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TOXIC DRUGS

HoneyBee:
“We’re also concerned, maybe the drugs were exposed to some water”

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We’ve put detractors to shame - Lungu

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube and Julia Malunga

It's unfair for farmers to sell crop to buyers who didn't finance their inputs - Lusambo

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says it is unfair for the farmers to continue selling their farm produce to briefcase businessmen when it is the government that provides them with fertilizers.

And Lusambo has told Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) chief executive officer William Mwale to create jobs for the youths of Kafue.

Meanwhile, Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) chief executive officer William Mwale says his company has finished producing and delivering the 20, 000 metric tonnes of D-Compound fertilizer for the 2020/2021 farming season

Speaking when he toured NCZ Kafue plant, Tuesday, Lusambo learnt that the district administration, through the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) had only managed to purchase 3, 300 metric tonnes of maize out of the targeted over 12, 000 tonnes.

"We are ready to engage and give our small scale farmers the farming inputs. This is not fair on the side of our small scale farmers. If they want, they can sell maybe two or three bags to us and by doing so, we can manage the 12, 000 metric tons that we are looking for. And the money is there, I don't know why. And these are subsidised things. The people of Zambia have paid heavily for us to have all these things. But you get and you decide to go and sell your farm produce to other people. It is very unfair. You sell to people who are not helping you to produce. It's very unfair. So, we hope and trust that we will see a change in the next two weeks. So, DC, I will come back and when I come, take me to the farmers. I want to go and engage them," Lusambo said.

He also urged small scale farmers to avoid selling their maize to briefcase farmers.

"As government of His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, we have given the opportunity to the farmers to sell their maize to us as government. And we have money. The money has already been released. We have almost K1 billion which has been released. And for those small scale farmers who would want to sell their maize outside the country or to briefcase businessmen and women, we want to urge them that let them sell this maize to us as government because selling your maize to government, you are helping your mother in Chingola, and helping your mother in Mansa because for us, it's a reserve. We want to keep this maize so that we start offloading to the people of Zambia so that they can have mealie-meal in their respective provinces," Lusambo said.

And Lusambo told Mwale that his task as CEO of NCZ was to create jobs for the youths.

"The Kafue residents will be knocking at your office looking for jobs. Your task number one is to create jobs for the people of Kafue. How? I don't know, that is your job as CEO. The government of his Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, our aim is to diversify the economy from copper dependency to agriculture. And in our quest to diversify, we need partners like Kafue NCZ. We want to make sure that agriculture is one of the sectors which will create jobs for our people and also add to our national Treasury. We want to see many citizens of our country, especially the young men and women who are coming from the university, joining this agriculture

sector. If we enhance Kafue, it is a district that can feed many people in Lusaka Province," Lusambo said.

And speaking earlier when he paid a courtesy call on Kafue District Commissioner Gibson Sinkala, he said it was the government's desire to ensure that farmers in the province were supplied with inputs before the onset of the rains.

"As Government of His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, we want to make sure that we prepare our farmers way back before the onset of the rainy season. Our aim for 2020/2021 farming season [is that] we want a bumper harvest in 2021. We want to congratulate our farmers and we encourage them to work extra hard. And for me, Kafue and Chongwe are the most critical areas. I have more than 18, 000 small scale farmers in Chongwe. And I want to make sure that as Kafue and Chongwe are competing, they should have the farming inputs already available. So, I want to know how many suppliers are here and where are we in terms of percentage? I know that NCZ have finished their consignment for Chongwe," Lusambo said.

After learning from Mwale that NCZ had already started producing and distributing farming inputs for the 2020/2021 season, the Kabushi PF member of parliament said: "Efitontenkanya ba Chagwa (that how the President thinks). He thinks ahead to make everyone happy. Olyo pa opposition balepwalala, nemfula yalalala (whilst the opposition is still dosing, the rainy season will start."

Mwale said NCZ had finished producing and delivering the 20, 000 metric tonnes of D-Compound fertilizer it was contracted to supply for the 2020/2021 farming season.

"There is a lot of space. We are going to continue producing. As you know, the season is just starting. The beauty this year is that the government started this program very early. One of the goals of the Seventh National Development Plan, basically, says that we need to create a diversified economy and to diversify the economy, we need to start depending on agriculture. NCZ plays two roles, first of all, the diversification of the economy in terms of making sure that we support agriculture. On the other hand, NCZ is involved in industrialisation. So, sir, we are basically strategic partners in terms of agricultural development in Zambia. And one of the things that NCZ participates in is to make sure that we increase agricultural productivity. And we do that by manufacturing and producing D-Compound fertilizer," said Mwale.

"We would like to indicate to you sir that NCZ for the farming season 2020/2021 has finished doing both things - producing in terms of industrialization and delivering to the farmers, the 20, 000 metric tonnes that the government gave us. We have delivered to Chongwe, Lusaka, and Chilanga. So, as we go around the facility, you will see that 20, 000 metric tonnes has not been a very big task to us."

Zambians can't re-elect PF in 2021 – Kalaba

By Julia Malunga

DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba says the ruling Patriotic Front is wasting the country's time by campaigning because Zambians will not re-elect them at next year's general election.

On Sunday, Justice Minister Given Lubinda said 2021 was not a time for experiments, asking Zambians to ensure that President Edgar Lungu won next year's polls by 80 per cent.

But Kalaba, the former foreign affairs minister and PF Bahati member of parliament, said the ruling party was wasting people's time because voters were not going to re-elect them next year given the deteriorating standards of living Zambians had been subjected to during their reign.

"PF is not going anywhere! It is wasting our time. Lubinda can say what he wants to say because he is eating from PF, but the majority of Zambians are suffering. In Lukashya where he is talking about voting for President Lungu, ask him: how many teachers are in those schools? How many youths are unemployed as a result of failed policies of the PF government? How many women are dying in child birth as a result of not having qualified people to attend to them? Ask him: how many police officers were recruited from Lukashya? They are wasting our time!" exclaimed Kalaba.

Speaking when he featured on Kasama radio, Sunday evening, Lubinda pleaded with Zambians to ensure that President Lungu won by 80 per cent of the vote next August.

"Mu 2021, ama Zambians bekapanga mistake ifyaku panga ama experiments tafi kwete inchito. Natukwata kateka Edgar Chagwa Lungu ulefwaya ukutungulula ichalo, ukutwala ubuyantanshi elyo ule tita ati abena Zambia bonse babombele chapamo. Tiyeni tichite campaign ukutula ati mu 2021 Edgar Chagwa Lungu akapite nakabili. Elyo mu 2021, tatulefwaya Edgar Chagwa Lungu akapite na one per cent, aliwinine na 51 per cent, uno mwaka tulefwaya ati Edgar Chagwa Lungu akawine na 70 per cent nangula 80 per cent (In 2021, Zambians should not make a mistake of experimenting when choosing a leader. We have President Lungu who wants to lead and will bring more development and ensure that Zambians work together. Let us campaign and ensure that we re-elect him. We don't want him to win the election with a margin of one percent, he won with 51 per cent in the last elections but let us ensure that he wins by 70 or 80 per cent of votes)," said Lubinda, who is in the constituency ahead of the Lukashya by-election to drum up support for PF candidate George Chisanga.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Lusaka Province PF secretary Kennedy Kamba says Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor-designate Christopher Mvunga should clean up all forms of mismanagement and “traits of economic sabotage” at the central bank.

And Kamba has predicted that Mvunga will help stabilise the kwacha, which had rapidly depreciated to nearly K20 per dollar.

In an interview, Kamba claimed that there had been too much politicking going on at the central bank under the administration of immediate past governor Dr Denny Kalyalya, which needed to be stamped out with Mvunga’s appointment.

He also appealed to the BoZ and the Ministry of Finance to work together and create stability for the kwacha by allowing commercial banks to buy the dollar at a cheaper rate from the mines.

“From the onset, let me state that we are deeply concerned and also dismayed by the manner our local currency, the kwacha, is falling in terms of the exchange rate against international convertible currencies, especially the dollar. We cannot, therefore, shy away from highlighting issues that we know very well have contributed drastically to the falling of the kwacha. We know the kind of politics being played within and outside the system to destabilise the economy so that it may look like President Lungu and the PF have failed when in fact not. We all know that the COVID-19 effects have hit hard our economy just like any other economy in the world and that’s why we expect stakeholders to support the government’s stimulus package and interventions to stabilise it,” Kamba said.

“The first thing we want to see, as an urgent intervention measure, is a shift in policy to allow the transnational mining companies to sell their dollars to the banks so that they can access the kwacha easily from commercial banks and not solely from the Bank of Zambia. We expect the Bank of Zambia and the Ministry of Finance to work hand-in-hand to create stability in the circulation of the dollar by allowing commercial banks to buy at a cheaper rate from the

mines at the point of remitting the statutory obligations, such as taxes.”

He charged that some BoZ directors and senior managers had been playing politics with a view to destabilise the economy.

“The other major issue is the political games being played by some directors at the Bank of Zambia. We are aware that some directors and senior managers at the Bank of Zambia have resorted to playing politics at the institution instead of serving the country faithfully by stabilising the economy. This is the more reason why we supported the firing of the former governor Dr Denny Kalyalya because the central bank has been mismanaged for a long time and now we are seeing the same traits

Mvunga must clean up traits of economic sabotage at BoZ – Kamba

in some senior directors who seem to be mismanaging the affairs of the central bank. There is too much politicking going on at BoZ and we can only ask the newly-appointed governor, Honourable Christopher Mvunga, to decisively deal with management issues as soon as possible,” Kamba charged.

He also claimed that the delay in making crucial monetary policy decisions at the central bank had frustrated some employees.

“We know that morale is

down at the central bank as many employees are frustrated! The technocrats at the central bank are very frustrated due to the delay in confirming members of staff to various positions. Those that need to be moved to fixed-term or permanent conditions of service, let them be moved. Directors and deputy directors at the Bank of Zambia are on permanent conditions of service, while junior officers are on contract. Most of the junior officers have worked at the Bank of Zambia for over five

years, but without any reviews of conditions and they don’t even get housing allowances. All these things have the potential to affect the operations of the Bank of Zambia, overall. There is also too much delay in decision-making. Misplaced priorities are the order of the day. Instead of concentrating on the feasible interventions of stabilising the local currency, the technocrats are busy doing research programmes that are parallel to the issues at hand,” Kamba argued.

And he predicted that Mvunga would help stabilise the kwacha’s performance against major currency convertibles.

“We want the new governor to fix things, to review how business is done at the bank because, in our view, these are traits of economic sabotage. Such kind of gross economic mismanagement that started in the era of Dr Kalyalya must be dealt with urgently. We cannot tolerate mismanagement of the economy by the central bank at such critical times. We, however, believe that Honourable Mvunga, working together with President Lungu’s economic team and all technocrats, will stabilise the kwacha and the economy without any doubt,” said Kamba.

We don’t want jokes, explain how you’ll fix economy, Kambwili tells Lungu

By Ulande Nkomesha
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu should clearly explain how he plans to resuscitate Zambia’s ailing economy as he opens Parliament this Friday because citizens no longer have time for his jokes, says National Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili.

And Kambwili says Zambia’s stressed economy cannot be saved when Ministers continue to dish out large sums of cash without identifying their source of income.

In an interview, Kambwili said Zambians were tired of jokes and expected a proper explanation to how the PF government would revive the economy from President Lungu as he opened the final session of Parliament, Friday.

“What we expect from the President is to give us direction on how this government is going to resolve the issue of the economy, the issue of the runaway kwacha, how this government is going to resolve all those, who have been badly-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, owners of bars. How are the schools going to run under the COVID-19 arrangement? So, we would like to know how the issue of schools will be tackled under this COVID-19 period. So, these are the main

issues that we want to know. How is the economy going to be structured going forward? How are we going to come out from this economic quagmire?” Kambwili asked.

“So, mainly the issue of the economy must be on the President’s address, otherwise, without telling us how the economy will be restructured in order for us to get out of this quagmire where the dollar is at K20, then the President doesn’t even need to go and make a statement in Parliament. We don’t want jokes this time, let

him not go into Parliament and start talking about jokes! The situation where we are in is serious and we want direction of how the economy is going to be. We don’t want rhetoric! He is President, and first and foremost, he should apologise to the people of Zambia for putting us through this economic quagmire. That is my expectation.”

He said President Lungu should explain where he planned to source funds for projects he had promised Zambians during his continued

tours of the country.

“How is he going to do all the projects? Because you see him going round the country and everywhere he goes, he promises to build something. Recently, he was in Lunga where he was saying he is going to build a hospital at each of the islands, where is he going to get the money from? Because talking of building something is one thing, but to mobilise the money under this situation where the Treasury has no money, is another. Is he telling us that they are going to

continue borrowing because the country is broke! But you can see, the President going round all over promising to build new schools, roads, hospitals among others. Let him tell us where he is going to get the money from because we should know,” Kambwili said.

And Kambwili said the economy could not be revived when Ministers continued to dish out huge sums of cash without disclosing their source.

“With the kind of behaviour and acts this current government is showing us, I don’t see any hope. Look, the government has no money; the Treasury has no money; people have no money; Ministers are busy giving out large sums of money. For example, Bowman Lusambo, of all the people, dished out K120,000 in Luanshya, just Luanshya, it is not his constituency: K50,000 at Mpatamatu Market, K70,000 at Roan Market and another in town where he caused commotion because ‘they want to have selfies with me,’ he was giving out money that is why there was commotion. We want to know where these Ministers are getting these huge sums of money when there is no money in the economy,” said Kambwili.

“The President said the economy is almost shutting down, but his Ministers are giving money. Mathew Nkhuwa (Energy Minister) last time gave out K80,000 at the markets, K80,000 to the taxi drivers; some other Ministers gave out K50,000 where are they getting the money when everybody has no money? Even the country itself has no money! Where is the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)? You are busy saying, ‘HH must account for his wealth,’ why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye and leave a plank in your own eye? Why are they not talking about where Bowman Lusambo has gotten the money because we all know Bowman was with blue overalls, no money at all! He was even asking for K10 for transport! Today, he is giving huge donations beyond his earnings and then you want to ask HH ‘show us where you have gotten the money,’ those are hypocrites!”

Bill 10 will ensure peaceful polls – Chama

By Julia Malunga
DEFENSE Minister Davies Chama says once enacted, Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 will ensure that Zambia’s elections are peaceful.

In an interview, Chama said there was need for less ambiguous laws for the county to have peaceful elections.

“It is like in Zambia, people want to oppose for the sake of opposing, I don’t understand. I

am a positive thinker and I want progress. I think you have heard that the Minister of Justice [Given Lubinda] has indicated that Bill 10 is coming on the table, if our colleagues [in the opposition] have anything that they want say, this can be refined, this can be perfected so that our laws are very responsive to our developmental agenda. We all want our country to be transformed to make sure that it is competitive and democratic. What makes this more sad is that there was a motion that was moved by the opposition themselves to refine the constitution urging the government and the same government they urged to refine the constitution responded and they are now saying ‘no.’ So you start wondering if they are other motives that other people are propagating,” Chama said.

“That is why for us in government, we are sincere and we want to be truthful in whatever we do. This bill has undergone a lot of interrogations, consultations, and meetings have been held with a lot of stakeholders, I don’t know whether we should be an industry of talking as arguments. We want to have laws that are less ambiguous, easy for the court to interpret so that we have peaceful elections because we all want to have a country that is peaceful so that we can build our country. So for me any refinement of any law is welcome so that we make it better, simpler for the court

to interpret so that it reduces issues of frictions or issues of misunderstanding. So anyone who says ‘no leave it as it is so that we can keep on fighting’ then maybe he is not supposed to be a Zambian.”

Chama said any efforts made by the government to refine laws should be welcomed by any well meaning Zambians.

“So any effort by the government to refine our laws should be welcomed by the opposition and any well meaning Zambian for that matter. I don’t know why we should be arguing over straightforward issues like this one. In Zambia we have a tendency of arguing over things that we are not supposed to argue over. I am not a constitutional lawyer but I have read through Bill 10 and for me, the clauses are straightforward. It beats my mind why we are arguing. There is so much politicking in this country. Bill 10 is a progressive bill and it must be supported because certain lacunas will be removed. The same lacunas that people were crying for in 2016 when they lost elections where they did not know whether the 14 days included working days or not and somebody says ‘14 days is not enough to prepare a case,’ you need 30 days or even 90 days can’t you be happy? Can we put to bed this issue, can we debate it and can we pass this law,” said Chama.

Matero PF lifts Chinyanta’s suspension

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) Matero constituency executive chairman Chrispin Kabole says the working relationship between area member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya and councillor Annie Chinyanta has improved, with the latter’s suspension lifted.

In an interview, Kabole said the matter involving Kaziya’s gross misconduct had been referred to the party’s district executive committee for further consideration, but announced that Chinyanta’s suspension had since been lifted.

“The issue of Honourable Kaziya was referred to the district executive. For councillor Chinyanta, we suspended her for 30 days, which elapsed yesterday (Tuesday). So, we resolved to lift her suspension with immediate effect because she has been remorseful. And the relationship between the MP and the councillor has improved, which is good for the party. And we expect them to work together as councillor and MP,” said Kabole.

And PF Lusaka District chairman Forbes Mufwaya said the committee was still waiting for a report from its disciplinary committee

before taking any further action.

“The matter is still under investigation. We are yet to get a report from the disciplinary committee before we take any further step,” said Mufwaya.

In July, Kabole had banned both Kaziya and Chinyanta from engaging the media following their public altercation regarding illegal land allocations in the constituency.

“Over the issues which have transpired in Matero, as a constituency, we took up steps. We wrote to the Honourable MP and the councillor to exculpate themselves against what was going on in the press. And about that, we are waiting for the seven days from which we are going to act. We even advised the MP and the councillor that they are not supposed to speak to the media until this issue is resolved. And that is why, as a judge, because it’s us the constituency that is going to make a decision, we are just waiting for the seven days to elapse, that is when we are going to make a decision. Both the MP and the councillor are not supposed to talk to the media. In fact, we don’t allow people to speak to the media. We have got systems of speaking to the media,” Kabole had explained earlier.

Sleeping in Lusaka

By Samba Yonga

It is a sobering reality to comprehend that the economic value and scarce resource that we seek in Lusaka is actually outside of it.

If you only lived in Lusaka you would think our country has a shortage of prime land – more and more, houses are built close together in this city – an uncomfortable close proximity of window to wall and wall to road. Neighbourhoods mushroom almost as quick as bridges go up in our capital. Everyone is looking for that sliver of Lusaka to build their paradise. Stacked against each other, fighting for square metres of lawn, just to gain a sense of security and placement. We have been driven to a craze of ownership that gives us a sense of belonging and worth.

This is an interesting dynamic, as ownership in Zambian custom has always been about “returning” to the ancestral home where land can stretch generously for miles. Traditional land is also significant because it was about keeping the connection that has - in the recent past - been widened by migration to the cities to find wealth, both before and after the colonial experience. As a result, the ancestral home has become a distant memory that descendants no longer remember or even know where to point on the map.

Trapped in a bubble that only allows us to explore the parts of Zambia packaged for a first time visitor to the country, Lusaka sometimes prevents us from moving away from the oft’ beaten track, with hardly any curiosity of what lies beyond the vision of our mental Lusaka map.

This is where our story starts.

The rural area has been relegated to a place we learn about in vague geography or history lessons in schools and news items during the evening broadcast. Somehow the details of the communities always seem to have the most disparate situations and are in a constant state of need - except of course, during election time.

Sadly, that is the only way we learn about our countryside these days... (unless you are an NGO worker). Quite a bizarre thing to consider, especially since most of us come from a place that is known and traceable and even perhaps accessible these days.

On a recent trip to the countryside, after a ten year hiatus of my own, I discovered that a barren and unproductive landscape is far from the truth of our villages. In fact, it seems everyone else except the owners of the said land seemed to have migrated to the rural areas and set up camp for one entrepreneurial venture or another. Our destination was 1227km from Lusaka, far up in the north west called Chavuma. Most people are familiar with Solwezi and perhaps Mwinilunga because of the mines but our destination was past these towns another 600 KM or so, the traffic was thin and the road newly built. The only indication of activity was the occasional loaded trailer truck that we crossed. We passed through Kasempa, Mufumbwe, stopped in Kabompo for a couple of nights and travelled on to Zambezi and finally got to Chavuma.

The area was remote, far from what my mind remembered, but certainly not desolate. The trucks we saw laden with burdens were in fact loaded with thick rosewood timber logs being harvested deep in the rich Miombo woodland of Kabompo, Zambezi north and Chavuma north. We also passed an enclosed camp with high-end looking trailers in what seemed like the middle of nowhere in between the towns we passed. There was significant evidence of various endeavours in the area but it was not by the locals. The locals knew what was happening and, on some occasions, participated in it but they definitely were not in the driving seat of this activity.

You had to ask the question why.

Kasempa, Kabompo, Zambezi and Chavuma have some of the richest Miombo woodland that yields 80-100 year old Mukwa, Rosewood and Mukula, one the most highly sought out timbers at the moment. Kabompo also has some of the best honey in the world, traders come to buy from the locals for export. It has been reported that Zambia could be Africa’s second largest producer of honey after Ethiopia if

the right investment went into honey production. The region is home to the Zambezi, Kabompo, and many other rivers, water bodies and tributaries that are rich in marine life, that according to the locals, most of the community have not economically exploited because they don’t know how to scale it up. The mining prospects in the region are a given. Livestock, farming and tourism potential are just a few more I could add to the list. The little known West Lunga National Park in Mufumbwe has been neglected but still has immense wildlife and safari offerings. Interestingly enough, in one of the council offices that we visited I read through a decentralisation document published by the government that expounded policies of development, community inclusion, infrastructure development, local manufacturing opportunities, sector development and investment but obviously the reality is entirely different. The rhetoric is strong, the stage dressing is exquisite but somehow, we are missing the show.

The show we enjoyed, nevertheless, was the magnificent landscape that kept on revealing itself in subtle but full force. Proving the point of the unexploited tourism potential in the region. The first discovery was the Mutanda Falls just a few kilometres out of Solwezi, it sits on a small private property but is visited by the locals in the know. The chalets are situated right at the mouth of the cascading waters and the rushing roar soothes you into a lull that only nature can produce. The morning mist envelopes the surroundings, adding to the pristine beauty of the natural feature.

The drive further north is through a canopy of Miombo woodland trees that happened to be shedding leaves and turning colour in full glory of nature’s magic. When we stood on the hill watching the sun rise from the bow bend in the Kabompo river, I envied how lucky the community was to wake up to this sight.

As we drove into Zambezi town we followed the river of the same name as it snaked its way through the plains. A tarred road and modern brick houses lined the streets. We passed a bank, shops and petrol station. We then drove down into the valley to see the wide river called “Yambejhi” by the locals - also where the name of the river is derived - with clear water and white sandy beaches that stretched for miles.

If you continued to follow the river it would take you to Chavuma, our final destination, a town immediately below Angola, with only 11km between the district and the border town of the neighbouring country. The sandy beaches continue for several miles with rocky formations that create a water fall that is at the centre of community dwelling. In the low late afternoon light young boys can be found diving off the rock cliff into the water as the girls soak their fully-clothed bodies in the cool clear water till the sun goes down. The river is the life force of the community and the people exist in harmony with it.

The north west revealed a little piece of paradise. Who wouldn’t want this? River frontage housing, accessible waterbodies, vast skylines to view the rising and setting sun, thick woodland and land that is fertile, waiting for development and hardworking people.

The people that leave Chavuma always come back because the territory provides for them what they need.

In North-Western province,

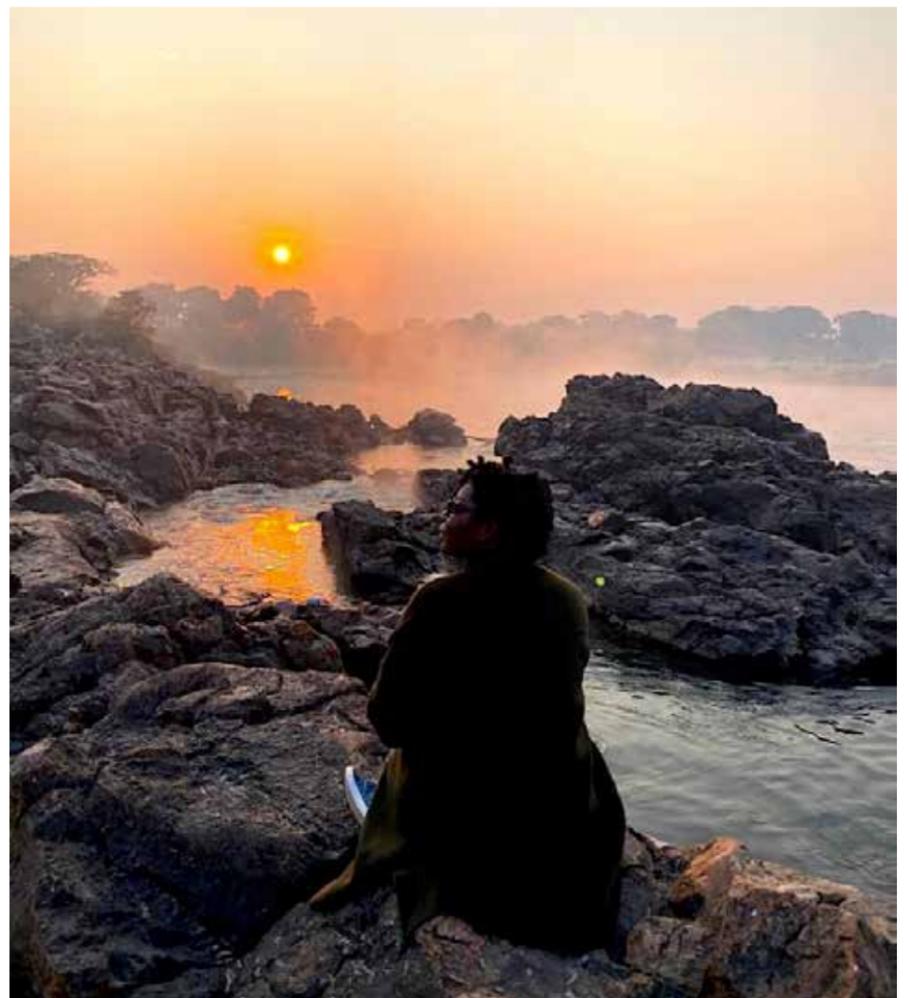
the symbiotic relationship with the land is still very tangible, the people take care of it and it takes care of them. Being so far from Lusaka most of the homesteads can be traced back to generations with not much movement. Land has been passed on from generation to generation and somehow it continues to give them a level of subsistence. It could be so much more.

Beyond the Copperbelt, it is hard to imagine anything farther than Solwezi (the new Copperbelt), you mostly expect to see barren landscape and scattered mud huts, this is far from the truth. Instead, you encounter beautiful sceneries that are probably unknown to most but have generated interest of many who see the value and are coming in droves to claim it. The stone cold fact is Lusaka takes us away from reclaiming significant parts of who we are and what we have to offer as a country. Other people have seen the value and are capitalising on it. It is an exploitation that does not necessarily favour the locals. It is a startling reality to come face to face with. This was our experience.

We have lost the connection to our lands because Lusaka obscures and hides from our heritage and entrepreneurial view, the wealth creation opportunities and lifestyle experience that could far surpass anything we crave for in Lusaka. Our parents and grandparents left the village countryside to seek wealth in the newly liberated capitals, it was necessary for the time. What we need to do is go back and restore the imbalance that has been created from that absence. We need to reclaim the wealth and establish our position so we don’t lose the opportunity for growth, development and fortune. There is an economic and cultural fracture of the countryside and city that has caused an imbalance that needs to be restored with Zambians driving the process. It is not just in Chavuma but every single rural district in Zambia that is just as well-endowed with human capital and resources. We owe it to ourselves.

Zambians need to go back and explore the economic potential of their homelands and find a way to protect the interest of the land for posterity and prosperity. Will you go back and take ownership of the land and raise power structures, instead of sleeping in Lusaka? That is my question to you. To all of us.

The Author, Samba Yonga is a media expert specialised in development and corporate communications. She is also the co-founder of the Women’s History Museum Zambia.



COVID-19 cases jump to over 13,000

By Ulande Nkomesha
HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the country has recorded 160 new COVID-19 cases from 1,068 tests done in the last 24 hours, pushing the cumulative total since the outbreak to 13,112 cases.

And the last 24 hours recorded three brought in dead cases, all from the Copperbelt.

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya has thanked Lumwana Mine and First Quantum Limited for assisting government in the COVID-19.

Speaking during the routine COVID-19 update, Dr Chilufya said 44 patients were still

admitted in various COVID-19 facilities around the country, with five at Levy Mwanawasa hospital being critical and in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

“We in the last 24 hours managed to conduct 1,068 tests, out of these, 160 tests came out positive. These were from Ndola, Monze, Mkushi, Kitwe, Chililabombwe, Mpongwe, Chipata, Kalomo, Solwezi, Lundazi and Petauke. We also had Choma, Kawambwa and Chingola. Now in the last 24 hours, we also recorded three BID; two from Chililabombwe and one from Chingola. A glimpse into our COVID

facilities countrywide, we have 44 patients admitted to our various COVID facilities; 25 at Lusaka’s Levy facility, out of these, 14 are on oxygen, five are critical and are in ICU. In other COVID facilities outside Lusaka are 19 with five on oxygen. A total of 52 patients have been discharged from our various facilities and if we look at the totals now, 13, 112 cases cumulatively out of 126, 938 tests done so far,” Dr Chilufya

said. And Dr Chilufya expressed gratitude to First Quantum Minerals for procuring a GeneXpert machine and a biosafety cabinet to facilitate testing for COVID-19 at Solwezi General Hospital. “The government of his Excellency President Edgar Lungu places a premium on partnership in its quest to attain universal health coverage. In addressing health emergencies,

this health partnership is even more critical. We have multilateral and unilateral private institutions that have worked with us in health system strengthening and that have come on board to support government’s fight against COVID-19. Today, we are happy to host First Quantum Minerals FQM to talk about this partnership,” he said.

“We place on record our profound gratitude to FQM for procuring a GeneXpert machine and a biosafety cabinet to facilitate testing [for COVID-19] at Solwezi General Hospital and because of that, now we have 24 testing facilities in the country. One of the testing facilities is at the public hospital here at Solwezi General Hospital and the other one at FQM...clinic. We want to thank you for your statement of intent to even put up a PCR machine and further, we want to thank Lumwana Mine for their statement of intent to procure diagnosis equipment for isolation sites at Kalumbila, yet another private mine institution

that has set up a private COVID facility.”

Dr Chilufya said the initiative by the two mines was a huge benchmark in the fight against COVID-19 as testing remained critical in the fight against the pandemic.

“North Western Province stands out as a benchmark in promoting private public partnerships as we fight COVID-19. Today, we celebrate two mining companies that have put in their best in the fight against COVID-19 - FQM and Barrick Lumwana. Confirming the status of COVID-19 remains critical in guiding how we proceed with the response, so diagnosis and research remain important pillars. Through the support of FQM and Lumwana, we now have a very strong response in North Western Province. This has added to the arsenal of testing. In addition to the 23 testing sites in the country, we have FQM now testing using GeneXpert and they will be investing in PCR machines. We congratulate them for that,” said Dr Chilufya.

Court hears how ex-cop threatened to shoot businessman over land encroachment

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A 44-year-old businessman of Lilayi Police College has narrated to the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court how former police officer, Chendela Musonda, allegedly pointed a gun to his neck and threatened to shoot him over claims that he encroached on his plot.

Henry Chipolong’u testified that the accused, who was very angry, also fired a gunshot in the air and shot at the rear tyre of his car.

The State witness was testifying in a matter in which Musonda, 69, a farmer and lecturer of Kasama Road in Lusaka, is charged with threatening violence.

It is alleged that on February 1, 2020, Musonda threatened to injure Henry Chipolong’u by saying “I am going to kill you!”, while pointing a gun at him.

When the matter came up for trial before Lusaka Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale, Wednesday, Chipolong’u told the Court that on the material day, he left his home and went to visit a family friend by the name of Jopa Banda.

He said Banda had earlier asked him to look for a bricklayer to build a fence at his (Banda’s) plot in Shantumbu area in Lusaka.

Chipolong’u said they then went to the said plot using his car in the company of the bricklayer and two others.

The State Witness said while at the plot, he later saw a group of over 10 people approaching, with some holding sticks, an axe and a hoe and yelling at him, saying the plot was not his but for their father (Chendela).

“They said, ‘you are the people who steal plots’ and started insulting me. Mr Chendela later arrived and parked his car. His (Chendela’s) children continued insulting me and calling me a thief! I then told them to report me to the nearest police (station) if I am a thief,” Chipolong’u narrated.

He said at this point, he told Chendela that it was not wise for him to allow his children to be insulting, adding that at that point, Chendela’s relatives got even more angry.

“He (Chendela) removed a gun and said, ‘I will kill someone!’ I told him that, ‘you cannot kill me.’ He pointed the gun at my neck. He later fired and missed. I just stood.

He shot at the rear tyre of my (Toyota) Corolla and it was punctured. He also shot at the front screen and he also threatened to shoot at the car battery,” the witness said.

Chipolong’u said at this point, he phoned Banda and informed him that Chendela was claiming to be the owner of the plot, adding that the

accused then went to his car and returned with an air gun and continued threatening to kill someone.

He said the matter was later reported to the police.

In cross-examination, the witness was asked by the defence whether he had any documents in court to prove that the plot belonged to Banda

to which Chipolong’u said he did not have.

He also said he was not aware that Musonda bought the plot in 2016 from Kafue District Council.

The witness, however, insisted that the accused pointed a gun at him, but that he was not shot at.

Trial continues.

Kampyongo dismisses photo of kids showing off NRCs as propaganda

By Ulande Nkomesha
HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has described as propaganda a picture circulating on social media depicting children as having just obtained National Registration Cards (NRCs).

And Kampyongo says government has yet again extended the first phase of the mobile issuance of NRCs by another 10 days to allow as many people as possible to register.

Speaking at a briefing in Kasama, Wednesday, Kampyongo dismissed a photo which went viral on social media illustrating children as having obtained NRCs, saying it was propaganda given the lack of formal identification linking the cards to the respective holder.

He, however, called on Zambians to report acts of illegatities pertaining to the issuance of NRCs to relevant authorities.

“With regards to the pictures, yes, I have seen the pictures that are circulating. But I want to make it very clear that we are not going to be derailed by those who have opted to embark on propaganda because you and I are unable to see exactly whether those children holding the NRCs are actually the people on the NRCs. So, if some elders decide to go and parade kids on the ground for their mischievous reasons and give them NRCs belonging to elders to hold and you can see the interest in children, those of you who can analyse those pictures. So, that type of propaganda is what we expect you from the media to discourage because this is a very important undertaking, we are registering citizens and documenting them,” Kampyongo said.

“So, it won’t pay anyone to trivialise to that extent, but, indeed, if that was the case, there are procedures that are setup and that individual whoever it was, whether they are many who paraded the kids, what they should have done was to get those kids and take them to the necessary authorities. That is what a responsible Zambian should do; you don’t get anything so you parade them and then you circulate the pictures. So, we are determined to execute this mandate as provided for by the law. My plea is to all patriotic Zambians, where they find such omissions, to report to the relevant authorities.”

Kampyongo stressed that no foreigners were being issued with NRCs during the ongoing registration process.

“Alleged foreigners, who would be taking advantage of the exercise to register as Zambians, that is a criminal offence. That is the reason why if you have seen the composition of the teams that we have sent on the ground you will find that, deliberately, we have put immigration officers, police officers to be part of the teams. So, that is to ensure that those who would want to take advantage of the exercise to register when they are not eligible are dealt with. You know that we are bordering with so many countries around us and there are some areas where extended families live on either side of the border; if you go to Luapula, if you go to North-Western Province, that is the case. But officers have been oriented, even when there is that scenario to avoid people who are not eligible to get registered as Zambians,” Kampyongo said.

“So, my plea, again, to patriotic Zambians is to

ensure that where they see those undesirable elements, either being supported by our fellow Zambians to register, they must be reported. Many others who would want to attempt to get registered will be dealt with in the confines of the law. So, our law enforcement officers are very alert to that effect.”

And Kampyongo announced that government had extended the mobile issuance of NRCs for the first phase by another 10 more days to ensure that no one was left out of the process.

“You will recall that on the 28th August, this year, 2020, I informed the nation that the commencement of the second phase of the mobile registration exercise from 1st to the 10th of September, 2020, to allow for the smooth running of the exercise. My statement was to mean that the second phase has been postponed, I want to correct this impression by clarifying that this was not a postponement, but a move to ensure smooth operations for phase one and phase two and avoid the overlap of phase one into phase two. Both phases were allocated 40 days each to ensure that all persons eligible are afforded equal and adequate time to access the national registration exercise,” Kampyongo explained.

“In all the affected provinces, stakeholders have appealed for an extension as many eligible citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to obtain National Registration Cards if we closed as planned. Meaning, today, all the teams should have been pulling out



from the areas where we have assigned them. In this regard, to compensate for the lost time in the first phase, government has, therefore, decided to extend phase one by 10 days. The exercise will now run up to 19th September, 2020. This has been done after thorough consultation with various stakeholders. My Ministry has a responsibility that both phase one and phase two of the exercise are smooth, this, therefore, means that phase two will now commence on the 19th of September, 2020, and will also run for 40 days as planned.”

He also expressed confidence that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) would make adjustments to the Voters’ Registration exercise, which

was expected to commence next month.

“Consultations have been going on between the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship, together with the Electoral Commission of Zambia, and I am sure in due course they’ll make a pronouncement on how they will make adjustments to suit this extension that we have officially announced. Like I mentioned, this decision was arrived at after consultations, which also included consultations with the Electoral Commission of Zambia. So, they are very much aware of this extension and we will hear from them, officially, on how they are going to adjust to suit our calendar,” said Kampyongo.

MoH gets raw deal from \$17 tender as HoneyBee supplies toxic drugs

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE controversial US\$17 million Health Centre Kits tender awarded to HoneyBee Pharmacy has culminated into a supply of damaged, toxic drugs to the Ministry of Health.

But Zackir Motala, who is now carrying the title of HoneyBee Pharmacy manager, says the discolouration on the drugs could have been caused by exposure to water and that this is the fault of the manufacturer who he says has since been contacted to recall the affected batch.

Whistleblowers in the Ministry of Health have expressed concern that the HoneyBee Pharmacy-supplied drugs could have fatal effects on patients.

"The scandalous health centre kits that you have been writing about has now resulted in toxic drugs being supplied. The drugs are finally here, but they are in a very dangerous state. When you look at this consignment of paracetamol, for example, these are damaged drugs, probably even degraded. The tablets are discoloured and could be extremely harmful. Look, people will try to defend this scandal but, anyone can see that these are chemicals which have been treated and kept in poor environment and in an unprofessional manner. That's why they are coming out like this," the whistleblower said.

"If you remember what happened during the tendering process of this medical supply contract, a lot of corners were cut. You reported that HoneyBee Pharmacy did not have a wholesale licence, that was true, but no one cared. You reported that they failed ZAMRA inspection but they were given a licence, again that was true but no one cared. Now, here we are! Look at how people's lives are being endangered by the carelessness and lack of due diligence on the part of the ministry. In a normal country this scandal would call for, not just the resignation but the arrest of the people involved. It's really sad that people can be playing around with the lives of people like this. US\$17 million is a lot of money for a poor country like Zambia."

Earlier Jerome Kanyika who wrote in his claimed capacity of Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia expressed concern over the standard of medical drugs supplied by HoneyBee Pharmacy.

"The Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) is concerned with the numerous negative reports of the quality of medicines supplied to the Zambian Government by Honey Bee Zambia of Lusaka. This first batch of 2,376 health centre kit was flagged off on 3rd September, 2020 at Medical Stores in Lusaka. While quality tests have not yet confirmed whether these products are substandard or falsified, as professionals, we take these reports with keen interest. The major problem with substandard and falsified medical products is that they may cause harm to

patients and fail to treat the diseases for which they were intended," Kanyika stated.

He stated the need for a quick medical quality tests in order to ascertain whether or not the drugs met the required standard.

"It has come to our attention that these medicines suspected to be either falsified or substandard have been distributed in public health facilities and currently being supplied to patients across the country. Further information indicates that these are medicines reported to have supplied by Honey Bee Zambia in a tender bid by government worth US\$17 million to supply health centre kits. Based on our quick preliminary findings around the country, and the images received from various people including some patients, there is need to carry out quick and comprehensive medicine quality tests in order to ensure that these medicines meet the required standard for quality, safety and efficacy to ensure they conform and are safe and fit for human consumption. Most people have reported clear discolouration of tablets, poor friability and smell, all characteristic signatures of substandard medicines," Kanyika further stated.

But Motala said not all the drugs were damaged, stressing that the discolouration was a problem of the manufacturer and not HoneyBee Pharmacy.

"All our medicine has been collected from WHO CNP accredited [manufacture]. If you know the system of pharmaceuticals, there is nothing like sub-standard. If there is anything substandard, there is a regulatory body. So, all these are governed by WHO (World Health Organisation). If there is any drug which has probably discoloured or anything that is not fit for consumption, the regulatory body is contacted and then that medicine is recalled from the public. And it goes back to the manufacturer. So, before you even think of writing a screaming headline or before you even think of victimising us, because you have victimised us a lot, this is a chain. Us, we are the suppliers, and we go to the manufacturers. And the manufacturer has to have a WHO certification. And we only get drugs from WHO certified manufacturers so that we don't get anything from street vendors. So, when we get from WHO certified manufacturers, we are also protected and even the people of Zambia are going to be protected and even the ministry is going to be protected," Motala stated.

He said the manufacturer has already committed that he will take responsibility for whatever problems may arise

with the drugs.

"And we got a letter from the manufacturer that whatever problem you may face on these drugs, and that is only paracetamol. And in a kit, there are almost 65 different items. The only problem which is common is with some paracetamol products which have discoloured. So, we have contacted the manufacturer and the manufacturer has actually put it in writing to us. And these are not small people. They have been doing huge business with different African countries [like] Sierra Leone, Angola, etc where they have been sending huge tonnages of medicine. They have immediately told us that 'don't worry, we will stand by you. If there is any recall, then we are going to immediately replace.' We are also very equally concerned because we are the suppliers," Motala said.

"Our aim was to make sure that we make available the much needed drugs to the people of Zambia. And when this came, we were very concerned at first. So, maybe somehow some drugs were exposed to some water. In India we call it Monsoon and because of that it has discoloured. But the good part for you I hope, and the good part for the country, and for us is that they have said that they will immediately replace, immediately we tell them that so many batches have been recalled. And it will be replaced."

He also said that only paracetamol has been identified to have some discolouration.

"If there is any detection of anything wrong in any medicine, then there is a regulatory body and that regulatory body is the one that writes to us to say

'this is not probably fit for consumption or maybe there is discolouration in the drug or we want you to recall.' And immediately, the drug is recalled. So, it's that particular product (paracetamol). I was also asking ZAMRA to say how does the system work? Then they said 'you are just a supplier, so, immediately you are supposed to inform the manufacturer.' And the manufacturer has already been informed," Motala explained.

Asked to explain at what point he realised that the drugs were damaged and if inspection was done at the point of loading, Motala said he only learnt a few days ago.

"We just realised now, because normally what happens is that after those people have supplied, and then the medicine goes into the sea [for the transportation] maybe for a month, and then we received and we supply. We opened a few boxes to see whether everything was in order. And when we opened, that is when we found that there is this discoloured product on paracetamol. There were other kits which had already been distributed and we received the report today (Wednesday) and immediately we contacted our manufacturer. And we are talking even with ZAMRA," he added.

"So, it is not the entire consignment. It is according to batches. And the raw material that the manufacturer uses is according to the batches so that if there is any problem, they immediately go to the batches to say which batch number has a problem. And that particular batch is then recalled. I hope you understand also that these drugs are coming into the country after one year. I know there are some people who

have got that syndrome of "pull this one down" but if we have a clear conscience and if we are working towards improving the lives of the people, then we will have a clear focus and see that okay, if there is a mistake, how do we correct it, rather than adopting other ways of trying to pull somebody down. Our focus and our aim is to try and help our government and help our people also. And you know actually when our drugs came, we were so happy that at least we managed to do something after one year. Now, imagine in the health centres, there were no essential drugs but we have managed to bring."

Meanwhile, Zambia Medical Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) senior public relations officer Christabel Iliamupu said the authority has taken some samples of the said Honeybee-supplied drugs for quality testing and that the public will be informed once the results are out.

"ZAMRA has put in place a number of mechanisms to ensure that only medicines and allied substances that meet the set standards of quality, safety and efficacy are placed on the market. With regards to the quality of medicines and Health Centre Kits supplied by Honey Bee, the Authority undertook its Post Marketing Surveillance activities on the products before they were distributed. This was a targeted sampling that was directed towards establishing the quality of the Health Centre Kits. Selected samples have since been taken to the National Quality Control Laboratory and Zambia Bureau of Standards for quality testing and assessment. Members of the public will be informed of the findings and any medical

product and allied substance found not to comply with set standards will be removed from circulation," Iliamupu stated in her response to a News Diggers press query.

And when contacted, Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama after hearing the query referred this reporter to his counterpart for administration.

In June this year, News Diggers published an exposé detailing how government had illegally awarded the US\$17 million contract to HoneyBee Pharmacy, a sole trading entity that was only registered as a business name under an individual called Imran Lunati.

According to the News Diggers Investigation, records at the ministry showed that a solicitation document for the tender was issued on October 1, 2019 and the evaluation of bids was done on October 22, 2019 while the contract between HoneyBee Pharmacy Limited and Ministry of Health was signed on November 22, 2019.

But PACRA records did not show any company that existed prior to 2019 registered as HoneyBee Pharmacy Limited.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health defended the decision, saying the word "limited" was erroneously added to the company awarded the contract.

Attorney General Likando Kalaluka said there was nothing sinister about awarding a US\$17 million government contract to an individual.

Asked to explain who would be liable of any breach of contract, Kalaluka said government would pursue the individual who won the tender.

We've put detractors to shame – Lungu

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says those who laughed and mocked government for embarking on a project to construct roads in the country have been put to shame.

And President Lungu has warned millers to stop manipulating government and causing unnecessary fluctuations in prices.

Speaking when he flagged-off the 2020/2021 farming input distribution exercise Wednesday, President Lungu said it was good Zambians had realised the importance of roads.

"I have heard of the concerns you have raised on roads and all the other things. I intended to send my special assistant for projects to come and oversee that project we are doing in our chiefdom

and I am sure he is ready and as he comes in, he will be ready to see what can be done about the roads. I must take advantage of this opportunity that wherever I have been in the last one and half years, the Zambians have been crying for roads everywhere and I think it's right that they have realised that there is need for roads. Those who were laughing and mocking us have been put to shame," President Lungu said when he met Chief Chamuka and Chief Liteta of the Lenje people of Chisamba and Chibombo districts respectively.

"Even the agriculture story we are talking about, the success story will not be complete without good roads to get to the fields to collect produce go take to the markets and urban areas where we

add value. I think we are on course with your support and prayers. We will continue on this trajectory regardless of what our detractors will say. But all in all, we want to work with everybody. We don't want to beat our own drums and sing our songs now because we want to work because time for showing off will come when the campaigns start and tell them we have done this, we have done that."

He told the Chiefs that it was up to them to identify a member of parliament who could work with government.

"I have lamented in the past, in this area the lack of cooperation from the area member of Parliament and I think it's an old song I don't want to sing again. It is up to you to give us people who can work with us whether UPND,

MMD, NDC, PF but the idea is to work together. We can't all agree in this game of politics but once we have decided that this is the MP who represents the people, the MP should work with people including those who didn't vote for them so that some of these things are addressed," he said.

President Lungu said the late delivery of farming inputs to the district was a closed matter.

"As you all know, government designed the FISP programme in order to help small scale farmers have access to affordable agricultural inputs in a timely manner. Of course, it goes without saying that FISP has faced a number of challenges that have hindered the full attainment of its intended objectives.

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I am, however, very happy to inform you that the issue of late delivery of inputs to districts has been fully addressed and farmers can now receive inputs on time. Never, never again will farmers receive inputs late. It is a closed matter! To achieve more positive results in this sector, the PF government has continued to put in place stringent measures aimed

We've put detractors to shame – Lungu

at ensuring that unintended beneficiaries are removed from the FISP programme. This is being realised through strict monitoring and a robust data management system devised by smart Zambia institute," he said.

And President Lungu said government would not work

with millers who deliberately manipulated the government so that they could have access to maize from the national strategic reserve.

"I wish to recognise millers and grain traders, who are supporting the government's efforts by buying maize from our small scale farmers. Let

me say that I am also aware of some millers who are not buying maize and are just waiting for an opportune time to pounce on the food reserve agency strategic reserves. Let me take this opportunity to encourage all those millers and grain traders who have invested their own resources to buy maize and other products from our small scale

farmers to continue doing so and also warn those who want to pounce and prey on our reserves. It is important for us to do so because in the event that government is required to intervene on the market to address monopolistic price trends or maize shortages, we will only work with millers and grain traders with their own maize. We are going to fight

and avoid market distortions which normally disadvantage serious farmers, millers and grain traders," said President Lungu.

"I must make it crystal clear that my government will not work with millers who deliberately manipulate government so that they can have access to maize from the national strategic reserve. Hear me clearly, it is a promise if you like it, and it is a warning if you do not like it. Government's efforts aimed at ensuring national food security would be meaningless if we did not control illegal trade or smuggling. I, therefore, wish to call upon the defence and security wings to work flat out to curb smuggling. Zambia is a country in which the rule of law prevails and so no one will hide behind the office to commit offences."

Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself in Kambwili's forgery case within judicial powers – Chitabo

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA High Court judge Mwila Chitabo has dismissed NDC leader 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.

Judge Chitabo said the ruling of magistrate Simusamba pertaining to the refusal to recuse himself was made within the magistrate's judicial powers and discretion, adding that a challenge of such a decision is by way of appeal against the said ruling.

He added that this was, therefore, not a fit and proper case to grant Kambwili leave to commence judicial review proceedings.

In this matter, Kambwili had 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 (Kambwili) is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court.

He also wanted to challenge magistrate Simusamba's decision to decline to refer the said forgery case to the High Court for constitutional determination of whether Kambwili's right to a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal has been or is likely to be infringed by the magistrate's refusal to

recuse himself.

Kambwili, who cited the Attorney General as respondent and ex-parte the principal resident magistrate, David Simusamba, wanted a declaration that magistrate Simusamba's decision to refuse to recuse himself from presiding over the said case before him and to refer the matter to the High Court, was unlawful and irrational.

He also wanted, among others, an order of prohibition, 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.

Kambwili stated that it had been difficult for his lawyers to perform their duties effectively as the courtroom was always poisoned with outbursts of anger and threats from the presiding magistrate towards him and his lawyers.

But Judiciary Chief Registrar and director of court operations Charles Kafunda submitted that Kambwili's application for leave to commence judicial review proceedings against magistrate Simusamba's decisions was not an appropriate matter for the High Court to exercise any of its discretion and jurisdiction to grant him leave.

He argued that this was because Kambwili had not exhausted all the alternative

and administrative remedies.

And in his ruling, Justice Chitabo said the decisions in issue should have been appealed against, and were not amenable to judicial review as reviewing them would entail delving into the merits of the case.

He, therefore, dismissed Kambwili's application, saying this was not a fit and proper case to grant him leave to commence judicial review proceedings.

"It is clear that the exercise [of] a court's discretion can be challenged on appeal by an Appellate Court. I therefore hold the firm view that the two decisions in issue should have been appealed against and are not amenable to judicial review because reviewing the decisions will entail delving into the merits of the case. I agree that the alternative remedies available to the applicant (Kambwili) is to appeal against the two decisions exercised with the Presiding Magistrate's discretion to the superior Court to determine the judiciousness of the exercise of such discretion," said judge Chitabo.

"I therefore find that this is not a fit and proper case to grant leave to commence Judicial review proceedings. I accordingly dismiss the application for leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings. As regards costs, the applicant raised constitutional issues of public interest. The justice of the case is that I make no order as to costs. Put differently, each party is to bear its own costs."



Zambian Breweries posts K15.5m losses in 6 months

By Diggers! Reporter

ZAMBIAN Breweries Plc has posted huge losses of nearly K15.5 million in its half-year period ending June 30, 2020, mainly triggered by the kwacha's rapid depreciation against major currency convertibles, which increased the company's debt portfolio and hiked production costs.

But the company says it remains well-positioned for a strong recovery given its positive cash position of K185.8 million and commitment to cost management and financial discipline.

In a statement announcing its unaudited results of the company for the six-month period ended June 30, Zambian Breweries posted massive losses of around K15.5 million after tax in the period under review compared to earning K193 million in profit after tax during the same corresponding period last year, mainly due to the kwacha's rapid devaluation against major currency convertibles, which pushed up the company's debt portfolio as well as costs of production.

It posted heavier losses before tax of K68.3 million in the period under review compared to K243 million in profits before tax last year.

The local currency depreciated to close the second quarter at around K18 per dollar compared to trading at K14 per dollar by the start of the year.

"In addition to the limitation on trading activity, which led to a notable negative impact on business volume performance and revenue generation relative to budgeted activity, the material depreciation of the kwacha currency against major world trading currencies further resulted in price escalation of dollar-denominated raw materials for the business," Zambian Breweries stated.

"Profit before tax fell significantly relative to PY (prior year) into a loss position. This loss was because of the significant unrealised foreign exchange loss that the business recognised

following a revaluation of all outstanding group debt. This was in response to the massive devaluation of the kwacha in the first quarter of 2020 to reflect the correct value of this debt position. Further, pressure on profit before tax was due to an increase in cost of production driven by the weak exchange rate, which was reflected in the 16 per cent drop in current year gross profit."

However, results during the period under review also reflected a four per cent increase in total volumes, driven by affordable beer brands.

"Total volumes grew four per cent driven by affordable beer brands. Customers favoured the affordable segment over core and premium brands as their disposable income was eroded by the difficult economic conditions. Total revenues grew five per cent owing to volume growth and lower excise tax on the affordable beer segment," it stated.

And the company added that it remained well-positioned for a strong recovery given its positive cash position of K185.8 million.

"The first half of this year has tested all of us in many ways. We are inspired by the resilience of our people, our business, and the performance of the beer category despite the tough restrictions. Our company is well-positioned for a strong recovery. We have a diverse portfolio of resilient and valuable local and international brands, which enables us to reach more consumers on more occasions. The business remains liquid with a positive cash position of ZMW185.8 million," stated Zambian Breweries.

Zambian Breweries Plc is a subsidiary of AB InBev, the Belgium-based brewer, which took over ownership of SABMiller in a US \$100 million deal back in 2016, and assumed new ownership of Zambian and National Breweries Plc.

AB InBev also manufactures the globally-renowned Stella Artois and Budweiser beer brands, among others.

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What a lecture to crooked politicians from Rev Matale

REVEREND Suzanne Matale has rarely been in the news in the recent past. One would think she has not been following the developments that our country has been going through. But listening to her virtual public lecture on "Leadership challenges in times of disruption" under the auspices of the Levy Mwanawasa Foundation, we could tell that she has been closely following the political debates.

She observed that politicians have been using deceit to exploit poor and innocent citizens. Her conclusion is that the political system in Zambia only teaches people to value power, material wealth and individualism. Rev Matale goes further to explain that there is a difference between a leader and a politician, leaving everyone clear about what we have in Zambia.

We cannot say it better than Rev Matale did in her public lecture. Our job is now simply

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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to spread her gospel, so that everyone can hear and know our leaders for what they are. Below are the highlights of Rev Matale's views on the state that Zambia finds itself in today:

I want to submit that leadership is not incidental.

In fact, good leadership must manifest at its best in moments of crisis.

God bequeaths leadership to human beings for the purpose of carrying out the crucial task of redeeming people from the battering of the world and to lead them to peace, justice, dignity and prosperity.

It is very unlikely these days to have

a leader like our late president Levy Mwanawasa.

There's a difference between leaders and politicians.

Politicians think that once we elevate them to office, then we give up in our rights to life.

A nation that always depends on other nations' local and foreign business and other people to come to its rescue in moments of crisis should be worried.

Politicians do not understand that their title of minister is derived from a Latin word called servant, assistant, attendant to the people.

They say once in

power, let us make hay while the sun shines; they do not even pretend or hide this fact and this is a sign of insecurity.

For some reasons, some politicians are insecure.

When leaders are insecure, they live in fear of the unknown and, in the process, alienate themselves from people.

A secure leader's first point of call will be to develop potential in others, motivate, train empower, groom people for service because you cannot lead alone.

Many politician leaders claim to be Christians but they act contrary to the principles and values

of Christianity.

Sadly for the politicians, they assume that the poor people do not know what is good for them, but that is erroneous, and it is that attitude which has contributed to the ongoing impunity.

Most politicians are comfortable with deceit, they effectively use this to exploit innocent people.

Politicians say 'give them a little here and there, and because they are just God's simple people, they accept and they will be fine until the next elections'.

Our politicians make the right noises when they campaign but when they are

in the office, the only things that change, from one government to another, are office occupiers, everything else remains the same.

We have a very huge challenge here in Zambia for the Church to get involved in the affairs of the country.

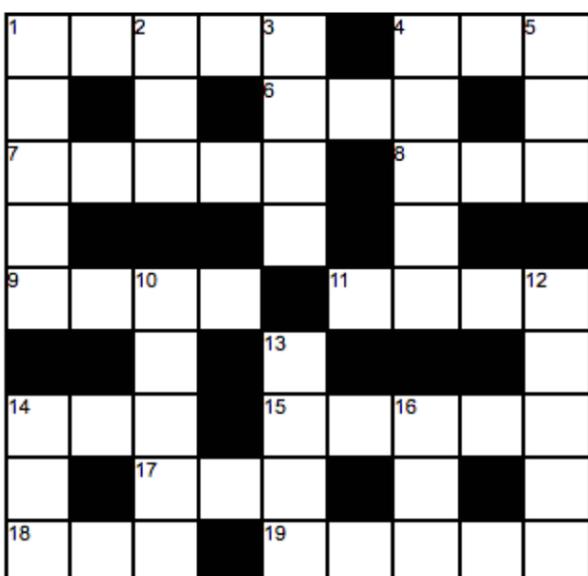
The Church and the politicians have narrowed the gap; it is very difficult to see the divide between the government and the Church as it was before when the Church was strong.

When the Church spoke, it was the moral conscience of the nation, but we don't see that anymore.

We are the ones with moral conscience, we must be the ones that must look and speak the truth to power.

Which right thinking Zambian can disagree with any of the points on leadership raised by Rev Matale above?

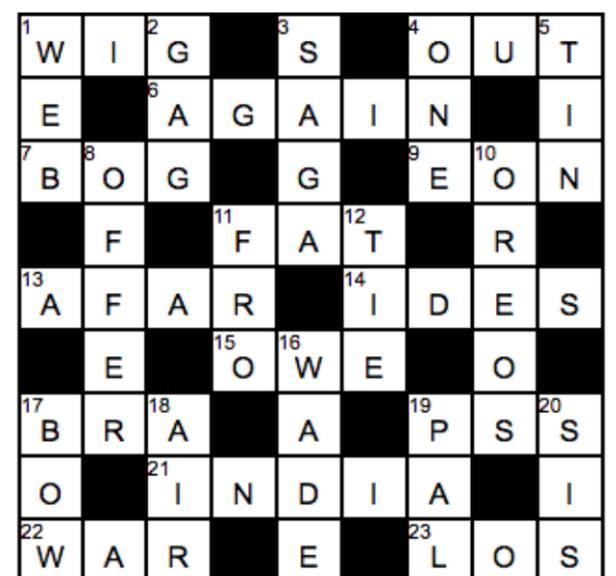
Crossword puzzle No 687



**"It is failure that guides evolution; perfection provides no incentive for improvement, and nothing is perfect."
- Colson Whitehead**

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|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Billy goat feature 4. Stereo component 6. Steal 7. Snow block house 8. Not in 9. Go-___ (small racer) 11. Agreement 14. Battery size 15. Render weaponless 17. Clunker 18. Plaything 19. Apologetic | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bat both eyes 2. Become unwell 3. Bit of rain 4. Residence 5. Fido or fluffy 10. Primed 12. Like some gravy 13. Froth 14. Aardvark snack 16. What we breathe |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 686



Readers' Feedback

DIGGERS' OPINION: Nawakwi is the new Chanda Chimba III We saw this in 2011

Editor,

"Very true and such people normally end up stranded because they will not succeed in bringing down a good man. Chanda Chimba iii is an example, he smeared Sata with all sorts of mud but reality caught up with him. MHSRIP". - Noritah

Mwanza

"History has a tendency of repeating itself". - Lubakila Stephen

"Unfortunately she just sharpened the final nail to be driven into the coffin of her stagnant and stale political

career". - Lombe Moses

"And it always doesn't end well and also works to make the opposition stronger and popular. Dora and group don't learn from past failures. Soon they will dress the country in chitenge materials except this time in green! It's difficulty to teach an old dog new tricks". - Che Guavara

"This is very true and I agree with you 100+ %". - Albert Kalunga

"Exactly the replica! However, the Chimba's end was very sour!" - Walubita Shebo

"Where is Chanda Chimba today? play politics smartly". - Phanety Malambo

"It's a pity, Madam Edith Nawakwi has lowered her self so low that people can even start comparing her to a disgraced person like Chanda Chimbwi. Sad and shameful indeed". - Brian Ponde Mukoba

Katele's acquittal of HH on privatisation

Editor,

"We the Zambians the owners of this country acquitted HH the moment the PF and Jezebel started talking about privatisation, putting all the blames on a single person, shifting their failures onto a person who has never served in government". - Joseph Kalaba Kaoma

"Upright citizens know very well who privatised the mines that it was MMD government not HH!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"I always wonder how a right thinking member of society would accuse a private individual of selling a government asset..... kkkkkkkkk". - Siwale Derrick

"HH did a god job on Sun international, it is one of the success stories of privatization. Nawakwi will have nothing to point at the transaction was above board. Politics is what brings the privatization story as it only comes when elections are closer, we all know HH has never sold any mine and if he did by now the PF would have already published the evidence. 2021 is a year of electing someone to salvage the dying economy, no jobs and no money in our pockets. Livingstone is what it is today

because of Sun International Hotel. Bravo HH/Bally". - Noritah Mwanza

"Even Edgar knows they are just witch hunting and scandalising HH. They have run out of what to tell people why they should keep them in office". - Josh Godwin Musuku

"The all story about privatization is political, targeting one HH. Ba PF remember with or without HH we are not going to vote for you all we need is change!" - Njavwa Richard

"God has his own ways of fighting for oppressed people like HH and the people he is fighting for. Nawakwi and her fellow idiots who sent her thought the truth shall never be told about who sold the mines and other government assets but to their shock, HH has been exonerated and all is remaining is for God to open Zambian's eyes so that they know as who is fighting for better Zambia between HH and Chagwa. It's very unfortunately that even lawyers like KBF could speak ignorantly to a point whereby it landed him in trouble for defaming HH that he sold the mines the case KBF is still struggling with in court to prove". - Kajuba Mazuba



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'Lubinda, your actions towards voters determine how they vote, stop kneeling!'

Dear editor,

"Begging in your strong hold, futi? I thought you have brought unprecedented development for all to see. The voters should be the ones kneeling....thanking you". - Della Nila

"Your actions towards the people will make them vote for you. Usafukama fukama! Its embarrassing!" - Gregory Mshoka

"When they are in parliament they don't respect the wishes of the people. It's purely hypocrisy!" - Chanda Pochoko

"When retirees begged for their packages did you listen? Lets see who is boss now. Lukashya people and people of Zambia at large. Aba bona kuya bebele!" - Gershom Habile

"Kuya bebele. Its time for change. When we begged they did not hear us and they will

never hear us instead its time to change and the power to change is our power. We appoint and dissappoint and its our time to exercise our power!" - Felix Londola

"This shows that they have failed because if they have been listening to people, they can't be begging for votes". - Muhammed Mwansa

"If they've worked there's no need to beg.... Their works will always speak for them! But they know

there's nothing to show so it's to beg!!" - Ian Malekhanie

"Umukankala tafukamina umupina...it's a lie.What this means is:tubikeni patusaka twa ndalama mushale nobucushi bwenu.I can never be swayed". - Saphira Mundwe

"Retirees where being soaked outside his office asking for what they worked for and he never showed that remorse!" - Che Guavara

'Hon Kampyongo, we are more concerned about present matters than privatisation'

Editor,

"Why so fast on some thing that happened 30 years ago but very very very slow on things that happened 2 months ago? Lawrence Banda was shot and killed in cold blood with witnesses all over ,Mumbi Phiri being one of them ,and yet no arrests made to date. NRCs are being given to foreigners and yet people in the lower region of Zambia have been told the NRC exercise has been postponed for now. Boss your priorities are messed up!!!" - Kenneth Choompwe

"The wicked have short memory. We must deal with current plundering of national resources by PF before we deal with a dead horse. The PF government has done more harm than the MMD by donating Zambia to heartless beneficiaries. Harsh days await all these kleptocratic PF leaders". - Makandwe Mwape

"Start with Lungu and let him even tell us how he squandered the money he was paid to end up being poor and finally swindled a widow!" - Noritah Mwanza

"Now others are dead honourable. Wont it be just an exercise in futility? Let's talk of 48 houses, 1 million fire tender and ambulances while the people involved are still alive and in good health". - Muzike Wabululami

"No Sir, you're so wrong. After privatisation the economy was made perfect by Mwanawasa(HSRIP). We never used to go Hungry in Rupiah Banda and King Cobbra(HSRIP) started on a very good pace with a pro-poor govt. What we need is to find answers from you Honourable as to how and why you've run down our economy! We're more concerned about the current and immediate past not ifyo mulelanda. Twakana!" - Ephraim Sakati Phiri

"Honorable minister,we are still waiting for your Ministerial statement on the Gassers. If not,then it will be very dangerous to maintain you in that Office next year". - Roberm Mwambula

"I think it's morally wrong {Hypocritical} to pick a log in some ones eye when you still have yours. Alot of unanswered questions concerning the alleged wrongs in your government still begging answers. E.g the Gassers, the 48 houses and all the perceived corruption. He that seeks Justice much have clean hands, therefore I think the PF government must let another government deal with the wrongs of the past for now what we have right now is simply politics". - Herbert Es



Oxford vaccine trial paused as participant falls ill

FINAL clinical trials for a coronavirus vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, have been put on hold after a participant had a suspected adverse reaction in the UK.

AstraZeneca described it as a "routine" pause in the case of "an unexplained illness".

The outcome of vaccine trials is being closely watched around the world.

The AstraZeneca-Oxford University vaccine is seen as a strong contender among dozens being developed globally.

Hopes have been high that the vaccine might be one of the first to come on the market, following successful phase 1 and 2 testing.

Its move to Phase 3 testing in recent weeks has involved some 30,000 participants in the US as well as in the UK, Brazil and South Africa. Phase 3 trials in vaccines often involve thousands of participants and can last several years.

The New York Times is reporting a volunteer in the UK trial has been diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammatory syndrome that affects the spinal cord and can be caused by viral infections.

However, the cause of the illness has not been confirmed and an independent investigation will now work out if there was any link to the vaccine.

At first glance this may seem alarming. A vaccine trial - and not just any vaccine, but one receiving massive global attention - is put on hold due

to a suspected serious adverse reaction. But such events are not unheard of. Indeed the Oxford team describe it as "routine". Any time a volunteer is admitted to hospital and the cause of their illness is not immediately apparent it triggers a study to be put on hold.

This is actually the second

time it has happened with the Oxford University/AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine trial since the first volunteers were immunised in April. An Oxford University spokesperson said: "In large trials, illnesses will happen by chance but must be independently reviewed to check this carefully." **BBC**

Zimbabwe bans coal mining in Hwange and other game parks

ZIMBABWE has banned mining in all its national parks, reversing a decision to let Chinese firms explore for coal at its famous Hwange game park.

The move came after campaigners took the government to court to prevent "ecological degradation" in parks.

Two firms had been given a licence to explore for coal in Hwange, Zimbabwe's biggest national park.

It is home to more than 40,000 elephants and numerous other species, including the endangered black rhino.

In court papers filed on Monday, the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) warned that the park would turn into a "site for drilling, land clearance, road building and geological surveys" if coal exploration went ahead.

Following a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa announced the ban on mining with immediate effect.

"Steps are being undertaken to immediately cancel all mining titles held in national parks," she said.

Ms Mutsvangwa also announced a ban on mining along most river beds, in a decision that would affect small-scale Chinese and local gold miners.

China is a major investor in Zimbabwe and a close ally of the government.

It has for a long time pursued a "Look East" policy to boost the struggling economy following sanctions imposed by Western powers angered by the government's human rights record and controversial land reform programme.

The Chinese firms had planned to mine in the park in a joint venture with the state-owned Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation. **BBC**

FILMS hoping to compete for the best picture Oscar will have to meet certain criteria over diversity, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says.

The Academy set out four "standards" which it hopes will boost representation and inclusion both in front of and behind the camera.

For the 96th Oscars, in 2025, only films that have met at least two of the standards will qualify for the award.

The Oscars have been criticised for their lack of diversity.

The failure to nominate black or minority actors in 2016 led to a furious backlash, with film stars boycotting the ceremony and the growth of the #OscarsSoWhite movement.

It led to a promise from the Academy to double its female and Bame members by 2020.

The Academy recently invited 819 new members to vote for this year's Oscars, of whom 45% are women and 36% are non-white, and says it has now doubled the number of women members and tripled the number of people from under-represented ethnic and racial communities.

'Long-lasting, essential change'

In its latest announcement, the Academy said it was introducing eligibility requirements for the best picture award "to encourage equitable representation on and off screen in order to better reflect the diversity of the movie-going audience".

It lists in detail the underrepresented groups - which include women, racial and ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities.

It lays out the following

Only diverse films will be considered for best picture - Oscars



Cynthia Erivo and Eva Longoria are among the 819 new people invited to vote for the Oscars

areas where such groups need to be involved:

On-screen acting and storylines, "including at least one of the lead actors or significant supporting actors is from an underrepresented racial or ethnic group"

Creative leadership positions, departmental heads and crew composition

Paid apprenticeships, internships and training

Audience development, from publicity and marketing to distribution

These detailed requirements will only apply to films made in 2024 for the awards ceremony in 2025, and beyond. Until then, films from 2021 will be required to submit an Academy Inclusion Standards form.

"The aperture must widen to reflect our diverse global population in both the creation of motion pictures

and in the audiences who connect with them," Academy President David Rubin and CEO Dawn Hudson said in a joint statement.

"The Academy is committed to playing a vital role in helping make this a reality. We believe these inclusion standards will be a catalyst for long-lasting, essential change in our industry."

In an interview published on Wednesday, Halle Berry expressed "heartbreak" that no black women had won the best actress Oscar since she became the first to do so in 2002.

"The morning after, I thought, 'Wow, I was chosen to open a door,'" she told Variety. "And then, to have no one... I question, 'Was that an important moment, or was it just an important moment for me?'"

Last year, Bafta, the British equivalent of the Oscars, introduced similar criteria for two of its awards. Films would not be nominated for best British film or best British debut unless they met at least two of four "diversity standards".

Those standards cover on-screen talent and storylines; creative leadership, team or crew; training and opportunities; and underserved audiences.

However, that didn't prevent the nominees for best British film this year being dominated by stories predominantly about, made by, and starring white men.

The award was won by 1917, Sir Sam Mendes's epic that followed two soldiers during World War One. It qualified because it met the criteria for creative leadership (it had a female co-writer and two of the five producers were women) and training.

Other films nominated for the award included Ken Loach's Newcastle-set working class drama Sorry We Missed You, which met three of the four diversity standards; and Mark Jenkin's low-budget Cornish fishing drama Bait, which met all four. The final nominee was the Syrian war documentary For Sama, which met three.

The diversity standards don't apply to the acting and directing honours - and Bafta found itself at the centre of an outcry this year after unveiling an all-white line-up for the acting awards, and an all-male line-up of directors. **BBC**

Kardashians announce end of hit reality show

THE long-running TV reality show about the Kardashian family is coming to an end, Kim Kardashian West has announced.

"It is with heavy hearts that we've made the difficult decision as a family to say goodbye to Keeping Up With The Kardashians," she said in a statement posted on Twitter.

The show has run for 14 years, and made global mega-stars of Kim, her siblings, their parents, partners and children.

The final season, its 21st, will air in early 2021. Expressing her thanks

to the "thousands of individuals and businesses" involved in the programme, Kim also added: "I am so incredibly grateful to everyone who has watched and supported me and my family these past 14 incredible years."

"This show made us who we are and I will be forever in debt to everyone who played a role in shaping our careers and changing our lives forever," she went on.

After news of the show's demise became known, her sister and co-star Khloe Kardashian tweeted: "The emotions are overflowing

today... change is tough but sometimes needed."

From unknowns to superstars

Most of the family were unknown when the show started in 2007. Kim had appeared in some episodes of her friend Paris Hilton's reality show and her attorney father, Robert, was known for defending OJ Simpson at his infamous murder trial. Robert Kardashian died in 2003.

Early shows focused on the lives of Kim and her sisters Kourtney and Khloe and their partners, including Kourtney's ex-

boyfriend Scott Disick, Kim's ex-husband Kris Humphries and Khloe's ex-husband Lamar Odom.

It eventually brought in "momager" Kris Jenner, her now ex-husband Caitlyn Jenner - then the only famous figure in the show, as an Olympic gold medal-winning decathlete - and half sisters Kylie and Kendall Jenner.

Despite being heavily-panned by critics and accused of making people famous for being famous, the show has enjoyed huge ratings, won awards and been one of E! channel's most successful shows.

Kim, 39, has since become one of the world's most celebrated women, with hundreds of millions of social media followers and a thriving beauty business. She married rapper Kanye West in 2014, with whom she has four children and a reputed joint net worth of more than a billion dollars. She recently spoke about her husband's mental health issues following a series of erratic statements from him as he began a run for the US presidency.

Kendall and Kylie Jenner were children when the show first began in 2007,

but became stars in their own right, and are now - at the ages of 24 and 23 - among the world's most important influencers.

In 2019, the latter was named by Forbes magazine as the youngest self-made billionaire of all time thanks to her hugely popular cosmetics business. But in May, the magazine accused her family of inflating the value of her the business, and struck her from its list of billionaires.

Game changer or trash TV?

A spokesperson for E! said in a statement to CNN: "While it has been an absolute privilege and we will miss them wholeheartedly, we respect the family's decision to live their lives without our cameras."

Reacting to the news, actress and singer Kat McPhee posted on Twitter: "Congrats on a great run guys. Will always be a game changer."

But one Twitter user called Jennifer said she would be glad to see the back of the famous family.

"That is a miracle," she wrote. "It has been rich trash on television since it started. Some things really should be kept private."



The Kardashian-Jenner family in 2016. From left to right: Khloe, Lamar Odom, Kris, Kendall, Kourtney, Kanye, Kim, Caitlin and Kylie

Caf women's football strategic plan excites Van Wyk, Nchout, Ebi and Essam

The top African stars have lauded the four-year developmental agenda of the continent's ruling body for the women's game



SOUTH Africa's Janine Van Wyk, Cameroon's Ajara Nchout, Nigeria's Onome Ebi and Egypt's Sarah Essam have lauded the four-year women's football strategy by the Confederation of African Football (Caf).

Earlier in June, Caf announced the inauguration of the Women's Champions League, which is scheduled to kick off in 2021 as part of its strategic plan to grow the women's game across the continent.

On Tuesday, Africa's football ruling body organised a virtual conference, featuring top coaches and players, including the trio, to share its women's football agenda and Champions League plan.

Anthony Baffoe, the Caf deputy secretary-general, who chaired the conference, presented the various initiatives and proposed programme for women's football development on the continent.

Besides Baffoe, Samson Adamu, the director of competitions, and Safia Abdel Dayem, the head

of women's football development, were at the virtual meeting to make presentations.

"We organized this meeting to listen to the players and coaches," Baffoe told the Caf website.

"Now, the recently appointed Executive Directors of each of the Zonal Unions, have been tasked with ensuring that the women's football strategy launched in July is in line with the objectives of the region, and for Member Associations to follow accordingly."

In a post-conference reaction, Van Wyk, who captained Banyana Banyana to a maiden Women's World Cup in France last year, described the development as a women's football rebirth in Africa.

"Women's football in Africa has just been reborn thanks to these efforts by Caf," the 33-year-old, who recently featured for Glasgow City in Uefa Women's Champions League told Caf.

"It is our duty to support this great initiative and I

think that strategy will really aid the development of the game on our continent."

Egyptian star Essam, who currently plays for English outfit Stoke City, lauded the agenda of Caf for the women's game.

"It's great to know that the future of African women's football is in good hands and everyone is involved. I am very optimistic about this strategy," she said.

On her part, Ebi, who became the first African to play at five World Cup tournaments with Nigeria, described the development as a dream come true.

"The Women's Champions League is something we have been talking about for long. I'm glad it is gradually becoming a reality," she noted.

For Nchout, who finished as runner-up in the 2019 Africa Women's Player

of the Year race, applauded the various steps taken by Caf to improve the fortune of the women's game.

"Women's football in Africa has just been reborn thanks to these efforts by CAF," she told the same publication.

"It is our duty to support this great initiative and I think that strategy will really aid the development of the game on our continent."

The coaches in attendance were Clementine Toure (Cote d'Ivoire), Desiree Ellis (South Africa)

and Lamia Boumehti (Morocco U-17).

Other players who also featured were Asisat Oshoala of Nigeria, South Africa's Thembi Kgatana, Gaele Enganamouit, Elizabeth Addo (Ghana) and Jean Sseninde (Uganda). **GOAL**

Mutapa drops Makubuli, appoints Benson as captain

By Ngosa Chalwe

POWER Dynamos coach Perry Mutapa has dropped Congolese defender Raphael Makubuli as team captain, replacing him with Chipolopolo midfielder Benson Sakala.

On Monday, Power returned to training ahead of the new season, with Mutapa looking to shuffle things up in his first full

season with the six time league champions.

Power technical chairperson James Sakala said in an interview yesterday that the coach made an announcement of the new captains in their first training session.

"The team reported for training on Monday, we are still putting things together and the coach has announced his new captains, with Benson Sakala being the main captain," Sakala said.

He said Benson would be deputised by former Under-20 midfielder Godfrey Ngwenya and former National Assembly defender Luka Chamanga.

Asked on the status of Makubuli who captained the team last season, Sakala said there was nothing wrong with the player, stating that the coach just wanted to make changes.

"As you are aware, the coach came in mid-way last season, this season he has a full season ahead and he wanted to make some changes, there is nothing wrong with Makubuli, he is still our player and valuable member of the squad," Sakala said.

Meanwhile, transfer activity has continued in Zambia with Kabwe

Warriors being the latest team to add some fire power to their squad ahead of the new season.

The five-time league champions yesterday announced the acquisition of winger Jason Daka and Ghanaian striker Bless Selasie Bakai from Sinda United and KYSA respectively.

Warriors chairman Dingwall Hayden said the club was delighted to have boosted their squad.

"We are happy with our new signing. We are also glad our team is relatively intact from last year. So we are basically signing to strengthen the team.

"I am sure we will perform much better this coming season. We performed well last season, but unfortunately, the COVID-19 stopped the league but I am sure we could have finished in a much higher place," Hayden told the club's website.

And coach Levy Chabala said the new signings would go a long way in helping the club realise a top four finish next season.

"We are happy to make new signings and we are adding more. We want to finish in the top four next season," said Chabala.

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KAMPAMBAMBA'S EXIT OUTRAGES FANS

By Ngosa Chalwe
SUPER Division side Nkana followers have taken to social media to express their displeasure at the club's apparent loss of grip on its key players following the departure of midfielder Kelvin Kampamba.

Just under two months before the 2020-2021 Champions season, Nkana have lost four key players, among them captain Musa Muhammad, Congolese goalkeeper Alain Ngeleka and defender Hassan Ramadan.

Kampamba became the latest player to leave the club after it was announced that he would be joining Zesco United effective January 1, 2021.

With Nkana serving a transfer ban, it means that they are unable to sign new players to consolidate their squad ahead of the new season that is expected to kick-off in November.

The state of affairs has angered supporters who have questioned the club's capacity to defend their league title and have a good run in the champions league next season.

The fans claim that the club should be channelling its efforts to keeping the team intact rather than letting top players go.

Here are some of reactions to the departure of Kampamba:

Kiliz writes: "Wapya munzi. I feel sorry for my club Nkana fC. What has gone wrong? From some Executive committee members resigning, and now our top player [is gone]. How can champions suddenly start selling off its best players instead of strengthening the team? Anyway Kalampa Likulu"

Boniface Mukosa: "It's painful but there is nothing we can do. Go well young man."

Annabel: "Nayo going for free ...instead of securing key players as we are heading into continental. This is serious."

Raymond: "Poor management...Wait until we play division one I am shocked and smoked."

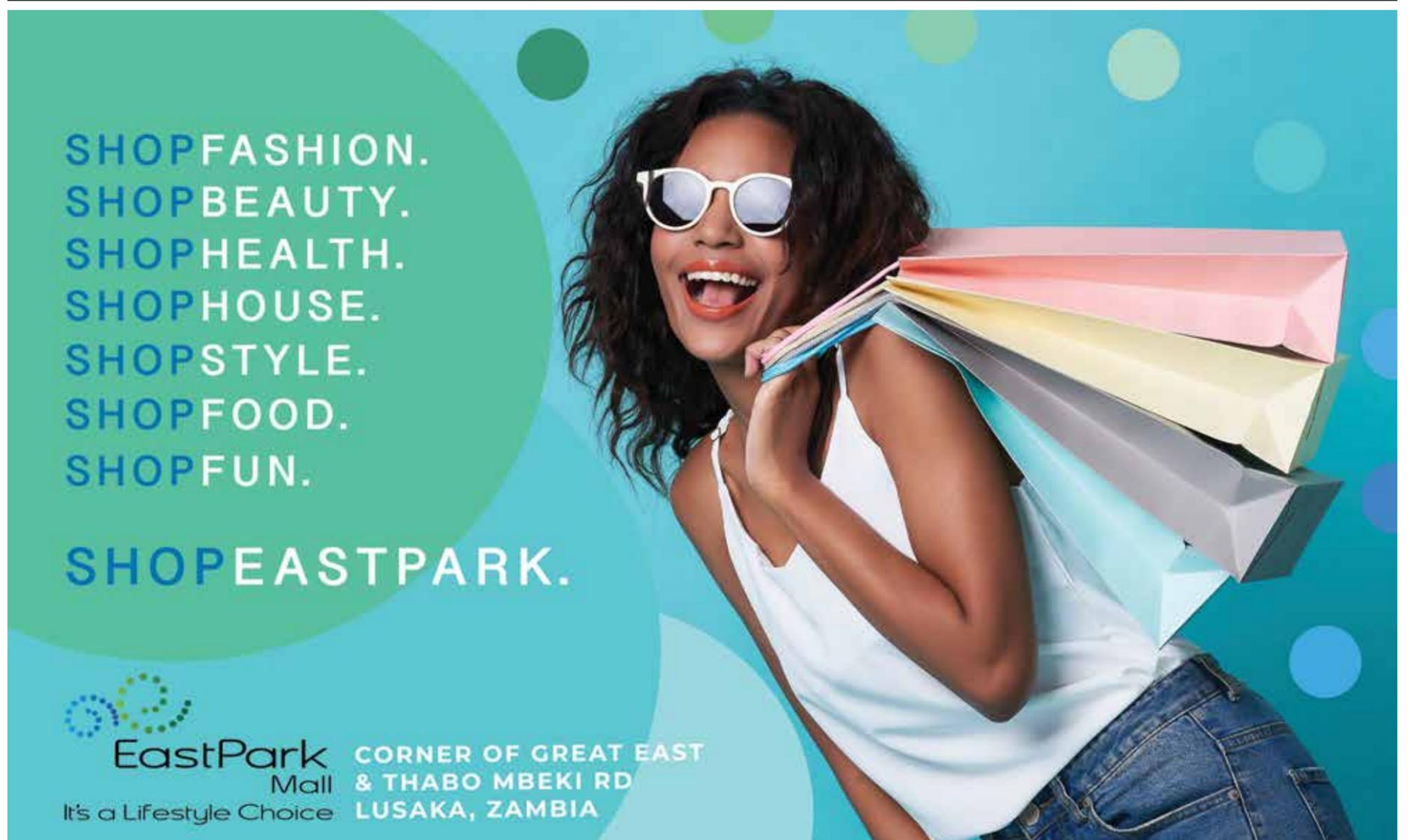
James: "It's better we surrender our Continental slot to teams which are well prepared, Tafili Bwino Ifintu Tukasebana."

Kangwa: "Yes, Kampamba is free to join a team with the highest offer, but you can't let go of such a player with a talent on a free transfer and yet you are in deep financial crisis. The club should recruit a serious person to look into players contracts; it is like you have no idea on what to do."

But when contacted, Nkana chief executive officer Charles Chakatazya said there is no cause for concern as the player is still tied to Nkana until December 31,

2020. Last week, two executive committee members quit their post at the club citing personal reasons.

Mutapa drops Makubuli, appoints Benson as captain *Story page 11*



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