



LUNGU WANTS ME DEAD BY 2021 - HH

By Julia Malunga

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And Hichilema says if President Lungu does understand how the MMD privatisation programme was done, he, then, does not qualify

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Meanwhile, Hichilema says ba mwankole in PF have

shamelessly gone back to beg for support from voters when not long ago, they were arrogantly

addressing citizens with remarks such as "do you know me, do you know who I am?" *Story page 5*

UPND will never rule Zambia - Lungu



By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says the ruling Patriotic Front will win next year's general

elections adding that only ignorant people are going to a party that will never rule the country.

Govt mulls modality for Zambians in diaspora to vote

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chalwe Lombe says government is considering engaging the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to create a

platform where Zambians in the diaspora can vote in next year's general election.

Speaking during the African Missions virtual meeting on the diaspora policy, Lombe asked missions abroad to make submissions to the Ministry to enable them engage the relevant institutions on the possibility of helping them register as voters.

Responding to a question from Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa, Major Jackson Miti, who wanted to know what plan government had for its citizens abroad, Lombe conceded that lack of voting among Zambians abroad was a problem as they lacked access to exercise their constitutional right.

Non exam classes will start 2020's term 3 next January - PS

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Charges against Mucheleka fake, unreasonable - UPND

By Julia Malunga

THE UPND has demanded the release of its deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and two other officials arrested for aggravated robbery and malicious damage to public property, saying the grounds they have been arrested for are fake and unreasonable.

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BoZ attributes kwacha fall to dwindling mining exports

Story page 6

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
GENERAL Education Permanent Secretary Dr Jobbicks Kalumba says term three for 2020 non-examination classes will start on January 4, 2021 and close on Friday, March 19 while term one for the 2021 school calendar will begin on March 29 the same year.

And Dr Kalumba has urged all schools to ensure that teachers start teaching from where they ended at the time of the closure in March this year.

In a circular addressed to all provincial education officers, district board secretaries, and headteachers, Dr Kalumba also asked schools to encourage parents to pay school fees for their children in full in order to facilitate the provision of quality education.

“School calendar adjustments: term three of grade 7, 9, and 12 examination classes open on 14th September 2020 and closes on Friday 4th December 2020 after which respective examinations will be conducted. Term two for non-examination classes opens 21st September 2020 and closes Friday 4th December 2020. Term three for the non-examination classes opens on 4th January 2021 and closes on Friday 19th March 2021. Term one for all grades in 2021 opens on Monday 29th March 2021. Details of the revised school calendar will be availed to you in due course,” Kalumba stated.

“Ensure that teachers start teaching from where they ended at the time of the closure in March 2020 for non-examination classes. While the ministry has made an effort to cover up the lost time by reducing the school holidays in the revised school calendar, it should be noted that teaching and learning time will still be lost. Teachers are therefore requested to employ teaching strategies that will foster accelerated learning without compromising the quality of teaching and learning. This will ensure adequate syllabus coverage.”

Term 3 for non exam classes pushed to January 2021

Dr Kalumba also urged schools to adopt learning schedules which will protect the students from overcrowding and other COVID-19 related risks.

“The type of teaching and learning schedules that schools need to adopt during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic, will depend largely on the learner population, availability of classrooms and the staffing situation. Schools with small class sizes, adequate classrooms and staff may require minimal or no adjustments to their timetables. Those with large leaner populations, inadequate facilities and low staffing levels will require a lot of adjustments. Schools will have the liberty to devise their own system that works well bearing in mind the requirement for social distancing in addition to the other health guidelines. Below are some suggested strategies that schools can adopt: (a) splitting of classes that have a lot of learners; (b) use of 2 to 3 sessions in a day; (c) use of alternate days for learning for a split class; (d) prioritize the learning areas and subjects

that would be given more time as guided by the teaching and learning schedule attached hereto; and (e) learners should be assigned tasks to engage them constructively during the time they are not formerly engaged in class,” Dr Kalumba stated.

He further appealed to the provincial and district officers to ensure that they monitor schools as they reopen in order to ascertain effective teaching and learning.

Meanwhile, Dr Kalumba has advised teachers to avoid holding workshops and meetings that would deprive learners of their learning time.

“Workshops and meetings for teachers if not checked would deprive the learners of the much-needed learning time and as such must be avoided at all costs. Exceptions can be made for those meetings that border on examinations and those that support curriculum implementation. Kindly advise organizations that work with the ministry in your area to minimize workshops and meetings that involve teachers and learners,” stated Dr Kalumba.

Prof Lumumba is poverty stricken, lacks credibility – Tutwa

By Ulande Nkomesha
PF DEPUTY chief whip Tutwa Ngulube says Professor Patrick Lumumba is poverty stricken and has no credibility to comment on Zambia’s governance.

And Ngulube says Professor Lumumba’s remarks are testimony that some foreigners want UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema to take over power so that imperialists could damage Zambia’s economy.

Meanwhile, Ngulube says he is confident that Constitution Amendment Bill number 10 of 2019 will be enacted because most UPND members of parliament are in support of the bill.

Commenting on Prof Lumumba’s remarks that Zambians should try HH next year because President Edgar Lungu’s regime tolerated corruption, Ngulube said Zambia was a sovereign state and that the Kenyan Professor should stop advocating for a change of government in this country.

“I think it is a clear testimony now that it is the foreigners who are agitating for change of government in Zambia. You might be aware that Professor Lumumba has no credibility to talk about issues like that. Even in his own country, Kenya, he is not even respected. He has been ranting, attacking foreign governments, trying to attack the Chinese because he is actually poverty stricken. *Story continues on P4*

Lungu dates C/Belt

By Daniel Chansa
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu is expected on the Copperbelt on a one day official visit, Wednesday.

Copperbelt Province Minister Japhen Mwakalombe confirmed this to journalists in Ndola yesterday.

He said President Lungu will arrive at Ndola’s Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Airport at 17:00 hours.

Mwakalombe said the Head of State would on Thursday, September 17 inspect progress of works at the US\$450 million Kafalafuta Dam in Masaiti district.

Mwakalombe said the President attached a lot importance to the project which he said would ensure steady supply of quality water to four towns in the province.

“The President wants to see to it that the works are completed on time so that our people can have access to clean water,” Mwakalombe said.

Mwakalombe said while in the province, the President will also meet the clergy to appreciate their challenges in administering the works of God and empowerment projects.

He said President Lungu would later meet the business community in Ndola to chart the way forward on how to address matters affecting commerce in the district.

“The President’s continued coming to the province is an indication that he wants to see his vision to diversifying the economy to other sectors coming to fruition,” said Mwakalombe.

He said the Kafalafuta water project would accelerate the diversification agenda where sectors such as agriculture, tourism and manufacturing were expected to tick.

President Lungu will depart for Lusaka on Friday, September 18, 2020 in the morning.

Construction works of the Kafalafuta Dam were commissioned in October 2018 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.



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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
HUMAN Rights activist Brebner Changala says
Zambian Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) must learn something from the governance institutions of Malawi by building confidence in the minds of the people.

This came after the Malawi Anti-Corruption Bureau halted a contract for procurement of 35 Ambulances awarded to Grandview International Zambia Limited, the company which also supplied the controversial US \$42 million worth fire tenders to Zambia.

On 10th September, the Ministry of Health in Malawi advertised in “The Nation” newspaper, a notification of intention to award a contract to Grandview International Limited of Zambia, a tender to supply 35 units of Ambulances at a total cost of US \$2, 205, 000.

The same day, Human Rights Defenders Coalition executive director Gift Trapence wrote to his country’s Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), challenging the awarding of a contract to Grandview and further requesting the Bureau to investigate the bidder.

“We have received information that we wish to share with you. HRDC has seen a notification of award of a contract to Grandview International of Lusaka, Zambia to supply 35 Toyota Land Cruiser Ambulances. We have received information that the bidders were as follows: (1) Toyota Malawi Toyota Land Cruiser \$47,800.00; (2) Nissan Malawi Nissan Patrol \$56,241.61; (3) Mike Appeal & Gatto Land Cruiser \$61,384.00; (4) Grandview International Land Cruiser \$63, 000.00; (5) Med Point Dazzie Land Cruiser \$64,750.00; (6) Paramount Holdings Land Cruiser \$65,000.00; (7) ARK Agencies Land Cruiser \$72,000.00; (8) Skywaves Land Cruiser \$77,007.36; and (9) Good Hope Land Cruiser \$112,281.88. As can be seen on the list above, Grandview was on number 4 and over \$25000 higher than Toyota Malawi. It is alleged that apart from being cheaper, Toyota Malawi also offered 2 years of free service of the vehicles,” Trapence stated in the letter to ACB.

“Grandview International is also controversial in their home country, Zambia. The opposition leader Chishimba Kambwili is alleged to have referred to the company as the Guptas of Zambia due to their alleged closeness to the Zambian Presidency. Grandview is a subject of investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission in Zambia in their supply of 42 Fire Trucks at \$1 million each. Given that Malawian companies were even cheaper, we are surprised that this contract was awarded to a seemingly questionable Zambian company. We appeal to ACB to commence the investigations as soon as possible and that the anticorruption body will update the nation when the investigations have started.”

Emulate Malawi’s vigilance on corruption, Changala tells LEAs

Following the complaints, Malawi’s ACB director Reyneck Matemba halted the procurement tender which was awarded to Grandview.

In a letter addressed to both that country’s Ministry of Health Secretary, and chairperson of the Internal procurement and Disposal of Assets Committee, Matemba ordered the duo not to proceed with awarding of the contract to Grandview.

“Take notice that you as the chairperson of the Internal procurement and Disposal of Assets Committee in the Ministry of Health shall not without any written consent, proceed to award or undertake any activity for the award of a contract to Grandview International Limited of Reliance House, Plot No. 35375, Thabo Mbeki Road, Lusaka, Zambia, for the supply and delivery of 35 Ambulances or any number of Ambulances under Lot No.1 at a sum of USD2, 202, 000 or any sum at all,” Matemba stated.

And in an interview, Changala said Zambian LEAs must emulate their colleagues in Malawi and restore public confidence in them.

“Thank you to the people of Malawi who are our neighbours for showing us and leading in many ways and guiding this littered nation called Zambia. The work of

the new government which that nation put into power and the current resurrections of the corruption that has been exported from Zambia to Malawi, but most importantly, the action and reaction of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Malawi is very inspiring. My take is that the Zambian Government institutions like the DEC, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Public Protector must learn something from the people of Malawi. They must learn something from the governance institutions of Malawi by building confidence in the people’s minds and in the institutions. This is very important,” Changala said.

He said the fight against corruption in Zambia was nothing but a name.

“The actions that are coming out of Malawi are as it should be in a normal democratic and law observing country. Zambia falls short of that kind of administrative action to correct the anomalies, to correct the wrongs to fight corruption. We are far much behind in terms of accountability and institutional integrity. The Anti-Corruption in Zambia is nothing but a name. It is corrupt, it is abused and a corruption laundering institution in this country. It is ineffective and yet people

are being paid huge salaries and allowances. The ACC is nothing but a vehicle for the corrupt in this country,” Changala said.

He said because of doing a lot of government procurement contracts under the carpet, the fight against corruption in Zambia was far from being realized.

“The problem with Zambia is that there is no transparency in our

procurement systems. Things are done as people wish. So, you only come to learn about these things when they are delivering. In Malawi, people came to learn about the process before the items have been procured. This used to happen under Levy Mwanawasa and under Rupiah Banda. It only stopped when the PF came to power. When Rupiah Banda and Levy Mwanawasa were

in power, all the winners of government tenders were published in our daily papers,” said Changala.” But what we are dealing with is a bunch of criminals. They do not advertise as to who has won what. There are a lot of activities happening in this country but we don’t know whether these tenders were advertised. And this is why we are experiencing a lot of money laundering in the FIC report. It is because a lot of things are being swept under the carpet and we need to stop that. There is a lot of criminality in the use of public funds because the executive and their proxies want to benefit from any tender.”

Lungu’s verbal commitment to fighting corruption not backed by action – TIz

By Ulande Nkomesha

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says President Edgar Lungu’s pronouncement during the opening of Parliament that the PF government is committed to fighting corruption does not correspond to what is on the ground.

In an interview, TI-Z executive director Maurice Nyambe said President Lungu’s talk on corruption had become a mere rhetoric.

“The problem we have seen over the years is that the commitments to fight corruption by senior government officials including the President have often turned out to be mere rhetoric. This is evidenced by the fact that the President has for example turned a blind eye or chosen not to take action against senior government officials who are in the habit of trivializing the fight against corruption through reckless statements such as that ‘corruption is everywhere and we must not make it a daily song,” Nyambe said.

“Similarly, a senior government official who made fun of the children of former President KK for not having taken advantage of their father’s presidency to make illicit wealth have gone scot free, with no punitive measures taken against them. All these examples make a mockery of commitments to fight corruption as they appear to confirm that such verbal commitments are mere rhetoric. It’s high time we started moving from verbalized to actualized commitment because failure to do so will continue to make a mockery of our efforts to fight corruption as a country.”

Nyambe observed that the current relationship between government and anti corruption law enforcement agencies was hostile, which was not good for the fight against graft.

“The relationship between government and institutions meant to fight corruption has been a frosty relationship largely because

of the incessant attacks on these institutions that we have seen from the Executive. For example, the President attacking the ACC and accusing them of being out to get him; or other senior government officials attacking the FIC after the release of the 2018 FIC Trends Report, which we believe contributed to the shallowness we have seen in the 2019 FIC Trends Report released two weeks ago. So the relationship is a frosty one and this does not bode well for the fight against corruption,” said Nyambe.

And former secretary to the cabinet Leslie Mbula said to end corruption, government had to take the lead in fighting the vice.

“To every coin, there is a positive and a negative, every dark cloud has a silver lining. Today the President is talking about fighting corruption. To me, that is very encouraging if only his words match the action because it is easy to say I will fight corruption, but in reality are you fighting corruption? So if the President said he wants to start fighting corruption now, I am very encouraged but we have to wait for his actions. Going to what has happened before, those are empty words,” said Mbula.

“The best way to fight corruption is commitment by leadership. Leadership must set an example. If for example in my house I am always beating my wife, the children growing in my house will also be beating their wives when they grow up. They will think that is the way of livelihood. Living in a democracy when you are elected as a leader, you are a custodian of wealth of the people, you look after that wealth for the people. We have done that during the last 50 years, there have been cases of corruption here and there but we were dedicated to fight. So they must make their words known that they don’t tolerate corruption, once they do that then people are going to believe. If you say something, you have to put into action.”



Brebner Changala

Prof Lumumba is poverty stricken, lacks credibility – Tutwa

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As far as we are concerned, we wish to warn him that Zambia is a sovereign state; it has its own government and its own Head of State and for him to start agitating for change of government in any foreign country is testimony that Hakainde is not genuine. He is not the only one who is pushing for Hakainde; we also know of organizations and everyone else who want to come and take over the reigns of power,” Ngulube said. And Ngulube said imperialists were fronting HH because he’s the only one who can “privatise” Zambia.

“So they are trying to use HH to come and take over power so that imperialists can damage Zambia’s economy. So the Zambians are fed up and have realised, because Lumumba has opened our eyes that these guys

are actually fronting Hakainde because they know that he is the only one who can privatize this country, because of his love for money and privatizing things,” he said.

Ngulube said Professor Lumumba was trying to destabilize government.

“First of all, Lumumba cannot even qualify to even stand as a councilor here in Zambia, he doesn’t even qualify to comment because he is a foreigner. There are a lot of educated Zambians more qualified than Lumumba who respect our President, and who feel the President is doing so much for this country. So, for Lumumba to wake up and start saying what he is saying, I think it is a shame! People associated to Lumumba should actually feel embarrassed because Lumumba for a very long time has been wanting to come to Zambia and destabilize the

government. Because of government’s commitment to securing its integrity he has found it very difficult to penetrate and that is how now, you see them making all those attacks on government,” Ngulube said.

Meanwhile, Ngulube said he was confident that Bill 10 would be enacted.

“Bill 10, as far as we are concerned, is a very good piece of law and the majority of the members support it. So, we are very confident that after the by elections, we will have the changes to the Constitution effected. We have confidence that the two thirds majority will be attained. You see, most of the UPND MPs do not agree with that kind of UPND intimidation and that is why the UPND were very jittery, they knew most of their MPs were supposed to support government’s cause,” said Ngulube.

“If they were sure that the bill was not going to pass, why did they even start rushing to court? They knew that the majority of the MPs believe in supporting the country and not just supporting an individual like HH. That is why you saw all that fisting by Jack Mwiimbu, Gary Nkombo and everyone else. They know most of their MPs have told them ‘look we don’t see anything wrong’. The chiefs, who are actually affected by the Constitution, have actually centered to come support the proposals on the chiefs. A number of MPs have actually voiced out and that is why you saw the UPND panicking. If they were not sure that the bill would not go through, why did they make sure that the bill was actually frustrated? It is because they know that bill is a good piece of law and it will go through.”

By Julia Malunga
HAKAINDE Hichilema says if anything happens to him, President Edgar Lungu should be answerable since he has now come out on the open to declare that he plans to go after the UPND leader.

And Hichilema says if President Lungu does understand how the MMD privatisation programme was done, he, then, does not qualify to be called a lawyer.

Meanwhile, Hichilema says ba mwankole in PF have shamelessly gone back to beg for support from voters when not long ago, they were arrogantly addressing citizens with remarks such as “do you know me, do you know who I am?”.

Last month, sources told News Diggers that the Patriotic Front was using FDD leader Edith Nawakwi to cloth Hichilema with a criminal tag, after realising that the tribalism issue had been defeated.

The sources explained that the PF government had planned to arrest Hichilema using Nawakwi’s privatisation allegations.

This was followed by a statement from Chief Government spokesperson Dora Siliya, who said government was following the privatisation debate very closely and would decide on the action to be taken against Hichilema if he was found wanting for failure to declare interest.

Sources told News Diggers that, acting on instructions from State House, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) spent time conducting a search at the PACRA to find privatised companies in which Hichilema had shares, but did not succeed, thereby subsidising the debate.

But on Monday, President Lungu resurrected the topic, saying Hichilema was desperate to rule the country so that he could sell more assets.

The President told voters in Mbereshi during a by-election campaign that the number of assets which Hichilema had sold during privatisation were too many and that if unlucky, he would be arrested for his involvement in the sale of state assets.

However, in an interview, Hichilema said it was good

Lungu desperate to eliminate me, if I die it’s him - HH

that President Lungu had come out of hiding to declare his intentions without using his surrogates like Nawakwi.

“As News Diggers, there was a time when you reported that government plans to arrest me, and people thought you were malicious but the revelations by Lungu at the Mwansabombwe rally vindicates the management of News Diggers. It is from the master of oppression himself that God has brought him on the surface because he was hiding behind individuals like Nawakwi. Now, we need to tell the people of Zambia that if HH dies ahead of these elections, it will be Mr Lungu who would have killed him. Because as Commander-In-Chief, when you issue such a statement, it becomes a call to action and someone will take that as an instruction to kill HH,” Hichilema complained.

“I have been watching his gentleman threatening me, abusing me. What have I done wrong? How many more times does he want to arrest me? How many more times does he want to eliminate me? He has failed to run the economy, but he is blaming it on HH, he has failed to manage the Coronavirus, it is HH, load shedding, it is HH. Now privatisation is HH too. Was HH a minister in the MMD government? Was HH responsible for managing the assets? He wasn’t! Everything is HH, why don’t you let HH run this country then so that you can see his ability to deliver? Imwe ba Lungu, finshi amichita HH? (President Lungu, what has HH ever done to you?) What crime has HH committed? The only crime I have committed is working for the people of Zambia. He should have been talking about the water situation in Mwansabombwe, the electricity which he promised the people. But he goes to Luapula to talk about arresting HH. Kale wayamba arresting HH. I am not a criminal who is seeking public office. What development did he talk about at that rally?”

He wondered what sort of lawyer President Lungu was who did not understand the MMD privatisation programme.

“It is clear that it is President Lungu who has been sending his surrogates to harass HH, to harass the UPND members, to harass the so-called disgruntled youths. It is him who has been behind all those parroting privatisation and making a lot of accusations on me. Mr Edgar Lungu, as he calls himself a lawyer, should be able to understand what the privatisation program was. Clearly, this shows he doesn’t understand. This is what happens when somebody pays attention to nothing in life but just playing around and brutalising citizens,” Hichilema said. “The privatisation program was an MMD government policy program. In fact, it started in the UNIP days. As a lawyer, I expect him to know that any decent lawyer should know that. If

he doesn’t understand, then he doesn’t qualify to be called a decent lawyer. He ought to know that the privatisation act was passed and promulgated by the government of the day, the MMD. He should never use public office to threaten innocent citizens. I am aware of plans to eliminate me for crimes I have not committed,” Hichilema said.

He called on the founders of the PF to open their eyes and see how President Lungu had destroyed Michael Sata’s legacy with incompetent leadership.

“When change is coming, it is coming. It is written on the walls that he can’t stop change. He is pretentious. Even people in PF other than the small number of hired guns are hurting and I invite those people, those genuine supporters of the late Michael Sata, to open their eyes and see what has happened to the PF and the late Sata’s vision. It is being destroyed by incompetent leadership. Incompetency is

written all over, you can see it. People are hurting, that is what we should be talking about. I invite him to the table so that we can discuss how we can solve the problems of people, not wanting to eliminate HH. There were leaders before him who thought they could stop change,” Hichilema said.

He challenged President Lungu to face the people and explain why the economy was in recession and why the kwacha had continued to depreciate.

“We will revive the economy. The stealing going on is too much. Chinese are reporting huge profits of sales from Mukula here, they are recording only a small number. Chinese report that they have imported so much timber from Zambia, here ba Mwankole abale chusha abantu are reporting lesser figures. You must explain to the people of Mwansabombwe and Lukashya why the economy has collapsed. Explain to the people why you have damaged

the kwacha from K5 to K20, that is failure of leadership. That is the way you measure the failure of leadership, it is through these processes. That is the way we test whether a leader is providing leadership, not threatening HH every day. Finshi nachita? (What have I done to you)? What pleasure does he derive in drawing me in cells. What sort of human being are you? How did you grow up? Why hate so much other people who mean well for the country? Why use state power to suppress citizens?” Hichilema wondered.

He said President Lungu had no idea that running a country was going to be a complicated task, and he had now run out of ideas.

“Are you not satisfied with how many people have already been killed under PF? They orchestrated the gassing and over 50 people died. That blood of the people who died during gassing is on the head of Mr Lungu. Ba mudala ngamwa filwa mwikalipa iyo, ichalo chaliba (If you have failed don’t be mad. This world is) complicated to run, it needs visionary minds and that is what the UPND will offer. God is using Mr Lungu to show that there can be bad leadership and through that, we will emerge with good leadership. We will never threaten citizens, including him. He will be a free man. I know what he is scared of. Sir, you have failed to run this country’s economy, you have destroyed the economy. You have failed, it is you, not anybody else. Don’t hide behind the advisors. It is you who is making people suffer. Retirees are not paid, blame him and his corrupt leadership. Now, you see them going to beg for votes, but not long ago, they were arrogant. When people complained, the answer was ‘you, do you know me? Do you know who I am?’ Ba Mwankole! This is their habit. We are saying that threatening HH does not solve economic problems. What we need is leadership and that is what we will offer to this country,” Hichilema said.

Meanwhile, Hichilema said he has nothing against Chitimukulu, the paramount chief of the Bemba speaking people of Northern Province, adding that he had supported him when the government harassed him.

“I have nothing against Chitimukulu, I have nothing against the Bembas. I have never done anything against Chitimukulu, I have never written anything against him. But it is clear when he needed help, we were there for him. We were there for our brothers and sisters when it was not fashionable to support him, when he was being demonised by the PF government. HH was there for him and HH will be there for him in future,” said Hichilema.

Charges against Mucheleka fake, unreasonable – UPND

By Julia Malunga
THE UPND has demanded the release of its deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and two other officials arrested for aggravated robbery and malicious damage to public property, saying the grounds they have been arrested for are fake and unreasonable.

In a statement, Tuesday, UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma stated that the trio were merely trying to unearth the continued issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) to foreigners and under-age children.

“The UPND demands the immediate and unconditional release of party deputy secretary general for politics, Patrick Mucheleka, National Youth Information and Publicity Secretary Samuel Ngwira and Lukashya constituency campaign manager Elias Mubanga, who now stand accused of a non-bailable offense of aggravated robbery. We are worried that the amount of desperation from the ruling PF might lead to chaos,” Kakoma stated.

“We find the grounds on which our officials have

been arrested to be fake and unreasonable because the trio were merely trying to unearth and bring to light the continued issuance of NRCs to foreigners and underage children. We can’t have a country where the ruling elite are swift to unleash the police on innocent citizens by slapping them with flimsy, trumped-up and politically-motivated charges, such as this one. We, therefore, call for the expeditious release of the incarcerated leaders.”

He cautioned President Edgar Lungu not to take Zambia’s peace for granted.

“From the onset, we have observed that the PF, in its desperate attempts to cling to power, have resorted to desperate measures, such as the issuance of NRCs to both under-age and foreigners, particularly those from our neighbouring countries – a move we have strongly condemned as being a threat to the security of the nation. We wonder what legacy President Lungu wants to leave behind because, undoubtedly, he will go down in the annals of history as the most ruthless tyrant Zambia has ever had! We wish to send a very strong warning to the PF and Edgar Lungu not to take the peace Zambia has had for granted, especially as the country heads to the 2021 tripartite elections in a few months’ time. The PF further need to be reminded that posterity would judge them harshly should we fail to exercise the utmost restraint and tolerance,” stated Kakoma.

Sinoma Cement workers forced to stay on-site over COVID-19 fears

By Julia Malunga
WORKERS at Sinoma Cement have been denied chance to leave the plant by the company’s management since April, citing the COVID-19 pandemic, which they argue could cripple production levels if employees contracted the virus. Confirming the development in an interview, Sinoma Cement human resources officer Mweene Musesha explained that workers had not been sent back home because such an action would affect production levels at the plant in the event that the virus spread on company premises. “Everyone was scheduled for leave to go home so for the month of September and October, there was a schedule that we made that no one should go home because we are trying to heighten up

on productivity before the rainy season. They (workers) are being kept at the premises because of the Coronavirus in case someone gets sick, we don’t want to affect the production because that means that there will be a loss of income for everyone in an event that we have to shut down. We are working on a plan to see what we can do so that we can balance the production. We understand that they want to go home, but what safety measures can we take so that it is easier for production. So, it’s not that we are going to jump into making a conclusion or plan right now, but it is something that we have to look at and see what alternative we can bring up,” said Musesha.

But workers at the plant, who sought anonymity, said they had been lobbying

management to be allowed to go home, but had not been given a response.

“In April, we were told that ‘no Zambian employees will be allowed to come from home so everyone will be camping at the plant.’ No one is happy to stay here; the only reason we are staying is because of the incentives that we are being given because if you go home, you will be on forced leave and you will be given a basic pay and it is not much so we are forced to stay. We have been pushing for management to help us so that we can be going home, but they have not told us anything so we are still waiting. Recently, we were given to sign forms that stated that, ‘no one is supposed to leave the plant from 26th August to up to 5th November, 2020,’ said one of the workers.

Zambia’s Economy Cannot survive without International Reserves!

By
Bright Chizonde

INTERNATIONAL reserves, also called foreign exchange reserves or reserve assets, are a stock of non-domestic or foreign currency denominated assets held by a central bank or monetary authority for meeting a defined range of important objectives. These objectives include, but are not limited to, maintaining confidence in monetary policies, limiting external and domestic vulnerability to shocks or unforeseen circumstances, providing confidence concerning a country’s ability to meet its external obligations, and assisting the government in servicing its external debt and the importation of important commodities. Considering these objectives, it is without doubt that an economy cannot survive without international reserves!

In view of the foregoing, a central bank should therefore keep adequate stock of these crucial assets, which may include; gold reserves, foreign currency reserves, and any internationally acceptable claims. Although there are various ways of measuring the adequacy of foreign exchange reserves, key measures are linked to the coverage of imports and short-term debt obligations because import cover and debt servicing are perhaps the most important and more pronounced uses of international reserves. As such, a country’s international reserves are widely reported in terms of months of import cover in order to signify how many months an economy can survive without any further accumulation-

assuming it continues its importation of goods and services. An import-dependent country would therefore require relatively more reserves than one which is largely self-sufficient.

A country also needs reserves in order for the central bank to support external debt serving. If, for example, there is a requirement to pay US500 million as interest towards external debts, such as Eurobonds, and the fiscal authority can only raise US300 million, the central bank will be expected to meet the US200 million shortfall through releasing its reserves. This is because, it is far much worse, in terms of financial and economy-wide consequences, to default on external debt obligations than to reduce the stock of international reserves. If a country maintains a high external debt obligation, the stock of reserves will tend to diminish over time as more and more shortfalls are financed using reserves. Such a depletion of reserves would also reduce the confidence of markets about a country’s ability to meet its future external obligations.

International reserves also maintain confidence in the policies for domestic monetary and exchange rate management including the capacity to intervene in support of the currency. If the exchange rate depreciates when a country has a limited stock of reserves, the central bank will not have enough firepower to intervene, since such interventions may require the release of foreign currency. Therefore, a low or depleted stock of reserves erodes

confidence in the central bank’s ability to react to large short-term currency swings since reserves are also used to demonstrate the backing of domestic currency by external assets.

It would, therefore, be disastrous for a country to completely deplete its foreign reserves! With a zero balance of reserves, an economy would have no liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis, national disasters, or emergencies such as when access to borrowing is curtailed. It would erode confidence in the central bank’s ability to effectively implement monetary policy and expose the exchange rate to currency attacks-where speculative investors can begin to manipulate the exchange rate.

About Author
Mr. Bright Chizonde is the senior economist at the Public Financial Management Consult. He is a macroeconomist and a public finance management expert. His research interests are focused on how Zambia can improve its fiscal and budgeting processes for accelerated economic growth, while enhancing fiscal responsibility, fiscal transparency and public participation. Mr. Chizonde is passionate about simplifying economic issues for effective dissemination to the general public. To contact the author, please email: pfmconsult@gmail.com. Special thanks to Mr. Gabriel Simungala and Mr. Gerald Soko.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chalwe Lombe says government is considering engaging the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to create a platform where Zambians

in the diaspora can vote in next year’s general election. Speaking during the African Missions virtual meeting on the diaspora policy, Lombe asked missions abroad to make submissions to

Govt mulls modality for Zambians in diaspora to vote

the Ministry to enable them engage the relevant institutions on the possibility of helping them register as voters. Responding to a question from Zambia’s High Commissioner to South Africa, Major Jackson Miti, who

wanted to know what plan government had for its citizens abroad, Lombe conceded that lack of voting among Zambians abroad was a problem as they lacked access to exercise their constitutional right.

Meanwhile, Lombe said that Zambian Missions abroad played a critical role in the successful implementation of the Diaspora Policy.

He further urged Mission staff to take time to understand and appreciate the Diaspora Policy to effectively coordinate diaspora communities in various countries.

This was contained in a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian Mission in Pretoria Naomi Nyawali.

BoZ attributes kwacha fall to dwindling mining exports

By Natasha Sakala
THE kwacha’s sharp depreciation against major currency convertibles has been caused by imbalances in the foreign exchange market, induced by mining companies’ reduced exports, whose global supply chains have been adversely affected by COVID-19. In a statement, Tuesday, the Central Bank stated that the kwacha’s sharp depreciation against major currency convertibles had been triggered by mining companies’ reduced exports, whose global supply chains were adversely affected by COVID-19. Mining companies’ reduced export volumes had, in-turn, led to lower foreign exchange earnings, which reduced dollar supply in the local market, according to BoZ data. “In the recent weeks, the kwacha has come under renewed pressure. Between mid-August and September

14, 2020, the kwacha depreciated by 8.0 per cent to K19.81 per US dollar from K18.34, largely reflecting imbalances in the foreign exchange market. On the supply side, lower foreign exchange sales have been noted from the mining sector as well as foreign financial firms, who typically invest in government securities. The reduced mining sector supply, although pronounced during this period, is consistent with the gradual reduction in exports in general. This is partly due to disruptions to international trade and declining global economic growth following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, operational challenges at key mining firms, which have been significant suppliers of foreign exchange in the past, have compounded the situation. On the demand side, there has been a significant increase in foreign

exchange requirements for the importation of agricultural inputs, health-related supplies required to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and procurement of petroleum products, including clearance of past arrears to suppliers. This elevated demand is in addition to continued debt service payments that present the largest call on international reserves,” BoZ stated. The Central Bank, however, added that mining companies’ payment of statutory obligations had boosted Zambia’s international gross reserves position. “In June, 2020, mining companies began paying all of their statutory tax obligations, in addition to mineral royalties to Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) through the Bank of Zambia (BoZ); this has contributed to foreign exchange reserves. In August and September, the BoZ has

been able to provide foreign exchange liquidity back into the market to help meet the current significant increase in demand amidst reduced supply. As has been indicated in previous Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statements, the exchange rate has an important impact on inflation outcomes. Addressing volatility in the exchange rate, whilst allowing it to adjust to market conditions, is, therefore, a critical ingredient in achieving and maintaining price and financial system stability. The BoZ will continue to use all available monetary and foreign exchange intervention options, as appropriate, to address adverse developments in the foreign exchange market,” stated BoZ. The kwacha depreciated to breach the K20 per dollar psychological barrier in some bureaux last week for the first time in Zambia’s history.

By Julia Malunga
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says the ruling Patriotic Front will win next year's general elections adding that only ignorant people are going to a party that will never rule the country.

Speaking when he drummed up support for George Chisanga, in Lukashya, Tuesday, President Lungu said the UPND will never rule this country.

“Ukuvota pa 17th September nipa bwato pantu emuli amaka elo emuli abantu. Aba mungulu abaleya kuchi pani ichi shakatekepo party. Paliba party imo ishakatekepo pantu tabaishiba ati amaka yaba ku bantu. Until they wake up to know that amaka yaba ku abantu. That is why natwishiba tulewina. Shakatekepo party tabakatekepo balya iyo namu 2021 the mandate will be given to us. (On 17th September, you should vote for the PF because that is where the majority are. Ignorant people are going to a party that will never rule this country. There is a certain party that will never rule this country because they don't know that power belongs to the people. Until they realise that power belongs to the people. That is why we know that we will win. Even in 2021, the mandate will be given to us),” President Lungu said.

He urged Chisanga to emulate him when he is elected.

“ Ba George ilya inshita mwalefwaya ukubombela abantu yafika. Ndepita muli iwe wine nokweba bonse ama MPs ayamu chipani ukweba ati muleipwilila

UPND will never rule Zambia – Lungu

amani ngachakutila ati bami votela mwaya mwailila. Chikamishupa sana ukubwela mu 2021. Zambia yasalile ba PF pakushininkisha ukuti ba PF balefwaya ukuleta ubuyantanshi ku nchende yaku mushi naku balanda, nefyo tulingile tulefichita naino inshita. Nomba, bonse abena ikala calo balepukunya fye umutwe ukutila ninshi ba PF tabaleishila kuno mukubomba? Efilelenga ni ba MP. Ba MP tabalefisha efyo abantu bale kabila munchende emo baikalalamo. Nga wa chita ifyo mune ninshi waya bwangu

bwangu. Ukopeko kuli ine, nemunobe nali MP ku Chawama nalebomba naba Chawama chila bushiku mpaka ba Sata bamonapo chimo. Lelo ninebo President. Ngawaifinya uka shala weka. (George, you wanted to serve the people of Lukashya, time now has come. Let me take this opportunity to tell all the PF members who are not in the habit of going to their constituencies that it will be difficult for people to vote for you next year. Zambians voted for PF because they believed that we will take development

in all parts of the country, we are still carrying that vision. But people are wondering why the PF is not taking development in other areas, it is because of some members of parliament who are not taking telling us what the people want in their various constituencies. When you do that, you will be voted out. Emulate me. I worked with the people of Chawama when I was an MP until the late president Michael Sata did to elevate me. When you don't humble yourself, you will be on your own).” said President Lungu. Meanwhile, Chisanga begged Lukashya residents to vote for him saying he would work for them when elected.



We can't take empowerment to areas where we have no relationship with people – Minister

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ACTING Community Development Minister Elizabeth Phiri says her office cannot take women and youth empowerment programmes to areas where it does not have a relationship with the people.

And Phiri says government will retrieve all items distributed as empowerment materials if they are abused and personalised.

Speaking in parliament Tuesday, UPND Manyinga member of parliament Robert Lihefu asked the minister why the government had abandoned the women and youth empowerment programme under her ministry.

“Mr Speaker, through you, under MMD administration, the women empowerment fund like the youth empowerment funds were distributed equally to all constituencies so as to encourage equity in the manner national resources were

distributed. My question is why did you find it necessary to abandon this practice?” Lihefu asked.

In her response, Phiri said government cannot take empowerment to areas where it does not have a relationship with the people.

“Mr Speaker, may I remind the Honourable member that this is a PF Government. We are not MMD. And secondly, when we are taking these empowerments, we need a relationship. We cannot just go into an area where we don't know anybody and in this place, we know no one and we are stranded with the things we want to give. This is the reason why we are asking people to apply to create a relationship in the first place so that we should know where we are taking these things. And to know the people that are benefiting,” Phiri said.

“I want to inform this August House that these things that we give remain government property. If they are abused or they are personalised, the government has the right to follow and retrieve and give to other cooperatives that

are ready to use them. So, we cannot go to a place where we have no relationship.”

Then Namwala UPND member of parliament Moono Lubezhi made a follow up question saying: “The Honourable Minister has just informed us that they cannot go in an area where they have got no relationship. Therefore my question is, what is her ministry doing to ensure that her ministry has relationships in all the areas in Zambia because that is their duty? What sensitisation does her ministry do?”

In responding to the follow-up question, Phiri said those who need the empowerment should apply through her ministry adding that government was ready to empower anyone regardless of their political affiliation.

“Mr Speaker I am on record in this August House inviting these colleagues both from the left and the right to come to my office and get guidelines for their constituencies from the department in charge of empowerment. Mr Speaker, if we are here claiming we represent the people and we

don't do the needful for the people we represent, then it's not the ministry to blame. The government is ready to empower everybody regardless of political affiliation. We need these people to be taking the message that the government has, the program for the government of the Patriotic Front to their people. And these people once they apply, we will respond accordingly,” she responded.

And when Siavonga member of parliament Darius Mulunda asked what other relationship the minister wanted when it had placed District Commissioners as its representatives in various areas, Phiri said DCs cannot know about the people's needs if not approached.

“Mr Speaker, this Honourable Minister has a closer relationship with members of parliament who have an interest of the people they represent. The District Commissioner if he is not approached by any cooperatives, it will be very difficult for the District Commissioner to bring any information to us. I expect that the members of parliament should have a heart for their people. They should have an interest to see that their people benefit from the national cake. If any of them applied and they are saying I did not respond, let them come out. I am advising them to apply. Come to my office and get the application forms and be guided how to go about it. Then I will be in their constituencies,” said Phiri.

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Being a judge or magistrate is a privilege, not an advantage

THE decision by the Judicial Complaints Commission to recommend the removal of High Court Registrar David Simusamba from the judiciary because of the conduct he exhibited during the time that he served as Lusaka Magistrate makes sad reading. We hope our brother will be able to successfully exculpate himself. However, the development serves as a reminder to those who wield power to exercise it with restraint for they are in those positions to serve the people and not themselves.

This is even more expected from judicial officers whose duty is to dispense justice. Having the power to interpret the law and mete out punishment on those who contravene laws comes with a lot of expected responsibility and humility. Magistrates and judges are not the law unto themselves, and as such, they always have to remember that the opportunity to adjudicate on criminal matters or to preside over legal disputes is a privilege rather than

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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an advantage. Zambia has over 17 million citizens, some of whom are exceptionally intelligent, in some cases, even more intelligent than our judicial officers. Some have far better paying jobs and occupy very respectable positions in society. Others have abundant resources at their disposal. But all these citizens of various backgrounds are expected to relinquish their prestigious statuses when they appear before a judge or magistrate. Society also has distinguished State Counsel and professors of law who command so much respect in the legal fraternity, but they submit themselves before a magistrate and

recognize him or her as the ordained judicial authority. Judges and magistrates must never abuse this recognition and treat people who bow before them as fools. Our judicial officers must not reward the respect they are accorded with arrogance and pomposity. Being a judge or magistrate is just like any other job. It's not different from a doctor or a teacher. If we can tell a doctor to exhibit exemplary behaviour and treat patients in a considerate and professional manner, we should also tell our judicial officers to treat the people they serve with the dignity deserving of other humans. When a judge gets sick, he must submit himself before a medical practitioner

to get help, and that treatment is expected in return when the doctor seeks justice before a judicial officer. That is how society works. Imagine having a doctor who thinks he is more important than any other person in society who does not have the power he possesses. Imagine having a lecturer at a university who thinks he is intellectually superior because of the position he holds at a learning institution and that his students are dull or stupid. That would be the case if a judge or magistrate portrayed himself as a superior being. Our point is that our roles in society will always differ but there is a need for all of us to accommodate each other.

Judicial officers who carry themselves as superior citizens, occupying advantageous positions in society, will always have a challenge respecting the dignity of other human beings. Such judicial officers will also most likely look down upon less privileged citizens who appear before them to seek justice. And that is the beginning of many problems that result in institutions such as the Judicial Complaints Commission recommending disciplinary action or removal from the bench of a judicial officer. Like we stated above, this makes sad reading, but presents a set of lessons. We have consistently reminded our leaders that

the exercise of power must be the constant practice of self-limitation and modesty. We can also add by warning that abusing these powers to fix political opponents, real or imaginary, usually comes with eventual consequences. Often, we see our judicial officers acting in a manner that is legal but unfair. They know that their actions are unfair, but they do so anyway in the interest of external influence or to settle personal scores. Usually, posterity has the last say. Sometimes, nature punishes people who mistreat others by keeping them alive long enough so that they can see how those they mistreated overcame the challenges and prospered. Those who are privileged to serve others at the pedestal of society must, at all costs, resist the temptation of using their positions to destroy the lives of people whom they don't like. Misguided hatred can lead one to cause atrocities and end up on the upper end of the embarrassment scale.

Crossword puzzle No 691

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“We are living in an age where honesty is seen as aggression, and truth must be sugared over or else be rejected as hate speech.”
- Mike Klepper

- Across

1. Overly
4. Employ
6. Electricity
7. Ancient mummy king
9. Holiday drink
11. Pig home
13. New thought
14. Prefix with morph or plasm
15. Said in surprise
17. Use a wok
19. Last year's jrs.
21. Major happening
22. Beer belly
23. Umpire
- Down

1. Youngster
2. Make a selection
3. Hit hard
4. Vase
5. ____ roll, appetizer
8. Beneath
10. Aquatic mammal
11. Witnessed
12. Evergreen tree
16. Unlocked
17. Newton fruit
18. Thus far
19. Stuart's nickname
20. Drips from trees

Crossword puzzle No 690

1	P	R	O	O	3	F		4	A	R	5	M
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16	D	E	N			17	P	A	N	I	C	

Readers' Feedback

DIGGERS' OPINION: Procurement General's office can't stop corruption, the criminal syndicate is too powerful

Editor,

“The problem is NOT the Procurement procedures. The MMD led government under the leadership of Levy P Mwanawasa had less sophisticated procurement procedures and

structures. The trick that Levy applied was simple ZERO TOLERANCE to corruption. Levy P Mwanawasa was “Allergic” to corruption. President Lungu is “Attracted” to corruption to the extent of inventing

the policy of ‘Ubomba Mwibala alya Mwibala’”. - Christopher Kalima

“Such policies can’t work in this government when you bring up such policies you become the enemy of the government”. - Newton Su Simutanyi

corrupt and have no moral right to blame the system which they deliberately manipulate. Creating more senior positions is costly on taxpayer...” - Kool Int

“The corruption in PF is so rife because of collusion. Nothing will stop the so called procurement general from colluding. We have enough procedures to arrest the problem what we lack is political will at the very top”. - Richard Waga



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Mobile subscriber base increased to 17.9m

Editor,

“With so much poor service we have no choice but to have more than 2 Sim cards and I have 4”. - Mwamba Alexious

“Subscriber as in sim cards not individuals. Due to very poor services, we have nearly all people having 3 to 2 simcards to compensate for absence or poor network of other service providers. That figure should be for 6 million active users”. - Mulyokela Namasiku Kalaluka

“People usually have more than one simcard”. - Kachinga Miyoba

“Obviously duplicated,

there are about 18.6m living human beings in Zambia, it's impossible to have such a ratio in a country with so much poor coverage of GSM networks”. - Okwonkuo Ahmadinejad Mwanawina

“WITH POOR Internet Service under the Watch of ZICTA to the detrement of us Subscribers who spend alot our hard earned Money to the sink hole of Mobile Services. TWO MORE MOBILE Network Providers are URGENTLY REQUIRED for vigorous Competition that should give rise to Superb and Cheap Mobile Services Particularly INTERNET services”. - Winston Chola

‘Magistrate Simusamba should just step down and join PF!’

Dear editor,

Mutinta Mulonda

“He is so young but he has allowed the corrupt and looters of our natural resources to use him for 30 pieces of silver. Under PF many people in key institutions has destroyed their young careers by doing dirty works for PF and soon they will kiss goodbye to their careers because their hands are stained with corrupt money”. - Dennis Tyson Phiri

“Its long overdue.... Public office bearers should be impartial and apolitical, especially the judiciary, he should stick to fair judgements...” - Mutinta Nzila

“Very good development, he thought he was untouchable and next year he will be retired on national interest”. - Oscar Mwewa

“That can't happen under ECL rule... He's going no where”. - Pingi Kelvin Banda

“He won't go because the one responsible of effecting the JCC recommendation is probably state sponsored and will seat on the recommendation report”. - Jacob Kunda

‘Mucheleka arrest unnecessary’

Editor,

“I knew PF was evil but not to this extent”. - Mwiya Akufuna

“They are fearing defeat mu strong hold. Christian nation for you”. - Petro Phiri

“This is what PF did to Mwaliteta and group then kept them in prison for a year! PF must go abantu bachula with arrests of trumped up charges”. - Mutinta Mulonda

“JJ Banda who Stormed a Central police station in Lusaka and attacked police officers on duty and stole money and mobile phones from them was charged with a mockery offence instead of the right offence!” - Harri Sons Oko

“Zambian politics, I am so sorry for these unnecessary arrests whenever there are elections. Politically they are making the UPND popular!!” - Munsanje Munsanje

“It will be bad for PF in 2022 going foward, when they will be in opposition. If the same strategy is going to be used on them (PF), they will really feel bad. Change is inevitable”. - Chrispine Mawere

“Useless when jj Banda beat up police and stole their money at Lusaka central police station he walked to freedom now just because the three men has done the campaign well for their candidate it's a problem with or without those three men the people of Lukashya have already made the decision”. - Matanki Matanki

“When the case is disposed, I suggest Mucheleka and others must sue the state for compansation because it's too much of arbitrary arrest and cooked up charges” - Stafreds Maluta



By Julia Malunga
CHAPTER One Foundation says the Electoral Commission of Zambia's (ECZ) decision to conduct voter registration for a period of only one month serves as an unwarranted barrier for voters.
And Chapter One Foundation says the suspension and cancellation of media licenses, such as that of Muvi TV and Prime TV, has adverse effects on Zambian democracy.

In a statement to commemorate International Day of Democracy, Tuesday, Chapter One Foundation states that the limitation of the mobile NRC issuance to certain areas of the country provided an additional barrier, potentially disenfranchising eligible voters.
"Chapter One Foundation believes that periodic, free and fair elections are a core element of democracy as they promote civic participation and enable voters to select their leaders and hold them accountable for their performance in office. As

Threats on private media affecting Zambia's democracy – Chapter One



Chapter One Foundation Chairperson Linda Kasonde

Zambia nears elections set for August, 2021, it is imperative that a free and fair electoral process is promoted; one that is accessible to all potential voters. The decision by the ECZ to conduct voter registration for a period of only 30 days serves as an unwarranted barrier for voters, as the registration

period is not sufficient for the ECZ to effectively capture all nine million eligible voters in the country. In addition, the limitation of the mobile National Registration Card issuance to certain areas of the country provides an additional barrier, potentially disenfranchising eligible

voters," read the statement.
Chapter One called on political parties to desist from using violence and divisive language during election campaigns.

"Chapter One Foundation is equally concerned at the violence exhibited during by-elections across Zambia. This violence is often accompanied by tribal sentiments that have the effect of undermining national unity. We call on all political parties to desist from violence and using divisive language during election campaigns," it stated.

And Chapter One bemoaned Prime TV and Muvi-TV's suspended broadcast license as it deprived Zambians of the opportunity to make informed decisions for effective civic participation.

"Additionally, Chapter One Foundation bemoans the suspension and cancellation of media licences, such as that of Muvi-TV and Prime TV. This has adverse effects on Zambian democracy as it limits the information disseminated to the public. Unbiased information from a variety of sources is critical in order for Zambians to make informed decisions for effective civic participation. Moreover, the use of the COVID pandemic to restrict freedom of expression and assembly as witnessed during the recent youth protests of 22nd June, 2020, has further dented Zambia's image as an emerging democracy," read the statement.

"Chapter One Foundation urges the Zambian government to review its policies in order to better align them with democratic values and principles. It is essential that government promotes the right to vote, the right to freedom of assembly and the right to freedom of expression for democracy to thrive. We further urge all political parties to use their campaign agendas to promote messages of national unity in line with our national values of 'patriotism and unity'. Our democracy

rests on the ability of Zambians to participate in all governance activities fully, freely and peacefully."
The International Day of Democracy is celebrated annually on September 15 and serves as an opportunity to encourage governments to strengthen and reinforce democratic values in their respective states.
Established through a UN General Assembly resolution in 2007, the International Day of Democracy stems from the core belief that effective democracy requires consistent review to safeguard the engagement of governing bodies, civil society and private citizens in democratic processes, ensuring the continued protection and effective realisation of human rights.

CUTS to launch Food Security Initiative



Launch of the Lusaka Food Policy Council on the 25 of February 2020

By Natasha Sakala
THE Food Policy Council, with support from Hivos, is tomorrow set to launch the Food Security Initiative spearheaded by CUTS Zambia and the Lusaka City Council (LCC) to help government shape policy in the agricultural sector.
In an interview, Consumer Unity Trust Society (CUTS) programmes officer consumer welfare Jane Zulu explained that the initiative was important because the country still did not have a food policy despite having an agricultural policy in place.
"On the 17th of this month, we will be launching a document called the Food Security Initiative in conjunction with HIVOS and the LCC. The Food Policy Council consists of different stakeholders in the food value chain because the food system has a lot of sectors involved and we recognise that Zambia does not have a food policy. We have an agricultural policy, but we don't have a food policy, so we came up with a Food Policy Council to have every sector in the food value chain represented. So, we have farmers, we have Zambia Alliance of Women, we have the Ministry of Health, we have academia, UNZA, NRDC and the Council and various other stakeholders, who bring their own view because food is not just agriculture, we have

to learn about it, we have to know the education part of it to understand what we eat. We also have informal traders because we realise that the informal traders provide access to food because 90 per cent of households in Lusaka buy their foods from the informal market," explained Zulu.
"Zambia itself did not have any policy for the whole food

value chain, we have different other policies, that's how we came up with the Food Policy Council to address those issues. So, now, what we are launching is the document that we have come up with as a Food Policy Council. So, the Food Policy Council is the one that's launching, CUTS and the Lusaka City Council are spearheading this, with support from Hivos."

THE immaculately preserved remains of an Ice Age-era bear have been unearthed by reindeer herders in the Russian Arctic, researchers have said.

The bear was revealed by the melting permafrost on the Lyakhovsky Islands in north-



Bear from Ice Age found 'completely preserved' in Russian Arctic

eastern Russia.
With its teeth and nose

intact, the bear is thought to be a species of brown bear that lived 22,000 to 39,500 years ago.

It will be studied at the North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) in the city of Yakutsk.

Scientists at the university, known for its research into woolly mammoths and other prehistoric species, suggested the discovery was unprecedented.

Dr Lena Grigorieva, a palaeontology researcher at the university, said the bear was "the first and only find of its kind" to be recovered in once piece with "soft tissue".

"It is completely preserved, with all internal organs in place, even including its nose,"

Dr Grigorieva said.
"Previously, only skulls and bones were found. This find is of great importance for the whole world."

Dr Grigorieva told the BBC the animal is believed to be an ancient relative of the brown bear, a large species found across Eurasia and North America today.

Other Russian scientists will be invited to join the study, with more details to be announced soon, the NEFU said in a news release on Monday.

"It is necessary to carry out radiocarbon analysis to determine the precise age of the bear," the university quoted Maxim Cheprasov of the Mammoth Museum

laboratory as saying.
The bear carcass was found by reindeer herders on Bolshoy Lyakhovsky Island, the largest of the Lyakhovsky Islands, which are part of the New Siberian Islands archipelago that lies between the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea.
Separately, the preserved carcass of a bear cub was found in Russia's far-eastern region of Yakutia, also known as the Sakha Republic. DNA testing will be carried out.
Recent years have seen major discoveries of mammoths, woolly rhinos, foal, several puppies and cave-lion cubs as the permafrost melts across vast areas in the Russian region of Siberia.
Last year, an 18,000-year-old puppy was found perfectly preserved with teeth and fur in the permafrost of Siberia.**BBC**

African writers make top book prize shortlist



Novels by Zimbabwean Tsitsi Dangarembga and Ethiopian-American Maaza Mengiste have both made the six-book shortlist for the prestigious Booker Prize.

Dangarembga's This Mournable Body is a sequel to her 1988 book Nervous Conditions, which has since become a classic, and continues the story of Tambu.

In a tweet, she said she was "overwhelmed and delighted" by the nomination:

Set in the 1930s, Mengiste's The Shadow King focuses on the life of an orphan as Italy's wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's forces threaten to invade Ethiopia.

"I don't know what to say. OH MY GOD!" is what she tweeted in response to the news that she was shortlisted:

Last year, British-Nigerian writer Bernadine Evaristo became the first black woman to win the prize for her book Girl, Woman, Other.

Previous African winners include Nadine Gordimer, JM Coetzee and Ben Okri.

The other books shortlisted for this year's award are:
The New Wilderness by Diane Cook
Burnt Sugar by Avni Doshi
Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart
Real Life by Brandon Taylor
The winner, who will receive \$64,000 (£50,000), will be announced on 17 November.

Any book written in English and published in Britain is eligible for the award.**BBC**

Aubameyang signs new 3-year Arsenal contract

ARSENAL captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has put an end to the speculation regarding his future at the club by signing a new three-year contract.

The Gabon international's previous deal had been set to expire in the summer of 2021 and he had been locked in talks over a renewal for several months.

The Gunners had been hugely reluctant to lose their skipper and top scorer of the last two seasons amid interest from big-name clubs such as Barcelona and Antonio Conte's Inter.

Fans can now relax, however, as the 31-year-old will remain the spearhead of Mikel Arteta's rebuilding project at the Emirates Stadium for the foreseeable future, with the forward now expected to earn somewhere in the region of £250,000 (\$320,000) per week as part of his new deal.

"Arsenal fans! Finally! As you know, I've just signed da ting," Aubameyang said in a live stream from the Emirates. "I wanted to share it with you guys and I'm so happy – a bit nervous! It's finally done. I'm really,

really happy to stay here, I mean, this is my home.

"I feel so good here, it's a great day and I hope you enjoy your day. I signed da ting because I want to become an Arsenal legend and to maybe leave a legacy. It's time to work a lot to become a legend, I know, but I will give my best as always.

"I can't wait to see you in this beautiful stadium again. Hopefully it's going to be soon. I'm really happy to be staying here and really proud to be part of this family."

Arteta added on the club's official website: "It was important for Pierre-Emerick to stay with us. He's a superb player with an incredible mentality.

"Being the player to have taken the least amount of time to reach 50 goals with this club tells you everything you need to know about him and his way of working.

"He's an important leader for the team and a big part of what we're building. He wants to be up there with the best players in the world and leave his mark. He can achieve that here."



Chess league to resume

By Ngosa Chalwe

AFTER being deferred indefinitely in April, the Lusaka Province Chess Association (LPCA) League is expected to return this weekend after receiving a go ahead from the Ministry of Health.

The League was set to take off in April but was pushed to an unknown date owing to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the country.

However, LPCA chairman William Jilowa confirmed in an interview yesterday that the 2020 season would start this weekend, as 10 teams were expected to battle for the ultimate prize.

"We are planning to start the Elite League this

weekend, bearing in mind the COVID-19 precautions. We have engaged the Ministry of Health and they have given us a go ahead after inspecting our playing venue, which is NIPA. We have also communicated to the clubs and emphasized the need for players to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines," Jilowa said.

He said the games would be played behind closed doors while players would be expected to wear masks and observe social distancing during all games.

Jilowa added that the players were excited to return to the board after a long stretch of inactivity.

"We are excited and optimistic that we will have a successful league in the

new normal. Players are anxiously waiting," he said.

Jilowa appealed to the corporate world to come on board and sponsor the league.

Police team Nkwazi are defending champions.

Other teams in the league include Green Buffaloes, Project Chess Zambia Red Arrows, Napsa B Kalingalinga Lusaka Knights, Liyoca and Napsa A.

The Argentine was left

out of the Gunners squad for the 3-0 opening-day win over Fulham in the Premier League and is now all set to complete a switch to join Dean Smith's side.

Following their impressive victory over the Cottagers, Arsenal face West Ham at Emirates Stadium on September 19 before a Carabao Cup clash with Leicester City on September 22. **GOAL.COM**

Zanaco signs Lukong

By Abraham Kalito

SUPER league giant Zanaco FC has announced the signing of Congolese goalkeeper Lukong Mbuyamba from national division one side Indeni FC.

Zanaco, nicknamed the bankers, made the announcement via Facebook that Mbuyamba

had penned down a two-year deal that will see him at the club until 2022.

The addition brings the total number of goalkeepers to five at the club.

"Congolese goalkeeper Lukong Mbuyamba Mutombo has joined Sensational Zanaco FC from Eden University National Division One Champions Indeni FC on a 2-year contract. The 24-year-old signed for the Bankers after an impressive performance in the 2019/20 season. Mutombo enjoyed huge success at Indeni, winning the Championship. He spent several years in the TP Mazembe youth side (TP Mazembe Ecole de Foot) before making a move to Zambia to join Ndola United in 2016 where he was spotted by Indeni in 2017. He will battle it out with Racha Kola, Toaster Nsabata and Mangeni Banda for the number one choice, with young Benson Mwale joining Buildcon on a seasonal long loan," Zanaco announced.

The Lusaka based side finished the previous season on a high note despite starting poorly. The club is now seeking to mount a title challenge, having last won it four years ago.

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