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We will not teach if we are not paid - UNZALARU

By Julia Malunga

UNZALARU general secretary Kelvin Mambwe says the its members will not lecture students when the University of Zambia reopens next week Monday until salary arrears are cleared. [Story page 4](#)

Former DEC officer gets 3yrs for corrupt practices

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Lusaka Magistrate Court has convicted a former Drug Enforcement Commissioner (DEC) assistant investigation officer to three years' imprisonment with hard labour for corrupt practices. [Story page 2](#)

Lungu isn't scared of debate but govt won't tolerate insults - Dora

By Julia Malunga

CHIEF government spokesperson Dora Siliya says

President Edgar Lungu is not scared to engage in any debate with citizens, but government

will not stand by and watch people insult him in the name of freedom of expression.

And Siliya says it is becoming fashionable to "finish" women by calling them

prostitutes on social media.

Speaking during a media briefing, Monday, Siliya said the President was happy to take criticism but that it should be palatable. [Story page 10](#)



Chellah gets 4 more counts of criminal libel on C/Belt

By Daniel Chansa

POLICE on the Copperbelt have arrested photographer Chellah Tukuta on four counts of criminal libel.

Tukuta, who is facing similar charges in Lusaka, was transferred to Ndola where four counts of criminal libel and two counts of threatening violence on the Copperbelt have been slapped on him.

Copperbelt Commissioner of Police Charity Katanga said the offences were committed on separate dates but between May 26 and June 17, 2020. [Story page 2](#)

YOUTHS DRIBBLE POLICE

We made officers march with guns on our behalf - Pilato



A photograph showing a group of young protesters marching and shouting. They are holding various signs with messages such as 'LAW'S OVER POLITICS', 'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH #AMAKANINISHINDI', 'WE WANT TO BE HEARD', 'ZAMBIA IS FOR US', and 'RICH COUNTRY POOR PEOPLE'.

Youths sing during a protest against corruption, unemployment and oppression by the PF government
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala. [Story page 2](#)



Home of investigative journalism in Zambia



Youths dribble police, as they take protest to the bush

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SOME Lusaka youths yesterday sent police on a wild goose chase when they held their much anticipated protest from an undisclosed location.

A furious Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja claimed he was aware of the location of the protests soon after a widely-watched live stream commenced on Facebook, but the protest ended without any interruption from the police.

Lusaka citizens woke up to heavy police presence in most parts of the central business district including Arcades Shopping Mall, where protesters usually assemble.

Heavily armed police were seen conducting motorised and foot patrols in major highways

as they searched for the location where the protesting youths were assembled.

One of the organisers of the protest, Fumbe Chama a.k.a Pilato, mocked the police by posting their picture of facebook with a caption that read: "One day the people will ask.... 'why were the police on the streets of lusaka with guns?' And then the story will be told about how the young people of this country mobilised the police to march on their behalf. Thank you Bwana Officers for joining us in the protest."

As police proceeded with their search, the youths who were clad in black posted a livestream of their activities from an undisclosed location that looked like a bush.

Speaking through a

livestream that was watched by over 12,000 viewers, Pilato said it was gratifying that the police decided to protest on behalf of the youths.

"We have decided to protest from the bush because the streets in our own country have become so dangerous for the people of this same country. The streets have become so dangerous for young people to walk and protests. It's like young people have become less human beings because they do not agree or do not support certain decisions that have been taken by the government. In their bid to express themselves, they have been reduced to lesser human beings in our own country. We have been called names, we have been called stupid, we



Maiko Zulu (c) joins Lusaka youths in a protest against poor governance, high unemployment levels and corruption in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

have been called disgruntled, and we have been called a number of things," Pilato said.

Pilato said the youths would not give up on their agenda to speak for Zambia.

"[Just] because we wanted to express ourselves, we have been told that our bones will be broken and that we will be met with the new equipment that was acquired by the police. We have refused to be scared, we've refused to be intimidated by those who have been given power to govern and manage our resources and our affairs. We are here because we have refused to be cowards. We have refused to give up on a country that we love. We have refused as young people to give up on mother Zambia. We are not asking for pity [but] we are asking for our voices to be heard. Just because we are young people doesn't mean that we are stupid. Just because we are young people doesn't mean that we have nothing to say. We have not gathered in the streets because we are endangered," he said.

Pilato also said youths would not allow themselves to be turned into cadres for them to get jobs.

"We are tired. We don't want to become cadres for us to get businesses. We want to get jobs. We want to speak

but they are threatening us.

We have decided to come in the bush to express ourselves and obviously to interact with nature and our ancestors who lost their lives for this country.

We are appealing to every young person there who wants to be part of this protest not to go in the streets but let the police do the protesting for us. Young person put on your black attire and do a live stream from wherever you are. Protest from your backyard, protest from your home because this is your voice. No matter how much they threaten you, they will not take away your power to speak and you shall be heard," he said.

And musician Brian Bwembya also known as B-Flow encouraged the youths from all corners of the country to conduct a social media protest.

"When they go low, we go high. They carry bullets,

machetes, and weapons and all we carry is hope and our voices that Zambia will be heard. The youths of this country want to be heard. When you feel like a foreigner in your own country, you resort to going in the bush or in your backyard or in your bedroom for you to have a protest and speak out. Carry that placard and put up a message that they should hear you," B-Flow said.

Meanwhile, as the protest was going on, Kanganja warned that the "unlucky ones would have themselves to blame".

"We are already on the ground. It's along Tokyo Ring Road. It was just for a short time. Patrols continue. we are also aware that they are streaming from some bush around Chalala. The unlucky ones will have to blame themselves. The police will deal with them accordingly," said Kanganja.



Musicians Pilato and B Flow lead a youth protest against poor governance, high unemployment levels and corruption in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chellah gets 4 more counts of criminal libel on C/Belt

By Daniel Chansa

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Tukuta, who is facing similar charges in Lusaka, was transferred to Ndola where four counts of criminal libel and two counts of threatening

violence on the Copperbelt have been slapped on him.

Copperbelt Commissioner of Police Charity Katanga said the offences were committed on separate dates but between May 26 and June 17, 2020.

She said the defamatory and hatred remarks were made against Abdulai Khalif, 68, of

5851 Airport Road in Itawa, also the director of Khalif Motors limited.

She said Tukuta also threatened violence against Khalif.

"Yes, he is in our custody he is facing four counts of libel and two counts of threatening violence and expressing the

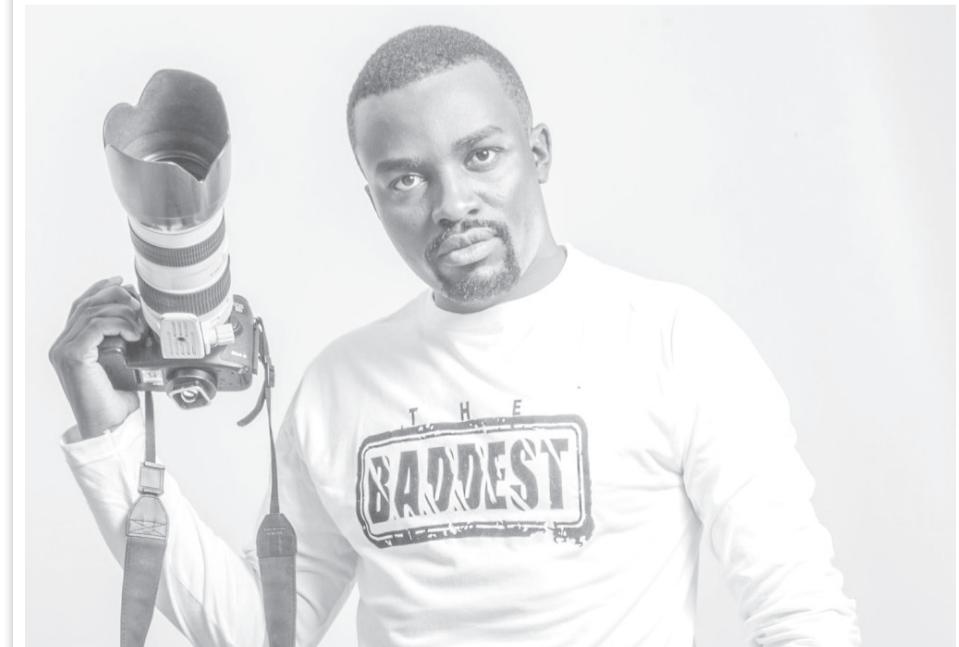
hatred ridicule to persons because of their race and place of their origin," Katanga said.

"This occurred on separate dates but between May 26 and June 17 this year where he Tukuta, 34, of Lusaka posted on his Facebook account called Chellah Tukuta Photography defamatory statement and hatred against Khalif also threatening violence in relation to the same man."

She said other defamatory remarks were made against Benson Tembo, 51, of plot number 2336 Kawama Road in Pamodzi who is the secretary general for Petroleum Transporters Association of Zambia (PTAZ).

She said Chellah also defamed Langiwe Lungu, 52, director general for Energy Regulation Board (ERB) of Kabulonga Lusaka.

Katanga said the suspect was in police custody and would appear in court soon.



Former DEC officer gets 3 years for corrupt practices

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Lusaka Magistrate Court has convicted a former Drug Enforcement Commissioner (DEC) assistant investigation officer to three years' imprisonment with hard labour for corrupt practices.

According to a statement issued by DEC corporate affairs officer Crystal Mwale, Monday, the Court convicted Daniel Mwamba, 45, who was found guilty of corruptly soliciting K2,500 as gratification for the release of two suspects from remand prison.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission in 2017 arrested Daniel Mwamba, aged 45, of Kaunda Square, Lusaka and charged him with one count of corrupt practices by public officer, contrary to section 19 (1) as read with Section 41 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012," stated Mwale.

"Details are that on dates unknown but between 1st June, 2016, and 3rd August, 2016, Daniel Mwamba being a public officer did corruptly solicit K2,500 cash gratification, as an inducement or reward for the release of two suspects from remand prison, a matter that concerned the Drug Enforcement Commission, a public body. This matter was presided over by Magistrate Hon. Mary Chibanga."

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

- 4 Bedrooomed house, master self-contained, own borehole, wall fenced_CHILANGA.
- 4 Bedrooomed house, master self-contained_CHILANGA.
- 4 Bedrooomed house, master self-contained AND 2 Bedrooomed house, master self-contained on same plot/title deed in a wall fence to be sold together_CHILANGA.
- TWO(2) Three(3)Bedrooomed Semi-detached FLATS on separate roads and gates (corner plot),
- 2 bedrooms of each flat ate self-contained and wall fenced._MAKENI.
- 6.4 ACRES, 7.4 ACRES all very close to Zesco Power lines_SHIMABAL
- A.Residential plots in Kafue and in Barmoral in CHILANGA. Contact: 0954815407/0977888042.

By Julia Malunga

CAUCUS for Women Parliamentarians chairperson Professor Nkandu Luo Professor Nkandu Luo says Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 will make it possible for Zambia to attain the SADC protocol of 50-50 representation.

And Prof Luo says it is sad that people on social media make fun of everything about her, from her spectacles to her toes.

Speaking during a press briefing, Monday, Prof Luo said people who were against Bill 10 denied women the opportunity to participate in governance issues.

"In terms of SADC protocol, I am sure you have been

People mock everything, even my spectacles, laments Luo

following some of the women who have been going all over talking about...they are called the women vision 2020. This is because when people are debating Bill 10, they are really not looking at article by article. In Bill 10, there is an article that will make it possible for us to attain the SADC protocol of 50-50 that is Article 47 number 2. It is actually putting in place a system of elections that will ensure that women are brought

into council, into Parliament and also other positions of decision making. It will also provide how the laws will be crafted that will make it possible for the women to achieve that 50-50. For example, in Britain they have what they call the safe seats, there are certain seats that are reserved specifically for women to compete. And President Lungu has agreed in Bill 10 to ensure that Article 47 is part of Bill 10. And all those speaking

against Bill 10 are denying you women the opportunity to participate, the youths and people living with disabilities," Prof Luo said.

And Prof Luo lamented that people mocked everything, including her spectacles.

"As a person, I am not against anybody criticizing me in terms of my portfolio as Minister of Fisheries and Livestock. When I was Minister of Higher Education, there was

nothing wrong in criticizing me in my course of duty. But I have every reason to be upset if someone enters my house and starts insulting me. What is sad in Zambia is that we are doing this because we have rights and this whole rights issue is what has brought Zambia to its knees right now in terms of how we relate with the genders, how we relate with adults and so on," Prof Luo said.

"I think we really need to

start putting laws in place that are going to deal with this otherwise we are gone as a country. Zambia was a very respected country until this social media came. Let me say to my women colleagues out there that if they are insulting Nkandu Luo from her spectacles to her toes, you are also insulting yourselves. The postings we see on social media where someone was insulting my spectacles, I looked at that and I was mesmerized how somebody can insult my spectacles. What have they done?"

She challenged the church to counsel young people who were using social media to insult leaders.

"As a woman particularly, I feel extremely sad. When I look back in the past, insulting elders was a taboo. As I sit here, it has become so fashionable to insult. And sometimes when these young people are insulting, they are doing it in full view of elders. And I have been wondering that when you stand as a mother or a father and you see these young people insulting, don't you realize that they are insulting you? These young people who are insulting young women, it doesn't matter which woman they are insulting, they are actually insulting their own mothers. So where is the family fabric? Where has it gone? Where are the churches in all this in terms of rekindling our social fabric as a people?" she asked.

Meanwhile, Prof Luo said the women parliamentarians would sponsor a private members' motion to tackle cyber bullying.

"The women's movement in 2020...We need to include more women in decision making, more women in Parliament, more women in councils. Because maybe as women, we will try and drive the country back to where it should be in terms of driving our social fabric. I would like to see in this sitting that we as women parliamentary caucus sponsor a private member's motion that will talk about this cyber bullying. The question is where does everybody's rights end? What makes one think that they have a right to insult a minister, they have the right to insult the members of parliament, elders? How about the rights of the person they are insulting? So Zambia needs to unpack this issue of human rights," said Prof Luo.

"And I would love to address the Human Rights Commission. I think they have an obligation to this country to start guiding this country in where everybody's rights end. Because we just can't be going round, I stand in the middle of Cairo Road and start insulting people because it's my right. We need to start knowing where our rights end. And really where is our education? Because an educated person cannot do that. I recall when I used to be Minister of Higher Education, I said 'the tragedy that we have is maybe what we have are schooled people' we are all walking around with certificates in our handbags, our briefcase, an educated person cannot do things that we see. We have the fast track courts and we hope when the female judges will be judging in those courts they will make sure those that have been reported for doing things like this will be given the appropriate punishment."



UNPAID CARE WORK

The failure to provide early childcare and universal free public education means women spend more hours caring for children. Inadequate access to health services means that women are expected to care for the sick, elderly, and incapacitated at home. The absence of water near home means women spend more hours collecting water. This constrains the time that women have, to secure decent work, claim their rights or pursue their interests.



UNDERFUNDING PUBLIC SERVICES

Spending 32% of the national budget on debt servicing, and only 12% on education and 9% on health increases the burden that vulnerable women provide every day for free.

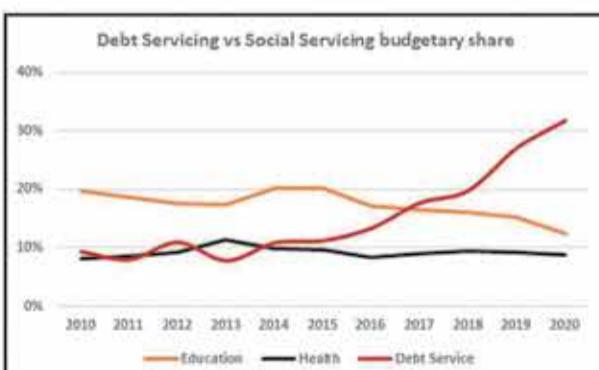
WHO recommends 44.5 physicians per 10,000 people, but in Zambia there are 12 due to gaps in Human Resources and underfunding.

Zambia's Human Resource Gaps in the Health Sector



Source: Ministry of Health: National Health Strategic Plan, 2017-2021

From 2015 the budget allocation to debt servicing has seen a sharp increase surpassing the allocation for health and education.



ACTION ON PROGRESSIVE TAXATION

Zambia has a tax-to-GDP ratio of 16%, well below the UN's bare minimum of 20% required to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. Zambia could expand its tax-to-GDP ratios by **5% over 5 years** by 2025 through taking action on ending corporate tax incentives, raising corporate taxes on high revenue earning companies, improving taxation of the extractive industries, supporting fair property taxes and targeting luxury consumption. This would increase by almost half the present revenue, enabling the government of Zambia to double its present spending on education, health and other key services and reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women.

#ProgressiveTaxesNotCorporateIncentives

By Zondiwe Mbewe

FORMER Lusaka City Market manager Mwanya Matafwali has claimed that Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa has on several occasions asked him to give him 'offerings' for personal use.

This is a matter in which Matafwali has sued Sampa and the Zambia Daily Mail newspaper in the Lusaka High Court for defamation of character for alleging that he had stolen K12 million, which was meant to be

Miles asked for 'offerings' for personal use, claims former City Market manager

deposited in the Lusaka City Council (LCC) account.

However, Sampa has also countersued Matafwali for defamation of character, alleging that Matafwali defamed him when he

accused him of asking for K20,000 from the City Market funds for his personal use.

But Matafwali in his defence to Sampa's counter-claim has denied each and every allegation contained in

Sampa's counterclaim.

"The plaintiff (Matafwali) will aver that the first defendant (Sampa) has on several occasions asked the plaintiff to give him 'offerings' for personal use and the plaintiff has told him to request for those 'offerings' officially, which he has never done to-date," he stated.

And in his reply and defence, Matafwali denied that the money had been mismanaged as claimed by Sampa.

"The plaintiff will aver at trial that he has not failed to account for the monies collected at the Lusaka City Market for the financial year December 31, 2019. The plaintiff will aver that he has not put the name of the Mayor of Lusaka into

disrepute or public scandal, but that Sampa is the one, who put the name of the plaintiff into disrepute," he stated.

Matafwali had stated in his statement of claim that by letter dated April 2, 2020, Sampa wrote to the Lusaka City Council Town Clerk and stated in part that City Market generated a total revenue of K13,626,242.12, but only a total of K60,000.00 was remitted to the Lusaka City Council Main accounts at Civic Centre.

He added that the Daily Mail published on its page of April 4, this year, a story under the heading "K12 million vanishes from the Lusaka City Market account."

Matafwali submitted that the actual words stated that,

"K12,000,000.00 was not deposited into the Lusaka City Council account and that Sampa learnt of this disappointment."

He lamented that the said words uttered by Sampa and the Zambia Daily Mail meant and were understood to mean by an ordinary member of society that he stole K12 million.

But in its defence, the Zambia Daily Mail denied Matafwali's claim, stating that the newspaper publication was based on information which was obtained from Sampa's office.

It added that the words complained of were fair comment and published under duty.

Zambia Daily Mail further submitted that as a public institution, it had a duty to inform the public on matters of public interest, including Matafwali's case.

Sampa on the other hand, stated in his defence and counterclaim, that he would show at trial that Matafwali also defamed him when he maliciously caused to be published in the media that he had demanded payment of K20,000 for personal use from the City Market funds.

He stated that by reason of the said statement by Matafwali, he had suffered loss, damages and exemplary damages.

Sampa stated that he would aver at trial that Matafwali had, indeed, failed to account for the funds collected from the market.



We'll not teach if we're not paid – UNZALARU

All they are saying is that let us sacrifice for the institution. Sacrifice comes at a cost. You cannot just sacrifice without being paid," said Mambwe.

"You sacrifice for something that you know one day you will be compensated. I think our members have sacrificed a lot for over 10

years. We have understood the challenges. For example, we are owed two, three gratuities from 2010 to date. But we are not going to allow this thing to apply to salary because a salary is a lifeline of our employment. If you don't pay me then it becomes difficult for me to discharge the normal duties."

By Julia Malunga

UNZALARU general secretary Kelvin Mambwe says its members will not lecture students when the University of Zambia reopens next week Monday until salary arrears are cleared.

In an interview, Mambwe said bringing students to campus when the university had not prepared for industrial harmony was going to be chaotic.

"The University has announced that it is reopening on June 29 for the classes that are supposed to be graduating. We are saying that bringing students to the university when the university has not prepared for industrial harmony will be chaotic. We are owed two salaries for May and June, lecturers and other workers have not been paid. So as UNZALARU, our members are not going to work amidst a situation where they have not been paid. We have told management that it will be very difficult to teach these students if they don't pay us the two salaries. Not until they are able to pay us the two salaries are we going to provide the lectures to our students. Failure to pay the two salaries at the same time, we have told them we are not ready to teach the students. They should not expect to see us on the 29th, not until they give us what they owe us," Mambwe said.

"We are appealing to the government to take higher education seriously. This habit of delaying grants as well as the fees for students who are sponsored by the government, is very unfair. And I know that is a deliberate ploy to punish us for things that are not known. As I am talking, our members will undergo double loan deductions so even if salaries will be paid tomorrow or the other week, we would have suffered double deductions, most of our members are owing bank loans. How do they expect us to work and provide a service to our citizens? As they are talking about reopening, let them also put in place measures that will avert situations that will disturb the institution."

Mambwe threatened a strike if salaries were not paid.

"We are going to take this matter to the courts of law. We will declare a dispute and the dispute should see us into declaring a formal strike. I think that is what they want. How do they expect me to work if you have not paid me for the services I have offered in the past months? It is illogical! How do you survive? How do you drive your vehicle without fuel? How do you take your children to school?"

HH's information on cost of Lusaka Urban Roads project misleading says Mwale

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

HOUSING and Infrastructure Development Minister Vincent Mwale says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema should learn to engage relevant stakeholders before commenting on road infrastructure projects, which he is not competent on.

Mwale complained in a statement that government had taken great exception to the video that went viral of Hichilema inspecting Lumumba Road in Lusaka where he alleged that government spent US \$1.2 billion on the ongoing road rehabilitation works.

He explained that the named roads in question cost around US\$70 million altogether.

"Government has taken great exception to the video that has gone viral of the UPND president, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, inspecting Lumumba Road in Lusaka alleging that government spent US \$1.2 billion on the ongoing rehabilitation works on the road. The contract for the engineering design, rehabilitation, upgrading and construction of selected Lusaka urban roads in Lusaka City, that includes Lumumba, Mungwi, Great North and Ngwerere to Kasisi roads, cost US \$70 million and not US \$1.2 billion for Lumumba Road as alleged by Mr Hichilema," Mwale stated.

He stated that the Road Development Agency (RDA) had further ordered the contractor, Avic International, to re-do the works and correct some deformations at no cost.

"Government, through RDA, directed the contractor AVIC International Project Engineering Company to re-do the works on these roads due to deformations observed. RDA carried out assessments and ordered

AVIC to immediately remedy the situation by re-working the asphalt surfacing or the wearing course. The works are being done at no cost to the government as it is being done within the defects liability period," he explained.

Mwale stated that the contractor had not yet handed over the road to government.

He urged the public to dismiss Hichilema's statement because it was misleading.

"Mr Hichilema should learn to engage the necessary stakeholders for him to get factual information on any of the road infrastructure projects instead of misleading the nation on matters he is not competent on. RDA is a public institution that anchors its work on transparency and accountability, and the UPND leader or any other leader, can easily have access to project details once requested upon. Mr Hichilema's statement on social media should be dismissed with the contempt it deserves as it carries no grain of truth," Mwale stated.

"The UPND leader could be mixing with the works that are yet to be embarked on by Messrs China Jiangxi Corporation for International Economic and Technical Cooperation (CJIC) on the 321Km Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway. AVIC International is a reputable road construction company that has done quality works on many road infrastructure projects for a considerable period of time in Zambia. However, the RDA has a vendor rating system in place that carries out assessments on road projects and contractors found wanting are directed to re-do the work until the Agency is satisfied with the performance. Government will not be derailed by people like Mr Hichilema, who are in the habit of making negative

statements, but will continue to deliver developmental projects, such as a good road network not only in Lusaka, but throughout the country."

And in an interview, Mwale warned road contractors that they would not be considered for future contracts if they continued with shoddy works.

"So, the assertions that government is repaying for the works that were done four months ago are not correct. I issued this statement just a few days ago before the opposition leader went on-site. If he cared to just check with us, we would have given him this information. We have no problem with people alerting us where they see things going wrong, but we always encourage people to first find out facts. I also warned Avic and other contractors that they are going to lose credibility with this government and they would not be considered for future contracts if this is how they were going to handle

this contract. I also warned RDA to be vigilant and make sure that once contracts are ongoing, they must make sure that supervision is done so that they do not have to certify shoddy works and make sure that specifications must be followed to the letter," said Mwale.

"When a contract has been given to a contractor and it has not been concluded, when there are defects that have emerged within that same contract period, the contractor has to re-do the works at their own cost, and this is what is happening. Those roads were done under the L-400, and the project is still ongoing. The contractor is still on-site. And even when the contractor leaves, there is a period, which is given within which, again, the contractor has to go back in case of any faults. It is a standard in all contracts. So, government is not going to pay anything for the works that are being done."

Cops nab Chipata teacher for illegally operating pharmacy

By Natasha Sakala

A CHIPATA businessman has been arrested for illegally operating a pharmacy and being in possession of suspected stolen government medicines.

In a statement, Sunday, Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) senior public relations officer Christabel Illiampu stated that George Banda, 34, also a teacher, was nabbed following routine inspections by ZAMRA officers at Dyakanani Market located in Muchini Compound of Chipata, Eastern Province.

"A Chipata businessman has been arrested for operating a pharmacy without a Certificate of Registration, contrary to section 14 (1) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013. This

is in addition to being in possession of government medicines suspected to have been stolen or unlawfully obtained, contrary to Section 319 of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. George Banda, male, aged 34 years, who is a teacher by profession, has been arrested and detained at Chipata Central Police, pending processing of court documents required for prosecution," stated Illiampu.

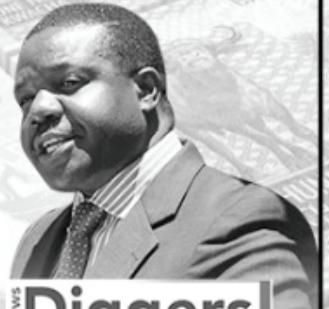
"The incident happened following a routine inspection undertaken by ZAMRA inspectors, in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC), in Dyakanani Market located in Muchini Compound of Chipata, Eastern Province."

She further warned all those engaging in such vices to refrain or risk being prosecuted.



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist



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Ear to the ground

Board Meetings are Serious Business

WHILE at the International Monetary Fund, I attended a few Board meetings mainly chaired by the Managing Director Christine Lagarde. My participation was by invitation as a member of management and we could make a couple of clarifications on issues related to communications. I also voluntarily attended Board meetings where Zambia was the focus. This was purely out of interest. The interesting thing was that Board meetings took 30 minutes, and indeed, no more than 30 minutes. This is because every country had its own Board meeting. But what can be discussed in half an hour? Interestingly, the agenda items were as long as for any other board meeting.

The IMF could afford to have shorter board meetings but with very robust and detailed resolutions because the actual discussions took place outside the Board meeting. The Fund has an executive board, meaning the board members operate from there though separate from management. They have about two days a week attending to issues that would feature in board meetings. Each executive director has a rich staff complement, supported by another reasonable number of (company) secretaries who provide the necessary documentation and advice.

Every agenda item for a Board meeting whose notice is often given weeks earlier is scrutinized, researched on and positions made by circulation. By the time the Board meeting takes place, critical decisions would have been made by some system of voting. I will not give further details beyond what is found on the IMF website. The reality is that the institution takes board resolutions extremely seriously. The Directors are all aware that their personal reputation, even after serving the IMF Board, totally hinges on the kind of decisions they make when they are in the boardroom.

It also means there should be no sleeping directors on boards, individuals who rely on others to drive the decisions. It is common on most boards to find that a few people dominate discussions and their opinions, even if poorly researched and ill-informed, will carry the day become the resolution. In the evaluation of one Board Chairperson recently, I applauded him for the generous feedback from other directors about his ability to seek everyone out so that they could make contributions on every agenda item where necessary.

An effective Board Chairperson should be very deliberate about how to seek everyone out, including those directors who lack confidence to speak and debate. There are boards that are dominated by power blocks, power dynamics or curtails who will look at an agenda item, decide to have a board meeting before a board meeting to either dismiss the motion or go with it. It does not matter the quality of submissions and the materiality or substance of the issues raised; the dominant members will simply decide otherwise. This is the reason some CEOs who had an excellent performance rating still have their contract renewal

application rejected because a few people would have decided to advertise the position for a pre-determined candidate.

Board meetings are very serious business. This is where critical resolutions that drive the business get discussed. There are directors who are fully aware of this seriousness that they always seek for a fine balance on agenda items as many tend to favour administration and operational issues while strategic matters that have a long term impact to the business are neglected. If they are on the agenda, a resolution is often made to discuss the matters at the next meeting just because many believe it's a waste of time.

In all board evaluations I have conducted, the item of strategy comes out, board members confirming there is not sufficient time dedicated to strategy issues. How can any company succeed if the Board dedicates nearly the entire time of a board sitting deliberating on why female employees were miniskirts; staff uniform at the Trade Fair; the transfer of an assistant manager from Lumezi to Sinjembela; the disciplining of an employee who parked her Range Rover in the Chairperson's slot?

It is important for board members to know why they are on the board: to lend their name, reputation and also provide oversight to the organization. The board offers strategic direction for the organization. There is so much expected of board directors that if many bothered to understand their obligations, they would not want to jump on the opportunity. It is mainly in board meetings the board members should deserve their seat.

In my many board training programmes, I ask every board member to share why they are on the board, 'What skill or contribution are you bringing to the table?'. Some bring in experience, others technical competences. Some traditional chiefs who sit on boards may not be technically competent by they bring in some wisdom and sound judgement on certain matters.

To be an effective contributor to a board meeting, your primary questions should always be, 'What value am I bringing to this board? Do I fully understand the organization? Do I understand the issues? If I miss a sitting, will other board members notice my absence? How much time do I dedicate reading the board paper and analysing it?'

One piece of guidance I provide board members (purely from experience) is to know what they are valued for. I know that on every board I sit, I am valued for economic insights, stakeholder engagement, business growth and strategy as well as communications. When I receive the Board paper and realise it is very thick and delivered a day before the Board meeting, I first focus on submissions for which my input will be required. In other words, when I go into a board meeting, I am always focused and researched on areas of my expertise. The other board members also fully know that when we come to those specific areas, they expect me to make the required guidance and submission.

We should also bear in mind that we have very sharp and somewhat manipulative managers who

"How can any company succeed if the Board dedicates nearly the entire time of a board sitting deliberating on why female employees were miniskirts; staff uniform at the Trade Fair; the transfer of an assistant manager from Lumezi to Sinjembela; the disciplining of an employee who parked her Range Rover in the Chairperson's slot?"

can easily dribble board members into a decision that may be costly in future. Albeit unethical, managers know how to manipulate sleepy and non-involved directors. As a member of management in organisations I once served, I used to study the competences of each board member. I knew among the directors those who would have the board paper marked all over, a signal they had read and scrutinized. We feared these individuals. We knew they would dissect every submission by management and even able to question any areas that posed a risk to the organization, particularly submissions that served the interests of management such as increasing gratuities.

When we wanted an agenda item that served our interest as management to pass, we ensured firstly those directors who read board papers received them very late so that they had no time to peruse through. Second, the agenda item we wanted passed at all cost was slotted right at the end so that by the time the chairperson pointed to it, everyone was yawning and hungry. It was at this point we also placed the sitting allowances on the time to raise the adrenaline (sitting allowances are a big thing for most boards; and its one way directors are bought into silence!). In most cases, the lazy board members were always the first ones to propose the adoption of a submission they had not read.

I am sharing these experiences to highlight the importance of committing time to board meetings. Directors should have time to familiarize themselves with the business of the day, carry out sufficient research on the submissions, demonstrate unequalled competence in deliberations and always be above board. This is because board meetings are sacred to the organization and serious business and if you do not apply yourself to the best of your ability, you will answer grave questions long after you had served the board. Next week, 'Corruption should be a Life and Death Pre-occupation for Boards'.



BILL 10: SELF INFILCTED PAIN

**By Charles Kakoma,
UPND Spokesperson**

THE current constitutional mess was created by the ruling Patriotic Front government. Many of the provisions they are trying to pass through Bill 10 are already taken care of in the current Constitution as amended in 2016. When signing into law the Constitutional Amendment Bill of 2016, President Edgar Lungu was so excited about what he considered to be good clauses in the constitution that he boasted that he could sign it with his eyes closed.

In the words of former president of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, it's "ifwakuyifwayila". KK used to advise some people to keep away from certain dangers but they couldn't listen to him. When they burnt their fingers, they run back to him crying. He told them that " Ifwakuyifwayila" , meaning they asked for it. It is similar to a situation where someone goes to provoke some wasps or bees. If they get beaten by the bees or wasps, who is to blame?

To illustrate what we are talking about, let us examine some contentious issues in the original Bill 10 . The current constitution did away with deputy ministers. The PF government went to resurrect the dead issue of deputy ministers and put it in Bill 10. After the people have rejected the provision of deputy ministers in the constitution, the PF and its government are now calling for help from the opposition to amend Bill 10 to remove the provision of deputy ministers!

The second example is that the current constitution already provides for parliamentary oversight over the contraction of debt by the government. The PF went ahead to try to remove this provision from the constitution. After the people rejected the proposed amendment, the PF and its government are running back to the opposition for help to remove the amendment from Bill 10.

The third example is that the current constitution already provides for retirees to remain on the payroll until their benefits are fully paid. The PF Government proceeded to remove this provision from the constitution but after it backfired, they now want help from the opposition to amend Bill 10 to restore the right of workers to remain on the payroll until their benefits are fully paid.

There are so many clauses that Bill 10

sought to amend which in the first place were unnecessary amendments to the current constitution.

Instead of straggling to pass Bill 10 to restore the constitution to its current status, the simple solution is to WITHDRAW BILL 10 to enable the status quo to continue. What is difficult about withdrawing Bill 10?

WE note with sadness the Patriotic Front government efforts to continue pushing for the passing in parliament of the rejected Bill 10.

The PF and its government are trying to deceive the citizenry that they have listened to their objections to the bill and are ready to make amendments when infact not.

Through the regazetted Bill 10 of 12th June, 2020, they have through flattery only amended a few items out of about 69 in the proposed bill simply to disguise and render their rejected obnoxious plan to alter and adulterate our constitution acceptable by the masses.

The current attempt to gazette new amendments to Bill 10 are illegal. The Standing Orders of Parliament only provide for amendments to be made to a Bill after Second Reading of the Bill . After Second Reading, the bill goes to Committee Stage where amendments can be made. In the case of Bill 10, the Second Reading Stage has not been done and it would be unlawful to amend the bill before it is debated and passed by at least two thirds of the Members of Parliament. The only other circumstance where amendments can be made before Second Reading is BY LEAVE OF THE HOUSE. There is no record of the House having sat to grant Minister of Justice Given Lubinda leave to publish any amendments to Bill 10.

As UPND, we believe that withdrawing is the answer if truly this government means well on this Bill 10.

The PF's desperation to have Bill 10 enacted into law is clear for all to see. They have marshalled characters of all hues and shades to go around the country to preach Bill 10, ignoring Ministry of Health Coronavirus guidelines. It is now clear that Bill 10 is do-or-die affair for them. Their political survival is hinged on Parliament passing it. They want to sneak in amendments that will facilitate their winning of the presidential and general elections next year.

The PF is the worst thing that ever happened to this country. They have

literally brought the country down. They have made Zambians destitute. There is no reason why any person would want to vote PF. They know this very well. They know they have shortchanged the people of Zambia and they know they cannot win a clean election. They have done nothing for this country except to plunge it in a mountain of debt and to ransack its coffers to fill their pockets.

The only reason the PF leaders want to retain power through Bill 10 is to protect what they have stolen from the people of Zambia. This is why they don't care how they retain power. They want to ensure they remain in power via the backdoor.

We know that Zambians have rejected PF, we urge them to reject Bill 10 and to condemn the PF's schemes to force it down the throats of Zambians. If Zambians allow Bill 10 to pass, they will be selling their birthright. The PF has spent billions of kwacha to ensure this Bill passes. What good Constitution is made through corruption? Bill 10 is a poisoned chalice. There is nothing good that will come from its enactment.

We advise the PF for once to stop taking Zambians for fools. Let them quit their endless political scheming. We urge them to focus on correcting their mistakes. Let them fight corruption. Let them use the zeal and energy they are applying on Bill 10 to find the owners of the 48 mysterious houses and bring them to justice, let them explain why they sold our gold to foreigners even before the sector was formalised, let them tell us how we bought old-model fire trucks at \$1 million each, let them tell us how we ended up buying ambulances worth US\$50,000 at US\$288,000. Zambians have not forgotten how they were gassed right in their homes and the PF government is now quiet. They don't want to say anything about gassing. Zambians want those culprits brought to justice. They want to know who gassed them. All they know is that this is a government of gassing. The energy being wasted on Bill 10 should be used to find the gassers.

We would like to tell the PF that Bill 10 will not go anywhere. This time the people of Zambia have refused to be taken for fools and to endorse a regime that is only interested in their personal welfare at the expense of the whole country.

By Mirriam Chabala

HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says the pursuit of gassing mastermind has not died a natural death, but that the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the hearing of court cases.

And Kampyongo says authorities could not allow youths to hold their protest because it is not safe for people to be on the streets amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking when he featured on Sun FM Radio in Ndola, Sunday, Kampyongo said his Ministry would engage the National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) on the status of the cases of gassing cases.

"Yes, indeed, those [gassing] activities did torment our people and got our people to live in fear. But like I assured when I came here that we were going to make sure that those activities were halted and that the perpetrators, who were going to be found wanting, were going to be made to face the law, so I must command the police: the Inspector General of Police (Kakoma Kanganja) and his two deputy commissioners. The police command here on the Copperbelt did what they could and they made sure that some perpetrators were arrested. The way it works is that, they do their part in terms of arrests and make sure that they prepare the dockets, which are then forwarded to the National Prosecutions Authority (NPA), which is an institution which prosecutes these matters through the courts of law," Kampyongo said.

"As far as I know, most of these matters have been handed over to the NPA. But what you also need to know is that just as they were about to start getting these matters to the courts of law, that's when COVID-19 came around and that saw the suspension of many activities, including the Judiciary. The courts were

suspended and it's only now, I think last week, when the courts were opened. So, we shall get in touch the National Prosecutions Authority to just get updated so that we can also keep the people informed. But people should not think that these matters have died a natural death, these are matters that have been forwarded. The police did their part and they have various suspects. We also have suspects that were rounded up for meting out instance justice on suspected citizens of being gassers. So these are the activities that you will certainly get to see through the courts of law because the police aren't the end unto themselves. So, our people should just be patient, they will

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Fisheries and Livestock Professor Nkandu Luo has announced that government will soon ban the importation of deboned meat because "it is not fit for human consumption."

And Prof Luo says Zambia will use the current partnership with other countries in the Saudi Arabia One Million Goat Project to learn best practices in the livestock sector.

Speaking when she featured on ZNBC Sunday Interview, Prof Luo said that the country should not encourage the eating of mechanically deboned meats because it was unhealthy.

"You know, this one is a very interesting debate. There is a group that comes to me and says, 'Minister, if you stop the deboned meat, you are going to kill the poor people because this is what they are surviving on...' then the big boys and girls are saying, 'Minister, this de-boned meat is a problem.' My attitude towards this is that we are stopping the importation of deboned meat and the argument I have used is not whether it's cheaper for anybody or the big boys are complaining, it's unhealthy. When I came back from training as a microbiologist immunologist, we never saw cancer in our institutions. Today, when you go to the UTH, the cancer hospital

be informed."

He also called on police to remain alert.

"I want to also urge the police to remain alert, even as things seem to be peaceful now. I am happy that the people of Chingola are able to give us feedback that they are now living normal lives; in Chililabombwe and all the surrounding towns of the Copperbelt, it seems life has gotten (back) to normal. But also to the citizens, securing ourselves is not only a matter for police, it is our duty as citizens to ensure that where we see suspicions, we inform the police so that, quickly, before these activities start escalating, they are dealt with, that's the role of members of the public."

And Kampyongo explained why youths were not given a go-ahead.

"Protesting is not illegal per se, but it's how you want to protest. There must be an intention and you must want to achieve something. You must be saying, 'we want to engage this particular authority so that we can be heard as youths and this is what we want to achieve at the end of the day and there can be engagement from there. But at the moment, we are still enforcing the measures that were given for us to stop this COVID-19 from spreading like bush fire. Yes, indeed, it would look as if the lives we have lost are few as compared to other countries where they have lost large numbers of people. But

that should not make people relax and make us go to sleep and get to business as usual as if this COVID-19 is no longer there. So, we have SI (Statutory Instrument) 22, which has to go with the Public Order Act and these are the two pieces of legislation that are there to manage any kind of gathering, procession or, indeed, any activity that will draw the excess numbers of people," said Kampyongo.

"You know, even as we speak, now that churches have only started congregating while observing social distancing and other measures that go to enhance hygiene, some churches have just opted to wait until they are sure that all is well. The schools have had

to open in a phased approach. Surely, what would be much more important between sending children back to school or getting people to be on the streets? I think those who want to get into power should just repackage themselves and prepare for elections. To try and use children as a front for a political agenda is shameful; it's not only unlawful, but shameful because if you can't take your child to be on the streets, why should you get someone else's child to be on the streets? I was just saying that we have suspended certain economic activities in order to see how this COVID-19 plays out. So, if this is about politics let's wait, elections are coming next year where people will have chance to choose who they want to be in leadership. So, our youths who want to go on the streets should understand that it is not right at the moment because such activities have been halted at the moment."

Govt to ban importation of mechanically deboned meat

is full of patients and a lot of this has to do with some of the foods that we are eating," Prof Luo said.

"And when I have analyzed this whole deboned meat, I don't think that Zambia should encourage it because it is unhealthy and if people use it for dogs, maybe that's what it's fit for; it's not fit for human consumption."

When asked by show host Grevazio Zulu whether government would ban the importation of deboned meat, Prof Luo responded in the affirmative.

"[Yes] because it's unhealthy. I am not listening to any of the voices because others are doing it because they think that it's stifling their business and the poor people are saying, 'what about us, this is what we are surviving on.' I think the best argument is the health argument," she replied.

But Prof Luo added that government could not impose a complete ban on the fish imports, except on Tilapia breams because they were widely produced locally.

"In Zambia, we have about 87,000 metric tonnes deficit of fish, but as at now, because of

the work that has been done, when we do the statistics next year, we will then see how much we have developed and how much the deficit has come down. However, our thinking, as a Ministry, is that fish farming has attracted a lot of people and there are a lot of players. Our thinking is that we could probably have reduced the deficit by 50 per cent, but we can only talk about that data when we have done the analysis, that's what we think. I think look at it this way, I think people must have choices of what they eat. You cannot have a total ban of fish imports because there are also exotic fish, but we can ban the Tilapia, which we do here, but there may be people who may want to bring in other exotic fish and we can allow them to bring in a little amount so that those who want choices like Crayfish and so on, because we don't do Crayfish here so that we allow the industry to grow," she said.

And Prof Luo wondered why some players were against the move to partner with other countries in the Saudi Arabia Goat export deal when it can be used as a learning process for best practices among

neighbouring countries.

"Yesterday, or two days ago, I was reading an article written by somebody from the University of Zambia and they were analyzing a discussion I was having with the President of the Republic of Zambia (Edgar Lungu) when he visited the Rufunsa Livestock Centre. So, I was saying to him that because of the numbers that Saudi Arabia wants, we found that Zambia on its own could not sustain the market. So, the system we have used is, we are going to partner with our colleagues in Botswana, our colleagues in Namibia and now from a few days ago, Zimbabwe has also requested that they come into this partnership. So, this guy (Dr Chisoni Mumba) who wrote this article was basically criticizing us that how can we go and start partnering with Botswana and Namibia when in that place they have identification and traceability policies and so on. So, I was laughing when I read this article, why? Because in fact, this is something Zambia is doing and it is one of the areas of improvement that we are doing," she said.

"And if I say look, 'I can't do it alone, let me partner; it's in itself assisting that you are

setting up saying, 'I don't have the capacity to do it alone, let me bring other players to play with us.' So, we have set up certain systems. Now, in the Ministry, which we think are going to help us learn from how other people are doing things because once you partner with people, one of the benefits of partnerships is learning so that you improve your own status. It's better late than never."

She added that the country did not have a substantive livestock census report, hence the one to be conducted before the country can engage another market, which it will not be able to sustain.

"We do not have a substantive census, we do not understand the number of animals we have, we can only approximate. And this is why for the goat market, I had to say, 'let's not use what we have in terms of figures because we may not sustain the market and let us try and partner with those that already have good numbers so that in a month we can put it at 300,000, another 500,000, another one 200,000 and per month...' we can sustain the one million. So, I think the numbers in a way are increasing so we need to capture all these numbers," said Prof Luo.

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THE past few weeks have seen a story unfold regarding a US\$17 million government contract that was awarded to an individual in the name of Imran Lunat. This shocking Ministry of Health tender has taken various turns and twists, so much so that our readers can't even tell now who is telling the truth. Today the Ministry says one thing and the next day the Attorney General says another thing. Meanwhile we are told an investigation is now under way at the instigation of the Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA).

From what we hear, the powers that be are not happy that we have kept on poking this issue. They wish we could stop for once so that they can be left to do as they please. But we are not done with our investigation yet, there is more to come. We can imagine that the efforts by the ZPPA to probe this issue will equally be met with resistance. But the wise say our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. If we see corruption and injustice unfold in our eyes and we do nothing about it, our society will rot beyond recognition.

Our people need to understand that what is going on in this corruption-smelling tender is far deeper than what has been brought to the surface. This is not Imran

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Big people are involved in the Honeybee scandal

Lunat who is blocking this tender from being cancelled. It is not Imran Lunat's interest that the Ministry of Health is protecting when they say "it was just a clerical error to add the word limited". It is not Imran Lunat who is influencing the Attorney general to speak fearlessly in defence of awarding an individual US\$17 million of taxpayers money. There is someone more powerful from whom all these people who are defending this tender are borrowing the authority to speak so confidently. If it was just this so-called Imran Lunat, he would not have gotten this tender and by now it would have already been terminated. But there is a whole network of public office bearers and civil servants who have lined up their pockets to eat from this.

We want to remind our readers about how

cartels of civil servants work together with their much senior pay masters to execute these deals. Exactly two years ago when he featured on a Prime Television programme, Mr Kelvin Bwalya Fube made very thought provoking revelations about the real perpetrators of corruption in government. His observation is that corruption is concentrated in the public procurement wings of government ministries where civil servants are getting rich from selling information to contractors.

"We complain of foreigners taking over contracts, how do foreigners know how to prepare big documents?" Fube asked. "Half of the bid documents are prepared by Zambians who work for government. They know the information;

they design the questions then they go and sale the information. The Chinese, Indian, Lebanese and others hire them to prepare the document, so the procurement officer prepares his own question paper, answers his own question paper then he goes and sits in his official capacity and now starts ticking and then he says this is the winner of the bid."

Mr Fube's observation was very accurate. This explains the case that we are faced with involving Honeybee Pharmacy and the "limited" debacle. When we ask, what motivated someone in the Ministry of Health to add the word "limited" where there was none, nobody wants to answer. When we ask, how did the Ministry of Health identify this individual who has won a 17 million dollar contract?

no one in government is available to answer. This is because there is collusion at play. Many companies that win government tenders today use civil servants to prepare their bid documents.

Mr Fube also said there is no one to stop this trend because the bosses are involved in the same criminality. Again, he was right. In fact, the bosses don't even get involved in the risks of preparing bid documents. They simply issue instructions to junior officers so that they can retain a high level of deniability in case News Diggers publishes an exposé, while their kickbacks go straight into offshore accounts.

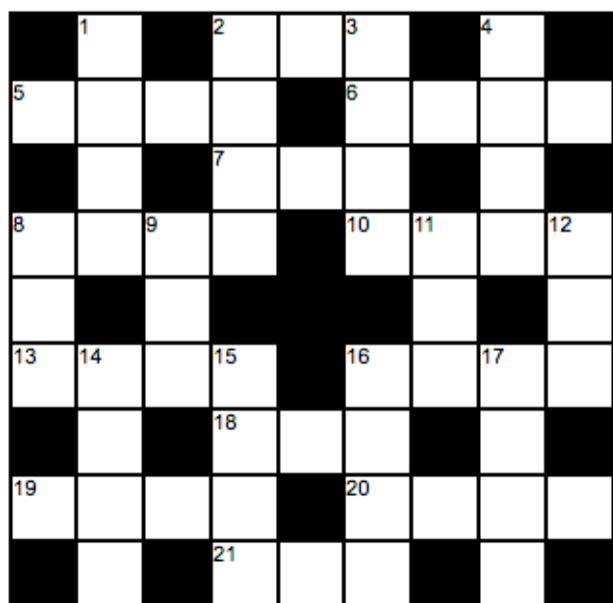
The reason why we don't have internal controls to create sanity in the public procurement sector is because there is a

lot of political will to the contrary. This is how campaigns are financed, so the top political leadership in the country is sponsoring this trend. Those are the stubborn monkeys in the maize field. They don't feel the economic hardship that Zambians are complaining about.

This is the reason why in every exposed scandal, we demanded to know the person inside government whom the accused company committed an illegality with. Our position is that where there is corruption, someone must have been corrupted; who received the bribe? Who prepared the bid documents for the supply of health centre kits? If there was corruption in the supply of Ambulances, who was involved in government and who prepared the bid documents?

These are the questions we must be asking on every suspicious procurement because it is pointless to point fingers at the private companies while ignoring the major role that a government official played. There is no aggravated robbery in any of these procurement scandals. What is there is collusion, and by definition, collusion means more than one party being involved. We know they are hiding, but time will come when they will be flushed out, named and shamed.

Crossword puzzle No 630



"Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world...would do this, it would change the earth."

- William Faulkner

Across

1. It rises and sets
5. Toothpaste flavor
6. Carve into
7. Cool ___ cucumber
8. Term of endearment
10. Not common
13. Be overly fond
16. A place to sit
18. Inquire
19. Breezes through
20. Creep (along)
21. Youngster

Down

1. Explosive device
2. Our sun is one
3. Closeby
4. Mark from a cut
8. Pop
9. Picnic pest
11. Dined
12. Consume food
14. Pained cry
15. Orient
16. Short satirical play
17. Circle segments

Crossword puzzle No 629



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: Those supporting Bill 10 should prepare to drink from the chalice of betrayal

Editor,

"Most MPs represent the mind of the people, then if the most can't consider peoples views, then they are representing their mind. Mps who vow to vote for this bill will regret never to be remembered in history, people will remember them for the bad decision they have taken. We are urging MPs in parliament to learn to do the right thing, it's not always that they should be barking drums for the government". - Tryson Tembo

"I am looking for one

article in the amended constitution Bill10 that directly benefits me". - Ben Kauzeni

"It is very surprising to see PF cadres and their stooges defending this animal called Bill 10 with so much energy just to stay in power. One day this same bill can come and turn against them when they are in opposition". - Crispin Simwinga

"Amos 5 V 24 Let justice flow like a river and Integrity like an unfailing stream". - Martin Nyanagha

"History is in the making. Choose to belong to the right side before the storm sweeps away all those found on the wrong side". - John Mileji Snr

"Nice write up..." - Brenda Victoria

"Who really is supporting bill 10? The opposition boycotted it. The church boycotted it. LAZ opposed it. ZCTU rejected it. Universities rejected it. PF said it has some defective clauses. Even Tutwa Ngulube can no longer debate bill 10, as he keeps hiding behind Parley recommendations.

Cabinet said it has some defective clauses. The select parliamentary committee recommended removal of a lot of clauses. Given Lubinda with his imbecility decided to proceed with it. President Lungu without any decency of making a case for it, is just eager to sign it. The same way he signed the 2016 constitution with his eyes closed. Which Zambians are in support of this bill? We have heard of people who want it to pass, but we have not heard of people who love the contents. All Zambians have reservations when it comes to contents". - Richard Waga



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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DfID's withdrawal of Social Cash Transfer funding to Zambia due to lack of accountability

Editor,

"PF government corruption has costed the poor people especially in Rural areas who depend on such assistance from UK. Very Shameful of PF Government". - Clarion Call

"We can't be beggars forever...it's shameful!" - Saphira Mundwe

"Thanks DFID. Please pass on your 'Accountability issues' to IMF. They seem to have an appetite to pour money down the drain and then turn back and ask you to pay back. IMF is irresponsible". - Francis Kapindula

"Disadvantages of corruption affect mostly the poor people who are the majority in the country. Not fighting corruption is the

biggest crime not to be forgiven". - Mpundu Maximillian Tiola

"This is fantastic the money never gets to the people who need it, just cadres. As a British Tax payer I'm not letting my money go to thieves. Well done!!" - Chiko Nathan Mwinga

"What do you expect? If their monies can go missing and be discovered in a Zanaco bank account weeks later. What message does that send to the donors?" - Percy Masheke Mushambi

"Thank God even the outside world is now seeing what is happening in our country Zambia, shame. This is a wake up call for everyone to say no to CORRUPTION". - Kas Dre

Fr Chikoya on Catholic PF MPs not meaning well

Dear editor,

"I don't see how the National Assembly can affiliate such a congregation based association, it could be against the rules. The MPs who represent religiously diverse constituencies cannot be using congregational affiliation to argue for or against any position on the constitution which encompasses all religions. The Bishops have every right to object bill 10, and the fact that the MPs are catholic does not delegitimize the leadership and responsibility of the bishops over that position. I am beginning to believe the predicted spell of confusion that is hitting the PF!" - Richard Waga

"These people don't mean well, a lot of cash will be looted when illegality is legalised - this is total dictatorship, and one thing is clear, dictators don't listen as the case is today - NDF was about dialogue or reasoning not amendments! This is absurd! this country deserves better than this - this is theft!" - Vongo Mwandila

"There aren't no such thing as Catholic MPs, we all have to follow what our spiritual leader says. Those need to be excommunicated". - Martyn Arteta Nyambe

"But the association is only made up of PF Catholics...?" - Collins Bishop Mwansa

Kalaluka on \$17m MoH tender being awarded to Imran Lunat, not Honey Bee Pharmacy Ltd

Dear editor,

"We need a Ministry of Clarification. It will be more relevant than Religious Affairs". - Kay Bryce

"Why is it like this in this country now? Bicycles, it was the same and now this deal. This is a sign of something very bad going on, and the truth always comes out. These are the things motivating me to vote next year". - Gerrard Mayungano

"This government kuti wanaka. US \$ 17 000 000 contract to a single person!!! Ba Lungu what legacy do you want to leave behind? Do you even care about your conscience after leaving office? Why let these things happen under your care?" - Josh Godwin Musuku

"President Lungu should seriously consider fighting corruption with keen interest otherwise the damage is huge and the blame falls on him being the leader. At this point it doesn't matter whether he has

spoken against it before or not, whether he participates in the loot or not but the people of Zambia want a rigorous fight. A fight they can see and feel. The Lord has spoken. Thanks". - Azikiwe Kalemba

"\$17m to an individual!!!!" - Choolwe Mulenga

"Yesterday it was not Honey Bee Limited but Honey Bee Pharmacy, today an individual. Bane tell us where we are going than treating us like babies. How much do we have in the ministry, ACC, from covid donations and what do you intend to do?" - Langford Musonda

"Again to an individual and not a registered company? Why does this government enjoy doing some kind of street business from Katondo especially? This is the same Attorney General behind the regazzeting of bill10. The current AG is not fit to hold that office. Shame". - Holyfield Bashi-Tasheni Mumba



Lungu isn't scared of debate but govt won't tolerate insults - Dora



President Edgar Lungu (l) buys from marketeers at Luwingu Market on Saturday - Picture by Salim Henry

By Julia Malunga

CHIEF government spokesperson Dora Siliya says President Edgar Lungu is not scared to engage in any debate with citizens, but government will not stand by and watch people insult him in the name of freedom of expression.

And Siliya says it is becoming fashionable to "finish" women by calling them prostitutes on social media.

Speaking during a media briefing, Monday, Siliya said the President was happy to take criticism but that it should be palatable.

"As government we want to make it very clear that the right to freedom of expression is captured in the constitution and that right is also guided by other laws including defamation and libel. And obviously, even on a personal level, at a family level, we expect responsibility. It also extends to the right of the press. While the media has the right to publish, they must also publish what is factual, they have to publish within the national laws and that failure to do that, then we see incidences where the police actually charge people with criminal libel. Now as government, in particular, His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu he is not afraid of any argument from anyone as he expends his duties he is very happy to take criticism," Siliya said.

"The President of the Republic of Zambia is very happy to engage in any

debate, in any argument. However, that must be palatable and I think it is unbecoming and we need to begin to question ourselves when young people go on social media and posting insult about the President, we have to begin to ask, is [it] the failure of the family, is it the failure of the education system because you don't go down the road insulting people. People will say you are mad. So clearly, if you are going to hide behind a computer or on your phone and begin to post insults about the President as we saw over the weekend, a lady in the diaspora, then you need to question what kind of people are these, what has happened. Government is not going to tolerate insulting the President and Zambian citizens."

Siliya said there was need to differentiate between freedom of expression, freedom of the press and insulting the President.

"Many of us are not afraid of any argument. We can debate the whole day. After all, that is why we are parliamentarians. President Lungu is not scared to debate but the government will not stand by and allow people who probably have nothing to offer in their sadness and insult the President and call it freedom of expression. Freedom of expression, freedom of the press government we'll defend any day but let's separate that from those who are pedestrian and have nothing better to offer and engage and wish to

believe that insulting the President makes them fashionable and that is freedom of expression, freedom of the press," she said.

"We live in a Zambia with a very specific culture, a very specific political context, a Zambia where we say we are a Christian nation, a Zambia where the global peace index voted us number four in Africa as the most peaceful country. Peace must come with some responsibility, it must come with some sort of behavior. How can we be a country where other people want to believe that we are so peaceful and yet all we want to do is post on the internet, insulting our President, insulting ministers, insulting women? Then there will be total failure as a country."

And Siliya noted with sadness that it had become fashionable to call women prostitutes on social media.

"The Ministry of Transport and Communication has been working on a number of cyber laws, laws on privacy, laws on financial transactions and laws in security. I do know that a lot of my colleagues, women in the media, female musicians just ordinary citizens are quite abused and they feel that something must be done. The bullying of women just seems to be very easy calling women prostitutes, calling women this, that seems to be a very easy way to sort of finish women in this country. Even a highly educated woman such as Professor Nkandu Luo and it is extremely shameful," said Siliya.



Youths rising against PF because of immense suffering - Kabwita

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) national youth chairperson Charles Kabwita says it is hypocrisy for the ruling PF to use COVID-19 to stop other political parties from holding political gatherings when they are in the forefront campaigning.

And Kabwita has observed that youths are now rising up against the PF due to the immense suffering they are being subjected to under the ruling party.

In an interview, Kabwita said that the PF were being hypocritical for denying the opposition the chance to hold public rallies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while they continued mobilizing their members.

"It is ridiculous and hypocrisy of the worst kind for the ruling Patriotic Front to suggest that there is COVID-19, yet they are in the forefront advancing their campaigns. It is ridiculous for the police to say, 'youths should not go ahead with their planned demonstration due to COVID-19.' We all know that COVID in Zambia is a source of fundraising and a source of attraction to donor funding. The balance sheet of the present government is blank. They understand that the IMF can no longer give them money because they have over-borrowed. So, they want to use COVID as a fundraising venture so that the money that they will raise can be used to pay civil servants' salaries," Kabwita argued.

And he observed that youths had finally decided to rise up against the PF because they had suffered under their rule.

"The revolution has started! As youths, we have risen because we have suffered so much in the hands of the PF. Youths were promised over 5,000 jobs by one Edgar Chagwa Lungu, but those jobs, we can't see them. Today, we will turn up in numbers to go and protest at the Parliament building. It's not about PF, MMD, UPND or NDC, but it's about us, as youths. We have to go and protest and showcase that we are not happy with the way we are being governed," Kabwita added.

Meanwhile, Kabwita said the resignation of PF Lumumba ward councillor Angel Kahale in Roan constituency last week is a sign that the party had failed to govern the country.

"This is the most honourable and due resignation by a ward councillor. In the recent past, we have heard a lot of stage-managed Patriotic Front resignations where councillors are enticed with money by the leadership of the Patriotic Front. We all know that councillors have been forced to resign just to showcase that it's the Patriotic Front's agenda. That goes to show you how desperate the corrupt regime is! They know that they have failed lamentably," Kabwita said.

He also said that the NDC had already won the Lumumba ward by-election even before the elections were held because the area remained "the party's bedroom."

"And they should be aware that Copperbelt is the bedroom and this is where everything began its journey from, to form the opposition, NDC. So, for us as NDC, even before voting day for this ward comes, we can already declare ourselves as winners! This also goes to tell that the ruling party in the province has so many problems, which even the provincial chairperson, Nathan Chanda, can't afford to manage. This also goes to show you that these PF cadres, who are busy chanting slogans 'pabwato' that there is nothing for them. These are slogans of poverty, corruption, and slogans of encouraging thieves to steal more. Let's rebuke them and show them the way the councillor in Roan constituency has done," said Kabwita.

ACA establishes human rights fund to strengthen civic activism

By Ulande Nkomesha

ALLIANCE for Community Action (ACA) has partnered with like-minded organisations and individual activists to set up a legal and humanitarian fund for human rights defenders in Zambia.

In a statement issued by (ACA) information and advocacy officer Jimmy Maliseni, Monday, the CSO explained that the fund had been necessitated by the continued shrinking space for civic actors, and that the detention of critical voices had prompted well-wishers to partner with ACA to offer financial and material support to human rights advocates.

"The Alliance for Community Action, other like-minded organisations and individual activists, have

come together to create a legal and humanitarian fund for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Zambia. Following the continued shrinking space for civic actors in the nation, whereby critical voices are consistently being detained, various well-wishers have approached the ACA and other actors with offers of financial and material support. Some of this support has already been received. However, up to this point, there has been no independent structured system through which this support could be received and accounted for. Donors have thus been separately informed of how their support has been utilized," Maliseni stated.

"In order to ensure continued accountability and transparent management of

these resources, a stand-alone mechanism has been created for purposes of managing all the resources received. In this regard, civic actors, through the ACA, have opened an independent bank and mobile money accounts for this purpose. The ACA will publish annual financial statements on the management of this fund in line with financial best-practice. Further, donors and members of the general public will be at liberty to request for information on the management of the fund."

He added that the fund would also be used to render support to families wherever financial and material support was required and would also be used to pay for legal representation for the human rights defenders.

"The fund will be used in three specific areas. First, the resources will be used to support human rights defenders in detention. This facet will also include setting up a system of offering immediate support following detention of activists. The Zambia Police has consistently detained people without informing next of kin on the location of confinement or giving reasons for the same. It is, therefore, important that detained individuals can be located in the shortest possible time to ensure that their physical wellbeing is ascertained. Secondly, the fund will render support to families wherever financial and material support is required, especially in cases where the arrested human

rights defenders are the main income earner. Lastly and most critically, the fund will be used to pay for legal representation," stated Maliseni.

"On behalf of other civil society organizations and independent civic actors, the ACA would like to sincerely thank all organizations and citizens, who have supported us in these difficult times for human rights defenders in Zambia. Details of the bank mobile accounts to which financial contributions can be directed have been published on the ACA website, www.acazambia.org and social media platforms. All those intending to offer support may consult the ACA to verify the details before making their donations if in doubt."

'Man City players don't get the recognition they deserve' – Bernardo Silva bemused by De Bruyne's PFA snubs

BERNARDO Silva believes Manchester City players "don't get the recognition they deserve" when it comes to prestigious individual awards, with Kevin De Bruyne's lack of personal prizes leaving the Portuguese forward baffled.

The Belgium international playmaker has been a leading contender for PFA Player of the Year gongs in the past. That honour has, however, always headed elsewhere since De Bruyne returned to English football at the Etihad Stadium in 2015.

Leicester's remarkable title triumph in 2016 saw Riyad Mahrez's efforts recognised by his peers, with N'Golo Kante going on to take first place a year later after moving to Chelsea and helping them to the Premier League crown.

De Bruyne then starred for title winners City in 2017-18 – as they reached 100 points – but he was edged out in the PFA vote by Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah.

A domestic treble was not enough to see him past Virgil van Dijk in 2019 – with injury issues working against him that season – and Silva has questioned whether a period of stunning

success for Pep Guardiola's side as a collective has not been mirrored on a personal level.

He told The Telegraph: "Kevin de Bruyne should have won the [award] two years ago - he was clearly the best player in the league that season. It is a fair process, but I can't understand why City players don't get the recognition they deserve."

City are now sweating on whether the likes of De Bruyne will stick around if a two-year ban from European competition is upheld. They have appealed that ruling, with Silva admitting that future uncertainty at the Etihad is helping to narrow the focus when it comes to a European quest in the present.

He added: "Of course, what happens with UEFA is an important matter. No one knows what is going to happen, so we must only think about what we can control now. What we can control is to play the competition in the best possible way. We must put all of our energy into trying to win the Champions League."

"I think all of the players are with the club and support what they are saying. We will try to do our best this year and not worry about

anything else."

Silva has added incentive when it comes to capturing a continental crown this season, with the final stages of the 2019-20 Champions League campaign set to be played out in his homeland.

"For me personally, it is an extra motivation to try to do well in the Champions League," said Silva. "It is a special competition and it is going to be a unique event in my home city."

"To fight for the title in my city [Lisbon] would mean a lot because I missed out on the Euros four years ago when Portugal won the trophy and I was hoping to play in this summer's tournament before the pandemic. GOAL

'Bale doesn't seem to care at Real Madrid' – Zidane has 'ruled out' Welshman, says Valdano

GARETH Bale "does not seem to care" that he is out of favour at Real Madrid, claims Jorge Valdano, with Zinedine Zidane considered to have "ruled out" the Welshman for the foreseeable future.

This is not the first time that Bale has slipped down the pecking order under an iconic French coach.

He has previously come back into contention, with Real reluctant to leave a big-money asset stuck in the shadows.

Form and fitness issues have, however, made life difficult for Bale over recent seasons, with an expectant fan base marking him out as an easy target.

Questions have been

asked of the 30-year-old's ongoing commitment to the cause, with criticism of his fondness for golf never far away.

It may be that he gets more time on the fairways than he does on the football field over the coming weeks, with Valdano of the opinion that Real are preparing to play out their 2019-20 campaign without Bale forming part of those plans.

The former Blancos player, coach and director has told Onda Cero: "Zidane needs all of his players involved for these games.

"But that seems to be without Bale, who he has already ruled out.

"Bale does not seem to care too much either, and coaches know when a player wants to play."

Bale did step off the bench in Real's 3-1 victory over Eibar, which marked their return to competitive action, but was not involved in subsequent successes against Valencia and Real

Sociedad.

Karim Benzema has been the star of the show for Madrid in those contests, with the French striker bursting through the 20-goal mark for the season.

Vinicius Junior is another of those to have seen regular game time, with the Brazilian youngster getting the nod ahead of fellow countryman Rodrygo.

That has come as no surprise to Valdano, who said of the battle between two teenage stars: "His [Vinicius'] contribution ended up being decisive.

"It seems that Vinicius is giving more to the team. Rodrygo does not have the same degree of self-confidence that Vinicius has."

Valdano did, however, concede that "everyone sees more talent in Rodrygo" and that a couple of hot prospects should have prominent roles to play in Real's long-term future. GOAL

Grassroots soccer development remains Kamanga's top priority

By Abraham Kalito

FAZ president Andrew Kamanga says lack of decentralisation in the administration of football has been one of the biggest handicaps that has impeded development of grassroots soccer in rural areas.

In a statement posted on the associations' Facebook page, Kamanga stated that the divide has manifested itself on the pitch and in board rooms, with the majority of officials predominantly from the Copperbelt and Lusaka dominating.

"For my administration, nothing has preoccupied us more than trying as much as possible to reach all the corners of our beautiful country. One of the biggest handicaps in our beautiful game over the years has been the divide between development along the line of rail and the rural areas. It is a divide that has manifested itself not only on the pitch but also in the boardrooms where officials that manage the game have predominantly been from Lusaka and the Copperbelt. Breaking this dominance by fair or reasonable means has not been easy to figure

out. Fortunately, the FIFA driven constitutional alignment provided Zambia with a golden opportunity to even the playing field," Kamanga stated.

He stated that once fully implemented, the fruits of decentralisation would be instant and would cut down on the bureaucracy.

"My administration has made good on the pledge to spread football to all the corners of our beautiful country. With the FAZ constitution providing for an elected representative from each of the 10 provinces to sit on the national executive committee, half the job has been done. All the 10 provinces will sit as equals at the table of a 13-member national executive committee. That speaks exactly to what we set out to do when we took over office in 2016," Kamanga stated. "Already, six of the 10 provinces have elected their provincial executives that comprise a vice chairperson, women representative, youth and committee member. Any of the members of the provincial executive will sit on the sub committees at FAZ that deliberate of various football interests. A female

representative in Western Province is expected to highlight the status of women football in her region and thereby bringing it to the attention of the national leadership. Similarly, a youth representative in North Western Province is expected to do the same. That will help paint a national picture of the game at the national executive committee level."

He stated that FAZ was also in the process of establishing provincial offices.

"The offices will employ full time staff that will cut the bureaucracy of having to travel to Lusaka for accessing certain services. A fully fledged provincial office will have an administrative officer, registrar and referees' desk, among others, that will replicate the set up at Football House. The fruits of decentralization may not be instant but we are lucky to have slowly been witnessing the transformation that has already manifested itself in our junior teams. We will keep refining the reforms that we have rolled out and with us, decentralization remains one of our top priorities," stated Kamanga.





MWEPU REPLACES DAKA ON SCOREBOARD

By Abraham Kalito

ENOCH Mwepu has replaced teammate Patson Daka on the scoreboards following his beautiful score on Sunday that doubled Redbull Salzburg's lead ahead of Wolfsburg.

Zambian soccer fans are now getting used to seeing their stars plying their trade miles away from home netting goals when in action.

In the last few weeks,

Daka made all the headlines when he scored four goals out of six appearances.

But on Sunday, it was Mwepu's time to shine as he took on the mantle and replaced Daka on the scoreboard.

The midfielder put in one of his best performances and maintained composure, dribbling past a defender and goalkeeper before slotting the ball behind the

net.

His goal doubled Redbull Salzburg's lead deep into the second, but the Austrian side, who are currently atop of the log, failed to hold on to that lead.

Wolfsburg managed to score two as well to share the spoils.

Meanwhile, Daka played on for 90 minutes before he was substituted. He has not scored in two games now.

Grassroots soccer development remains Kamanga's top priority

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FM TRAVELLERS /MAGODI LODGE LTD

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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