And as the Catholic Church we are a very organized group. When we were campaigning for the cancellation of debt we were engaged, our signatures were gotten from the small Christian community and we endorsed our signatures which were later taken to the Vatican. But in this case, nobody has engaged me neither from the small Christian community and nobody has engaged me from the Catholic Church.”

And Phiri pleaded with

the Catholic bishops to always engage members of their faith before coming up with a decision on national matters.

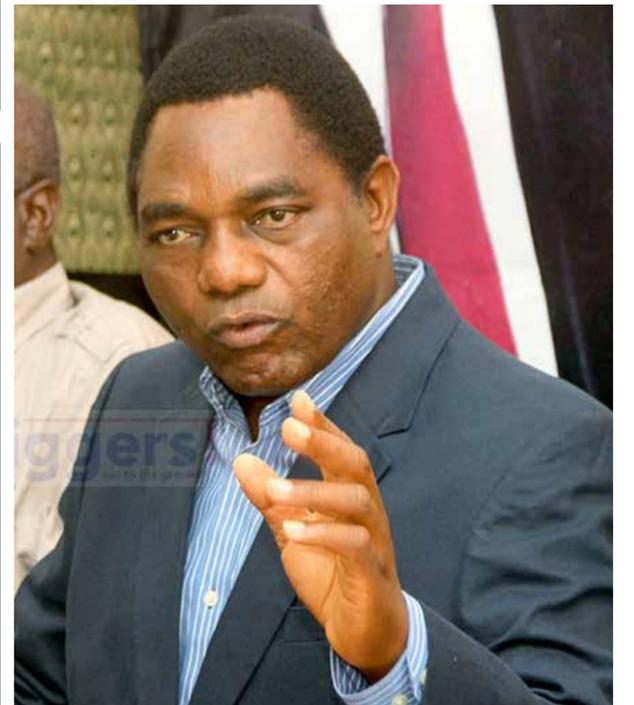
“Fr Chikoya shouldn't speak for us Catholics, he should speak for his faithful who fall under his doctorate and me I am pleading with our bishops, our priests they should engage us before they go and embarrass us in the media. Because already, there is confusion. The Catholic Bishop, through our Right Reverend Cleophas Lungu issued this statement and we have another statement now from the Archdioceses of Kasama. It's very unfortunate because the Church from time immemorial has been respected and it has never been a cause of confusion. But because of the porousness of

our faithfuls who are supposed to be our fathers, that is why such things are happening like what has happened in my own Church,” said Phiri.

“So let us search ourselves and save this country for the betterment of everyone and let us be truthful because our God sees our inner hearts. Otherwise, Fr Chikoya should talk to his faithful, the

members of parliament who are under his Church whom he understands better. He should not criticize the PF MPs because truly, they not engaged and I am speaking because I was also a member of parliament who was nominated and I am yet to hear maybe when I left if any of the MPs were engaged from our Catholic Faith.”

Gazetting Bill 10 illegal - Hichilema



By **Julia Malunga**

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the gazetting of amendments to Bill 10 by Justice Minister Given Lubinda was unconstitutional and illegal.

And Hichilema says Article 52, which seeks to allow President Edgar Lungu to run for a third term, was not deleted.

Speaking at an Opposition Alliance briefing, Thursday, Hichilema said Lubinda's decision to gazette amendments was aimed at cheating people.

“The issue of the gazetting of Bill 10 which is a facade, camouflage by Given, I am not really sure if Given still has relatives that respect him because if there were there, they would have told him behind closed doors that you are committing suicide. That gazetting was a camouflage to cheat the people of Zambia that there was a consultative process, a public opinion generated therefore, there was support towards Bill 10, bufi, boza (lies). That gazetting is what I call last minute consideration. Gazetting of Bill 10, striking out a few paragraphs purporting that they have amended the contentious clauses. The clauses are over 70 and you delete 10 or 11 or so and you say you have amended Bill 10, aikhona (no). Bill 10 has not been amended; it is what it was because the law does not allow what Lubinda did. It is

unprocedural, it is illegal. It is unconstitutional,” Hichilema said.

“To rub it in so that no one says ‘what did the alliance say, what did HH say?’ What Lubinda did offends Article 77 of our Constitution which was amended in 2016 it does not allow what Lubinda did. He claimed that there was a Parliamentary procedure that he used. On that score too, he has been caught. People have seen you.”

Hichilema said only a few corrupt people would survive under the PF if the ruling party was to be re-elected.

“When you look at the pain you have gone through under PF, who will survive under PF in the next five or 10 years? Only a small corrupt number of people. Is that what you want by allowing Bill 10 to go through so that PF stays in power? And kill our youths? To take away education opportunities? Takes away your jobs, takes away your business opportunities? You will find those who are getting contracts are PF cliques the rest of the Zambians are excluded from timber, from mining. Who gets the timber license? It is foreigners, be it Chinese, be it American, it is foreigners we don't want that. If you allow this bill as citizens to go through, it means that you are signing a warrant where you will have no contract, it means you will have no job, that is what is at stake,” said Hichilema.

4 paramount chiefs petition ConCourt over subsidies

By **Zondiwe Mbewe**

FOUR traditional leaders have petitioned the Constitutional Court, seeking a determination and declaration that every Chief and deputy Chief be paid subsidies to enable them discharge their functions and maintain the dignity and status of their office.

The four Paramount Chiefs - the Litunga of Barotseland; Kalonga Gawa Undi of the Chewa and Nsenga people in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique; Mwine Lubemba Chitimukulu and Chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni people - have cited the Attorney General as the respondent.

They are seeking a determination and declaration that Section 2 of the Chiefs Act, insofar as it defines the word ‘chief’, is unconstitutional, and therefore null and void.

The four are further

seeking a determination and declaration that the chiefly institutions of Paramount Chief, senior Chief and other Chiefs continue to exist and are guaranteed under Article 165 (1) of Constitution of Zambia.

They also want the court to determine and declare that every Chief and deputy Chief shall be paid such subsidies as may be determined in accordance with the Constitution, for the purpose of enabling such Chief to maintain the dignity and status of the office of the Chief and discharge the functions of the office under African customary law in a fit and proper manner.

The four further want the court to determine and declare that when a Paramount Chief recognizes or dethrones a subordinate chief in accordance with the

traditional and customary practices, and informs Government accordingly, the State shall acknowledge and accord to such chief, or, in the case of dethroning, cease to accord to the chief the honour and dignity befitting a Chief.

According to their Petition filed in the Constitutional Court, Wednesday, the four Paramount Chiefs stated that in February this year, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, in a letter addressed to permanent secretaries in Western, North-Western, Northern and Luapula provinces, advised that no new Chief was eligible for payment of subsidies after the Constitutional Court judgment in the case of Webby Mulubisha and the Attorney General.

“On February 26 this year, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs in a

letter addressed to Permanent Secretaries in Western, North-Western, Northern and Luapula Provinces advised, inter alia, that: ‘... the Ministry has been guided that considering that the Constitutional Court in the case of Webby Mulubisha and the Attorney General declared Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Chiefs Act to be inconsistent with Article 165 of the Constitution and are, therefore, unconstitutional and void, there is no legal basis upon which a Chief is to be paid. In view of the foregoing, it has been directed that no new Chief is eligible for payment of subsidies after the judgment of the Constitutional Court dated November 27, 2019,’ read the petition.

The four Paramount chiefs, however, stated that in terms of Article 165 (1) of the Constitution, Act No 2 of 2016, the institution of chieftaincy and traditional institutions were guaranteed, and shall exist in accordance with the culture, customs and traditions of the people to whom they apply.

They added that according to article 167, a Chief may own property in a personal capacity and enjoy privileges and benefits bestowed on the office of Chief by or under culture, custom and tradition and attach to the office of chief as prescribed.

“Article 1(1) and (2) provides that the Constitution is the supreme law of Zambia and any other written law, customary law and customary practice that is inconsistent with its provisions is void to the extent of inconsistency. Further, any act or omission that contravenes it is illegal,” read the petition further.

They stated that the position taken by the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs was at variance not only with the provisions of Article 165, 166 and 167 of the Constitution, but also the definition of ‘chief’ in Article 266.

COVID-19 slashes mining revenues by 30%

By **Stuart Lisulo**

MINING companies' revenues in Zambia have drastically fallen by around 30 per cent over the three-month period, February-April 2020, mainly triggered by the deep impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on slashing copper earnings.

According to Zambia Chamber of Mines data, the COVID-19 virus has cut Zambian mining companies' copper sales as a result of a disruption in the mining supply chain, which facilitates the export of the red metal to foreign markets.

Data reveals that the severe global restrictions on movement have wreaked havoc on the mining supply chain, and hindered the export and sale of copper, and that the copper price collapse early in the crisis, though has since

strengthened, is still down on average by 12 per cent over the period when compared to 2019.

The fall in mining revenues is mirrored exactly in the fall in mineral royalty payments, as royalties are levied on each tonne of copper that is sold.

“For the industry, royalty payments are estimated to have come in at approximately US \$60-65 million over the three months, rather than the US \$90 million that could have been expected. This simple calculation illustrates how closely government revenues mirror the fortunes of the mining industry,” the statement read.

Commenting on the mining industry's dwindling earnings, Chamber chief executive officer Sokwani Chilemba stated that mining companies had, however, performed well in

maintaining production amid the COVID-19 crisis.

“The industry has done a magnificent job of maintaining production over this difficult period. But, for various reasons, revenues have fallen massively. Zambia's miners have been battling even higher costs for years, and we are concerned about the potential consequences of such a big hit to earnings occurring now,” stated Chilemba.

“Furthermore, in this extraordinary period we are living through, it is impossible to accurately forecast where we will be even a few months from now. When will we be out of the woods? No-one can tell. We hope that some of the revenue pressures may ease in the months to come. But we are unlikely to be entirely free of them for at least 12 months, and quite probably longer.”

Huge debt forces local pharmaceutical companies to stop supplying drugs to MoH

By Julia Malunga
SOME local Ministry of Health suppliers are hesitant to supply medical and pharmaceutical items to the ministry because of the outstanding debt owed to them amounting to K900 million. The suppliers, who sought anonymity in separate interviews, said they have had meetings with the Ministries of Health and Finance, which failed to yield anything.

The suppliers said their companies were distressed because of the debt.

"Most of the supply companies have not been paid for two years! They have really killed and depressed the industry because, as a result, the companies can't stock properly because their monies are held up. So, for that reason, we had a meeting with the Ministry of Health to talk about this high debt, we didn't get much joy. We wrote to the Ministry of Finance and nothing still. They only paid a K300,000 to someone who is owed millions! Somebody who is owed K20 million was paid K500,000, it is a drop in the ocean! This is a life-saving sector and most of our companies are going bankrupt now. You will not see any reliable companies going there; they all stopped because they are demanding for their payments," said the sources.

"A bona fide supplier will not waste time at the Ministry of Health; they are just waiting for donor tenders, USAID tender, global fund tenders...that is what they are trying to survive on. Companies are so distressed. When we go to complain at the Ministry, they say, 'there are no funds.'

We signed contracts that, within 30 days, they are supposed to pay. The debt is blocking the pharmaceutical companies. As of April, 2019,

the debt was K900 million outstanding for both foreign and local suppliers. Some of the companies have stopped supplies. Pharmaceutical

companies, like us, don't even want to go to the Ministry of Health to participate in any tender. We know that nothing is happening at that

Ministry. I remember at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), they had run out of gloves in April, they went begging at Sterelin (Medical

and Diagnostics Ltd) for supplies, and Sterelin told them, 'you will have to pay us cash or we will not give you anything'."

By Ulande Nkomesha
BARS and Nightclub Owners' Association secretary general Edmond Lifwekelo says President Edgar Lungu's statement calling on them to be patient was a betrayal as Local Government Minister Dr Charles Banda assured the Association that they would be allowed to start operating this week. In an interview, Lifwekelo said the association also felt betrayed by government's failure to compensate the industry with a stimulus package to operate amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We feel betrayed because the consultative meeting, which we held on the 27th of May, it was conclusive and well represented. We were given assurances that the President is eager to open the industry; he is concerned about the plight of the bars and nightclub owners. In this regard, he has ordered that this consultative meeting should happen at a shortest period of time so that we open. The President addressed the nation on Friday and the meeting took place the following Wednesday and the Minister actually emphasized that, because of the urgency of the matter that the President

left directives that when he comes back from Luangwa on Sunday, he needs to have these resolutions so that we should see the way forward. We were assured that within that week upon the President returning back, we are going to be opened, we were given those directives," Lifwekelo said.

"In that meeting there were people from Ministry of Health; they were people from the Ministry of Commerce; they were health experts from Lusaka City Council; it was a well-presented meeting. The issue that the cold season is coming that we need to wait never even arose in that meeting because we gave guidelines and we agreed that we are going to open within stipulated hours. We agreed that was from 12.00 to 18.00 hours because we all thought that we don't want people to drink in the night and generally winter evenings become colder than during the day time."

He said President Lungu's statement contradicted what was agreed between Dr Banda and the Association.

"So, now, when you look at the President's statement, it contradicts everything the honourable Minister assured us because in that

We feel betrayed – Bar owners

the statement, he didn't give a direction or a road map to when we shall open; he is just saying that this season is when the pandemic evolves. The cold season in Zambia ends in August, September we are not going to stay that long! In that meeting, we proposed for a takeaway basis, which the government refused...no, we want you to open normally.' The government came up with a position that, 'we want you to open from 18.00 to 21.00,' as an Association, we resisted that, we proposed 12.00 hours to 18.00 hours all stakeholders in the meeting agreed," he said.

"So, we have been waiting from 27th May, you can imagine? It has been over three weeks, only to receive such kind of statement on Monday, the Ministry of Local Government gave a statement on record that, 'the President this week is going to address the nation and one of the things he is going to touch on is the issue of the re-opening of bars and nightclubs.' Then, we are patiently waiting for Friday then the Special Assistant

to the President pre-empts. So, we don't know if that address will be there. That is why we are saying we have been betrayed! We are being treated like foreigners in our own country in preference to foreigners, they are being given special treatment. The Council and the police have continued harassing our members, who are open, which is quite unfair."

But Lifwekelo vowed that bars would start operating on a full-time basis if government did not address the matter.

"Our line Minister is the Minister of Local Government that is why I am repeating that we have been betrayed and we have been neglected in this situation. When people have been mistreated, they look for other means in order to survive. We expected to send our children to school, which have been opened. These same children, their parents run bars, how are we going to survive? That is why we ordered our members last week to open their businesses and we have maintained our stance. Our

appeal is that if we are not going to hear anything from government by Friday; we are going to tell our members to actually open full-time from 10.00 hours to 22.00 hours. That is what our licences are entitling us. When the order came out that our businesses should be closed, our liquor licences were never suspended. So, those of our members, who are opening our bars are not doing that illegally," Lifwekelo said.

He cautioned that bar owners were ready to meet police head-on if they continued to exert force to stop bars from operating.

"We are ready right now to hold the bull by the horns! A hungry person is an angry person! Right now, there is too much tension around and our advice to our law enforcement agency is that, let them handle this matter with level-headedness. If they come with brutality, force and arrogance, I think our members are ready for that because we have suffered enough! Last week, when we opened, we had our members, mostly around Lusaka; they were ready for a confrontation," he said.

Lifwekelo, however, reminded government that the Association was demanding cash bailouts for bar and club owners if government insisted that they remained shut.

"We made it quite clear to the Minister of Local Government that we are willing to wait as long as we are supposed to have a cash bailout, not the K10 billion (Bank of Zambia stimulus package) because that money was meant for foreigners, big business, who have the capacity to even borrow from where they are coming from. We have no other countries to run to. We are demanding for cash bailouts and we are willing to exercise our patience, but that was denied. What came out is that government has no money, it has a bloated civil service that needs to be paid. How can you close a private business for three months without any source of compensation? Even in countries like Rwanda, those closed businesses, the government has come to their aid; what is the difference between us and Rwanda? What is wrong with Zambia? Rwanda is also a landlocked country like Zambia, but why is their country helping their citizens, we are failing?" wondered Lifwekelo.

Nkhuwa hopes load shedding will end by December

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ENERGY Minister Matthew Nkhuwa says he hopes that Zambia's load shedding will be mitigated by end of December, 2020, mainly as a result of increased water levels at the Kariba Dam. And Nkhuwa has dismissed claims suggesting that government has taken over the operations of Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC).

Speaking at a joint-press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Nkhuwa said the water levels at Kariba

Dam had improved in recent months, adding that the Kafue Gorge is also expected to start generating electricity by August, this year, which is expected to significantly reduce load shedding hours across the country by December, 2020.

"During the period of 1st May to 15th June, the average generation of electricity was 1,780 megawatts, which comprised 1,379 megawatts from Zesco, and 401 megawatts from Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The

reduction in the IPP was due to the non-availability of heavy fuel from Ndola Energy and non-availability of Lusemfwa Hydro Power Plant, which is being shared because of very little water there. The power deficit stands at 810 megawatts and the load shedding for 10 hours is being currently open for different customer categories under distribution. Going forward, by August-September, the Kafue Gorge Lower (Hydropower Project) will come into play and by the end of December, we should have 750 megawatts. So, this deficit will be reduced considerably and as we get into the New Year, this issue of power should have been mitigated," Nkhuwa said.

He said the water levels at Kariba Dam had improved due to increasing inflows recorded in Chavuma as well as the stabilization in the Barotse Plains.

"Zesco is mandated to offer support to neighbouring countries. Currently, our commitment stands at 190 megawatts. At Kariba North Bank, the dam levels have continued to rise due to increasing inflows

as recorded at Chavuma merging point and also the stabilization in the Barotse Plains in Western Province. As of today, we had 40 per cent of the dam full," Nkhuwa said.

And Nkhuwa said CEC still remained a privately-owned power utility.

"CEC remains a Zambian private company that is listed in the Lusaka Stock Exchange (LuSE) and has not been nationalized or expropriated by the government. Infrastructure remains that of CEC, while the same will be used as a common carrier of power. As a government, we are proud of CEC and its achievement in the recent past and its critical role it continues to play in the Zambian electricity market. CEC has been supplying electricity to KCM on the Copperbelt and the contract between the two parties came to an end on 31st May, 2020. Prior to the expiration of the Power Supply Agreement (PSA), KCM formally wrote to CEC informing them of the intentions not to renew the Power Supply Agreement," he said.

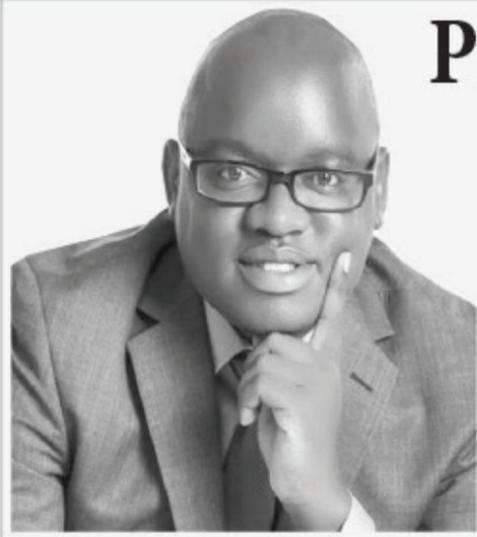
"Preceding the expiration

and notification to CEC, the mining company, KCM, engaged Zesco to enter into a success agreement that would ensure continuous flow of power. This power is produced by Zesco. I must put it on record that CEC has got a solar power plant, which is located in Kitwe and it only produces one megawatt. So, they don't produce electricity."

He also said that KCM had made a payment to CEC against its outstanding debt of US\$142 million owed to the Kitwe-based utility for the power supplied.

"As you may be aware, KCM has an outstanding debt of US \$142 million owed to CEC as at 31st May, 2020. I am aware that KCM, during its receivership period, made a payment of US \$46 million to CEC. On 1st June, 2020, CEC board of directors collectively decided to restrict power to KCM due to arrears owed by KCM. The matter was discussed with CEC in order to continue supplying power to KCM. On 3rd June, 2020, CEC confirmed the continued power supply by Zesco to KCM using CEC infrastructure," said Nkhuwa.





PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

(PAC)
Viva New Zambia!!!

Why we deserve your vote



ELECTIONS 2021 IS HERE!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

THE elections of 2021 are literally here. Yes its just next year and we are going to the polls. The Electoral Commission of Zambia announced that voter registration begins on the 18th October 2020. I agree with many people that a lot is at stake in the 2021 general election. Its about making choices of a lifetime for many people. For some it is about maintaining positions and chance to continue plundering. For others it is about staying in politics or retiring and for us it is about trying to give Zambia a fresh start with a new generation of leaders.

For starters, we would like to encourage everyone especially the young people without National Registration Cards to visit any boma offices where they are issuing one without having to wait for the government's mobile registration. This will entail that we have as many people as possible with NRCs before the 18th of October 2020 when voter registration begins. We hope as per last meeting with Electoral Commission of Zambia, earlier registration of voters via online platforms can be facilitated so that as many as people as possible are captured. ECZ has only given itself 30 days to do voter registration. This is not sufficient time. While we understand that the coronavirus has affected the electoral calendar, we believe measures need to be put in place to ensure that the period is extended and as many people as possible are captured. As colleagues had proposed ECZ must ensure they create a desk next to the Home Affairs desk where NRC registration will be happening.

In many countries where democracy is allowed to flourish, this is as good as the beginning of the political campaigns. Political parties have to now start conducting various activities to sensitize voters on the importance of registering to vote and the importance of voting. While we hope the situation in this country will be different, we know that the behavior of the police through instruction from those in power has been nothing but appalling. Many political activities have not been allowed to take place due to the lack of freedom of assembly as enshrined in the constitution. The PF government

has breached its social contract with the people by denying us our rights to assemble. However, we want to remind them that the voter registration process is a very important activity and political parties play an important role in sensitizing voters to go and register to vote. Having said that, we hope to see some civility from the PF as political parties start going round the country to sensitize voters on the importance of their participation in this process. Mwamvela.

We hope that the ECZ will put in place all the necessary measures to ensure the election is conducted in a free and fair atmosphere. We know this won't be easy with political interference from the well known problem child. ECZ must understand that this election is like no other. If they think they can toy with people's aspirations and feelings and deliver a below par election, we cannot predict what will happen but we believe that people won't accept anything but a credible election. Electoral Commission of Zambia will do well to ensure that stakeholders are consulted widely so that we can buy into the process until the winner is announced in 2021.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia has increased the nomination fees for all candidates in this election with Presidential Candidates expected to pay as much as K150,000 for nomination fees and parliamentary candidates at K25,000. Another decision aiming at giving the highest bidder leadership positions. For starters, ECZ must not use candidates as a fundraising venture. They need to create an environment where as many Zambians as possible are given a chance to vie for leadership. You must remember that all those freedom fighters in as much as they sacrificed a lot they were not paying nomination fees to get our freedom. Leadership is not a self dream that should be auctioned and should not be given a price tag. This also goes against our democracy which we earned in 1991. Zambians pay taxes so that part of that can be channeled to ensure that institutions such as Electoral Commission of Zambia are adequately funded. Stop defrauding good leadership ECZ.

So now Zambia your time to choose leadership that will completely destroy your

country or revive the little that is remaining is here. So you can't sing about change after November 20th 2020 if you don't register to vote. Next year you won't have a chance to register as a voter. The time is now. I am begging. Even before COVID 19, our country was already facing immense challenges which clearly indicated that a new leadership was needed. But we don't just become leaders, we should be voted in.

So now politicians will come in different colours including us and trust me most are here to confuse the voters. Politicians will become anything to just win votes. When they win you wonder why they change, it is because most people don't pay attention. Voters register to vote and pay attention to all the candidates including the PAC President Andyford Mayele Banda.

Okay we pride ourselves of having a clear manifesto which can be accessed on www.paczambia.org. The language of empowerment and employment which has been added with land has been consistent since we launched on 10th January 2016. We strongly believe in transforming the lives of many Zambians. The challenges of our country as a result of leadership. Leadership my people. So this election gives you an opportunity to choose new leaders. And we are ready to take up the mantle.

Yes, a lot is at stake hence you see the PF jumping everywhere trying to enact Bill 10 because they know they can't win a normal election hence they have to weaken institutions to compromise the elections. Yes Bill 10 is a rigging machine. Their desperation is clear. PF Zambia is not your little farm. The owners are coming to take it back.

The PAC will focus on the vision for this country to ensure that the lives of many are transformed. We commit to transform institutions such as Electoral Commission of Zambia to ensure that they are independent. This will ensure political parties in power focus on delivering on their promises as opposed to focusing on holding on to power. Indeed Zambia is in need of a shift in leadership. We are ready.

Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Mirriam Chabala

RAINBOW Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba says it is only political parties with the backing of criminals that can manage to raise the Electoral Commission of Zambia's (ECZ) proposed nomination fees.

And Kabimba says the ECZ has gone against its mandate of managing the country's elections by coming up with outrageous nomination fees, which are aimed at disenfranchising people wishing to participate in the country's elections.

Meanwhile, Kabimba has observed that having a fixed date of elections embedded in the Constitution has created problems for the country because elections cannot now be postponed even if ECZ does not have money to sponsor them.

Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme in Lusaka, Thursday, Kabimba challenged the ECZ to give a breakdown of the proposed hiked nomination fees, charging that the Commission

Only parties with criminal backing will afford ECZ's proposed nomination fees – Kabimba

was just picking figures from nowhere with no basis.

He insisted that only people with the backing of criminal elements would afford such fees because no political party in Zambia, including the ruling PF, could manage to raise such kind of money for an election.

"ECZ should give us a breakdown of that K150,000 because it is a very outrageous amount! It is only those political parties, which are sponsored by criminal elements in this country [who] would be able to afford these outrageous figures. And by doing this, ECZ is actually handing over this country to those criminal elements that sponsor governments. There is no political party in this country that can raise a K150,000, there's none! Starting from PF up to the smallest party with only one member, they can't raise that

amount of money. That's why you hear even PF has stood up to join the chorus that these proposed fees are outrageous because they know they can't raise that amount of money. So, this means the only way a political party will raise that amount of money, including campaign money... mind you, this is just nominations minus campaign money, you must have criminals to sustain that campaign and election. But is that what democracy entails? The answer is no! So, I hope that in the next meeting, this matter could be resolved," Kabimba said.

He said the proposed fees could be meant to disenfranchise people from taking part in the country's elections.

"These fees are not only prohibitive but outrageous too. I want to ask them: are they in the business of running elections? Have they registered themselves with PACRA to run elections in this country or they are a government institution mandated to manage and administer elections? ECZ have missed their mandate, they have gone outside the objectives of having established that Commission. It doesn't matter if ECZ did their consultations on this, whether they went to heaven for consultations, that doesn't make it right. ECZ is

disenfranchising people that would like to take up the leadership of this country by coming up with that amount for nomination fees. They just picked this figure from nowhere, this is a figure which has no basis and they can't justify it," Kabimba argued.

"We want them to give us a breakdown of the K150,000; let them explain to say, 'just to read the name Wynter Kabimba and make sure that it is spelled correctly, it will cost us K50,000. Just to check that Mr Kabimba has an NRC, it will cost us K10,000'... give us that breakdown up to the end so that we can appreciate where this figure is coming from. It can't be a dream figure by ECZ because ECZ is mandated to manage and administer democratic elections, free and fair elections, and those elections must allow everybody who is a citizen of this country and who wants to participate in these elections, leeway to do so. People shouldn't be excluded through such obstacles by an institution, which is using taxpayers' money and turning round to exclude that same taxpayer from that election. I hope they are listening because I will be writing to them soon using these same arguments."

Meanwhile, Kabimba argued that the fixing of the election date in the

Constitution to the second Thursday of August during an election year had brought problems for the country because elections could not be postponed regardless of circumstances.

"What other countries have done, if they don't have money, they postpone the elections. But you can't postpone an election now in Zambia because the date in the Constitution. We wanted to copy what the Americans do, but that is a rich country, which can afford to hold their elections the first or second Thursday of every four years. But here, you send our so-called technocrats to go and formulate a Constitution, they can't think about the social conditions of Zambia, they just copy and cut from the American Constitution and put it in our Constitution. But now, you have a problem, you can't postpone an election in Zambia. So, instead of resolving a problem, you create another problem on top of that problem. The British, our (former) colonial masters whose system is 700 years, don't have an election date. But you, a kama third-world country whose GDP is pocket money for Bill Gates, you formulate a Constitution, which has an election date, what is wrong with us?" he wondered.

And Kabimba also said

any stakeholder denying the existence of Coronavirus in Zambia could be right because there was no strict adherence to measures and people were not dying.

In this regard, he called on President Edgar Lungu to consider re-opening bars, saying there was tension in homes because people were not socializing in bars.

"Those who are saying that there is no coronavirus in Zambia could be right because if you look at the way this virus has ravaged other countries, you would wonder because some of these countries are developed countries whose health systems are far much better than ours. So, how can a third-world country like Zambia, from December when this pandemic broke out to June, today, only have 11 deaths? There is no social distance in places like Soweto...people are just bumping into each other. So, I have a lot of sympathy for those people that want to socialize in bars; I think the President must consider these guys and allow them to go and socialize," said Kabimba. "People are tensed up and this is bringing quarrels in homes, sitting at home all the time because you can't go to socialize is creating other problems within homes. The other thing is that it is leading to illegalities because there are bars that have opened and are operating illegally. So, please Mr President, open the bars and allow these guys to go and socialize."

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OUR country has suffered a slow pace of development because our politicians spend more time attending to non-issues while neglecting the real problems that are affecting our people. This is reflected in the kind of debates that our leaders engage in. The quality of politics in our country calls for deep meditation from all citizens of goodwill. We make this call because we feel the kind of discourse that politicians are engaging in will not help us solve the many problems that are causing misery among our people.

There is no leadership that can govern without making a single mistake. It is simply impossible. But when mistakes are made, a sober leadership takes responsibility, apologises and retains its focus on the real issues. The bicycle scandal would not have ended in that embarrassing manner if those in government had been honest from the onset. Strangely, after being caught in a web of lies, the Minister of Home Affairs now has the audacity of placing the blame on opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema for the misinformation. To us, this is really cheap politicking that should not be tolerated because such useless claims can derail national debate on developmental issues.

We should not allow the politics of our country to be relegated to trivialities chosen precisely because they save the consciences of the powerful and well-to-do, while concealing the plight of the poor and powerless. The kind of politics that we are seeing in Zambia today leave much to be desired. It's more like

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Ear to the ground

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Diverting people's attention with trash to conceal corruption

children playing a country game where one pretends to be president and he has ministers who have to act like leaders. It's hard to believe some of the decisions, actions and statements that come from our leaders.

We cannot have a trend where non-issues are the order of the day as far as discourse is concerned. This practice is unacceptable and needs to be changed. Our nation's politicians, both in the government and the opposition, need to take stock of their contribution towards the development of our politics and democracy. What is it that they have done to make politics an honourable and dignified service? What plans do they have for the people?

Our people are facing

numerous problems and challenges. Poverty in this country stands at about 64 per cent. Most of our people both in urban and rural areas can barely manage to survive. There are many people in Zambia who each day cannot meet the basic needs necessary for a decent human life. Our nation is richly endowed with natural resources, but our people live in abject poverty. The unemployment levels still remain very high, over 75 per cent, and most of our young people continue to walk the streets without any opportunities for jobs. These people want to hear a voice of hope, they want to hear meaningful dialogue from their leaders. They want to hear from responsible government officials who are willing to show accountability.

In the midst of all

these problems and challenges, our political leaders have embraced corruption, destroying the social structures of our country. Why are our leaders so greedy? Why is it that when they are caught in a scandal, they look for someone else to blame? This is the reason why our country cannot fight corruption effectively because it appears there is a written rule to defend anything that is negative about their leadership. Individuals who are corrupt in this government are enjoying while the innocent are having to pay for their sins. We have noticed that when one minister or government department is found wanting, everyone else in government is expected to swing to their defence.

Corruption is robbing our nation of scarce

resources. Those who pay bribes, those who protect and defend very corrupt elements are perpetuating an already dysfunctional system. We invite all Zambians to avoid corruption at all costs and condemn it whenever and wherever they see it. It should not matter who is involved, the corrupt must be called by their name and the people must demand justice.

These are the issues that we should be discussing as a country, not name calling and useless claims. And it is even laughable that at times the same leaders who perpetuate these non-issues accuse the media of being petty and yet the media is just a mirror of society; it reflects what is happening in the country - be it desirable or undesirable. When a

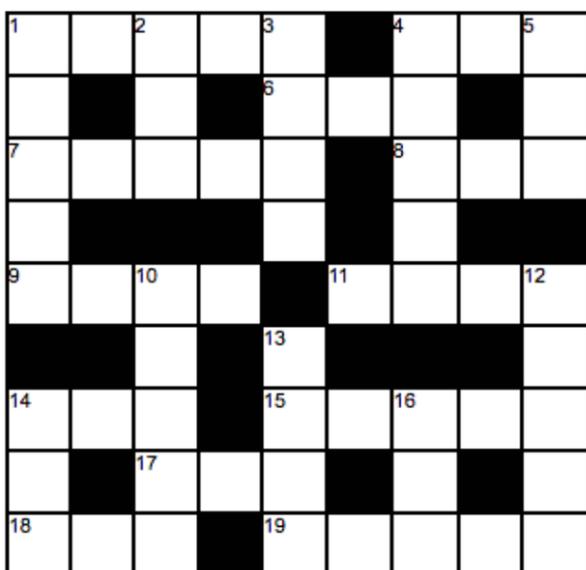
minister calls citizens "stupid", the whole government is silent, when the media make reference to the same word, government demands an apology, what kind of society is that?

The politicians need to understand that the situation in the country will not improve as long as they continue to make trivia their only discernible preoccupation. No one will develop our country for us. And politics need to be taken very serious because it is the instrument by which people cooperate together in order to achieve the common good. Political leadership is needed to guide the energies of all towards the common good.

For these reasons, politics need people with high credibility; people with substance whose every word, every act and every policy conforms to the people's interests. No one will come and lecture us on the necessity for visionary and hardworking political leadership that is imbued with the desire for change that is anchored on democratic governance and patriotism to our nation.

No one will come and remind us that political leadership should come with requisite knowledge, motivational force, managerial ability, flexibility, acuity, organising capacity and forthrightness. We are responsible for our own destiny and we will continue to wallow in poverty and underdevelopment if nothing is done to eradicate the mediocrity in our politics. Our people have a responsibility to task and demand better performance from them at all times.

Crossword puzzle No 628



“Nothing is miserable unless you think it so; and on the other hand, nothing brings happiness unless you are content with it.”
- Boethius

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not sour, salty, or bitter 4. Drink daintily 6. 3 on a sundial 7. Played a role 8. Measure of heavy weight 9. Say it isn't so 11. Inquires 14. Gun a motor 15. Wedding gown extension 17. 12/24 or 12/31 18. ___ capita 19. Hornet's cousins | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mike holder 2. Have dinner 3. Neaten 4. Web destinations 5. Writing utensil 10. Not ever 12. Nasal passage 13. Cook by boiling slowly 14. Agent 16. Advertisements |
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Crossword puzzle No 627



Readers' Feedback

Soko should repay RTSA K55,000 for illegally drawing fuel after termination of employment

Editor,
 "Let him pay back. RTSA should do that administratively. That is what is done to others who leave office with debts to the employer. Apply the law equally. There was no need of even publishing this matter. They have done well to fire that Chibalabala person. He should have reported the matter to the Chairman or any Board member if the acting CEO failed to take action. Such in competence is what has led to Zambia's poor performance". - Sikatema Mulonda

"The card in and of itself is worthless and rarely retrieved from former employees. Question is who kept on funding that card? It does not hold indefinite cash, it has to be funded monthly". - Nchima Nchito
 "Mr. Zindaba Soko has property, how about getting some of that and selling it to recover the funds. Small issue!" - Christopher Siwale Jr.
 "They have fired the wrong person because it was the work of the HR office to withdraw all privileges that Mr Soko enjoyed whilst he was an employee of RTSA". -

Danny Hamulenga
 "We have to hold appointing authorities accountable. There is a perpetual erosion of the rule of law in the country, and the culture is petrifying, to say the least. Until then, the entire pack is rotten!" - Moses Mukuka
 "But where was the board that employed Mr Soko? The junior officer didn't have power to retrieve the fuel card from his boss. The whole RTSA hierarchy needs overhaul". - Martin Mpukani
 "No one needs to retrieve a card from a fired employee, the card is more like an

ATM card money should be deposited in it to work so someone was funding the a/c monthly". - Webster Fungai
 "This is the job of accounts section in ensuring that institutional assets are accounted for. The problem is that most people who are employed in these institutions are cadres who lack basics in accounting. Accounts Officers were supposed to notify Human Resource about this anomaly. As long as employment is based on patronage such financial leakages will be the order of the day". - Christopher Mavimba



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Govt's apology over false bicycle donation claim

Editor,
 "Mistaken identity? Is there some kind of raffle draw from which the "donors" are being picked?" - Phigy Kalulu
 "Apology after apology, after apology, after apology because there is no vision". - Jack Solozzo
 "In bill 10 I think we should also add the ministry of apology and clarification". - James Soko
 "Comedy of errors! kkkkkkkk....this government

will never cease to amaze me. Very soon they will be justifying how they procured the bicycles. God help us". - Crispin Simwinga
 "So the Indians kept quiet while the Japanese were being praised..., pa zed che hahaha welcome to Zambia the real Africa". - Ngambi Stanford
 "So we are still waiting for the truth?" - Maimbolwa Kamanga
 "Whoever we wronged as a nation, we need to apologize". - Manda Masiye

Dr Ng'andu's letter to Paris Club seeking debt payment suspension

Dear editor,
 "I looked at Dr Bwalya Ng'andu and at the PF looters and back at Dr Ng'andu I could not tell the difference between the two. Instead of writing to President Lungu and all those who have looted the public funds to RETURN our money they have laundered to foreign accounts and buying "assets" locally and abroad Dr Bwalya Ng'andu is asking the people whose money the PF led government obtained on false pretences in form of "Developmental Projects Loans". Who STOLE this money? Now the PF government is lying about being given "donations" from Japan just to cover their thieving trails. You think ba Dr Bwalya Ng'andu that the World Bank and IMF have not heard about it? Shame!" - Christopher Kalima

"But PF while we have the gold...with quality leadership...this dept is payable... but seems the gold is meant for other plans than the country need". - Allan Phiri
 'But why plead for debt relief when your debts are manageable as Dora and PF always insist? I think let PF first

acknowledge that they have landed the country into debt quagmire because of their mismanagement or incapacity to handle the economy, due to their lack of vision, before seeking relief. For you can't ask for help when you are not ready to accept problems or lead in change". - Callaghan Mwamba

Lubinda on Bill 10 not about winning 2021 because Lungu's already assured of victory

Dear editor,
 "Ok than let bill 10 be tabled after 2021. For now fix the economy, KCM, CEC, Zesco and many more other economical problems!" - Anthony Matabula
 "Like the bird that refused to accept ceasefire in Owl's Animal farm, I, under no circumstance can NEVER trust PF over bill 10. Folks they have never told you the truth about who burnt Lusaka city market or who was behind the gassing saga or even how those police bikes were procured. You may go ahead and trust them but as for me, I've seen enough". - Evans Kaimoyo
 "If Bill 10 was inconsequential to its future prospects, the PF would have abandoned it by now. The clamour to see it over the line by whatever means tells the whole story really". - Felix Nkonge
 "You see now how people are saying PF will rig elections? How do you say he will win when in the first place does not even qualify for a third term?"

He was sworn in twice, so he doesn't qualify for a third term. Bo Lubinda wise up!!" - Crispin Simwinga
 "How can Bill 10 make the PF win elections in 2021 as if it has a voters card and it has the deciding vote?????" - Wise-Man Tembo
 "Sir you should learn to appreciate what God has done for you. And when your time is up leave. People will respect you and ululate for you. Don't fight people who actually put you in power. Ala mukasebana. Remember this 'Lesani malyotola'. - Bernard Zuze
 "I think if pressed hard, Lubinda can tell us just how Lungu has already won the elections of 2021 because he seems very sure, like whatever votes will say will not be important. I just sense there is something under the mart which is not adding up.. He is fighting so hard for Bill 10 and sure of winning next year to the point he can tell off the Catholics bishops when he knows they have a huge impact on peoples lives and behaviour". - Fryde Friday



\$17m MoH contract was awarded to Imran Lunat, not Honey Bee Pharmacy Ltd – Attorney General

By Julia Malunga
ATTORNEY General Likando Kalaluka SC says he has advised the Ministry of Health to execute a "Deed of Rectification" in order to change the name of the company that was awarded the US\$17 million medical supply contract from Honeybee pharmacy Limited to Imran Lunat, the individual who was trading as Honeybee Pharmacy.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Health issued a statement saying it erroneously added the word "limited" to Honey Bee Pharmacy when it

was awarding a US\$17 million contract to the company for the supply and delivery of health centre kits last year.

The ministry was reacting to an investigation by News Diggers that revealed that the government awarded a US\$17 million contract for the supply of health centre kits to a company called Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited, which did not exist at the time.

Ministry of Health spokesperson Dr Abel Kabalo claimed that it was just a clerical error that the word "Limited" was added to the sole trader company that was

awarded the contract.

"Honey Bee Pharmacy was duly awarded the contract together with two other entities. However, when it came to conveyancing of the contract for Honey Bee Pharmacy in particular, the term "Limited" was erroneously added. Although the slip whereby the word 'limited' was erroneously added, is a common phenomenon that from time to time universally occurs in the transcription of documents, the Ministry of Health holding itself to a high standard, deeply regrets the clerical error and will ensure such a slip does not recur," read the statement.

But when asked what name appeared on the bid documents that were availed to him for scrutiny, the Attorney General explained that the tender that he okayed was to be awarded to Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited".

Responding to a press query, Kalaluka revealed that when he cleared the health centre kits tender awarded by the Ministry of Health, the name that appeared on the documents was Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited, but went further to state that the follow up support documents did not have the word "Limited".

"The first time I cleared the contract, it showed HoneyBee Pharmacy Limited. But subsequently, the Ministry wrote to me availing all the documents submitted in support of the tender herein and all such documents do not bear "Limited".

The documents availed to me include: (a) receipt for purchase of bid documents (b) ZRA tax registration certificate (c) ZRA tax clearance certificate (d) certificate of registration for Honeybee Pharmacy (e) pharmaceutical Licence from Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority. All these documents submitted for the tender had Honeybee Pharmacy, WITHOUT 'limited'.

He said he has since advised the ministry to correct the record and show that the contract was awarded to an individual who had a sole trader business name called Honey Bee Pharmacy.

"To correct the error, I have since advised the Ministry of Health that a Deed of Rectification need to be executed to change the name from Honeybee pharmacy Limited to Imran Lunat t/a Honeybee Pharmacy.

Asked if he was aware if the sole trader individual had demonstrated financial capacity to deliver on the tender, the Attorney General said: "My office does not look at the financial capacity of bidders."

Asked if he took time to check if the company that was awarded the contract had met the requisite conditions regarding regulatory license approvals, he said: "I am not

aware of any failure to obtain any licence or approvals."

Asked which company the State would pursue in the case of breach of contract, since there was now another company called Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited, kalaluka said government would go for Imran Lunat as an individual.

"In case of liability, government would pursue the sole trader and not the limited liability company because the contract is with the sole

trader," said Kalaluka, adding that "It's not unusual to award a contract to a sole trader."

During the investigation process, Lunat told news Diggers that he was no longer a Director for the company that won the contract and he does not make decisions.

Asked how he won the US\$17 million contract when the limited company was not registered with PACRA at the time, Lunat said he was no longer a director

for the company that won the contract, as he was now working for the new owners of the company.

"I don't know, you can ask them. That is something you can speak with them. I think there is a tender process that went through. I am not sitting on the board of directors. I used to be a director but I am no longer a director. So I don't make any decisions, I don't deal with them, I am now a worker for them," said Lunat.



Attorney General Likando Kalaluka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

PF MPs' attack on Catholic bishops a taboo - Kambwili

By Julia Malunga

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) has called on Livestock Minister Professor Nkandu Luo and her colleagues to apologize for castigating the pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Bishops.

And Kambwili says leader has accused the Electoral Commission of Zambia of protecting the interests of the ruling Patriotic Front and President Edgar Lungu by suggesting a hike in nomination fees.

Speaking at an Opposition Alliance briefing, Thursday, Kambwili said what Prof Luo and her colleagues did was an abomination.

"Given Lubinda, Jean Kapata, Nkandu Luo and others surely you go and start castigating a pastoral letter of your own church for the purpose of keeping political power? What a shame! The Catholic Church has been guiding its flock through pastoral letters and this has been done since time immemorial. I have never seen a reasonable Catholic who goes in an anthill, who goes for a press briefing to castigate a pastoral letter? If you have anything against what the Catholic bishops engage them privately what you did was an abomination to the Catholic faith. But please go and apologize to the bishops. You are drunk with money and God will punish you. Let me tell you PF, you play with Catholic bishops, you are in trouble," Kambwili warned.

And Kambwili insisted that the ECZ nomination fees were too high.

"The Average earning of a civil servant, the majority of civil servants, is about K5,000. For a civil servant to save K25,000 it means his children will not go to school for five months he should get a K5,000 gross without any deductions. Is that fair? Why do you want to exclude the poor people from becoming presidents? It clearly shows that when you steal too much, when you become so corrupt and you make so much money you think that everybody has money," he said

Kambwili also asked ECZ to provide a longer time for voter registration, saying a 30-

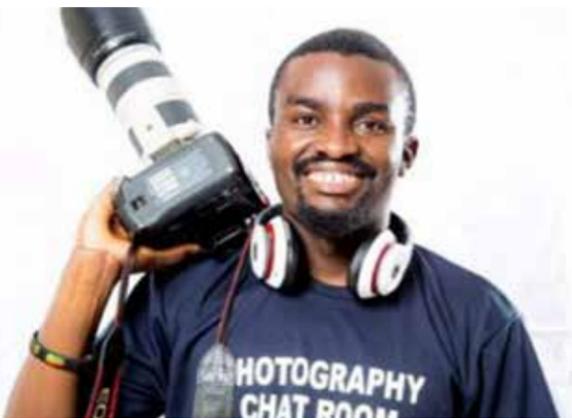
day period would leave room for manipulation by the ruling party.

"Every year when there is registration of voters, this has never been done in a period of one month. We are talking of capturing 9 million voters, now tell me what system are you going to use that will enable you capture all voters within a period of 30 days? What system are you going to use? For us in the alliance, we believe that this is one way try to de-franchise the people of Zambia from voting," said Kambwili.

"We are not going to sit and watch we are calling upon those in government to serious consider calling for an indaba that should involve ECZ, political parties, the church, civil society and any interested Zambian citizens so that we can come and agree on the way forward as far as the voter registration is concerned. And how the resources are going to be shared because we are reliably informed that the one month period they have given, there is a plan to say if they go to Southern Province, they are going to announce that we don't have enough material, give them only about 15 days to do the registration of voters and give the areas where PF is popular more days so that they can capture more people."



Police arrest Chellah Tukuta for criminal libel



By Julia Malunga

POLICE in Lusaka have arrested photographer Chellah Tukuta.

Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo confirmed the arrest saying he would be charged with four counts of criminal libel.

"Police in Lusaka have arrested Chella Tukuta for Criminal Libel. This is in connection with some derogatory remarks alleged to have been produced and posted on social media by the accused person against Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Hon. Dora Siliya, Zambia Revenue Authority Commissioner General(ZRA), Kingsley Chanda, Northern Province Permanent Secretary, Charles Sipanje and Former Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations, Amos Chanda," stated Katongo.

"The accused person is in police custody yet to be charged with four counts of Criminal Libel. He is also expected to face more charges on the Copperbelt."

But renowned musician Brian Bwembya, popularly known as B-Flow, says youths should not be scared to speak out following Tukuta's arrest.

B-Flow said the timing was wrong and observed that freedom of expression was shrinking to a point of it almost dying.

"If, indeed, the charges that they have labelled against him are true, their timing is not good because of the current happenings. Youths are speaking out, youths are making plans to see what actions they can take to ensure that their voices are heard and during a period like this to arrest a person, who has been vocal about these issues, then it means that it will be misinterpreted by a lot of people. A lot of people are saying that the main issue that he has been arrested for is really not the things he has been charged with, but because he has been speaking out. It is quite disturbing," B-Flow told News Diggers! in an interview.

"Youths should never be scared! The more they see people, who speak out on these issues getting arrested, getting framed or like my situation the truth was spun; the youths should gather more confidence and use that as their motivation to stand for themselves. If people that you consider to be your leaders are being shaken around and you don't want to take the leadership role yourself, then the movement is likely to crumble. Everybody should take it upon themselves and assume a leadership role."

He said the cadres who were threatening the youths were being backed by their leaders.

"In my opinion, freedom of expression in Zambia, as well as press freedom, are shrinking. Right now, they are almost dead! We have seen senior government officials threatening us because we are using our voices. Cadres are also threatening us, they are being backed by their leaders," said B-Flow.

Tukuta was one of the three who were warned by Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo to desist from using social media to discuss critical governance issues.

Tukuta refused to apologise for making videos in which he accused several government officials of corruption.

Chiyangi predicts lots of injuries ahead of league resumption

By Abraham Kalito

GREEN Eagles coach Aggrey Chiyangi has predicted that the last few games of the 2019/2020 campaign will produce numerous injuries if the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) does not allocate enough time for training prior to the resumption of the league.

FAZ announced a fortnight ago that there would be a two-week training period before playoff resumes.

In an interview with Goal Diggers, the former Chipolopolo coach said players would not be adequately prepared in that period and that such would result in a lot of injuries.

"For me I think, looking at the situation we are in, three weeks might be a minimum even though it's not enough as well. But if it's three weeks, at least you can have a week where you can work on the physical conditioning of the players, then the second week you try to loosen them up and then the third week, you start preparing for the games. We are talking about the human body here which is science. And I'm sure it's the doctors that understand what happens in the body," Chiyangi said.

"They understand better than us as coaches because we only have minimal information about

physiology. We just know what we should do and what we shouldn't do to a player and they can tell you two weeks is not enough. The player will be pushed to the maximum, meaning we might have players having muscle cramps and a lot of injuries. You play three games, already you will have four players injured. What is important is, fine, the games start in July but I think there must be a minimum period for players to be drilled."

He said it was not safe for players to engage in high tempo matches without proper training.

"...the health of a player when it comes to a player performing at the expected

rate, without proper training what do you think would happen? For me, what is important is we really is we need to see, for instance, why we have the medical people in the league. They can advise to say, since we have stayed for three months without proper training, [to] make players to play at a higher rate, what is the minimum period that we can give players to train so that they are ready?" Chiyangi added.

"We understand the situation, it's something

that no one thought would happen but I think for the safety of the players...two weeks it's not enough. What am I going to do in the first week as a coach? And then what do I do in the second week because the second week is the week that we will start playing the games. So, I cannot work on the physical conditioning because I am thinking of the second week when the matches will be played. Because I cannot break my players when we are having games the following week. So, those

are the things that we are worried about as coaches."

Meanwhile, Chiyangi revealed that he has had a hard time drilling his players during the past three months.

"...We haven't been doing much. You see, we don't have gyms here in Choma, we just have two small ones which do not have equipment that we can use for training. So, it's been very difficult for us. We have been relying on these online instructions. But there is nothing we can do," said Chiyangi.

Chelsea complete £47.5m Werner signing from RB Leipzig

CHELSEA have confirmed that they have reached an agreement with RB Leipzig to sign striker Timo Werner.

Werner has signed a five-year contract worth 170,000 per week, with the Germany international set to arrive at Stamford Bridge in July as part of a £47.5 million (\$59m) deal.

The Blues confirmed that the prolific frontman will remain with his current club until the end of the Bundesliga season and, subject to a medical examination, will link up with his new side ahead of the 2020-21 Premier League campaign.

A plethora of sides, including Liverpool, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Inter, had been credited with an interest in Werner, but it's the Blues that have won the race to sign a player who is currently enjoying the most prolific season of his career.

Speaking to Chelsea's official website, Werner said: "I am delighted to be signing for Chelsea, it is a very proud moment for me to be joining this great club.

"I of course want to thank RB Leipzig, the club and the fans, for four fantastic years. You will forever be in my heart. I look forward to next

season with my new teammates, my new manager and of course the Chelsea fans. Together we have a very successful future ahead of us."

The forward, capable of playing anywhere across the frontline but often deployed at part of a strike duo, has amassed an incredible 32 goals and 13 assists across 43 appearances this term and the club's hierarchy are understandably excited at completing the transfer coup.

Director Marina Granovskaia said of the signing: "We are very excited that Timo Werner has chosen to join Chelsea. He is a player who was coveted all over

Europe and it is no surprise, he has that rare mix of being young and exciting and yet established and proven.

"We can't wait to have Timo on board, but until then we wish him and RB Leipzig all the best for the rest of this season."

Currently sitting third in the Bundesliga, Leipzig are on course to qualify for the Champions League once again.

They may well have do without Werner for what remains of the 2019-20 edition of Europe's premier club competition, however, with Goal having reported that the striker has told Leipzig he is unwilling to feature. **GOAL**

Gattuso admits up to 30% of his squad could leave

NAPOLI head coach Gennaro Gattuso has admitted that he only expects to retain the services of 70-80 per cent of his squad in the upcoming transfer window, with several of his players having been linked with a move elsewhere.

Dries Mertens recently pledged his future to the Neapolitan side, putting an end to speculation that the forward might join Chelsea or Inter, but there remains uncertainty regarding some of the club's other big names.

Indeed, the likes of Arkadiusz Milik, Kalidou Koulibaly, Hirving Lozano and Brazilian midfielder Allan have all been subject to transfer speculation and Gattuso admits that he doesn't expect to retain the services of everyone currently at his disposal.

"We don't need to operate too much in the market," the trainer told the press. "We have to see who's going to leave us. Our chairman knows it - we speak about it every week. This is a strong team but I think that only 70-80% of the players will stay with us.

"We will do a few transfers but I know this team has great quality [already]."

That quality was underlined on Wednesday evening as Napoli beat Maurizio Sarri's Juventus in the Coppa Italia final, winning 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

And Gattuso, who has only been in charge for six months following Carlo Ancelotti's ill-fated spell at the helm, felt that he was kicking every ball from the dugout, calling on his own experience as a player to push his charges to victory.

"It was a great win," he said. "I am 42 years old, this is my fourth final as a coach - I played 15 when I was a player, so that's 19 now in my career.

"When you start, coaching is completely different. I have many responsibilities on my shoulders. Sometimes I act like I am the chairman, or the doctor, or the storekeeper, and it's difficult when you live football like me.

"But it's the only way I know how to live. That's why I feel we won this trophy as if I played the game myself. I know where we started and how I pushed my players and the people working for the club. We deserved it." **GOAL**

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Zesco Utd to play in FIFA's post-COVID charity tournament

By Abraham Kalito

ZAMBIA'S Super League champions Zesco United have been listed by world's soccer governing body FIFA to be among 17 other African clubs that will take part in a post Covid-19 fund raising tournament.

FIFA has reportedly used popularity on the African continent as the criteria for the selection of the teams.

Other teams that have

reportedly been selected include Esperance of Tunisia, Al Ahly of Egypt, Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, TP Mazembe of Congo DR and Accra Hearts of Oak of Ghana.

The rest include Zamalek of Egypt, Orlando Pirates of South Africa, Kampala City Club KCC of Uganda, El Merreikh of Sudan, Gor Mahia of Kenya, AS Vita of Congo, Raja Casablanca and

Wydad, both of Morocco and Enyimba of Nigeria.

FIFA has said such tournament would be held in other continents but did not put a timeframe.

The global football body only disclosed that the tournament would only take place 'when it is safe for fans to return to the stadium'.

"The tournament will be held in each continent at the same time. It will

last for a month with the tournament starting with group ties played over two legs. The money realised will be managed by FIFA who will in turn reward each club or representatives during an award to the Champions at its inauguration of inter club tournament in the Hall of Heroes in Zurich, Switzerland," FIFA said.

FIFA is yet to notify clubs of the development.

EAGLES PURSUE UGANDA'S FILBERT

By Abraham Kalito
SUPER League side Green Eagles Football Club are reportedly in pursuit and poised to acquire the services of KCCA FC right-back Filbert Obenchan.

According to Ugandan media, Eagles were impressed

with the player's performance during the 2019 CECAFA Kagame Cup in Rwanda and have been asking for his signature since.

The Ugandan has thus far helped his club clinch the championship.

He has, since re-joining the Lugogo outfit in 2017, won two Uganda Premier League titles, one Uganda Cup championship and a Pilsner super title.

Obenchan's contract expires at the end of this season

but he is said to be in negotiations with KCCA over a contract renewal.

If signed, Obenchan will be the first foreigner to feature for the army-based side as Eagles currently uses locals only.



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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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