



ZPPA INVESTIGATES HONEYBEE CONTRACT



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema interacts with Chella Tukuta's relatives after attempting to visit him at Lusaka Central Police yesterday

By Julia Malunga
THE Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) says it has launched investigation into the Ministry of Health tender number MoH/SP/032/19 for the supply of 50,000 health centre kits, under which an individual called Imran Lunat and two other companies were awarded a US\$17 million contract.
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30 days insufficient for voter registration - AVAP

By Mirriam Chabala
AVAP executive director Richwell Mulwani says it will be tricky for the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to conduct voter registration for the 2021 general election in just one month.
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Youths make corruption, unemployment part of freedom protest agenda

By Ulande Nkomesha
SOME youths, including popular musicians Chama Fumba alias Pilato and Brian Bweembya alias B-Flow, have insisted that their protest against various governance issues like corruption will proceed today.
In a statement issued by the Zambian Youth Charter, the youths stated that were concerned with the increased levels of unemployment, grand corruption and infringement on human rights, among other issues currently affecting the country.
"We the youth of Zambia recognise that we are the future of Zambia and that the mistakes being made today..."
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HH offers Chellah legal support
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Those who dare the state will have themselves to blame, Kampyongo warns youths

By Zondiwe Mbewe
HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has warned youths planning to hold a demonstration today against doing so, saying those who will dare the State will have themselves to blame.

He said this yesterday during a handover ceremony of some modern housing units to the Zambia Police Service in Sakania, on the Copperbelt Province.
Kampyongo was accompanied by Copperbelt

PF Chairman Nathan Chanda, Chifubu PF member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi and other government and party officials.
He said he was aware of fake statements circulating on social media that the

Police had authorized youths to demonstrate today.
Kampyongo warned the said youths to stay home, adding that those who would dare the State would have themselves to blame.
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FPI
FREE PRESS INITIATIVE (Z)
Promoting Free Press, Good Journalism & Defending Human Rights

By Mirriam Chabala

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TIZ) says British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's contemplation of reducing his country's aid to Zambia should be a wakeup call for government to generate its own resources from God-given natural endowments.

And TIZ says the apparent non-desire to suspend officials facing corruption charges does not paint a good picture of Zambia and it makes the country an easy target for considerations such as the one Britain is making.

By Ulande Nkomesha

SOME youths, including popular musicians Chama Fumba alias Pilato and Brian Bweembya alias B-Flow, have insisted that their protest against various governance issues like corruption will proceed today.

In a statement issued by the Zambian Youth Charter, the youths stated that were concerned with the increased levels of unemployment, grand corruption and infringement on human rights, among other issues currently affecting the country.

"We the youth of Zambia recognise that we are the future of Zambia and that the mistakes being made today will affect us in the future; bearing in mind our position as custodians of the future welfare of our country. We believe that Zambia's best days are yet to come; we envision a society in which all the rights enshrined in our constitution are accorded to every Zambian and protected irrespective of age, physical or mental ability, gender, geography, religion, education, or socio economic

Boris' contemplation of reducing aid to Zambia should be a wake up for govt – TIZ

In a statement, Sunday, TIZ chapter president Rueben Lifuka said there was need for the Zambian government to put its house in order in terms of governance.

"TIZ has noted with worry the comments made by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson questioning the continued relevance of giving huge aid

to Zambia as reported in the News Diggers edition of 18th June 2020. There is no doubt that Zambia as a country has benefitted greatly from the British government's all weather friendship and support over the years through the then Department for International Development (DfID). TIZ is also cognizant of the fact that

even civil society organisations and other non-state actors have also been beneficiaries of the British government's technical and financial support over many years. It is from this premise that Prime Minister Johnson's comments and contemplation to reduce British aid coming to Zambia should come as a wakeup call to the government of Zambia and other stakeholders to not only put our house in order in terms of issues of governance but to also to think more practically about developing our ability to generate resources from our God-given natural endowments in order to supplement whatever aid we receive to advance our development prospects," Lifuka stated.

Lifuka observed that Zambia had not fared well on the aspect of good governance.

"The most recent Corruption Perception Index (CPI) suggests that we have fallen back as a country on the issue of corruption, and the unfortunate remarks made by the Chief Government Spokesperson on the scourge, coupled by the apparent non-desire at the highest level

of government to suspend officials facing corruption charges, does not paint a good picture of Zambia within the international community. We believe this makes us an easy target for considerations such as the one made by the Prime Minister Johnson. In addition to this, the continued threats to Zambia's civic space, as seen from the closure of some media houses on flimsy grounds, and threats made by senior government officials on youths voicing concern about governance issues, among others have not helped to build Zambia's image as a country that respects the fundamental freedoms of citizens, which we believe also makes us as a country vulnerable whenever considerations of this nature are being made," Lifuka stated.

Lifuka appealed to government to reflect on its performance and take practical steps to change the growing perception suggesting that it did not have the capacity to deal with corruption.

"TIZ wishes to make an earnest appeal to the Zambian government to reflect on its performance when it comes to issues of governance, and to

take immediate and practical steps to change the growing perception that it does not have what it takes to tackle issues of corruption, reducing civic space and other governance challenges with which we continue to grapple. It is TIZ's considered belief that this will help to enhance Zambia's image to the international community as a country that is governed by the rule of law," stated Lifuka.

"TIZ also believes that Prime Minister Johnson's comments should give the Zambian government renewed vigor to realize the potential of Zambia's natural resources, such as minerals, in ways that will not only promote accountability and transparency, but also the full and beneficial participation of Zambians. We believe this will contribute to making Zambia more self-sufficient as a country, with whatever aid received coming largely to complement our development efforts."

Lifuka encouraged the Zambian government to immediately seek audience with the British High Commission in order to give assurance and to highlight what specific steps Zambia would take to address the current governance issues that were raising serious concern among citizens and other stakeholders.

Youths make corruption, unemployment part of protest agenda

status," read the statement.

"We aspire to have a free society in which every Zambian can aspire for and attain a decent living for themselves through employment or business ventures. We are concerned with the current climate of joblessness, unchecked and rampant inequality, grand corruption and infringement of our rights, including the right to freely assemble, the right to free speech. The right to freely receive and disseminate our ideas are a major barrier to the realization of the advancement of the youth and enjoyment of our constitutional rights and the dignity of all Zambians."

They stated that unemployment and corruption had continued to endanger the country's future.

"We therefore demand the following: decent job

opportunities for us the youth to avoid violent cadreism and involvement in illicit activities that result from the high unemployment levels which endanger our country now and in the future. Decent jobs are the key to our livelihoods and our dignity. (2)Corruption action against any individual reported to be involved in corrupt activities and that government intensify the fight against corruption. We refuse to tolerate the abuse of public resources when a number of young people are starving in public universities due to lack of money. We have continued to see and hear corruption allegations among top government leaders but no tangible results or actions to curb this evil," read the statement. *Story Continues on P4*

Luo lied on Catholic MPs' support for Bill 10 - Lufuma

By Tenson Mkhala

MUNALI PF member of parliament Professor Nkandu Luo lied that all Catholic members of parliament are in support of the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019, say UPND members of the Catholic Parliamentarians' Association.

Speaking when he addressed journalists at Parliament Media Centre in Lusaka, Friday, UPND Catholic parliamentary representative, who is also Kabompo UPND member of parliament, Ambrose Lufuma said Association chairperson Prof Luo lied to the nation that all the Catholic members of parliament had agreed to support Bill 10.

He insisted that UPND members of parliament remained in full support of the communiqué and demand made by the Catholic bishops to have the controversial Bill withdrawn from Parliament.

"We, the UPND Catholic members of the Association of the Catholic parliamentarians, have decided to issue this press release in order to clarify the statement by the chairperson of the Association Nkandu Luo in [response to] the communiqué issued by the Zambia Conference of Catholic

Bishops (ZCCB) on Bill 10 of 2019. In the statement, Luo insinuated that all members of the Association were in support of Bill 10 and, therefore, not in support of the communiqué issued by the ZCCB on the need to withdraw Bill 10, and that the bishops have been misinformed and, therefore, wrong in calling for the withdrawal of Bill 10. We want to state in no uncertain terms here that this is misrepresenting facts. It is only some of the PF members in the Association that are in support of Bill 10. As UPND MPs in the Association, we are in full support of the communiqué and the demand by the Catholic bishops to have Bill 10 withdrawn," Lufuma said.

He said most citizens remained fearful that the PF was hijacking the Constitution amendment process for political expediency aimed at perpetuating their stay in power.

"We join the ZCCB and other churches and civic leaders in demanding for the withdrawal of Bill 10. Indeed, Bill 10 is an evil attempt at usurping the freedom and liberties of the Zambian people and consolidating the PF's stranglehold on citizens. We categorically and without

reserve, hereby disassociate ourselves from Nkandu Luo's statement and instead support the Catholic bishops. We shall do all that which is in our power to represent the people of Zambia who are calling for the withdrawal of Bill 10 in Parliament," Lufuma insisted.

"No amount of manipulation and persuasion from PF will coerce us, as Catholic parliamentarians, into supporting Bill 10. It is conceived with ill intentions and, therefore, adds little or no value to the current Constitution."

And Lufuma urged Zambians to heed the Catholic bishops' advice and other Church bodies in rejecting Bill 10.

"We urge Zambians to heed to the advice of the ZCCB and other mother Church bodies, Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and civic organizations in rejecting Bill 10. Their collective wisdom cannot be in vain, neither can it be doubted. For PF, anything that one doesn't agree to or with...can only be that which is in support of the opposition, [which is...] wrong. This is the intolerance that we say the PF always exhibits against any divergent view no matter how genuine," said Lufuma.

My petition on de-registering undemocratic parties' rightly before court, insists Magistrate

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LIVINGSTONE Magistrate Benjamin Mwelwa has argued that the petition where he is seeking an order that the Registrar of Societies de-registers all political parties, which have not practiced regular, free and fair intra-party elections, is rightly before the Constitutional Court.

He adds that his petition is premised on the contravention of the Constitution and meets all the requirements for a matter that should be brought before the Constitutional Court.

This is a matter in which Mwelwa, an Advocate of the High Court, has petitioned the ConCourt 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 political 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 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 the respondents in the matter.

The Court recently joined Stephen Katuka in his capacity as UPND secretary general and Davies Mwila in his capacity as PF secretary general as interested parties to the petition after they applied for joinder.

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

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.

Magistrate Mwelwa has, however, opposed Katuka's summons to have his petition dismissed.

According to an affidavit in opposition to the interested parties' summons to strike out the petition and to dismiss the action filed in the Constitutional Court, Magistrate Mwelwa argued that his petition meets all the requirements contrary Katuka's assertion that it did not meet the requirements for the actions to be brought before the Constitutional Court.

"My petition is premised on the contravention of the Constitution. It is properly and rightly before this Honourable Court. Both my petition and affidavit verifying facts filed into court on May 11, 2020, disclose the alleged violation of the Constitution by all the political parties in Zambia in great details," read the affidavit.

But in an affidavit in reply, Katuka insisted that the petition was irregular and defective as it was improperly before the Constitutional Court.

He reiterated his position that the assertions in the petition, which relate to the 12-months' time frame do not meet the requirements for actions to be brought before the Constitutional Court.

"The main issue in contention contained in the petition is the absence of intra-party elections in all political parties within 12 months of the passing of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.1 of 2016 and the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016. However, this court will note that the provision at the core of the petitioner's argument is as a matter of fact section 18 of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.1 of 2016, which is an Act of Parliament, whose interpretation does not fall within the jurisdiction of this court," argued Katuka.

"Any assertion that stems from or refers to this Act of Parliament does not fall within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court and, therefore, must be struck off for want of jurisdiction.

By Ulande Nkomesha
JACK Kalala says 2021 will be a brutal year because the PF have already declared themselves winners of the forthcoming general election and are determined to crush all dissenting voices.

In an interview, Kalala, who served as president Levy Mwanawasa's special assistant for policy implementation and monitoring, feared that the PF will squeeze the opposition and other citizens, who want to exercise their democratic right through the police, who they had equipped with dangerous hardware to clampdown the opposition.

"I fear for what is going to happen next year. You see that the police have been equipped with war equipment! So, next year is going to be a brutal year. We feel that people are going to be brutalised, especially the opposition because the ruling party, Given Lubinda (Justice Minister), the President (Edgar Lungu) himself and others have all already declared themselves as winners of next year's election. Meanwhile, on the ground, people are saying, 'they don't want PF!' Now, how is PF going to win? Plus, President Lungu said it: 'whether you vote for me or not, we will continue to be in power!' How is he going to do that apart from using force, apart from using brutality? So, next year, there is going to be a lot of harassment;

there is going to be a lot of brutalisation; people are going to be brutalised for wanting to exercise their democratic right. They will suppress them because PF wants to remain in power for good. So, that is the challenge we have for next year," Kalala said.

"Instead of waiting for next year, these issues need to be talked about now. Why has the government bought this equipment for the police for next year? Where are they going to use them? We are not at war with any country. They want to intimidate people, to scare people, to frighten people like they did in Chilubi Island, where they will be the only ones to campaign. This we should not accept! We don't want what happened in Sudan to happen in Zambia; we don't want what has happened in other countries where they have forced out the President to happen in Zambia. We want to maintain our tradition to change government democratically like it happened in 1991, like it happened in 2011 and we want this to happen in 2021."

He added that now was the time to start preparing for a free and fair election by ensuring that the PF were tamed.

"The time to start is now; we need fair and free elections next year. From what we are getting on the ground, people have changed, they don't want PF!

2021 will be brutal, PF is determined to win - Kalala

The time to start preparing for a peaceful outcome of the elections next year is now. So, pressure should be put on the PF to sit around the table and say, 'look, this is what we want, we know you have equipped the police, but we don't want these things to be used.' The NGOs should continue to do what they are doing, including the Church, to sensitize the public and to talk against these things so that the PF are tamed and they come to the table and ensure that they leave Zambia a better place than they found it. Just like they came in peacefully, they should move out peacefully," Kalala urged.

He said Zambians would not accept fake results by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) in support of the PF.

"What may happen is that when ECZ will start announcing the results; they will start doing what they did in 2016, probably announcing fake results, which will not be good because you see, that will be dangerous as it may lead to violence and should be



avoided. People will not accept fake results, fake victories, no! Like they did in Chilubi where they denied the opposition chance to campaign, people will not accept that. PF is up to no good, like what is happening in Mwinilunga; how do you give the resources that are supposed to be for citizens to foreigners and meanwhile you are squandering money where you spend US \$5 million to hire a consultant

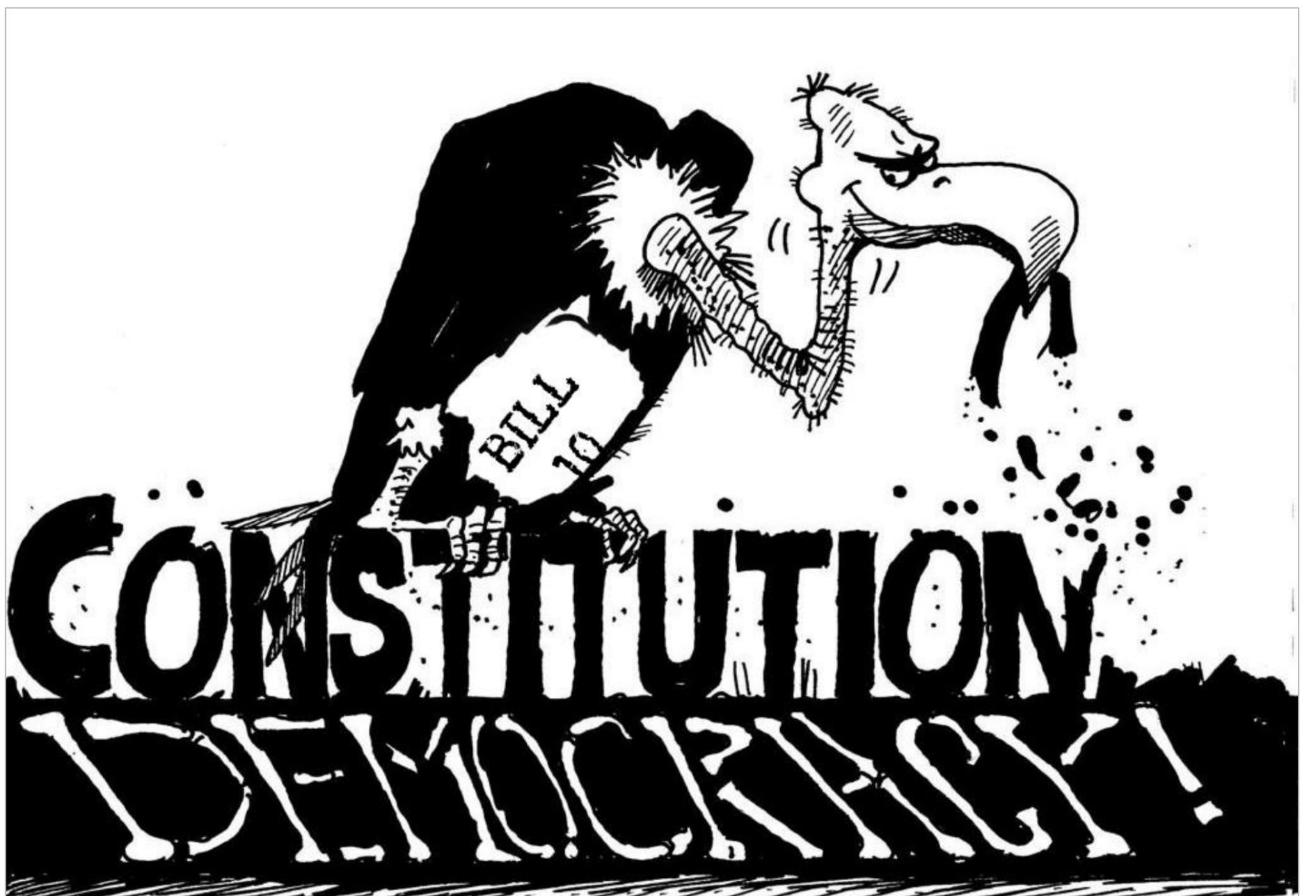
(Lazard Freres) and then you ask somebody with US \$2.5 million to come and invest in the gold?" Kalala asked.

"People will not continue to accept this artificial poverty, which has been imposed by the PF. This is why the artists are coming out and voicing out; the youths are talking...these resources belong to us; don't give them to foreigners! The PF has put in place a lot of schemes to ensure their

victory; you can see the way ECZ is behaving; those are part of the schemes, which they are using so that they guarantee the victory for themselves; so that they win a fake victory."

And Kalala said it was irresponsible for the government to threaten youths not to protest on the many issues affecting them.

"Even on Monday, the 22nd (today), the youths should be allowed to peacefully demonstrate. What the leaders should do is to listen to what they are saying because they have been graduating since 2011 up to now, what jobs have they created for them? So, a good parent should sit down and listen to the cries of his children. When the children are crying that they are hungry, we don't get a whip and start whipping them! That is being irresponsible as a parent. So, if one is a responsible parent, he should listen to the cry of the children, not what the PF is saying, 'that they are going to break the bones of anyone who is going to demonstrate,'" said Kalala.



By Zondiwe Mbewe

HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has warned youths planning to hold a demonstration today against doing so, saying those who will dare the State will have themselves to blame.

He said this yesterday during a handover ceremony of some modern housing units to the Zambia Police Service in Sakania, on the Copperbelt Province.

Kampyongo was accompanied by Copperbelt PF Chairman Nathan Chanda, Chifubu PF member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi and other government and party officials.

He said he was aware of fake statements circulating on social media that the Police had authorized youths to demonstrate today.

Kampyongo warned the said youths to stay home, adding that those who would dare the State would have themselves to blame.

"I am aware that there are some statements circulating that the Zambia Police has authorized people to get on the streets. There are also some fake media stories circulating to the effect that the Ministry of Home Affairs has equally consented to those activities. My simple warning

Those who dare the state will have themselves to blame, Kampyongo warns youths

to the parents who know that their children would want to engage in these illegalities, keep these children home. And those children who don't want to listen to their parents, we are giving you the guidance that stay at home on [June] 22 or even beyond, until such a time when we allow people to gather in large numbers," Kampyongo said.

"Those who will dare the State will have themselves to blame. So Inspector General, you know what you will need to do best for the country. Activate your troops and make them ready to deal with any non law abiding citizens who want to take the law into their own hands."

The Home Affairs Minister reminded officers not to marry foreigners.

"Inspector General [Kakoma Kanganja] these houses we are handing over to your officers today are very critical. As you know this

area is a border area between the Republic of Zambia and our neighbouring country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. So this is a very strategic place. To you the officers, I think the call which was made by the honourable MP (Ng'ambi) sounded as a by the way or as a joke. But I re-echo his sentiments that we understand the temptations that go with operating at the border. Yes love has got no borders and love knows no colour but you, who are serving your nation as security personnel are restricted either way," said Kampyongo.

"This support you are getting from your commander-in-chief and government is to motivate you, is to encourage you to do your work professionally. That's the only way you can reciprocate to this gesture (the housing units). I am sure some of you were joining

Zambia Police not even dreaming to live in decent accommodation like this."

And the Chifubu member of parliament said President Edgar Lungu was transforming the nation, adding that his constituency had received a fair share of development.

"This place used to be a bush and today we see modern houses being built. I don't think honourable minister, there is better motivation or morale for Zambia Police Service better than giving them modern houses this morning. I believe this is also going to be the case with all their family members. President



Edgar Lungu is transforming the nation. And Chifubu has received a fair share of development," Ng'ambi said.

He encouraged single officers not to marry foreigners.

"Honourable minister, these houses that you are going to handover, particularly if

some of the officers are going to be single, I encourage you not to get married to the Congolese or from the border. Because under your service, it's a serious offence for you to marry a foreigner. We want to encourage you to be Zambians and be patriotic," said Ng'ambi.

Youths make corruption, unemployment part of protest agenda

From P2

"Respect for human rights: the State needs to commit to the protection of the human rights of every citizen within the borders of our country. We demand for the freedom of the assembly, freedom of expression, freedom to receive and disseminate ideas and freedom of access to information. We believe these freedoms are important for all Zambians in their pursuit for a better society now and in future. We further demand for protection from victimisation, suppression of youth voices by the state through the police and political cadres. We also demand for fair application of the Public Order Act. We want accountable leadership; a leadership that is accountable and transparent to all Zambians. This is because we understand that our leaders are the servants of the people, therefore, the people must be aware and approve of what their servants do whilst in office."

They stated that there was need to protect the sanctity of the constitution from those that may attempt to violate it.

"Respect for the constitution: That the sanctity of our constitution should be preserved and protected from those that may attempt to violate it. The constitution should guide our behavior and not the politicians guiding our constitution and any amendment to the constitution must reflect our desires as the people of Zambia and not the narrow partisan interests of a few politicians. Any amendment to the constitution must only be done after full and adequate consultation of we, the people of Zambia," read the statement.

"We also demand access to health, good housing, clean water and good sanitation. So many of our citizens live in squalid conditions without access to toilets and clean running water. Many can not afford to access good health care when they fall sick. We demand that equal access to these amenities be provided for all citizens to live indignity. A properly funded public health care system is our right. Currently, decent healthcare is a distant dream for most Zambians. Health care remains chronically underfunded, and is a threat to our future. If we cannot be healthy, we cannot lead the country in the future and enjoy our right to a decent life."

They also called for improved rights for

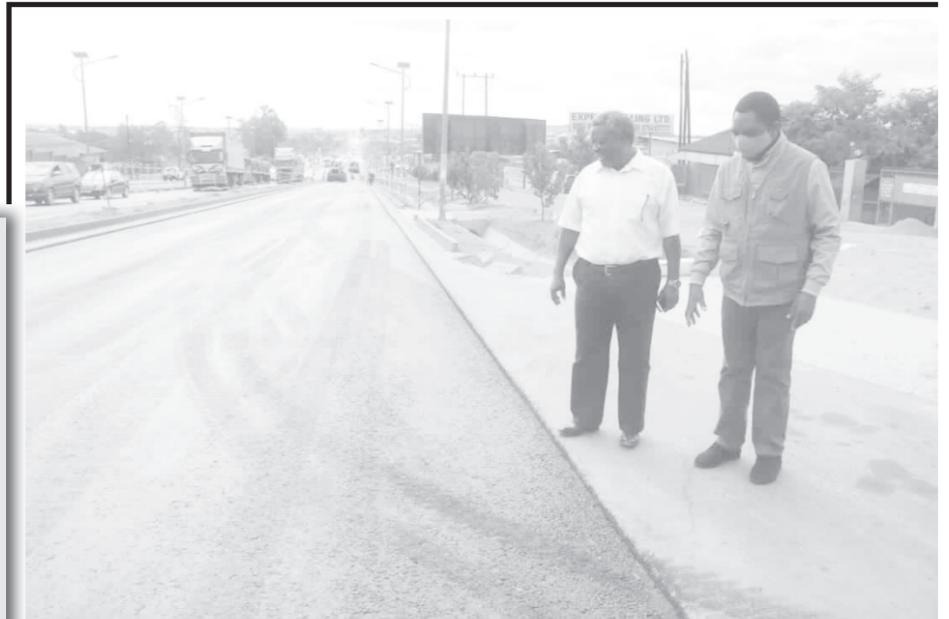
women in society.

"We also demand for improved learning environments for learners across the country, especially in rural areas. We believe that only decolonized quality education is key to the success of young people and that of our country. Comprehensive civic education focusing on civil & political rights, constitutionalism and patriotism. Enhance education to include compulsory entrepreneurship, agriculture and Environmental education as part of the curriculum. We also demand equal access to education for the girl child who continues to be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender. We also demand for the reinstatement of meal allowances for all students in all government universities because we feel even if we do not have resources, education cannot be one item we can compromise. Education is a right that every Zambian deserves," read the statement.

"The Zambian government and leaders at all levels must commit to include and protect Zambian women and girls in all arenas of our national life; in education, business, health, agriculture, government, mining, politics, and the home etc. Women's contributions to Zambia's development and well being is immeasurable and must be afforded there cognition and investment equal to their contribution. In Zambia, as elsewhere around the world, women's paid care work in health, agriculture, in the home, and the community must be recognized, reduced, and respected. In addition, Zambian women and girls must be defended and protected, especially from sexual and gender based violence."

hey further called for equality in the tax system.

"We also demand for a fair tax system; a tax system where the richest citizens and companies pay their fair share. Zambia is a country with huge natural resources. Currently, a few Zambians and multinational companies enjoy the benefits of our natural resources, such as copper and gold. This is the wealth of our country and her citizens, and must be shared equitably to our benefit and to develop our nation. The tax system must ensure the wealthiest contribute the most, and the poorest citizens the least. We the youth of Zambia are committed to ensuring that these demands are met in our lifetime," the statement read.



UPND President Hakainde Hichilema (r) with Civil Rights Activist Brebner Changala (l) inspects ripped off great North road patch in Lusaka Yesterday. Picture by Brian Mwiinga

UPND member sues State over malicious prosecution

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND member Fred Hamamba has sued the State in the Lusaka High Court claiming damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution after he was acquitted on charges of aggravated robbery.

Hamamba, who has cited the Attorney General as the defendant, is also seeking aggravated and exemplary damages, general damages, interest and costs.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Thursday, Hamamba stated that he was arrested on October 8, 2017, on the charge of aggravated robbery.

"On October 8, 2017, the plaintiff (Hamamba), in Lusaka, was without any reasonable and plausible cause apprehended and was wrongly arrested for two counts of aggravated robbery the burden being on the defendant to justify the act of apprehending the plaintiff," read the statement of claim.

He stated that there were no reasonable grounds for

suspecting that he committed the offence of aggravated robbery, adding that on the premise, he was falsely imprisoned for a period of over 300 days from October 8, 2017 to July 19, 2018.

Hamamba stated that he did not commit the aggravated robbery, and that there was no direct evidence linking him to the offence or that he participated in the crime and the place where he was apprehended from.

"The plaintiff was then transferred to Lusaka Central Correctional Facility at which he was held until he was released when Lusaka High Court Judge Catherine Phiri found him not guilty and accordingly acquitted him on July 18, 2018, after trial," read the statement of claim further.

He stated that his prosecution was brought without reasonable and probable cause.

Hamamba added that the State's servants had no evidence against him, but caused him to be detained on a non-bailable offence of aggravated

robbery merely on account of being found at the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ).

He stated that as a result, he suffered pain, embarrassment, humiliation and injury as well as loss and damage.

Hamamba was facing two charges of aggravated robbery in relation to theft of the 2016 election materials.

It was alleged that on August 14, 2016 in Lusaka, Hamamba, whilst acting together with other persons unknown, stole from Elina Nyirenda a handbag valued at K400, K350 cash and an envelope containing GEN Form 12 altogether valued at K750.00.

He was also alleged to have stolen from Emmanuel Simbeye a Blackberry cell phone valued at K4,000 and threatened to use violence to the said victims in order to obtain the said property or prevent resistance to it being stolen.

Hamamba had denied the charges and was acquitted by the Lusaka High Court at the no case to answer stage.

By *Miriam Chabala*
AVAP executive director Richwell Mulwani says it will be tricky for the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to conduct voter registration for the 2021 general election in just one month.

In an interview, Mulwani feared that the 30-day period that the ECZ had announced for the countrywide voter registration from October 18 to November 17 was already too short, and that the turn up by voters will be greatly affected considering that it would be rainy season by then and citizens would be preparing their fields.

"We know that voter registration was planned to start in May, but now it has been moved to October. But when you look at that time, ECZ is likely to face a challenge because that time will be the rainy season and during that time, people will be preparing their fields. When people are preparing their fields, they leave their homes and go to their fields where they go to cultivate and they only come back later in the year around November maybe and then go back again somewhere in January when the crops are ripe. So, it is possible that this 30 days that the Commission has placed is because of the fears of COVID and also that people will end up crowding and it will be a challenge. But 30 days is not enough to do this exercise. When you look

30 days not sufficient for voter registration, cautions AVAP

at this country, it is vast. We know they are going to do it in all the places at once, but there are areas that are very difficult to reach," Mulwani said.

"But the biggest issue, really, is that the period of October to November is the farming period and it will be a very tricky situation. So, for ECZ to achieve this in 30 days, they need to provide a lot of information, village by village. They need to organize the voters through the headmen, through the church, and through civil society organisations. The Commission needs to work very hard in order to register the desired number of voters otherwise it is not attainable because the situation in Zambia is such that people have a culture where they want to register at the last minute. So, all those are challenges that we need to start dealing with now as we have not yet reached October. In short, these are the problems that we need to deal with so that people can be spoken to in the language that they understand."

Meanwhile, Mulwani insisted that the Constitution

Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 needed to be withdrawn from Parliament because it was not the most urgent issue that Zambians needed to deal with.

"The issue of Bill 10 has raised eyebrows among many citizens in this country. I can see that we are going to waste time on Bill 10 by debating it and this will create

unnecessary tension in the country. If this Bill is raising dust in Parliament, why do we continue with an issue that is bringing problems in the country? To us, as AVAP, we feel

that there is nothing new that this Bill wants to address and it is just causing unnecessary tension on the country. The constitution-making process is not the most urgent thing we have as a country; I think we have held elections before in this country. So, the most important thing for us, as a nation, now, is to concentrate on voter registration, issuance of NRCs and also to educate Zambians about the importance of registering to vote," said Mulwani.

Allowing prisoners to vote is a human rights issue – PRISCCA

By *Miriam Chabala*
PRISONS Care and Counseling Association (PRISCCA) executive director Godfrey Malembeka says allowing incarcerated persons to participate in elections is part of reformation and the reintegration process into society.

In an interview, Malembeka noted that Zambia, like most progressive democracies in the world, had allowed prisoners to vote as a way of enhancing the enjoyment of human rights and freedoms.

Malembeka also said politicians should avoid debates around whether or not prisoners should be allowed to vote and instead concentrate on how it could be made possible for those incarcerated

to exercise their right to vote.

"This issue of allowing prisoners to vote is not a political matter and it is not a decision by ECZ, it is a Constitutional matter and a human rights issue. It was our decision even myself as an Ex prisoner, we went to petition in the Constitutional Court to put to rest the advocacy issue that started in 2011. The Zambian Constitution has never stopped prisoners from vote, but this prohibition was in the ECZ Act Section nine and 47. But the supreme law of the land is the Constitution, there is no subsidiary law that can be above the Constitution. So when the ConCourt was

established, we thought we should go there to put this matter to rest and this is what just happened in 2016 when the ruling was passed in our favour. So what politicians need to do now is not to waste time talking about why prisoners should vote or that they should not vote, that is water under the bridge. The debate judgment was done and you cannot appeal because the Constitutional Court ruling was final," Malembeka said.

"What we need to concentrate on, which is also my advice to all political parties, is to begin preparing their manifestos and messages of what they are going to tell

all the incarcerated people in Zambia. They should be able to tell inmates what they will do if they win the general elections. The second question they need to pause is a question posed by Mr [Chishimba] Kambwili, the 'how'. We need to address the how; how will this be done? How will the prisoners vote? That is what we need to do. Let us stop stigmatizing prisoners because they are also Zambians. Some of these people talking have actually done worse things than the people in prison but because of money, they don't end up in those correctional facilities."

He added that allowing prisoners to vote was part of the correction process and reintegration of inmates back into society.

"We are in the new era of reformation and correction. This correctional model calls for giving those people (inmates) a second chance, embracing those people and especially that we are a Christian nation. So the 'how' is going to be addressed by ECZ. So we must establish branches where the prisoners can be sensitized about how they shall the vote and the importance of their participation in elections. People should not reach 2021 without addressing this issue," Malembeka said.

"In prisons, we have pastors, we have civil servants, people from the private sector, teachers, and accountants. We have civilized people in correctional facilities and today we have television sets in these facilities so people are well informed. Prisoners are not blind, they read newspapers and watch TV, so they know what is happening."

He said inmates were an important part of the country's governance process.

"Don't think prisoners are useless; in fact, they may even be more informed than some of the people outside because they have more time to read and listen to news. So we ask those who are still suffering from the colonial hangover where prisoners were not respected to stop. This is not time to debate the question why prisoners should or shouldn't vote because there is no relationship between punishment for a crime and allowing someone to choose a leader. So for us, allowing prisoners to vote is part of reformation and reintegration into society," said Malembeka.

Take advantage of IMF talks to improve credit rating, Kanyama urges govt

By *Natasha Sakala*

TAKE advantage of the upcoming International Monetary Fund (IMF) consultation to elevate Zambia's credit rating that is affecting yields on the Eurobond and worsening the foreign exchange rate, economist Chibamba Kanyama has advised the government.

He has, however, expressed doubt that the consultation will generate a positive bill of health for Zambia owing to heightened debt sustainability concerns.

Meanwhile, Kanyama says the fact that the IMF is aware that the Zambian government has engaged highly-rated debt managers, Lazard Freres, a French firm, may have a positive impact on the country's sentiment and credit rating.

Commenting on the IMF's impending virtual conference with the Zambian government, which starts next Monday, Kanyama said Zambia's poor credit rating was affecting the performance of the Eurobond and the exchange rate, hence the need to reverse the harmful trend.

"The only thing I would say, personally, we should take advantage of this consultation to beef up, elevate the country's credit rating. That is what is affecting the yields on the bond market for the Eurobond. It's affecting the performance of the Eurobond, it's affecting a number of other variables, including the exchange rate. You know, we are hovering around K18, K18.50 per US dollar, which is much higher than what we had anticipated and there is no other magic here to bring down the exchange rate apart from improving sentiment on Zambia, and the improvement of sentiment on

Zambia will only come through the IMF consultation if they can give a positive bill of health. So, even for this particular IMF consultation, I don't think it is generating as much interest as possible. Usually, for me, whenever there is mention of IMF consultations [with] Zambia, there are a number of international calls from bond holders who want to have expectations. But right now, only one has really given an indication [that] they're interested to hear what the consultations shall yield," Kanyama said in an interview.

He conceded that there was a loss of expectation about what the IMF will do for Zambia, especially among international players.

"In other words, everybody else may be saying, 'it's business as usual, we should not raise our expectations,' that is the way things are and that is where things shall be. So, I think there is some loss of expectation about what the IMF shall do for Zambia. I think the only thing is just to find a way we can improve our (credit) rating, which is very poor at the moment that is affecting our debt position, including investment into the country. I would say the current bond holders to Zambia, most of them, are IMF fatigued! I the sense that they are not really getting anything new; their high expectation from the word go has been about getting an IMF programme, that has been their expectation. But in the past two years, they have begun to believe that every mention of IMF by government is simply there to pacify the market that there are some negotiations going on and, therefore, investors who are panicking and anxious about

debt redemption should take it easy, nothing more, nothing less, that is according to how they are expecting," Kanyama explained.

He, however, projected that Zambia was likely to get a negative bill of health from the IMF due to heightened debt sustainability concerns.

"If the IMF gave a positive bill of health, it shows that we are slowly getting around to debt sustainability, perhaps that may change the scenario. However, looking at just the reports from the Ministry [of Finance] so far, the updates, the Bank of Zambia's recent updates, I do not think that there will be a bill of health, particularly to the major area of concern for the IMF, which is debt sustainability, that is still a big, big challenge and this is one of those consultations, in my opinion, may end up even leading to deterioration of Zambia's perception of negative sentiment. I don't think that the IMF final verdict will have a sentiment that is very well couched, but you know international players, they always know IMF language that whenever they send a report on Zambia or any country that used to be negative, the language is normally couched more like not to dilapidate or worsen the situation of the given country. So, IMF, trust me, will put that statement in a very diplomatic way, but still not compromising the gist of the nation and the result, bond holders, investors, they know that language, they know when they see certain words...they know what is contained in what is called the 'back office report'," Kanyama said.

He further observed that

government's US \$5 million contract with Lazard Freres to act as Zambia's debt managers had calmed nerves in the international capital markets, who will now have a positive outlook for Zambia.

"The course of medicine that we may have is that government is getting a debt advisor, IMF itself is not involved in it because this is private debt, it has to do with private debt so IMF doesn't get involved in private debt issues, but they have made mention that they are aware that Zambia is getting a debt advisor so even the external investor, the bond holders, the debt holders are already aware about this because for them also, is this probability whether when the loans will mature, they will get back their money. So, by having this debt manager, maybe the nerves are easing to see perhaps something positive shall come. However, everybody is sceptical that without an IMF programme, the sentiment will still not change because there is only a certain distance a debt advisor can go into. So, IMF and the consultations may perhaps catch on that and if there is any support IMF can give is to officially back this debt manager and if the IMF gives that verdict that we are backing this debt manager and the IMF says, 'we have confidence that this debt manager will bring about debt sustainability...' I am sure that may help with the credit rating for Zambia at this particular time," said Kanyama.

The Ministry of Finance announced the forthcoming consultations with the Fund are slated for June 22-July 1, 2020 via virtual conferencing.

Challenge accepted - Andrew Zyambo for Matero 2021

LEADERSHIP positions in most African countries end up with the bad, selfish and greedy individuals, whose primary intent is to enrich themselves at the expense of their people. This is more evident now than ever because the intelligent good, those noble men and women with impeccable character, are increasingly being intimidated out of taking up the leadership challenge.

Truth is there's quite a lot to lose, especially in present day Zambia, where people's rights have been diminished. One's freedom and security to engage their key constituencies is not guaranteed, and with the erosion of a democratic ideal, political retribution is at its peak - businesses, jobs, families, and even the lives of those who vie for public office are invariably put at risk. In view of the aforementioned, the good are usually afraid to lose, and sadly, most of them would rather play it safe and watch those with insatiable greed loot the country. Do I blame them, Absolutely not, considering the high cost of living and other prevalent economic challenges across the country today.

Let's put one thing into perspective - our forebears fought colonialism so that we can be free. But as the years after the liberation struggle extend into decades, and as the memory of their sacrifice fades into the gray haze of twilight, bad governance and mediocre leadership have compounded the injustice of the colonial legacy. Just look at how the Chinese are treating us in our own backyard, shouldn't that be reason enough for any patriotic Zambian to take up the leadership challenge? Because I am persuaded to answer that call, of serving a cause greater than self. Am I concerned about the risks involved? It would be a lie if I said no, but in spite of that daunting reality, I am not afraid. I will fearlessly take up the challenge, irrespective of the consequences.

Everytime I read about the stories of colonial Zambia, I am encouraged by the courage of those freedom fighters, the young men and women who stood up for our rights, and won freedom's fight against insurmountable odds prior to October 1964. They too were aware of the risks involved, but boldly took up the challenge for the greater good of their country. They clearly understood one thing that most people are failing to conceptualize today, as asserted by Dr. Martin Luther King, "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

I was born in Matero in the mid eighties, and raised by a single mother who worked as a teacher, and would sometimes struggled to make ends meet. Those that understand the plight of civil servants in Zambia know that I was not privileged enough to live in a house with running water growing up. As a kid, my daily errands included going to fetch water using a wheelbarrow laden with twenty liter containers. I would walk a considerable distance - usually past "Kwa Shadreck" to my east, and Lilanda to my west - for those familiar with Matero. In my preteens, I did what would be deemed child labour in some societies - but those activities were justified by necessity.

What's been breaking my heart through the years however, is that the unpleasant part of my history has continued to repeat itself - people are struggling with water in Matero to this day, and children are still pushing heavy twenty liter containers in wheelbarrows, just as I did. And this is happening in the twenty-first century, in a country that affords to extravagantly spend millions of dollars on a fleet of overpriced Landcruisers for it's government officials. This is still happening in a country that inconsiderately spends \$42,000,000 on a fleet of old rugged fire trucks that are not even

a necessity. And I can boldly say that the happenings in Matero are a microcosm of the nation, and those born in my generation can relate, regardless of where they were raised. But the time for change is upon us, to lift communities like Matero out of the depth of despair and lead them towards a hopeful future.

I am persuaded to take up the leadership challenge, not out of personal motives, but because the forces changing our country today are historic. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the canyon of despair. I am ready to help build a society based on freedom and self determination.

As a true patriot, I will not let evil and injustice continue to reign. I will stand for Matero, and my beloved Zambia - so count me in.

#ChallengeAccepted

Andrew Zyambo for Matero



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PF supporter sues fellow member over murder allegation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A PATRIOTIC Front supporter has dragged a fellow party member to the Lusaka High Court for allegedly accusing him of being a professional assassin and shooting dead an individual in Kaoma District.

Francis Muchemwa, who has sued Innocent Kalimashi, wants damages for slander and libel; an Order of Injunction restraining Kalimashi from repeating the defamatory statements until final

determination of the matter, interests and costs.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court Principal Registry, June 17, Muchemwa stated that he and Kalimashi were businessmen and members of the Patriotic Front government.

He stated that on or about December, 2019, and May, 2020, Kalimashi, in contemptuous disregard of his reputation and professional standing, uttered defamatory words against him alleging, among others, that he

(Muchemwa) was a professional assassin and was hired by government to murder and kill any persons.

"The defendant (Kalimashi) uttered and caused to be published on various social media platforms, including, but not limited to: Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter, the following words with the following translation from Bemba to English: 'The plaintiff (Muchemwa) did cause the death of one individual called...(hereinafter called the deceased). The plaintiff did fire a firearm towards the deceased and caused his death in Kaoma District...'" read the statement of claim.

"...The plaintiff is a violent individual who causes harm to a number of individuals. The plaintiff is a professional assassin and is hired by the government to murder and kill any persons who offend the government and the plaintiff has caused the death of various individuals in Zambia and is being protected by the Government of Zambia. The plaintiff is allowed to misappropriate government resources for his own good and benefit and has taken part in corrupt activities with Chilufya Tayali."

The claimant stated that the said words had been aired a number of times on various social media platforms, adding that in their natural and ordinary meaning, the words complained of meant and were understood to mean that he was a murderer and a corrupt person and had misappropriated government funds for personal financial gain.

He lamented that Kalimashi had unjustly caused harm to his reputation and continued to do so by the circulation

of the slanderous audios and video recording, which were accessible to millions of Internet users, both at home and abroad.

Muchemwa stated that Kalimashi had never bothered to follow due process of enquiring from the proper channels or from him as to the accuracy of the defamatory statements and the investigations as to who and what caused the death of the deceased.

"The defendant repeatedly communicated and published the words complained of with full knowledge that they were slanderous and libellous, with a reckless disregard as to whether or not they were true, slanderous and libellous. The defendant continued his conduct of repeating falsehoods without getting the plaintiff's side of the story affording him an opportunity to refute the said falsehoods," read the statement of claim.

He further stated that the defendant caused the said words to be published in order to bring him into ridicule, to the detriment of his reputation and the material losses that he would suffer in his professional and social life.

Muchemwa added that the allegations were all false and untrue and that at no time did he cause the death of any individual in Zambia.

He stated that unless restrained, Kalimashi would continue to make false allegations and drag his name into disrepute.

The claimant stated that he had tried to engage with Kalimashi in an attempt to receive a public apology, but to no avail.

Muchemwa stated that Kalimashi had ignored all possible forums for a resolution of the dispute.

Lack of coordination making people think PF isn't working - Mumbi

By Ulande Nkomesha

PF Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri says lack of coordination in the party is what makes people think the ruling party is not working.

Speaking when she met all party structures in Central Province, Saturday, Phiri said some elected leaders had let the party down because they were not connected to party structures.

"Lack of coordination, that is why people are thinking that we are not working. It is you our elected leaders that are letting us down. I have heard many times the President saying he has instructed ministers publicly and he gives an example of himself when he was a minister how he used to go and see the party structures, that is why it was easy for him...there was a public outcry across the country that he

should takeover after the death of ba Sata because he never left structures behind," Phiri said.

"So ba provincial chairman if we have ministers that come and they don't want to visit party structures...I am just telling you that the President has instructed them to be meeting the structures, so they are ignoring, are we not in 2020? If they are not seeing you when are they going to come and see you? Let us not get frustrated with those small things where we have come with PF is far back. In this world no situation is permanent one day this position of deputy SG will finish. One needs to associate with other people."

Phiri urged Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga and PF central province chairperson Chanda Mutale to work together and stop the lies that were coming out of the province.

"From this meeting, the Provincial chairman and the Provincial Minister, I want to see you start working hand in hand and that is what the President wants. Ifyaku setting'a tefyo (don't provoke each other), you are serving one cause the people of Kabwe, the people of Serenje, the entire Central Province. You are the two people who are

serving these people. If your relationship is sour, when you see each other it's like you see teargas, it should come to an end," Phiri said.

"Provincial Minister, your failure is Chanda's failure, provincial chairman Mushanga's failure is also your failure. Start moving together and lies will come to an end. The lies that are in Central Province, it is because the Provincial Minister and the chairman are encouraging it. Ba Chanda Mutale if you hear that ba Mushanga has done this, follow him at the office."

And Phiri said being in the party central committee was not a guarantee that one would be adopted to stand as MP in 2021.

"I get surprised, people who are saying that if you are in the central committee then automatically I will be adopted, you are a joker. Those who say no we are in the central committee if you apply for adoption automatically

you will be adopted, is that possible? Am I not the deputy SG, was I adopted? I was also left, but we supported the party," said Phiri.

And Mutale, who is also Chitambo PF member of parliament said the party had suspended some party officials who were holding illegal meetings for presidential aspirant Kelvin Bwalya Fube.

"I want to report to you that the district chairman for Chibombo, he is a suspended member of the PF [together with] one constituency official in Katuba and one ward chairlady for Chunga. These have been suspended for attending illegal meetings for Kelvin Bwalya Sampa Fube. I have a provincial disciplinary report here with me here which I am going to handover to you so that when these people appeal, they should come to your office and register their displeasure about their suspensions," said Mutale.

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WE are concerned that many of our people have decided not to vote in by-elections. Some of the reasons they have given for not participating include: our previous votes have not made any difference. Our vote was a ticket for others to enrich themselves. Our vote was rigged. They, therefore, don't see any reason why they should vote again. For those same reasons, we see a situation where, come August 2021, these people will abandon their civic duty of taking part in the process of appointing our national leaders. This should worry every well-meaning Zambian.

We wish to remind our citizens that voting is not only their right, but rather their duty. If they withhold their vote, Zambians run a risk of getting into public offices people who have no national interests at heart and who are going to jeopardise the future of their children. They should therefore exercise their right and take up their citizen duty.

The election campaigns that our politicians and their supporters will embark on in the coming months will be a struggle for the soul and the future of Zambia. We are

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Ear to the ground

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A citizen who's able to vote but doesn't do so is guilty of negligence

now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today and these leaders who will be contesting national leadership must be met with the corresponding duty from citizens to vote, and not just vote, but vote wisely.

People should not just complain about the Electoral Commission of Zambia allocating fewer days for voter registration for the sake of politicking, they should take real interest in the process and look forward to registering. When the time comes to obtain National Registration Cards for those who don't have or those

who have lost them, everyone in need should go and do so. When the time comes to register as voters, they should again go and do so. And finally, when the time to vote comes, they should go and vote for the right persons.

Our people must vote for leaders of integrity, regardless of the region they come from, their tribe, language, political or religious affiliation. Zambia needs patriotic leaders; people who place national interest before personal ambitions. We say this because the neglect of the duty of participating in the

choice of leaders at all levels brings catastrophic results to the nation. It is a great mistake to shun this responsibility. Our citizens must not make the mistake of thinking that what is happening in Zambia today is the worst that can happen. They should not think we have hit rock bottom, there is still a Zambia to salvage. But to do that, we need the electorate to understand the nature of problem Zambia has - a leadership crisis.

It should be understood that the neglect of participating in the voting and in the election of good leaders allows

unworthy candidates to take leadership positions and brings disharmony in our country. To neglect to vote is to lose a person's right and the nation's right. Our political responsibility is not limited to voting and electing leaders but also to assist them and where necessary, to criticise them.

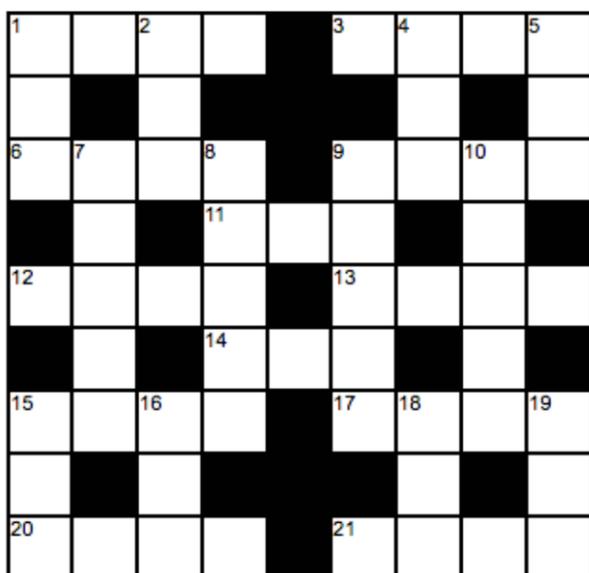
Whether our country will have good or bad laws, upright or inefficient administration depends on voters. A person who is able to vote but never votes is guilty of serious negligence. Citizens who do not care for their duty of voting

are an easy prey to tyranny. These are the people who have brought us where we are.

Not to vote may mean the wrong person being elected. But our people should be given a chance to vote according to their conscience, in accordance with the highest human values without allowing themselves to be persuaded or dictated to by those with money, by donations of mealie-meal, sugar, cooking oil and even fertiliser, by bribes, threats, self-interest and so on and so forth. They should vote freely. Our National Assembly, our Parliament should not have members who have let us down morally and intellectually.

We urge the Church, Civil Society and all other patriotic organisations to join hands in various civic education initiatives, without supporting or discrediting any political party. May you bring light into our decisions by educating us on this important responsibility of voting. All our problems as a nation boil down to poor leadership. The process of electing leaders starts now, let's prepare adequately. We only have one Zambia.

Crossword puzzle No 629



“Images are deceiving. Salt and sugar look exactly the same but taste very different”
- Suzy Kassem

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quacking bird 3. Con game 6. Lessen 9. Alike 11. Immediately 12. Chimney residue 13. Lessen 14. 12/24 or 12/31 15. The sun, for one 17. Bulletin board fastener 20. Young seals 21. Dapper fellow | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a knight 2. Fold up bed 4. Spy org. 5. Fannie ____ 7. Cancel 8. Door sign 9. Not sour, salty, or bitter 10. Band output 15. Drink daintily 16. Stereo component 18. Beer 19. Complete package |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 628



Readers' Feedback

Kampyongo's blame on HH for bicycle scandal confusion

Editor,
 "That is the problem of putting cadres in public offices, low thinking capacity, HH is not the cause of your failures but your incompetent". - Conard Wilson Chikumi

"When something can't be explained.. Blame it on HH..even a dull minister will blame his dullness on HH.. Lol". - Fryde

Friday
 "It's like a man who sleeps around with other women leaves his wife at home then when he is caught...he blames his misbehaving on the wife... That's the strategy PF uses all the time.We have been on this road before...". - Mathew Chimbungule
 "Kampyongo just leave HH out of your flip

flops. Why did you render an apology to Japan if the mix-up did not emanate from yourselves?" - Grace Shankaya

"Kampyongo you should be ashamed of yourself. Don't misuse ZICTA to justify your crookedness. If you corruptly procured those bicycles don't start blaming innocent people!" - Crispin Simwinga

"These ministers are full of threats! They need a new ministry, the ministry of threats affairs!" - Chezrone Katope

"Country of apologies, threats, arrests and intimidation. God help us". - Kelvin Mweemba

"So what's next, they will blame HH for June being this cold!" - Josias Witi



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.

MOH's claim that it erroneously added "Limited" to Honey Bee Pharmacy when awarding contract

Editor,
 "Those who are familiar with the Tender processes and documents will tell you it's impossible to make such a mistake. How did this drug store pass the tender process when it didn't have the PACRA registration certificate, which is one of the many documents required when bidding? Someone deliberately rigged the process in favour of Honey Bee for personal gain. Let's not lie to each other that this was a typo error!" - Anderson Kanyungu

"A big dirty hand of corruption aided this corrupted tender process. So you guys you mean

without 1 PACRA business registration. 2 pharmacy operation licence. 3 Tax clearance certificate. 4 Trading licence. 5 Business bank account. IF THIS COMPANY DID NOT HAVE THESE PAPERS THEN HOW DID IT GET THE TENDER. THIS "LIMITED" IS A LIE TOLD BY A 5 YEAR OLD KID CAUGHT RED HANDED WITH HIS HAND IN THE COOKIE JAR!" - Emmanuel Muntanga

"Corruption and plunder of public resources should be punishable by death or life sentence, that's the only way we can protect national resources". - Boyd Nakuweza

Dear editor,

"Edgar Lungu's version of democracy!" - Musukwa Kanjere

"Confirmation of everything wrong we thought about PF. Bravo man we will be highly motivated to fight for our mother Zambia. Friday 13hrs protests begin watch the space". - John Chishimba

"The only problem is that Zambia police doesn't understand the job of journalists I think they have been told to do so by a politician we aware they hate media so much". Young Conard

"But our government does not think, how can you arrest a youth when youths

The arrest of Chellah Tukuta

are plaining to protest, poor timing". - Danny Silomba

"Instilling fear in every citizen. Indeed this is not the zambia we want. Some people came as a curse and not as a blessing to our beautiful country. Intimidations are the order of the day. Shame on these "Christians". - Agrey Siyunda

"Zambia police and PF doesn't understand their functions. Mwebantu bana ba Zambia what a curse having PF as a government the group of people who don't understand the meaning of life and death". - Astute Jacob W Nkhata

"Arresting chellah Tukuta is arresting freedom, democracy and all youths". Royd Hampako

Boris questions relevance of giving huge aid to Zambia

Dear editor,

"How do you give aid to people who are so wasteful as our government? People who can award a tender worth \$17 million US dollars not Zimbabwe dollars to a non existent company, buy a bicycle worth US\$40 dollars at US \$700 dollars each!! Then you want donor aid for what? Let us learn to have respect for money". - Cimbulu Matanga

"Every normal person would ask that relevant question". - Enerst Ngosa

"They should just stop giving aid to this country. It just encourages more corruption and laziness by government". - Anisha Namutowe

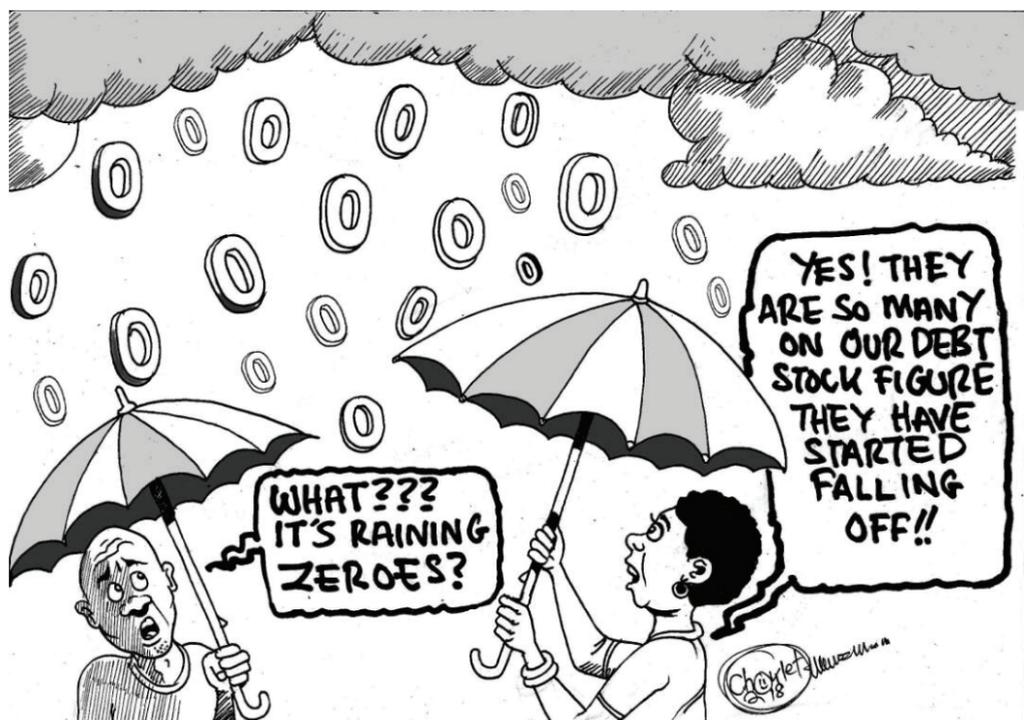
"I think we shouldn't be overly dependent on these donors.

It's high time as a country we start looking at homegrown solutions than being perpetually depending on them". - Douglas Tembo

"Boris has rightly questioned the relevance of giving huge aid to Zambia given our record of mixing up the names of donor countries; citing the issue of mentioning a wrong country, 'Japan as having "donated" the purchased from India police bicycles'. Can't blame him". - Grace Shankaya

"Who wouldnt question the idea of "Throwing away" aid to my Zed?" - Moses Kayombo

"So pathetic how donor aid has been abused and we keep going back to BEG from the same white colonial masters who we call FREEMASONS even after decades of independence". - Feli Lex



HH offers Chellah legal support



By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema was yesterday barred from visiting photographer Chellah Tukuta at Lusaka Central Police Station. But Hichilema has told Tukuta's family that he is offering Lusaka lawyer Mulambo Haimbe's services to support him through the legal process.

Hichilema, who was accompanied by governance activist Brebner Changala, Haimbe and other party officials, told journalists that police claimed they did not have Tukuta in custody and that his whereabouts were unknown.

"We have been stopped from seeing Chellah Tukuta, the arrested youth, as we only wanted to encourage him to remain strong even in this period. We were told that Chellah is not being held at Central Police station and that they don't know his whereabouts. We also demand for his immediate release because he is entitled to the freedom of expression and speech as enshrined in our country's constitution. When things are going wrong, people must speak out and not gagging them or putting your knees on them. It's time for each one of us to get involved and get it solved because hope and help is on the way," Hichilema said.

"He is entitled to be visited, he is innocent as the law says everybody who is accused is innocent until proven guilty. He has not been taken to court for over 48 hours which is against the law, the law is very clear! Whoever is arrested for whatever crime, he must be taken to court within 48 hours. Also, I am told they are charging him with criminal libel, libel is not a case against the state, it is against the individual why haven't the individuals taken him to court instead of arresting him? It is unfortunate, this is an illegality going on, but he is entitled to friends, citizens seeing him."

And Hichilema told Tukuta's relatives that he was offering legal support.

"We went to see our friend but we were denied to see him, we just wanted to strengthen him. So, please strengthen him, I am veteran of this and Mr Changala. So please let us remain strong, he is a good Zambian, he is a good citizen. We have also come with our lawyer. We thought that maybe there would be need. I

don't know what the family feels, we are offering our lawyer. He is a Zambian, I have been in this situation when you are here you would want fellow citizens to come and see you. We should not fear he is not a criminal," said Hichilema.

And in an interview, acting Police spokesperson Danny Mwale said the reasons given to Hichilema were genuine.

He said "maybe at the time of his visitation, Tukuta was being transported to Copperbelt to face further charges".

"If they told him that he is not there, then he is not there, they can't cheat. Officers can't cheat. You remember he has some charges faced on the Copperbelt, maybe he is on his way to the Copperbelt. You remember that the statement that we had issued earlier there was an indication to say that he is supposed to face some charges on the Copperbelt. So maybe they have already started off going to the Copperbelt because they can't cheat, our officers can't tell lies, why should we cheat? If they told him that he is not in police cells, then that is what it is on the ground," Mwale said.

When asked why the family members had not yet been informed about his transportation to Copperbelt, Mwale said maybe information was yet to be given to the family members.

"It is like you have your uncle coming from Chongwe, you have another cousin coming from Napundwe. So, probably it is not all the family members who are aware that he is gone. It could be that they started off today, you see that? Now for word to filter that he has gone, maybe one uncle will know, then by the end of the day, they will know that he is not there. The reason that they gave, I think that is what it is on the ground, because they can't cheat, officers can't tell lies," insisted Mwale.

Tukuta was last week arrested and charged for four counts of Criminal Libel in connection with some derogatory remarks alleged to have been produced and posted on social media against Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya, Zambia Revenue Authority Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda, Northern Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje and former special assistant to the president for press and public relations Amos Chanda.

By Julia Malunga

The Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) says it has launched investigation into the Ministry of Health tender number MoH/SP/032/19 for the supply of 50,000 health centre kits, under which an individual called Imran Lunat and two other companies were awarded a US\$17 million contract.

ZPPA was reacting to an investigation by News Diggers that revealed that the Ministry of Health 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.

On Wednesday last week, the Ministry of Health issued a statement saying it erroneously added the word "limited" to Honey Bee Pharmacy when it was awarding the US\$17 million contract to the company.

But a day later, the Attorney General said he had advised the Ministry of Health 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.

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".

"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'. 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 Imrat Lunat t/a Honeybee Pharmacy," he said.

Asked if he was aware if the sole trader individual had demonstrated financial

Honeybee's \$17m contract under investigation, says ZPPA

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."

But responding to a press query, ZPPA said it could not answer the questions posed by this reporter because the matter was now under investigation.

"The Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) has launched investigations into the matter. Providing responses to these questions at this stage would compromise the ongoing investigation. ZPPA plays a regulatory and oversight function pursuant to Section 6 of the Public Procurement Act. In discharging its function, the Authority shall uphold fairness, accountability, integrity, mutual respect, transparency, confidentiality, professionalism and excellence," stated ZPPA Principal Officer for Public Relations, Laura Mushaukwa-Hamusute.

Zimbabwe starts 'lifestyle audit of the rich'

ZIMBABWEAN authorities say people who cannot explain where their wealth came from are in danger of having their assets seized even if courts clear them of a corruption allegation.

The new operation was "an intensive lifestyle audit" of the rich, said the chairman of Zimbabwe's anti-corruption commission Justice Loyce Matanda-Moyo.

The country is facing its worst economic crisis in more than a decade.

There is mounting public anger over poor services and corruption.

"This is an intensive lifestyle audit on some of the rich people. They have to produce their invoices on what goods or services they rendered and this has to match the value of the acquired properties. We will also be checking if these people or their businesses were paying taxes," Justice Matanda-Moyo told Zimbabwe's Sunday News.

The operation is using powers the commission gained in July 2019 to demand an explanation for how people earned their wealth - known as an unexplained wealth order.

People under investigation can go to the High Court to account for their wealth but failure to do so automatically results in seizure of their assets.

Zimbabwe is not the first country to reverse the burden of proof, requiring individuals to explain the source of their wealth. Ireland and the UK both changed their laws to introduce unexplained wealth orders in 2017.

The corruption watchdog Transparency International recently singled out a Zimbabwean case of coronavirus medical supply procurement as looking suspicious.

The organisation said the prices of the medical supplies were highly inflated, indicating possible corruption.

Subsequently, on Saturday, the country's Health Minister Obadiah Moyo was charged with the criminal abuse of office related to the contract.

He is expected to appear in court again in July. W

A court in the Democratic Republic of Congo has found President Felix Tshisekedi's chief of staff guilty of corruption.

Vital Kamerhe was sentenced to 20 years' hard labour on Saturday, after facing charges of embezzling

DR Congo president's top aide jailed for corruption

almost \$50m (£39m) of public funds.

Kamerhe's supporters say the trial is a political move designed to prevent him from standing for president.

The judge presiding over the case was murdered in May.

Kamerhe, who was also a key ally of a former president, is the most high-profile figure to be convicted of corruption

in the DRC.

He was convicted by a court in the capital Kinshasa on Saturday.

Much of the missing funds were intended to be used in a housing project announced by the president following his inauguration.

Lebanese businessman Jammal Samih was also sentenced to 20 years' hard labour in the same trial, while a third man in charge of logistics at the presidential office faces two years in prison.

Kamerhe will also be banned for running for the presidency for 10 years after completing his sentence.

His lawyers have said they will appeal, arguing that hard labour is prohibited by the DRC's constitution, according to AFP news agency.

Anti-corruption activists have praised the verdict.

"I sincerely think that this is a positive sign for the fight against corruption," Florimond Muteba of Congolese transparency organisation, the Observatory of Public Expenditure, was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

The trial continued with a replacement judge after the death of Judge Raphael Yanyi in May. An initial police report said he had died of a heart attack.

But a post-mortem examination later found Yanyi "died a violent death, due to the blows of sharp points or knife-like objects, which were thrust into his head", the country's justice minister said.

BBC



Kamerhe, pictured here in 2018, had denied the charges against him

'Arsenal are going backwards' - Gunners 'always give teams a chance' to beat them, says Parlour

ARSENAL "always give teams a chance" to beat them, according to Ray Parlour, who has expressed his belief that the Gunners are "going backwards at the moment".

Mikel Arteta's men have been dealt two major setbacks in the space of a week, having failed to pick up from where they left off in March following the resumption of Premier League football amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Arsenal were unbeaten in 2020 before coming up against Manchester City at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday, but they suffered a damaging 3-0 defeat which severely dented their hopes of Champions League

qualification.

The Gunners were expected to bounce back from that result away at Brighton on Saturday, and looked on track for all three points when Nicolas Pepe struck in the 68th minute at the Amex Stadium.

However, Lewis Dunk equalised seven minutes later before Neal Maupay scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner for the Seagulls to complete a huge upset and compound Arsenal's misery.

Parlour was left dejected at the final whistle and he is concerned that his old club are starting to regress again after a bright start to Arteta's reign.

Asked how confidence levels within the squad



will be holding up after the Brighton loss, the ex-Arsenal midfielder told Stadium Astro: "Oh,

absolutely shot.

"This was a game they had to win. Not a lot of people would've given them a chance against

Manchester City in a normal league period, but going to Brighton, if you're going to compete with teams at the top,

everybody's dream at Arsenal is to get back into the Champions League, but these are the sides you've got to beat. **GOAL**

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Klopp has already achieved more than Pep in England - Collymore

JURGEN Klopp has already achieved more than Pep Guardiola in English football, according to Stan Collymore.

Guardiola inherited the managerial reigns at Manchester City in 2016, and has since delivered eight major trophies, including back-to-back Premier League titles.

The Spaniard is widely revered as the finest manager of his generation, having also won numerous titles at both Barcelona and Bayern Munich, but he has always benefitted from strong financial backing in the transfer market.

Klopp arrived in England with a similarly sterling reputation in 2015, after guiding Borussia Dortmund to two Bundesliga crowns, and he quickly set about stamping his own mark on a Liverpool squad devoid of confidence.

The German head coach has gradually affected significant change on a limited budget over the last five years, overcoming early growing pains to create a side which is now considered to be among the strongest in Europe.

Liverpool won the



Champions League last season, and look set to add an elusive Premier League title to their trophy cabinet this summer, with Klopp credited for being the mastermind in their ascent to the top.

Collymore says the Reds boss has had a greater impact at Anfield than Guardiola has had at Etihad Stadium, and that he is well on his way to earning a place in English football's hall of fame.

The former Liverpool striker wrote in his latest column for The Mirror: "If Jurgen Klopp carries on like this he will go down as one of the all-time great managers - not just at Liverpool but in

English football history.

"His buying and building of a team, his management of his players, his demeanour and his achievements are first class.

"And if he can back up last season's European Cup win, and this season's Super Cup, Club World Cup and Premier League triumphs with two or three more titles, maybe another Champions League and a domestic cup or two, then he will quite rightly be talked about in the same breath as Sir Alex Ferguson, Bill Shankly, Brian Clough, Bob Paisley, Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola.

"In terms of what he has achieved in England, I'd even put Klopp ahead of Guardiola now. Manchester City were already four, five or six years into a project when Guardiola arrived at the Etihad, whereas Klopp pretty much had a standing start at Anfield by comparison.

"I know some people will point to the £75 million-plus Klopp splurged on Virgil van Dijk and £56 million on Alisson. But others have spent those sorts of sums several times over without the return Klopp is enjoying." **GOAL**

Salah is starting to do what Ronaldo did for Man Utd - Rooney

MOHAMED Salah is beginning to have the same effect for Liverpool as Cristiano Ronaldo once had for Manchester United, according to Wayne Rooney.

Salah has played an integral role in Liverpool's transformation from also-rans into European champions and Premier League pace-setters over the last three years.

The Egyptian completed

a £34 million (\$42m) move to Anfield from Roma in the summer of 2017, and has since scored 91 goals in 144 appearances for the club. 20 of those efforts have come this season, with Liverpool now on the verge of winning a first league title in 30 years, under the stewardship of Jurgen Klopp.

Salah has formed one-third of a deadly attacking

triumvirate alongside Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane which has blown away opposition defences on the domestic scene. The Reds have hit 66 goals in their opening 29 fixtures this term, the second-best record in the top flight, and need only two more victories to be confirmed as champions of England.

Rooney has credited Salah for being a constant threat for

Liverpool in the final third, while highlighting similarities between the 28-year-old and five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Juventus striker earned legendary status for his performances at United between 2003 and 2009 before being snapped up by Real Madrid, and Rooney thinks Salah strikes fear into defenders in the same way the Portuguese

used to at Old Trafford.

United's all-time record scorer told The Times: "Mo Salah is starting to do what Ronaldo did for Manchester United, in terms of just being there and not really getting back to defend but always being a threat so that if you're a defender or midfielder playing against him. You're terrified of him on the counterattack." **GOAL**

KLOPP HAS ACHIEVED MORE THAN PEP

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Arsenal are going backwards - Parlour

Story page 11

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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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