



MORE PEOPLE WON'T VOTE...

If we use the 2016 voters register - ECZ

Chanda lifts Kang'ombe, Binwell's suspensions

By Daniel Chansa

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Ng'andu unveils Procurement Bill

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

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And Parliamentary and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson Howard Kunda has described the Bill as progressive saying tenders. *Story page 2*

he hopes it will stop the tendency of inflating of prices in public procurement, if passed.

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tenders. *Story page 2*



NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili speaks during the ECZ summit at Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

MQHZ accuses ZAMRA of allowing theft of medicine in hospitals

By Natasha Sakala

MEDICAL for Quality Healthcare in Zambia

(MQHZ) says it is very disappointed with Zambia Medicines Regulatory

Authority (ZAMRA) for allowing theft of medicine in public clinics and hospitals.

In a statement, Thursday, MQHZ media and advocacy director Francis Kangwa wondered why clinics and hospitals had continued experiencing drug shortages.

"Medical for Quality Healthcare in Zambia (MQHZ) is very disappointed with Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) for allowing theft of medicine..." *Story page 6*

Even if we put billions into economy, some people will still be poor - Lusambo

Story page 3



Home of investigative journalism in Zambia



THIS IS WHAT IT HAS COME TO



Bwalya Ng'andu's 2021 PF budget'

FIKAPWA!

#BallyWillFixIt



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

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And Parliamentary and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson Howard Kunda has described the Bill as progressive saying he hopes it will stop the tendency of inflating of prices in public procurement, if passed.

Speaking when he presented the Bill for Second Reading in Parliament Tuesday, Dr Ng'andu said it had been proposed to address weaknesses in the current Procurement Act to close unnecessary loopholes traditionally used by bidders to abuse procurement tenders.

"Mr Speaker, procurement in the public sector accounts for a significant portion of the nation's economy. This includes procurement of goods, works and services. It is, therefore, imperative that value for money is attained and wastage for scarce public resources through, among others, sub-standard work and over-pricing that have been observed as weaknesses in the current Act are curbed. As a result of these inherent weaknesses, the current Public Procurement Act has been proposed and a Public Procurement Bill further intends to harmonise conflicts within other Acts," Dr Ng'andu explained.

Dr Ng'andu said the Bill sought to introduce price benchmarking, which aimed at ensuring that prices paid by government were market-based and achieved the principle of value for money.

"The key features of this Bill, Mr Speaker, includes the following: introduction of

price benchmarking on standard market prices. Mr Speaker, the Bill under Section 12 introduces price benchmarking, which aims at ensuring that prices paid by government are market-based and achieve the principle of value for money. It is evident that prices for government departments and agencies are charged for various goods and services vary and are normally much higher than what would be charged to private entities. Price benchmarking will, therefore, be introduced and will be attained through ZPPA producing a Quarterly Market Price Index that procuring entities will be required to adhere to. For example, in instances where items to be procured are not covered in the Quarterly Market Price Index, a procurement entity will be required to undertake a price reasonableness analysis as prescribed in the regulations to be developed," he added.

Dr Ng'andu said the Bill also restricted office holders and their relatives from participating in the procurement process.

"Mr Speaker, the Bill, under Section 15, has restricted the participation in the procurement process for office holders and their relatives. This will avoid conflict of interest on the part of office holders that may lead to mispricing and tender manipulation, if allowed. The mandatory use of information and communication technology: Sir, it is the feature of the Bill intended to make the use of electronic government procurement system mandatory for all procurement

entities when engaging bidders or suppliers in the acquisition of goods, works, consulting and non-consulting services. This measure will increase transparency, reduce the time taken in the bidding process. The Bill provides for a transitioning period of three years for those procuring entities that will be assessed not to be ready to use the electronic government procurement system," Dr Ng'andu said.

"National comparative bidding: Sir, the Bill under Section 39 (2) provides for national comparative bidding gives priority to Zambian citizens. It is also intended to encourage Zambian bidders to bid in partnership with other Zambians where individually, they may have insufficient skills or capacity to successfully bid for a given tender. Where a partnership of Zambians is still in need of additional capacity for which a foreign entity may be required, the Zambian partnership will sub-contract the foreigner. This will bring an end to the unnecessary sub-contracting of Zambians by foreigners. In other words Mr Speaker, we want a system where Zambians are sub-contracting foreigners, rather than the current practice where foreigners are sub-contracting Zambians, even when it is not necessary."

Dr Ng'andu said that the Public Procurement Bill will equally prohibit the variation of contracts beyond 25 per cent.

"Mr Speaker, the Bill prohibits the supplier from fronting on behalf of another. Further, it

prohibits one whom a contract has been awarded to assign the contract to a third-party as has been the case in the past. A supplier, who contravenes this Section commits an offence and is liable to a fine or prosecution. Mr Speaker, the Bill [also] proposes to prohibit any amendments or variation to contracts beyond 25 per cent of the original contract price. Variations beyond 25 per cent of the original contract price will require a new tender to be undertaken. This provision is intended to prevent abuse of the tender process through under-bidding to win tenders followed by price escalations and contract variations that result in abuse of public resources," Dr Ng'andu said.

"Sir, the Bill under Section 93 makes it mandatory for procuring entities that embark on international bidding to sub-contract citizens. The provision will require that a foreign bidder or supplier should by law sub-contract a percentage of the total value of the procurement in accordance with the prescribed threshold to citizens, bidders, and suppliers. The percentage threshold to be sub-contracted will be prescribed in regulation."

And Dr Ng'andu said the Bill would further introduce sanctions for procurement offences like certifying non-existing suppliers, among others.

"Mr Speaker, the Bill has introduced sanctions for offences to safeguard public resources. These offences include certification of sub-standard goods or works,

certifying incomplete works, certifying non-existing suppliers or whose quality is below the specifications contained in the contract. Other offences include: conspiracy to raise prices, gaining advantage by using one's position and tampering with the bid, including any document or items submitted in the bid. Sir, this Bill is long overdue. I call upon the House to support the Bill as it will start the process of recreating wealth among our people by empowering local citizens in public procurement and building capacity among citizens in undertaking huge public works. The Bill also aims at strengthening the existing regulatory and enforcement mechanism required to promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in our public procurement system. It will be a deterrent to procurement fraud and save government of the much-needed resources for interventions in important sectors, such as education and health," Kunda said.

But he proposed that the Bill should also address the administrative gap of the lack of a specific office to superintend the whole process by including the Office of the Procurement General.

Kunda also said his Committee disagreed with the Bill's proposal to allow the Finance Minister to be the one to appoint the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the board of the ZPPA as the mandate should be left to the board members.

"Mr Speaker, Clause 7 (2) provides that the Minister shall appoint the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the board of the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) from among the members of the board. The Committee does not agree with the provision. It recommends that the board members should be given latitude to elect the chairperson and the vice-chairperson to be the board members.

"Mr Speaker, in scrutinising the Bill, the Committee consulted various stakeholders, including professional bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Sir, all the stakeholders consulted are in support of the Bill despite raising some concerns, which are highlighted in the Committee's Report. Sir, the Bill introduces the provision in procurement pricing and makes it mandatory for procurement entities to procure standard goods and services and works in accordance with the Quarterly Market Price Index. This is very progressive and is very commendable. It is hoped

By Julia Malunga

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says even if government injected billions into the economy, some people would still remain poor because they are lazy.

And Lusambo says government is not ashamed to borrow because the money has been put to good use.

Meanwhile, Lusambo says the ruling party has met the expectations of the Zambian people.

Speaking when he appeared on Muvi TV's The Assignment programme, Wednesday evening, Lusambo said in life, it was impossible for everyone's fortunes to be the same.

Lusambo said the Zambian economy was doing well because some families were able to go for holidays

Even if we put billions into economy, some people will still be poor - Lusambo

to Siavonga.

"These roads you are seeing are part of development. Zambia is developing in all sectors. When you are doing good in Agriculture, when you are doing good in the health sector, when you are doing good in Education in health sector, when you are doing good in the economy, when people are going for work, they are able to pay for school fees, they are able to pay for medicals and other bills. They are able to for holidays and have meals. I was just coming

from Siavonga, I went to Chirundu. You know that it is part of my district. From there, the officers told us that there is something we need to do in Chief Sikongo's area and it's very near to Siavonga. We went to Siavonga, we spent a night there, and the rooms were full to capacity. And we wanted to start off from Siavonga at 05:00. I told my guys that we can't start off at that time, I want to see the people that have come here. When it was around 07:00 people were coming from their rooms with

families, they have gone for a weekend," Lusambo said.

"Ichalo efyo chaba teti abantu bonse babe fimo fine (this is how life is, we can't all be the same). We are bettering the lives of people. When you go to South Africa, there are people who are poor and rich. Ichalo efyo chaba nififine whether twabika ama billions mu economy, abantu bakaba aba pusana. Kwaliba nabantu banang'ani bafwaya fyekukabalela ati akulya (This is how the world is. Even if we put billions in the economy, people will be different. There

are also people that are lazy, they want things on a silver plate.)"

And Lusambo said government borrowed to better the lives of citizens.

"America borrowed from China and other countries are borrowing. Even you (the host) you have borrowed in your life. So for us to borrow is not a miracle, we are borrowing to make sure that we give development to our people. And we are not even ashamed. We have borrowed and some of the money which we are talking about

is not only coming from the PF government under President Edgar Lungu, other governments also borrowed. For us the money which we borrowed we have used it in the normal manner. And we can't shy away that we are not borrowing, we are. Even America borrows. We are using it very wisely. The President you see in State House is a President who has a vision for this country and he is a no nonsense President. And whatever things which have come to this country, it is audited. There is no one who can squander government's money. Government's money is audited money. No one can eat government's money," Lusambo said.

Meanwhile, Lusambo said the country was in capable hands under President Lungu and that the ruling party had delivered to the expectations of the people.

"We haven't failed as a country, Zambia is not a failed state. Zambia is in the capable hands of His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu and the government of Edgar Chagwa is working. We are working and we were delivering to the expectations of the people. The people of Zambia told us they needed roads, we are giving them roads. The people of Zambia told us that they need schools, we are constructing schools, the people of Zambia told us that give us hospitals, health posts, we are doing that. The people of Zambia are saying 'no, the Zambia Army needs houses' we are constructing houses for them. The police need houses. We are doing that. The people of Zambia are telling us that we want food, our staple food is Nshima, we want maize in this country, and we invested in agriculture," said Lusambo.

"And we have a bumper harvest. How much are we buying a bag of mealie meal? In other shops we are buying it at K90. There was a time when people of Lusaka almost started lining up for mealie meal because of other selfish individuals. And mealie meal is also all over. The mealie meal is fetching at an affordable price. Tell me the town where people are complaining that there is no mealie meal. When we offload this mealie meal in town, people are buying, go to Shoprite and see how many trucks per day. Take me to our compounds; Kalingalinga, Mtendere, Chawama, Mandevu, [and] Kanyama, people are buying mealie meal. My concern as a government is to know and see if we have shortage of mealie meal in my compounds and the answer is no we have plenty of mealie meal."

The rise in GBV during Covid-19 and the need for specialized prosecution - The DPP'S perspective

By Fulata Lillian Shawa-Siyunyi

One of the hardest things to accept about Covid-19 is the manner in which it has restricted the very activities that have played a key role in the advancement of the human race – freedom of movement and meaningful social interactions.

Travel has been restricted, business has been hampered and the effects are likely to be felt for many years to come. The one thing we are all sure about is that this will be one of those global events that those who come after us will read and wonder about. While the biggest concern is about the global impact, how and when a vaccine or cure is found and how the world will get back on its feet, there are emerging concerns of a different nature.

As we ponder the effects of the limitation of movement, observers around the world have noticed a worrying increase in Gender-Based Violence (GBV), with most victims being women and children. Psychologists attribute it to the social and economic pressures that have arisen due to the pandemic, with people losing incomes and livelihoods under increasing stress due to the prevailing conditions.

Whatever the cause, GBV is a significant issue in Zambia cutting across race, class, ethnicity, and religion and the statistics make for sad reading.

A 2017 study by Care International in Zambia found that the cost of GBV was 2.27 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product due to lost productivity which was the entire budget allocated for health during that period. This shows that GBV is not a private matter but, a public health and economic issue that require the concerted efforts of all sectors of society to overcome and eliminate.

For me, there are three most sobering statistics about GBV in Zambia from the Zambia Demographic Health Survey of 2018: 46 per cent of women agree that men are justified in beating a woman if she: burns food, argues with him, neglects the children or refuses to have sex with him; 31 per cent of Zambian girls are married off before their 18th birthday and of the 47 per cent of married women who experienced physical abuse and 52 per cent have never sought help.

These sobering statistics are one of the reasons we at the National Prosecution Authority of Zambia continue to focus on GBV by ensuring that cases are managed by

specialist prosecutors and by ensuring that a multi sectorial approach is implemented in managing such cases.

We remain keen on increasing the capacity of our prosecutors across Zambia on the handling of GBV cases. In Mid-July 2020, we worked on the increasing of capacity of prosecutors with the assistance of the Attorney General Alliance, which brings together more than 2,000 legal professionals from the United States and Africa consisting of attorneys general, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and subject matter experts. We had, at that training, 25 prosecutors from 10 Provinces of Zambia who were trained by a combined team of local NPA and international experts. Experienced partners such as AGA have proven valuable in reinforcing and expanding the knowledge database on transnational crime. The nature of crime today, is global and needs global partnerships to overcome and understand them.

Partners like the AGA together with the National Prosecution Authority recognises the important role that prosecutors play in the criminal justice response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. These crimes represent a major assault on the human rights of victims and also a major affront to public health. To combat this threat, it is vital that prosecutors properly present these cases before the courts of law in a victim centred manner, upholding and recognising the rights of both the victim and accused person. This is in order to alleviate the harmful effects of sexual violence on victims and the larger community, especially women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by this type of violence.

The realisation of the complex nature of these cases has necessitated our partnership to assist prosecutors and other actors in the criminal justice system in their day-to-day operations. The objective of this training is to ensure that Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases are dealt with in an efficient manner in order to stem the tide of sexual based violence and abuse.

The concerns about the rise of GBV during the pandemic are real but I believe that with the right approach, law enforcement agents like prosecutors can work with the community to help stamp out the practice. For law enforcement agents, it is important to establish probable cause in GBV investigations as well as to collect and

preserve evidence and assess the lethality of the crimes.

They need to learn to make victims of GBV comfortable, as some tend to underreport or minimise the crimes, sometimes because it has happened so many times to them that they feel it is routine and often because the perpetrators are close to them.

Sometimes, the victims are illegal immigrants and worry that reporting abuse could result in the authorities removing them from the country. Their abusers are often aware of this.

It is important to understand the commonly missed crimes in the context of violence against women: stalking, sexual assault by partners, strangulation, threats, kidnapping, and the wrong use of weapons by licensed holders.

On the law enforcement side, there is still more to do in the areas of training of officers who can handle GBV, making police stations friendlier for victims, and increasing the local forensic capabilities so that samples are tested locally at a faster and cheaper rate.

On the side of the community, there is a need for long-term emotional support for those that have suffered from GBV as it has been noted that the lack of it is one of the causes of the high rate of withdrawal and non-cooperation by victims and families. The high acceptance and tolerance for GBV in the community is also a concern that needs the input of community leaders and the clergy as there should be no place for the practice.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence represents a major assault on the human rights of victims and are a major affront to public health. They are often complex, and contrary to the myths, are usually perpetuated by people who are close to the victims, meaning that a successful prosecution is bound to have great impact on the criminal and the community around them. For us in law enforcement, the three sobering statistics should be enough motivation to ensure that this assault on the rights of our women and children, who form the majority of the victims of GBV, is eliminated.

About the author

The author is the incumbent Director of Public Prosecutions and head of Zambia's National Prosecutions Authority (NPA)

By Natasha Sakala
CIVIL Society Scaling Up Nutrition (CSO-SUN) says government's lack of commitment to allocate more resources towards enhancing nutrition will lead to a reversal of the gains that have been made.

According to the presentation made to the Parliamentary Budget Committee, CSO-SUN recommended that government should increase the nutrition budget lines for

Reduced budgetary allocation towards nutrition reversing gains – CSO-SUN

key line ministries and match nutrition donor funding, among others.

"From the perspective of CSO-SUN and partners, the question to be asked is whether the 2021 budget lives up to its theme, in particular –

'Build Resilience to Safeguard Livelihoods and Protect the Vulnerable.' As it relates to nutrition, priority has not been given, and we see a reversal in the progress that was being made on this issue. We, therefore, recommend the following: Availability and ease of access to budget information on nutrition in key line ministries. Challenges in accessing this information hamper timely analysis and accountability to ensuring that Zambia achieves adequate food security and nutrition for all. Ensure financial commitment of ZMW400 per under-five child per year. Increase nutrition budget lines for key line ministries. Match nutrition donor funding (Donors have invested over US \$112 million for the next four years, poor funding by government shows lack of prioritisation)," CSO-SUN stated.

They added that government should also increase the budgetary allocation to the School Feeding Programme to improve school attendance and nutrition outcomes.

"Support crop diversification to promote production of food that meets the dietary needs for the population (E-voucher and distribution of diverse seeds); increase the budgetary allocation to the National Food and Nutrition Commission to strengthen nutrition coordination; increase the

budgetary allocation to the School Feeding Programme to improve school attendance & nutrition outcomes," it stated.

It also expressed concern over the downward trend in allocations to the key nutrition budget lines.

"Starting in 2017, CSO-SUN observed a notable downward trend in allocations to the key nutrition specific lines, this despite the importance of the interventions. The intervention included; i) Management of Moderate and

Severe Malnutrition; ii) Infant and Young Child Feeding; iii) Growth Monitoring and Promotion and iv) Micronutrient programme. Starting in 2020, information on these four critical interventions was no longer made available in the Yellow Book. In fact, from a search of the 2021 Yellow Book, the word nutrition only appears a total of 8 times and the growth monitoring is mentioned in passing only once," it revealed.

CSO-SUN added that next year's budget maintained the

Court refuses to stay proceedings in CK's renewed application for judicial review

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Court of Appeal has refused to grant the State leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against its decision to dismiss a preliminary issue on whether it has jurisdiction to hear Chishimba Kambwili's renewed application for judicial review against magistrate David Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself from handling his forgery case.

A panel of three Court of Appeal judges has consequently declined to stay hearing in Kambwili's renewed application.

In their ruling, Court of Appeal judges Chalwe Mchenga, Petronella Ngulube and Mwiinde Siawapa said the intended appeal by the State did not raise any point of public importance.

"The issues our ruling of September 25, 2020 dealt with, in our view are fairly straight forward and do not need further elucidation by the Supreme Court. That being the case, it is our further view that the intended appeal doesn't raise any point of public importance. We are therefore of the view that the threshold for the grant of leave to appeal as is set out in Section 13 of the Court of Appeal Act has not been met," the court said.

"Consequently, we decline to grant the leave sought. Having declined to grant the leave to appeal, the application for the stay falls off."

In this matter, Kambwili has renewed his application for leave to commence judicial review proceedings in the Court of Appeal to challenge Lusaka principal resident magistrate David Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself from handling his forgery case.

Kambwili cited Attorney General Likando Kalaluka as the respondent.

But the State raised a preliminary issue, among them whether the court had jurisdiction to hear the renewed application but the court dismissed the said preliminary issue on September 25.

The State then asked the court to stay hearing of the said renewed application, pending hearing of its (State's) application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Court of Appeal to dismiss its preliminary issue on whether it (Court of Appeal) had jurisdiction to hear Kambwili's renewed application.

The State argued that this was because Kambwili's notice for renewal of the application for leave to commence judicial review proceedings was filed out of time.

It added that it was of the considered view that as a direct consequence of that, the Court of Appeal did not have the jurisdiction to hear the application until the leave of court to file the same out of time was done.

In the matter before Magistrate Simusamba, Kambwili is charged with three counts of forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer in relation to Mwamona Techinial Services Company Limited.

Judgement in the same matter is scheduled to be delivered this Monday.

Kambwili had asked magistrate Simusamba to recuse himself from handling the case but magistrate Simusamba refused to recuse himself or refer the case to the High Court for constitutional determination.

Kambwili then went to the High Court where he applied for judicial review to challenge magistrate Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself from handling the case.

He asked for an order directing magistrate Simusamba to recuse himself forthwith and surrender the case record to chief resident magistrate Lameck Mwale for re-allocation to another magistrate.

But Lusaka High Court Judge Mwila Chitabo dismissed Kambwili's application because it was not a fit or proper matter to grant leave to commence judicial review.

Judge Chitabo said Kambwili, having been aggrieved with the court's decision, should have appealed against it to the superior court.

Kambwili has now gone to the Court of Appeal where he has filed a notice to renew his application for judicial review against magistrate Simusamba's refusal to recuse himself.

Ruling on the same renewed application has been reserved.

By Daniel Chansa
COPPERBELT PF Chairman Nathan Chanda has lifted the suspensions of Christopher Kang'ombe and Binwell Mpundu.

Chanda said this was to promote the spirit of unity of purpose on the Copperbelt Province.

In a statement, Thursday, Chanda said the resolution was made after the two showed remorse for their actions.

"I'm in receipt of the letters of suspension of Mr Christopher Kang'ombe and Mr Binwell Mpundu from the Kitwe District Patriotic Front Party by Kitwe PF District Chairman Mr Evaristo Chilufya. The same letters of

suspension are also copied to the PF Secretary General Hon. Davies Mwila. After our meeting with the PF Kitwe District Chairman Mr. Evaristo Chilufya his district secretary Mr. Lungo Kawaya, PF Nkana constituency Chairman Mr. Edward Chitambetambe, PF Kamfisa Constituency Chairman Collins Chansa including Mr. Binwell Mpundu and Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe who showed remorse," Chanda said.

"I wish to guide that in the suspensions of Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe and Mr. Binwell Mpundu, there was an amiss in the procedure even when the case is solid as laid out in the PF party constitution and disciplinary code. The PF as the ruling party has a constitution and a disciplinary code which guide all disciplinary matters involving party members. Based on the aforesaid, and remorsefulness shown by Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe and



UK donates additional K4.65m for COVID-19 fight

By Natasha Sakala

UK Minister for Africa James Duddridge has announced an extra £180,000 (K4.65 million) and expert technical assistance to design and deliver a new emergency power solution for the Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital, in order to enhance the fight against COVID-19.

This is in addition to the over £720,000 (K18.6 million) of support, via the World Health Organization (WHO), to the Ministry of Health and other organisations in Zambia for preparedness in the face of COVID-19.

According to a statement from the British Embassy, Duddridge said this when he met President Edgar Lungu at State House yesterday.

"This funding is additional to the support announced by the British High Commissioner in July to the Ministry of Health and other organisations in Zambia for preparedness in the face of COVID-19. As part of the ongoing

health system strengthening partnership between the UK and Zambia, the UK support has included: provision of expert training to over 200 health workers; strengthening health surveillance practices at 16 points of entry; provision of essential medical supplies, and preparation of a range of communication materials to support awareness raising amongst health professionals and the general public," read the statement.

Duddridge said the UK would continue to support Zambia in its response to COVID-19.

"The UK will continue its strong record of support to Zambia's COVID-19 response by providing funds and expert assistance to develop a new emergency power supply for the Levy Mwanawasa Hospital in Lusaka. By increasing the hospital's access to reliable energy, this will enable the hospital to provide up to 800 more beds for critical COVID-19 care," said Duddridge.

Nathan Chanda lifts Kang'ombe, Binwell's suspensions

Mr. Binwell Mpundu, I have decided to lift the suspension."

He said the party in Kitwe District was free to take action next time.

"However, if the Kitwe PF District Executive Committee still feels the duo or any other PF members committed an offense or in the near future warranting disciplinary action, they can charge them following the PF party Constitution and Disciplinary Code. I want to give a serious warning to the trio for taking the matter to the press and social media when as a party we have many channels of airing out grievances. I also wish to take this opportunity to restate that the PF party on the Copperbelt will work towards promoting unity, love and Reconciliation among its membership," stated Chanda.

"However, I will not condone indiscipline from party members, including those who have launched premature campaigns in constituencies with incumbent PF Members of Parliament, with impunity and total disregard of the PF Central Committee guidance as per the circular signed by the Secretary General Hon. Davies Mwila...let us respect and support the party by putting all our efforts together in building the party and campaigning for President Edgar Chagwa Lungu who is our candidate for 2021 General Elections."



PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

(PAC)
Viva New Zambia!!!



Why we deserve your vote

Is Zambia ready for 2021?

By Gerald Pule Mulao

With less than ten months before the 2021 General elections, Zambia appears not ready to host a General election in a free and fair environment where all stakeholders will be satisfied and congratulate the winner.

We say this because a number of pertinent issues are still unresolved. There are contentious issues that arose from the 2016 disputed elections that have not been ironed out and most of them are likely to be carried over to the 2021 General elections. In this article we will attempt to highlight a few of these concerns.

From 2016 to date there has been no meaningful dialogue worth talking about to ease the political tension arising from 2016 elections. We almost saw light at the end of the tunnel when it was resolved that the three church mother bodies lead the dialogue and reconciliation process. The failure of this important national event rebooted political tension in the country and has the potential to destabilise the polls next year.

The unpopular NDF did not make the quorum to deliberate on critical national issues because major stakeholders felt their interests were not protected hence their absence during the deliberations. This has been a major challenge in authentication of the outcome of the NDF which was Bill 10. The ruling party has been pushing Bill 10 down the throat of Zambians but have met equal repulsion force. Not to say the Bill is bad but that it is both bad and good at the same time. The only problem is that the bad exceed the good and parliamentarians on the opposite side will not work to pass it into law.

The failure of Bill 10 simply means the country will depend on the current constitution as amended in 2016 to handle the 2021 elections. And we all know what happened.

The other concern is that Democratic space seems to be shrinking by the day as the police are not giving opposition political parties permits to hold public meetings while the ruling party is enjoying express permits to do as they wish. It may look like those with power are clever and powerful, but the truth of the matter is that this practice by the police is creating more pressure ahead of the polls in 2021 of which when it erupts,

our men in uniform may fail to contain it. This must be addressed within the shortest possible time and fair application of the law must be adopted by the Zambia police. We are in a democracy therefore freedom of assembly, speech or association must not be denied. There must be a distinction between Politics and democratic governance.

Away from the public order act and electoral reforms, ECZ has failed to live up to its mandate of conducting free and fair elections in an atmosphere of peace and dialogue. The commission pretends to engage stakeholders on matters to do with the electoral process and yet they only come to impose their positions in the said meetings. There is simply no room for dialogue.

Recently the commission published astronomical nomination fees in the media against the submission of major stakeholders who did not approve of the said fees. Among the reasons advanced was the inflation rate. When did ECZ become a profit making organisation to talk about inflation? The commission must be reminded that it was created by an act of parliament to administer elections in the interest of the people of Zambia. Therefore, it is imperative that the commission treats the submissions from various stakeholders especially political parties with respect and work to harmonise the issue of nomination fees before 2021.

We have also noted that the commission is working at lightning speed to implement the Joseph Malembeka case Judgement which ordered that persons in lawful custody be allowed to cast their vote.

We all understand that it's a court order but implementation must not be rushed until due diligence is done. We need to appreciate the challenges associated with prisoners voting. How will political parties campaign in prisons for example. The commissioner of prisons made it very clear that no opposition political party will be given access to prisons for campaigns. How then will opposition parties do their messaging to prisons? Are prisons going to be turned into polling stations? How is the prison vote going to be monitored? Those are some of the many pertinent questions associated to prisoners voting hence operationalising the Joseph Malembeka Judgement will not be possible in 2021. It can always wait. We have precedence that has been set where a Judgement was passed that ministers pay

back the Salaries they got illegally in office but up to now it has not been executed. If forced it may be a source of serious conflict. Besides, ECZ has a lot on their table already to be talking of operationalising prisoners voting. We need to do comparative analysis with other countries that do that and come up with a domestic Solution to that issue but certainly not before August 2021.

The other issue which is a silent burner in the build up to 2021 is the issue of online voter registration and deletion of the old voter register generated in 2005 and updated in 2008 and 2011. The complete deletion has created a mis-conception of a possible disenfranchising of voters. This move must be halted and instead undertake registration of voters as prescribed by the law. The constitution provides for continuous registration of voters and not complete deletion. If not handled well, 2021 elections are headed for a dispute as in 2016.

Online voter registration meant to reduce time spent at the voter registration center, will only benefit a few as most Zambians are not internet friendly besides not having gadgets that can help them carry out the exercise.

We are therefore of the considered view that the following be done.

- Police begin to act professionally away from political interference and give equal opportunities (permits) to political parties to hold public meetings. Denying police permits to political parties is not a solution but postponement of a brewing problem with a possible eruption of civil disobedience and electoral violence.

- The ECZ should stop coming to stakeholder consultative meetings with a predetermined position and only inform political parties. We need a lot of consensus building and trust as we gravitate towards the 2021 general elections. Above all let God be at the center of our governance system so that we do what is right in the interest of those living and generations to come.

God bless you and may God bless the republic of Zambia.

Gerald Pule Mulao
Secretary General
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Sipiliswe Ncube

RAINBOW Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba says it is laughable to hear people arguing about whether or not President Edgar Lungu is eligible to contest the 2021 election when the Constitutional Court has already determined his eligibility.

And Kabimba says his party has always been available to enter into an alliance with any political party that has the same ideologies as Rainbow, but will not accept to be used as a doormat to clean the shoes of those who want to enter State House.

Kabimba U-turns on Lungu's eligibility, says he qualifies to contest 2021 polls

Meanwhile, the former PF secretary general says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema should apologize to the people of Lukashya Constituency and the country at large for

calling them Chikala when he addressed a political rally during the just ended by election there.

Speaking when he featured on the 'Add Your Voice'

programme on United Voice Radio, Wednesday, Kabimba, who is also former Justice minister, said President Lungu was eligible to stand in the 2021 general election.

This is a complete departure from his earlier view in December, 2018, when he said it would be illegal for President Lungu to contest the 2021 elections because the Constitution explicitly disqualified him.

He had said the Constitutional Court misdirected itself in its ruling when interpreting Article 106 (3) of the amended Constitution which says a person who has twice held office as President is not eligible for election as president.

"If President Lungu does not qualify, ECZ will evaluate

his papers and tell him that you don't qualify as a candidate. This matter was taken to court and there is an argument out there that the Constitutional Court didn't say that President Edgar Lungu is eligible [and that] it just defined the term of office. I laugh because that is academic. It's the same thing. If they defined the term of office and the term of office as defined by Constitutional Court favours Edgar Lungu, it means he is eligible. So what is this academic of saying 'no, there will be another case coming up because the Constitutional Court didn't determine this issue,' they interpreted what the term of office is under Articles 105 and 106 of the Constitution amendment Act N0.2 of 2016.

So, for me, I am not worried about it. If the man is ineligible, ECZ will disqualify him. They will tell him 'your papers are not valid...' and that will be a problem for PF to find another candidate," Kabimba said, Wednesday, in what is clearly a change of position on President Lungu's eligibility.

And when asked by a caller if he was ready to enter into an alliance, he said his party had always been available to enter into an alliance with any political party that had similar ideologies like his, but would not enter into pacts with those who would turn him into a doormat.

"I am not in love with any leader in this country. I am only in love with my wife. So, why do you want me to carry a placard saying 'I love HH?' Why do you

want that to be my job? You are being unfair. You can call me names," Kabimba said.

"You can call me a surrogate of PF, a surrogate of what, but I stand by my views. And if my views are not favorable to you, too bad. It will change my position because I think through what I say."

And Kabimba advised Hichilema to apologize for insulting the people of Lukashya.

"If I were in my brother's shoes (Hichilema) or if I were one of his advisors, I would simply advise him to say 'please, apologize to the people of Lukashya and the country at large' because an apology heals wounds," he said.

Kabimba also condemned the PF's early campaigns when other political parties were not allowed to do the same.

"I feel that PF is campaigning and yet preventing others from doing the same. I just read on Facebook that the UPND and the NDC wanted to have a rally in Lusaka and the police have said no to them for what they term as security reasons. I think that is unfair," he said.

Meanwhile, Kabimba said those condemning the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) are those who fear to lose or participate in an election.

He wondered why people were still participating in elections if they had no trust in the electoral body.

"If we believe that ECZ is going to favor one political party, why do you want to participate in a by-election organized by ECZ? Why do you want to campaign and even appear on various forums and say that we have a good candidate, we have campaigned and we know we are winning this election and we are ready for the election?" And then when you lose that election, then ECZ becomes a monster," said Kabimba.



MQHZ accuses ZAMRA of allowing theft of medicine in hospitals

By Natasha Sakala

MEDICAL for Quality Healthcare in Zambia (MQHZ) says it is very disappointed with Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) for allowing theft of medicine in public clinics and hospitals.

In a statement, Thursday, MQHZ media and advocacy director Francis Kangwa wondered why clinics and hospitals had continued experiencing drug shortages.

"Medical for Quality Healthcare in

Zambia (MQHZ) is very disappointed with Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) for allowing theft of medicine in public Clinics and Hospitals. As the public is aware, public Clinics and Hospitals have previously been experiencing shortages of essential medicines. This is partly because of pilfering of Medicines by unpatriotic health workers. MQHZ has been expecting ZAMRA to put a halt to this public plunder of Medicines. This is because ZAMRA has a statutory mandate to ensure safety and availability

of Medicines in public health institutions," stated Kangwa.

"We demand that ZAMRA explains to the nation why it has completely failed to stop stealing of Medicines in Clinics and Hospitals. Our people cannot continue receiving prescriptions at health institutions when ZAMRA can easily seal the stealing loopholes. MQHZ will now scale up the monitoring of availability of drugs in all public health institutions because lack of drugs cannot be entertained in Zambia."

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By Natasha Sakala

THE planned protest by the UPND and National Democratic Congress (NDC) youths could not take place as leaders of the two political parties advised the youths to stand down and avoid clashes with the police.

And the youths have appealed to Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo to reverse the decision by the police command to stop them from having the said protest and rally, saying the decision violates the law.

In a letter to Kampyongo dated October 7, 2020 and signed by UPND deputy national youth chairperson Gilbert Liswaniso and NDC national youth chairperson Charles Kabwita, the two parties stated that the decision by the police was null and void as they failed to provide acceptable reasons for their refusal to police the intended rally.

The captioned matter refers. We write to appeal against the decision of Mr C. Kaanza, the officer commanding for Lusaka urban district of the Zambia Police Service, communicated via a letter dated 6th October 2020, a copy of which is enclosed for easy reference, whereby the police purported to be unavailable to police our rally and to advise us not to proceed with it due to what the police terms 'security concerns'. Our appeal is made pursuant to Section 5(9) of the Public Order Act Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia as read with the unassailable decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Law Association of Zambia Vs The Attorney General (copy enclosed). The grounds of appeal are as follows; inter alia: 1, the decision violates the law and is therefore null and void insofar as the police failed to provide acceptable reasons for

UPND, NDC youths put off protest

its refusal to police the intended rally, having regard to the clear guidance given by the Supreme Court at pages J20 to J22 of the judgement. 2, the decision purports to halt the convening of the intended rally rather than giving an alternative date when it may be convened to the clear provisions of the law as guided in the cited case," read the appeal letter in part.

"It is against this background that we seek the reversal of the decision so as to enable us hold our rally as scheduled or on an alternative date which should not be inordinately far from the date which we originally intended to commence the meeting. We note that in terms of section 5(8) of the Act aforementioned, the honourable Minister's decision in respect of this appeal must reach us within five days from the date thereof. We shall consider our appeal successful at the lapse of the stated period and accordingly proceed with our plans."

And in a statement, UPND national youth chairperson Likando Mufalali expressed hope that minister and the two parties would reach a mutually acceptable position that would allow the citizens to exercise their rights to assembly and expression without hindrance.

"We wish to inform the nation that the United Party for National Development (UPND) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) leadership has asked its youths to postpone their planned protests in Lusaka and the Copperbelt. This is to enable the two parties to engage with the Minister of Home Affairs. It is hoped that the Minister of Home Affairs

and the parties will reach a mutually acceptable position where the citizens are allowed to exercise their inalienable rights to assembly and expression without hindrance from anyone. We also would like to appeal to the police service to exercise utmost professionalism and not allow themselves to be dictated to by politicians. We appeal to them to treat all political players fairly without giving preferential treatment to the Patriotic Front," stated Mufalali.

Earlier, NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili, in a video statement, urged the youths to stand down and cancel the protest after consultation with his UPND counterpart.

"Last night, my brother Hakainde Hichilema and I had an emergency meeting concerning the demonstrations that our youths wanted to do this morning. During our meeting, we discussed that it was not going to be in the best interest of the country to have our youths go for confrontation against police officers. We do realise that what the police

are doing is not of their own making, they've been given instructions and we don't want to risk the lives of our youths by going against what the police advised. We do realise that under the provisions of the Public Order Act, police have no powers to either issue or deny a permit. What is just supposed to happen is that police are only supposed to be informed or notified as it were. But I think we are dealing with a regime that is unreasonable and for us in the leadership of the NDC and the UPND, we felt that it was not going to be in the interest of the country's security to have our youths having running battles with the police this morning," Kambwili said.

"As a consequence, we have asked our youths throughout the country not to go ahead with the planned demonstration. It must be noted that our decision is not a weakness, but we just want to be reasonable leaders and law abiding citizens. Therefore, the planned demonstration by our youths this morning (yesterday) has been called off. We have since directed our

youths to go back to the police and apply for another permit for mobilisation so that we can hold joint mobilisation meetings the way the PF are holding their meetings."

He added that the police were deliberately refusing the opposition chance to mobilise so as to have confrontations with them.

"We are fully aware that the PF are not getting police permits for their mobilisations that they are doing all over the country. You can see that on the Copperbelt, they are having rallies, in Eastern Province, Dora Siliya is busy going around all districts having rallies, here in Lusaka, the PF are having rallies but our youths followed the law, followed the laid down

procedures, notified the police but they were denied to go ahead. And this is deliberate because police just want confrontation with the youths. So, as leaders and reasonable leaders, we have advised the youths not to go ahead with this demonstration, more especially that this morning, we are having a meeting with the electoral commission of Zambia to deal with the issues that the youths wanted to demonstrate against and we hope and trust that today's meeting will yield positive results so that this country can move forward," said Kambwili.

"Our quest to call for a proper electoral process is not to cause confusion in the country but just to make sure that for once, we have a free and fair election where everybody can be happy...So we want the playing field to be levelled."

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RECENTLY, we expressed our views on the state of the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) through an editorial opinion that highlighted some of the challenges that we have observed in the party. The opinion was necessitated by an admission from the party's chairman for elections, Gary Nkombwo, who said although the governance system was not providing a level-playing field, there was need for the opposition party to also do some buttoning up internally. We agreed with Honourable Nkombwo's submission.

But there is another perspective that has not been told regarding the UPND's survival in politics despite its failure to form government in previous elections. That is a story about the tenacity of its leader Mr Hakainde Hichilema. We speak for many when we say any of the following words can perfectly describe the character of the UPND leader: persistence, determination, perseverance, willpower, resilience, tirelessness, resolve, insistence, firmness, resoluteness, courageousness and above all, patience!

These qualities and attributes about Mr Hichilema is what is keeping the UPND together. Others can talk about money and argue that his financial capacity is what causes him to remain attractive and relevant to the political landscape. But we disagree. Money is not everything in politics. If having money was a precursor to political success, Zambia would be under someone else's leadership today.

More political parties have collapsed than those that have survived, some were led by very wealthy

Diggers! Ear to the ground

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The tenacity, resilience, courage and patience of Hakainde Hichilema

people. If you can sustain a party in the opposition for this long a period, it cannot be about money only. It's an achievement that speaks to the leadership qualities of the person at the helm. When Mr Hichilema said: "the future generations will remember us not for the number of times that we fell, but the number of times we got up", he said everything that one needs to know about what makes him the person he is today and the success that surrounds him in the business world.

The UPND leader is showing us his formula for achieving what he wants to achieve in life, he has to be persistent, determined, courageous, resilient, resolute, insistent and patient. This is what Mr Hichilema brings to the opposition in Zambia and in our view he deserves to be given credit for staying on top for this long and still being influential.

Political parties have come and gone. Some, after the demise of the founding leader, have failed to even appear on the ballot paper thereafter. When we look back, we are reminded of Dean Mung'omba's ZADECO, Enock Kavindele's UDP, Sakwiba Sikota's ULP, Benjamin Mwila's ZRP, Dr Ludwig Sondashi's FDA, and others too numerous to mention. These parties have all come and gone with the wind because they lacked the attributes stated above.

Out of all the 10 opposition political parties that fielded presidential or parliamentary candidates in 2001, only the UPND has remained strong and influential enough to form government in 2021, twenty years later. The rest, like the Heritage Party, FDD, Social Democratic Party, National Citizen's Coalition, Zambia Alliance for Progress,

Liberal Progressive Party, National Lima Party, Zambia United Democratic Party, to mention but a few, are either dead or in the process of dying. Some of these political parties, their leaders are still alive, but they have nothing to point at in terms of support base or popularity. They only resurrect during elections to eat donor money.

It must be noted that the founder of the UPND, Anderson Mazoka, who formed the party in 1998 only led it for eight years. The remainder of the UPND's 22 years of existence has been under the leadership of Mr Hichilema. Surely, if he didn't have managerial skill and the attributes that we earlier referred to, the UPND would be lying next to ZADECO as we speak.

So, anyone is free to laugh at or mock the UPND president on the basis of

his many failures, but we believe that Mr Hichilema's political adventure presents many lessons to those who are willing to learn. If God presents him the opportunity to govern Zambia, the story of his resilience and patience will be even greater than that of Michael Sata and other world leaders we know who just never stopped trying.

In any country in the world, leading the opposition is an extraordinarily difficult job. In fact, it's at least four different jobs at the same time, each of which needs different skills. We believe that Mr Hichilema has succeeded to keep the UPND afloat because he does possess those traits and skills of a leader in the opposition.

As author Robert Saunders wrote in his advice for leaders of the opposition, the first, and immediate task of the

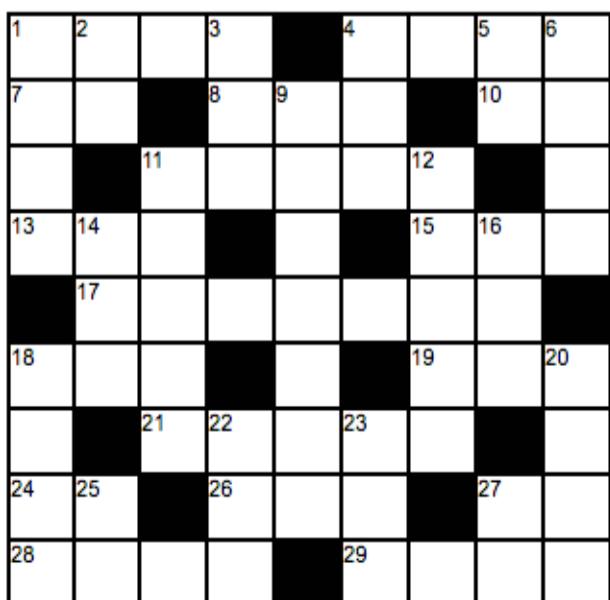
opposition is challenging the government, holding it to account and scrutinising legislation. At a time when the Zambian government has been vested with unprecedented powers, it is more necessary than ever that someone in the opposition holds those powers to account. Without a strong opposition, the legislation of the detested Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019, would have been done and dusted by now.

A leader in the opposition needs management skills to run a large organisation and keep millions of his supporters engaged. He needs to keep their hopes and morale high for more than two decades. A leader of the opposition must have mobilisation skills and capacity. He must always be prepared for the next election, including the numerous by-elections. It's needless to say how much money is needed for an opposition to contest every election from presidential to local government. It's also needless to mention how much loyalty is needed to prevent members of parliament from crossing the floor.

Almost as if it's a rite of passage in Zambia, an opposition leader must also be prepared to get arrested on all sorts of charges. This, combined with a restricted political space for campaigns and a hostile public media, there is almost no chance that a political party can stay on top and influential under the same leader, for more than 10 years.

This is the tenacity, resilience and patience that we can learn from the UPND leader. We don't know what he wants to do for Zambia, but it is clear that he will not stop until what he wants to achieve is achieved. Margaret Thatcher once said: "You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

Crossword puzzle No 708



*"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect)"
- Mark Twain*

Across
1. Software test before release
4. Sandwich rolled in tortilla
7. Sound of surprise
8. Mimic
10. Perform a task
11. Tier
13. Big mess
15. Not the beginning
17. Plan
18. Prefix with angle or cycle
19. Had eaten
21. Make cooler
24. A single one
26. Ruckus
27. ..., myself, and I
28. Dormitory
29. Prepare

Down
1. Person in charge
2. Canadians say it
3. Driver's org.
4. Very small
5. Not BC
6. Small body of water
9. Egyptian tourist attraction
11. Word in music
12. Kingly
14. Sticky black substance
16. Catch butterflies in it
18. Pond dweller
20. 2, 4, 6, 8, ...
22. Meat from pig
23. Sever
25. Negative answer
27. Mother

Crossword puzzle No 707



Reader's feedback

'Dawson Kafwaya's rejoining of UPND'

Editor

When he was adopted under the PF party, he was very happy and demonized UPND during campaigns so that he wins and enjoy the privileges. If he had won, would he have resigned to join UPND? Don't entrust that man with any position, otherwise he might be another GBM. - Frederick Chinyama Chiteta

politics of the belly. idiotic politics. These people have no integrity nor values. They are like a paper that follows the current of the wind. - Doson Chokochani Sakala

Stay away from politics for lacking patriotism, no political party owes u but you owe your country a service. - Chinyama Lukama

Bad man, form your own party like Hamududu. You can't be trusted anymore., you so irrelevant. - Anord Boncar

Which President? Anyway all the best but just bear in mind that northwestern its no longer strong hold for upnd so mmmmm its a wrong move no timing - Tembo P Tembo

No vision ba Tata aba. I don't know what he wants in his life. He was given a chance but zero - Nebart Sakala

Unknown character is dangerous - Felix Andrew Bwalya

SADC elections monitoring body's objection to new voters' register

Dear Editor

Sadc is toothless. We had controversial 2008 elections in Zimbabwe and sadc were mere spectators when citizens were being brutally murdered for supporting the opposition. Ecowas is doing a commendable. After the coup in Mali they are pressuring the military junta to revert to civilian rule. - Walo Tumvi Masiye

It's very strange to note that the PF is the only party not objecting to the new register, why? The new register seem

to remove or reduce voters numbers in areas like dudumwezi!!! Common knowledge, this issue should have not even involved SADCC, the constitution is very clear about the old register, what's surprising more is that there is a judge at ECZ who instead of interpreting what the electoral Act stipulates about continuous voters registration, he is deliberately mute like a hired electoral malpractice criminal for 2021 elections, the judge should have stopped all the nonsense at ECZ the institution not for Political parties but for all citizens who exercise their right to vote!!! - George Bwalya

ECZ must not be used by PF to go against the wish of the Zambians. Elections are supposed to be free and fair and not predetermined. - Noritah Mwanza

why only insisting on something which only benefits few individuals, this is not democracy but the breeding ground for war - Peter Muneku

But don't we have courts in Zambia where this issue can be resolved. who interprets the law in Zambia - John Noel Lungu

If this issue has the full blessings of PF government to delete the 2016 register ECZ won't and will never listen they will go ahead and delete it - James Shane

This is good to hear from SGGEM. I hope they have also taken keen interest to question the rationale behind allowing prisoners to vote, yet no opposition political parties will be allowed to campaign in those prison facilities. These are gimmicks seen to give electoral advantages to the PF party who have already been allowed to start campaigning before due time. - Frederick Chinyama Chiteta

Well done to SADCs SGGEM for the intervention cos PF wants to rig the elections through ecz with a new voter registration cards and prison vote. PF know that they're not popular and can't win a fair election - Mutinta Mulonda

Its sad that in a democratic nation sensitive bodies/ department are controlled by the govt unlike being independent.. - Chris Mulex Jr.

New voter is good cause we don't need also ghost voters, wht are u afraid of. - Katongo Yese



DIGGERS OPINION: Clearly, PF cadres are above the law

Editor

imagine the police even said they have arrested a UPND cadre who wanted to revenge on pf office while saying they have made no arrests on who damaged the UPND office. this kind of application of the law is unfair and unfortunate. soon citizens will start fighting each other bcos of the biasness of the police. - Chanda Pochoko

Due to break down in law and order, the country desperately needs a new leadership that can restore law and order. The current leadership has failed to ensure law and order. If you truly love this country, you need to demand from our leaders action to put an end to this or we remove them out from office next year. - Lassie Kakuta

When the public lose confidence in the police they will take the law into their own hands. That's when trouble begins for the country. It's just a matter of time as we approach the election. The country will be on fire. - Simon Chinyama

Govt's arbitrary take-over of Horizon School

Editor

When the govt starts Nationalization of Private owned institutions like this it means the systems of the country are in wrong hands and have crumbled. Horizons will never be the same again as a Private School. The standards will fall and most parents will withdraw their children. - Noritah Mwanza

Retrogressive! It's sad that we don't have a recognized executive to respect the judiciary or let alone parliament. Lawlessness. Poor those underprivileged children. JACARANDA and now HORIZON - Martin Nyanjagha

I believe all Horizon schools In Africa have been surrendered to respective governments by the Turkish government. - David Mbulawa Matutu

It is not the president who took the chairman to court is it lungu or some people they have differed with who ever has papers from court will get the protection of police -

Jam ziba

Total breakdown in the rule of law. Ati we are ruled by a lawyer? - Taylor TK Katunga

This government wants money at all costs. - Kelvin Bowa

Obviously they want to put a shopping mall - Mulonda Yuyi

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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By Julia Malunga

ELECTORAL Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano says more people will not vote in 2021 if the old register is maintained.

And UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says yesterday's presidential summit organized by the ECZ was a sham.

Meanwhile, NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has wondered how the Commission based the voter registration on the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 when it was still in parliament.

Speaking at the presidential summit held in Lusaka, Thursday, Nshindano said parameters had changed.

"If you look at the new register, this is the register that was under contention in 2016, it was a register before the Constitutional Court as the basis of challenging the presidential results. We have, as a commission, undertaken delimitation of constituencies, wards, polling districts, polling stations and renaming of those polling stations. The Commission cannot arbitrarily assign citizens to where they should vote from, that is not possible. Even...I can't shift an individual who was voting from Chelstone Clinic for example, and after delimitation, that polling station has moved, I move them arbitrarily, how will they know? Do they still exist in that geographical area? So these parameters have changed. The current parameters on the ground and those on the register are totally different! They are not the same at all. We are going to disenfranchise people more by not doing what we are doing now because, if you turn up now with your old voters card under the old parameters of the register, you will not find your details there," Nshindano said.

He said UPND was one of the stakeholders that were part of the election consultative committee in 2016. "Allow me to share with you the audit of the voters register.

Before the commencement of the voter's register, political parties, as stakeholders, following the remarks highlighted earlier on questioning the credibility of the register, were requested to appoint representatives to sit on the election consultative committee and all political parties that were involved did submit those names. The MMD had Allan Mbewe, the PF had nominated Kelvin Fube, FDD had Mr Kaluba Simunyimba, the UPND had Dipak Patel, and Stephen Katuka. ADD had Tery Mubita, among others," Nshindano said.

"One of those critical aspects that came out was in regard to the old register at that particular time. A voter registration audit was conducted by a team of international experts recruited by ECZ from the United Nations single electoral roster

More people won't vote if we use 2016 voters register - ECZ

the deceased persons from the register was also another aspect that was highlighted and one of the issues that was raised from the audit is that yes, indeed, the register contained a number of deceased persons. Based on the Commission's estimates, we anticipate that we should have almost 1.4 million deceased persons on the register."

He said there was a possibility of the country getting up to 12,000 polling stations next year. "During the mobile registration, the Commission intends to service all 8,999 polling stations of the commission. Currently, that is the number, that number is expected to go up as a result of a change from streams to polling stations. So as a country, we expect to have close to 12,000 polling stations moving into 2021. During the static registration, the Commission will also service all 116 district centers, so we are going to have in addition to the mobile registration, static registration which will be set up in all the district centers," Nshindano said.

"According to our statistics, we have close to 8.8 to 9 million eligible voters and our estimates indicate that to achieve that target, assuming that everybody turns up, each polling station will only be required to register 33 people per day and that is doable." He reiterated that a new voters' register was recommended by political parties.

"Allow me to share with you why the Commission is doing what it is doing currently. Firstly, let me take you back to 2016. As the Commission, we always take into account and review the electoral process after every election when there is a review process, to take into account all the concerns that were raised by stakeholders and the recommendation thereafter. This is an illustration of 2016. One of the contentious issues for 2016 was the voters' register... [It] was highlighted as compromised, was highlighted to have issues to do with foreigners on the register, among other aspects, including deceased persons. We also had international and local observer missions who also made recommendations based on the environment and other factors," Nshindano said.

"Following the completion of this exercise, the commission, through the lead of the ZLDC, has embarked now on seeking stakeholder consultations. We just had one last week and this week involving the stakeholders to share with them the findings and the draft guidelines that will be implemented and indeed the legislative audit and drafting that will be required."

And during the presentation, there was panic when the chief electoral

officer almost collapsed. Nshindano, who made a close to an hour presentation, was seen almost going down before some officials came to his aid.

This brought panic as some of the officials were seen removing his necktie and helped him to sit down.

FDD leader Edith Nawakwi rushed to where Nshindano was and asked him if he could take rest as some security officers stopped journalists from photographing him.

After a few minutes, Nshindano proceeded to give his presentation.

"Your excellences, standing for a longer period sometimes may lead to such but I am okay. Once again, apologies for that hiccup," said Nshindano.

Meanwhile, as Hichilema was giving his position on online voter registration, FDD leader Edith Nawakwi was heard passing running commentaries while others such as Chilufya Tayali and Peter Chanda continued to shout by telling the UPND leader to stop talking.

And after the summit, Hichilema told journalists that the meeting was a sham.

"This meeting was really about passing time. The substance will be when we meet the commission for them to look at the issues we were raising, legal issues there. For example, there is no way the commission can say they are not concerned about how the national registration is being issued because you cannot be a voter without an NRC. What the mobile NRC process is doing, the five provinces they started with phase one, they issued NRCs to everyone who was eligible. In phase two in five provinces, they are not issuing NRCs so they are disenfranchising voters. ECZ needs to be interested in such matters, otherwise, they cannot achieve the nine million voters they are projecting," Hichilema said.

"If not, you will have a skewed voter register and that's rigging elections. And you cannot suggest here that we must not say those things, if we say them, we are alarming people, we are not. And that we must be arrested, for what? That is a joke! There must be rule of law, there must be no violence, there must be fair registration of voters, otherwise you are disenfranchising the people who are registered under the law as it is continuous registration. So, this is a sham of a meeting and we take it that if we spent a few hours here, we would have substantial and meaningful time with the commission and they must be available to all stakeholders, all Zambians. That is their duty, that is why they were created."

He likened the summit to a grade four class session.

"The questions have not been answered. The ECZ came to issue an instruction like a grade four class session. Even in grade four sessions, the pupils are respected because the pupil's questions are answered by the teacher. That is what learning and teaching means. In this

case, you can see the draconian behavior by the ECZ. Even lecturing to us as if we don't understand what we are here for. They must work within the law. The law is very clear; you cannot remove six million registered voters because the electoral process doesn't allow that. They talk of dead people as though after the new register is made, no one will die. You can register in the morning, in the afternoon you are dead. So it is such a senseless and lack of logical argument that they are making. So the process of removing dead people is different. It is not about a new register, it is different. With COVID-19, with so many diseases, so many people will die before the election day. So are we going to start a new register again? This is unacceptable! This is so cruel, it is so uncivilized to

be honest. They must do better and we will get them to do better because that is their job. It is our job to demand for what is right," said Hichilema.

And Kambwili wondered what would happen to the delimitation exercise if Bill 10 did not go through.

"And by the way, what has shocked me in this meeting is that they seem to be doing all this, coming up with the register, based on Bill 10. You heard, they said, 'let us support Bill 10 in order to do delimitation'. They are basing the registration on Bill 10, [but] what will happen if Bill 10 doesn't go through in Parliament?" asked Kambwili.

Meanwhile, President Lungu and Hichilema snubbed each other during the summit.

The two leaders did not even take time to greet each other.

After the summit, President Lungu walked out, leaving Hichilema seated in the Centre.

I told Kang'ombe to start campaigning in Kamfinsa, admits Mwila

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front secretary general Davies Mwila has admitted that he guided suspended Kitwe Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe to start campaigning in Kamfinsa constituency, but added that the incumbent member for parliament, Elasio Musonda, insisted on re-contesting the seat.

On Wednesday, Kang'ombe revealed that Mwila guided him to start establishing himself on the ground ahead of next year's polls so that he could stand in Kamfinsa constituency.

Speaking on Hot FM's Red Hot Breakfast Show, Thursday, Mwila admitted to guiding Kang'ombe to stand as area member of parliament, but that the incumbent equally expressed interest in being re-elected at a later stage.

"There are two charges that have been given to Binwell Mpundu (former Kitwe District Commissioner) and Kang'ombe in the first one, they are saying they held a press briefing when the Vice-President (Inonge Wina) and myself were in town. I will not talk about that much in that the information I got was that the Vice-President left Kitwe around 08:00 on Sunday and the gentlemen held the press briefing at 11:00. The second issue is that the central committee made a decision that where we have sitting members of parliament, no one should be allowed to campaign until such a time when a decision shall be made," Mwila said.

"Yes, I got information, as secretary general, that the incumbent MP for Kamfinsa is not going to stand. Later on, we discovered that Mr Elasio Musonda wants to continue. What that means is that the decision of that decision of the central committee still stands and we don't expect anyone to campaign where we have a sitting MP, that is the charge. I was informed yesterday that they have been suspended. For the press briefing, I will give them a benefit of doubt."

When asked if he was aware of the press briefing they held, Mwila responded in the affirmative.

"I was aware about it. The notice was circulated," he responded.

And when asked why Kang'ombe was not guided to stop campaigning when Musonda was re-contesting the seat, Mwila said Kang'ombe was told to stop.

"He is very much aware. He knew we had an incumbent and that he made a decision that he wants to continue. Kang'ombe and Binwell are aware that the central committee made a decision that no one should campaign where we have a sitting member of parliament. And Binwell should tell the truth! He has been campaigning throughout Nkana without authority from the party. And when we come to Kang'ombe, it is the same thing...that is the reason they have been suspended," disclosed Mwila.

But when asked if there were any internal wrangles brewing within the ruling party on the Copperbelt, Mwila denied.

"No, no, it's normal. I know they want to aspire, but they have to follow the laid-down procedures. No one will stop them, but they have to follow the rules. I am accepting that earlier on [I guided], but we discovered that the incumbent MP wanted to continue. And he (Kang'ombe) has never talked to me for the last one year. Three years ago, that is when I guided him because Kang'ombe wanted to stand in Kwacha (constituency), I said, 'no, there is no need to fight, there is a vacancy because the MP for Kamfinsa doesn't want to stand...' that is the advice I gave. After one year, the MP came that he wants to continue so what do I do?" wondered Mwila.

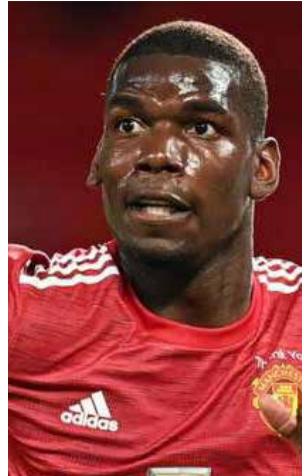
PF Copperbelt chairman Nathan Chanda has since lifted the suspension of Kang'ombe and Mpundu in the spirit of party unity.

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'It's a dream for me to play for Real Madrid one day' - Pogba

PAUL Pogba has admitted that it is a "dream" for him to play for Real Madrid one day, while clarifying his current contract situation at Manchester United.

Pogba's future has been the subject of much speculation in recent years, amid persistent

questions over his form and fitness at Old Trafford.

United forked out £89 million (\$115m) to re-sign the midfielder from Juventus in 2016, but he has since struggled to live up to that price tag.

The 27-year-old has

often been made a scapegoat following defeats or poor team performances, and he appeared to have reached a breaking point at the end of the 2018-19 campaign.

Pogba openly admitted to being ready for a new challenge

away from Manchester in the summer of 2019, with Madrid mooted as a possible next destination, but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer ultimately managed to convince him to stay put for another year.

A serious ankle injury

significantly limited the Frenchman's contribution last term, and it wasn't until football returned after lockdown in June that he rediscovered his best form.

The World Cup winner ended up playing a key role in United's run to a third-place finish in the top flight, but has found himself under intense scrutiny once again at the start of the new campaign.

The Red Devils have only picked up three points from a possible nine in the Premier League, with the international break coming as a welcome reprieve for Pogba amid mounting criticism.

It has been reported that Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane remains a keen admirer of the playmaker, and he opened the door to a potential transfer at a press conference following France's 7-1 friendly win over Ukraine in midweek. **GOAL**

COF amends voter registration petition

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CHAPTER One Foundation Limited has amended its petition in which it is challenging the decision of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to conduct voter registration for the 2021 elections over a period of 30 days.

On October 1, 2020, the Constitutional Court granted Chapter One Foundation leave to amend its petition after it applied to do so in order to bring all the issues that are pertinent to the case before court.

The Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has now filed its amended petition, seeking a declaration that the geographical limitation to the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) will result in the disenfranchisement of many Zambians in contravention of the national values and is, therefore, unconstitutional.

It also wants the Court to

make a declaration that the limitation of the period within which voter registration will be conducted to 30 days is unconstitutional, and a declaration that ECZ's decision and intention to disallow currently registered voters from voting in the 2021 general election and future elections is unconstitutional and, therefore, null and void.

Chapter One Foundation, which has cited ECZ and the Attorney General as respondents, further wants the Court to make an order of mandamus directing the Attorney General to implement the mobile issuance of NRCs throughout the country and an order of mandamus directing the ECZ to carry out continuous voter registration between elections.

According to its amended petition filed in the Constitutional Court, the NGO argued that government, which is the principal for whom the Attorney General

appears, had breached the Constitution by implementing the issuance of NRCs in a manner that contravenes the Constitution.

It added that the ECZ violated the Constitution of Zambia when it directed that currently, registered voters register to be eligible to vote in the 2021 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Chapter One Foundation stated that government, whether willingly or unwillingly, had not rolled out the mobile registration in all parts of the country and further, the registration services were not uniformly available to all citizens.

It added that following the 2016 Constitutional amendment, the Electoral Process Act was amended to provide for continuous voter registration to be carried out by the ECZ.

Chapter One Foundation stated that the 2016 Constitutional amendment

made it mandatory for the implementation of government policy to apply the national values and principles.

"On June 12, 2020 or thereabouts, the Chief Electoral Officer, at a press briefing, informed the country that the period for voter registration had been reduced to 30 days, whereas the electoral laws require continuous voter registration. On September 21, 2020, ECZ

issued a press statement in which it communicated its decision to disallow registered voters who will not register anew to vote in the 2021 general elections and future elections," stated Chapter One Foundation.

It further stated that the decisions and actions by the respondents were, therefore, a breach of the Constitution and, consequently, unconstitutional.

Mps shoot down motion that sought suspension of CSE

By Zondiwe Mbewe and Natasha Sakala

A PRIVATE member's motion which was moved by Chembe PF member of parliament Sebastian Kopulande, urging government to suspend the teaching of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools pending wider consultations with stakeholders, has been rejected by the House.

This was after the majority members of parliament voted against it.

Kopulande moved the motion on Wednesday which was seconded by Chiene FDD member of parliament Given Katutu.

However, the members of parliament from the executive who debated the motion yesterday were against it.

Tourism and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela said he did not support the motion as Vice-President Inonge Wina had guided on the same, saying government would be advised by the technical team that would be constituted to look into the matter.

"I do not support the motion. PF is a very organised organisation that recognises authority and the hierarchy. Yes, we could have heard concerns by other stakeholders out there and that is the more reason why the Vice-President [Inonge Wina] came to this House and assured those with concerns who are also key stakeholders of government and said 'yes, we have listened to your concerns but we are not technical to come up with a position. We shall form a technical working group that is going to encompass people that are raising concerns for and those that are speaking against,'" said Chitotela.

Deputy Chief Whip Tutwa Ngulube said the motion appeared to be a BID motion. "This motion appears not

to have come in good faith so it died the moment it arrived on the order paper," said Ngulube.

General Education Minister Dennis Wachinga, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo, National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Godfridah Sumaili also debated and opposed the motion.

Earlier, Keembe UPND member of parliament Princess Kasune opposed the motion, saying she was saddened when she saw it on the order paper.

"I am one of the few world renowned HIV positive publicly known lawmakers in the world. Secondly, I have tried to share how I was one of those few teenage mothers at the age of 18. By the time I was in my early eighteens, I had already been married off. So for me, when I speak to this issue, not only do I speak with expertise, not only do I speak passionately about it, but also, it affects, most importantly, our girls. We had an opportunity to interrogate this Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the committee on health and we were exposed to the curriculum. I kept thinking to myself, I almost had tears dropping, wishing I had this education when I was a younger person," said Kasune.

"When you look at the early marriages in our constituencies, it's not surprising that when school starts, our young people are in numbers, especially the girls. But because of lack of Comprehensive Sexuality Education, by the time our young girls are in Grade seven, they are fewer. Yet when you compare the same numbers in higher education, let's say 10th grade, 11th grade, the girls stabilize because they have the information."

And winding up the debate, Kopulande said he was satisfied that he belongs to a party (PF) which espouses intellectual freedom.

In his motion, Kopulande had said the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) was an intrusion into Zambia's Christian, cultural and moral values through the sexualisation of children.

Speaking, Wednesday, when he presented the private member's motion in Parliament, he argued that CSE was highly explicit and promoted radical sexual ideologies and behaviours that conflicted with the country's religious and cultural values, hence the need to suspend it from the school curriculum.

"Children need guidance and whatever information we give children, we are teaching them. Unlike traditional sexual education where sex is taught with regards to age of the child, CSE is highly explicit and promotes radical sexual ideologies and behaviours that conflict with our religious and cultural values. As a people, Zambians pride themselves as a Christian nation as enshrined in our Republican Constitution. In addition, we have entrenched cultural values and morals, which have helped to shape our attitudes, beliefs and behaviours from generation to generation.

Therefore, the introduction of CSE in our schools without full consultation with key stakeholders is not only morally enslaving, but is an anathema to the very core values that we are defined as a people since time immemorial," Kopulande argued, as nominated member of parliament Raphael Nakachinda supported the motion by emphasising the need for dialogue to prevail on the matter.

ZAMBIA MALAWI

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ZAMBIA TAKE ON KENYA

By Ngosa Chalwe

AFTER beating Malawi in a generally flat match, Zambia's preparations for

future engagements will today hit top gear when they take on Kenya in an international friendly at

Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi today.

On Wednesday, Zambia beat Malawi 1 - 0

in a friendly match at the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka, courtesy of a Collins Sikombe strike in

the 14th minute.

With many fans expecting a cricket score-line against Malawi,

Zambia were blunt in attack and only managed to win the match by a lone goal which came in the first half.

While Malawi was no match for Zambia, today's opponents are expected to give Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic's men a tough test match as they continue to shape up for competitive encounters.

Zambia are expected to play Botswana over two legs next month as they seek to revive their chances of making it to the Africa Cup of Nations after missing the event for the last two editions.

While preparing for the qualifiers, the Serbian will also keep in mind that he has to drill his boys for the African Nations Championships (CHAN) which has been slated for Cameroon in January next year.

With that in mind, the expectation is that the players that have been called to duty should take the matches seriously as they battle for places in the final team.

After playing an all local players side on Tuesday, Micho is expected to field a number of foreign based players as he gauges the chemistry in his team.

Having sat the entire 90 minutes on the bench, Kabwe Warriors goal keeper Lameck Siame will fancy his chances in goal ahead of Sebastian Mwange and Jackson Kakunta.

Skipper Kabaso Chongo will be expected to lead the defence while players like Fashion Sakala, Edward Chilufya and Evans Kangwa will also be lurking for a chance to play.

After the match against Kenya, Zambia is expected to take on South Africa on Sunday before wrapping up preparations with the likes of Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns.

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