

News

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Ndulo censures Speaker for claiming to have power to interpret Constitution

By Mukosha Funga

WILLIAM Nelson Cromwell Professor of International and Comparative Law Muna Ndulo has wondered what Speaker of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini has been eating for him to become so arrogant.

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Milingo lying, we never agreed to be paid after KCM sale - CEC

By Natasha Sakala

KONKOLA Copper Mines (KCM) Plc's provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu's claim that Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) Plc agreed to have the mining company's debt paid following a pending sale is misleading, says the power utility's chief legal counsel Julia Chaila.

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Inflation slows to 15.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

THE annual rate of inflation has decreased to 15.9 per cent in June, down from 16.6 per cent recorded in May, mainly triggered by price decreases in food items, according to the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZSA).

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BILL 10 HAS BROUGHT CONFUSION

...it must be put to rest - Speaker



British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley (r) exchanges elbow greetings with Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo when he paid a courtesy call on him at his office

Chitalu must step aside, demands ActionAid

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ACTIONAID country director Nalucha Ziba says it is prudent that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya must step aside from his duties to allow for proper investigations without undue influence.

In an interview, Ziba urged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to thoroughly probe the embattled Minister's corruption allegations and ensure the law took its course if he will be found wanting.

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Bill 10 had died, but Standing Orders Committee extended it - Mundubile

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

GOVERNMENT Chief Whip Brian Mundubile has admitted that Bill 10 had lapsed on June 4, 2020 but says

the parliamentary Standing Orders Committee decided to extend it because it has powers to change its own rules.

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Home of investigative journalism in Zambia





Leader of the opposition and also Monze UPND MP Jack Mwiimbu addresses journalists during press briefing at the party secretariat in Lusaka on Wednesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Avoid partisan politics, it's messy, Mwila warns OCIDA

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says he hopes the formation of a civic organization called OCIDA, led by Simon Zukas, is not a glorified political chaperone for one opposition party and its leader.

In a statement, Thursday, Mwila said it would be tragic if the members were to involve themselves into partisan politics and destroy their legacies.

"Given the history of partisan interests, political bias and intimacy that most of the founder members and committee members of OCIDA have shared with one particular opposition party, and its leader, it remains to be seen how neutral or non-partisan they really are. It remains up to OCIDA to prove that they are neutral and not merely a glorified political chaperone for a particular opposition leader. It also remains to be seen how balanced and objective they will be, and if at all they will be as vocal and 'forceful' on matters of transparency accountability with the opposition as they will be the ruling party and government," Mwila stated.

"They are thus worthy of respect and double honour. It would be tragic if luminaries of such pedigree as the "founders" of OCIDA, were to throw themselves into the political ring and involve themselves in the rough and often messy

rigors of partisan politics. The very thought makes one shudder. It would be a taboo to see senior citizens putting themselves in such an awkward situation in the name of "civic duties". We sincerely hope it does not come to a sorry situation where legacies built over a life time are destroyed in the evening of their lives."

Mwila appealed to OCIDA members to question why UPND party leader Hakainde Hichilema gave himself an unlimited tenure as party president.

"It cannot be ignored that "Third Force" as OCIDA is calling itself has political undertones. For instance, when it comes to matters of intra-party constitutionalism and good governance, will OCIDA publicly and forcefully question why a certain opposition party leader amended Article 70 of his party's constitution to give himself an unlimited tenure as party president? We honour our elders and senior citizens; their precious legacies built over entire lifetimes need not be injured in "injury time" by partisan agendas. We note that many of the founders of OCIDA are senior citizens that have contributed immensely to our very nationhood," he stated.

Mwila cautioned against movements created for purposes of championing a smear campaign.

He challenged OCIDA to come out clean and state if it was a political party.

"Force" has questionable connotations. It can also be interpreted as "Power exerted against will or consent; compulsory power; violence; coercion". It only remains to be seen if OCIDA has come in peace. We challenge OCIDA to come out in the open if at all they are a political party waiting to be registered as one. Once they single out PF in their agenda, their mission is targeted at one political party and it goes without saying that they are either a political party or an appendage of an existing political formation – let them come out clean," Mwila stated.

"It is against this background that we wish to caution against movements created for purposes of championing a smear campaign. If they sow impartiality, good order and national interest, then they shall reap a positive harvest. But if by the same token, OCIDA is part of a larger plan to sow seeds of discontent and to ferment discord by placing a particular opposition personality's interests above order and national interests, then they will equally reap the negative that they sow. As for OCIDA we hope they are not destroyers and scatters. We give them the benefit of the doubt- but only time will tell. The ball is firmly in their court. How will they play it?"

Mwila said the formation of their organization was a clear testimony of increasing political tolerance under the

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ACTIONAID country director Nalucha Ziba says it is prudent that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya must step aside from his duties to allow for proper investigations without undue influence.

In an interview, Ziba urged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to thoroughly probe the embattled Minister's corruption allegations and ensure the law took its course if he will be found wanting.

"As ActionAid Zambia, we welcome the arresting of the Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya and we

know that the ACC has charged him with four counts of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime. However, we know that there is [an aspect of] 'being innocent until proven guilty'. We are also aware that in view of our national

values, it's only prudent in line with transparency and accountability that the Minister of Health steps aside from his ministerial duties to allow for a full investigation of the process so that we do not seem to have undue influence on the investigations," Ziba said.

She hoped that the ACC's investigations would not end as an academic exercise as witnessed in the past.

"We also hope that this should not just be a mere academic exercise by the Anti-Corruption Commission when it comes to dealing with people holding public offices where their cases just end at nolle prosequi. We hope that this is not just a process of cleansing, but a process where due investigations will be followed. We only hope that the Commission will be allowed to work with undue influence considering that they are dealing with a sitting Cabinet Minister," said Ziba.

On Wednesday, the ACC finally arrested Dr Chilufya following questioning over several months and charged him with four counts of corruption for being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

ruling party.

"Formation of OCIDA a clear testimony of expanding civic space and increasing political tolerance under PF. We hope they will demonstrate political impartiality. We have received news of the formation of OCIDA a civic organization calling itself "The Third Force" with a mixture of gratification and cautiousness. Gratification, because the very formation and public launch of OCIDA is a resounding testimony of our country's laudable democratic credentials. It clearly shows that Zambia under the Patriotic Front Government of His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the PF is in the process of holding countrywide town hall meetings in various communities once COVID-19 regulations permit, to listen to and act upon the concerns and aspirations of women and youth respectively. On our part we are gatherers. We build lives just as we build infrastructure and we have a track record in this regard," stated Mwila.

And Mwila said the party was in the process of holding country wide town

hall meetings for women and youths to listen to their concerns.

In the meantime, PF is in the process of holding countrywide town hall meetings for women and youth respectively, to listen to and act on their concerns. The youth comprise the bulk of our membership and our mothers are the foundation of our support base. Being a pro-poor party led by a listening and conscientious leader in His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the PF is in the process of holding countrywide town hall meetings in various communities once COVID-19 regulations permit, to listen to and act upon the concerns and aspirations of women and youth respectively. On our part we are gatherers. We build lives just as we build infrastructure and we have a track record in this regard," stated Mwila.

Inflation slows to 15.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

THE annual rate of inflation has decreased to 15.9 per cent in June, down from 16.6 per cent recorded in May, mainly triggered by price decreases in food items, according to the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZSA).

Announcing Zambia's annual rate of inflation for the month of June, ZSA Interim Statistician General

Mulenga Musepa said that the reduced inflation this month was largely attributable to decreased food prices amid the country's first bumper harvest since the 2016/2017 agricultural season.

"The year-on-year inflation rate, as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for June, 2020, decreased to 15.9 per cent from 16.6 per cent recorded in May, 2020. This means that on average, prices of goods and services increased by 15.9 per cent between June, 2019, and June, 2020. The decrease in the annual rate of inflation was attributed to price decreases in food items," Musepa told journalists via video conference in Lusaka, Thursday.

He added that there was a significant decline in the food inflation rate, which dampened the overall annual rate of inflation, largely driven by price reductions in basic food items, such as mealie meal and fish.

"The year-on-year (annual) food inflation rate for June, 2020, was recorded at 16.3 per cent compared to 17.5 per cent recorded in May, 2020, indicating a decrease of 1.2 percentage points. This development was mainly attributed to reductions in prices of food items, such as cereals

(Breakfast mealie meal, Roller meal, maize grain) and fish (i.e. dried bream, dried Kapenta, Bukabuka and fresh Kapenta," Musepa said.

"The year-on-year non-food inflation rate for June, 2020, was recorded at 15.5 per cent same as recorded in May, 2020. This means that on average, prices of non-food items increased by 15.5 per cent between June, 2019, and June, 2020."

Of the total 15.9 per cent annual inflation rate recorded this month, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 8.7 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for 7.2 percentage points, according to Musepa.

ZSA data shows that although Zambia's annual rate of inflation declined to 15.9 per cent in June, 2020, it still remains at a near four-year high since September, 2016, when inflation was at 18.9 per cent, reducing to 12.5 per cent in October, 2016, before it dropped to close that same year at 7.5 per cent.

The BoZ has projected that the country's annual rate of inflation will remain high over the forecast period of eight quarters up to the end of next year, mainly driven by high food prices, but is due to slow down on the back of a maize bumper harvest.

We're waiting for 'response' to take Chellah to court – Katanga

By Daniel Chansa

COPPERBELT Police Commissioner Charity Katanga says police are still waiting for a "response" to take photographer Chellah Tukuta to court.

And Ndola Central police have restricted visits to only Tukuta's family members and lawyers.

On Monday, Tukuta was transferred from Lusaka to Ndola where four more new counts of criminal libel were slapped on him.

But when asked when he would appear in court in a brief interview, Katanga said police were still waiting for a "response", without elaborating.

"We are still waiting for a response and the status quo remains the same," said Katanga.

On Monday, Katanga had announced that Tukuta was facing four counts of criminal libel and two counts of threatening violence on the Copperbelt.

Katanga said the offences happened 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 to 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," said

Katanga.

"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 Chella 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.

By Mukosha Funga

WILLIAM Nelson Cromwell Professor of International and Comparative Law Muna Ndulo has wondered what Speaker of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini has been eating for him to become so arrogant.

In an article titled "On What Meat Doth Matibini Feed?: MATIBINI AND THE COURTS", Thursday, Prof Ndulo said the Speaker's claim that he had powers to interpret the constitution could only be made by a confused individual.

"The constitution is the supreme law of the land and its supremacy is unquestionable. That is unless you are the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Matibini. Then, the constitution becomes a footstool on which he hoists himself. His statement that:

"He reserves powers to interpret the constitution within the confines of the operations of the legislature and that the constitutional court cannot tell him what to do," are the words of a confused individual. In other words, Speaker Matibini pronounced himself to be above the constitution. He completely ignores the fact that not only are the legislature and his office creatures of the constitution, their very existence was created by the constitution. Sworn to defend and uphold the constitution, one can only wonder like Cassius in Julius Caesar and ask "Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed, that he is grown so great? What has Speaker Matibini fed on that he has grown so arrogant? Permit

Matibini's claim that he has powers to interpret constitution can only be made by a confused individual – Ndulo

me to reeducate Mr. Matibini on basic constitutional norms typically taught in the first year of the Law School curriculum," Prof Ndulo stated.

Prof Ndulo said powers to interpret the constitution were unequivocally placed in the hands of the courts and not Parliament or the Speaker.

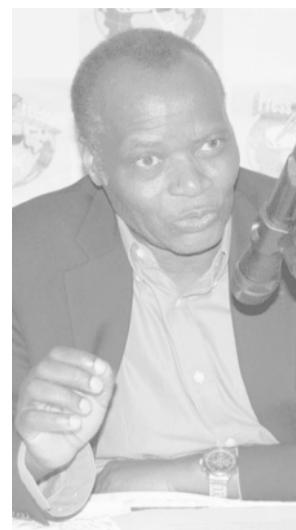
"Article 1 of the Zambian Constitution states that "this constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Zambia and any other written law, customary law and customary practice that is inconsistent with its provisions is void to the extent of the inconsistency." It further states that the constitution shall bind all persons in Zambia, state organs and state institutions. Parliament is a creature of the Constitution and it can only have such power as is given to it by the constitution. In Article 119 the constitution states that: "(1) judicial authority rests in the courts and shall be exercised by the courts in accordance with this constitution and other law." Judicial authority has been authoritatively defined as the power to

decide controversies between the state and its subjects or between subjects. It embraces the determination by the courts of the constitutionality of laws in any case brought by a competent person in which it is necessary to determine the question in order for the court to be able to decide the dispute before it. It includes the power to interpret provisions of the constitution. These powers are unequivocally placed in the hands of the courts and not in parliament or the speaker," he stated.

"The South African Constitutional Court has explained the relationship between Parliament and the Constitution in a constitutional which similarly grants judicial power to the courts, in *Glenister v. President of South Africa* (2008) the court stated, in a constitutional democracy the courts are the ultimate guardians of the constitution. They not only have the right to intervene in order to prevent the violation of the constitution, they also have the duty to do so. The Court observed that it is in the performance of this role

that courts are more likely to confront the question of whether to venture into the domain of other branches of government and the extent of such intervention. It is a necessary component of the doctrine of the separation of powers that courts have a constitutional obligation to ensure that the exercise of power by other branches of Government occurs within constitutional bounds. The court observed further that "But under our constitutional democracy, the constitution is the supreme law. It is binding on all branches of government and no less on Parliament. When it exercises its legislative authority, Parliament must act in accordance with, and within the limits of, the constitution; and the supremacy of the constitution requires that the obligations imposed by it must be fulfilled. Courts are required by the constitution to ensure that all branches of government act within the law and fulfill their constitutional obligations."

He elaborated how the courts had the responsibility to determine the legal limits of

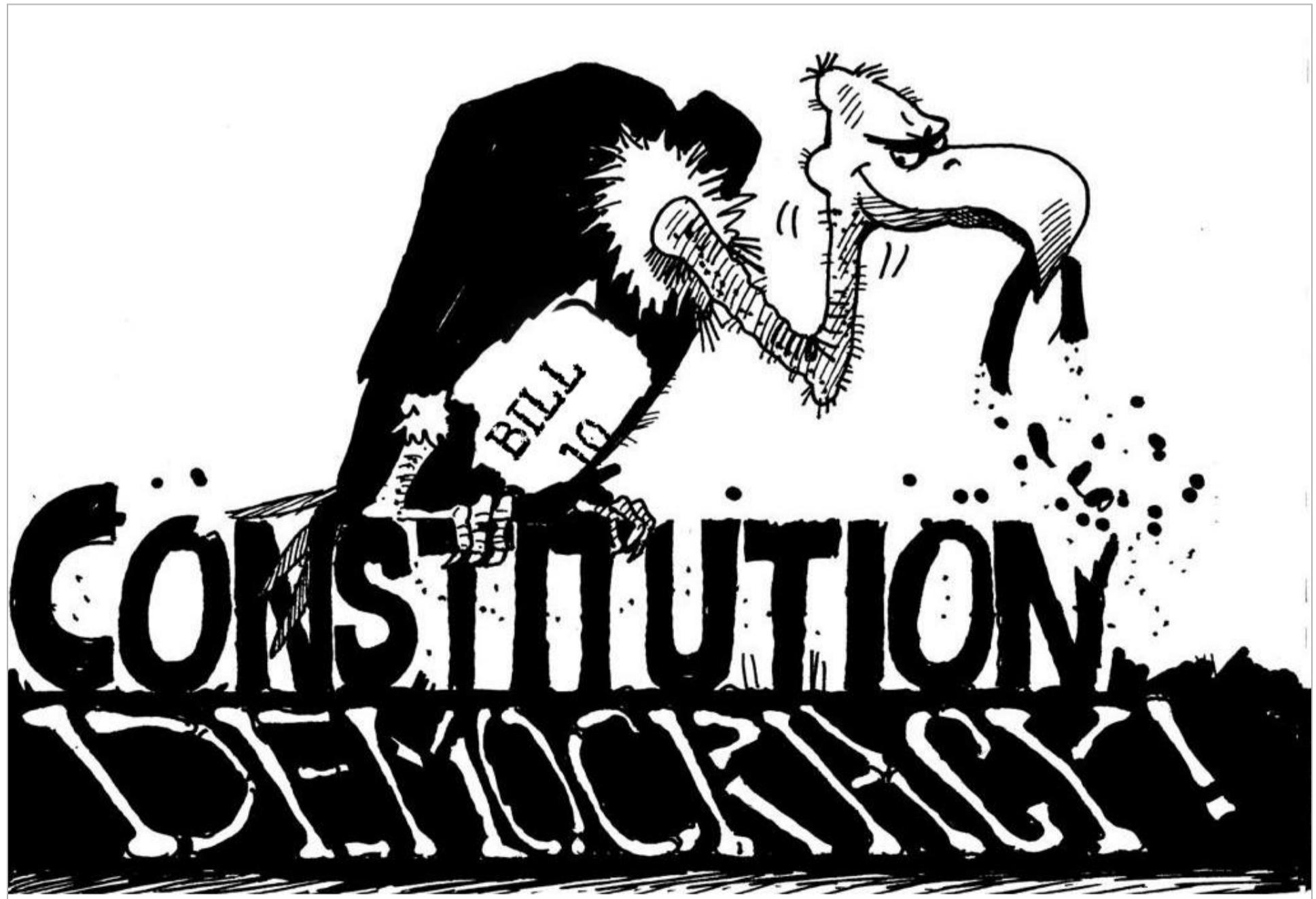


power conferred on each arm of government.

"In another example, in September last year, the United Kingdom Supreme Court dealt with the issue of the prime minister suspending parliament for five weeks to avoid a debate on BREXIT in circumstances where the general view was that the action by Parliament violated the rights of members of Parliament to work. Prime Minister Boris argued that this was a matter for parliament and the courts could not tell

parliament that its conduct was unconstitutional. The Lord Chief Justice Hale reading a unanimous judgment of eleven judges in the UK Supreme Court stated: "The courts have the responsibility of upholding our constitution. It is their particular responsibility to determine the legal limits of the power conferred on each branch of Government, and decide whether any exercise of power has transgressed those limits. The courts cannot shrink that responsibility merely on the grounds that the question raised is political," stated Ndulo.

"In conclusion, I would like to remind Speaker Matibini that the notion that "no one is above the law" is not only a constitutional principle, it is the cornerstone of the concept of the rule of law. I would like to end by reminding Mr. Matibini of the words of Theodore Roosevelt that "No man is above the law and no man is below it: nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it." And the term 'no man' includes Mr. Matibini, whether or not he desires to be included or not."



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

By Mirriam Chabala

THE National Assembly has adopted the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technologies aimed at enhancing the use of ICTs in government operations.

This was after Zambezi West UPND member of parliament Prisca Kacheka moved a motion to adopt this report, Wednesday afternoon, which was seconded by Chifubu PF member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi.

And Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya says it is important for the public sector to embrace the use of ICTs, especially during and post the COVID-19 pandemic, adding that Zambia must find local e-solutions to avoid paying high licences for the usage of e-services.

In her submission, Kacheka, who is the vice-chairperson for the Parliamentary Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technologies, expressed concern that the programme which was supposed to improve government service delivery was being governed by a 2006 policy, which was outdated.

"Mr Speaker, governments world-over have turned to ICTs to facilitate efficient public service delivery, improved quality of service delivery and development of good governance. In this regard, the government of the Republic of Zambia has since been implementing the e-government programme.

Mr Speaker, one area that the Committee looked into is with regard to the adequacy of the policy framework for the implementation of e-governance in Zambia. Sir, the Committee is appalled to note that the programme that is supposed to improve government service delivery is being governed by the information and communication technology policy of 2006, which is sadly out-of-date. The Committee is particularly concerned that despite the sector being dynamic, the policy has not been reviewed," Kacheka observed.

She also noted some challenges with the current ICT infrastructure in the country, which she said was negatively affecting the implementation of

Parliament adopts committee report to enhance e-governance

the e-governance programme countrywide.

"The Committee has taken note of the efforts government is putting in place to scale up ICT infrastructure, such as the Zambia National Data Centre phase one and phase two, with the disaster recovery site and establishment of the Ndola ICT Centre of Excellency at the Zambia ICT college for capacity building. The Committee notes that the Government Wide Area Network (GWAN) has only connected about 123 government institutions. Sir, the Committee also agrees with stakeholders that this infrastructure is largely located in urban areas and has not covered all the 118 districts. This is negatively affecting the implementation of the e-governance programme countrywide. This challenge is further compounded by lack of adequate devices such as computers and laptops for the effective and efficient provision of e-government service delivery especially in newly created districts," she said.

"In this regard, the Committee strongly recommends that the government should, as a matter of urgency, conclude the projects that are currently being implemented to ensure that all districts are covered. The Committee also urges the government to adequately fund the Smart Zambia Institute, which has been established to spearhead the programme in order for it to procure the required electronic devices for distribution in all districts."

Kacheka also asked government to speed up the implementation process in order to clean up the government payroll countrywide.

"While the Committee appreciates the efforts government is making in designing a programme to link the government payroll management and establishment control to the biometric system to enhance payroll integrity, it is concerned that the government

is not implementing the project with the requisite urgency, especially that IFMS recently revealed that 4,000 civil servants on the government payroll where unaccounted for on the Copperbelt Province. In view of the foregoing, the Committee, therefore, recommends that the government should speed up the implementation process aimed at linking the government payroll management system to a biometric identification system to clean up the government payroll countrywide," said Kacheka.

And supporting the adoption of the report, Siliya said Zambia needed to find local e-solutions to avoid paying high licences for the usage of e-services.

"I do recognize that most of the report was limited to issues to do with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and specifically ICT. But even in the Ministry of Information and traditional media, we've also migrated to issues of e-connectivity because most of the media houses now are using the Internet to operate. Just also to assure colleagues that as government implements the e-governance

programme, it's not being done in a haphazard manner, it's extremely coordinated and that's because we believe that's where the efficiencies will come from. We do take note that it's important that we continue to create awareness in the country in terms of the values and efficiencies in terms of using ICT. We've seen Dr Mtonga of Smart Zambia going around the country just to do that, especially with the public service. But also to ensure that the public

sector embraces the use of ICT, especially now in the time of Coronavirus and post-COVID," said Siliya.

"We do recognize that the ICT sector is one of the sectors that is poised for growth and is creating immediate jobs for our young people. And we do need to find local e-solutions so that we avoid paying high licences for the usage of these services. So, Mr Speaker, just to take note of the issues that were raised and that at the centre, indeed, is appreciation, education and awareness about the importance of the usage of ICT and how to use it positively."

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo also explained how the use of

ICT would help his Ministry in efficiently and effectively carrying out its tasks.

"We are also in the process to automate the civil registration processes. Mr Speaker, you may wish to know that from the time we attained independence in 1964, the identification of citizens has remained manual; you can imagine how many files there are now that we have more than 17 million citizens. So, we are in the process of ensuring that we migrate the civil registration processes from the historical manual processes to digital platforms. So, Mr Speaker, we shouldn't look back, e-governance is a cost, but I think it's a cost worth investing in," said Kampyongo.



Our Civic Duty Association chairperson Simon Zukas speaks during the launch of Our Civic Duty Association at Kapingila House in Lusaka on Wednesday - Picture by Tenson

Correctional Service boss assures proper rehabilitation of inmates

By Tim Zulu in Kaoma

THE Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS) has assured that all inmates in its care are given opportunities to reform for easier re-integration into society.

And the Correctional Service says it has resolved to become the hub of agricultural and industrial products in line with its 2020-2013 strategic plan and the 7th National Development Plan.

Speaking during the

closing ceremony of the Top Command Consultative Meeting at Nyango Training School in Kaoma, Thursday, Correctional Service Commissioner General Dr Chisela Chileshe said reform for prisoners is the Service's priority.

"As a service, we shall take the resolution we have made seriously and holistically by first giving support to the President of the Republican of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu in his effort to ensure

that the country is governed in a peaceful and secure atmosphere through our department. We shall do so by making sure that the people brought into our custody, the inmates, are well secured, well treated and well-kept in re-correcting and correcting their minds in terms of proper rehabilitation and re-integrating them back into society so that Zambia will be a safe haven of peace that can attract foreign nationals for investment," Dr Chisela said.

He further said the gathering was called at the right time as the Service seeks to work in unity to develop itself and the entire country.

"We have set out goals... for us to achieve our pronounced resolve from this important conference and make our service tick to the satisfaction of our employers (Ministry Of Home Affairs), the Republican President and of course the people of Zambia, every individual, from the warden, wardress to the Commissioner General, everyone will have to be a full participant," Dr Chisela said.

He also said the service had resolved to support the government through agriculture and industrial products.

"We have skilled manpower at our disposal, a conducive environment. Add to that the high tech machinery that the government has provided us with. So I don't expect any room for excuses, let alone relaxation, but ensure that we increase the production capacity to meet the demand of the country," said Dr Chisela.

"To achieve this, we shall endeavor to have not only a trained and skilled cadre of officers but a qualified cadre that is highly motivated both individually and collectively, bearing in mind we have the human life to protect while on the other end serving the country through the outlined sectors. The ball is now in our hands to take this cause full throttle."

Mukuka can't continue as ZCTU SG when his primary employer has fired him – Govt

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

LABOUR Commissioner Givens Muntengwa says Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) secretary-general Cosmas Mukuka cannot continue to serve in that capacity because his primary employer has retired him in national interest.

In a letter addressed to the Union president Nkole Chishimba and copied to the office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Labour, General Education and to the Teaching Service Commission, Muntengwa guided ZCTU to pay Mukuka his dues.

"I am compelled to guide that for as long as the retirement in national interest of Mr Mukuka still stands, it follows that he should cease to hold office. In other words, the retirement by the primary employer leaves his contract of employment, which ZCTU is in abeyance and, ultimately, being incapable of further execution. To

that effect, ZCTU is liable to pay Mr Mukuka his dues on a pro-rata basis as the contract has been terminated by operation of law. Further, the other question raised on the salaries before his pension benefits are paid, can be handled by the primary employer, which is the Teaching Service Commission through the Ministry of General Education," Muntengwa stated.

He said the new labour law required that only people, who were employed outside the trade union, were qualified to be elected or serve under trade unions.

"However, I wish to provide clarity that contrary to your assertion that the decision to retire Mr Mukuka was made in accordance with Clause 38 (e) of the terms and conditions of the public service, the correct position is that the terms and conditions of the public service merely reinstated

a legal provision, which is well provided for under regulation 29 C of the Teaching Service Commission Regulations No.172 of 1971, which states that '29 C (1) The Commission may retire an officer in the service in the national interest; (2) Retire in the national interest shall be limited to cases where an officer has to relinquish his appointment at the instance of government either to take up another appointment outside the service or for other reasons of government policy.' In light of the cited provisions, you went to state that Mr Mukuka was a duly seconded officer and that he has been serving as a secretary-general of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, a non-public service organization, which is an independent, autonomous corporate body and in that context, there was nothing applicable within the terminology of public or national interest about his duties, activities

or functions as secretary general of ZCTU," stated Muntengwa.

"Ordinarily, I must confess that your arguments were sound before the amendment of the Industrial and Labour Relations Act, Cap 269 of the laws of Zambia. In this case, please be guided that Section 18 (1) (h) of the Industrial and Labour Relations Act, Cap 269 of Zambia as amended by the Industrial and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act No. 8 of 2008 provides 'No person shall be qualified for an election or appointment as an officer of a trade union is an officer of a trade union or trade union secretariat, who is not employed outside the trade union or trade union secretariat.' Additionally, Section 18 (2) of the same Act is instructive and thus it provides; 'an officer of a union shall cease to hold office if any circumstances arise, which would disqualify him under subsection (1) for election as an officer.'

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
GOVERNMENT Chief Whip Brian Mundubile has admitted that Bill 10 had lapsed on June 4, 2020 but says the parliamentary Standing Orders Committee decided to extend it because it has powers to change its own rules.

Speaking at a press briefing at Parliament Building in Lusaka, Thursday, Mundubile said the parliamentary practice and procedure provided that if a bill was deferred for six months, it died or lapsed.

"The Standing Orders Committee is the highest decision making body in the National Assembly and is charged with the responsibility to consider all proposals for

Bill 10 had died, but Standing Orders Committee extended it - Mundubile

amendment for the standing orders and other rules of procedure. You may wish to know that there is no express provision in the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders 2016 which stipulates the time within which a bill must be considered at any stage of enactment. Nonetheless, the National Assembly manner of putting the question and procedural notice handbook states '(a)

if a bill is deferred for six months, it is killed. In short, a bill that has been deferred for six months lapses in terms of parliamentary practice and procedure," Mundubile said.

He said Bill 10 lapsed on June 4 as it had been deferred from December 2019.

"In this case, the bill lapsed on Thursday, 4th June, 2020, having been deferred on 4th December, 2019. However, at a time it lapsed, the House

was still on recess. And had it not been for the premature adjournment in the February-March meeting, the second reading stage could have been probably been concluded one way or another. In view of the foregoing, the Standing Orders Committee met on Wednesday 24th June, 2020 to consider the request by the Honorable Minister of Justice to defer further consideration of the bill to a date not later

than the last day of this meeting. It is for this reason that the Standing Orders Committee resolved to extend the life of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill No.10 of 2019 to a date not later than the last day of this meeting," he said.

Asked if it was legal for the Standing Orders Committee to sit and deliberate on a Bill which had already lapsed, Mundubile said the committee

had power to change its own rules.

"This is a committee that makes rules of procedure that governs the operations of parliament. As to whether it was legal, yes, it was legal because before it was tabled on the floor of the House, the committee sat in the morning and resolved that Bill 10 could be tabled. This same committee is given power from the Constitution of Zambia to regulate its own procedure. It is the highest decision making body in the National Assembly. So, this same Standing Committee amended the rules of this same sitting that parliament is now able to sit from various locations using electronic gadgets. This particular committee has power to change its own rules. Parliament through the committee acted within its own powers to revive the life of this Bill and place it on the order paper for further debate," Mundubile explained.

Mundubile, who is also Mpokosso PF member of parliament, said those opposing the Bill were being negative.

"Bill 10 as it is on the floor is still in that original form. Those that are opposed to Bill 10 are bent on fighting Bill 10 to the end even when their concerns have been addressed.

The issue of consensus is not about one group not agreeing then there is no consensus. In this particular case, we are very saddened that that same spirit is being extended to parliament where a committee makes a decision," said Mundubile.

On Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu said it was illegal for Parliament to continue debating Bill 10 because it had died.

I didn't use the Kambwili name at PACRA to avoid political interference, testifies CK's wife

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CHISHIMBA Kambwili's wife, Carol, has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that when she decided to incorporate Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services with her son in 2001, a Mr James Nyasulo was sent to register it on their behalf at the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA).

Carol, who is the second defence witness, has, however, admitted that Mwamba was eight-years-old at the time the company was incorporated but added that she used to sign on his behalf before they got a power of attorney for Kambwili to sign on his behalf.

She further told court that she used her maiden name when registering Mwamona to avoid political interference that could have come with the name "Kambwili".

This is a matter in which Kambwili is charged with three counts of forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer in relation to the registration of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services.

It is alleged that on October 29, 2013, Kambwili, with intent to defraud or deceive, forged a 'no change return' (Companies Form 71) purporting to show that it was genuinely signed by his son Mwamba when in fact not.

It is further alleged that on the same date, Kambwili knowingly and fraudulently uttered the same document to an officer at PACRA.

On Wednesday, Carol told the court that Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services belongs to her and her son Mwamba Chishimba Kambwili, who are both directors of the company.

Testifying before Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba via Zoom Video Communications, Carol, a staff nurse at National Health Service in Leicester City, United Kingdom, explained that the company was incorporated in 2001 while the family was still in Chingola, contrary to EEP leader Chilufya Tayali's claims that it was incorporated in 2013.

She, however, only testified for a few minutes as she was supposed to go for work.

And when the matter came up for continued defence, Thursday, Carol said she and her son, Mwamba, sent a representative, a Mr Nyasulo, to register Mwamona on their behalf at PACRA in 2001.

She said initially, the plan was to have three directors - herself, Mwamba and her sister-in-law Sampa Kambwili.

Carol, however, said once at PACRA, Nyasulo discovered that a company could actually have two directors.

"So I thought about it and I said 'let Mwamba and I be the directors and remove Sampa Kambwili from the directorship,'" she said.

Carol further said due to the political interference in Kambwili's business, it

was decided that she uses her maiden name and their son uses his middle name because they did not want the 'Kambwili' name to appear anywhere.

"I used 'Carol Chansa' and for Mwamba, I used 'Mwamba Chishimba' for the registration of the company," she said.

Asked by defence lawyer Keith Mweeniba to comment on Sampa Kambwili's NRC which appeared under Mwamba's name on the company's certificates of incorporation, Carol said she did not know how that came about, adding that Nyasulo who was sent to register the company was in a better position to explain.

"I don't know how that came about. I think Mr Nyasulo who went to register [the company] is in a better

position to explain what happened. All I told him was to remove Sampa Kambwili on those papers. Whether he left Sampa's NRC, I don't know, but he is in a better position to explain," she said.

In cross examination by deputy Chief State Advocate Margaret Chitundu, Carol admitted that Mwamba was eight-years-old at the time Mwamona was incorporated.

Shown the certificates of incorporation and asked if she knew whose NRC appeared on the document under Mwamba's name, Carol responded in the negative saying at the time, Mwamba was a minor and did not have an NRC.

Asked if from the time the company was incorporated in 2001 to date, she had never questioned whose NRC

appeared under Mwamba's name on the documents, Carol insisted that she didn't see that.

She added that she took it that everything was okay and only came to know about it when the matter was brought to court.

Carol further explained that since Mwamba was a minor at the time the company was incorporated, she used to sign on his behalf until they got power of attorney so that Kambwili could be a signatory on his behalf.

The State could, however, not finish cross examining the defence witness as she was having network problems on her end.

Cross examination continues on June 30, 2020 via Zoom Video Communications.

Bill 10 has confused the nation, observes Speaker

By Julia Malunga

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini says "there is something unusual about Bill 10 which has confounded us as a nation".

And Justice Minister Given Lubinda says Bill 10 debates will commence as soon as parliamentarians familiarise themselves with the new environment in the House.

Rendering a ministerial statement to Parliament, Thursday, Lubinda said all members of parliament wanted to debate the bill in a familiar parliament environment.

"We wish to avoid any room for speculation and suspicion arising from handling Bill 10. We wish to avoid a situation where people claim they do not understand what was happening when they were debating or voting. Remember, the claim by some people that they voted for the Constitution Amendment in 2016 because they had taken two shots of whiskey because the sitting was in the night and others claimed that they were sleepy and not concentrating on the debate. We want to avoid such occurrences as much as possible. This is especially so because some of the members have already registered apprehensions more so that the leader of opposition himself registered strong opposition," Lubinda said.

"Sir, yesterday's unanimous approval of my request for leave to adjourn debate on this bill is testimony to the fact that all of us gathered here in parliament are of one accord;

namely to debate Bill 10 in a familiar parliament environment. Sir, allow me emphasize that the second reading stage of Bill 10 shall commence soon."

Lubinda said there were many maneuvers by the opposition to try and stop Bill 10 from passing.

"At the time of the abrupt adjournment on 19th March, 2020, the House was considering the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 of whom I am the sponsor on behalf of government. In accordance with standing orders, the bill was therefore to be tabled at commencement of sittings. Mr Speaker, the House and the nation at large will benefit to know that as the sponsor of the bill which was to be on the order paper of this current sitting, I was reliably informed that the uncertainty with regards to the new parliament environment was also expressed in a meeting of an important committee of parliament. The House Business Committee convened a meeting on 22nd June Monday 2020 and was attended by the following honorable Mr Speaker, the honorable two deputy speakers, her honour the Vice-President, the Chief Whip honorable Brian Mundubile, the Leader of Opposition honorable Jack Mwiimbu, Opposition Chief Whip honorable Situmbeko Musokotwane, honorable Maxwell Ng'onga, Honorable Boyd Hamusonde and honorable Professor Geoffrey Lungwangwa," said Lubinda.

"In this meeting, honorable Jack

Mwiimbu raised a concern about the new environment, I am afraid he used words, close to "why don't we hive off" this item (referring to Bill 10) from the order paper until there is some semblance of normalcy in the system (referring to the new parliament environment.) When this was brought to my attention, I inquired among a number of colleagues in parliament many of whom agreed with the concerns expressed by the leader of the opposition. I wish to state that a number of my colleague ministers were not in support of this position.

Their view was that we proceed with Bill 10 and to bring it to a finality as it raised much unnecessary debate. There are many maneuvers that have been employed by those who are opposed to Bill 10 to try and stop it. Sir, it is the wish of government that all members of parliament acclimatize ourselves to the new normal parliament before we engage in debating Bill 10."

Meanwhile, Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu raised a point of order in which he questioned whether Lubinda was in order to justify why the Speaker Matibini allowed him to defer Bill 10 in his statement.

"What has happened this afternoon is highly unprocedural. You do recall that yesterday, despite what is obtaining, you gave authority to the minister to defer it but today he has come here to justify why you allowed him to defer a bill. Is he now questioning you Mr Speaker having

given him authority to defer it? Would it be now in order for us now to start questioning why you allowed him to defer it? If a bill has been deferred, it ends there until when you allow the bill to be brought back if it will ever be brought. Why should he come to justify why you gave him authority to defer the bill? It is highly unprocedural. Is he in order to speak on your behalf?" asked Mwiimbu.

In his ruling, Speaker Matibini observed that there was something unusual about Bill 10 that had confused the nation.

"Certainly he is not saying anything on my behalf. Indeed yesterday there was a request he made to defer. But I also recall that it ended at a mere request. If you have heard his statement, he has provided a preface to events leading to his request. And this is a statement he wanted to update the House on as circumstances leading to his request. I agree with you Honourable member of Monze Central that this matter in so far as the deferment is concerned, is a concluded matter. But I find this entirely innocuous. I must state by the way that there is something unusual about Bill 10 that has confounded us as a nation and I hope that sooner or later, somehow we will put this matter to a final rest. In its current form, this is the last opportunity I have given the promoters...the last meeting of the fourth session to complete business surrounding Bill 10. And I truly hope that we will bring this matter to a close," said Dr Matibini.



PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE (PAC)

Viva New Zambia!!!

Why we deserve your vote



HOLDING ON TO POWER!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

HOLDING on to power is easy, just meet the aspirations of the people then you can run your tenure without headaches. We can end this article here. However, it seems meeting aspirations of the people is rocket science to most leaders. The main reason for this is lack of focus. Most African leaders including in this Country are more focused on how do to hold on to power as opposed to how to improve people's lives. If government is more focused on holding on to power than improving people's lives, it will definitely not function. Hence you see that most governments that know that they cannot win a free and fair election will start manipulating the country's constitutions to weaken systems. BILL 10!

Maybe some of us we just talk because we have never governed so we don't understand these things and we are just disgruntled as the saying goes. Maybe people are just difficult, they don't appreciate, tabatasha and elo tabakatashe and every five years they want to talk about change. Maybe we are in the opposition because of our appetite to rule, we confuse the people. While there may be a small fraction of the truth in all the questions asked but the truth is that half the time, we can see these things from common sense. I would love to go through all the things we have seen with common sense but that's a topic for another day.

This country got independence on 24th October 1964 and the aspirations of the freedom fighters were to create a society that would equally distribute the national resources to the citizens. They fought a system that favoured one color and the country's resources were being depleted and sent to develop

other nations. During the days of the struggle, their freedoms of expression were curtailed, they really wanted the Zambian people to have the right to express themselves whenever they felt something was not going right.

Fast forward 55 years later, we are still at the same place we were before independence. The resources are kept with a few people like the white colonialists did. Freedom of expression stifled like in colonial government. People are desperate to hold on to power like the colonial government hence we call the people who fought colonialist as freedom fighters because the white people were not willing to let us govern. Opportunities have been reserved to those connected to the system like in colonial government where you must be of a certain colour to access opportunities. But there is one silver bullet. Unlike in colonial government, now we go to vote every five years.

The idea is that if you don't meet people's aspirations you must be chucked out, you can't hold on to power. At the time of writing this article, we heard that the unofficial results in Malawi were indicating that the opposition Tonse Alliance will win the elections by a wider margin. That's what happens when people's focus is holding on to power than meeting the aspirations of the people. We hope those results will be validated as official so that maybe, just maybe some people can learn a few lessons. It baffles us that people don't learn from the past. Time has taught us a number of lessons that have been presented to us in Zambia and on earth that no matter how much you try to hold on to power, even changing constitutions, as long as you don't meet people's aspirations, kuya bebele.

Are people difficult? No! They want to see a government

that is making efforts to improve their lives. They want to see a government that has proven that it has done its best. No, we are not talking about roads. It's difficult to appreciate roads when we the people know that they costed us ten times more than the normal. Its difficult to appreciate infrastructure when we the people know that those that were contracted, were contracted corruptly. Criminal Libel? It's the new charge in town. It's difficult to appreciate a careless government where even a young person can tell their lack of seriousness.

People want a listening government. If a government wants to hold on to power, they must be a listening government. People don't want an insecure government. One that doesn't want to be questioned when clearly are making gross mistakes. A listening government will let platforms that air divergent views remain open so that they can learn something. Oh, by the way, can you open Prime TV you insecure people. A listening government will issue permits to young people who want to protest if they are not happy. A listening government won't threaten its citizens just because they are not happy. The PAC government will be a listening government.

You want to hold on to power? People want a government that demonstrates that it cares about their resources not a government that behaves like the resources belong to them and their inner circle. They give overpriced contracts just to enrich their inner circle. People want a government that fires ministers who are accused of corruption because that shows seriousness. And, people want a government that doesn't give tenders worth \$17 million to unknown companies. That shows that the people's government is not serious. Like that people won't keep you in power. The PAC government

will demonstrate seriousness in its management of the people's resources.

People hate it when a government is busy manipulating constitutions for the benefit of a few people. Like that you can't hold on to power. People will vote you out. Stop Bill 10. People hate it when the caretakers become arrogant and wish to break the legs of those that voted them in. And people hate it when those entrusted to enforce the law seem to be acting selectively as a result of being given instructions from the caretakers.

People want a thinking government or at least one that is making effort to think not one which just thinks about holding on to power that is slipping through their fingers. People want jobs or at least a government that is making effort to create jobs not one killing an environment that creates jobs. People want land. They hate it when there is no system that supports them to own land. People want empowerment and opportunities not a government that just gives opportunities to a certain group of people. That way society can't grow. The PAC government will meet people's aspirations.

If you want to hold on to power remember that you need to meet people's aspirations. To meet people's aspirations, you must always remember as a leader that you are not special, you are just a citizen who aspired to lead, and your fellow citizens gave you a chance to help them manage their resources. Yes, you must be humble and demonstrate to be humble but that's not enough anyway. We ask the people of Zambian to give PAC a chance to govern and meet people's aspirations.

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

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says youths should take advantage of opportunities which government is providing instead of protesting in the bush and taking pride in how many views their protests got on social media.

And President Lungu says the cavalier attitude by some businessmen and women who have opened their bars and nightclubs will not be tolerated, adding that their businesses will only be re-opened when whether conditions are favourable.

Speaking when addressing the nation, Thursday, President Lungu said he approved a K30 million youth empowerment scheme targeting artistes countrywide to be launched in Lusaka soon.

The Head of State also announced that the government had set aside US\$29 million for the implementation of the aquaculture seed fund under the Zambia aquaculture enterprise development project.

"I direct the Minister of Youth, and Sport to find opportunities as enshrined in the Seventh National Development Plan for the youth to venture into skills training and other entrepreneurship ventures. The youth should take advantage of the opportunities available and those that my government has facilitated. I expect the Ministry of Youth and Sport to provide leadership in a multisectoral manner as they guide the youth to become a positive demographic dividend in our economy amidst COVID-19. As a way of starting this work that we must all be engaged into, I have since approved a K30 million youth empowerment scheme targeting artistes countrywide to be launched in Lusaka soon. The National Arts Council under the Ministry of Tourism and Arts will implement

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Grab available opportunities instead of protesting in the bush, Lungu tells youths

this program. I direct the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, and the Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) to facilitate linkage for the youth to benefit from the development of industrial yards through the skills development and entrepreneurship project supported by the African Development Bank (ADB).

Furthermore, government is facilitating youth access to other empowerment programmes under the CEEC such as the cassava value chain programme and the aquaculture value chain initiative," President Lungu said.

"My government has set aside US\$29 million for the implementation of the aquaculture seed fund under the Zambia aquaculture enterprise development project. The project is aimed at enhancing fish production and is earmarked to benefit more than 3,000 entrepreneurs, including youth and women. Therefore, I implore the Zambian youth to take keen interest in participating and profiting from different empowerment initiatives my government is putting in place, instead of protesting in the bush and taking pride in how many views of their protests were seen on social media. The Zambian youth I long to see is one that is taking the initiative like that young man of Chunga dumpsite waste management association who transformed trash into cash and now has built a house, employs other youth, and is organising other youth into a cooperative. Or Chilekwa Mwamba who has formed a cooperative with his young friends and today the organisation has spread across the country."

President Lungu announced that eight cases of COVID-19 had been recorded out of 569 tests conducted.

"It is exactly 97 days today since Zambia recorded the first case of COVID-19. Life as we knew it, completely changed and along with it,



the livelihoods of millions of Zambians were adversely affected. My government remains alive to the challenges facing Zambians everyday as they strive to make a living amidst these difficult times. In the last 24 hours, eight cases were recorded to be positive out of the 569 tested. Cumulatively, 1,497 persons have been infected with COVID-19 and sadly, 18 have lost their lives since the outbreak of coronavirus in Zambia. Of note, we have had 1,223 cumulative recoveries from COVID-19, which translates to 82%, out of 52,195 total tests conducted so far. In addition, all patients under treatment are in stable condition. I wish to applaud our dedicated gallant health professionals and all the frontline personnel for the spirited fight they put up against COVID-19," President Lungu said.

He expressed sadness that some people thought COVID-19 was a hoax.

"When I take time to read what some people write, especially on social media and listen to what they say on phone-in radio and television programmes, I get the sense that for some people, Covid-19 is a hoax and that it only exists in the developed world. I have heard some people, say "why have we not re-opened everything and gone back to normal, this disease is not killing Africans." Make no mistake about it, COVID-19 is real and it remains a deadly disease. However, the measures that I announced during my first

address on 25th march, 2020 are yielding positive results in stemming the further spread of COVID-19," he said

"To say it could have been worse is an understatement. We do not intend to shower ourselves with praises over the containment of COVID-19, but when we see what has happened in many other countries, we can only thank god and pray that he continues to protect us from the deadly pandemic. In the same vein, we pray to God to grant world scientists intellect and wisdom to find the vaccine and the cure. For those infected, with the virus, we pray for God's healing mercies and wish them quick recovery and for those, who have lost loved ones, we pray for their strength and courage. May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace."

And President Lungu emphasized that bars and nightclubs remained closed until there were favorable weather conditions.

"It is important not to relax and go back to our old ways of doing things as that will fuel the rapid spread of the virus. Sadly though, it has come to my attention that some bar and nightclub business owners have resumed operations despite my government's directive to remain closed. This cavalier attitude by some of these business men and women should not be condoned. It is important to adhere to the measures that government has put in place because we need to preserve the precious lives of our people as we endeavor to gradually restore our economy,"

President Lungu said.

"My appeal to you my fellow Zambians is to calmly and patiently observe how we go through the cold season. All the businesses including bars and nightclubs, schools, colleges and universities will eventually reopen and resume operations once we go through this period. The World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), through the Ministry of Health, have warned about a spike during this cold season if we relax the measures that we have put in place. In view of this, bars and night clubs will remain closed until the weather conditions are favorable and special and specific guidelines for this sub-sector are devised and put in place."

President Lungu, however, re-opened all the international airports.

"In the tourism sector as I stated in the last address, we also have to get back to work. I, therefore, announce the reopening of all international airports which were closed, immediately. Let me direct the minister of communication and transport, the minister of finance, the minister of home affairs and the minister of tourism to work together in ensuring stringent health guidelines such as screening; testing passengers with symptoms; masking; social distancing; frequent washing of hands, and follow-up on passengers who test positive and sending them into quarantine until they test negative. The reopening of all international airports will trigger the recovery of the tourism sector not only in

Livingstone but the country at large," President Lungu said.

Meanwhile, President Lungu said the COVID-19 bond would be used to pay off suppliers of goods and services.

"Government is so concerned about domestic debt owed to suppliers of goods and services. That is why part of the money from this bond will be used to pay off suppliers of goods and services, including the local contractors. This is a deliberate effort by my government aimed at ploughing back money in our local economy and enhancing economic activity than letting our money go out of the country. Further, the money realised from the bond will be utilised to support the small and medium enterprises that will not be able to access the k10 billion medium term refinancing facility through commercial banks which is managed by the bank of Zambia. With these measures, I expect the economy to reignite to a positive growth trajectory," President Lungu said.

He said consultations of resumption of remaining classes and colleges were underway.

"As government, we have seen that the re-opening of examination classes is already giving us vital information which we should take into account as we are considering resumption of the remaining classes as well as colleges and universities. Consultations with key stakeholders are currently underway on the reopening of the remaining classes, colleges and universities bearing in mind the cold season as guided by the WHO, CDC through the Ministry of Health. The nation will be informed the next course of action once the consultations are concluded," said President Lungu.



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THE arrest of Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya has obviously excited many people who are disgusted by the unprecedented levels of corruption in the PF government. Understandably, all indicators point to the fact that corruption has brought Zambia to its knees. Almost every national problem can directly or indirectly be linked to corruption. There are very few government officers occupying decision making positions who can stand tall and say 'I have never participated in any corruption deal'. So it goes without saying that to put Zambia on its economic recovery path, we have to first deal with corruption and the corrupt.

Ministers, permanent secretaries, directors, procurement officers, heads of State Owned Enterprises as well as State House officials must all be checked. Whatever they own must be pitted against their total sum of income. Those who cannot explain what they own must be prosecuted, regardless of the positions they hold. This is one reason why the arrest of Minister Chilufya must excite well meaning Zambians. If he possesses any property that he cannot justify from his income, it would be good for him to tell the court how he earned it.

But we have bad news to deliver. Whoever thinks the arrest of Honourable Chilufya is about fighting corruption is very naive. Any politically enlightened Zambian can tell that

Unfortunately, Chilufya's arrest has nothing to do with corruption fight

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there is no legitimate pursuit for criminal justice in this move by the Anti-Corruption Commission. This is a political move meant to soil the political career of the Health Minister, orchestrated by his appointing authority. Yes, this is President Edgar Lungu fighting his own Cabinet minister while pretending not to be involved. Like we have stated before, it is common knowledge among those who walk the corridors of power that Dr Chilufya is one minister whom President Lungu had considered for succession or running mate. This was long before the Head of State started warming up and propping up Defence Minister Davies Chama and other contenders. Whatever has gone wrong, the Mansa Central member of parliament has fallen out of favour, and State House has seen it fit to unleash the attack dogs.

We insist, this has nothing to do with corruption and in their

hearts, the officers at the Anti-Corruption Commission know that they were acting on instructions. We are not saying Minister Chilufya is a clean man. He is not. In fact, he is as dirty as anyone else in this government. But our point is that this is not the reason why he has been arrested. If this was about corruption, Dr Chilufya would have been arrested a long time ago. The allegations that he is being pursued for have been in public domain for years now. ACC could not move to arrest the minister because they had no authority to do so from the President. But suddenly now, the boss has found it fit to put Dr Chilufya down.

Our people must understand that if Dr Chilufya is guilty of any crime, prosecuting him would cause problems for many other officials in government, including those occupying State House. This is for the simple reason that corruption rarely

involves one person. The corruptors and the corruptees all work in groups. For this one reason, the charges levelled against the minister will not go anywhere; whether they have substance or not. The accused and the prosecutors both know that there is no way Dr Chilufya is going to prison. This is an academic exercise in futility. It's a political move with a political motive meant to settle a political score.

We have said it before that President Lungu is not serious about fighting corruption. If he was serious, he would have started from his office. As long as he has people like Christa Kalulu serving him as State House Permanent Secretary, despite her unsettled corruption allegations, we will be in order to conclude that the man is playing lip service to the fight against corruption. He only uses it to fight political opponents.

What we don't

understand is whether President Lungu knows that every time his minister is arrested for corruption, his image gets further damaged. What is worse is that he has created a policy which encourages ministers to stay in office while they are being prosecuted. It is obvious that no Ministry of Health official will be willing to go to court and testify against a sitting minister, and the man will be acquitted. So in the end, it is President Lungu who is sinking himself deep into the corruption Hall of Fame because he is undermining his own ministers with corruption tags which he then tries to clean up.

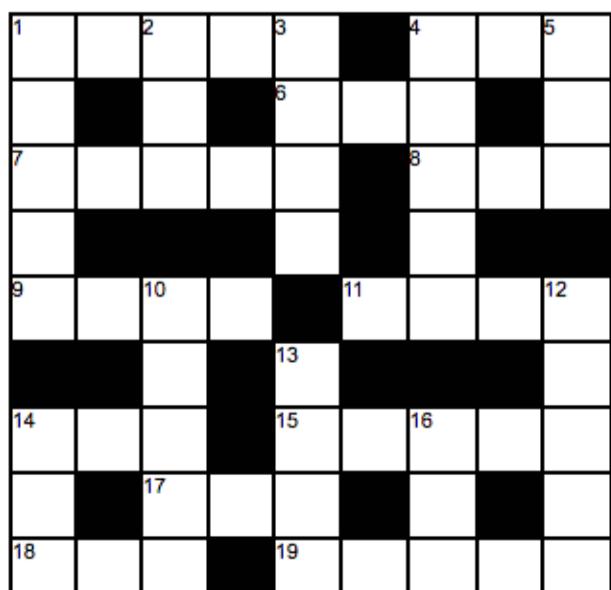
In fact, we can add that this window dressing approach towards the fight against corruption actually creates a cover for the actual criminals in government. When you arrest someone for corruption allegations while intending to settle political scores, you create a problem for the real fight against graft. In

the end, even when the real corrupt people are arrested, people would have lost confidence and the perpetrators end up going scot-free. This is the reason why this PF government holds the position that prosecuting corruption is a waste of money because there are very few convictions. But the reason why there are few convictions is because the accused are not charged with corruption charges, but political charges.

We would like to urge the people of Zambia not to be deceived by this arrest of the Health Minister. There is nothing in it that seeks to promote good governance. The only thing we can ask is that if he is aware that he is being fooled by the President, Dr Chilufya must seek to have the last laugh. There are things that he can do to retain a semblance of integrity. He can and he must resign from his ministerial position. Our people have been waiting to see the first sober minded leader who will do the right thing when under arrest.

Resigning does not mean you are guilty. In fact, in this particular instance, resigning from President Lungu's Cabinet would send a message to the contrary. It would show that you have nothing to hide or to fear. If you are clean, as you would like the people to believe, step down and tell the President to burn.

Crossword puzzle No 633



"You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results."
- Mahatma Gandhi

Across

1. Fast
4. Propose
6. How old you are
7. Papa Smurf feature
8. Junior
9. Fully cooked
11. Go around and around
14. Wrigley product
15. Go in
17. Playing card above King
18. Deity
19. Knucklehead

Down

1. Foaming at the mouth
2. Round green vegetable
3. Fathers
4. Fable writer
5. Family
10. Wanderer
12. Clinic worker
13. Pay attention to
14. Musician's job
16. Measure of heavy weight

Crossword puzzle No 632



Readers' Feedback

ACC's quick release of Chilufya for corruption, while Chella is still locked up'

Editor,

"A person arrested for grand related corruption is released at a twinkling of an eye whereas a person arrested for insulting a private person is held in cells for a week.

Corruption is worse because it affects the whole society while insults affect the individual". - Kenneth Phiri

"But Chela is still in the cells. So the photographer is more dangerous than a corrupt minister stealing from the people of Zambia. Animal farm hey?!" - Derrick Siame

"Selective justice keeps widening the gap between the rich and the poor, the connected one and the unconnected one!

Corruption affects the national treasury while criminal libel

affects an individual/s, but one is out in a blink of an eye, while youth Tukuta is still behind bars!!!"- Beverly Musonda

"I'm sure this has just added more pain to the pain which I have already, economically, constitutionally and unjustly, if it is there kaya, people have lost confidence and trust in investigative wings due to unnecessary and nonsensical political interference from poor and failed politicians who want to be rich at the expense of poor youths. #LETS WAIT, ANOTHER NOLLE!" - Kalopa K Benjamin

"Appear in July on the 9th, these guys think we are dull... It's just another animal farm, if it was serious someone must have held a briefing denouncing corruption

and firing certain ministers..." - Lweendo Bubala Kaheko

"We know how the PF government behaves, next you hear ati nolle. Unless he is charged and sentenced, he just went to drink coffee naba ACC". - Willie Chibuye

"This is a road leading to nowhere! We all know how it will end! Nolle or acquittal. I guess Chitotela is telling him that I went through the same, but for the sake of showing respect let them take you to court and you will either get an acquittal or a Nolle!" - Thomas Sankara

"The Police bond is given so quickly to a minister who is accused of corruption but Chella is still in police cells for insulting a minister. What do you make of this?!" - Simon Chinyama

"It's not an arrest, but a publicity stunt aimed at giving a picture that the ACC is independent when infact not, Chitotels knows this movie and how it all ends". - Russell Chipi



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Matibini on ConCourt being wrong over his 'powers' to interpret law

Editor,

"So if he can interpret what was the point of forming a constitutional court, cause he would have been interpreting it? No separation of power in Zambia!" - Naman Nazy Mwanza

"This is where we invite the wisdom of the SC John Sangwa.. We await your wise interpretation of the law on this State Council sir". - Emmanuel Hibajene

"I thought legal experts told us the Concourt is the highest court of legal interpretation in Zambia kansi Matibini is also "law" unto himself. Or is it a matter of unqualified judges up there, as #SC_JSangwa would put it?" - Kingsley Kaliye

"Zambia is an interesting country. All the three arms of govt r headed by lawyers n all the three want to interpret the law to suit their cases yet two of these have no mandate to do so. First it was lungu on illegal staying of ministers in office when the constitution says otherwise. When the responsible organ correctly interpret the law, lungu failed to accept the ruling n todaye, the ruling has not been honoured. Matibini also went thru the same over kambwilis expulsion from parley n now he is saying they were wrong. Now the question is, why have a wing they don't respect? ZP ignores court injunctions at will. Now they want to amend the constitution yet they can't respect the existing one. What guarantee is tht they will respect the one they will amend?" - Chris Chikumi

Sangwa on Lungu being a lame duck President

Dear editor,

"I listened to Sangwa on let the people talk on radio Phoenix the man is learned and he put out this bill 10 and its content. PF is evil you cannot change a constitution just for one individual. If this bill goes through we should forget about elections and democracy in general because pf will rule forever and they will do what they want". - Haggai Mandala

"@ Lungu and his Parliament will be expiring in the next few months. What is motivating him to amend the constitution? Obviously the motive behind it is sinister!" - Ackim Mwanamuzenge Neene

"I like sangwa, very courageous learned lawyer!" - Temfuma Sam

"State Counsel should have broken down what lame duck means for the benefit of the cadres. Soon they will issue threats that he's insulted. Remember they disrupted the Inter Continental Bill 10 debate...and Police haven't arrested anyone up to now". - Mike Phiri

"Lame duck: a politician or

administration in the final period of office, after the election of a successor". - Marvin Juma

"This is how learned people explain things not these PF cadres". - Dvj Sitambuli

"So munzanverako ati we are trying to find a case to charge Sangwa with for "insulting" the president by referring him to a duck!" - Lydia Ndandalika

Police's argument that the bush is a public place

Dear editor,

"Do not smoke in public" end of quote, can you arrest someone you find smoking cigarettes in such a bush and say he was smoking in public? Don't manipulate the law, these you can arrest them today but they will be acquitted, the only thing is that their case will delay other non defended matters before court...". - Brighton S. B. Banda

"Mind you madam Esther Katongo the Police is also violating the Constitution by denying the youths the right to assemble. The right to assemble is actually enshrined in the Constitution of Zambia and there is judicial precedence to that effect. Madam Katongo can have a look at the judgment in the case of Chitika Mulundika Vs The People where the rights to assemble was trampled upon by the Police". - Emmalito Lias

"Please leave these talented and patriotic youth alone. They have done no harm. I am sure ZP have more pressing issues than the whole force pursuing a few youth. This strategy of engaging the youth violently will backfire. Issues the youth are raising are relevant and affect all Zambians. These youth now enjoy massive support in the country and confrontational conduct by police and PF is only making them more

popular". - West Chitah

"The problem we have in Zambia is that even the law enforcers are now waiting for instructions to arrest people. This shows how unprofessional they have become. Why should you take days to know which offense they committed?" - James Nyirenda

"I thought maturity is to behave like an adult. But this kind of behavior by these officers leaves much to be desired. If you are sure in your claim than you are professionals find the owner of the 48 houses then come and arrest the innocent souls. This cadreism in police is now irritating!!!" - Robert Tembo

"Nice way to spark a revolution. Some people really know how to orchestrate their own downfall". - Mudukula Mudukula

"Continue pondering but your time is also coming. We're busy documenting all the mischievous orders being undertaken with impunity..." - Ackim Mwanamuzenge Neene

"This must be the first time our police is really pushing its investigating skills to the limit. Well done to the youths". - Thabale Ngulube



By Natasha Sakala

KONKOLA Copper Mines (KCM) Plc's provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu's claim that Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) Plc agreed to have the mining company's debt paid following a pending sale is misleading, says the power utility's chief legal counsel Julia Chaila.

Reacting to Milingo's argument that KCM and CEC agreed to have the embattled mine's US \$144 million debt paid after a pending sale of the company, Chaila disclosed that the actual position was that KCM agreed to pay its electricity bill against all issued invoices as and when they fell due.

"According to the agreement he (Milingo) signed, it stated that all the invoices that will be issued will be paid on the due date, now what does due date mean? Each time when they are due, he would pay. Does that sound like an agreement to pay in the future? A due date means when the invoice is issued," Chaila told News Diggers! in an exclusive interview.

"Something also of concern;

Milingo lying, we never agreed to be paid after KCM sale – CEC

he could have actually said under the Corporate Insolvency Act, yes, he could have said that not this wrong interpretation he was trying to give the public, like I said that, 'I will pay at the end; no! In the agreement, he said that the debts that have been going from the date of his (May, 2019) appointment, all ongoing supplies and any accumulative date from the past, he would treat that as preferential debt. Now, for us, the preferential debt is that debt must not fill up. We did agree that at some point we would meet up and come up with a payment schedule. So, despite the fact that the company was under liquidation, he did agree that he would treat the debt as an ongoing obligation during the time of liquidation. And then he even says, 'he will use

his best endeavours to make sure that the obligations under the Supplementary Agreement were achieved' because why sign an agreement with all these terms and conditions and talk about paying as and when due when you are talking about paying in the future? We might as well have waited."

She insisted that Milingo created the wrong impression about the actual payment of KCM's electricity debt still owed to CEC.

"So, an agreement is an agreement. As far as I am concerned, everything he said in the paper is useless today! The least, it's lies; it's misconstrued at law; it's misleading; it's meant to give the wrong interpretation of the facts, and to be honest, it's actually misconduct on his part as a legal practitioner if he goes

to the public and allege things, which are not there when he has a written agreement, which he is signed up to. He can't say he is not aware of it, we have disputed this position he has taken before in the court," said Chaila.

According to the Supplementary Agreement (SA) dated July 18, 2019, whose signatories included KCM chief executive officer Chris Sheppard, CEC managing director Owen Silavwe and Milingo acting as KCM provisional liquidator, the SA revealed that during the transition period from the time of Milingo's appointment, CEC would continue to supply power and that KCM would continue to pay any actual energy and capacity charges and any late payment charges that became payable.

"The SA records that during the transition period, CEC would continue to supply power and KCM would continue to pay any actual energy and capacity charges and any late payment charges that became payable. KCM would settle the Total Overdue Amount and such other subsequent amounts as would become payable to CEC by KCM going forward," reads the Agreement seen by Diggers!

The Agreement equally detailed Milingo's acknowledgement and commitment, on behalf of KCM, to pay the mining

company's debt during the period of transition.

"The SA records KCM's acknowledgement of the amount due and payable to CEC existing at the date of execution of the Agreement ("the Execution Date") as being the Total Overdue Amount of US \$57,330,457, of which US \$10,451,083 were at that time current obligations (the "June Invoice"). KCM agreed in the SA that following the Execution Date it would make the following payments in respect of the current and ongoing obligations: (a) Pay to CEC the June Invoice in full by 30th July, 2019. (b) Pay to CEC from July, 2019, and continuing thereafter pay all invoices in full, on the respective due date of each invoice."

"The SA records insofar as the Corporate Insolvency Act the following position: (a) That all monies due for power supplied by CEC to KCM from the date of appointment of the Provisional Liquidator for ongoing supplies of electricity and any accumulated debt arising therefrom shall be deemed to be Preferential Debt. The SA records that the Provisional Liquidator's confirmation to use his best endeavours to secure the fulfilment by KCM of its obligations under the SA. The SA states that none of the terms in the SA would in any way amend

or vary KCM's obligations to pay for continuing supplies of electricity supplied by CEC on the due date of each invoice in accordance with the PSA whether the same was formally demanded or not."

According to the SA, which recorded that a meeting was held between the Provisional Liquidator, KCM and CEC on May 28, 2019, at CEC, headquarters in Kitwe, the document was supplemental to the already existing Power Supply Agreement (PSA) and was not a replacement of the PSA.

On Wednesday, Milingo said that the KCM entered into an agreement with CEC to ensure that its US \$144 million debt owed to the power utility would fully be settled from the proceeds of a sale.

"Firstly, with CEC, when the liquidation process started we entered into an agreement where it was agreed between ourselves and CEC that the bill will accrue until the mine is sold, and then when the mine is sold, they will be paid from the proceeds of the sale. And CEC only asked to say, 'if that is the case, can you pay us the arrears, which accrued by the time we had taken over the mine in May, which was about US \$46 million and we did settle that amount in October. So, in terms of not paying them, it was by way of agreement because by definition, if a mine is operating the way we are operating, we can't pay all bills as and when they fall due. So, there was an arrangement in place, it's not like we simply ignored to pay them from day one,'" Milingo said in an interview earlier this week.

We still haven't received our COVID-19 incentives, lament Resident doctors

By Julia Malunga
RESIDENT Doctors' Association of Zambia (RDAZ) president Dr Isaac Sakala says health workers that are at the front-line of the fight against the COVID-19 crisis have still not received their incentives.

In an interview, Dr Sakala said when the Association queried the Ministry of Health seeking clarification, they were told they were equally still waiting for feedback from Cabinet.

"We have not been given any incentives up to now and they have not given us any reasons as to why the incentives, which the President directed the health workers to get, have not been released. They are only saying that they are 'still waiting for feedback from Cabinet Office.' We are also wondering why there hasn't been any feedback up-to-date. Psychologically, health workers have to put themselves in harm's way every morning to go and work in case they meet a COVID-19 patient. And we are lucky that fate has been on our side; we haven't recorded any death of our health workers. But should

we record one, it would be tragic because they are not entitled to compensation. So, we cannot say we are out of danger because the numbers have started to reduce. There is still a need for legislation that will be able to guide and also motivate the health workers as they work," lamented Dr Sakala.

In April, Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya announced that President Lungu had granted incentives to health workers, who were at the front-line of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As His Excellency has directed recruitment of all health workers,

he has further directed that incentives should be provided for the front-line health workers at the front-line of this scourge in order to motivate them to support or to continue to provide service. This is in recognition that these are heroes, who are protecting the nation from this public health hazard, and in appreciating you and urging you to continue diligently serving the nation. The President has not only ordered recruitment of more staff, but has also ordered that incentives be provided for the front-line staff and details shall be availed in a different set-up," said Dr Chilufya.

Atlas Mara unveils K1bn COVID-19 fund

By Natasha Sakala

ATLAS Mara Bank managing director James Koni has announced a K1 billion relief financial package to its customers who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds have been accessed from the Bank of Zambia's K10 billion Medium-Term Refinancing Facility.

In a statement, Thursday, the bank revealed that the relief package would be added to existing credit facilities to support businesses facing financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown measures at local and international-level.

"As a bank, we have put measures in place to ensure that the relief packages are supporting our customers whose businesses have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to ensure that the relief reaches our customers who need the relief packages the most in the priority sectors identified in the Seventh National Development Plan, notably agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and energy. As a bank, we have measures in place to support and provide relief to our customers, who are facing various challenges as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. However, this

Medium-Term Facility (MTF) has allowed us to do even more for our customers and for this we are grateful," Koni said in a statement availed by Eric Ngondo, the bank's head of marketing and corporate communications.

"I am pleased to announce that a number of corporate and SME customers have sought relief plans with the bank of up to K1 billion worth of loans, which include interest rate reductions, facility reductions and capital and interest repayment holidays (moratoriums). This action demonstrates Atlas Mara Bank's determination to support our customers and enhance their ability to get through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We are also further providing free financial and business advisory services for our customers to help their businesses manage their financial plans during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond as well.

As Atlas Mara Bank, our drive continues to be to 'reshape African banking' through the heavy investment in technology to drive our digital banking platforms, thereby, deliver the best digital products and services on the market. This will help our customers transact in real time, conveniently and safely during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond where digital channels have emerged as essential and this is why we are the leading digital bank in Zambia."

Court halts Marshlands directors' forgery case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Magistrate Alice Walusiku has halted proceedings in a case where three Marshlands Consortium Limited directors are charged with forgery, uttering a false document, among other charges.

This follows Ndola High Court judge-in-charge Yvonne Cheembe's decision on Monday to stay proceedings in the case following a complaint lodged by the accused persons in the matter to the Judicial Complaints Commission against magistrate Walusiku's refusal to recuse herself from handling the case for alleged bias.

However, Magistrate Walusiku said in her ruling, Thursday, that in the normal sense, the case could not have been stayed but added that the court has a duty to obey any order that has

been presented to it from the Superior Court.

She has therefore stayed the matter pending any further order by the Ndola High Court.

This is a matter in which Tobias Milambo, 48, of Woodlands, Nachi Musonda 33, of Chongwe and Richard Lubemba 31, of Chalala and Marshlands Consortium Limited are facing 15 counts of forgery, uttering a false document, theft and obtaining goods by false pretences.

On Monday when the matter came up for continued trial, the accused persons were not in attendance.

Defence lawyer Jonas Zimba then informed the court that there was an order which had stayed proceedings in the case.

However, State prosecutor Noah

Mwanza argued that the order could not be relied upon because it was a photocopy.

Mwanza submitted that the document had also not been filed in court and further applied that the accused persons be placed on warrant for not attending court.

Magistrate Walusiku then adjourned the case to Thursday for ruling on an order presented to the court staying the proceedings.

And delivering her ruling, magistrate Walusiku said it was clear that what was at play was the abuse of the judicial system by lawyers for the accused persons because there was no law that allowed for a stay of criminal proceedings.

She said the judicial review that was sought by the defence was civil in

nature and could not be used to stay criminal proceedings before court.

"To go round on interlocutory appeal in criminal matters by way of judicial review is misconceived. Further, the action by defence lawyers amounts to forum shopping," magistrate Walusiku said.

She, however, stayed proceedings on grounds that she has a duty to obey an order presented to her.

"I find that forum shopping is at play and in the normal sense, the case could not have been stayed. However, this court has a duty to obey any order that has been presented to it emanating from the superior court. It is for this reason that the matter has been stayed pending any further order by the Ndola High Court," ruled magistrate Walusiku.

Man Utd will win the title if they sign Kane - O'Hara

MANCHESTER United will win the title again if they sign Harry Kane, according to Jamie O'Hara, who says Old Trafford is the ideal destination for the Tottenham star to fulfil his trophy ambitions.

Kane has proved himself as one of the top strikers in European football since

bursting onto the scene at Tottenham in 2014. The 26-year-old has hit a staggering 182 goals in 280 appearances for Spurs, with his latest effort coming in a 2-0 win over West Ham on Tuesday.

The England international has missed a large portion of the 2019-20 season through

injury, and his second-half strike against the Hammers was his first of 2020.

Despite his struggles for fitness, Kane has been Tottenham's top scorer once again, netting 18 in all competitions, but he is still waiting to pick up the first major piece of silverware of his career.

The prolific centre-forward admitted in March that he would not hesitate to leave Spurs if he feels as though no progress is being made on the elite stage, and United are reportedly among

those keeping a close eye on his situation.

The Red Devils have yet to bring in a natural replacement for Romelu Lukaku up front, with Anthony Martial currently filling that role impressively, and O'Hara thinks Kane could be the man to help bring back the glory days at Old Trafford.

"Listen, I would love to see him stay at Spurs," the former Tottenham midfielder told Talksport. "But they have to match his ambition."

"He wants to win trophies

and Man United, for me, are still the biggest club in the world. Even though they are not where they were, they are still the biggest club in the world, and I think the missing piece in that United team, even though Martial is a fantastic player, if they did sign someone like Harry Kane then you are talking about a team that wins the title again."

Martial hit a superb hat-trick during United's 3-0 win against Sheffield United on Wednesday, taking his tally for the season to 19 in the

process.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was effusive in his praise of a prized asset post-match, but O'Hara is not certain the Frenchman can be a permanent number nine for the Red Devils.

"I think Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hit the nail on the head really when he said he is capable of doing that, and he is," O'Hara added. "I mean, he can be a world-class player, he showed yesterday how good he was with his finishing in and around the box. GOAL



Sports clubs should get certification before resuming training - Mulenga

By Abraham Kalito

SPORTS Minister Emmanuel Mulenga has directed that training for sports activities will only resume once fields have been certified fit for use.

Mulenga said, Thursday, that it will be up to clubs to ensure that sports fields are certified if they intend to quickly resume training.

"I would like to thank the president for considering the plight of sports men and women. I should mention

that it's not just football [which will resume but other sports activities as long as their federations adhere to guidelines and certifications]. Football, through FAZ president Mr Kamanga, did indicate that the opening of the league had a bearing on the international games, that's CHAN games as well as the qualification for AFCON and World Cup. So after having wide consultation with FAZ, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sport as well as National Sports Council, certain regulations

were proposed by FAZ," Mulenga said.

"So I should indicate that all sports disciplines should not open now until they make sure that their fields have been inspected by Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sport as well as their federations. We need to inspect the fields to ensure that they are in a good condition and also certified by the Ministry of Health. And no one should open until all that is adhered to."

He said it was up to the various teams to arrange with the Ministry of Health

to have their fields inspected and certified.

Meanwhile, Mulenga said if all regulations are observed, a handful of spectators will be allowed to watch matches in various stadia.

"That is dependent on FAZ. If FAZ comes up with a mechanism to ensure that there is social distancing as well as sanitizing, it's something that is subject to discussion with the Ministry of Health but if all regulations are adhered to, I think it can be allowed," said Mulenga.

President Lungu guides on resumption of sports league

By Abraham Kalito

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says guidelines for all sports disciplines to follow as they resume sports activities have been developed and that the super and national division one leagues will kick-off in July.

And National Sport Council of Zambia chairperson Raphael Mulenga says the council will this week present to the Ministries of Sports and Health the adopted and consolidated measures from various sports federations to be used as guidelines for the league resumption.

Addressing the nation on the COVID-19 pandemic, President Lungu said it was only under the strict observance of health guidelines that the super and national division one leagues will resume.

"Guidelines for all sports disciplines to follow as they consider resuming sports activities have been developed. They include the following, but not limited to: Guiding principles stipulated by the statutory instruments 21 and 22 of

2020; Guidelines for various sports disciplines which have been categorised as non-contact, semi-contact and full contact sport; and, safeguards as outlined in the health guidelines for football at Premier and national division one leagues. Hence, these leagues will resume action in July, 2020, with strict observance of health guidelines," said President Lungu.

"The youth should take advantage of the opportunities available and those that my government has facilitated. I expect the Ministry of Youth and Sport to provide leadership in a multisectoral manner as they guide the youth to become a positive demographic dividend in our economy amidst covid-19. I direct the Minister of Youth and Sport to find opportunities as enshrined in the seventh national development plan for the youth to venture into skills training and other entrepreneurship ventures."

Meanwhile, Mulenga said the council had made

progress on the proposals for the resumption of the league games.

"We are close to finalising it. I can confirm that at least, a lot of work has been done on the document. Some associations have... independently been submitting, stating that they are ready and they can follow all the procedures," said Mulenga.

"But we are still dependent on the guidance to be given from the higher authorities. Once that is done, then we will also give a clearance. We want to see how we can do things quickly this week and submit that document to the higher authorities for consideration and I can tell you that there is a lot of anxiety among several sports federations with some players sneaking out to go and play in the compounds. It's a challenging period but we hope people will be a little patient. We also can't wait to see sporting activities resuming under the new normal. It's the desire of everyone."

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Lungu sets COVID-19 safety guidelines as...

By Abraham Kalito

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says guidelines for all sports disciplines to follow as they resume sports activities have been developed and that the super and national division one leagues will kick-off in July.

And National Sport

SPORTS RETURN

Council of Zambia | says the council will this week present to the Ministries of Sports and Health the adopted and consolidated measures from various sports federations to be used as guidelines for the league resumption. Story page 11



Salah, Mane will generate Liverpool exit talk - Fowler

LIVERPOOL should be bracing themselves for interest to be shown in Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane, says Reds legend Robbie Fowler, while Jurgen Klopp has been urged to snap up another left-back.

Those at Anfield are currently preparing for a Premier League title-winning

celebration.

Domestic glory is being secured on the back of previous successes in the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup.

A star-studded squad on Merseyside has hit all of the targets it set out to achieve, which could lead to

some seeking new challenges elsewhere.

Reports of interest in the likes of Salah and Mane are never far away, with Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid said to be leading the chase, and Fowler concedes that Liverpool may have to fend off unwelcome advances. GOAL

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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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