



SUE US, *DIGGERS* DARES ZINGMAN ...we are ready to defend our story

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NEWS Diggers Media Limited says Belarusian businessman Alexander Zingman appears to be an honoured and welcome guest of government and therefore he should have no difficulty prosecuting his intended defamation claim against the media house in Zambia should he choose to sue.

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Lukuku reports Simusamba to ACC

By Julia Malunga
REPUBLICAN Progressive

**Kampyongo
should allow
our protest
- Youths**

By Julia Malunga
YOUTHS planning to protest against various governance issues have appealed to Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo to allow them to exercise their right to express themselves.

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Party (RPP) leader James Lukuku has written to the Anti-Corruption Commission on Principal Resident magistrate David Simusamba's failure to report his allegations that NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili tried to bribe him.

In a letter dated June 10, 2020, Lukuku stated that Simusamba failed to report the matter within the stipulated time.

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An officer poses on one of the police bicycles procured by the Ministry of Home of Affairs earlier this year, meant for rural distribution

**Zesco's
agreement
with KCM a
sign of vin-
dictiveness
– Milupi**

By Natasha Sakala
ALLIANCE for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi says the move by Zesco to sign a long term power supply agreement with Konkola Copper Mines Plc (KCM) was done out of vindictiveness and only meant to supply free power to the mine.

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Kambwili asks DEC, ACC to arrest those involved in drug scandal at MoH

By Julia Malunga
NATIONAL Democratic Congress leader Kambwili says the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC)

should take interest in the syndicates involved in the procurement of drugs at the Ministry of Health.

In an interview, Kambwili charged that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya and his permanent secretaries were involved in the scandal.

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**Lungu hasn't been holding public gatherings,
people have been following him, says Mumbi**

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By Mukosha Funga

PF SECRETARY General Davies Mwila has urged the party leadership in Western Province to take advantage of the wrangles in UPND to turn that area into a ruling party stronghold. But the UPND has accused PF of bribing voters with mealie-meal in the just ended ward by-elections in Western Province.

Speaking to journalists, Wednesday, Mwila described the recent victories in Mongu as “sweet” saying it was an indication of people’s confidence in the PF’s developmental agenda.

The PF scooped both the Nakato Ward and Imalyo Ward by-elections in Mongu District Western Province.

In the Imalyo Ward by election, Musole Kamocha of the PF polled 615 votes UPND’s Simasiku Poice got 494 votes, while Namasiku Namasiku of NAREP got 111 Votes.

In Nakato ward by-election, PF’s Mukuti Mubiana got 584 votes while UPND’s Simataa Nosiku polled 283 votes.

And in Bulilo local government by-election in Chilubi district of Northern Province, PF Candidate, Wilson Kunda polled 854 votes while his closest rival, Evans Ngosa of the UPND got 446 votes. John Mwela of the Movement of Change and Equity, party (M4CE) secured 189 votes in the three-man contest.

“I want to say this is a sweet victory to the party. The people of Zambia, the people in Western Province, the people in Northern Province voted for the PF because of the developmental agenda that is being spearheaded by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and the people of Zambia have spoken loudly and development can only be brought by the PF government which was given the mandate to run this country up to next year,” Mwila said.

“I can assure you that we’ll have more by-elections coming, like 10 more wards, and we expect to win all of them. I want to appeal to the leadership in Western Province that the UPND in the state in which it is as at now in Western Province, because there are too many wrangles, too many infighting and as a ruling party, we will take advantage and ensure that we take over the whole Western Province, come next year, Western Province will be our stronghold.”

And Mwila instructed Eastern Province PF chairperson Andrew Lubusha to discipline any party member causing wrangles in that area.

A video had circulated where PF youths in Eastern Province were calling on President Lungu to remove Lubusha as province chairperson saying it was in the best interests of the party.

“There are reports of wrangles in Eastern Province. I want to say that the PF will maintain discipline, it is a disciplined

PF used mealie-meal to bribe hungry W/Province voters, laments UPND

party and we will maintain discipline. We will ensure that whoever created those wrangles will be brought to book. The provincial chairman is instructed to ensure that whoever is involved, disciplinary action should be taken quickly as possible so that the Province can come to normal. We want order, that is our stronghold and we don’t want anyone to bring confusion in the province,” said Mwila.

Meanwhile, Western Province Minister Richard Kapita boasted that the victories were proof that Western Province had turned into a PF stronghold.

“Well, this is not the only win, you know we have about seven seats since I have been there. People have been telling us they are tired of the UPND and they are going to show us by doing exactly what they did last night (Tuesday). I go to these places so I know what I am talking about. I am encouraging you to go to North Western Province as well because these are the provinces that UPND used to claim that they were their strongholds. The situation has changed totally! So it’s like that everywhere else North Western Province, Western Province people are simply saying we are tired of UPND it will not take us anywhere, it has no agenda, we would rather follow PF and the developmental agenda is exciting everybody,” said Kapita.

“I can assure you that in 2021 election, I would be surprised if UPND will have five seats in either Western

or North-Western Province, mark my words. Complaints about rigging, they have done that for a long time, composing songs that you can’t be in a party that is forever crying foul when they lose. The arithmetic is simple unless UPND can get seats in Luapula, Northern Province, Copperbelt, Central, they will never win, they will never go to State House that is the fact. You cannot claim that the election has been stolen if you have 90 per cent of votes from one province and unless he extends his tentacles to other provinces, it will not be possible for UPND to win 2021.”

But Mongu Central UPND member of parliament Dr Mwilola Imakando said the electoral atmosphere during the Mongu ward by elections was unfair as the PF bribed electorates with mealie meal and other foodstuffs.

“First of all, let me say that the ground was not fair in that government resources were being used. They were using vehicles belonging to DCs to ferry people, in particular, the vehicle for DC Nalolo, we saw it. They were going in with projects for food for work, they were making people to clear grounds and then pay them. In the process of paying them, they were asking for their voter’s cards and registration cards. In that sense, the ground was not fair,” Dr Imakando lamented.

“We saw in Kalugwana, they were distributing relief food. You cannot distribute relief food during

elections. So as far as we are concerned, the ground was not fair. In addition, the people that received mealie meal were being followed in their homes and were being identified and being told that you received mealie meal from us you have to vote for us. The final one is where they were voting for people. All those who received mealie meal were being told that someone has to vote for you, that is the only way we can guarantee that you will vote for us because of mealie meal. So the election has been won because of mealie meal, it is not the will of the people, it’s a mealie meal issue. Finally, people were being given K20. So as far as we are concerned, we put in a fair fight but unfortunately, our friends abused the electoral rules.”

He said it was disappointing that the PF were using hunger as a campaign tool.

“The minister knew very well that there was hunger in Western Province but he refused to support our efforts to declare a hunger situation so that we can get help. So because of this hunger, they created a strategy to go and distribute mealie-meal and go and register people and record them and tamper with their votes. As far as I am concerned, it is not their bedroom, it is a place they have taken advantage of because of hunger. Otherwise why are they taking mealie? Why are they using mealie meal as a weapon? In fact, this time, they have even started distributing village chickens,” lamented Dr Imakando.

Kampyongo should allow our protest – Youths



By Julia Malunga

YOUTHS planning to protest against various governance issues have appealed to Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo to allow them to exercise their right to express themselves. In an interview, Nawa Sitali who spoke on behalf of his fellow youths seeking to protest, hoped that Kampyongo would overrule the police.

“The police told us that the protest should not go on because the security situation in the country does not allow for the protests to go on. We were advised to appeal as per Public Order Act to the Minister of Home Affairs on the protest because we are trying to negotiate for an alternative date. It is our constitutional right to protest and we are going to appeal to the minister. If the minister denies, which we hope he won’t, we hope he is going to reason and allow the young people to air their grievances. But if the Minister denies, we will sit down and see how we can proceed. But as indication is now is that we must go ahead and protest because it is the only way our voices will be heard,” Sitali said.

“We are hopeful that they will act in the right manner. And this thing they are saying ‘the protest will turn violent’ we don’t know where it is coming from, it is going to be peaceful. We are appealing to him as per procedure, even if we are aware of the remarks that he made that ‘they will be dealt with’ we are working on his conscious because he said that ‘those who want to take to the streets illegally’, we are following procedure and we are doing it legally. If he denies to give us our right to protest, he will be acting illegally himself. We are appealing to him and understand that he will act within the confines of the law, if he doesn’t, we will inform the nation about the next step but we are hopeful the remarks he made was just political rhetoric and he will act in the best interest of the office that he holds.”

Sitali said the youths were not moved by threats which had been made.

“When it comes to the threats that were peddled, I think the most difficult one was the one that was issued by the deputy chief whip of the Patriotic Front honorable Tutwa Ngulube where he told the police that ‘when you find them, break their bones.’ It was disturbing for us and the President also warned us. But look, we understand that sometimes it is very difficult for our elected officials to allow people to exercise their right to be heard. This is a protest for the Zambian young people and all of them are angry and this is what we communicated to the police that by not allowing this protest to go ahead, they will not stop the grievances that the young people have. It is better to allow us to go on the streets and the threats are not going to work on us,” said Sitali.

The youths had planned a protest for June 22 but police denied them a permit, citing security concerns.

CSPR proposes tax reductions to cushion citizens against high cost of living

By Ulande Nkomesha

CIVIL Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says government should lessen the tax burden on citizens and increase social protection programs to cushion Zambians against the escalating cost of living.

CSPR programs coordinator Chimuka Nachibinga said reducing the tax burden would increase disposable income, which would cushion the cost of living that has soared to K7,195.60, according to the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection.

“I think government needs to lessen the tax burden on the citizens meaning that they have to reconsider reducing or reconsider increasing the non taxable threshold, maybe to about K4 000, so that people can have more disposable income on their hands. As you are aware that the dependency ratio has also gone up amidst those people who are working, they are feeding a number of mouths and the little disposable income that they have is being shared by a number of people against the

poverty levels and also escalated the poor living standards,” Nachibinga said.

“The other strategy that we would want to recommend to government is investing in all social protection programs that would go a long way; and also investing in the agriculture sector, so that agriculture becomes self reliant and people are able to produce one or two things. So it calls for even increasing the prices of maize as it is now so that the farmers can be empowered in one way or the other. The long term strategy we can recommend is that government think of investing in shock responsive social protection programs. This calls for them to come up with specific sinking funds for money that will be channeled towards social protection programs.” He added that government should also widen safety nets in terms of social cash transfers in order to cushion the burden on the vulnerable people in society.”

He lamented that more people were slipping into the poverty line.

“The Unfortunate part is that the

disposable income for the people has remained as static. It has not increased actually it has decreased to a situation which is unbearable and most of the people have actually dropped into the poverty line. So, government should widen the safety nets in terms of the cash transfers themselves. Government should scale up in terms of the beneficiaries because there are a number of people that have actually fallen into poverty. So, if they scale in terms of beneficiaries and also ensure that they disperse the money at the right time , so that the beneficiaries can appreciate the values of that money, it will try and cushion the cost of living,” he said.

Nachibinga said there was need for government to prioritise economic growth programs like social protection programs and forego infrastructure development projects for the time being.

“The resources are there, it is an issue to do with priorities. When you look at the 2020 budget there is a lot

of money that has been channeled to infrastructure development, especially roads. At this particular point in time I think government should be looking at the priority areas which are the priority areas that they are supposed to invest in. When we look at our economic growth from 2012, ever since we started investing in agriculture heavily especially the roads our economic growth has been shrinking, now we are talking about a negative growth,” said Nachibinga.

“So it is a wake up call to government to ensure resources are channeled to priority areas that can stimulate economic growth. We are not saying that roads are bad but let us look at what are the priority areas. So, the same resources that are remaining after the debt payment and so on have been put aside we can channel those resources to priority areas that can stimulate the economy; and one of those areas is the social protection programs, agriculture and other sectors that can stimulate the economy.”



Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc
[Incorporated in the Republic of Zambia]
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[“CEC” or “the Company”]

CAUTIONARY ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with Section 11.40 of the Lusaka Securities Exchange Listings Requirements (“LuSE Listings Requirements”), the Board of Directors of Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc (“CEC” or “the Company”) wishes to inform shareholders and the market that the Power Supply Agreement (“PSA”) between CEC and Konkola Copper Mines Plc (“KCM”) came to an end on 31 March 2020 but was extended, through mutual agreement of the parties, to 31 May 2020. Consequently, effective 1 June 2020, there is no contractual basis upon which CEC can continue to supply electricity to KCM.

The market is further advised that KCM has accumulated a USD144.7 million debt to CEC in unpaid power charges representing twelve (12) months of consumption, which remained unresolved at expiry of the PSA.

To agree on the terms to further extend the PSA, CEC and KCM entered negotiations which have since broken down, despite CEC’s best efforts in good faith towards securing a new contract and engaging in comprehensive and cooperative negotiations.

Further, on 29 May 2020, KCM notified CEC that they had signed a term sheet for power supply with ZESCO Limited (“ZESCO”). The same day, the Government of the Republic of Zambia issued Statutory Instrument No. 57 of 2020 declaring CEC transmission and distribution infrastructure as “Common Carrier” to enable ZESCO distribute or wheel power through the CEC infrastructure to supply KCM. Subsequently, on 31 May 2020, the Energy Regulation Board set a wheeling tariff equivalent to about 30% of CEC’s current network tariff.

The combination of these developments, and as the deliberations around the settlement of KCM’s debt and the review of the contractual arrangements in respect of KCM continue, may have a material effect on the price of the Company’s securities and shareholders are advised to expect a more comprehensive announcement to be issued and are hereby advised to exercise caution when dealing in the Company’s securities until further information is published.

By Order of the Board

Julia C Z Chaila
Company Secretary
Issued in Lusaka, Zambia on Tuesday 10 June 2020

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Mines Ministry makes changes to export mineral sampling procedure

By Natasha Sakala

THE Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources has announced that the ministry will now be sending officials to mine sites and warehouses to collect samples for export as opposed to relying on samples availed by traders in a bid to protect revenue.

Currently, every client who wishes to apply for a mineral export permit submits a sample of the export consignment to the chemistry laboratory of the Ministry and based on the sample analysis results from the laboratory, a Mineral Valuation Certificate of the entire mineral export consignment is prepared.

After the applicant has obtained a mineral royalty clearance certificate from the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), the Ministry issues a mineral export permit to the applicant.

But in a statement, Wednesday, ministry permanent secretary Barnaby Mulenga said the old system provided an opportunity for exporters to submit low grade minerals and resulted in undervaluing exports leading to loss to revenue for the country.

“The Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development wishes to inform all exporters of metals and other mineral products that, with effect from 1st July, 2020, the Ministry will no longer accept samples submitted by exporters to the Chemistry Laboratory at the Geological Survey Department in Lusaka to facilitate the issuance of export permits. Unfortunately, this practice has opened a window of opportunity for some mineral exporters to deliberately submit low-grade samples to the chemistry laboratory. This has resulted in undervaluing of mineral exports and consequently, loss of revenue earned by the government through mineral royalty tax payment. The loss of revenue could amount to hundreds of thousands or even millions of

dollars per export, depending on the amount of discrepancy in mineral grade between the submitted sample and the consignment being exported,” Mulenga stated.

“In view of the above, the Ministry wishes to put an end to the current arrangement so that Officers from the Ministry will be going to the mine sites and traders’ warehouses to collect the required samples instead of relying on samples submitted by exporters. This decision was arrived at in order to: Earn government a lot of revenue which is currently being lost through some exporters’ submission of low grade samples to the ministry’s chemistry laboratory; Eliminate the inconvenience of requiring our clients to travel to Lusaka to submit samples each time they apply for a mineral export permit; and Achieve orderliness in the processing of mineral export permit applications as opposed to the randomness currently prevailing; Verify the location of the mineral samples and their Mine origin.”

He stated that it was government’s wish that the ministry gained full oversight of mineral supply and value chain to effectively monitor mineral production and exports.

“In conclusion, it is the desire of the government that the ministry gains full oversight of the mineral supply and value chain in order to ensure effective monitoring of mineral production and exports. Therefore, in order to facilitate the smooth transition from the current scenario to the new one, all exporters are requested to ensure that their applications for export permits are received by the Ministry at least one week before the officers’ sampling visit to each region. The applications should state clearly where the export consignments to be sampled will be located, with the applicants’ physical address and other contact details,” stated Mulenga.

By Julia Malunga

NATIONAL Democratic Congress leader Chishimba Kambwili says the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) should take interest in the syndicates involved in the procurement of drugs at the Ministry of Health.

In an interview, Kambwili charged that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya and his permanent secretaries were involved in the scandal.

“There is very big corruption going on at the Ministry of Health in terms of procuring of drugs. I mentioned earlier that we were going to have problems because the Ministry has decided to stop procuring health kits from Missionpharma and they have decided to be buying from individual chemists with the people that they know. Missionpharma has been involved in rural health kits in the continent of Africa and they are very experienced and we have never experienced shortages. We are now going to have problems because the people they have given that responsibility do not have the capacity and they are not experienced in that and I get this information from the ministry but when I talk, people think they are allegations, I am well informed,” Kambwili said.

“The minister (Dr Chitalu Chilufya) is involved and his permanent secretary and people at the ministry are not happy with what they are doing. ACC, DEC must move in immediately and find out how a company that did not exist in 2019 can be given a contract to supply drugs. I am reliably informed that that company was for a sole trader

Kambwili asks DEC, ACC to arrest those involved in drug scandal at MoH



but they put limited on it and when you go to PACRA, you will find that company did not exist. People have made money from procuring of drugs and we have seen the property that they are owning, the porsche cars that they are driving and they lives they lead. But they are being shielded from being arrested. When it comes to the Constitution Amendment Bill 10, they recover because they need numbers in Parliament. Ba DEC, ba ACC ikateni aba bantu twapapata aya ma criminals yachilamo (DEC, ACC please we beg arrest these criminals it is too much of them).”

He wondered how a sole trader could win a US\$ 17 million contract.

“And even when they say ‘we are investigating these people’ for property suspected to be proceeds of crime, those are small cases. Those people must be arrested for money laundering. We are talking about US\$ 17 million and

Missionpharma was owed US\$ 11 million. How can a sole trader get a contract for that huge amount? All those involved in the procuring of drugs at the ministry should be investigated and face the consequences of their actions. It is deep rooted, it is a syndicate, a lot of people are involved, big names,” he said.

Kambwili warned that the country would experience a shortage of drugs.

“Right now, I am informed that we have a problem in rural areas. Today as I am speaking, health centers don’t have insulin, it is Missionpharma who used to supply this medicine. I don’t know how people will survive because a bottle of insulin is K275 and that lasts a week or so. Now for a poor man in Mongu, Mporokoso, Chadiza, how can they afford that? There are more of shortages to come. Missionpharma left because of frustrations of not paying them so that they could use their friends. Stop the rot! Reinstate Missionpharma so that the poor people don’t suffer,” said Kambwili.

An investigation revealed that government, through the Ministry of Health last year awarded a US\$17 million contract for the supply of health centre kits to a company called Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited, which did not exist.

Research at the Ministry of Health shows that Missionpharma, a Danish company with a subsidiary in Lusaka had an active contract to supply and deliver drugs to Zambia for several years and was a key government partner for supplying health centre kits. However, owing to an US\$11 million drug supply debt, the company stopped supplying in December 2018, demanding that the government first settles its debt; a move that forced the Ministry of Health to find a replacement.

According to an evaluation report for tender number MoH/SP/032/19 the Ministry of Health made a decision in July to procure 50, 000 health centre kits through a limited bidding process.

Records at the ministry show that a solicitation document for the tender was issued on October 7, 2019 and the evaluation of bids was done on October 22, 2019, while the contract between Honey Bee Pharmacy Limited and Ministry of Health was signed on November 22, 2019.

Go ahead and sue us, *Diggers* tells Zingman

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NEWS Diggers Media Limited says Belarusian businessman Alexander Zingman appears to be an honoured and welcome guest of government and therefore he should have no difficulty prosecuting his intended defamation claim against the media house in Zambia should he choose to sue.

On May 28, 2020, News Diggers published photographs where President Lungu is seen with Defence Permanent Secretary Sturdy Mwale, Zambia Air Force Commander Lt Gen David Muma and Defence attaché at the Zambian Embassy in Moscow, Lt Gen Robert Kampeshi, posing with the said businessman.

Shortly after the publication, Zingman’s UK-based lawyers wrote to News Diggers Media Limited, requesting it to confirm where or whom it obtained photographs of their client and to further remove the article and photographs from the website.

According to a letter of demand addressed to News Diggers editor-in-chief Joseph Mwenda and reporter Sipilisiwe Ncube, Zingman, through his United Kindgom bases lawyer Daniel Delnero of Squire Patton Boggs, was demanding that News Diggers should within two working days of receiving the letter, remove the Article, including the e-Paper version from the website and provide an apology for publishing the same.

They stated that should News Diggers fail to comply with the said requirements, Zingman reserved the

right to issue proceedings against the media house.

But in a letter addressed to Zingman’s lawyers, News Diggers, through its lawyers Nchito and Nchito Advocates, stated that Zingman was entitled to litigate his grievances.

“Your client appears to be an honoured and welcome guest of our government and should have no difficulty prosecuting his claim through our courts should he choose to litigate his grievances which he is entitled to do. Kindly take note that we have instructions to accept service of any court process on behalf of our client,” read the letter.

News Diggers through its lawyers further stated that it was disappointed that although in a letter of May 28, 2020, Zingman’s lawyers indicated that they had attached a Pre-action Protocol for Media and Communications Claims to their letter of demand, the same was not attached.

“It is unfortunate that even after our client brought this issue to your attention, you neglected to supply them a copy of the document despite having earlier undertaken to do so. Assuming that the protocol you are referring to is the United Kingdom’s Ministry of Justice Pre-action Protocol for Media and Communications Claims, we should not be surprised that you have not supplied it as you are required to, because it is not helpful to the posture that you have taken on your client’s case which may explain why you have

instead engaged in actions that appear calculated to arm twist our client into retracting non-existent defamation as we show below,” read the letter from Nchito and Nchito.

“Our client informs us that your Mr Daniel Delnero has had contact with our client’s Managing Director Mr Joseph Mwenda in which he has continually demanded that News Diggers should retract a story that allegedly identifies Mr Zingman as an Arms Dealer. What has not been been made clear is which words identify Mr Zingman as an arms dealer. The foregoing lack of clarity notwithstanding, your Mr Delnero went on to allege in one of the numerous messages he sent to Mr Mwenda that ‘Vitale Fishman is the individual behind the allegations against Mr. Zingman. Mr Fishman is an actual arms dealer, who has been implicated in multiple international scandals.’ Mr Delnero did not explain how Mr Fishman was connected to the article Mr Zingman was complaining about nor did he explain how Mr Zingman is connected to Mr Fishman. This confusion is emblematic of the whole demand.”

News Diggers maintained that Zingman was involved in the Russian Sukhoi aircraft deals.

It added that Zingman’s refusal to answer some questions was unfortunate and could not support his claim that he had been defamed.

“Our client did try to clear the issues by asking simple but pointed questions. One of the questions was

whether Mr Zingman was involved in the Zambian government’s attempt to acquire Russian Sukhoi aircraft. Your Mr Delnero responded by saying ; ‘On number three, I can confirm that Mr Zingman has never been a party to any aircraft supply deals with Zambia, including the one you mentioned.’ Question three was about the Sukhoi Aircraft deal. Although Mr Delnero appears to have been instructed to say that Mr Zingman was not involved in the Zambian Sukhoi deal, our client maintains on good authority that he was. Your client also refused to confirm that his relationship with Mr Valden Findlay was only social and did not extend to commercial transactions in Zambia or elsewhere,” read the letter.

“Further, having confirmed that he was involved in so called agricultural projects in Zambia, your client also refused to discuss his involvement in a controversial fertilizer transaction allegedly funnelled through the Zambian Ministry of Defence and what, if any, connections existed with Mr Findlay on that. Your client also refused to discuss the important question of whether he received any commissions on Zambian transactions and if he shared the same with any Zambian persons or entities. As far as our client is concerned, these are fair questions on matters of fundamental public interest here in Zambia. Your client’s refusal to answer these questions is unfortunate and cannot support his claim that he has been defamed.”

By Ulande Nkomesha
RENOWNED medical expert Dr Aaron Mujajati says there is a possibility of a further increase in COVID-19 cases now that various sectors of the economy have been opened in the country.

In an interview, Dr Mujajati said with the expected rise in Coronavirus cases, there was need to increase surveillance to counter the further spread of the disease.

“We still have COVID and it still exists. In Europe and America, COVID has continued to make problems, including here in Africa. You also need to bear in mind



Mujajati forecasts increased COVID-19 cases due to reopening of schools

that as Zambia, we need to respond to COVID in the way it is affecting us so far. Without making it sound like COVID is not a serious disease it is, look at the number of people that have died in the USA; also, you would want to pay attention to how many are being sent home from those that were quarantined. How many of

those had symptoms of the disease? We need to also look at that aspect and tailor the response both as an individual

and a country to the level of the threat that faces us,” Dr Mujajati said.

“Now that several sectors

of the economy have opened, schools and everything else, expect COVID numbers to increase, that is how it is going

to be. Expect the number of COVID to increase and one of the things I expect to see happen is that people are now freely interacting. I also expect that surveillance will also be increased...because one thing I expect is that schools having been opened, you may not see a lot of young people falling sick, but they are very good transmitters of viruses. So, expect the elderly and the very sick to get COVID and probably get serious forms of COVID. So as schools open, expect that to happen, I expect the numbers to continue rising.”

He added that government should have had done more tests prior to reopening of schools as it would have given a more tailored response.

“I don’t feel we rushed per say, I just feel we should have done a lot more tests prior to reopening so that it gives you a more tailored response. I don’t feel that we rushed. Now with this direction that we have taken, we just need to increase surveillance. I am hoping that a lot more effort and a lot more tests could be done because now that everybody else is out there, it becomes imperative that we increase efficiency in terms of our capacity to capture those that are falling sick and especially that are susceptible to severe forms of the disease. We should find a way of mwaking sure that we efficiently capture those,” Dr Mujajati added.

He also stressed the need to increase sensitization on COVID-19.

“The conversation around COVID in the community is reducing, you cannot deny that; but in as much as that is the case, you still cannot relax as a government, even as individuals or stakeholders, you cannot relax the measures. In as much as the updates have been reduced to a week, the sensitisation needs to continue; you can’t stop that and you shouldn’t stop that,” advised Dr Mujajati.

Yaluma sues squatters for building on his land

By Zondiwe Mbewe
MINISTER of Commerce, Trade and Industry Christopher Yaluma has dragged some squatters to the Lusaka High Court for allegedly building structures on his land without consent after bringing down a wall fence to the said property. Yaluma, who has sued a Mr

Chengo and other unknown people, claims the respondents have continued to obstruct and deny him access to the land despite reporting the matter to the Police and engaging them on several occasions.

He is now seeking an order of the court for the eviction of the said respondents and their agents from the land and an order restraining them from carrying out any activities, entering and being in occupation of the land covering Stand No. LUSAK/930060, Lusaka held under Certificate of Title No. 30846.

Yaluma also wants costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

In his affidavit in support of originating summons filed in the Lusaka High Court, June 8, Yaluma explained that in 2016, he applied through the Lusaka City Council to be allocated a piece of land, now known as Stand No. Lusaka/930060, Lusaka.

“On or about March 24, 2017 a Certificate Of Title was duly issued in my name under Certificate of Title No. 30846 relating to Stand No. LUSAK/930060. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this is the only Certificate of Title that has ever been issued by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources relating to the physical parcel of land known as Stand No. LUSAK/930060,” he stated.

Yaluma stated that following the issuance of the said Certificate of Title, he proceeded to put the said physical parcel of land in a wall fence enclosure.

He, however, stated that unknown to him, the only known respondent, Chengo

and others unknown, brought down the wall fence and proceeded to erect shops, a car wash and other structures on the said physical parcel of land and started carrying on their businesses without any lawful cause or obtaining any consent to do so from him.

“That despite reporting the matter to the Police through Matero Police Station and engaging the respondents on several occasions to stop being illegally in occupation and carrying out their business on the said physical parcel of land, the respondents have contumeliously disregarded my rights as the lawful owner of the physical parcel of land known as Stand No. LUSAK/930060, held under a Certificate of Title No. 30846 held by me, and have continued being in occupation of the same without my consent or licence,” read the affidavit.

“The respondents have continued to obstruct and deny me access and entry into the physical parcel of land covered by the Certificate of Title No. 30846 for Stand No. Lusak/930060, Lusaka without any lawful cause and have continued being in occupation of the unexhausted improvements erected thereon.”

Yaluma stated that the respondents, being squatters and having no lawful claim to the physical parcel of land had further obstructed him from entering and gaining access to the site to enjoy quiet enjoyment of the land.

He added that in the premises, he seeks the indulgence of the Court to grant him the reliefs as prayed for.

We’re unaware of artists intending to protest, says NAC

By Natasha Sakala
NATIONAL Arts Council chairperson Patrick Samwimbila says the organization is not aware of any artists that are planning protests to air out their grievances against the government.

And Samwimbila has warned individuals and interest groups to stop hiding behind artists in championing their agendas.

Meanwhile, Samwimbila has urged social media bloggers and influencers to stop judging and demeaning artists who meet with government officials because they are Zambian and have the freedom to walk into any office, including State House.

During a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Samwimbila said artists could not engage in any protests as they believed in discussing and sorting out matters amicably.

“We are not aware of any artists that would want to protest because these artists have aired their views and they are willing to sit down and discuss. So our model here as a Council, the way we resolve our matters, I think of late, you have heard even some issues concerning artists in the media, even those that have quarreled, the way we resolve our matters is to sit down on a round table and discuss amicably, we don’t resort to protests,” Samwimbila said.

“We feel there is no need for anyone to engage in unnecessary antagonism because there are sufficient platforms for our artists to be heard. With this in mind, we therefore wish to call upon individuals, political parties, civil society organisations or indeed any other interest groups who plan to hold demonstrations for their own agendas, and I emphasize, all those that want to demonstrate or those that plan any gatherings, they have agendas to drive and we call upon them to stop hiding in

the well-intended concerns that our artists have recently aired through their channels or on their platforms, on their pages. They have aired their concerns on issues they have seen happening or not happening well in the country and they have been heard. So these individuals that plan illegal protests should not hide in the statements that these artists aired, in short we are saying please don’t involve the artists.”

He further said the same way artists are celebrated when they air out their views is the same way they should be celebrated when they meet with leaders to air out their grievances.

“I also want to address one other issue; I want also to appeal to social media bloggers and social media commentators to desist from judging and demeaning any artist or artists who decide to meet with any government officials to air out their views.

The same way these artists are celebrated when they air out their views and people shout ‘we stand with you, we stand with you’, that is the same way we expect social media commentators to stand with the artists when they also decide to take other channels like meeting their leaders. Artists are Zambians, and the leadership, the government that is there is for all Zambians so everyone must have the freedom to walk in any office, to walk in any ministry and even to go to State House to go and air out their views or to have a dialogue with the leadership,” said Samwimbila.

“But then, when artists do that, people take on to social media to say they were paid or they were given this. I mean if that’s the Zambia we want to build that whenever two of you are seen chatting, then there is somebody who has paid someone just there, I think that type of culture must come to an end.”

Lukuku reports Simusamba to ACC

By Julia Malunga
REPUBLICAN Progressive Party (RPP) leader James Lukuku has written to the Anti-Corruption Commission on Principal Resident magistrate David Simusamba’s failure to report his allegations that NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili tried to bribe him. In a letter dated June 10, 2020, Lukuku stated that Simusamba failed to report the matter within the stipulated time.

“I write to bring to your attention a corruption incident that occurred, that magistrate Simusamba in his capacity as a public officer failed to report to the office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, contrary to the Anti-Corruption Act No 3 of 2012, section 39 clause 1, under ‘public officers’ duty to report. Magistrate David Simusamba reported a corruption claim to the Chief Justice

of our Republic, to the effect that the National Democratic Congress leader Chishimba Kambwili tried to bribe him from as way back as 2018 when a case before him begun. However, magistrate David Simusamba did not bring forth his corruption report to the Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with what is expected of a public officer in the Act No 3 of 2012,” wrote Lukuku.

“The law says ‘a public officer to whom any gratification is corruptly given, promised or offered shall make a full report of the circumstances of the case to an officer of the commission or a police officer within twenty-four hours of the occurrence of the event, and if the public officer fails to do so without reasonable cause, the public officer commits an offence and is liable for conviction.’ Magistrate David Simusamba did not follow the law but

gave a report to the Chief Justice more than one year after the twenty –four constitutional provision elapsed. I pray that this matter be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission

to help the nation understand the truth, as to why magistrate David Simusamba did not follow the law if this corruption incidence indeed take place.”





NDC

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

Why we deserve your vote



ECONOMIC VISION AND JOB CREATION PLAN

MAXIMIZING economic growth in Zambia has never been more paramount than now. Especially with the population explosion as more people need a share of the national cake. As NDC we believe that growth alone without economic development cannot solve all the problems of unemployment, poverty or inequality, but accelerated economic growth is essential for creating sustainable jobs and as a precursor for economic development. Zambia’s moderate growth rate for the past 10 - 15 years has not been sufficient to catch up to constant rise in the number of unemployed persons. As NDC we believe that for our country to achieve the levels of employment needed and to reduce poverty, the economy needs to grow at a minimum of 9% per annum.

The NDC does not advocate for a form of capitalist system associated with the absence of state involvement. State involvement should be minimal to the level of regulation through independent institutions that report to select committees in parliament. In a bid to create a welfare state, we do not advocate for state interventions that unreasonably limit the growth potential of the private sector and entrepreneur growth to create jobs.

Raising capital in Zambia is very difficult for new entrants into the economy and we need to remedy this if we are to promote entrepreneurship. This is because agriculture and manufacturing have a higher job potential. In order to create a vibrant economy, the NDC when elected shall embark on the following:

- Improving liquidity and lowering interest rates to policy rates of less than 4%, which is

critical for the development and survival of small and medium size businesses and this as NDC shall be priority in the economic sector. High Interest rates are a challenge to the development of small and medium size business.

- As NDC we shall motivate the SMEs and cooperatives sector and focus on developing them into large companies that can create jobs and effectively participate in stock exchange markets, especially for the women and youth.
- As earlier mentioned, the introduction of a bank to be called “AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL BANK”; SME BANK AND COOPERATIVE BANK shall give easier access to capital and loans to smaller businesses ventures that have cooperated to convert agricultural produce to finished products hence creating linkages between agricultural sector and industrial sector. Especially slicing, packaging, winery, canning, and dicing, production of juice, sauces, preservatives etc.
- In addition, we shall also create a leasing organisation that shall not give finance but materials, equipment and machinery to do business operations. This organisation shall collaborate with the banks referred above for credit purposes.
- We shall also Implement Fiscal and monetary policies that reduce financial outflows by ensuring that export proceeds are remitted back into Zambia’s circulation before being externalised.
- Interlink the various sectors of the economy and bridge the gap between the formal sector and informal sector.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS

- The NDC believes foreign direct investment (FDI) has not benefited Zambia positively. The

FDI we shall attract as NDC government shall aim to achieve four things:

- create Real jobs:
real job are jobs that will enable, the labour force earns a decent pay that will enable them get mortgage loans, car loans, and other financial facilities. A decent job also entails that the jobs being created will be in the category of formal employment.
- increase tax revenue,
government should be able to collect various taxes through pay roll and various taxes to provide service.
- promote supply chain industries
our FDI policies will enable the creation value chain addition to our final products. This should be a requirement for investors to illustrate on how their investment will promote other sectors of the economy
- Improve Balance of payments.
Our FDI will also improve the balance of payment and improve liquidity, reduce the cost of borrowing money and financial out flow, through companies that establish industries that produce the most goods and services that we import as a nation.

- We shall revise the five-year tax rebate under Foreign Direct Investment Policy (FDI) and replace it with a tax rebate based on projected and actual cash flow or sales, and when the initial investment creates more 350 RealJobs.
- We shall reserve certain businesses strictly for Zambians or Zambian companies whose shareholding is 50% or more by Zambians. These may include businesses such as Broiler and Layers production, Brick making, etc.
- Amend the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) Act to ensure that FDIs partner with

local private sectors and list their shares on Zambia’s securities and exchange market at an appropriate time.

- We shall create capacity and business opportunities by putting in place a policy to compel government ministries, spending agencies and government Parastatals to strictly buy and contract not less than fifty per cent (50%) of its goods and services that are manufactured within the country from empowered groups.
- We shall undertake national business trading reforms by opening domestic trading hours to 24 hours a day. We shall review archaic laws that were developed to keep black people away from the central business districts, by allowing transport and business to trade 24 hours a day and encourage for increased trading hours for all businesses and legislate for mandatory sectors and selected business to operate 24 hours.
- Zambia has many unskilled learners and this has resulted into unemployed youths and an economy that is not knowledge-based. We shall radically improve our skills base through a variety of measures such as content specialization at early stages as outlined in the education sector of this manifesto, to have better educational outputs. The current skills shortages hampers growth.

As NDC we will ensure that our country has more than, 5 months of import cover, an economy that is resilient to international crisis. This will make our nation borrow at lower prices than the current government because of investor confidence and the low risks associated with lending to our government. This is critical because government needs to refrain from clouding out the economy from local investment if interest rates will be less than 4%.

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says President Edgar Lungu has not been holding public gatherings but people have been following him as he inspects developmental projects.

And Phiri says the Central Committee is yet to discuss the date for the general conference.

In an interview, Phiri said people get so excited when they see President Lungu, they follow him in reference to public meetings the Head of State had in Kafue, Rufunsa and Luangwa.

“Wasn't there social distance? People just get excited, we know that we are supposed to keep social

Lungu hasn't been holding public gatherings, people have been following him – Mumbi

distance, he went to inspect projects. I was in self isolation for a month when this disease just came, you don't need anyone to whip you. The President didn't say he was going to visit the people of Kafue, he went specifically to inspect some projects which are not human beings. But human beings decide to go there, they are putting their lives at risk. But people as

usual, that is how they are even if they are not invited, they go. I think us Zambians, we are used to gatecrashing events. That is why we gatecrash funerals,” Mumbi said.

Phiri said the meetings which the ruling party had been having were allowed by the council and the police because they adhered to COVID-19 regulations.

“We have Mr Hakainde

Hichilema he was calling for a total lockdown and if you have noticed, Mr Hichilema is in self isolation. That is why even when you hear him making statements or he is featuring on a radio program, he is connecting at his house. That is his choice. Our President said whatever he is going to do will be based on science and if you look where he has been going, he is not greeting people, there

is social distance. I can give you an example where they were defectors in Mufulira, people have been guided to follow the regulations,” Phiri said.

“When people are having meetings, they should call the council, they have a department of health and then you go to the police you are have police permit. If you ask the Commissioner for Copperbelt Province (Charity Katanga) she will tell you that the meeting which the PF had, they had these documents, they were cleared by the council and the police. The difficulty we have is people don't want to follow simple things. Even the churches, the restaurants that is the same procedure before you open, that is what they are doing. We are in the new normal and the President did not lock himself even when it was tough. He went to inspect floods in Luapula, he also went to inspect projects under the new normal. He is keeping social distance. If you see the entourage he is going with, it is very small.”

Phiri wondered why UPND was insisting on holding intra party elections during the pandemic.

“I am baffled. I read a

statement from honorable Charles Kakoma who said ‘the PF is stopping us from having elections’, we are also victims. We haven't gone for the convention, we were supposed to have it in July, and it's a health risk. We should be mindful. It is the same people who we want to risk their lives who we are going to ask for votes from. Even us, we are not having these elections. I was shocked that the UPND were boasting that we had a hidden district meeting, they are not promoting anybody, it is for their own good. If they are ready to die, that is their problem, we will bury them,” Phiri said.

Meanwhile, Phiri said the Central Committee is yet to discuss the way forward on the general conference which was scheduled to be held next month.

“We haven't yet sat down, we haven't had any meetings at Central Committee level. Hopefully, since things are easing up, we are looking at when exactly we can have a meeting. I can't predict because I am just an individual, we have to brainstorm as Central Committee, it is not for an individual, it is a collective agreement,” said Phiri.

Zesco's agreement with KCM a sign of vindictiveness – Milupi

By Natasha Sakala

ALLIANCE for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi says the move by Zesco to sign a long term power supply agreement with Konkola Copper Mines Plc (KCM was done out of vindictiveness and only meant to supply free power to the mine.

In an interview, Milupi noted that it doesn't make business sense for Zesco to go and sign a contract with “a customer of its customer” even after the said mine has gone rogue by failing to meet its obligations.

“I think that statement indicates clearly that this whole move for CEC, KCM, Zesco [and] government comes out of vindictiveness because for them to say CEC had a monopoly on the Copperbelt, it doesn't even sound like a proper business statement. The point I am making is this, I am a farmer, I grow tomatoes. Natasha buys my tomatoes wholesale and then goes to sell them at Soweto market but that bothers me who is a farmer who sells them at wholesale because I can say Natasha has

a monopoly when Natasha is selling my tomatoes? If there is any monopoly, monopoly belongs to Zesco and CEC with respect to the supply of electricity to the mines on the Copperbelt. It doesn't just belong to CEC but it belongs to whoever benefits from that and as it happens, whatever money CEC makes out of the mines, two thirds goes to Zesco, one third remains with CEC. So how can Zesco then be talking about monopoly of this particular company?” Milupi asked.

“If you are a trader and you buy things from me or you are selling to people, when they are not paying you so that you can pay me, then I knock you out of business and then I go direct to them to supply, am I normal? This is why I am saying this is not behaviour of a business venture, there is something behind the scenes, it's not normal. So these are the people who are all going to be sorted out. It does not make sense for PF, it does not make sense as a business undertaking for Zesco to take on a customer that was being supplied by a customer who

turned out to be a rogue for not paying you take them on and you think they will pay. Within a short time, you will come back to us.”

He said despite the action, over US\$100 million of the US\$144 million which KCM owed CEC belonged to Zesco, adding that Zesco did not have the capacity to collect debt from the mine.

“And because CEC is a private company, they have capacity to collect, Zesco have no capacity to collect from a rogue customer for example like KCM. That US\$144 million that you are hearing that they are owing CEC, over US\$100 million of that is Zesco money. When Zesco now takes this, can anyone in their right mind imagine that Zesco will now be able to collect from KCM? When you have this liquidator who is playing PF roles, playing government role, is it true that they will collect that money? They will not be able to collect it, they will continue supplying power to KCM for free. When they are supplying that power for free

to KCM, and we are talking about fat sums of money, on the accounts books of Zesco, there will be a shortfall which was supposed to be sealed by this KCM money because of the shortfall, there will be need for someone to find, who is that good person going to be? The way this PF government works, it is the consumers of electricity wherever they are, they may be in Nakonde, they may be in Chadiza whether there is electricity, the electricity tariffs will go up,” said Milupi.

“Then they will say if we don't do this, [if] we don't raise [money], Zesco will not be viable because now they will have a customer not paying. When CEC was supplying, because it's a commercial arrangement, they made sure, that is why you had this correction or limitation of power. It is not undertaken lightly. The people who are going to pay the bills of KCM will be the ordinary Zambian, you will be paying more to cater for KCM who are not paying.”

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We won't give in to threats from Mr Zingman and his agents

BELARUSSIAN businessman Aleksandr Zingman has threatened to take us to court for refusing to disclose our sources of his controversial photographs where he was pictured interacting with our Head of State, Lusaka Business Valden Findly, Defence PS Sturdy Mwale, ZAF commander Lt Gen David Muma , Zambia's defence attaché in Russia Robert Kampeshi and Alexander Mikheev, the CEO of the Russian defence exporter Roseboronexport.

Mr Zingman ordered us to delete the images from our website and to apologize for publishing them, saying although he was posing with our top military brass, his dealings in Zambia are strictly in Agriculture, and nothing to do with Ministry of Defence procurements. We have refused to do so for obvious reasons.

Anyone who looks at his explanations to the questions we posed at him can tell from the onset that the Belarussian tycoon was being economical with the truth. It simply doesn't make sense at all, that everything was a coincidence. But whether Mr Zingman was lying or not is not our problem.

In fact, we need to make it clear to Mr Zingman that this issue is not about him. It is about Zambia and Zambians - those who are leading it and their conduct. If Mr Zingman is a dishonest

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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man, as he appears to be, that's his problem and his lies will catch up with him.

Our issue is about Zambia's dishonest leaders who sign contracts to borrow unsustainable amounts of money in the name of defence and security for our people when the truth is that they get kickbacks. We are concerned about those who pay US\$135 million for a plane that is worth US\$65 million. We have the right to ask who took the US\$70 million difference? They pay US\$135 million for a plane we don't need, a plane we cannot afford. These are the people we are concerned about. Their actions are impoverishing our people and sending many to early graves. That is our concern.

We are are concerned about those who have opened our country to all types of middlemen to rip off our hard earned taxes. But if Mr Zingman wants to make this his own fight, he is welcome.

The corruption that is going on in the country cannot be allowed to continue without comment. It is simply too much. Even in stealing, there has to be limits. This is what we are concerned about.

Anyone wanting to sue us for complaining about what is happening to our country will find worthy opponents in us because we will fight with all that we have, however little and even if that is the last thing that we do. Zambia is a rich country which God has given many reources. What is lacking is a principled stewardship of these resources.

There are individuals in this government whose jobs seem to be finding ways of stealing from our people. When you look at them, it is as though when they arrive in the office, they are just thinking about how to steal. They are not there to serve us, but to steal. They sign all sorts of useless deals in the name of our peope, for the sole purpose of stealing.

Without shame, they are looking for commissions on every contract that they conclude on behalf of the government.

We now know that people are hiding behind the veil of defence secrecy to commit all kinds of criminal acts. When one looks at what is happening, it is clear that in some instances, government functions have been handed over to private individuals who are making all kinds of unnecessary transacrions to syphone money from the treasury.

It is not very difficult to underatand why defence has been picked as a vehicle for such dealings. Historically, defence procurments are carried out in secret, and there is supposed to be a very good reason for this. But this lack of public scrutiny is being abused by our dishonest leaders. It has created a perfect cover for corruption.

Who is going to question defence procurements? If you do,

you run the risk of being accused of breaching some state security laws. Because of that, some unscrupulous people have taken advantage, and for them it is pate after pate.

This is why people can buy fertilizer and other agricultural products using the Ministry of Defence and no one is allowed to question that because it's a defence procurment. Is that fair?

There are many other procurements which have nothing to do with defence that are being run by that ministry with the sole purpose of allowing certain individuals to steal. That is wrong.

This is why the debt situation in Zambia has gotten out of hand largely as a result of this recklessness and greed. Zambia has become a paradise for all kinds of middlemen who are looking for public officials that are ready to sell our birthrights. These people will sign away our collective

rights as long as they get something for themselves. There is too much filth in our government. And this kind of corruption is a danger to the very existence of Zambia as a country. No one who calls themselves a Zambian should accept this.

We have thieves whose criminal activities are well known, running very important ministries in our country. What can we expect from such individuals? They are not ashamed to open the doors of government to their friends who come to help them loot.

This is our problem. This is what we oppose. Unless we stand up and stop this corruption, it is going to consume all of us. We challenge anyone who is fair minded to demonstrate to us that the current debt crisis that we have as a country is not a direct result of corruption and abuse of office that has been going on in our country. Too many overpriced projects have been carried out for the sole purpose of giving government individuals commisions.

This is wrong and it has to be stopped. There should be consequences for the kind of daylight robbery that we are seeing. We are not in this business to fight anyone, but we will use our ears, eyes and pens to defend our country.

We don't have a very good appetite for threats and intimidation. Sorry!

Crossword puzzle No 622

1		2		3		4		5
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7	8					9	10	
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		21						
22						23		

“Individualism turns a band into a society. Collectivism turns society into a mob.”
- Jakub Bożydar Wiśniewski

Across

1. Round green vegetable
4. Distress letters
6. Zoo favorite
7. Golf peg
9. Small dog sound
11. Luau instrument, for short
13. Sports squad
14. Bend out of shape
15. A dessert
17. Affirmative vote
19. Observe
21. Church singing group
22. Yank
23. Picnic pest

Down

1. Set down
2. Playing card above King
3. Chain unit
4. Snoop
5. Diminish
8. Each one
10. Collection
11. Baseball official
12. Farm female
16. Thing that's worshipped
17. Part of a play
18. ER test
19. Memorable period of time
20. Consume food

Crossword puzzle No 621

1	C	R	A	S	H		4	B	A	5	G
	A		L		A			O			R
6	T	A	G		7	T	A	B	L	E	
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Readers' Feedback

Lungu's advice to Zambians to 'engage their brains' before exercising freedom of speech

Editor,

"Mr. President this arrogance by your government will not help you and your party. I expected you to correct Hon. Bowman Lusambo but alas here you are supporting such barbaric behaviour...You even mock us by asking us to engage our brains before we exercise our freedom of expression. Really? Let's hope you really have a better plan of being in State House after August 2021 otherwise your contract will not be renewed that I can assure you". - Emmalito Lias

"The man is afraid of losing power, we are giving him forced retirement next year. Surely who supports that nonsense from Lusambo!" -

Zulu Taciturn

"You would think the Zambia police were a militia at his farm. Does he even understand the work of the police? Anyway, time is almost up bwana. There comes a time when people can even defy the police if they engage themselves in supporting thieving, selfish and corrupt dictators. The police cannot manage to quell a revolution. We only respect our uniform, not that we can not engage them if the worst comes to the worst. Don't abuse them beyond breaking point. Come next year the same police will deal with those issuing lawless, oppressive orders!" - Munacho Shimapengo

"Freedom of expression is one thing, the expressed content is another thing. Both are important. How about giving a rationale for the decision taken which is the root cause of the expressions". - Michelo Miyoba

"You can use all the powers you have to silence people but you can't stop them when it's time to vote. You better be prepared for getting out of office just in a few months time". - Edwin Tilasi

"But zoona 2021 must come fast I want to retire some people permanently with my voters card". - Mooto B. Tembo

"After a backlash from the people, you will hear that

Bashi Kings was misquoted. Shame on you, we shall still demonstrate. How can a peaceful demonstration be anarchy?" - Gershom Habile

"Well, to those who were saying that his silence depicts that he doesn't agree with what Hon. Lusambo said, there is your beloved president, a lawyer who took the oath". - Teddy Deogratus Malunga II

"Country men and women, what else can we expect from a person who was voted by raising hands at their so called convention to become what he is today, to say or do to correct this dictatorial situation other than siding with his undemocratic, violent and half-baked ministers". - Henry Kazombo



EDITOR'S NOTE:

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HRC on Lusambo's dictatorial threats

Editor,

"Not only dictatorial but daft and backwards. His thinking is shocking and shameful". - Mary Taguma Bilsborough

"There is no #fibre of leadership in him and it is a grave mistake as well as a big shame to have such characters as our leaders because #Zambia is not his farm!" - Jay Jnr Micheal

"Politicians forget, it is the same people they call jim and jark, the poor of the poorest who wakeup 05:00hrs to go

and vote for a better Zambia". - Musheke Sishekanu

"He is not fit to be a leader in a normal country". - Justin Sics

"In a country with good governance this man would have long been fired. He is a disgrace to democracy". - Lolanji Freddie

"You blame people around him that they mislead him. The question is. How old is he kanshi for him not to know what is good or bad?" - Tukafililamunsenga Kambwili

Mwila's ban on Ministers commenting on foreign investors flouting labour laws

Dear editor,

"Where does SG Mwila draw such powers? A party official banning a government officials from commenting on national matters? Who bewitched us to find ourselves in this quagmire?" - Simon Da Kinsman

"G points at work, the curse we brought against ourselves". - Noritah Mwanza

"How on earth can a PARTY OFFICIAL tell an ELECTED OFFICIAL what to do. What does he know about jurisdiction?" - Musesha Mulenga

"G points nipatali. SG can't control ministers because they are government leaders answerable to the veep, president and the people of Zambia not a political party SG. Confusion at work". - Ndhlovu George

"How can a party SG be giving orders to ministers? Only in Zambia where a minister can be asking for a loan from another country without the finance minister not knowing". - Peter Mmembe

"This country has really gone to the dogs..." - Ricardo Musonda Mukuka

ECL's refusal to discipline Bowman over his methods

Dear editor,

"Of course Mr President because that will be like disciplining yourself. Instead Mr President start as a matter of urgency to Export the Ignorance that Floods your gang of Ministers. That will earn us enough money to re-pay our Unsustainable Debt without even hiring Lazard Freres. Birds of the Same Feather Flock Together". - Christopher Kalima

"But he will Cost you your Leadership your Excellence.....Remember Egypt was Defeated by a small Nation because of one person. History has a tendency of repeating itself". - Gershom Nombuyo Phiri

"This statement should now silence all those in the habit of saying " President Lungu is a good man, the problem is with the people that surround him". He has now clearly told you what he stands for". - Andrew Banda

"One thing for sure is you have Lusambo's vote in 2021, as for the rest of us there's alot of convincing to be done!" - Sizwe Gondwe

"And someone should say it's the people around the president". - Limpo Penelope Imboela

"Those that voted for Lungu and his minions, how do you feel now aini?" - Mirriam Maweta Mutembo

"Let the game begin, let the youths stand up, it seems these madalas are taking our quietness for granted!" - Sichilongo C

"Time is ticking bane NRC's and voters cards we have, no one is going to force us to vote for intimidators!" - Daniel Maleka

"We shall remember your words in 2021 Sir". - Ricardo Musonda Mukuka





Cameroonian conflict ‘world’s most-neglected crisis’

CAMEROON’S conflict with English-speaking separatists has been rated as the most-neglected crisis in the world for the second year running by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The African nation’s Anglophone minority are fighting for autonomy after what they term as decades of marginalisation by the central government and the French-speaking majority.

Some of the separatists have declared autonomy over two regions - a move rejected by President Paul Biya.

Cameroon has also been hit by a refugee crisis from the neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR) and continuous attacks in the north from the Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

The annual list of neglected crises is based on three criteria: lack of funding, lack of media attention, and political and diplomatic neglect.

There are nine African nations in the list of 10, with Venezuela being the only non-African this year.

The report also highlighted the ongoing armed conflict in the Sahel region, that includes Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, which has resulted in the deployment of military forces from a host of European nations.

Niger and Burkina Faso appeared on the list for the first time.

Humanitarian crises in all countries mentioned in this year’s list are expected to worsen throughout 2020, compounded by the global coronavirus pandemic.*BBC*

THE UK is likely to be the hardest-hit by Covid-19 among major economies, a leading agency has warned.

Britain’s economy is likely to slump by 11.5% in 2020, outstripping falls in other developed economics of Germany, France, Spain and Italy, it said.

If there were a second peak in the pandemic, the UK economy could contract by 14%.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development described the impact as “dire” everywhere.

In its latest assessment, the OECD found that the trade, tourism, and hospitality sectors, which make up large parts of the UK’s service-based economy, have suffered under lockdown restrictions introduced by the government.

Coronavirus crisis

UK economy could be worst hit among rich nations

In response to the think-tank’s report, Chancellor Rishi Sunak said the UK was not the only one to suffer: “In common with many other economies around the world, we’re seeing the significant impact of coronavirus on our country and our economy.

“The unprecedented action we’ve taken to provide lifelines that help people and businesses through the economic disruption will ensure our economic recovery is as strong and as swift as possible.”

Global impact

The Paris-based organisation says that five years or more of income growth could be lost in many countries

as a result of the pandemic.

The OECD has looked at two scenarios for how the pandemic might unfold.

In the more severe case, the global economy could shrink by 7.6% over this year.

Although the report says that the pandemic has started to recede in many countries, and activity has begun to pick up, it does not expect a convincing recovery. It sees the outlook for public health as extremely uncertain and that is reflected in the decision to assess two alternative scenarios.

In the more moderate scenario, the virus continues to gradually recede. In the alternative, there is a second

wave of contagion which erupts later in 2020.

The report describes both outlooks as sobering. In neither can economic activity return to normal within the period the OECD considers. The deep recession now underway will be followed by a slow recovery.

In the gloomier of the two possibilities, the decline this year could be very severe.

In that scenario two countries - France and Spain - would suffer even deeper declines in economic activity than the UK this year

That 7.6% global forecast is significantly worse than what was foreseen by other agencies - such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - who have warned about the high level of uncertainty attached to their forecasts.

By the end of 2021, the report says that five or more years of income growth could be lost in many countries. It says the impact on livelihoods will be especially severe among the most vulnerable groups.

The OECD also says the pandemic has accelerated the shift from what it calls “great integration” to “great fragmentation”. That is essentially a setback for globalisation, reflected in additional trade and investment restrictions and many borders that are closed at least while the health crisis persists.*BBC*

Malawi has no coronavirus - ex-President Banda

MALAWI’S former President Joyce Banda has told a campaign rally that the country has no coronavirus cases and accused the government of “faking” numbers, local media reports.

Politicians are campaigning ahead of a presidential re-run on 23 June after President Peter Mutharika’s re-election last year was nullified by the courts.

Huge political rallies have defied coronavirus prevention measures like social distancing and wearing of face masks.

A recently conducted poll showed that 81% of Malawians are not afraid of coronavirus and are more concerned about hunger.

“We are therefore demanding all the funds which have been pumped into Malawi in the name of Covid-19 to the rightful owners and be used for development projects,” the privately owned Malawi 24 website quotes Ms Banda as saying to supporters in Nkhatabay on Tuesday.

Three months ago, she had accused the government of hiding coronavirus cases.

The former president endorsed opposition presidential candidate Lazarus Chakwera.

Malawi has so far confirmed 455 coronavirus cases and there have been four deaths and 55 recoveries.*BBC*

African swine fever ‘decimating Nigerian pigs’

AN outbreak of African swine fever in Nigeria’s largest pig farm co-operative in the south-west of the country has been confirmed.

It is the first time in 12 years that the highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs has hit the West African country.

Although it is harmless to humans, the disease can kill pigs within a few days, and the fatality rate can be up to 100%, according to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

One farmer told the BBC it had killed more than 300,000 pigs since the outbreak began a few months ago.

“Around late February we noticed that pigs were dying in some parts of the farm and it started spreading, when we ran a test, it was confirmed that we were dealing with African swine fever,” Ayo Omirin said.

Oke Aro farm, a co-

operative settlement managed by the Lagos State government, is regarded as one of the biggest pig farms in West Africa.

It provides a source of livelihood to more than 3,000 people who struggle to meet the demands of more than 50 million consumers in the region.

Mr Ayo says the outbreak has affected 99% of the pig pens.

Jide Lawal, the public relations officer for Lagos State’s agricultural ministry, says efforts have been made to show the stockmen how to protect their pigs.

The state government had sent a team to fumigate Oke Aro to reduce the infection, he said.

“We have also given the farmers palliatives to cushion the effect of their losses, we have distributed maize and sorghum-feeds for pigs to the farmers as relief materials,” he added.*BBC*



The statue of Colston is pushed into the river Avon. Edward Colston was a slave trader of the late 17th century who played a major role in the development of the city of Bristol, England, on June 7, 2020. (Photo by Giulia Spadafora/ NurPhoto) Giulia Spadafora / NurPhoto / NurPhoto via AFP

SAs business confidence hits record low as lockdown batters economy - survey

SOUTH Africa’s business confidence hit a record low in the second quarter, a survey showed on Wednesday, as a coronavirus-led lockdown stalled an economy that was reeling from a recession even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) business confidence index (BCI), compiled by the Bureau for Economic Research, was at 5 points

for the second quarter, the lowest level since the first survey in 1975 and down from 18 points for the first quarter.

Africa’s most industrialised economy, which entered its second recession in two years in 2019, has been largely shut down since late March, when the government imposed severe restrictions to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The country began phased easing of the lockdown in May.

“COVID-19 has drastically changed the already-weak economic landscape and perhaps, in some cases, permanently,” RMB chief economist Etienne le Roux said.

“We are likely only beginning to fully appreciate the complexity of the economic impacts of this

pandemic.”

Firms will likely continue to face an income squeeze as costs rise, while weak demand weighs on prices, and many will have to find new ways of doing business, according to the survey.

It also said that the BCI plunge to five was consistent with a “never seen before” contraction in economic growth.

South Africa’s central bank expects the economy to shrink 7% this year, but economists expect an even deeper recession as well as deep job losses.

The survey showed that business confidence declined across all sectors, but retail confidence held up relative to the other sectors because of the sale of essential goods.*Reuters*

Klopp ruined FA Cup tie - Shrewsbury chairman

SHREWSBURY Town chief executive Brian Caldwell has hit out at Jurgen Klopp and Liverpool, accusing the Reds of breaching FA Cup rules while costing the League One club money in the process.

Liverpool and Shrewsbury faced off in the FA Cup in January, with the lower-league side coming from behind to erase a 2-0 deficit to secure a draw and, more importantly, a replay at Anfield.

However, with Liverpool's focus elsewhere, Klopp immediately announced that he and his senior players would not take part in that replay, with under-23 coach Neil Critchley taking charge of a youth-filled squad instead.

Klopp said that he would instead use that time to give his team a proper winter break, with the Premier League having

agreed to give clubs a brief respite for the first time.

Critchley's young Reds ended up sealing a 1-0 win in that replay, although Klopp's first team went on to fall to Chelsea in the next round.

Caldwell, though, says that the Reds' decision to play without first-team players cost Shrewsbury dearly, ruining the occasion while impacting the financial gain the club received for sealing that reply.



"You will recall our incredible come back in the FA Cup Fourth Round tie live on BBC with Liverpool to draw 2-2 back in January," Caldwell said.

"Immediately following the match, the Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp ruined what should have been a wonderful moment for our Club by making public statements that he and all of his first-team would not attend the replay at Anfield, effectively ruining what should have been not just financially but for the players and fans a wonderful achievement and a very special occasion.

"We struggled to believe that his statements had no effect on the replay being televised and we are convinced that LFC broke the FA Cup rules by not fielding their strongest

team' in the return fixture.

"This had a knock-on effect of STFC not getting anywhere near the financial rewards that were to be expected from an FA Cup Fourth Round replay including a potential live TV fee against the World and European Champions and Premier League Champions (elect).

"In February we put a complaint in to the FA about the alleged rule breach but unfortunately and quite unexpectedly we were informed that this was dismissed last week (four months on).

"This without doubt resulted in a much lesser occasion for our players and fans as well as the financial reward that would have been expected from LFC playing their strongest team and abiding by the FA Cup rules."

It is not the only time Klopp and Liverpool have opted to field a weakened side this season, as the Reds' U-23s were also tossed into action in the Carabao Cup as the senior team claimed the Club World Cup in December. That match was much less successful for Liverpool, who were beaten 5-0 by Aston Villa. **GOAL**

Stoke manager O'Neill tests positive for coronavirus



A FRIENDLY between Manchester United and Stoke was called off at the last minute after the manager of the Championship side, Michael O'Neill, was diagnosed with coronavirus.

Stoke had arrived at United's Carrington training base on Tuesday and were in the academy building when they found out.

"Stoke City can confirm that manager Michael O'Neill has tested positive for the Covid-19 virus following the latest round of testing on Monday (June 8)," read a club statement.

"O'Neill had tested negative in the previous five rounds of testing.

"He will now follow the relevant guidance and undergo a period of isolation, whilst continuing to be in regular virtual contact with his coaching staff and players."

O'Neill's assistant Billy McKinlay will prepare the team for their game with Reading on June 20 when the Championship resumes after being suspended in March due to the pandemic.

Stoke are just three points above the relegation zone with nine games remaining. **AFP**

Mwamba, Shipanuka back in ring for charity match

By Abraham Kalito

FORMER boxer Anthony Mwamba has revealed that he will be back in the ring to challenge his former trainer John Shipanuka at a charity match aimed at raising funds for the vulnerable.

Mwamba told Goal Diggers that his vision of helping former boxers prompted him to get back to the ring.

"Actually, what we are trying to do is fight for charity. We are trying to raise money to buy a house for boxers who are desperate, who are not doing anything. So, it will be a rehabilitation home. There are so many boxers who are desperate, they are doing nothing so it's not easy to go there and control them," Mwamba said. "But if we keep them at one point, we can control them, we can tell them what to do. So, we are trying to raise money to buy a house so that we can build a rehabilitation home for them. This match will take place after they have opened up everything, we are just waiting for the Ministry of Health to give instructions."

He said all preparations for the match have been put in place awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Health.

"Actually, we are ready, even my opponent, John Shipanuka, is also ready and he has been training at the moment. He is my former trainer and he is also boxing board member.

You know this is my vision, it's my plan. I want to help my fellow boxers who are not doing fine so I have to fight because we cannot always be asking government to come to our aid," said Mwamba. "If I had money, I would have built a house for them already. We want to build a medium cost house which can have three or four bedrooms and a kitchen so that we can keep them there. It's so touching when I see my fellow boxers destitute. Actually, we want to even accommodate the street kids. We know there are a lot of street kids that need help. Some of them, it's not by choice that they are there. So, it's better we train them to be boxers and give them what to do."

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FOOTBALL RUNS IN MY VEINS - KALU

By Abraham Kalito
ZAMBIA'S soccer icon Kalusha Bwalya has declared that football runs in his veins because he cares deeply about the sport and its development such that a day does not pass by without thinking of soccer.

The 1988 African footballer of the year told South African media that he wonders whether people realise that football runs in his veins.

"I wonder if people realise that football runs in my veins. Not a day goes by that I don't think about the beautiful game. I care deeply about football and its development. I love to watch talented youth display their talent, it reminds me of the way I started and the beginning of a long path of footballing life," Kalusha said.

When asked what was the best moment of his footballing career, he cited Zambia's triumph at the 2012 AfCON as one of the moments that brought tears of joy.

"I have had the privilege of some incredible moments in my football career, not just one. You can't last as long as we have been on this road with just one memory. Mine are many moments of gratitude. Many moments of sweat, pain, tears and joy. Just to play overseas at the time I went to Belgium at the end of 1985 is a milestone," Kalusha said.

"To be crowned 1988 African Player of the Year was a superb moment in my career. To lift the Africa Cup of Nations in 2012 with coach Herve Renard and captain fantastic Christopher Katongo's Chipolopolo are moments and achievements one can only dream about."

On the COVID-19 pandemic, he said

Coronavirus had taught him the need to care for one another to make the world a better place. "We took a lot of things for granted before this lockdown. It has taught us that life is precious and that our health is worth investing in, by keeping fit and being health conscious. I also learnt that caring for one another and kindness are key to make this world a better place," said Kalusha.

Ronaldo considering Juve exit



CRISTIANO Ronaldo and Juventus could part ways at the end of the season, according to Italy's Radio Rossonera.

Rumours began to emerge in May that the 35-year-old was contemplating leaving the club, and those rumours have continued heading into the summer.

Ronaldo has scored 53 goals in 75 appearances for Juventus since joining the Serie A giants from Real Madrid in 2018. **GOAL**

Coman not worried if Bayern sign Sane

KINGSLEY Coman says he will have "no problem" if Bayern Munich sign Leroy Sane, and has vowed to stay and fight for his place in the team.

Sane has been linked with a move to Bayern from Manchester City over the past year, with speculation beginning to intensify once again ahead of the summer transfer window.

Talks between the two clubs reached an advanced stage last week, but a final deal has yet to be agreed with City reportedly holding out for a fee in the region of €70 million (£62m/\$79m) for a prized asset.

Should the Germany international indeed complete a move to Allianz Arena when the market reopens, he will be expected to slot into Hansi Flick's line-up on the left wing.

However, Coman has occupied that role for the majority of the 2019-20 campaign, and isn't worried about losing his place after competing with a whole host of world-class players for regular minutes throughout his time at Bayern.

The 23-year-old told Sport Bild: "If Sane came, it would not be a problem! Except if the club says to me that they no longer need me, but I think the club knows what it has in me."

"The situation of Leroy Sane has nothing to do with my own future. **GOAL**

Federer out of tennis until 2021 after knee surgery

TWENTY-time Grand Slam singles champion Roger Federer said Wednesday he will be sidelined until 2021 after undergoing his second knee operation in a matter of months.

The 38-year-old Swiss said he underwent follow-up arthroscopic surgery "a few weeks ago" after undergoing a similar keyhole procedure in February.

Federer, whose last Grand Slam win was the 2018 Australian Open, said he "experienced a setback during (his) initial rehabilitation".

"I plan to take the necessary time to be 100 percent ready to play at my highest

level," he said in a statement on Twitter.

"I will be missing my fans and the tour dearly but I will look forward to seeing everyone back on tour at the start of the 2021 season."

The announcement is likely to renew speculation about retirement for Federer, who holds the record for men's Grand Slam singles titles and last month topped Forbes' list of the world's highest earning athletes.

Federer, who won his first major trophy in 2003, lies just ahead of his longtime rivals Rafael Nadal (19) and Novak Djokovic (17) on the all-time list.

The biggest title he has yet to win is an Olympic singles gold medal.

The Tokyo Games -- seen as Federer's final opportunity to complete a career "golden" Grand Slam -- have been postponed until next year because of the pandemic, and Federer will turn 40 on the day of the closing ceremony.

After the initial operation, Federer had originally planned to return for the now cancelled grass-court season this month. His last tournament match was on January 30 in the Australian Open semi-finals, where he lost to eventual champion Djokovic. **AFP**