



OCIDA POINTS OUT LUNGU'S FAILURES

By Julia Malunga

OUR Civic Duty Association (OCIDA) says President Edgar Lungu has lamentably failed to deal with various governance issues like corruption in Zambia.

And OCIDA has wondered whether President Lungu's conscience is allowing him to mutilate the constitution.

Speaking during a press briefing at Kapingila

You've failed to stop corruption, violence, mutilation of Constitution

House, Wednesday, OCIDA management committee chairperson Gilbert Temba

said President Lungu had failed to act against corruption. Temba said President

Lungu should show leadership, not by words but actions. "Mr President, you are

on record when you publicly acknowledged and admitted to the scourge of corruption

in your government. To help you deal with this cancer such institutions..." **Story page 4**

Whether you like it or not, Bill 10 will be back - Given

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says whether Bill 10 opposers like it or not, it will be deliberated upon once Parliament sittings resume.

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BoZ launches K2.67bn COVID-19 bond

By Diggers Reporter

THE Bank of Zambia (BoZ) is inviting applications for the issue of a COVID-19 bond worth K2.67 billion, whose proceeds are earmarked to be utilized in mitigating the negative impact of the pandemic on economic

activities.

In a notice issued by the central bank, Tuesday, the general public are invited to submit applications for the issue of the COVID-19 bond being issued under a five, seven, 10 and 15-year maturity tenure. **Story page 10**

AG reveals how IBA boss bought company vehicle worth K88,750 at K17,250

Story page 10



Our Civic Duty Association (OCiDA) management committee chairperson Gilbert Temba and his trustee Lesley Mbula (r) address journalists at Kapingila House in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

It's hard to stop crowds from gathering around PF officials, says Lusambo

By Ulande Nkomesha

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has vowed that no one will stop him from ensuring that Lusaka residents comply with the public health guidelines following the recent increase of

COVID-19 cases.

But Lusambo says it is difficult to stop members of the public who gather in large numbers to show solidarity to senior ruling party officials, such as himself, whenever he tours the country despite the

pandemic.

In an interview, Lusambo said he cried when some PF youths reported him to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for trying to ensure that citizens in Lusaka complied with public health guidelines. **Story page 4**



By Zondiwe Mbewe
JUDICIARY Chief Registrar and director of court operations Charles Kafunda has submitted that Chishimba Kambwili's application for leave to commence judicial review proceedings against magistrate David Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself from presiding over his forgery case is not an appropriate matter for the High Court to exercise any of its discretion and jurisdiction to grant him leave.

Kafunda has submitted that this is because Kambwili, who is the NDC leader, has not exhausted all the alternative and administrative remedies.

In this matter, Kambwili has applied for leave to commence judicial review proceedings in the Lusaka High Court against magistrate Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself from presiding over a case where he is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer.

Kambwili, who has cited the Attorney General as respondent and ex-parte the principal resident magistrate,

Kambwili's matter against Simusamba wrongly before High Court - Kafunda



David Simusamba, stated that it had been difficult for his lawyers to perform their duties effectively as the court room is always poisoned with outbursts of anger and threats from the presiding magistrate towards him and his counsel.

He now wants a declaration that the decision of the presiding magistrate to refuse to recuse himself from presiding over the said case before him is unlawful and irrational.

Kambwili also wants an order prohibiting the presiding magistrate from continuing to preside upon his case and an order of mandamus directing magistrate Simusamba to recuse himself forthwith and to surrender the case record to the chief resident magistrate for re-allocation to another magistrate.

He wants, if leave is granted, a direction that such grant should operate as a stay

of magistrate Simusamba's decisions and the proceedings until determination of the application or until the court orders otherwise.

But in an affidavit in opposition to Kambwili's affidavit verifying facts of notice of application for leave to apply for judicial review, Kafunda stated that this was not a proper forum within which Kambwili's lawyers could raise complaints about the challenges they allegedly claimed to be facing in defending the interests of

their client.

He stated that he was advised by his counsel and verily believed the same to be true that there were no concluded or new complaints, if at all, against Magistrate Simusamba currently subsisting before the Judicial Complaints Commission or the Judicial Service Commission.

"That further and premised on the above, this is not an appropriate matter for this Honorable Court to exercise its discretion and

jurisdiction to grant leave to commence judicial review proceedings as the applicant has not exhausted all the alternative and administrative remedies," Kafunda stated.

In his affidavit verifying facts, Kambwili stated that, "It has been difficult for my lawyers to perform their duties effectively as the court room is always poisoned with outbursts of anger and threats from the presiding magistrate towards me and my lawyers. That I have been duly advised by my advocates that this is an appropriate matter for this honourable court to exercise its supervisory jurisdiction over the subordinate court by reviewing the said decisions of the presiding magistrate under judicial review."

Zambia still in early stages of implementing SDGs – AG

By Julia Malunga
THE Auditor General's Report has disclosed that Zambia is still in the early stages of preparing for the implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the Auditor General's Report on performance on preparedness for SDGs implementation in Zambia for the year ended December 31, 2018, delays in developing national development plans still persisted.

"Zambia is in the early stages of preparation for the implementation of the SDGs. This is because the processes of integrating the SDGs into national context, identifying resources and capacities for the implementation of the SDGs and the monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were incomplete. Notable are delays in implementation of activities that ensure full preparation

for the implementation of the SDGs in the country, such as delays in developing the national development plans, the review of policies and enactment of laws and full operationalization of the newly-created SDGs sub-committee as part of structures of policy coherence, among others. However, government had developed a plan for the activities to be undertaken to prepare for the implementation of the SDGs," the Report read.

It recommended that a proper reconciliation of the SDG targets Zambia was dealing with in the period 2017-2021 should be conducted and communicated.

"The recommendations are to various Ministries, Provinces and other Spending Agencies (MPSAs). The MPSAs include the Ministry of Finance; Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Secretariat for SDGs implementation; Ministry of Local Government; the Decentralization Secretariat

and Cabinet Office, among others. Some of the recommendations made include: a concrete way forward should be developed by the MNDP to ensure the uptake of SDGs targets not aligned at all in 7NDP yet are relevant to the country's needs. MNDP should ensure that there is continuity when drafting the successive NDP so that the targets are included in the subsequent NDP. A proper reconciliation of what SDG targets Zambia is dealing with in the period 2017-2021 should be conducted and communicated," the report read.

The Report further recommended that the Ministry of Finance should develop a more innovative financing strategy for the SDGs unlike relying on traditional sources.

"The coordination Ministry, MNDP should engage sectors, Provincial Administration and district councils in reviewing and/or developing implementation plans that will in-turn align to the 7NDP and the SDGs and provide clear guidance. The Ministry of National Development Planning should coordinate and expedite the development of the operationalization framework document of the CAGs. The MNDP has to strengthen the National Statistical System and come up with tools that will be required to comprehensively measure all the elements identified in the 7NDP and SDG Agenda. The Ministry of Finance should estimate the total cost of Zambia attaining the Agenda 2030 and estimate the cost under different scenarios. The Ministry of Finance should develop a more innovative financing strategy for the SDGs unlike placing more reliance on traditional sources," stated the Report.

The SDGs are 17 life-changing goals, outlined by the UN in 2015, which include ending extreme poverty, giving people better healthcare, and achieving equality for women, with the overall aim being for all countries to work together to ensure no one is left behind.



Former street kids pay their last respect to Mwansabombwe PF MP and also founder of Fountain of Hope Orphanage Rodgers Mwewa during his requiem church service at Praise Christian Centre in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

COVID-19 slows road traffic accidents

By Mirriam Chabala
THE Zambia Police Service has recorded 6,143 road accidents during the second quarter of 2020, down from 7,687 during the same corresponding period last year, triggered by limited traffic movement as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement, Wednesday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo disclosed that road traffic accidents this year during the second quarter ending June 30 had reduced to 6,143.

"During the second quarter of 2020, a total number of 6,143 road traffic accidents were recorded. 275 were fatal road traffic accidents in which 332 persons were killed; 565 were serious road traffic accidents in which 1,016 persons were seriously injured and 1,284 were slight injury road traffic accidents in which 1,770 persons were slightly injured, while 4,019 were recorded as damages-only road traffic accidents. Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of road traffic accidents with 3,212 followed by Copperbelt with 1,121, whilst Western and Northern provinces recorded the least with 130 and 125 road traffic accidents respectively," Katongo stated.

She added that the country had seen a reduction of road traffic accidents in the second quarter of this year compared to 2019 where 7,687 traffic accidents were recorded.

"During the second quarter of 2019, 7,687 road traffic accidents were recorded as compared to 6,143 road traffic accidents recorded in the second quarter of 2020. The figures show a decrease by 1,544 road traffic accidents. 387 road traffic accidents were recorded as fatal in which 458 persons were killed in the second quarter of 2019 as compared to 275 fatal road traffic accidents where 332 persons were killed in the 2020 second quarter. The figure shows a decrease in both fatal road traffic accidents and persons killed by 112 and 126, respectively," she stated.

"Further, in the second quarter of 2019, 775 serious road traffic accidents were recorded in which 1,313 persons were seriously injured as compared to 565 serious road traffic accidents where 1,016 persons were seriously injured in the second quarter of 2020. The figures still show a decrease in serious road traffic accidents and in persons injured by 210 and 297. 1,348

were slight injury road traffic accidents in which 2,046 persons were slightly injured as compared to 1,284 slight road traffic accidents where 1,770 persons were slightly injured in the second quarter of 2020. There is a reduction in both slight road traffic accidents and persons slightly injured by 100 and 276, respectively."

Katongo explained that most accidents in the second quarter of 2020 were attributed to human error; with excessive speed accidents catering for 963 road traffic incidents.

"On damage-only road traffic accidents, 5,177 were recorded in the second quarter of 2019 as compared to 4,019 recorded in the same quarter of 2020. The record shows a decrease by 1,158 damages-only road traffic accidents. 27,967 road traffic offences were recorded from which K9,483,524.00 was raised in admission of guilt fines in 2020 as compared to 35,415 road traffic offences recorded where K11,531,542.00 was raised in the second quarter of 2019. The record shows a decrease in road traffic offences by 7,448 and K2,048,018.00 in admission of guilt fines collected," Katongo stated.

"Most of the accidents in the second quarter of 2020 were attributed to human error as follows; excessive speed, 963, representing 15.7 per cent; misjudging clearance distance, 874, representing 14.2 per cent; failing to keep to nearside, 846, representing 13.8 per cent; cutting-in, 516, representing 8.3 per cent; reversing negligently, 433, representing 7.0 per cent."

Meanwhile, Katongo stated that the decrease in road accidents by end-June 30, 2020, compared to the corresponding period last year, was attributed to limited movement as a result of COVID-19.

"The decrease in road traffic accidents in the second quarter of 2020 as compared to that of 2019 can be attributed to, among other factors, limited movement as a result of COVID-19. Police also observed increased levels of compliance by road users, especially the motorists and pedestrians. Further, the Zambia Police Service has intensified patrols and placement of speed trap cameras in strategic areas, major roads and accident-prone areas to reduce road traffic accidents," stated Katongo.

By Julia Malunga
GOVERNANCE activist
Brebner Changala says
President Edgar Lungu must
come out in the open and
explain his connection to
the Rwandese rebel Maj.
Nsabimana Sankara Callixte.
A News Diggers!
investigation revealed
that Rwandese national,
Nsengiyumva Appolinaire,
who was named by that
country's rebel leader Maj.
Nsabimana Sankara Callixte
in a court testimony as his
link to President Edgar
Lungu, is actually a member
of the Industrial Development
Corporation (IDC)
procurement committee in
Zambia.
Commenting on the
revelation, Changala urged
President Lungu to clear the
air and explain his links to
the Rwandan national as his
connection had potential to
endanger Zambia's national
security.

Lungu should explain his Rwanda links – Changala

“That gentleman in
Rwanda, who has implicated
President Edgar Lungu in
some mysterious activities,
would not have dreamt of
a name. There is no smoke
without fire. One of the
most important attributes
to this story is that the
name of President Lungu
is a disposition in court
documents in the Rwanda
judicial system and Sankara
does, indeed, exist. The
second fact is that, the other
name that he has mentioned
of the gentleman who works
for IDC in Zambia and is a
Rwandese does exist and lives
in Zambia. He is working for
an institution where President
Lungu is the chairman.
These are dots that must be
connected. The President
must come out and exonerate
himself not through press

statements and not through
third parties. The accused
here is President Lungu, who
is endangering the security of
the nation. He must not take
these allegations lightly. He
has to come out and explain,”
Changala said.
He wondered how
Appolinaire became a member
of IDC.
“How did this Rwandese
find himself at IDC when
qualified Zambians are
jobless? And yet a foreigner

from Rwanda is able to work
for IDC, which is a very big
company that shoulders
many subsidiaries. We need
to dig further on how he was
identified to work for IDC,
who interviewed him? Who
put him there? His connections
to President Lungu, have they
have ever met and the number
of times they have met. We
cannot take the denials that
are coming through from
Isaac Chipampe (State House
Press Aid) or through (Joe)

Malanji (Foreign Affairs
Minister) seriously because
these are clandestine activities.
I don't think Chipampe knows
anything for him to stand for
the President. We need the
President to come out clean!
He should talk to the nation
about what he knows. This
is very important that he
exculpates himself. He must
not hide behind his Special
Assistant or the Minister of
Foreign Affairs, this involves
him,” said Changala.



Unemployment forcing youths to engage in violence – Kabwita

By Mirriam Chabala
NATIONAL Democratic
Congress (NDC) youth
chairman Charles Kabwita
says the reason why young
people, especially members of

the ruling party, are violent is
because government has not
created the jobs which were
promised.
Reacting to PF deputy
secretary general Mumbi

Phiri's remarks that youths who
engage in political violence are
foolish, Kabwita said it was the
leadership that was foolish for
having lied to the people of
Zambia.

“The only reason youths
have resorted to becoming
violent is because these
leaders who are in government
today have failed to fulfill the
promises that they made to
them during the campaigns of
the 2015 and 2016 elections.
President Lungu is on record
as saying he would create
employment for the youths
that are now languishing in
abject poverty and he made
this statement arising from the
fact that the youths in Zambia
have not benefitted from the
PF leadership. The level of
unemployment is still very high
in this country. Therefore, it is
surprising to hear Mumbi say
youths are foolish because they
are being used by politicians
to fight their political battles
because she is part of the
people that are governing this
country,” Kabwita said.

“The position of deputy
secretary general in the PF
hierarchy is very senior. So
Mumbi shouldn't even blame
the youths for the violence
happening in this country
now because she could have
used her position to ensure
what was promised in 2015
and 2016 was fulfilled, and this
is Mumbi Phiri who just left
Parliament recently where she
was nominated by President
Edgar Lungu to represent the
PF government in Parliament.
What contributions did she
render to ensure that the levels
of unemployment improved?
Nothing! All Mumbi knows is
to be vulgar. This is a woman
who told GBM that because
he is fat, he can't see what is
under him, that is Mumbi for
you. So for us as youths, we
are not inspired by Mumbi
Phiri's leadership and it's
unfortunate that these are the
leaders we have. Leaders who
are not ashamed of lying to the
people they govern, shame on
them! Actually, it is these same
leaders who are foolish for
having lied to the youths in this
country when they knew they
have no capacity to bring that
to fruition.”

Kabwita called on youths
to mind the insults from
leaders like Phiri and simply
work hard to ensure the PF was
removed from power in the
next elections.
“My appeal to my fellow
youths who are being insulted,

who this government has not
created employment for, is that
it is high time we restrained
ourselves. This is time for us
to come together and look
at the people that are giving
confidence whom we can give
the mantle to manage our
affairs. The current leadership
has failed lamentably, all the
current leadership knows
is to get things away from
the poor Zambians through
corruption. The leaders that
we have in government do not
care whether you have eaten,
whether you have a job or not,
all they care about is staying in
power forever by using you the
unemployed youths to throw
stones on each other. But why
should we be fighting each
other when we pray together
at Church as brothers and
sisters? Let us say no political
violence, stop fighting for these
corrupt leaders. The reason
why they are asking you to go
and kill each other, to fight or
throw stones at each other is
because they want their stay to
be prolonged in power. But let
us say no to political violence
because the only reason they
are using us to fight their
political battles so that their
stay in power is prolonged,”
Kabwita said.

He said Phiri was right
to refer to violent cadres as
foolish.

“To some large extent I
even think Mumbi Phiri is
right, mwefipubamwe (you are
such fools). You are being used
fi (you) PF youths to throw
stones and fight amongst each
other in order to protect these
who have stolen, shame on us
youths! I think by and large
we need to come together as
youths and ensure that we
put leaders who are sober, not
thieves. We don't need thieves
to govern us. We have thieves
in government today and
these people will never change
because a thief will always be
a thief. For these people in PF
even if Jesus Christ came and
asked them to confess, they
will confess but the moment he
leaves, they will still continue
with their thieving style. So
what we need to do is that
people who stole money from
their widowed clients when
they were practicing law and
their certificate of practice was
confiscated by LAZ, we thought
that they had repented because
LAZ punished them, but they
are still stealing. I think it's time
now for us youths to provide a
political liquidation for these
criminals,” said Kabwita.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH & ASSEMBLY



Edgar Lungu is this what
you are teaching
our children?

By Julia Malunga
OUR Civic Duty Association (OCIDA) says President Edgar Lungu has lamentably failed to deal with various governance issues like corruption in Zambia.

And OCIDA has wondered whether President Lungu's conscience is allowing him to mutilate the constitution.

Speaking during a press briefing at Kapingila House, Wednesday, OCIDA management committee chairperson Gilbert Temba said President Lungu had failed to act against corruption.

Temba said President Lungu should show leadership, not by words but actions.

“Mr President, you are on record when you publicly acknowledged and admitted to the scourge of corruption in your government. To help you deal with this cancer such institutions as the Auditor General's Office, the FIC and ACC have provided you the ammunition you need to swiftly kill this cancer. But what has been your response to such help; negative. For example you have failed to deal with: ministers who have accumulated unexplained wealth. Ministers who are under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission, by claiming that they are innocent until proven guilty. How can they be proven guilty if not investigated in a conducive environment, but are left to organize against such prosecution – PF cadres with audacity swarm court premises and disrupt effective proceedings of the court? This has now become a pattern for every minister who is found wanting and taken to court,” Temba said.

“The purchase of 42 fire tenders at an exorbitant price of US\$1 million each has up to now remained unexplained; the purchase of more expensive ambulances by the Ministry of Health, against much cheaper units. The donated police bicycles are still a mystery; and the unexplained contract for the supply of millions of US dollars' worth of pharmaceuticals, which was awarded to an individual. We want to send a message to our Republican President. And the message is simple; please show leadership, not by words but by your actions. You were elected to do just that, but hitherto Mr President you have failed lamentably, as demonstrated on just a few matters of governance highlighted above, not even mentioning your economic management,”

Temba said it was worrying that the party in government was in the forefront of instigating acts of violence.

“We wish to express our grave concerns on the escalating political violence and associated governance matters, which speak to the fast deteriorating political governance conditions in our country. We have sadly observed that the current incidents of political violence in the country are primarily being triggered and fueled by statements from senior Patriotic Front leaders, including individuals with public authority, such as members of parliament ,

You have failed lamentably, OCIDA tells Lungu



Our Civic Duty Association (OCiDA) management committee chairperson Gilbert Temba and member of the management Brebner Changala (l), address journalists at Kapingila House in Lusaka yesterday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ministers and worst by even higher ranking officials in government, who have lately issued threats to anyone raising concerns on matters of public interest, particularly on political governance matters. This is extremely saddening in that the party in government who should be the first to lead by example and denounce and curtail political violence, are at the forefront of instigating acts of violence. Much more worrying, this is happening so close to next year's general elections; virtually signaling a bloody forthcoming election,” he said.

OCIDA condemned President Lungu's directive to the Minister of Home Affairs to deal with anyone who protested against governance issues.

“OCIDA wishes to condemn in strongest terms a recent “presidential “directive to the minister of home affairs, to deal with anyone protesting. This has been further echoed by the inspector general of police, who obviously is perceived to be following the minister's orders. In tandem, the Lusaka province Minister also echoed and banned any protests, which led to our young people running into the bush to express their grievances, in fear of the armed police in armored vehicles who were sent by the inspector general of the police,

to deal with these unarmed and harmless children! Other ministers and PF members of parliament have declared certain provinces as no-go areas for certain opposition political parties. Very sadly even the “respectable “Republican vice-president has added fuel to the fire by imploring the people of Zambia “to support Bill 10 if they want the police to start arresting pf cadres who were perpetuating violence.” This kind of behavior can only come from a failed leadership of a country. And we demand accountability,” Temba said.

And Temba wondered why President Lungu wanted to mutilate the constitution.

“We wish to join all well meaning Zambians who have spoken before us, the fundamental constitutional amendments proposed through Bill 10 can only be a scheme meant to “rape” the constitution of Zambia and destroy the basic fundamentals of constitutionalism. For example, article 52 (1) states that “a candidate shall file that candidate's nomination paper to a returning officer, supported by an affidavit stating that the candidate is qualified for nomination as president, member of parliament or councillor, ...”. In this regard, repealing article 52, as proposed in Bill 10 is a

deceptive way of taking away the power of the returning officer to reject the nomination paper of a candidate that does not meet the qualifications or procedural requirements. Similarly, article 101 (3) states that “if at the initial ballot a presidential candidate does not receive more than fifty percent of the valid votes cast, a second ballot shall be held within thirty-seven days of the initial ballot,” he said.

“The proposed amendment in Bill 10 of a coalition government is another deceptive way of electing a minority president as opposed to the current article 47 (1), which provides for a majoritarian electoral system as follows: “elections to the office of president shall be conducted directly, under a majoritarian electoral system, where the winning candidate must receive more than fifty percent of the valid votes cast,...”The amended constitution that you Mr President assented on 5th January 2016 was hitherto the most progressive constitution the country had ever crafted

since independence in 1964. Remember there was no acrimony to this 2016 constitution – in fact you were heralded as a true hero who gave the people of Zambia for the first time something worth celebrating. Alas, hardly 4 years later, you want to mutilate or kill your own child? Mr President, where is your conscious? Chiefs and other traditional leaders who, according to electoral laws, are supposed to remain neutral in so far as politics are concerned, have been bought new vehicles, meant to influence their support for Bill 10.”

Meanwhile, Temba questioned why the police had consistently failed to deal with the PF cadres who terrorized innocent citizens.

“OCIDA has learnt with alarm reports of blatant impunity by PF cadres, in total disregard of the law and public order. In this respect, a radio station in Mufulira, where a president of an opposition political party was being interviewed was targeted for attacks by

PF cadres. We wish to point out that all these actions are being done in contravention of the supreme law of the land, the constitution, and other supportive legislation. We further question why the police have consistently failed to firmly deal with the PF cadres who terrorize innocent citizens with most despicable behavior (such as brandishing machetes and pangas in public), and why the law is being applied selectively in this regard?” Temba asked.

“As alluded to above, recently youths who had simply wanted to breathe; in order to express themselves over issues of bad governance, were instead threatened by machine-gun toting police officers, instead of the police providing them security for them to freely express themselves, as guaranteed under our constitution. Such actions by the police command reflect a breakdown of law and order, and may consequently lead to anarchy where victims will in turn seek ways to protect themselves, since the police cannot be relied upon.”

OCIDA also insisted that they wanted to know the person who was behind the gassing incidences.



Combined cultural groups perform during the requiem Church service of Mwansabombwe PF MP Rodgers Mwewa at Praise Christian Centre in Lusaka on Tuesday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

It's hard to stop crowds from gathering around PF officials – Lusambo

By Ulande Nkomesha

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has vowed that no one will stop him from ensuring that Lusaka residents comply with the public health guidelines following the recent increase of COVID-19 cases.

But Lusambo says it is difficult to stop members of the public who gather in large numbers to show solidarity to senior ruling party officials, such as himself, whenever he tours the country despite the pandemic.

In an interview, Lusambo said he cried when some PF youths reported him to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for trying to ensure that citizens in Lusaka complied with public health guidelines.

“The COVID-19 cases in Lusaka are on the increase. The problem that we have is that the Lusaka residents, themselves, with full information of how dangerous this disease is, have failed to practice health guidelines. When we move in, as the Lusaka provincial administration, other people with small minds will start talking, ‘no, you are abusing your

offices and human rights!’ Now, we have seen how these cases are increasing not only in Zambia. When you come to Zambia, the only problem is when you are working, other people are pulling you down! Other people don't want you to work, they just want things to go berserk because when you work, they think that you are boasting. I can assure you that the problem is huge,” Lusambo said.

“So, first and foremost, we are going to ignore those visionless people; we are going to move in as a team and make sure we bring sanity to Lusaka. Some of the people even took us to ACC because of controlling people during COVID-19 that we were abusing our office, can you imagine that? Is that normal? Some even put up some papers that, ‘we are taking Lusambo to ACC so that he can be investigated because of controlling COVID-19 in Lusaka.’ I was very shocked and I cried! I looked for those boys, those are the boys who have been coming to my office feeding from my office, feeding from my office! I cried! I said this is not the behaviour, which I can see

from these young boys.”

He, however, insisted that he would not relent on ensuring that residents complied with all public health guidelines despite some PF youths accusing him of abusing his office.

“They think if they go to ZIALE, they have studied law and now they are above anyone. I can assure you that we don't use our qualifications in our lives. We don't use qualifications; if you want to stay with people, don't use qualifications. I have seen people who are qualified, who are stupid, and I have seen people, who are not qualified, who are wise. For us, we just make sure that we go in and control this pandemic otherwise the disaster is awaiting us,” he added.

“We are going to go back to the drawing board and ensure that I will call all my team, we are a multi-sectoral team. We just have to re-strategize. For those people who want to take us to ACC, let them prepare a lot of files now. It's better I die for saving the people of Zambia and it's better they take me to ACC for saving the people of Zambia, I am ready. So, let them prepare a lot of files and

there are alot of accusations and I am ready to defend myself because I am ready to defend my people. So, those people who don't want us to work, I can assure them that they are free to do whatever they feel like doing.”

And Lusambo lamented that it was difficult to stop ordinary members of the public, who gathered in large numbers to show solidarity to senior ruling party members.

“For example, myself I was on the Copperbelt Province...when I went there, I went for radio programmes and people turned up in numbers just to show solidarity to the President, through me. I was very scared that most of those people were not putting on face-masks, and for me, as an advocate for face masks and other things, I was scared. But I had to use diplomacy for me to disperse those people otherwise you can't just chase them. So, it is difficult for people like me, [when] I move in Kalingalinga, definitely, the people there will want to follow me. The best thing is we just stay at home and conduct our business through phones and the internet. Otherwise, you can't stop the people,” said Lusambo.

Walking the Talk on Policy Pronouncements: The Economic Cost of Chaotic Policies

By Maka B Tounkara

THE Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) which comes to an end in 2021 has been the primary guiding document underpinning Zambia’s development agenda since 2017. Since we are inching towards the end of the plan, it is important that a critique is conducted using the evidence that is currently obtaining on the ground. The pillar of particular interest in the plan that is worth dissecting is “Economic Diversification and Job Creation”. It is clear that the framers of this national plan had good intentions but one wonders why there is a mismatch between what is obtaining on the ground and the intentions and/or policies espoused in the national development plan. Is “economic diversification and job creation” a farfetched dream or has the economy degenerated to the extent that it is incapable of creating, let’s say, a million decent jobs?

World-over, private sector institutions play a crucial role in steering the country towards economic prosperity, and it is for this reason that countries with strong democratic systems of governance have not only created conducive business environments but have also embraced the private sector as a key partner in development. Why is there a mismatch between Government policy pronouncements and actions in Zambia? On the one hand, the government wants increased private sector participation while on the other hand, private institutions are being squeezed to the extent that they shut down or exit the market. Government consultations with the private sector prior to the development of the 7NDP highlighted the key issues constraining the development of the private sector. For example, the private sector proposed that there is “need to increase the liquidity of businesses through timely liquidation of government debt to local suppliers to enable them have operating capital”, and this suggestion was also “extended to the delayed value added tax (VAT) refunds which were hampering business operations”. However, this challenge has continued to be a thorn for the private sector, with the delays adversely affecting timely investment expansion efforts that have the potential to create employment opportunities.

Coherent and consistent policies are the main ingredients of increased private sector participation because they provide certainty for businesses and act as an incentive for increased investment. Regrettably, Zambia’s private sector is hounded by policy inconsistencies and threats of either closure or business mutilation. This menace heightens uncertainty in the private sector and makes Zambia unattractive to capital in addition to depriving the economy the lustre of being an attractive destination for private investment. A strong viable private sector dominated by local private companies is what will guarantee a sustainable and diversified economy.

There seems to be a consistent pattern of awarding government tenders to foreign private companies. For instance, most

people are wondering why most tenders in the construction sector are awarded to Chinese contractors. It is an unquestionable fact that Zambia needs the much needed foreign direct investment but this should not come at the expense of local private companies. Awarding the majority of government tenders to foreign companies is detrimental to the stability of the financial sector as it makes it harder for the Bank of Zambia to stabilize the exchange rate owing to the fact that these foreign entities externalize their profits to their home countries in foreign denominated currencies.

To achieve meaningful economic development and economic diversification, the Government needs to come up with policies that support and prioritize local private companies. Local private companies cannot change colors overnight or relocate to other countries in the event of unforeseen business turmoil. Thus, policies that nurture local enterprise and anchor the development agenda around local private companies will in the long term yield economic diversification and create decent jobs. This will be the only sure way of sustaining a large revenue base.

However, policy pronouncements that seem to encourage the participation of local businesses in the economy are at variance with the evidence on the ground. There is ample evidence showing the purposive targeting and mutilation of private businesses that are allegedly perceived to be anti-government or owned by opposition political party members. Security wings have been unleashed on these companies, and government departments and institutions have been instructed to cut all business ties with certain private sector firms which eventually shut down. Such moves are counterproductive and undesirable since they instill fear and constrain the growth of the private sector and consequently detract government efforts aimed at promoting economic growth and job creation. A prime example is the closure of The Post Newspaper and Prime TV which directly increased the unemployment levels in the media fraternity. The lack of a deliberate policy to solve the current impasse involving the Copperbelt Energy Corporation has the potential to further shrink the number of local companies in the private sector and increase unemployment levels on the Copperbelt.

A diversified private sector-driven competitive economy generates new investment and employment opportunities at a fast rate. The government should never be the foremost employer in an economy as the case seems to be in Zambia. This role should be relegated to the private sector as one way of freeing up government resources that would otherwise have been spent on salaries and wages. Such a scenario would grant the government adequate fiscal space and allow the freed resources to be channeled towards capital projects with the potential to create employment. Take China, for example, a communist country that has allowed the private sector to thrive and bring about meaningful contribution towards

economic development. It is reported that the private sector in China accounts for over 60% of GDP growth as well as over half of China’s fiscal revenue. Moreover, the private sector in China provides at least 80% of the jobs, with more that 90% of new jobs created by the private sector. It is evident from the foregoing that a thriving private sector is the solution to Zambia’s chronic fiscal deficits. The main reason underpinning increased poverty levels in Zambia is the low rate of employment creation in the private sector.

Zambia has one of the highest interest rates in the SADC region, and the cost of doing business in Zambia was also one of the key highlights that emerged from government consultations with the private sector. However, the government has done little to nothing during the course of the implementation of the 7NDP to reduce the cost of doing business and ease of access to finance. For Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), high interest rates act as a deterrent to their expansion efforts and perpetuate their small level status. Interest rates have hovered above 20% from the time the 7NDP was launched. If the government was serious and in a hurry for meaningful economic development and diversification, it would have implemented policies that reduce the cost of credit and doing business for the private sector.

The government needs to prioritize and support local firms that compete with foreign businesses. You don’t have to look far to find a local firm that is struggling financially or in a deplorable state. Take NATSAVE, an institution designed to promote local credit and savings, as a case in point. It shouldn’t be where it is currently. This institution had (and still has) the potential to reach remote rural areas to provide access to cheap credit. Unfortunately, the current “sorry” state of NATSAVE is a manifestation of years of government neglect and poor management. Reviving NATSAVE would be one avenue to actualize the pillars of the Seventh National Development Plan.

Zambia does not have a stable buoyant and flourishing private sector with the capacity to generate at the very least 50% of new job opportunities in order to significantly reduce poverty levels. As long as the country lacks a stable private sector dominated by local private firms, and as long as preference and government tenders continue to be awarded to foreign business entities (or political cadres) at the expense of local competent private companies, “economic diversification and job creation” will remain a farfetched dream. They say dreams come true but will the theme of the 7NDP of “accelerating development efforts towards the vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind” be realized? With the current state of affairs, your guess is as good as mine...

Short Bio
Maka Tounkara is a lecturer in Economics at the University of Zambia. Educated at Oxford, he researches climate change, fiscal and monetary policy, and structural transformation in low carbon settings.



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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS PARTY's LAND REFORMS

EQUITABLE access to land has by far remained a challenge for many Zambians. For those in the rural areas, land ownership is being threatened due to commercial interest. For those living in the urban areas, land has become extremely expensive. Corruption has also characterised the issuing of land to our citizen and non-citizens. Non-Zambians and the rich find ease in acquiring land while the poor have huge challenges in accessing it.

To ensure that there is equal access to land for all Zambians both on state and customary land, especially for the poor and marginalised irrespective of gender, we shall embark on the following reforms;

- We shall highly regulate the sale and pricing of land to ensure easier access to land for both the poor and middle-income Zambians.
- Sale and purchase of land shall be done through registered real estate agents
- For those in the rural areas and living on customary land, we shall roll out a land titling system and ensure that they have titles and are protected from land grabbing for commercial interest and from chiefs that sale land without their consent.

- This in order to enshrine and preserve the rights of customary land occupants.
- BRING UP-TO-DATE the current map boundaries for Chiefdoms, villages, which has not been done since 1960. This is to ensure that land conflicts and boarder disputes amongst chiefdoms are solved amicably.
- We shall mark public land in all the districts and chiefdoms around the country for future development, both in customary land and state land. Especially for purposes of educational, health, defence, conservation and social amenities. Land marked for public interest is very important to preserve for future development and strategic interests.
- We shall also mark common land in both state and customary land in settlement areas for animal grazing, river fronts, burial sites and ceremonies and protect them from commercial exploitation.
- Carry out sensitization and educational programs in both state and customary land on land rights and how to access land. Give clear information on Rights of land owners, the role and functions of traditional authorities in land

- administration.
- Legislate for community participation, consultation and consent in the selling and leasing of both customary land and state land to local and foreign land developers, and commercial entities.
- We shall ensure equal access to state and customary land by youth, widows, orphans and those without off springs. This is vital because access to customary land as mostly advantaged only men.
- Where citizens have already been deprived of land by foreign investors, the price paid to government for the land must be converted into rentals for the displaced people
- Foreigners will not be allowed to buy and own land, but can lease land from citizens who own land. By implication citizens will not be allowed to sale land to foreigners but enter into lease agreements of up to 20 years. The property on the land in issue will vest in the land lord after the lease period expires.
- These measures shall ensure that there is Land security for Zambians and their off springs, curb exploitation of the poor on both state and customary land.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says whether Bill 10 opposers like it or not, it will be deliberated upon once Parliament sittings resume.

And Lubinda says those who are jubilating that Bill 10 has died following the adjournment of Parliament are celebrating a fluke.

Meanwhile, Lubinda says the PF government has delivered so much development in the road sector to an extent of making roads in the air.

In an interview, Lubinda said those insisting that Bill 10 must not be passed are afraid that they will have nothing to talk about if it goes through.

“Standing Orders of parliament do not provide that no, because Parliament has been adjourned, therefore, the business of the House has been killed, no. Whether they like it or not, when Parliament resumes, whatever was on the Order Paper and whatever should be brought to Parliament shall be brought. Whatever was on the Order Paper at the time

Whether you like it or not, Bill 10 is coming – Lubinda

of Parliament adjournment will be brought back on the Order Paper when Parliament resumes. It's as easy as that. I can give an example of you cooking. When you are cooking and then a child cries. You then stop cooking to attend to the child. After the child has stopped crying what do you do? You continue,” Lubinda said.

Lubinda said some people were agitated by Bill 10 because they wanted to remain relevant.

“Now, the trouble is that those who are really agitated by Bill 10, not because of the content of Bill 10 but because they want to remain relevant, are the ones who are coming up with all sorts of rules and regulations on the subject. How many times have they taken us to court? Three times. They went to court trying to stop Parliament. What is the problem? If they are sure that Bill 10 is bad and people don't like it, would they go and seek

other ways of stopping it? They wouldn't. They would go and stop it in Parliament. We saw Mr Jack Mwiimbu going to Parliament with the Law Association of Zambia, it failed. Again Law Association went alone, they failed. They went with Chapter One, they failed. Again Mr Jack Mwiimbu went, they failed. What is their problem? Their problem is that they know that Bill 10 is a popular Bill and they are afraid that once Bill 10 is passed, they will have nothing to talk about because they can't talk about hunger,” Lubinda said.

And Lubinda said those celebrating the death of Bill 10 were happy about a fluke.

“Those who are celebrating [that Bill 10 has died] are very surprising. I get very surprised when I hear the same people who are saying that ‘we don't want Bill 10, the Zambian people don't want Bill 10, the opposition don't want Bill 10,’ then they

are celebrating to say oh, Parliament has adjourned. If it is true that the people don't want Bill 10, they should have been the ones in the forefront saying ‘can the members of parliament debate Bill 10 so that they can make sure that they vote against it.’ Why is it that they are celebrating a fluke? It's the same as a person saying that ‘we are going to win football against that team’, and then when the referee says ‘no, because it's raining, you will not play’ then they celebrate to say ‘we have won.’ Does it make sense?” he asked.

“Why don't you ask these people to say ‘you people if you are really convinced that you don't want Bill 10, how come you are celebrating a fluke? You should have gone to parliament to defeat Bill 10 in parliament. Don't defeat it on a technicality.’”

Lubinda said it was disheartening that some members of the civil society

were celebrating the death of two members of parliament who were believed to be in support of Bill 10.

“For me, I am actually shocked to read some of the comments sent to me by friends who follow social media. There is somebody who posted saying ‘Bill 10 supporters, two down, Bill 10 has died. Lesa nimalyotola. Thank you for the prayers of Zambians’ How can anyone say that? Are you sure that God answers prayers that way? No. We must stop people like that. Somebody else posted and said ‘Mr Speaker has decided to adjourn Parliament because it means that Bill 10 is dead, and buried. Today is the funeral of Bill 10.’ Are you sure that for a person to say that they are in their right faculty? Parliament has adjourned because of the demise of people, elected people. Those people were elected by constituents and somebody is making it a joke

and they call themselves Civil Society Organization leaders. The closure of parliament is because of death and any normal Zambian should be sad,” Lubinda said.

Meanwhile, Lubinda said the PF government had delivered so much development in the road sector to the extent of making roads in the air.

“The price of mealie meal in Zambia has gone down to K50. I was in a shop the other day where mealie meal was selling for K49 but they can't talk about it. They can't talk about roads because for roads now, we have finished doing all ground roads. We have now started making roads in the air. If Diggers looks up, you will see along Great East Road that tayamba kupanga ma road mumwamba (we have started making roads in the air). So, they have nothing to talk about that is why they are insisting that Bill 10 must not be passed,” he said.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
GOVERNMENT must consider restructuring Zambia's huge debt stock and reduce its appetite for excessive borrowing because commercial lenders do not usually cancel debt, says economist Professor Oliver Saasa.

Commenting on President Edgar Lungu's request to Chinese President Xi Jinping for debt relief and cancellation, Prof Saasa observed that while the development was welcome, the only challenge with Zambia's debt stock was that a bigger chunk of it emanated from commercial lenders as opposed to concessional debt.

He, therefore, advised government to minimize its appetite to contract sovereign debt and curtailing it to

Commercial lenders unlikely to cancel debt, insists Saasa

levels where it could easily be serviced, or risk sinking back into the same debt problem.

"We are in a situation where even though with cancellation that has been requested, we, actually to a significant degree, have to consider for much of our debt, it has to be restructured because commercial lenders will not usually cancel debt. Opportunities for cancellation are usually at a bilateral-level like country-to-country. But in China itself, you find that we are contracting from

companies and these financial institutions, the Government of China may own even 100 per cent, but they are commercial financial institutions who we are borrowing from," Prof Saasa said in an interview.

"So, yes, the Government in China can have an overbearing influence on a decision on whether or not one of their parastatals can cancel or suspend. It's not something with this background that we should be surprised. In fact, what the international community

is doing now, including the IMF (International Monetary Fund), is to appeal to bilateral (countries) that are members of these multilateral institutions to consider cancellation where it's possible, but the focus is more on suspension of debt servicing."

He insisted that Zambia's debt stock, which largely comprised of commercial debt, was not likely to be cancelled.

"As you are aware, COVID-19 has had adverse effects on countries that

are not only poor in terms of economic prospects, but also in terms of the extent to which they are indebted by way of debt contraction. And many of these countries have had serious challenges. For the Zambian case, you are aware that before COVID-19 set in, and the adverse effect failed, we already were in a very serious fiscal challenge. We had severe challenges that include debt from China, but a significant portion of it is commercial debt as opposed to concessional debt. We are talking about debt, which we contracted for the capital market, debt which is the Eurobond," he added.

But Prof Saasa hoped that a significant portion of the debt would be cancelled if the Chinese government responded positively to President Lungu's request.

"For Zambia, China is a major lender to Zambia in the last four to five years. At a bilateral-level, China accounts for more than 50 per cent of what we owe. So, if China responds positively to this appeal, a significant portion will come out, there is no question about it, but whether this is really what we have to look up to is subject to debate. The big challenge in Zambia is less. The magnitude of the debt now is a problem. Our preparedness to manage debt in a manner that is sustainable or to contract debt in a manner that is sustainable because if the debt is cancelled but you do not do something that addresses the reason why you contracted it in the first place, of course, it's like cancer, it will germinate back," he observed.

Prof Saasa said unless the Zambian government minimized its appetite to contract sovereign debt, curtailing it to levels where it could easily be serviced, the country would relapse.

"The solution, now, is government to demonstrate to China and to the world that we are ready and willing to take action and put things in place that will secure our ability to service debt when it falls due. This is what we call debt sustainability that allows us to contract debt in a manner that allows us to be able to pay it when it falls due.

At the moment, that is why you have seen challenges that we had with the IMF. They are expecting to hear government, especially as we revise our 2020 budget, they are expecting government to come out very clearly in a manner, which they want to manage the debt. This does not subtract from what the President is appealing for from China, but it underscores a very important fundamental reality on the Zambian scene, now, that unless you ensure that you minimize your appetite to contract sovereign debt, curtailing it to levels where you know you will be able to service it when it falls due, we will get back to the debt situation again," Prof Saasa advised.

He also asked government to go beyond just asking for cancellation by avoiding reverting to the same problematic debt accumulation.

"Cancellation is only temporary; if you do not address the situation, you will go back to it. It's like you contract a disease, then you find a doctor who will treat you for free, but then you do not actually take measures to stop you from contracting that disease. That is exactly where we are now. The challenge on the government side, now, is to make sure that we go beyond requesting governments for cancellation, but begin to ask questions that, 'are we ready and willing, as a country, to make sure that we don't relapse back to this problem? Because it's affecting development, it's affecting health, it's affecting education and affecting literally what it takes for a government to look after its people,'" said Prof Saasa.

According to official figures on Chinese loans cited by the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) at Johns Hopkins University, Zambia had accumulated loans from China totalling almost US \$6.4 billion at end-2017.

This means that Zambia's debt owed to China was estimated at over 70 per cent of the country's total debt stock, which was US \$8.74 billion at the end of 2017.

And the US-based Brookings Institution estimated that in September, last year, loans from China accounted for 65.8 per cent of Zambia's external debt, an African record.

Zesco targets 4-hour daily loadshedding by end of 2020

By Natasha Sakala
ZESCO Limited says it is targeting to achieve a zero to four hour load shedding schedule per day by the end of this year following the injection of additional electricity from the Kafue Gorge Lower Hydropower Project.

Zesco recently projected a systematic reduction of load shedding using a graduated system called Weather Induced Power Deficit (WIPOD-19), which ensures a more predictable and consistent load management schedule for customers with level-one, 0-4 hours; level-two, 4-8 hours; level-three, 8-12 hours; level-four with 12-16 hours; level-five with 16-20 hours and level-six (blackout) with 20-24 hours of load shedding.

In an interview, Zesco

senior manager corporate affairs Dr John Kunda said that the current level of eight to 12 hours load shedding might be reduced to eight to 10 hours daily as the company continued with a conservative approach of the water allocation until September, 2020, when Zambia was expected to move to level two.

He added that the power utility ultimately targeted to limit daily load shedding hours to a maximum of four hours per day by the end of this year following the additional electricity due to be injected into the national grid from the Kafue Gorge Lower Hydropower Project.

"So, load shedding will remain according to the WIPOD-19 plan, but will be oscillating towards the lower end of that plan, which is on average, eight hours. So, as we are moving towards the end of the year, we are reducing load shedding unlike experiences in the past where towards the dry season, it was getting worse. This time, we are using the weather-induced power deficit strategy, the WIPOD-19, which is aimed at reducing load shedding as we are moving towards

the rainy season. We've said that our load shedding should be between eight to 12 hours daily. On average, I think many experience six hours of load shedding, many people don't experience load shedding; those who do, it averages around 10 hours. But in the last two to three months, the average has gone down to about six hours and our target is that between now and September, we will continue with a very conservative approach of the water allocation until September when we go down to four to eight hours of load shedding," Dr Kunda said.

"That's what we have done and our targeting is based on conservative estimates in that if we run into a problem, even next year of not having enough rainfall, we will still maintain within four to eight hours of load shedding. But our target is between now to September, eight to 12 hours then September, October, November, we are targeting that we will go down to four to eight hours and then December, we still go down to zero to four hours because we would have switched on the first machine in the first week of October; the second machine in November and December we switch on the third machine at Kafue

Gorge Lower (Hydropower Project). So, by the end of the year, load shedding should be between zero to four hours. I am confident that the average number of hours between now to September, we should be floating around eight hours, but we may go down."

And Dr Kunda said the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA)'s increased water allocation to Zesco would help the power utility operate on the minimum of level three.

Last Friday, the ZRA announced an increase in the water allocation for power generation to both Zesco and the Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), the Zambian and Zimbabwean power utilities respectively, to 27 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM).

"In view of the allocation, it gives us even more leverage to operate between eight and 10 hours instead of oscillating on the extreme of 12 hours of load shedding within the same level three we are currently in with a possibility of further review as we draw into the third quarter of the year. So, this particular review of the allocation gives us some leverage to operate on the minimum side of level three. But moving forward, there is a possibility to review further depending on forecasts for the rainy season," said Dr Kunda.

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A SPIRING Kaumbwe constituency PF member of parliament Moses Mutale says the ruling party should identify an alternative presidential candidate in case the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) rejects President Edgar Lungu's nomination papers on account of eligibility. In a press statement, the aspiring lawmaker cautioned that it would be dangerous for the ruling party to start scrambling for a presidential candidate at the eleventh hour as it would be costly and difficult for the PF to sell such a candidate at short notice.

"I am seeing the PF party being caught unaware looking at things. We should have an alternative in mind to say, 'if this fails, what are we going to do?' People are watching and waiting how the ECZ will welcome the nomination papers for our candidate Edgar Lungu because they'll say, 'if he will be attempting to forward his papers, we'll take him to court!' Now, if the court will ban him from contesting, what are we going to do?" wondered Mutale.

What Mutale is saying is an issue that must not be downplayed or ignored. It is a very serious national issue. Yes, President Lungu's eligibility is a national issue, and the need for his party to identify a successor is of national interest.

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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PF confident about Lungu's eligibility because ConCourt succumbed to their threats

Of course, the Patriotic Front doesn't like to hear such suggestions of an alternative candidate, especially from its members. To them, this is a closed issue and there are no further debates allowed. They want Lungu wamuyaya!

We find this behaviour to be very strange, but we understand why. No sane person can go out into the bush to hunt a lion with bare hands, unless that individual is very familiar with that particular lion and even knows that it is toothless and without claws at all. This is correct for a zookeeper. A person who manages zoo animals has nothing to fear. The animals are usually harmless as they are kept in captivity for conservation or for public display. It is, therefore, expected for

a zookeeper to prepare an escape route or survival plans when engaging the animals. In the same vain, zoo animals are usually not vicious to humans who are familiar to them. Those animals know not to harm their caretaker, not only because they know each other, but because they depend on their keeper for survival. They are no longer in the wilderness where they have to hunt and fend for themselves.

We are not calling anyone a zookeeper or a zoo animal. What we have illustrated above is just an analogy of what we are seeing in the courage that the Patriotic Front has exhibited on President's Lungu's eligibility and their reluctance to identify a backup plan for the 2021 presidential candidate. When State

Counsel John Sangwa says: "I already have a draft petition to challenge Lungu the day he files his nomination papers", those in the Patriotic Front are telling him that "you are wasting your time". This is how confident they are about this candidate.

To us, this demonstrates that the Executive is relying on a particular invisible assurance that seems so guaranteed to them. The only way a political party can be so confident to bank on a candidate who has a contested eligibility status is when it has control of the Judiciary. The Patriotic Front seems to be suggesting that the Judiciary is under their control and nothing can stop President Lungu from appearing on the ballot in 2021. That is why

they have threatened those who seek to democratically challenge Lungu's candidature.

This is not a new phenomenon, it happened in the case of Danny Pule and others who were seeking the interpretation of the Constitutional Court on the presidential term limit. President Lungu threatened the judges that there would be war in Zambia if they delivered an interpretation of the law that outrightly disqualified him. And for sure, what we saw was a Constitutional Court ruling that left the country more confused than it was before they rendered their judgement. Since then, the PF has gone far and wide to preach that the Constitutional Court declared Mr Lungu eligible to stand

in 2021. Legal experts are telling us that Mr Lungu's eligibility was not decided upon because the man was neither the petitioner nor the respondent in the matter, but they don't care about that.

We would like to advise the Patriotic Front not to be too confident on this issue for two reasons. First, 12 months is a long time and the political dynamics are such that anything can happen between now and August, 2021. If they don't secure a backup plan, as Mutale from Kaumbwe is advising them, they will be taking their luck too far. Secondly, even zoo animals bite when they are pushed too far. It will be folly for the Patriotic Front to think threats on the judges will work all the time. If President Lungu ignores the advice from some voiceless grassroots party members like Mutale, he risks being the last President from the PF to rule this country.

Mutale has picked up some critical leadership wisdom from his association with the Easterners in the Province, and if he maintains his reasoning at this level, Kaumbwe constituency may have a good alternative parliamentarian in this Bemba man. Unfortunately, the man from the East, whom Mutale is advising, seems to have picked some bad manners through his association with the Northerners and advisors from Luapula.

Crossword puzzle No 652

1		2		3		4		5
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“Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.”
- Roy T. Bennett

Across

1. Crimson or ruby
4. What we breathe
6. Later on
7. Group of seals
9. Dad's partner
11. Australian bird
13. Monster like Shrek
14. Tall ship feature
15. Tell a mistruth
17. Pen filler
19. Plead
21. All possible
22. Settle a debt
23. Easter find

Down

1. Tear
2. Father
3. Molecule component
4. Fingers to shoulder
5. Brink
8. Heart or brain, e.g.
10. Grayish green
11. Long fish
12. Utilise
16. Type of tea
17. Mischievous one
18. Piano part
19. TTYL
20. Practical joke

Crossword puzzle No 651

1	F	A	C	E	T		4	P	U	B
	A		H		W			A		R
6	D	Y	E		7	I	G	L	O	O
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	E		U		O			E		A
16	R	A	T		17	R	A	R	E	R

Readers' Feedback

Rwandese linked to Lungu member of IDC procurement committee

Dear editor,

"So it's that easy for Foreigners to be members of Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) at the expense of Zambians? Ok, we are listening and following". - Richard Mweetwa

"How did a foreign national find himself on the IDC Procurement committee? News Diggers, send multiple queries to ZPPA, IDC, both Ministries of Home & Foreign Affairs, and finally State House. This one they owe us a reasonable explanation". - Mike Phiri

"Utunesu all the way from Rwanda and China trampling on our heads and got employed in Zambia awe it's not fair when more qualified and deserving Zambians are languishing in poverty it does not make sense to grow and being educated in Zambia. Because foreigners are now more Zambians than we actual owners of the country by virtue of birth". - Elias J Namukamba

"Edgar Lungu has never earned his trust among Zambians. There's a lot of terrorist-like activities that have taken place under Edgar Lungu without government giving a reasonable explanation". - Clara Clara



Lungu's request for debt cancellation from Xi Jinping

Editor,

"How does this man run his personal affairs? So mwa kongola without thinking on how you will pay back? Oh wait his plan was will ask China for debt cancellation so that the cycle begins all over again". - Maimbolwa Kamanga

"They should not grant it to him why was he contracting debt umungulu against the constitutional requirement of parliament approving first, he needs to learn it the hard way, infact his time is up let him just pack and go!!!" - Kenny Chewe

"What has happened to the bragging by the great leader, humble, God fearing, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

Dr of Law and Good Governance (UNZA), HE President Edgar Lungu that we will not stop borrowing from anywhere, albeit reckless borrowing? Has he and his government been humbled by the now chocking national debt unknown figure and no plan to repay? Shame Mr President Edgar Lungu on your stiff necked ness and your unyielding on divergent national views. In sum the tale of the Naked Emperor has come true in you. Again shame for killing the future Zambia with a yoke of heavy debt". - Emanuel Mwaba

"How can debt be canceled when the borrowing hand is still wide open?" - Chishimba Kabwe

"Did he agree or he is looking into the matter?" - Chris Chisola

"For what in return exactly? China man can't cancel debt for free, Nowonder we living like slaves in our own country". - Shanzi Andreck

"He that feeds you controls you" Thomas Sankara

"Just pay. We told you. Do you remember what you said to IMF?" - Nah Sindila

Mabumba on there being suspected COVID-19 cases in schools

Editor,

"You are risking the lives of both our children and the teachers. This new Normal is now becoming a serious danger to the health of our nation. Why don't you just close down schools and go the e- learning way. If you Parliamentarians are closing its because you want to protect yourselves and your families. What about our pupils and teachers? Don't you think you are risking them too? We have lost enough people already and can't afford to lose more!" - Humphrey Lungu

"Give us our school fees back so that we can start our businesses, instead of waiting for covid 19. I am not happy as a student from what is happening in our country, as a youth I want to start building my future by engaging myself in business" - Brian Mwabulima

"Just the other day PS was saying our children are safe in schools. Please stop politicking with our children's lives". - Jack Kalubila

"Close the schools. Life is much more important than school. We all went to school but up to now we are jobless. Stop risking pupils and teachers!" - Macjordan Moono

"They make the citizen so afraid that it is the citizen that demands the solution which is actually the problem. Yesterday schools are safe, today they're not. Make up your minds". - Mercy Mwanza

Katuka on Lungu being hypocritical in asking Church to pray for peace

Editor,

"I think the idea of giving audience to a politician by some churches is just shallow and stupid altogether.... Imagine the lies, brutality and stealing yet you allow the same person to mislead the congregants!" - Ian Malekhanie

"Ukushumfwa! "Don't play Holy in your white gouns in cathedrals. If you want politics, just do

that and meet us on the political podium". they were arrogantly told. On the other hand, he was busy dividing the same church where we have 'christians for Lungu'. Nomba fyakosa". - Martin Nyanjagha

"The same president Lungu was from telling the church that it's nonsense for the church to suggest

that him and Hichilema be brought together". - Honourable Paundi Kasempa MP

"Just last week Lungu called the Church nonsensical for trying to reconcile him with HH". - Noritah Mwanza

"Very hypocritical indeed". - Jim Teli Muzyamba

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.
Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Auditor General’s report on the accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other statutory institutions for the financial year ended 31st December 2018 has revealed that Independent Broadcasting Authority IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma and IBA director of standards and licensing Eustace Nkandu purchased company cars at residual values.

According to the employment contracts of the Director General and Director of Standards and Licensing, they were eligible to purchase vehicles at the end of contracts at 25 percent of their original value.

The Report revealed that the vehicles were purchased at K355,000 and 285 000 in 2014 and were expected to be sold at K88,750 and 71,250 but were sold at a residual value of 17,750 and 14,250 which resulted in a loss of K128,000.

“A scrutiny of the contracts of employment for the Director General and Director Standards and Licensing revealed that the employees were eligible to purchase the vehicles at the end of the contracts at 25% of the original purchase prices. The vehicles were bought on 2nd April 2014 and had been used for four (4) years as at 22nd October 2018 when they were disposed of,” the

AG reveals how IBA boss bought company vehicle worth K88,750 at K17,250

report read.

“However, a review of Board Minutes, personal files and receipt books revealed that during the period under review, the Authority sold two (2) motor vehicles to the Director General and the Director Standards and Licensing at residual values instead of 25% of the original purchase prices as provided in their contracts resulting in a loss of K128,000.”

The Report also stated that IBA failed to remit K1,698,231 to the Zambia Revenue Authority in terms of PAYE.

According to the report, the Authority also failed to produce the annual report for the year 2018.

“Section 42 (1) of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act states that as soon as is practicable, but not later than three (3) months after the financial year, the Authority shall submit to the Minister a report concerning its activities during that financial year. Contrary to the Act, as at 31st December 2019, the Authority had not produced

the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2018. Therefore, the performance of the Authority could not be assessed,” the report read.

“Non-remittance of Tax Contrary to the Income Tax Act Chapter 323 of the Laws of Zambia, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) in amounts totalling K1,698,231 deducted from employees emoluments during the period under review were not remitted to the Zambia Revenue Authority as at 31st December 2018. On 30th November 2018, the Manager – Licensing and Compliance resigned from IBA. At the time of his resignation, he owed the IBA amounts totalling K81,000 in unrecovered loans and advances. However, as at 31st December 2019, management had not taken action to recover the funds. In this regard, IBA may not recover the outstanding amounts.”

The Report further stated that IBA did not have a mechanism in place for verifying the correctness of the TV levies remitted by the licensees.

“The Independent

Broadcasting Authority (Television Levy) Regulations, 2018 gives power to the IBA to collect Television Levy from licensees at the rate of K5 per subscription. A scrutiny of accounting records revealed that IBA collected a total amount of K33,604,270 from seven licensees from 1st May 2018 to 31st December 2018. However, it was observed that IBA did not have a mechanism in place for verifying the correctness of the TV Levies remitted by the licensees. In this regard, it was not possible to verify the correctness of the K33,604,270 collected from the seven licensees,” the Report read.

“Section 22 (4) of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act No 26 of 2010 states that a broadcasting

licensee shall pay such annual fees for the broadcasting license as may be determined by the Board. A review of the records in respect of radio and television fees billed in 2018 revealed that six broadcasting stations had not paid license fees in amounts totalling K63,500. The amounts had been outstanding for 19 months as at 31st December 2019.”

The Report further stated that the Authority failed to adopt to Information and Communication Technology standards and frameworks.

“Internationally and generally used in the implementation, operation and auditing of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) environments. However, despite the availability of various frameworks which the Authority could have utilized or adopted,

the Authority did not adopt any ICT Standards and frameworks for managing its ICT operations during the period under review. As a result, the Authority did not have a documented basis or systematic means for benchmarking or measuring the performance of its ICT activities or processes. Consequently, it was not possible to establish how the Authority identified, improved and modified any weaknesses in the various ICT control areas,” read the report.

” States that an ICT Steering Committee (or equivalent) composed of executive, business and ICT management should be established in an organisation. Contrary to the standard, the Authority implemented ICT systems such as the Client Information System, Payroll and Pastel systems valued at K47,625 without constituting an ICT Steering Committee or its equivalent to oversee and monitor the Authority’s ICT projects and activities.”

BoZ launches K2.67bn COVID-19 bond

By Diggers Reporter

THE Bank of Zambia (BoZ) is inviting applications for the issue of a COVID-19 bond worth K2.67 billion, whose proceeds are earmarked to be utilized in mitigating the negative impact of the pandemic on economic activities.

In a notice issued by the central bank, Tuesday, the general public are invited to submit applications for the issue of the COVID-19 bond being issued under a five, seven, 10 and 15-year maturity tenure.

According to the notice, the minimum value of each offer will be K500,000 at cost for both domestic and foreign investors, and that the pricing of the bonds will be market-based and will be benchmarked against the bond auction dated, June 26, 2020, among other terms and conditions.

“The bonds will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis

from the time of publication of this notice until Friday, July 31, 2020, or upon realisation of the amount on offer. The offers will settle on Delivery Versus Payment (DvP) basis at T+2 in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) system. All offers must be in multiples of K50,000. The Bonds will be traded like any other bond in the market and will be subject to general bond issuance conditions,” read part of the notice.

The amount of bonds available on offer is a total of K2,671,000,000.00.

This latest COVID-19 bond represents the third major initiative the central bank is implementing after launching an unprecedented K10 billion Medium-Term Refinancing Facility, while assisting government raise funds amounting to an K8 billion COVID-19 bond designed to inject much-needed liquidity into the local economy, which is currently

stressed from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

A bond is short-term debt instrument governments, among other entities, use to raise funds to pay for a specific function.

In most cases, a bond is redeemable at face value on a particular date, and has a fixed rate of interest that is paid at regular intervals through to maturity.



Fountain of Hope orphan celebrate the life of the organisation’s founder Rodgers Mwewa during his Requiem Church service at Praise Christian Centre in Lusaka on Tuesday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Funerals, weddings must be moderated – Chitalu

By Mirriam Chabala

ZAMBIA has recorded 197 COVID-19 cases out of 844 tests conducted in the last 24 hours, bringing the cumulative total to 3,583.

Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya said this when he officiated at the inauguration ceremony for the new National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council board at Lusaka’s Radisson Blu Hotel, Wednesday.

At the same event, Dr Chilufya unveiled Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) director Professor Victor Mukonka as new board chairperson for the National Aids Council.

Updating the nation on the latest COVID-19 cases, Dr Chilufya said the country had continued to detect new cases with increased severity and associated deaths.

“Today, for avoidance of doubt, we have recorded 197 tests, representing a positivity of 23 per cent. The new cases were detected out of 844 tests conducted bringing the cumulative to 3,583. The number of deaths in the last 24 hours remains at zero and we have continued to strengthen surveillance at our points of entry. At KK International Airport, we did record one case and we continue to record cases of truck drivers, we did record one truck driver screened in Lusaka. Itezhi-tezhi has also recorded six cases in the last 24 hours. We’ve also seen the routine screening continue to record new cases. So in total, the number of COVID-19 cases is 3,583 cumulatively. We’ve discharged 49 cases in the last 24 hours and that brings the total number of discharges to 1,677,” Dr Chilufya said.

Dr Chilufya said 19 people were on oxygen

support while three of these were in a critical condition.

“In Chikankata, 40 cases were recorded; Lusaka recorded 37 cases while Livingstone recorded three cases. 78 people identified through healthcare facility screening in Lusaka, 27 were contacts to known positive cases in: Lusaka 20, Itezhi-tezhi six and one in Choma, eight people identified following community alerts in Lusaka and Livingstone. Then two healthcare workers screened in Lusaka, one was an incoming traveller screened at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and another was a truck driver screened in Lusaka. Today we have 49 discharges bring the total recovered to 1,677, we have 19 patients on oxygen support with three in critical condition. The rest of the patients are in stable condition. Our case management experts are in place to help preserve the lives of all the patients. Fortunately, we have not recorded any deaths in the last 48 hours and so the total death toll remains at 128. The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases stands at 3,583 including 128 deaths, and 1,628 recoveries,” he said

Dr Chilufya encouraged citizens to continue observing the health guidelines to protect

and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Ladies and gentlemen, let us continue to discourage transit in adherence to public health measures. The corporate world participate through various donations, they participate through supporting the communities in their jurisdictions with masking up. Operation mask up calls upon the corporate world to manufacture masks and distribute in the communities to workers in their jurisdiction. Let us mask up, let us ensure social distancing, let us avoid public places and funerals in particular must be moderated, limited number of people, physical distancing, limited period, parties, weddings and so on must be moderated and must be approved by the public health institute,” said Dr Chilufya.

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya unveiled Professor Mukonka as new NAC board chairperson along with his board members who include Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama among other permanent Secretaries.

Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia chairperson Hellen Mwale has also been appointed to serve as a member of the NAC board.

Jiangxi sells shares in FQM

By Diggers Reporter

JIANGXI Copper has sold 1.2 million of its shares in First Quantum Minerals Limited (FQML), less than one year after buying them, because of a reportedly acrimonious relationship with the Canadian miner.

According to Mining.com, Jiangxi Copper sold off 1.2 million shares in FQM last week, just eight months after the Chinese company bought its equity stake in the miner in December, 2019.

“Jiangxi Copper sold 1.2 million shares in First Quantum Minerals last week according to SEDI filings, BMO reports. The Chinese company bought its equity stake in the miner in December, 2019,” Mining.com reports.

It cited BMO analyst Jackie Przybylowski, who said that the move did not come as a surprise.

“We have seen the relationship between First Quantum and Jiangxi strained since late last year,” the analyst said in a research note to clients.

The mining analyst also noted that FQM’s partnership with Jiangxi “was initially intended to fund an expansion at Solwezi-based Kansanshi Mining Plc, while continuing to allocate operating cash flows towards debt repayment. However, the actual necessity of a smelter expansion and the timing of when this would be required is unclear.”

Przybylowski said one consequence of Jiangxi’s move is a “lower probability that First Quantum is taken out” and “with Jiangxi no longer involved, the ‘takeout premium’ that can sometimes boost the First Quantum share price should be lowered.”

In a worst-case scenario in which FQM is unable to finance an expansion of its smelter, she said, production growth from Cobre Panama “would serve to offset the declines in Zambia.”

FQM owns Kansanshi, Africa’s largest copper producing mine, together with Kalumbila-based Sentinel Copper Mine.

Mbappe to stay at PSG next season ‘no matter what’ despite Liverpool links

KYLIAN Mbappe says he will be a Paris Saint-Germain player next season “no matter what”.

The World Cup winner continues to be linked with moves away from PSG, the club he joined from Monaco in 2017 on an initial loan that was followed by a €180million transfer.

Mbappe scored 30 goals in all competitions before the Ligue 1 giants saw their season suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The France forward will get the opportunity to add to that tally as the Coupe de France, Coupe de la Ligue and Champions League continue in the coming weeks.

And while certain reports have linked Mbappe with a potential move to Liverpool or Real Madrid once the current season comes to a close, he has confirmed that he will also remain at the Parc des Princes in 2020-21.

“I’m here. I am in the project for a fourth year,” Mbappe told beIN SPORTS on Tuesday.

“The 50th year of the club is an important year for the club, the supporters, everyone, so I will be there no matter what.

“I will try to bring back trophies with the team and give the best of myself”

Mbappe could yet be joined in staying in Paris by another key figure, as Thomas Tuchel acknowledged Thiago Silva’s future has not been settled.

PSG announced their captain would depart at the end of the campaign but later confirmed an extension to take in the remaining three competitions, while the likes of Edinson Cavani and Thomas Meunier opted to leave Parc des Princes immediately.

The Brail defender has represented PSG since 2012, racking up more than 300 appearances for the club since joining from Milan and lifting 21 pieces of silverware, including seven Ligue 1 titles.

Speaking of Silva after Tuesday’s 4-0 friendly win over Celtic, Tuchel said: “He’s our player, he’s our captain, and we need to talk about this after the Champions League.

“Today is the time to be focused. It looks like he’s going to leave, but in football, you never know.”

GOAL



Gerrard: Suarez had no respect for anyone in Liverpool training

STEVEN Gerrard says Luis Suarez had “no respect for anyone” during training sessions at Liverpool, and that he knew “straight away” he would be a “top player” for the club.

Suarez completed a £23 million (\$29m) move to Anfield from Ajax in January 2011, and went on to score 82 goals in 133 appearances in the famous red shirt.

The Uruguayan quickly became a cult hero among Liverpool supporters for his fierce determination and penchant for magical moments in the final third, and he inspired a Premier League title bid in his final season on Merseyside.

Suarez made his way to Barcelona after the Reds were narrowly beaten to the top-flight crown by Manchester City, but he is still fondly remembered by fans and former Anfield team-mates to this day.

Gerrard recalls being blown away by the 33-year-old’s fearless attitude in training upon his arrival in England, and says it was clear to see that he was capable of making a big impact in the Premier League.

When asked to name the best player he played with, the Liverpool legend told the BBC’s Match of the Day Top 10 podcast: “A lot of strikers that we used to sign did have respect for the likes of Jamie Carragher and other names around the squad but he (Luis Suarez) had no respect for anyone in training, in a good way.

“He’d be backing into them, he’d be leaving a bit in on them, he’d have elbows up and I’d be thinking that’s not normally what you’d see in training, you’d normally see a lot of respect but Luis would run through anyone and have a defender up the wall at any given moment.

“You knew straight away in days rather than weeks that he was going to be a top player for Liverpool.”

Liverpool’s 30-year wait for domestic glory came to an end on June 25, and they will receive an elusive piece of silverware following their final home game of the season against Chelsea on Wednesday .

Gerrard, who was a runner-up with the Reds in the Premier League on three occasions, has been delighted to see Jurgen Klopp deliver a long-awaited trophy in 2019-20 while watching on as a “fan” during his second year in charge at Rangers.

He added: “First and foremost, for me, it was fantastic to bury a few demons, from 2014 it was certainly a big relief. Being a Liverpool fan and ex-player, I’ve known the big, long wait and I’m still in touch with a lot of the players that are in that dressing room so a lot of them shared that pain with me.

“It was fantastic for everyone connected to the club but it was mixed emotions in many ways because of my own experiences, being a fan and ex-player and a lot of my family are Liverpool fans as well.

“To be honest with you, I’m still on a really big high watching all of the TV coverage and seeing all of the emotions flying about.”

GOAL

CL will help Chelsea attract the world’s best players - Lampard

FRANK Lampard does not believe qualification for the Champions League is critical to Chelsea’s mission to close the gap on their Wednesday night opponents Liverpool, but he admits the competition’s “prestige” would help that process.

Chelsea are conducting one of their most ambitious rebuilding jobs since Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003. They have already signed Timo Werner from RB Leipzig and Hakim Ziyech from Ajax for a combined fee of £84m (\$105m).

The Blues remained locked in talks with Bayer Leverkusen’s Kai Havertz and have been targeting Leicester City’s Ben Chilwell and West Ham’s Declan Rice, although those deals looking increasingly unlikely.

Yet, the current work behind the scenes underlines the club’s ambition ahead of the trip to Anfield to come, before they welcome Wolves to Stamford Bridge on the final day of the season.

Lampard, as one would expect, wants Champions League football to accompany that work off the field.

“It’s massively important for the club,” Lampard told reporters on a Zoom video conference call. “Not just for the prestige. But if you are a club on the world stage like Chelsea have been you want to compete at the highest level and attract players of the highest level.

“It obviously generates money for the club, let’s make no bones about it. So you understand why there is such intense scrutiny on who finishes in the top four. It would have been unheard of a good few years ago. Now it becomes not a trophy but an accomplishment in itself.

“We want to move further than that so we look on upwards in the Premier League but getting into the Champions League has to be, even with the way this year the season has gone, it has to be an aim for us.”

Chelsea are currently in third, one point ahead of both Manchester United and Leicester in a three-way battle for two spots in next season’s Champions League.

The fifth-placed team will play in the Europa League next season but Lampard was keen to further explain that it wouldn’t be a catastrophe should the Blues fall short with two difficult fixtures to end their season.

GOAL

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STERLING PASSES RONALDO'S PL MARK



RAHEEM Sterling netted his 85th Premier League goal on Tuesday, a tally that puts the Manchester City winger ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo in the division's all-time goalscorer standings.

Sterling opened the scoring for his club after 31 minutes against Watford, and struck again before half-time to send Pep Guardiola's charges into the break 2-0 up at the Vicarage Stadium.

The 25-year-old now has 19 for the 2019-20 Premier League season, putting him level with Liverpool marksman Mohamed Salah and a single goal behind Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who in turn trails current league top scorer Jamie Vardy, who boasts 23 strikes to date.

Unlike his challengers for the scoring crown, Sterling is not an orthodox centre-forward, playing primarily in a wide position for City since moving from Liverpool in 2015.

And when it comes to hitting the net, the England international belongs to a select club of stars who have posed a regular goal-scoring threat from outside the

forward line.

Tuesday's double marked his 84th and 85th league goals, which means he has now surpassed Ronaldo's United mark – scored, like Sterling, mostly as a winger.

In the history of the Premier League only five non-strikers have managed to score more than the City star.

Sterling now shares sixth place on that list with Eden Hazard, who also netted 85 times during his time at Chelsea.

Ahead of that pair sit Southampton legend Matt Le Tissier, who scored 100 Premier League goals with the Saints – a number that ascends to 160 when taking into account his strikes in the First Division prior to 1992-93.

Next is Paul Scholes, the author of 107 goals while at Manchester United, with long-time Reds team-mate Ryan Giggs a nose in front with 109.

And, unsurprisingly, the list is topped by a formidable pair: current Chelsea boss Frank Lampard, who notched an incredible 177 strikes with the Blues; and Steven Gerrard, with 120 for Liverpool.

Sterling's haul of 19 for 2019-20 also sees him beat his own personal best for a single season, set in 2017-18 as City won the English crown.

After initially struggling in front of goal as a youngster he has now recorded 17 goals or more in the last four campaigns, and if he can keep up that pace the star has plenty of time to challenge Lampard and Gerrard as the Premier League's most prolific non-striker in history. **GOAL**

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