



Judicial Complaints Commission recommends removal of controversial magistrate

SIMUSAMBA

PF ministers should emulate HH in explaining their wealth - Kakoma

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma has insisted that all PF Ministers must subject themselves to a lifestyle audit and explain their sources of wealth because party leader Hakainde Hichilema has set the example. *Story page 10*

Zambia records 73 new COVID cases

By Zondiwe Mbewe
MINISTRY of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama says 73 new COVID-19 cases have been recorded out of 982 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

Giving a COVID-19 update, Sunday, Dr Malama said the cumulative number of cases in the country now stood at 13,539. *Story page 6*

FACES AXE

By Mukosha Funga
THE Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) has recommended the removal of controversial Lusaka Magistrate David Simusamba from presiding as a judicial officer. There have been various complaints against the conduct of Magistrate Simusamba, the latest being a case where Chishimba Kambwili reported him to the Anti Corruption Commission before asking the Chief Justice to compel him to recuse himself from handling the opposition NDC leader's case. *Story page 7*

Govt didn't breach Constitution in issuance of NRCs, State tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
GOVERNMENT has strictly followed and never breached the provisions of the Constitution in the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRC), the State has submitted to the Constitutional Court. The State has, therefore, denied claims by Chapter One Foundation Limited that it had breached the Constitution by implementing the issuance of NRCs in a manner that contravenes the supreme law of the land. *Story page 5*

Zambians should try HH, a corrupt regime must be removed - Lumumba

Story page 2

IMS boss fights rejected residence permit in court

Story page 7

OPINION POLL

Which government service provider do you rate the best

- Road Transport and Safety Agency (30%, 151 Votes)
- National Pension Scheme Authority (29%, 145 Votes)
- Zambia Revenue Authority (22%, 112 Votes)
- Passport Office (12%, 63 Votes)
- National Registration (NRC) Office (7%, 36 Votes)

Total Voters: 507

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Zambians should try HH, a corrupt regime must be removed – Lumumba

By Zondiwe Mbewe

KENYAN Professor Patrick Lumumba says Zambians should try UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema next year.

And Prof Lumumba says President Lungu tolerates corruption, and as such, a corrupt regime needs to be removed.

And Professor Lumumba has urged President Edgar Lungu to admire retired African heads of state like Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo and realise that "there are beautiful things that a Head of State can do after leaves public office in dignity".

Prof Lumumba was in 2018 banned by the Zambian government from entering the country on grounds that his visit posed a national security risk.

This was after he was invited to attend a graduation ceremony at Eden University.

Speaking when he featured on a virtual Muvi TV programme dubbed The Assignment, Friday evening, where he discussed "governance in Africa", Prof Lumumba said although he was not party to the electoral process in Zambia, he believed that Hichilema was a leader Zambians needed try.

"It is the duty of Zambians to elect a leader of their choice. My advice to Zambians, choose a man or a woman who will help you to realise your potential. Choose a leader who will make Zambia a great country. I believe there is no shortage of such leaders. Despite what other critics will say, I believe Hakainde Hichilema is somebody that Zambians should try," he said.

And Professor Lumumba charged that the argument that President Lungu was eligible to re-contest next year's general elections was without basis, and urged the Head of State to leave office with dignity.

"President Lungu is a lawyer. He knows that his arguments are lame. His argument that he inherited a presidency and therefore that he is eligible again is without basis. He has not served Zambia well, he knows it. What is he going to do in his third term even if he gets it. He should leave the stage and do so in dignity. There are a lot of things to be done when he leaves office, let him ask many Presidents who have retired. Let him ask president Olusegun Obasanjo, let him ask president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, let him ask president Joachim Chissano, let him ask Festus Mogae, let him ask Thambo Mbeki. There are beautiful things he can do after leaving office in dignity, he can form Edgar Lungu foundation," he said.

Professor Lumumba further charged that one of the issues he did not agree with President Lungu on, was the fact that the Head of State was running the economy very poorly.

"First of all he is running the economy very badly. The economy of Zambia is not doing well and he knows it. Secondly he is intolerant to the opposition, he is not a democrat. Thirdly, he is a demagogue who doesn't believe in issues and forthly he is paranoid. And when you have that cocktail of characteristics, the net effect is that you can't serve your country well. Personally because he denied me entry into Zambia, I look to the day when he will invite me to Zambia and tell me what he thinks," he said.

Asked if he had anything personal against President Lungu as he sounded bitter, Professor Lumumba said, "You must distinguish passion and bitterness. Why should I be bitter? I am not a citizen of Zambia, I survive in Kenyan. That is the problem with you journalists, the inability to distinguish between passion and bitterness."

And on President Lungu's remarks that the fight against corruption in Zambia had been anchored on politics, Professor Lumumba charged that the Head of State was not interested in the fight against corruption.

"That tells you that, that kind of President is not interested in the fight against corruption. We know it, he is not interested in the fight against corruption. Until the day that he is serious in the fight against corruption, corruption is going to thrive in Zambia. Because the duty of an anti-corruption body is to follow individuals who are engaged in corrupt activities in accordance with the law. If you have cabinet ministers who are engaged in

corruption and an anti-corruption authority investigates them and they are found to be capable, then they ought to be taken to court. If you then interpret that as a regime change, then that regime ought to be changed. A corrupt regime needs to be changed," he said.

Prof Lumumba said he was amused that a lawyer like President Lungu could consider his visit to Zambia a security risk.

He charged that the manner in which President Lungu was administering affairs in Zambia was testament to the fact that he is a paranoid Head of State.

"I am not a bearer of arms [and] I have not threatened the government of Zambia. I was amazed and amused at the same time that an administration led by a lawyer like Edgar Lungu would consider that I am a security threat. I have subsequently written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia, to the Zambian High Commissioner in Nairobi to tell me why they consider me to be a security risk. They have never had the courtesy of responding. Truth be told, the manner in which President Lungu is administering Zambia is in itself a testament to the fact that he is paranoid," Professor Lumumba charged.

"If you stop an African citizen from getting into your country to preside over a graduation, how else can you describe it but paranoia? In fact the word paranoia is not even strong enough."

Asked if his ban to Zambia had affected the relationship he had with the country, Professor Lumumba responded in the negative.

"Not at all. You see Zambia is the home of one of the greatest Africans who ever lived, Kenneth David Kaunda and Zambia is a country that I am fond of. It is sad that young people such as Edgar Lungu, when they occupy office they become paranoid because they are beholden to the Chinese. Therefore I suspect that [its] because of the stance I have taken against the Chinese. I visit many African countries, I have many African Heads of State who are my friends and they have never considered me a threat to security. In fact they accommodate me and I criticise them and praise where it is necessary," he said.

"Yet President Lungu in a manner that I have never understood thinks that when you criticise them then you are a threat to security. When someone says that then the security of Zambia must be very weak, that an individual from Kenya who arrives in the country can threaten the security of Zambia. [Then] Zambia must be very weak, which I refuse to believe."

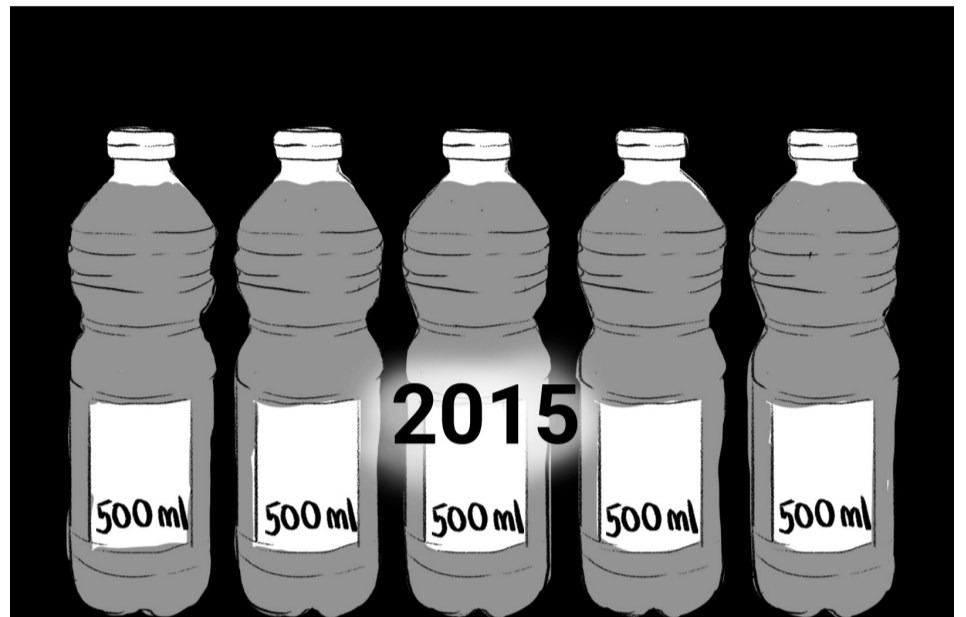
Meanwhile, Professor Lumumba said Africans through their leaders had allowed themselves to be manipulated by the Chinese, and further urged Africans to liberate ourselves from the inferiority complex.

"Politicians in Africa allow themselves to be manipulated by the Chinese. The Chinese are very clear on what they want. They want our natural resources, they want that which is in the best interest of the people of China and they do it very well. But Africans through their leaders allow themselves to be manipulated so that we always get the short end of the stick. The Chinese are now creating what are called Confucius Centres at the universities. I believe there is a Confucius Centre at the University of Zambia and there is one at the University of Nairobi. What these centres are designed to do is to indoctrinate us, to make us study mandarin and to make us begin thinking like Chinese. We must guard ourselves against that kind of manipulation," he said.

"They (China) may come with these goodies but what they are getting out of us is much more. We must never as Africans, for once, believe that we cannot build roads, we can. We must not be led to believe that when people come here and give us things to entice us that we cannot achieve these things, we are capable. Why can't the Zambians invite the Nigerians to build bridges for them? Is there any African who is building a bridge or mining in China? Let us liberate ourselves from this inferiority complex. It is our duty to checkmate them before they consume us. If we don't, in the next 20 years, our new coloniser in a very subtle way will be China."

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CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

This is a weekly column aimed at sharing CTPD's perspective and steering public debate on various issues pertaining to Trade & Investment Law, Public Finance Management, Extractives and Human Development.

TODAYS TOPIC:

What should we expect to see in the 2021 Agriculture Budget?
A political economy perspective with **Dr. Simon Manda**



Last week, I believe I ignited a national conversation around budgeting and public expectations more broadly. I framed the conversation around not only the importance of national budgeting but also the fact that agriculture production and trade specifically is likely to be affected depending on export destinations such as South Africa and China vis-a-vis COVID-19. I asked: what do we need to see in the 2021 agriculture budget? How does the wider poor economic performance affect prospects in the agriculture sector? What key elements should the 2021 budget locate at its centrality?

To clearly place agriculture budget expectations into context, there is need to explore and understand the interaction of political and economic processes in Zambia: the distribution of power and resources between different groups and individuals, and the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time. The attention here is to the politics prevailing in Zambia vis-a-vis contestation and bargaining between interest groups with competing claims over rights and resources. These processes are closely inter-related and part of a unified set of dynamics which influence development outcomes. In the context of the budget, this focuses on how power and resources are distributed and contested in different contexts, and the implications for development outcomes, including underlying interests, incentives and institutions that enable or frustrate change. An expectation is placed on the forthcoming on how the Minister will address what I call two principal contradictions: a focus on input subsidy programs alongside marketing board price supports

on the one hand and the need to advance value chain support, and commercialisation in relation to long-term productive investments some of which relate to research and development, infrastructure and extension services. The final and maybe most important element would be how the speech would appreciate the context within the country finds itself specifically building rural livelihoods and agriculture resilience amidst climate change and COVID-19 – the efficiency with which the resources will be utilised.

In terms of the principal contradiction, first, what started as a temporary three-year FISP program has morphed itself into a formidable program each year consuming the vast majority of the Government's agricultural budget allocation to poverty reduction, gobbling sometimes up to 73% of the poverty reduction budget. Historical analysis shows the government ballooned the share spent on the agriculture budget from below 40% in 2002 to as high as 90% in 2013. However, as with other countries, Zambia's budgeting for agriculture has been low and fluctuating. In the past three years, the share of the national budget has moved from 9.4%, 8.3%, 6.1%, 3.7% in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively. In 2020, this has been about 25% decline in public expenditure on agriculture. In monetary terms, the 2020 budget present a decline from ZMK5.3 billion in 2019 to ZMK 3.97 billion. Some of these elements relate to the overall poor performance of the country. Compounding this has been constant marketing board price supports that affect private sector participation. This focus in terms of state approach has challenged value chain financing and commercialisation of agriculture

in order to drive sectoral growth and long-term productive investments some of which relate to research and development, infrastructure and extension services. The role of the FRA food reserve agency vis a vis the Food Reserve Bill 2020 remain controversial. Evidence suggests FISP has failed to reduce rural poverty as upfront costs, explicit targeting, and related cooperative requirements have tended to exclude the vulnerable groups with head count rural poverty rates still revolve around 58%.

These elements advance amidst the wider challenges of climate change and COVID-19, elements considered necessary in building rural agriculture production and livelihood resilience. The budget should endeavour to build not only production capacity for majority small-scale farmers but also the marketing dynamics related to this, somewhat of the long-term productive investments, research and development, infrastructure such as irrigation, and value addition. There is need to enhance income disbursement for rural populations which can then help to adapt to COVID-19 and Climate change. Whilst this view has high payoffs in 5 to 20 years and is critical for sustained poverty reduction, the government will need to balance this objective with social protection as way to build local support. The government should avoid a business as usual approach but adapt to the changing circumstances the country finds itself into.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

A HOTEL in Waterfalls area of Chongwe district has sued Zambia Airports Corporation Limited, seeking damages for negligence after a fire allegedly escaped from the overgrown grass in the Corporation's premises to the hotel buildings, resulting in loss and damage to property.

OSLO Hotel Limited is further seeking costs, interest and any other relief the court may deem fit.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, OSLO Hotel explained that it was a private company limited, conducting hotel business on subdivision 'A1' of Lot Number 13619/M, Off Airport Road, Waterfalls area, a place neighbouring the defendant's airport premises at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

OSLO added that the defendant (Zambia Airports Corporation Limited) was responsible for the development, maintenance

Hotel sues National Airports Corporation for negligence over fire incident

and management of the four designated international airports, namely; Kenneth Kaunda (Lusaka), Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula (Livingstone), Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe (Ndola), and Mfuwe, as well as, the provision of air navigation services throughout Zambia.

OSLO Hotel stated that on June 22, 2020 fire escaped from the overgrown grass in the defendant's premises to its hotel buildings causing loss and damage to property.

"Particulars of loss and damage; Nine detached chalets, caretaker's room, coffee shed, bar shed and three swimming pools were destroyed by the fire," read the claim.

The hotel stated that the replacement cost value of the said destroyed buildings as at July 14, 2020 stood at K2,658,000.

It further stated that around a year before the fire incident, its agents had attempted to clear the bush immediately near to the hotel premises but were prevented to do so by the defendant's officers or agents who indicated that the area was prohibited and restricted from outsiders.

OSLO Hotel stated that the fire was able to escape to its premises due to the negligence of the defendant, which was; failing to maintain or trim the overgrown bushes within

the defendant's premises and failing to make a fire break in the form of graded road between the overgrown bushes and the hotel premises.

It added that the defendant also failed to put in place measures for early detection of fire within the defendant's premises before it could escape to neighbouring premises.

The hotel lamented that it had as a result suffered loss and damage.



Dickson Jere sues Nkoma for calling him 'a liar'

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA lawyer and former president Rupiah Banda's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, Dickson Jere, has dragged economist Noel Nkoma to the Lusaka High Court for allegedly accusing him of being a liar and an attention seeker in one of the Whatsapp groups.

The alleged defamatory words were uttered following Jere's eulogy in honour of Director-General of the Zambia Security and Intelligence Services, Samuel Nkhoma.

Jere, who is also a journalist, is seeking damages for malicious falsehood and libel as well as aggravated damages.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka

High Court recently, Jere explained that on August 9, 2020, he wrote a eulogy in honour of Nkhoma, the deceased Director-General of the Zambia Security and Intelligence Services, titled "The spy who liked me".

He stated that in the article, which was posted on his Facebook page on August 9, 2020, he recounted a few fond memories of his interactions with the deceased.

Jere stated that without invitation or due cause, the defendant, Nkoma, responded to his writing via a commentary in one of the Whatsapp Groups called 'Dynamic Analysis', which had in excess of 200 members, calling him an attention seeker.

"That... 'baba Ponda, don't believe everything that Dickson writes about as he is an attention seeker and I know that was not the DG we knew. He claims relevance when he was nowhere close to the man. So sad that he can write about DG like this. Shame on him. Zikomo," read the claim.

Jere stated that Nkoma's words were, as would be expected, reposted verbatim on various Whatsapp groups, including one called "Business and Interaction", which had a membership of over 200.

He added that the widely read online media publication, *Zambian Watchdog*, also quoted Nkoma's circulated comments which were captured in an article titled "Jere is lying, he didn't know the DG, says Noel Nkhoma..." published on August 9, 2020, adding that Nkoma had expressed shock at the eulogy published by Jere.

"In their natural and ordinary meaning, the defendant's words meant and were understood to mean that the plaintiff is an untruthful person with tendency to tell lies and is thus a liar and an untrustworthy person who is also an attention seeker claiming a relationship that he did not have for purpose of personal gratification," read the claim further.

Jere stated that Nkoma invited his audience and the general public to despise him and hold him in contempt by pouring shame on him.

He stated that Nkoma wrote the words, knowing fully well that they were false and with intent to injure his reputation and lower his standing in society.

Jere further stated that as a result, he had spent time and resources explaining to various persons the untruthfulness of Nkoma's words and the factual position relating to his relationship with the deceased.

Jere added that the defendant, despite admitting that he uttered and published the said words without factual basis, had refused to render an apology even after the demand for costs was written to him.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (c) arrives in the Chamber of Parliament during the 5th Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 11, 2020.. Picture by Salim Henr

Govt didn't breach Constitution in issuance of NRCs, State tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

GOVERNMENT has strictly followed and never breached the provisions of the Constitution in the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRC), the State has submitted to the Constitutional Court.

The State has, therefore, denied claims by Chapter One Foundation Limited that it had breached the Constitution by implementing the issuance of NRCs in a manner that contravenes the supreme law of the land.

In this matter, Chapter One Foundation Limited has petitioned the Constitutional Court, seeking an order mandating the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to carry out continuous voter registration between elections.

It argued that the ECZ had violated the Constitution by deciding to conduct voter registration for the 2021 general election over a period of only 30 days.

Chapter One Foundation, which cited the ECZ and the Attorney General as respondents in the matter, further wants the Court to make an order mandating the Attorney General to implement the mobile issuance of NRCs throughout the country.

In its petition, the non-governmental organisation argued that government had breached the Constitution by implementing the issuance of NRCs in a manner that contravenes the Constitution.

But according to the Attorney General's answer filed in the Constitutional Court, Friday, the State denied ever breaching any provisions of the Constitution by implementing the

issuance of NRCs.

"Aside from the provisions of the National Registration Act, Chapter 126 of the laws of Zambia, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has strictly followed and never breached the provisions of the Constitution of Zambia in the issuance of National Registration Cards. The alleged contraventions of the Constitution are mere imaginations or speculations by the petitioner and the petitioner will be put to strict proof over the imaginations," read the answer.

The State argued that it was a misconception to allege that the government had not rolled the mobile registration exercise to all parts of the country or that the services were not uniformly available to all citizens.

It further stated that it was unfounded to assert that the mobile registration exercise policy was being implemented selectively in a discriminatory manner, adding that Chapter One Foundation was not entitled to any of the reliefs sought in its petition or at all.

And according to the affidavit in support of the answer to the petition, Alick Mvula, a deputy Registrar General in the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship under the Ministry of Home Affairs, stated that in implementing the mobile registration exercise and in the issuance of NRCs, government had not only abided by the provisions of the National Registration Act, Chapter 126 of the Laws of Zambia, but had also strictly followed the provisions of the Constitution.

He stated that the Department of

National Registration, Passport and Citizenship under the Ministry of Home Affairs provided its services in all its offices in all the districts across the country, except for some of the newly-created districts.

Mvula added that these offices were open throughout the year, except for weekends and public holidays.

He stated that individual citizens, who had attained the age of 16 were required to present themselves at the nearest District Registration Office for the purpose of being registered as provided for in the laws of Zambia.

"To supplement the aforementioned services, the government implements a mobile registration exercise every after five years to cater for citizens, who have attained the age of 16 years, but are unable to easily access or to present themselves to the nearest District Registration Offices. The aforementioned mobile registration exercise also caters for citizens, who have lost their National Registration Cards and need replacement of the same," Mvula stated.

He stated that prior to the commencement of the mobile registration exercise, the Minister of Home Affairs issued a Ministerial Statement in Parliament on how the mobile exercise would be conducted.

Mvula stated that with regard to the current mobile registration exercise, due to unfavourable economic factors currently prevailing in the country, government decided to implement the said exercise in two phases and had, as

at the date of Chapter One Foundation filing the Petition, allocated 40 days to each province.

"The first phase commenced on August 1, 2020, in the following provinces: Copperbelt, Eastern, Luapula, Northern and North-Western. The phase was scheduled to end on September 9, 2020, while the second phase was to commence on September 10, 2020, in the remaining provinces namely: Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Muchinga, Southern and Western. Due to some initial challenges in the first 10 days of the first phase, government extended the first phase to September 19, 2020, and the second phase will commence on September 20, 2020," he stated.

Mvula stated that the total number of days for the second phase would be determined by how the exercise would proceed, but the same would never be less than 40 days, which was the minimum number of days as pronounced by the Minister of Home Affairs in Parliament.

In its answer to the petition, the ECZ submitted that it had not violated any provision of the Constitution by deciding to conduct voter registration for the 2021 election over a period of only 30 days.

It argued that the registration of voters and prescription of the cut-off dates with respect to the registration of voters and the compilation of the register of voters was prescribed under the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016.

The ECZ, therefore, asked the Court to dismiss the petition by Chapter One Foundation with costs.

By Diggers Reporter

THE total number of active mobile network subscriptions in Zambia has increased to 17.9 million as at June 30, 2020, an all-time high, exceeding the country's population, according to ZICTA.

And ZICTA says the value of electronic money transactions skyrocketed to hit K43 billion by the half-year period, up from K18.9 billion during the same corresponding period

Mobile subscriber base has risen to 17.9m – ZICTA

last year, indicating a 126 percentage spike.

Meanwhile, the ICT regulator has issued a call for applications for a network license in the international market segment and a service licence in the national market segment following the cancellation of UZI Zambia's licence.

Announcing the ICT sector 2020 mid-year market

performance, ZICTA stated that the total number of active mobile network subscriptions in the country increased to 17.9 million by the half-year period.

"The total number of active mobile network subscriptions increased from 16.3 million subscriptions at the end of June, 2019 to 17.9 million subscriptions at the end of June, 2020 reflecting

an improvement of 10.0 per cent. The growth in mobile network subscriptions represents an improvement in the mobile penetration rate, defined as the ratio of the total number of active subscriptions to the total population, from 93.8 per cent recorded at the end of June, 2019 to 100.2 percent recorded at the end of June, 2020. This means that there are as many active sim cards in the country as the size of the population," read a statement availed by ZICTA corporate communications manager Ngabo Nankonde.

Revenues from the mobile network subsector equally jumped by nearly 13 per cent, driven by airtime and data sales.

"The mobile telephone subsector reported a 12.8 per cent increase in revenue performance in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Revenue increased from ZMW2.1 billion in the first half of 2019 to ZMW2.4 billion during the first half of 2020 on a year-to-date basis. Airtime sales and data sales continued to account for the largest proportion of revenue for the mobile telephone sector," Nankonde stated.

"The total number of active Internet subscriptions in the country increased from 9.1 million subscriptions recorded in the first half of 2019 to 9.5 million

subscriptions reported at the end of June, 2020 reflecting an improvement of 3.6 per cent. Consequently, the Internet penetration rate increased from 52.6 per cent to 52.9 per cent between June, 2019 and June, 2020."

And the value of electronic money transactions leaped to hit K43 billion by the half-year period ending June 30, up from K18.9 billion during the same corresponding period last year, indicating a 126 percentage spike.

"The value of electronic money transactions increased from ZMW18.99 billion recorded in the first half of 2019 to ZMW43 billion recorded in the first half of 2020, reflecting an increase of 126 per cent. Similarly, the volume of electronic money transactions increased from 224 million transactions recorded in the first half of 2019 to 424 million transactions recorded in the first half of 2020, reflecting an increase of 89 per cent. MTN Zambia in January 2020 was among the first providers of mobile broadband services to launch a new range of non-expiry mobile data bundle," she stated.

Meanwhile, ZICTA has issued a call for applications

for a network license in the international market segment and a service licence in the national market segment following the cancellation of UZI Zambia's licence.

The ICT regulator cancelled UZI Zambia's two licences during the first half this year.

ZICTA forecasts that the mobile subscriber base will close the year at over 18.2 million subscriptions.

Investments into infrastructure, especially 4G/LTE sites among the mobile network operators, is likely to drive increased adoption of broadband services.

However, despite the exponential growth in the ICT sector, there are downside risks in the macroeconomic environment that could dampen the growth prospects in the sector, such as the sustained kwacha depreciation, which has potential to spur inflationary pressure that would adversely affect the cost inputs for operators.

The downward revision of the economic growth prospects to -4.2 per cent this year is also likely to stifle market expectations regarding uptake and usage and could extend to investment decisions, according to ZICTA.

RTSA anticipates rise in alcohol related accidents

By Ulande Nkomesha

The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has anticipated a sharp increase in alcohol-related accidents due to the partial reopening of bars.

In an interview, RTSA head of public relations Fred Mubanga warned motorists to drink responsibly, saying they risked having their licences revoked or suspended.

"Road Transport and Safety Agency wishes to caution drivers against lawlessness in order to avoid drunk driver related road traffic accidents following the reopening of bars over the weekend. We have anticipated a sharp rise in the numbers of drunk driver related accidents if drivers do not adhere to traffic rules and regulations. It is against this background that we wish to cushion all drivers to drink responsibly and those that wish to drive whilst they are drunk, we want to warn them that that should not be the case as the Road Transport and Safety Agency will be on the ground to ensure that no driver is found driving under the influence of Alcohol," Mubanga warned.

"The law is very clear, driving under the influence of alcohol is an offence under the road traffic acts number 11 of 2002 and in doing so, one risks having his driving licence revoked or suspended because he is a danger on the roads. We want advise to the bus drivers to ensure that if they wish to drive on the roads, they should not be drinking and that if they want to drink, let them ensure that they have a driver. Let them take a taxi or any public service

vehicle to avoid any drunk driving related accidents. As individual drivers, we need to take responsibility at a personal level."

He said the country had recorded a 30 per cent reduction in road traffic accidents and fatalities in the first half of 2020, hence the need to for drivers to adhere to safety rules.

"Those that won't adhere to this advice, we are going to move in as RTSA because our officers are on the ground to conduct targeted enforcement in relation to driving under the influence of alcohol. So be advised and be cautioned that we are not going to leave any stone unturned because doing so might jeopardize or have a negative impact on the road

safety profile of our country," said Mubanga.

"Moreover, the country's safety profile is enjoying very favourable numbers in terms of statistics; we have recorded a very drastic reduction in the number of road traffic accidents and fatalities for the first half of the year, representing a 30 percent reduction as of 31st of June 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019. Therefore, if we don't handle the second half of the year, we might have a sharp uprise in traffic accidents especially those in relation to driving under the influence of alcohol. To avert this situation, we have moved in and we will continue increasing messaging or enhancing messaging on the need for drivers not to drive under the influence of alcohol."



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (r) talks to Zambia Air Force Commander Lt. General David Muma (l) on arrival at Parliament Building during the 5th Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 11, 2020.. Picture by Salim Henry

Lafarge posts K12.3m losses

By Diggers Reporter

LAFARGE Zambia Plc has posted losses of over K12.3 million during its financial half-year period ending June 30, 2020, mainly induced by increased production costs and a devalued kwacha.

And the cement company says it will continue to focus on developing the export market to sustain its growth as the domestic market remains substantially oversupplied with the commodity.

Announcing its unaudited results of the company for the six month period ended June 30, Lafarge said the company posted losses amounting to K12.3 million for the period

under review compared to K43.2 million during the corresponding period last year, triggered by the kwacha's depreciation against major currency convertibles, which had negatively impacted on input costs and profit margins.

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.

"Increase in production costs due to depreciation of the kwacha against the US dollar and continued impact of increased energy costs has negatively impacted the margins and profit," Lafarge stated.

And it added that its focus would be on developing the export market to meet rising demand in view of the saturated domestic market.

"The domestic market has continued to be substantially oversupplied, the company continues to look to develop the export market in order to sustain growth. We also remain committed to doing business in a safe and sustainable way that allows the community in which we operate in to partake in the benefits the business generates and shelters the environment, in line with global LafargeHolcim standards. Through our Geocycle division we are continuously looking at ways of using alternative energy sources that are more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral," stated Lafarge.

Zambia records 73 new COVID-19 cases

By Zondiwe Mbeve

Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Malama says 73 new COVID-19 cases have been recorded out of 982 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

Giving a COVID-19 update, Sunday, Dr Malama said the cumulative number of cases in the country now stood at 13,539.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded a total of 73 new COVID-19 cases. These were reported from 10 districts including: Lusaka, Kasama, Chinsali, Livingstone, Kalomo, Mazabuka, Mungwi, Monze, Kabwe and Nakonde. The new cases are among the 982 tests which we conducted in the last 24 hours. This gives us a positivity of 7.5 percent. A similar picture in the last two weeks. In other words, what we are seen as a country is a lower positivity

relatively of less than 10 [percent] now compared to what we used to see, around or above 20. This is a good sign and we should ensure that we don't relent on this. The cumulative number of cases in the country is now 13,539," he said.

Dr Malama said no deaths had been recorded in the last 24 hours and that the cumulative number of deaths linked to COVID-19 remained at 312.

He said 47 patients were currently under health facility isolation.

"27 are at our Levy Mwanawasa Isolation and Treatment Facility. Of these, seven are on oxygen therapy, two critical and are in the intensive care unit and one of them is on a mechanical ventilator. Outside Lusaka we have a total of 20 patients, with six on oxygen therapy. In terms of recoveries as a country we now stand at 12,260," Dr Malama said.

He reminded Zambians to up their game and abide by public health measures, saying the country risked having an upsurge of COVID-19 cases if some of the risk behaviours in the communities continued.

"It is also important to remind the Zambian people that we need to up the game as we mount a response towards COVID-19 within the new normal. Zambia may risk an upsurge of COVID-19 if some of the risk behaviours we are seen in our communities continue. We may see an escalation in the number of people getting COVID-19 going by what we have already seen in terms abusing the window which has been provided in terms of patronizing bars, funerals, parties and weddings, among other social functions without or with minimal observation of public health measures which have been

outlined," said Dr Malama.

"It is therefore our clarion call to all Zambians to mask up when in public. Time will come when the government through the Ministry of Health is going to advise its people that we stop masking up when you are in public. For now masking up remains a high impact intervention in preventing contraction and further transmission of COVID-19. We need to ensure that we maintain physical distance, wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizers. We should avoid crowded places and stay at home if necessary. We need to seek medical attention earlier if symptomatic. Following these golden rules will therefore allow us to quickly take control of the outbreak as a country and further relaxation of all public health measures. And that time can be soon for Zambia."

IMS boss seeks to challenge Immigration DG's decision to reject his residence permit application

By Zondiwe Mbewe

INTELLIGENT Mobility Solutions (IMS) board chairman Walid El Nahas has applied for leave to commence judicial review proceedings in the Lusaka High Court against the Immigration Director General's decision to reject his application for renewal of his residence permit.

Walid wants the court to grant him permission to apply for judicial review and that it should operate as a stay of the Immigration's decision.

According to a notice of motion for judicial review filed in the Lusaka High Court last week, Walid stated that he was a Lebanese and resident of Lusaka's Makeni area, adding that he applied for the renewal of his residence permit but instead received a notice of rejection to his said application.

He stated that he appealed against the decision to the Director General of the Immigration but the appeal was equally rejected without furnishing him with reasons for doing so.

Walid stated that he then appealed to the Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo but the appeal was again rejected.

He added that he then applied for a temporal work permit of about three months to wind up his affairs in Zambia but this too had been refused.

Walid lamented that he would greatly be affected and his assets in the company as a going concern would be ruined if his application for renewal was completely rejected.

He added that he would have no option to wind up his affairs in Zambia more so that he had invested colossal sums in Zambia in a company called Intelligence Mobility Solutions Limited.

Walid now wants the court to direct and order that the leave which would be granted to him should operate as a stay of forcibly remove and/or to deport him from Zambia.

Walid was jointly charged with President Edgar Lungu's former Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda and former RTSA chief executive officer Zindaba Soko with corrupt practices but the State in May this year entered a nolle in their favour.

By Mukosha Funga
THE Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) has recommended the removal of controversial Lusaka Magistrate David Simusamba from presiding as a judicial officer.

There have been various complaints against the conduct of Magistrate Simusamba, the latest being a case where Chishimba Kambwili reported him to the Anti Corruption Commission before asking the Chief Justice to compel him to recuse himself from handing the opposition NDC leader's case.

In December 2019, Kambwili wrote to Chief Justice, Irene Mambilima, complaining about the manner in which Magistrate Simusamba was handling the matter, i.e. his attitude towards him and his lawyers and attempts by the Magistrate to extort money from him in exchange for an acquittal.

The JCC has, however, acted in respect of a complaint filed by MMD president Nevers Mumba two years ago over the manner in which the Magistrate behaved in the case of trespassing.

In April 2018, Mumba, through his lawyers Simeza, Sangwa and Associates, wrote to Chief Justice Ireen Mambilima over Magistrate Simusamba's alleged judicial misconduct, which suggested that he was pushing a political agenda.

"We were surprised when we appeared at court on 5th April 2017 only to be advised by the Magistrate's interpreter that the magistrate had left for Ndola on duty. We accordingly requested the interpreter to confirm with the magistrate on phone. The magistrate picked up the call from his interpreter and reiterated that he was in Ndola but then informed the interpreter to tell the parties to wait as he was making

Magistrate Simusamba to go, as JCC recommends his removal from judiciary

arrangements to send the court record. We waited until after 15:30 when we were informed that he was unable to send the court record and that he would only deliver his ruling on Monday 9th April 2018. We were surprised by this development as the magistrate ought to have been aware on 3rd April 2018 when he heard the bail application and reserved his ruling to Thursday 5th April 2018 that he would be traveling out of town on the scheduled date. Unfortunately, this is how the learned magistrate has conducted himself throughout these proceedings," Mumba's lawyers stated.

"My Lady, we are addressing this complaint to you as the head of the Judiciary and in view of Article 136 of the Constitution which charges you with the responsibility to administratively manage the judiciary and with the added duty to ensure that judicial officers perform judicial functions with dignity, propriety and integrity. Notably, the Judicial Code of Conduct in Section 10 requires a judicial officer to diligently discharge the officer's administrative duties and to foster integrity, honour and dignity in the administration of justice. With due respect to the honourable magistrate Simusamba, we do not think his conduct meets the requirements of Section 10(1) as his conduct in the administration of justice in this matter does not foster

integrity, honour and dignity of the office he occupies. The Magistrate's behaviour in this matter undermines the independence, integrity and professionalism of the Judiciary. He appears to be pushing a political agenda instead of remaining independent and impartial. The Purpose of our writing this letter is to bring to the attention of your office how badly the magistrate has behaved in this matter and seek your intervention."

In a letter dated September 8, 2020, addressed to the MMD leader, the JCC stated that it had advised the judiciary management to commence an internal process that should result in the removal of Simusamba, who is now a Lusaka High Court Registrar, from the bench.

"Dear Dr. Mumba RE: YOUR COMPLAINT AGAINST MAGISTRATE DAVID SIMUSAMBA. Reference is made to your complaint to the Commission as indicated above, dated 10th April, 2018. The Commission considered the complaint and having noted the issues raised therein, resolved to submit a report to the Judicial Service Commission

with a recommendable that proceedings be commenced by the said body for the removal of Magistrate Simusamba as a judicial officer," read the letter in part.


"The Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission has since responded stating that the Judiciary Management has been tasked to further enquire into the allegations against Magistrate David Simusamba. Further, that the Commission shall be informed of the course of action to be taken by the Judicial Service Commission after completion of the internal processes. The Commission shall accordingly revert to you up receipt or the action taken report by the Judiciary Service Commission. I have been directed to inform you accordingly."

The JCC apologised for taking long to review the complaint against Simusamba.

"The delay in attending to your complaint, due to vacancies in the membership of the Commission and other circumstances beyond the Commission's control, is deeply regretted," wrote JCC Secretary, Naisa Makeleta.

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Malawi's ambulance tender paranoia speaks volumes about Zambia's mess

WE have taken note that the Human Rights Defenders Commission of Malawi, together with other interest groups and organisations in that country, are fighting the award of a US\$2.2 million tender for the supply of 35 ambulances to Grandview International, a

Zambian owned company that is behind the controversial US\$42 million fire trucks tender. According to these Malawian organisations, this is a raw deal, which smells corruption, because Toyota Malawi is offering the same quantity of ambulances at US\$25,000 less.

We can only laugh and at the same time admire our brothers and sisters in Malawi as it would appear that they have not yet reached the levels of procurement corruption that Zambia is currently suffering from. This protest from Human Rights activists and their call for the Anti-Corruption Bureau to launch an investigation also tells a story that our neighbours are vigilant and are eager to uproot all forms of suspected corruption, so that their

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Ear to the ground

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government doesn't lose taxpayers' money. This is good.

But we hope that our Malawian brothers and sisters are embarking on this fight out of conviction that the US\$2.2 million tender for the supply of 35 ambulances was awarded corruptly, and not simply because Grandview is a controversial company in Zambia. If their desire is to get the ambulances elsewhere where they are cheaper, that is understood. We say this because we have noted that some Zambians with vested interests are taking advantage of this development and are trying to sway public attention from what has been happening at the Ministry of Health in Lusaka.

Of course, there is no argument about the fact that Grandview

is a controversial company in Zambia. The fire tender deal was so bad that for many years to come, it will be used as a reference point of suspected grand corruption in procurement. However, what Grandview is offering to do for the Malawian government under US\$2.2 million is something we would only admire in Zambia, given our experience on a similar tender.

In 2017, the Ministry of Health in Zambia awarded a tender for the supply of 50 ambulances of similar specifications to a bidder at a cost of over US\$14 million. These ambulances were pegged at US\$288,000 each, and the government went ahead to pay despite public outcry. At that price, it means our Malawian colleagues would be getting seven

ambulances from their US\$2.2 million and not the desired quantity of 35 units. A company that offers to supply 35 ambulances at US\$2.2 million will spend about US\$63,000 on one unit. This is why we can laugh with envy at our Malawian relatives.

But that is a Malawian issue for Malawian citizens. The question Zambians must now ask is: how did we spend US\$288,000 on an ambulance that is worth four to five times less? This development in Malawi is an indictment on the Zambian government and the Ministry of Health. Private companies have taken advantage of the procurement system in Zambia because corruption has been institutionalised. Instead of crying wolf about the Malawi ambulance case, the people of

Zambia must demand for an investigation into our own ambulance procurement scandal which caused our country to lose millions of dollars.

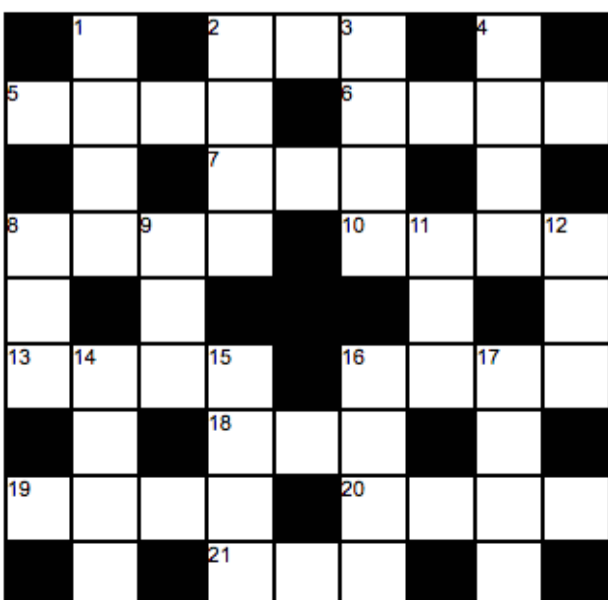
We are concerned that the Ministry of Health in Zambia has become a hub of corrupt activities. Public officials who have been charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the lives of citizens are selfishly making bad decisions which have life threatening consequences on the people. Questionable tenders such as the supply of ambulances at US\$288,000 are being done at the expense of supplying quality drugs to public health facilities.

Although there are complaints arising, Malawi has shown us that these companies, which are defrauding the

Zambian government, do not act exploitatively in other countries. We can bet anyone that if that tender for the supply of 35 ambulances was advertised by the Zambian government, no single company would bid for less than US\$3 million, not even Grandview itself. Why is this so? The answer is that in Zambia, the corrupt are in government and their accomplices are the company owners whom they collude with to syphon taxpayers' money.

That is why our opinion on the famous Grandview fire tender scandal placed the blame on the criminals in government who saw it fit to spend US\$1 million on one fire truck. Grandview did not put a gun to anyone's head. Like we said, private companies are established to make profit; the more, the better for them. That's why we have controlling officers in government to act as gatekeepers so that corrupt private companies do not subject public resources to abuse. Sadly, our controlling officers are the three star generals of corruption. Shame!

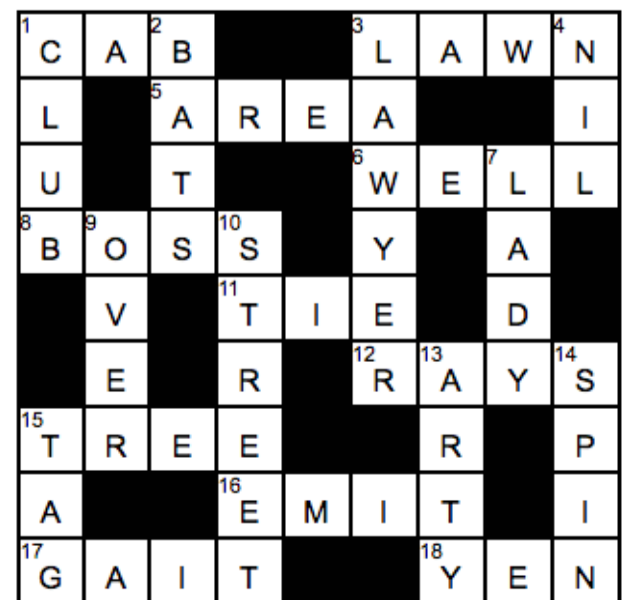
Crossword puzzle No 689



"If you really want to eat, keep climbing. The fruits are on the top of the tree. Stretch your hands and keep stretching them. Success is on the top, keep going."
- Israelmore Ayivor

- | Across | Down |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Dog sound | 1. Murder |
| 5. Not firm | 2. High point |
| 6. Teen affliction | 3. Lose brightness |
| 7. Finish | 4. Nose-in-the-air type |
| 8. Linen fiber | 8. Newton fruit |
| 10. Recedes | 9. Springfield store owner |
| 13. Adhesive | 11. Nectar collector |
| 16. Shade of red | 12. Between Fri and Sun |
| 18. Title for a knight | 14. Misplace |
| 19. On the double | 15. Lay eyes on |
| 20. Very dry | 16. Fiber source |
| 21. Hankering | 17. Niagra river source |

Crossword puzzle No 688



Reader's feedback

'Parents will struggle to raise cash to pay school fees'

Dear Editor

universities. - Estone Simpasa

Mr Lungu should have discussed with the minister of education before, Not just making a sudden announcement, He should have thought that many people in hard time they can't raise money so suddenly - Iden Mweetwa

But all schools including private schools allow for pay slow payment plans. The minister is making it look like this practice doesn't already exist - Noah François Fas

I thought this government said education is now free up to college level.... Am I losing my memory or something?? - Ian Malekhanie

Let people to pay in full for the sake of those teachers in private school. Hmm they have really struggled to come this far. At least prepare three quarters of the initial payment to revamp this sector. - Rose Marie

Let people to pay in full for the sake of those teachers in private school. Hmm they have really struggled to come this far. At least prepare three quarters of the initial payment to revamp this sector. - Rose Marie

This is the right time to utilize the covid funds in schools, colleges and

'Lungu still owes us a clear explanation of how economy will rebound'

Editor

The president has not substantiated how the economic rebound will come about. Mere rhetoric by the president can never bring about the imaginary economic rebound. The president owes the people of Zambia an explanation as to how the economic rebound will come about. It would be unfortunate for him to just make an unsupported statement like that. He is not representing us well to the rest of the world as Zambians. - Oliver Shapaka

Does His Excellence really understand the true meaning of the word "Rebound" when referring to the economy. For as long as our Economy is Dependant on Knee Jerk Presidential Empowerment Programmes the National Budget will remain a Perennial Joke. These so called Presidential Empowerment Programmes are a recipe for economic disaster. They are mere Presidential Slush Funds. Show me one Presidential fund that has significantly contributed to the GDP? In my personal opinion they only divert our meagre resources to Vote Buying. Cheap Gutter Politics. - Christopher Kalima

Wat no one is asking is how it's going to happen, will it be automatic or there is a plan.. Can they give us a road map on how they are going to do things. - Mark B Bwalya

The President has been in power since 2015...why should the economy bounce back in 2021? - Jahsense Lungu Charles

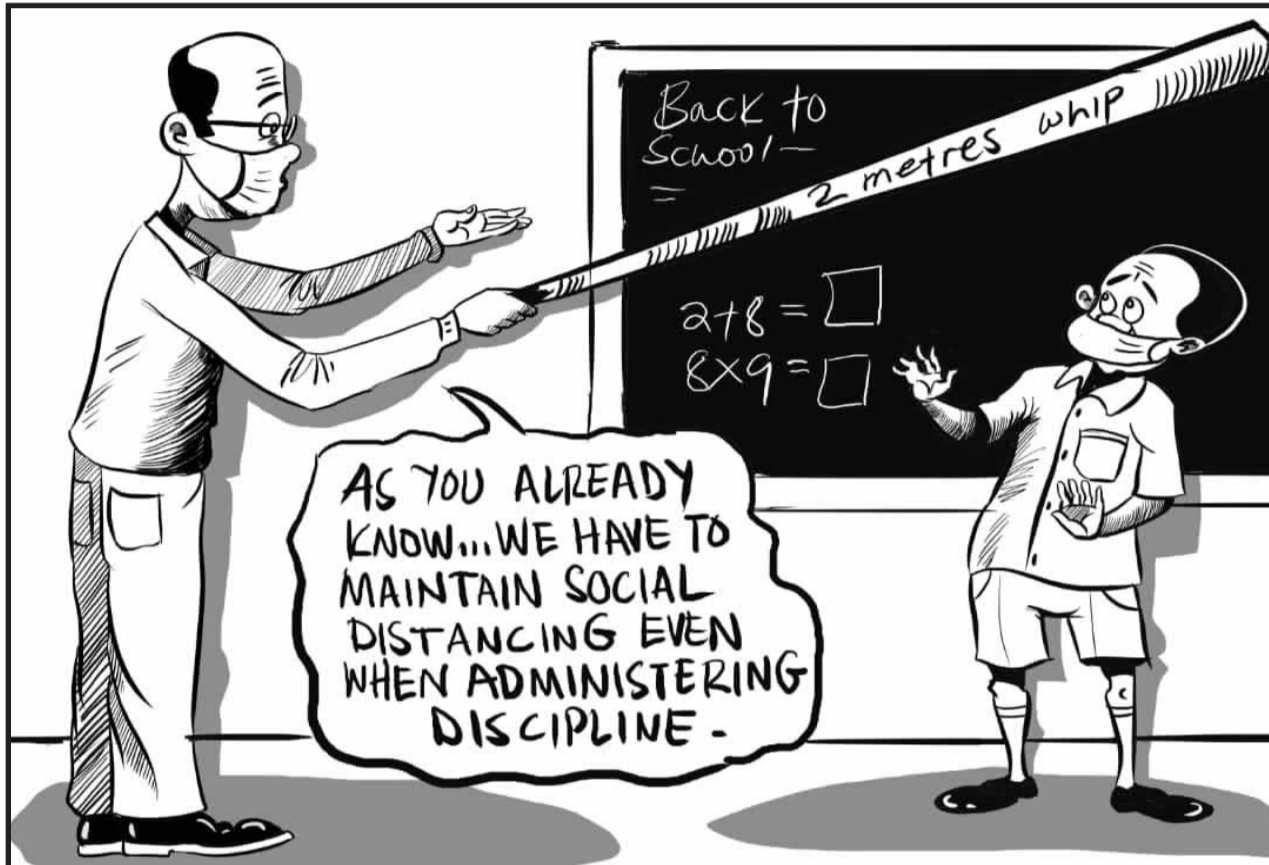
What economic recovery plan did he put forward in his speech? List some for me please? - Davie Lufwandika

When are we going to have full confidence in the ECZ ..The decisions being made must have a complete consensus elements of all state holders..It like ECZ is making decisions on behalf of all stake holders ..In the past all political parties where involved. - Josphat Chisunka

It appears covid-19 in Zambia started long before 2019 because our economy has been failing since PF took over the reigns of our great nation. We have had such nicely crafted speeches before but implementation is zero. Therefore it's not the speech but the doing that matters. - Simon Kumwenda

Lungu economies don't bounce back through mere talk or hallucinations but need a plan which for now u don't have for u continue doing same things but is expecting different results? U promised 500,000 Jobs uv created almost zero so what new things do u dream of? At times it's better to just keep quite. - Callaghan Mwamba

Father the best thing u can do is to step down otherwise you have nothing, completely nothing. You see Zambia has been reduced to nothing from something. The country is broke because of the rampant corruption in the country - Boyd Phiri



Editor

And the president has said open bars and schools this is a deth trip...I hope it wont affects the elections for 2021...I just hope the next story will be no elections cozzy the covid has go higher in the country. - Conjettsa Vozza

So almost 10 percent of every tests conducted are positive. -Ronald Mwaba

Trying to qualify the pandemic. @ martenal Covid 19 death? - Tukafililamunsenga Kambwil

Why Zambians, why? This man is still working despite giving Zambians toxic medicines? He did this when he engaged a Chinese company and now the so called honey bee. Really?? And no one is prosecuting either him, a Chinese company or honey bee? And this man still has the audacity to stand in front of us to announce cases of COVID19? - Peter Silwimba

Zambia's first maternal COVID-19 death

'Bowman feels he can't be held accountable'

Editor

It's not about giving people nshima, it's about donating more than what you get. You have been making huge donations and we doubt that the money comes from your salary. You don't do any business and you have a family to look after. So where do you all that money and those huge donations? - Dennis Tyson Phiri

Because no one is sure of how you have amassed your wealth in a shortest period of time. - Humphrey Willombe

Thats wishful thinking by TIZ, Bowman is uncontrollable and untouchable, he has more power than the bosses of all security wings. - Reuben H Siwila

The reason is just simple why you should be investigated. Before you became an Mp a vehicle via through which you were appointed a minister, you were a political cadre without capacity to make such donations. But the moment you became an mp particularly a minister, donations started. This is raises reasonable suspicions that the monies being donated is stolen from government coffers. - Kajuba Mazuba

You wouldn't understand even if someone explained to you for 12 years that corruption is a crime because you epitomize it! - Judith Musonda Adeodata Mulenga

You raise mealie meal prices....you make people vulnerable....and you call them underprivileged so that they can praise you for donation ..This whole cycle doesn't make

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PF ministers should emulate HH in explaining their wealth – Kakoma

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma has insisted that all PF Ministers must subject themselves to a lifestyle audit and explain their sources of wealth because party leader Hakainde Hichilema has set the example.

Last week, former Attorney General Musa Mwenye tweeted, saying: "Now that we have heard from Mr Hichilema over the allegations made against him, could those of us, who serve or have served in government, subject ourselves to lifestyle audits? We should all explain our wealth and how we got it. I am willing to be first, any volunteers from government?" read Mwenye's Tweet.

In an interview, Kakoma maintained that there was need for PF ministers to undergo lifestyle audits to explain their drastic accumulation of wealth since assuming office.

He observed that despite mounting immense pressure on Hichilema to explain his wealth, the PF failed to replicate the gesture because they were used to looting public resources.

"The PF and corruption are like a phone and a sim card. They will not allow themselves to be subjected to a lifestyle audit because they survive on corruption and looting government resources. They will rather behave like a thief, who, when he has been caught and is being chased and is running away, he will also be pointing at other people in front of him who are also running saying that, 'thief, thief' so that they direct people's attention to the innocent person running ahead of them. That's how the PF Ministers are behaving,"



Kakoma said.

He wondered why ministers were resisting a lifestyle audit if their health was not questionable.

"Why should they resist a lifestyle audit when a number of them were poor a few years ago? But now, we have seen them living beyond their means such that they are now donating huge sums of money, which is beyond even their salaries and their allowances combined, and more than their past and present levels of income. And the law is very clear in the

Anti-Corruption Act that, 'anyone who leads a lifestyle that is beyond his present and past levels of income must be investigated and prosecuted to explain how he is living that kind of lifestyle.' So, it is very important that these lifestyle audits are done. And as Ministers, they should lead by example and subject themselves to a lifestyle audit. They must explain where they are getting that wealth from? Otherwise, we will conclude that they are looting the country's resources. They are corrupt," said Kakoma.



President Chagwa Lungu (c) accompanied by Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Patrick Matibini enter Parliament during the 5th Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 11, 2020. Picture by Salim Henry

Lungu's address to parley a joke, uninspiring - Kambwili

By Ulande Nkomesha

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu's State of the Nation address during the opening of Parliament last Friday is uninspiring and does not give hope for economic recovery.

And Kambwili says President Lungu's pronouncement that government is determined to fight corruption is a joke.

Meanwhile, Kambwili says Zambia is worse off today than President Lungu found it.

In an interview, Kambwili said President Lungu's address did not indicate how government was planning to grow the country's economy.

"Which policies did he talk about? Saying the economy will be revamped is one thing

but capitalizing it is another. He has not given us any plans to show how the economy is going to be revamped. Did President Lungu tell us the plans of revamping the economy? There is no plan at all; he just made a pronouncement. Making pronouncements is easy but acting on them is another. Action must be backed by a proper plan; without a plan is rhetoric. So from what the President said, I don't see any economy recovering. I expected the President to tell us that in 2021, we are going to establish two cement plants, there is going to be an investment of so much in this mine, that Mopani Copper Mines will produce this much, we are going to find an investor for KCM; so there will be new industries coming on board in

order to grow the economy. You don't grow the economy by word of month," Kambwili said.

"How is the economy going to grow? We are sitting on a debt of \$18 billion. How are we going to pay that debt? He never said anything about the debt. So how are you going to grow the economy when you are sitting on a debt of \$18 billion when almost all the money you are getting is going towards paying debt and salaries? There is no hope whatsoever unless a proper plan and drastic measures are taken, it is the usual business and flowering statements backed by no hope. Last year, he said he was going to create one million jobs. Ask him, where are the one million jobs?"

He described President Lungu's address as "a big joke" and that those who wrote the speech did not mean well.

"I don't believe what the President was saying in Parliament, that was a big joke! Whoever wrote that statement from the President did not mean well, he meant to make the President look bad on the eyes of the people. Today, Mopani is not running at full capacity, KCM is not running at full capacity, jobs have been lost at Mopani, jobs have been lost at KCM, we have unemployed teachers, over 40,000 trained teachers on the streets, how do you say you put Zambia where you found it? I feel sorry for those in government," Kambwili said.

He said President Lungu's pronouncement that the country had developed better under his administration was a big insult to the Zambian people.

"The President said 'we have developed Zambia better than we found it'. When he took office, the dollar to the kwacha was at about K7, today the dollar to the kwacha is K20. When he took over office, the cost of a 5 litre cooking oil was K32, today is K210. When he

took over office, mealie meal was about K39 to K40, today a bag of mealie meal is K120. So where have they left Zambia better than they found it? Today, the levels of poverty are higher! We have high levels of poverty, unemployment have actually made Zambia worse than they found it. When you are wrong, tell the people 'sorry, we have messed up but we will make amends,'" Kambwili said.

"So if these people in government, President Lungu inclusive, are saying they have done very well, then that is their best and if they have done their best, then they are not going to make amends because they say they have done the best. They are convinced beyond reasonable doubt that they have made Zambia better than they found it, so they have no new plans. The only plan for this country is industrialisation. Whatever we are using in this country, almost everything is imported from South Africa and China. The rate of the kwacha being at K20 to a dollar, it simply means the prices of commodities will go up. Salaries are stagnant but prices of commodities are going up. He means his Ministers are better that they went into government, that I will accept."

He challenged President Lungu to give a barometer of how the country had developed under his administration.

"To say Zambians are better off today than they were when he (President Lungu) took over is an insult to the people of Zambia, a big insult and people deserve an apology. People deserve an apology because it is not a statement of fact. This statement by the President to say that 'we have put Zambia better than we found it' needs him to give us the barometer. What is the measure? What parameters did they use to come up with that statement? If we are going to use the social and economical barometer, that statement is

an excellent lie!" Kambwili stressed.

And the former chief government spokesperson has described President Lungu's pronouncement on corruption as a joke.

"When he spoke about the issue of corruption, I took it he was just joking, I want to comfort myself by saying he was just joking. When he said 'we are geared to fight corruption and it doesn't matter who you are, you will be treated the same', are you sure that is what has been happening in this country in terms of corruption? The country has no money but Ministers are going round giving money. Our President must match his words with what is on the ground. The people actually know what is on the ground," Kambwili said. "I take it that it was just a light moment, it was a joke. Look at the FIC report this year, it is a joke! We haven't heard Ms Chirwa speak and we are reliably informed that FIC was not funded, that is why they dealt with very few cases. That lack of funding for FIC which is a very important anti-graft institution is deliberate. So, how do you go and address Parliament and say 'we are determined to fight corruption, when you fail to fund FIC?'"

Meanwhile, Kambwili said the government should have given ample time to parents to prepare for the reopening of schools.

"The reopening of schools, does this man really have advisors? How can he announce the opening of schools in the mid month. Where are the parents going to get the money to pay for school fees? It is not just a question of saying 'open the schools'; some children travel a long distance so parents need to prepare. They should have opened after the monthend so that people have the money. This will disturb the morale of people coming from poor families," said Kambwili.

ZCCM-IH proposes reorganisation transaction to optimise efficiency

By Diggers! Reporter

ZCCM-IH has approved a reorganisation of its portfolio with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) where both entities will transfer their equity held in three corporate entities to the other to achieve optimisation of operations within the IDC/ZCCM-IH Group.

In a market announcement, Friday, ZCCM-IH stated that it was reorganising its portfolio with the IDC, which would see the transfer of their equity held in three separate corporate entities to the IDC, and vice versa, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

Following board approval, ZCCM-IH will transfer its 71.4 per cent equity stake in Investrust Bank Plc to the IDC, and transfer its 100 per cent stake in Mushe Milling Limited to the IDC both at fair market value.

On the other hand, the IDC would transfer its 25 per cent equity stake in Kagem Mining Limited, at fair market value, to ZCCM-IH all in an effort to achieve optimisation of operations and unlock opportunities for synergy within the IDC/ZCCM-IH Group.

"These three corporate actions listed above will be undertaken simultaneously as

a corporate group reorganisation exercise involving IDC and ZCCM-IH and constitute the proposed Group Portfolio Rationalisation and Reorganisation," stated ZCCM-IH via its sponsoring broker, Stockbrokers Zambia Limited.

"Rationale for the Proposed Group Reorganisation: The Board considers that the proposed Group Reorganisation will enhance and improve operational efficiency and performance of ZCCM-IH by realigning and streamlining management oversight on its investments portfolio to support and sustain Company growth and unlock value for its shareholders going forward."

The IDC portfolio currently includes companies in the banking sector, specifically: Zanaco Plc, Indo-Zambia Bank and the Zambia Industrial and Commercial Bank, and Superior Milling Limited in the maize meal milling industry.

It was established in 2014 to spearhead the development of Zambia's domestic industrial capacity, and play a major role in job creation, while ZCCM-IH on the other hand, is an investments holding company with diversified interests in mining, energy, banking, property and other sectors of the Zambian economy.

Mbappe ready to push for PSG exit

PREMIER League clubs put on alert by World Cup star

Kylian Mbappe is set to push for a transfer away from Paris Saint-Germain next summer, The Times

reports.

The attacker's contract is up in 2022, which means the Ligue 1 champions will have to sell him in a year or face losing him for nothing.

PSG are desperate to keep the young forward on their books, but the attraction of Real Madrid or Liverpool may prove too much. **GOAL.COM**



Greenwood apologises for inhaling laughing gas

MASON Greenwood accepted he showed "poor judgement" after footage emerged of the Manchester United striker appearing to show him inhaling laughing gas.

The video, which was published by The Sun, comes in the wake of Greenwood being sent home prior to England's Nations League contest with Denmark having

broken coronavirus protocol rules after making his Three Lions debut against Iceland last weekend.

In the footage, teenager Greenwood can be seen filling a balloon apparently with nitrous oxide from a canister before inhaling.

Possession of laughing gas is not illegal but its use can be potentially dangerous and is

associated with a risk of heart attacks or brain damage.

In a statement from Greenwood released via United, he acknowledged that his rise to prominence means his actions will be "judged to a higher standard".

"I have now been made aware of the health risks associated with this practice and accept that even trying it,

as shown in these historical pictures, was poor judgement on my part. I strongly urge others not to follow my example," he said.

"As an 18-year-old I am learning all the time, however, this week I have also learned that I will be judged to a higher standard because of my career as a footballer and I must respect that in future. I am determined to repay the faith shown in me by my manager and coaches."

Greenwood, alongside Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden, was dropped by England after it emerged the pair had ignored coronavirus-prevention protocols following the 1-0 triumph over Iceland.

They remained in Reykjavik while the rest of the squad travelled to Denmark after an Icelandic website published a story where Greenwood and Foden appeared to be shown in a Snapchat video posted by one of the two girls with whom they were said to be socialising.

GOAL.COM

Juventus put Douglas Costa up for sale

JUVENTUS have elected to put attacker Douglas Costa up for sale due to the Brazilian's persistent problems with injury, Goal can confirm.

Manchester United are set to have their ears pricked by this news, as they have been closely linked with the 29-year-old wideman in the past, but the more persistent interest has come from clubs in the UAE.

The player, however, is not keen on departing Juve as he wishes to prove himself at a club he joined in 2017, initially on loan, following a two-year stint in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich.

This is in part driven

by a lack of interest from elsewhere. Although his agents have tried to stir up interest from Premier League clubs, there is too much doubt over his physical capacity to play on a regular basis.

During the 2019-20 campaign, he managed 29 outings for Juve and impressed when he was available, scoring three goals in all competitions while laying on a further seven assists.

However, his season was blighted with injury issues, missing 21 fixtures in total, and it was only after the suspension of play because of the coronavirus pandemic that he was able to put together a lengthy series of appearances, and even then these typically came from the bench.

His season ended prematurely as he suffered a tear in an abductor muscle, and that same issue is set to prevent him featuring at the beginning of the 2020-21 campaign for the Turin giants, who are aiming for their 10th Serie A crown in succession having appointed Andrea Pirlo to head coach over the summer.

Similarly, he spent a good deal of time during the previous term out. He featured 18 times in Serie A during the 2018-19 term but missed four matches due to a suspension and another 16 because of injuries.

These were overwhelmingly muscular, with a hamstring problem keeping him out for two months only to be struck by a calf injury sustained after only 30 competitive minutes.

During his time in Turin, he has won three Scudetti, while he is also a two-time Bundesliga champion. **GOAL.COM**

Barca make Salah top target

KOEMAN wants to land Liverpool star

Ronald Koeman has made Mohamed Salah his top transfer target at Barcelona, claims the Express.

It is suggested Liverpool could face a fight on their hands to keep their star man, who scored a hat-trick against Leeds on Saturday.

Barca have long been linked with a move for Sadio Mane, but they have now switched their attention to his partner in crime.



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