



**By Ulande Nkomesha**  
THE Ministry of Home Affairs has apologised to the Japanese government for naming it as a donor of the controversial police bicycles, saying it was a case of “mistaken identity”.  
Home Affairs Permanent Secretary Dr Chileshe Mulenga stated that the bicycle which were said to have been donated by the Japanese Embassy were actually received from the Indian government, while the rest were procured from a Chinese company.

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# Govt apologises to Japan for false bicycle donation claim... SORRY, IT WAS

# MISTAKEN IDENTITY



President Edgar Lungu (c) addresses the media after touring the Chunga Dump Site in Lusaka yesterday  
- Picture by Salim Henry

## Zambia records 182 new COVID-19 cases, 1 death

**By Ulande Nkomesha**  
MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Zambia has recorded 182 new COVID-19 cases out of 9,275 tests done in the last seven days.

And Dr Chilufya has announced that Western Province has recorded its first nine cases of COVID-19, and that one of the affected patients died at Lewanika General Hospital.

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## How Soko drew K55,000 worth of RTSA fuel after termination of employment

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
THE Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has fired its transport manager Mulenga Chibabalaba for failure to retrieve a Total Petroleum Limited Fuel Card (Tomcard) from its former chief executive, Zindaba Soko.

Impeccable sources have told News Diggers! that Soko drew fuel amounting to K55,000 since he left the institution.

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**Stop complaining, make money out of trash - Lungu**

Story page 4

## We cannot apologise for quoting Lusambo's 'stupid' language - Diggers

**By Natasha Sakala**  
NEWS Diggers says it will not apologize because it did not call anyone “Stupid” but merely quoted

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo who referred to the youths who voiced out concerns on bad governance as “stupid”,

“disgruntled”, “naked” and “nonsensical”, among other strong words.

And News Diggers says it is sad that Minister

of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya is inciting youths to attack the newspaper.

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# PF spreading COVID-19 – Kakoma

By Julia Malunga

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma says the Patriotic Front is aiding the spread of coronavirus by holding public gatherings.

Last weekend, Kabushi PF member of parliament Bowman Lusambo met over 400 taxi drivers in his constituency and donated K400,000 meant for empowerment packages.

But commenting on the development, Kakoma wondered why the COVID-19 regulations were relaxed only in favour of the ruling party at the expense of the opposition.

“What is happening is that the ruling party is breaking all the COVID-19 rules that they made. They have disregarded issues of social distancing, they have disregarded the issue of mass gatherings, they have disregarded issues of face masks and, basically, where they are meeting these people in big groups, there is no washing of hands and no sanitizers. There is lawlessness! With such kind of behaviour, it will be difficult to control coronavirus in Zambia. These issues of coronavirus should have ended a long time ago if this government is serious. But there are the ones helping to spread it. They do not care about the lives of the people. There is selective application of the law. The way PF is going about its business, they think that the coronavirus can only become dangerous and infectious if the opposition is gathering,” Kakoma said.

“But if they are gathering and disobeying all the rules of the game, they think the coronavirus will not affect the people and it will not spread. That is myopic thinking! This virus does not select whether you are in the ruling or opposition, it is still infectious and can catch anyone. How they think that they are insulated from the virus is unthinkable. Where did they get the notion that coronavirus cannot be spread when they are the ones having gatherings? We know that they are just using this coronavirus to stifle mobilization by the opposition. They are using it as an excuse to make it impossible for the opposition to mobilize. They are saying, ‘under the new normal, we must begin to do some things as it used to be in the past.’ But how can the rules be relaxed only for PF and not for others? That should not be the case.”

And he also accused the PF of stopping the opposition from holding intra-party elections so that they could use it against them to prevent their participation at next year’s general election.

“But we know that their strategy is to stop the opposition from mobilizing and campaigning. Even for the opposition to hold intra-party elections, they are being denied an opportunity to do so. They are saying, ‘no gatherings for the opposition.’ And they know that under the Republican Constitution, for us to participate in the general elections in 2021, we need to conduct intra-party elections. They are stopping us from holding intra-party elections when nomination time comes next year, they will say, ‘you never held your elections and, therefore, you will not be allowed to participate’ and that is the trap that they are laying for us,” bemoaned Kakoma.

By Julia Malunga

NATIONAL Restoration Party (NAREP) president Steve Nyirenda says there is no integrity in government institutions because they are being dominated by cadres.

Last week, PF secretary general Davies Mwila said not everyone could be a member of parliament but there were plenty of other positions which ruling party officials could be awarded with.

“In PF mulefwaya muletolaika (you want to rush before it is your turn) You need to have experience because when the 12 of you apply, we will only pick one. Some of you are not loyal to the party you go to other political parties because you get frustrated, God provides for all of us. If you are not an MP, tomorrow you will be Mayor, if not you will be a permanent secretary, if not you will go in Foreign Service ama positions yengi (there are a lot of positions). Others can do business, others can be in the boards, ba (Yamfwa) Mukanga he is in the board at Indeni. But because all of us are in a hurry, but as long as we remain in this position, we are not going to allow that,” said Mwila.

But commenting on these

# PF has destroyed Zambia – Nyirenda

remarks in an interview, Nyirenda lamented that PF had destroyed the country.

“This is exactly why the country is struggling, this is exactly why we cannot develop because people think that once you belong to a party, then you have a job. You have these people who are in PF, who do not know anything, they are given jobs in police, in the army, in the Electoral Commission of Zambia and so on. Therefore, corruption goes up and that is why you find there is no integrity in the police because they have removed people that have the zeal to serve the people. That is why the whole nation must team up and remove these guys, we need to kick them out. They have destroyed the country,” Nyirenda said.

“They want to finish this country and give it to the Chinese so that Zambians should suffer. Zambia is for Zambians and they must take the lead. We will not accept these thugs who are embracing autocracy. People who have gone to study, people who know their jobs, people who have sacrificed



Steve Nyirenda

to serve this nation are being chased so that they can place them with people who do not know anything. We have seen that they are going to give this US\$5 million outside because the PF themselves have got no knowledge. They don’t know that there are Zambians who can do that. They go to seek a Sudanese government to mine gold because they don’t believe in the Zambians. They don’t know what they are doing.”

Nyirenda said the state of the nation would get worse because of employing incompetent people.

“The country is going to be worse. We have already sold ourselves, let us rescue it. With these remarks said, the country is going to go into much more trouble because the people they are giving jobs to, do not know what they are doing. They pick people from the streets and tell them to be a policeman, a soldier or government institution they will not function. Everything that they do will be to please the PF government and not the people of Zambia,” said Nyirenda.

# We’ve invested \$1.6m in Met infrastructure – Ministry

By Natasha Sakala

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications says it has invested over US \$1.6 million in meteorology infrastructure with 140 more automatic weather stations still in the bidding process.

And the Ministry has called for concerted efforts in the formulation of the Meteorology Bill saying its enactment will solve most of the challenges the

Department is facing.

Addressing journalists during a tour of the weather station at the Zambia Meteorological Department, which has both manual and automatic facilities, Transport and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya and his permanent secretary Permanent Secretary Misheck Lungu announced that the Ministry had invested over US \$1.6 million in meteorology infrastructure, with 140 more automatic weather stations still in the bidding process

Kafwaya also toured the University of Zambia (UNZA) weather station before proceeding to the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) on Sunday.

“I think right now we are evaluating a tender to procure 120 more automatic stations to be spread across the country. Now, that’s very significant. I have been informed that another 20, the tender is closing. Do we have a situation where government is investing in these very important parts of infrastructure to be able to cause accurate data sharing for proper decision management in terms of whatever sector you might be operating in? I think there are a lot of things involved, technology, the age of equipment, interpretation and so on, so observing that now we are moving from a manual set of data, which was insufficient by the way. I am told 39 manual weather stations were available across the country before PF came into power; now we are sitting at 41, so we have added two. But 85 automatic stations, we only had eight. And the reason we could have had eight is because other areas within the country were not supported by the level of technology, which could support that infrastructure. So, I think that was a factor. But now migrating from that manual system to automatic weather stations, I can only see an improvement in terms of accuracy of data projected to the public,” Kafwaya said.

“Coming round today to see this Met equipment, I see how the investments are interlinked. I am being told that most of this investment is now automatic, that means they are transmitting data on their own and to do that you need Internet, which is being supported by the telecommunication towers that are all over the country. And to store this data, you need infrastructure, which I saw in the data centre. So, I see a lot of relationships in the investments that are happening and that’s very important for me. If you are here at the airport and somebody asks you weather, obviously, you are thinking about flying about pilots, about passengers, but there could be my grandmother, my sister in the villages who are thinking about agriculture; there could be some people who are thinking about climate change. So, we have to get to a place where we integrate these interests and be able to generate accurate data to speak to these various needs and what I see now is that this is the direction we are taking.”

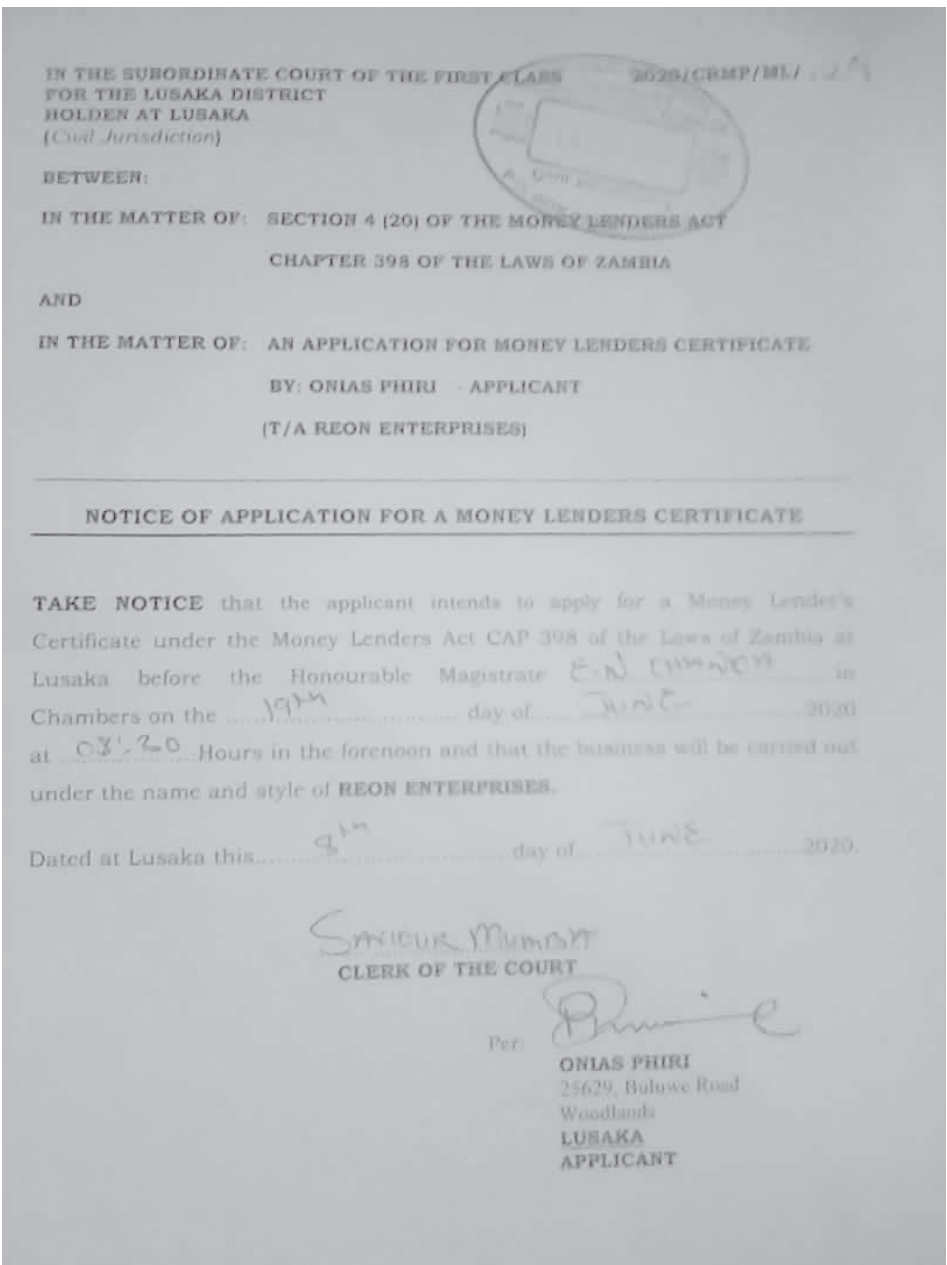
And Lungu said government was investing more to ensure that the current investments in meteorology infrastructure were sustained.

“So, we have invested close to US \$1.6 million in all this infrastructure you have witnessed today and we are investing more. As government, it’s our responsibility to provide this information on gratis to the community, but this information comes at a cost. I will give an example of construction organisations, when you are doing designs

for whatever design, those are firms that are able to pay for this information and again as you can hear that we were providing raw data, we need our staff to process that information, to give it to these organisations for it to make sense and that is an effort, which to us, you and me, as Zambians, will generate income on behalf of the country. So, that’s why we strongly feel that the support that we want to receive from the Meteorology Bill should be able to sustain the investment that government has put. From 2011 to-date, we have seen a lot of improvements in terms of met equipment,” said Lungu.

In response, Kafwaya said the enactment of the Bill would help solve some of the financing challenges the Department was facing.

“You need to rely on government for ideas and to provide leadership and part of that is to repeal the Act and replace it with one, which has more responsive attributes, the issue of structure is linked to the Act that establishes the Department. If we put in place a good Act, we are going to make sure that our structure is properly expanded, but also the Act will also speak to the commerce aspect of the business that we do, which means that we may solve some of the funding problems from the business that we will generate from the work that we do. So, I see that this Bill will certainly give us solutions. So, let’s push. The legislative committee has taken us back twice or three times to make consultations and make sure we come up with a good Bill, and eventually, a good Act. So, we need to work together to support the process and make sure that the Act that comes out responds to most of the issues that we are sitting with now,” said Kafwaya.





*By Natasha Sakala*  
MINISTER of Local Government and Housing Charles Banda says President Edgar Lungu might this week reopen bars when he addresses the nation because all consultations have been completed. And Banda has described as cheap politics allegations that government has allowed the re-opening of foreign owned nightclubs and bars.

Addressing journalists, Monday, Banda said the Head of State would address the nation any time this week.

“What I want to say here is we have come up with recommendations, very exhaustive indeed which so far we have already presented to his Excellency the President, who, I want to say will be addressing the nation shortly and I want to believe that within this week, His Excellency the President may address the nation and part of the issues that he may discuss is the issue of reopening of bars and nightclubs. We have done all the consultations and the recommendations and we believe that what we have done will go a long way in us making progress towards normalizing business in all sectors in this country. So against that, I want to say that in the meeting, the ministries that were present included the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, Home Affairs, the Ministry Tourism and Arts, the Ministry of Health and also the Minister of Presidential Affairs was present in that meeting meaning that it was a broad range of ideas that came together to o the recommendations that maybe

# Lungu may reopen bars this week – Banda

relied upon as his Excellency the President will be making his next briefing,” he said.

Banda said the decision to keep the bars closed was not meant to punish anyone but to ensure that an informed decision was made.

“Now, to our people out there in the industry, I want to repeat what His Excellency the President that we are not after punishing anybody at all, what we are trying to do is to come up with decisions which are going to stand the test of time, we don’t want to make hasty decisions and within a short time we start going back on those decisions which has happened in other countries where they have rushed up in opening bars and so forth and now they are fighting to re-close again which I think doesn’t ogle quite well in as far as governance is concerned. There is nothing like wanting to punish anyone,” he said.

Banda wondered why the Bar Owners Association would want to open with or without government’s approval when they were part of the consultation process.

“Our colleagues from the Bar Owners Association who are calling on their members to open with or without government pronouncement and so forth, I think that is not the way to go, the way

to go is to work together. If anything, that Mr Lifwekelo attended one of the meetings where proposals were made and we assured them that we are going to transmit to the rightful authority so that the rightful measures are pronounced which will be binding and which are going to help us to put back the country’s economy on its wheels especially with the reopening of bars and nightclubs. So I want to urge bar owners to bear with us, government is there to work with you, for you and to ensure that you come back into business in a very safe manner,” he said.

And Banda said it was not true to say that only foreign owned bars and night clubs were allowed to operate.

“Those who are saying that foreigners are being favored...if you go round the compounds, bars are open in Chilenje, bars are open in Kabwata and if you look, those bars are not owned by any foreigner but because of some of our colleagues who have learnt the word for the first time in the dictionary, foreign investment, so that they can use it time and again, they have even forgotten to balance up the story to go and look at what is happening in the compounds where the

Zambians are operating from, why haven’t they done that?



This is very cheap politics, in my view, in most of my colleagues views, that is very cheap politics, you can’t just point out four places and then you generalize that for the whole country, we have had reports from all over the Copperbelt, Zambian bars, owned by Zambian people are at the helm giving us problems busy flouting the regulations but nobody is writing about that,” said Banda.

*By Natasha Sakala*  
FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu has written to the Paris Club requesting for payment suspension on Zambia’s principal and interest payments to all its official creditors from May 1 to end-December, 2020. And the World Bank says it will only extend budget support to Zambia once the country gets on a programme path with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to a Treasury statement released, Sunday, Dr Ng’andu confirmed that the Zambian government had requested debt payment

## Ng’andu writes Paris Club to seek debt payment suspension

suspension to enable it cope with the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other fiscal challenges that still persist.

The Minister acknowledged the development in a virtual meeting with World Bank Vice President for the African Region, Dr Hafez Ghanem where he was supported by Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Finance and Economic Development) Christopher Mvunga and Ministry Permanent Secretary (Economic Management and Finance) Mukuli Chikuba in Lusaka.

“The Minister and the World Bank Vice President also discussed the listing of Zambia as one of the eligible countries for relief under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI); a programme designed to provide fiscal space to help countries respond to COVID-19 health challenges and economic shocks. Dr Ng’andu acknowledged receipt of an advisory note on the matter and on the G-20 debt relief initiative.

He confirmed writing to the Secretary General of the Paris Club requesting for payment suspension on principal and interest payments to all its official creditors from 1 May, 2020, to end-December, 2020. Vice President Ghanem encouraged Zambia to continue pursuing relief under the initiative. The Minister pledged commitment to address debt service payments that fell due before the 1st of May 2020,” the statement read.

Dr Ng’andu also informed Dr Ghanem that Zambia had now finalized the procurement process for financial and legal services to assist in the liability management exercise of the country’s external debt and affirmed that a public announcement will be made this week once all the tender and contractual arrangements had been finalized.

And Dr Ng’andu appealed to the World Bank for advisory support ahead of the virtual IMF consultations to ensure a positive outcome for Zambia.

“The Minister took the opportunity to appeal to the

World Bank Vice President for advisory support of Zambia’s preparations for the virtual consultative and information exchange mission with the IMF so that the country gets the best possible outcome and sets on a solid progressive trajectory, thereafter. Dr Ng’andu cited debt sustainability issues as the backbone of what has dictated previous and current engagements with the IMF. The Minister underscored the self-motivated fiscal restraint and austerity measures as a good basis for discussions during the upcoming and future engagements with the Fund. He expressed confidence that the efforts made by the government, among others, will be acknowledged by the IMF as sincere a prudent effort towards fiscal health and sustainability. The World Bank Vice President told Dr Ng’andu that a progressive outcome of the country’s consultative and information exchange engagement with the IMF will be a launch-pad for the Bank’s budget support,” read the statement.

# Zambia records 182 new COVID-19 cases, 1 death

*By Ulande Nkomesha*  
MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Zambia has recorded 182 new COVID-19 cases out of 9,275 tests done in the last seven days. And Dr Chilufya has announced that Western Province has recorded its first nine cases of COVID-19, and that one of the affected patients died at Lewanika General Hospital.

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya says there have been 154 discharges in the last seven days.

He also announced that President Edgar Lungu would address the nation on new measures later this week.

“In the last seven days, we have recorded 182 new cases of COVID-19 out of a total of 9,275 tests. Western Province has recorded its first nine cases. New cases broken down include 26 community members, that is 22 out of Nakonde, two out of Chingola, one in Chililabombwe and one in Senga Hill. Again 17 were known contacts, from Lusaka that was 13, from Kafue three and Kalalushi one. We did

record two cases of health workers in Ndola. 36 were recorded out of the facility based surveillance routine screening, these included; 20 from Lusaka, six from Ndola, five from Mongu, Kaoma two, Senanga one, Sesheke one, Chingola one and our points of entry at the KK International Airport three,” said Dr Chilufya.

“Out of the mass screening that we were conducting in various parts of the country, particularly Chilabombwe, Kitwe, Lusaka we got 54 and 34 truck drivers from Nakonde, Livingstone and Chirundu. It is also unfortunate that out of the nine cases that we got from Western Province, one died. The deceased who died in Lewanika General Hospital had underlined health conditions and the sample collected during the routine review did test positive to COVID-19. A total of 154 patients from our isolation facilities have been discharged in the last seven days. Therefore, that brings the total number cases country wide to date 1,382 out of the 45,248 conducted so far. Deaths are now at 11

and recoveries are at 1,142. All the patients that are in our various facilities remain stable.”



## Govt should put in place effective accountability system for donated COVID-19 resources - AAAZ

*By Tenson Mkhala*  
ALLIANCE for Accountability Advocate Zambia (AAAZ) says an efficient, effective and accountable COVID-19 response requires transparency of all donations and allocated resources as well as related disbursements and expenditures at all levels of government. In a statement, AAAZ executive director Luchembe Chilufya stated that effective accountability systems needed to be put in place to monitor and track the disbursement of donated resources towards the fight against Coronavirus. “An efficient, effective and accountable COVID-19 response

requires transparency of all donations and allocated resources as well as related disbursements and expenditures at all levels of government. There is need for government to implement effective accountability systems which will monitor and track the disbursement of donated resources to ensure that it reaches the intended beneficiaries including the youth, people living with disabilities and other marginalized groups,” Chilufya stated.

He said it is vital to maintain strong accountability of resources during a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is crucial that the donated and procured items, particularly Personal Protective Equipment’s (PPEs) and Infection Prevention (IP) Kits be adequately supplied and distributed to every frontline health care worker to prevent exposure to the virus and promote confidence in the citizens about their safety as they access essential health care services. As an organization, we are so far happy with government’s action to publicly publish the COVID-19 donations. This is an integral step in ensuring transparency and accountability of the resources,” stated Chilufya.



*By Ulande Nkomesha*  
THE Ministry of Home Affairs has apologised to the Japanese government for naming it as a donor of the controversial police bicycles, saying it was a case of “mistaken identity”.

Home Affairs Permanent Secretary Dr Chileshe Mulenga stated that the bicycle which were said to have been donated by the Japanese Embassy were actually received from the Indian government, while the rest were procured from a Chinese company. Speaking during a briefing in Lusaka, Monday,

# Govt apologises over false bicycle donation claim

Dr Mulenga stated that 30 bicycles were donated by the Indian government, while 110 bicycles were part of a larger supply contract between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Poly Technologies INC of China.

“We have decided to have this press briefing in order to clarify a matter, which has been running in the newspaper and even on social media concerning the donation of bicycles to the Zambia Police Service. The Ministry wishes to clarify the details regarding the donation of bicycles; the public should be informed that on 14th August, 2019, the Indian High Commission in Lusaka made a donation of 30 bicycles to the Zambian Police Service at a ceremony officiated by His Excellency, the High Commissioner of India to Zambia,” Dr Mulenga said.

“In addition, the Zambia Police Service received 110 bicycles, which are part of a larger supply contract to the Ministry of Home Affairs consisting of motor vehicles, boats, uniforms and camping equipment and heavy agriculture equipment. The 100 bicycles are part of the camping equipment. The Ministry wishes to apologize for the erroneous reference to the government of Japan as the donor of the 30 bicycles, which were donated by the Indian High Commissioner.”

He added that the contract between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Poly Technologies was signed in 2013 to supply the country with camping equipment units worth US\$242 each.

“The Ministry of Home Affairs in 2013 signed a contract with Poly Technologies INC for the supply of various equipment

for the security department under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Like I pointed out in the statement, the supply contract includes things like uniforms, motor vehicles, some of which you have seen the different departments using, security equipment of various types, boats, camping equipment and, indeed, heavy agriculture equipment for the Zambia Correctional Service. I think for the agriculture equipment, it was handed over about two weeks ago in Kabwe. Poly Technologies incorporated is a company from the People’s Republic of China,” he explained.

“The bicycles are part of camping equipment, so they are a package and the unit cost of each unit of camping equipment is US \$242. So, it is like a mathematical set where you have a campus, you have a ruler, you can’t pick one and say this one the value is this; you got to refer to the value of it.”

When asked about why the Ministry delayed in clarifying the matter, Dr Chileshe insisted that the Ministry did not delay, but blamed the officers who were responsible for clarifying the information who did not check their facts before communicating.

“I don’t think it took too long, the problem was that the officers responsible I think were shooting from the hip! They didn’t check their facts before communicating. In future, this might make it very difficult because we might begin deciding that before you answer, get a press query, do research and answer. So, a mistake was obviously made. I thought there was an immediate attempt by the Inspector General of Police (Kakoma Kanganja) to clarify the matter, but his statement was for some reason not believed and the matter continued,” replied Dr Chileshe.

And Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chalwe Lombe said no negative implications would arise from the miscommunication between the Japanese and Indian governments. “When the miscommunication was made, an immediate correction was undertaken with the respective governments; in this case,

the Embassy of Japan, as well as the High Commission of India. So, in respect of the possible implications, there was none as such because both these countries are actually cooperating partners. It was rarely a case of one opposed to the other. So, these things do happen and we have already rectified both respective cooperating partners,” said Lombe.

## Stop complaining, make money out of trash, Lungu urges Zambians

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says there is need for people to venture into the garbage recycling business to create wealth and employment.

Speaking when he conducted a familiarization tour of the Chunga Dump Site in Matero constituency, President Lungu said people should stop complaining about lack of employment and find ways of making money out of trash.

“Trash is cash. Instead of complaining to say ‘no, nilibe nchito (I don’t have a job)’ people should be innovative and see how they can work out of the box and create employment,” President Lungu said.

He said the business does not only keep the city clean but also economically viable.

“Secondly, we need to go further than this. Let’s aggregate garbage from source, plastics separately from the household, paper and bottle separate so that as we dispose of them, it will be very easier for those who have intervening actions to solid waste management to do their part. You can see where we are now, it’s about keeping Lusaka clean and health and also making an economy a viable one from recycling businesses,” he said.

President Lungu has also asked the line ministries, together with the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC), to support such businesses in the best way they can.

“So, let us support them. I am sure the ministers here have their roles to play, Ministry of Planning, Finance, Local Government, and Commerce should also do their part. CEEC should also help them and give them support,” said President Lungu.

And speaking earlier when he conducted a similar tour at L&N Matrix Limited, President Lungu said gender balance was key and encouraged companies to be gender balanced as they employ.

## Cops nab Lsk man for killing ex-lover, shooting her new catch

*By Natasha Sakala*

POLICE In Lusaka have arrested Clifford Monde for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, Barbara Sinonge, and the attempted murder of two others.

In a statement, Monday, Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said the other two other victims were the deceased’s current partner, Mwiinga Kalozye, and Andrew Phiri who was trying the rescue the two.

It is alleged that Monde shot Sinonge in the head with a pistol on June 14, 2020 around 20:00 hours at the victim’s residence.

“Police in Lusaka have arrested a male adult identified as Clifford Choonde of Shalom area in Lusaka’s Kanyama Compound who is alleged to have shot and wounded three people among them his ex girl friend who later died at UTH where they were all rushed for medical attention. This occurred on 14th June, 2020 at 20 00 hours in Shalom area in Kanyama area at the residence of the female victim,” the statement read.

“The report of shooting incidence was recieved from a member of the public that Barbara Sinonge aged 23 of Shalom area had been shot in the head using a pistol by her alleged former boyfriend Clifford Choonde and sustained a gunshot wound. The suspect further went on to shoot the alleged current intimate partner of the victim identified as Mwiinga Kalozye aged 29 of Kanono area in Kanyama Compound who sustained a gunshot wound in the chest. Further, the suspect shot at Andrew Phiri aged 22 of Shalom area in Kanyama in the neck as he was trying to rescue the victims and sustained a gunshot wound in the neck.”

Katongo stated that the assailant was apprehended and beaten by a mob and was currently nursing head injuries in the University Teaching Hospital.

“The assailant was later apprehended and beaten by a mob and sustained head injuries. All the three victims were taken to UTH where the female victim Barbara Sinonge later died. The suspect is admitted to UTH under police guard and is likely to be charged with one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder,” the statement read.

Katongo stated that the firearm used in the act had been retrieved with some empty cartridges and one projectile picked at the scene.

## We can’t apologise for quoting Lusambo’s ‘stupid’ language – *Diggers*

*By Natasha Sakala*

NEWS Diggers says it will not apologize because it did not call anyone “Stupid” but merely quoted Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo who referred to the youths who voiced out concerns on bad governance as “stupid”, “disgruntled”, “naked” and “nonsensical”, among other strong words.

And News Diggers says it is sad that Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya is inciting youths to attack the newspaper.

In a letter addressed to Siliya, Monday, News Diggers managing director Joseph Mwenda wondered why she was making it seem as though the word “stupid” was unacceptable to the PF government when her fellow minister used the same to refer to youths.

“We are in receipt of your letter dated June 12, 2020 in which you, as Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, expressed concern over what you termed as the use of a derogatory word “stupid” by ourselves in reference to one of our editorial comments. We are grateful, Honourable Minister that you reached out to us to express your concern and to offer your advice on behalf of government. Dialogue is extremely important between the ministry that you head and media

houses. Honourable minister, you particularly picked the word “stupid” as being unacceptable to the PF government. We find it strange that the ministry missed the press conference by the Lusaka Province Minister Mr Bowman Lusambo who referred to the youths who commented on bad governance as “stupid”, “disgruntled”, “naked” and “nonsensical”, among other words,” Mwenda stated.

“For ease of reference, we quote just one paragraph from Mr Lusambo’s briefing: ‘I want to urge Kings Malembe Malembe, I want to urge the Cameraman (Chellah Tukuta), I want to urge B-flow and his team that can you desist from bringing the name of the country, the name of government into disrepute. This is stupidity of the highest level, and we are not going to allow this here in Lusaka Province. I want to urge Kings Malembe Malembe that I am giving him 24 hours to apologise to the President for releasing those stinking nonsense... As Minister for Lusaka Province, I can assure these boys that they are too naked to misbehave!... It is now a fashion to some of these disgruntled youths to advise the President using social media, not in Lusaka Province, that is lawlessness!’ We wonder why we have not heard of any reprimand of the Lusaka Province Minister for calling the youths who were expressing themselves

on governance issues as “stupid”.” Mwenda wondered why the minister would suggest that the media institution has “opened itself to attacks from the youths” when she did not see the need for them to attack Lusambo for the same remarks.”

Mwenda wondered why Siliya was inciting youths to attack News Diggers.

“We cannot imagine that a Minister of your caliber and political acumen would fail to appreciate the fact that News Diggers was merely quoting the words “stupid” as used by the Honourable Minister of Lusaka. The question is why would the Minister suggest that News Diggers has opened itself to attacks from the youths for the perceived use of derogatory language when you did not see the need for the same youths to retaliate against Mr Lusambo when he used the same words complained about? As minister in charge of information dissemination, why didn’t you see anything wrong with Mr Lusambo’s threats on people’s liberties and freedom of expression? We don’t think you expect our newspaper to apologise for quoting the words that were used by your fellow minister. We however find that the motive of your letter was to incite youths to attack News Diggers if the newspaper does not apologise,” he stated.

“This is a deliberate invitation on

the PF youths to kneel on our necks until we suffocate like George Floyd. This is obviously motivated by the fact that our organization has remained resilient in keeping the PF government accountable. It appears to us that after the demise of Prime TV, the government has placed News Diggers as next on the agenda for closure, and it hopes the youths can do the needful. News Diggers has not called anyone “stupid”, we only quoted what the Minister of Lusaka said and therefore, if anyone has to apologize, it should be Mr Lusambo, not us. But even assuming that we did originate the use of the word complained about, there is no way that you, as a minister who should care about press freedom, would incite cadres to attack a news organization. It is strange that as a Minister who was condemning the PF attacks on Iso FM radio in Muchinga Province last month, you can now suggest that it would be justifiable for youths to attack News Diggers. We wish to put it on record that any attacks on our organization will be treated as government sponsored, at the instigation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.”

Mwenda told Siliya that News Diggers was an advocacy institution which advocated for good governance.

“Honourable Minister, you say media houses in Zambia are not advocacy institutions. We say, minus

one! News Diggers is, in fact, an advocacy institution and it is part of our core values to advocate for good governance, press freedom and freedom of expression among other constitutionally guaranteed liberties. Our newspaper is at war against corruption, abuse of office and any tendencies that threaten our cherished democratic space. We wish to state that while there might be a burning desire by the Minister or other persons unknown, to close down News Diggers for the critical role it has continued to play in exposing bad governance, our politicians must be reminded that government positions are not permanent. Sooner or later, their time in office will end and they will need the same media houses that they now so desperately wish to close down, as platforms for airing their grievances,” wrote Mwenda.

“In view of what we have explained above, our newspaper is not in a position to issue an apology. But we appreciate your effort to write to us, and expressing your interpretation of our editorial opinion, skewed as it may be. We here now throw back the challenge to you to call on the youths to desist from attacking News Diggers or any other media house, if you truly and patriotically, as a journalist, stand for media freedom.”





# Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist



...Only in **Diggers!**

News Ear to the ground

# The Board Should Serve the CEO

THE article on Board evaluation last week generated a lot of interest from many readers. I was happy to note that there are individuals who are highly passionate about good corporate governance in Zambia. We rarely discuss boards and their effectiveness in media platforms such as this one because we assume the subject is discussed by those who like teeing. Many of those who provided feedback last week were short of saying that as a country, we have seriously run short of the minimum best practices of good governance, particularly in the public sector. That is a topic for another day.

Today, I wish to push my thoughts on an expectation that deviates from the norm. This is about the relationship between the Board and the Chief Executive Officer. The norm is that the CEO serves the Board of Directors. This is partially true in that the CEO is the agent of the Board. As an agent, your focus is to ensure this critical stakeholder you report to is always satisfied about many areas: execution of the company's mandate, providing regular reports to the Board, alerting the board about any material risks and opportunities to the Board and being the appointing authority for the position, you are fully responsible to the Board. It is the Board that drafts the job description and signs the contract. In other words, it can never be the other way round.

If anything, the Board is always doing so much in ensuring the CEO operates in a very conducive environment. It is the Board that offers the conditions of serves and in most cases, like we have observed in the public sector, the package is relatively above the norm. The Board, therefore, already serves the CEO. But only just.

My argument here is that the Board should serve the CEO in ways that make the office and organization effective. There is an existing assumption that when individuals are appointed to the position of CEO, they already got what it takes to deliver to expectation. Wrong! The reality, particularly in Zambia, is that we have a serious shortage of robust CEOs who can turn organizations round. What we have are technically competent individuals but without strategic exposure. It is only in

the multinational family where I have witnessed robust succession plans, employees being adequately prepared for the position of CEO when such individuals are identified. I am one of those who underwent rigorous coaching at GIBS Business School under the University of Pretoria at the time I served at Zambian Breweries. You cannot just be a CEO without such intense preparation. This is even more serious in certain sectors where competent resources are in short supply.

For example, the insurance industry does not have that many individuals who can turn up for the top job. We have individuals who are very good at underwriting different products and they operate very well in this very small world. However, expose these individuals to top leadership, they have no idea where to start from. The Board that appointed them would have wrongly assumed the CEO possessed the ability to translate the company's vision and mandate into feasible business and operational plans.

There have been many cases where CEOs were appointed because there was no competition for the position and this normally happens in sectors that are highly specialized such as insurance, energy, air transport, medicine and food processing. The automatic appointment goes to the one with the relevant technical capacity. That is what Boards usually evaluate in assessing for hire. There is very little assessment about how the CEO understands and communicates the business concept, vision, mission, strategies, goals, and overall direction of the business in a highly competitive environment.

A CEO is not an ordinary employee and Zambian boards must begin to look at this position and the individual occupying it differently. Everything from administration, operations and strategy of the business rests on the CEO. It is the CEO who is the initiator, setting high working standards for everyone in the organization. The CEO pursues those goals with a high level of personal drive and energy. Every single day, whether in the bathroom or playing golf, you are preoccupied with solving problems, manage the company's resources and budgets, execute strategies and, as the Board expects, declare profits for

the business.

The CEO position is a very lonely place. When you have challenges running the business, you cannot go to your subordinates to seek help, 'My dear managers, I am having problems managing performance among you, I do not know how to do that.'

An intelligent subordinate will immediately undermine you, demonstrate your incompetence to the extent you become highly insecure and lovely. On the other hand, you cannot approach the Board with the same message, 'You gave me financial targets for the year, but I do not know how to drive performance.' The Board will quickly believe they hired an incompetent individual. And yet there are many CEOs in Zambia in this position; they do not know what it means to be a CEO. There are very lonely and insecure executives whose pre-occupation is to defend their individual position and not the financial position of the business.

Given this backdrop, what do we do with these CEOs? We must convert them from technicians to CEOs who understand the bigger picture of the business and able to drive the required results strategically. The Board should not only evaluate the performance of the CEO but do something about the results. The evaluation, as indicated last week, should not only focus on how badly the CEO performed (and be given an exit package). The evaluation should have developmental areas for the CEO.

The Board should take time to listen to the CEO and understand what such a person needs to increase performance. If it is training, an arrangement should be made to ensure the CEO becomes the desired individual. We should never think that CEOs never need real marketplace exposure. It is not the responsibility of the CEO or the HR department to identify any such opportunities. The Board has this responsibility. It exists to serve the CEO so that the individual is not stressed. Unfortunately, the CEOs we have are comparable to a typical Zambian housewife who must spontaneously meet the needs of the demanding husband on one hand and protesting children on the other. Even if you are a genius, this is a call to disaster.

I worked in a multinational corporation where the CEO had a

robust development programme every year. The opportunity helps the CEO to understand market trends and learn something new. We live in a very robust and fast changing world. I expect that Boards will now be much more responsive to the needs of their CEOs so that they can truly claim a harvest from where they planted.

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**“Unfortunately, the CEOs we have are comparable to a typical Zambian housewife who must spontaneously meet the needs of the demanding husband on one hand and protesting children on the other”.**

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# UPND

MOVING ZAMBIA FORWARD

*Why we deserve your vote*

UNITED PARTY



FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UPND)

# GAZETTE NOTICE NO.534 OF 2020 AND THE PURPOTED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO.10 OF 2019 ARE ILLEGAL

*By Jack Jacob Mwiimbu,  
Leader of the Opposition in  
Parliament*

WE wish to categorically state the purported gazetting of the amendments to the National Assembly Bill No. 10 are illegal, contemptuous and are in breach of parliamentary procure.

Fellow citizens, you may wish to note that immediately following the issuance of the Gazette Notice, the Minister of Justice held a press briefin during which he presented the illegal amendments to the public, on which occasion he stated, inter alia, that he was “shocked to hear renewed skepticism on Bill 10 despite having given confidence to everyone that the parliamentary select committee recommendations would be incorporated in the new Constitution.” The question that begs an answer is which new Constitution?

Fellow citizens, it is self-evident from the foregoing that government through the Minister of Justice’s intent is to either mislead the general public that parliamentary process allows for a Bill that is before the House to be amended in the manner proposed in the Gazette or to attempt to place the illegal amendments before the House for consideration upon resumption of the debate on the controversial bill.

Either way, fellow citizens, the modus operandi employed by the Minister of Justice is not only illegal, given the rules that govern the proceedings of the House and given that Bill 10 is now at second reading stage, but is also contemptuous of the House.

To buttress the issues raised earlier under Article 77 of the Constitution

of Zambia as amended by the Constitution (Amendment) Act No.2 of 2016, the National Assembly shall regulate its own procedure and make Standing Orders for the conduct of its business. Any process undertaken in relation to parliamentary business must thus be in accordance with the Standing Orders , failing which such process shall be null and void by reason of illegality.

In this instance, the issuance of the Gazette Notice and illegal amendments is not supported by any provisions of the rules and regulations governing the conduct of parliamentary business as there is no provision of the law that provides for such.

More specifically, fellow abused citizens, the illegal amendments do not accord with the procedure prescribed under Standing Order No. 103 which prohibits any changes to the contents of any bill, except following debate and consideration at second reading stage and in the case of a bill relating to the amendment of the Constitution only after the initial two thirds majority has been garnered to open debate. The illegal amendments are clearly aimed at circumventing this important constitutional safeguard and should not be entertained.

Further, the illegal amendments violate the procedures prescribed in Standing Orders 108 to 112 in which it is clearly provided that amendments at the committee stage following debate and voting at second reading and not before. Fellow abused citizens, the government and Honourable Lubinda are well aware of the process and therefore must be deemed to have deliberately sought to bring the processes of the National Assembly into disrepute when they

issued the Gazette Notice and the illegal amendments and subsequent procedure via the above mentioned press briefing, to misrepresent to the public in general that the illegal amendments would be subject to consideration by the House when debate on Bill 10 resumes.

This cannot be entertained as it amounts to willful disregard of the Standing Orders and established parliamentary procedure.

We wish to earnestly appeal to all well-meaning citizens of this lovely country to ignore with the contempt it deserves all the mischievous and misleading statements made by Honourable Lubinda, Minister of Justice, on the illegal amendments to National Assembly Bill No. 10 of 2019.

We also wish to inform the national that our position on Bill No. 10 has not changed. We shall not support Bill No.10 when it’s brought back for second reading. We join the Catholic Bishops and other Churches and civic leaders who are demanding for the withdrawal of the Bill.

At this stage, we will not discuss the merits or demerits of the amendments but to state that the proposed amendments are illegal as they fall short of the procedures required under the Standing Orders of Parliament.





*By Mirriam Chabala*  
JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says even in his deepest sleep, he is convinced that President Edgar Lungu will retain the Presidency in 2021.

And Lubinda says the publication of Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 was made to win public trust about how sincere government has been about the constitution-making process.

Meanwhile, Lubinda says he is not bothered that the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) does not trust government's position on Bill 10, saying he does not expect 'the Romans' to trust him when they did not even trust Jesus.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Lubinda said Bill 10 wasn't a matter of life and death for PF as President Lungu was assured 2021 victory.

"Bill 10, for us in the PF, is not a matter of life and death; this, for us, is something we are taking as a matter that is in the interest of the Zambian people. The issue of winning elections in 2021, if you were to ask me, even in my deepest of sleep, I will tell you that President Edgar Lungu shall retain his office in 2021. And for the sake of those who are drafting the petition of the Presidential elections in 2021, let us amend this Constitution so that they can have 30 days to do that," Lubinda said.

And Lubinda said he had to do unprecedented things just to make people see how sincere government had been about Bill 10.

"This is not the way to amend the Constitution, it

# Bill 10 isn't about winning 2021, Lungu is already assured victory – Lubinda

is very unprecedented! But because we are living in very unprecedented times, we had to do this. We have parliamentarians who, when you say, 'this is your Bill, can you come and debate?' They say, 'no, we shall not debate it because these people will not move the amendments.' I did something very unprecedented and the reason I did that was because the people who are supposed to go and debate this Bill went outside [Parliament] and said, 'we want the Minister to withdraw the Bill and then get the Committee report and merge them and present another Bill.' It is totally wrong! I cannot with withdraw a Bill and incorporate it with the Report of the Committee and report it in the same session, I can't! Standing orders are very clear; the process is that if I was to withdraw Bill 10, I would have to re-do all the consultations yet again because whatever I will put in there will be new," Lubinda said.

"But that is a very dangerous route to take. If we have spent over three years on this process already, should we stop and throw it away simply because two or three organisations have said, 'we were not consulted?' Should we cost this country any more time simply because some people doubt the sincerity of others? So, because they were saying, 'we don't trust government', I did something unprecedented.

But even after I did that, they continued to say, 'he will not move them', so I have published my intentions, which are informed by the Report of the Committee and what the Zambians have been saying. What I gazetted are views that have enjoyed public popularity, amendments, which the opposition are dancing about, they are very excited about them [saying] 'we agree with these amendments, we want these amendments' and I have said, 'yes, because you don't seem to trust even yourselves, I am going to show you how serious I am by getting all these Bills that you like and put them in my Bill and make it public so that everybody can see that I am very sincere about what I am doing."

Asked if publishing the Bill in a gazette had been able to help government win public trust, Lubinda said government was not in control of people's reactions.

"That's what I was hoping for. But I cannot be faulted for not trying; I must be commended for trying. Don't fault me for trying, that's wrong. I am not in control of people's reactions. Government is not in control [of people's reactions], we can only do that which is within our means. You can take a horse to the water, but for goodness sake, you cannot force it to drink water," he replied.

Meanwhile, Lubinda said government was not bothered that ZCCB did not trust its position on Bill 10.

"Sometimes, when you listen to such debates, you just resign yourself to say nafishupafye takwaba kuwamya (we cannot just agree and we can't please everyone). But I cannot give up because I know that what I am doing is right, I have been transparent. So, in this case, are you telling me it is okay for a college of 12 Catholic Bishops to speak on behalf of the two million, who are Catholic, but it is not okay for an elected government to speak for 17 million Zambians? Is that fair? Those who saying, 'withdraw the Bill' must please show us the reasons why we must withdraw! If it is about those contentious issues, they have been addressed. So, it doesn't worry me that people still don't trust me because even the Romans didn't trust Christ. So, if they didn't trust Christ, who am I?" asked Lubinda.

"So, some of those people, who are saying, 'we don't have trust' they will say anything. Some of them, even when the Bill is passed in Parliament and the Constitution is to be assented to by the President, they will say, we don't trust that they will implement it. So, those are skeptics meant to just be skeptics, and I don't think skeptics must be allowed to derail the process."

# How Soko drew K55,000 worth of RTSA fuel after termination of employment

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

THE Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has fired its transport manager Mulenga Chibalabala for failure to retrieve a Total Petroleum Limited Fuel Card (Tomcard) from its former chief executive, Zindaba Soko.

Impeccable sources have told News Diggers! that Soko drew fuel amounting to K55,000 since he left the institution.

Meanwhile, RTSA says Chibalabala's dismissal was an internal disciplinary issue whilst Soko's illegal drawing of fuel had been resolved administratively.

"When Mr Soko left RTSA, he didn't surrender his Tomcard. He has been drawing fuel for six months worth K55, 000. By law, when one parts ways with the institution, the transport manager is supposed to collect the Tomcard from that person but in this case, he didn't. After calculations, it was discovered that the fuel that was drawn by Soko amounted to K55, 000. As we speak, the transport manager is dismissed," sources revealed.

Chibalabala said the issue was too sensitive for him. "This matter is too sensitive and I cannot speak on phone over that matter. It's better you speak with people from RTSA because I can't speak on behalf of RTSA. I may be misquoted. As at now, I cannot speak, unless after some weeks," said Chibalabala.

And when asked why he did not hand back the Tomcard, Soko told News Diggers! "You know you can get that information from RTSA. I no longer work for RTSA and whatever anomaly was there, I think it was corrected."

Meanwhile, RTSA chief executive officer Gladwell Banda said Chibalabala's dismissal was an internal disciplinary matter and referred further questions to his spokesperson.

"That is internal disciplinary issues which if you get to our head of PR can give you more details," said Banda.

RTSA head of public relations Frederick Mubanga then said the whole issue had been resolved administratively.

"From the RTSA point of view, that matter was properly concluded and it was resolved administratively. When we say 'resolved administratively' we don't have any obligation to [say anything]," said Mubanga.

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ONE great news editor once said the truth doesn't need to be defended because it defends itself. This editor who is now retired and serving public office contended that once you tell the truth, there is no need to belabour the point that you are not lying, the truth is always there to speak for those who are innocent. When you tell the truth, there is no need to even remember what you said; you can choose to forget your explanation because when you are asked in future, you will simply have to say exactly what happened rather than trying to remember what you said.

The opposite of this is lying. When you tell one lie, you have to tell a thousand more just to cover up for that first lie you told. People who tell lies have a lot of work remembering what they said to avoid contradicting themselves. That's why successful liars do many other illegal things to sustain their lives and activities. When liars get into power, they take advantage of a gullible citizenry. They thrive when the people who are being governed don't take interest to question their pronouncements.

But the wise say, "lies have short legs" and cannot run faster than the truth. This is very true. But the PF lies have no legs at all. If PF lies had legs, it

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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# Why PF lied about the bicycle donation

would be difficult to catch them. The Ministry of Home Affairs told a lie on Thursday afternoon last week that the Japanese Embassy had donated 1,000 bicycles to the Zambia Police. All what one needed to do was call the Embassy to verify that claim. The following morning, we did just that and the truth was unveiled. Government lied to the citizens with a motive - they didn't want to be accountable.

Our people are now being told that there was miscommunication. They are now saying the Ministry wrongly accredited the Japanese Embassy for a donation that, apparently, came from the Indian High Commission. If this is the case, why didn't the Ministry of Home Affairs spokesperson clarify this when we contacted him again

after our interview with the Japanese Embassy? We asked Mr Nephas Chifuta if he was sure that it was the Japanese Embassy that made the bicycle donation and he insisted that it was. We were surprised to hear this from the Ministry spokesperson because we could not understand why the Japanese Embassy could distance itself from a donation that it had made to government. We asked Mr Nephas Chifuta to confirm if there was a handover ceremony where this donation was made by the Japanese and he was very certain that there was an event at which these bicycles were given to the police.

It's now clear. The government didn't want to admit that they bought the bicycles so that they can evade public accountability regarding

the cost. They had to tell a lie that they were donated by the Japanese Embassy to cover up the initial lie, and then they had to tell another lie that the donation was made at an open handover ceremony to make the claim even more authentic. The Ministry spokesperson was even mocking the reporter who called him, saying she was pursuing old news and people were going to laugh at her.

"Things that were there last week, we don't repeat them this week. People will be laughing at you! Why should you be repeating things that are already in the public domain? That is not news anymore... Of course, whenever there is a donation, how does it get over to an institution if there is no handover ceremony? It is a must it was there,

obviously the handover ceremony was there. How does the police get hold of the bicycles without a handover ceremony from the Japanese government? The handover was done between the police service and the donating institution," said Mr Chifuta, bubbling with confidence.

But it turns out that there is no such information in the public domain. Embarrassingly now, senior officials at the Ministry are trying to distance themselves from Mr Chifuta's Japanese donation. It's unfortunate that the Ministry spokesperson is being thrown under the bus, and no one is willing to take collective responsibility. We can't vouch for Mr Chifuta, but we have challenges believing that his bosses said India, and

he accidentally wrote Japan. This doesn't make sense. If the Ministry was clean on this matter, they would have noticed Mr Chifuta's mistake the same day that the statement was issued. Why did they not correct this information? Are they saying Japan and India sound similar and no one at the Ministry was able to detect this mistake?

The answer is simple. Those who benefitted from this bicycle procurement are not willing to own up. They don't want the public to ask them questions. They knew that saying the bicycles were donated would have saved their faces. So, they didn't care who made the donation, they were just looking for anyone who was willing to "donate" what they had bought. What we don't understand is why they picked on Japan, leaving their all-weather friend who would have willingly covered the lie for them.

Anyway, this story is not closed. We still need to establish where the bicycles came from. Let India claim the 100, we want to know how the rest were procured. Is it true that they were part of the police uniform contract? The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Zambia Police command will do better to give people the information they demand before this is revealed through an investigation. We have ears to the ground!

## Crossword puzzle No 625

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*“Messages of instant gratification leads to a corrupt society”*  
*- Sunday Adelaja*

- Across

2. Putting target  
5. Rain heavily  
6. Night birds  
7. Possess  
8. Broadway bomb  
10. Quilt filling  
13. More than want  
16. Worry  
18. Sick  
19. Surface muck  
20. Open to the breeze  
21. Shade tree

Down

1. Hammer or wrench  
2. Clip  
3. Frog's home  
4. Not fast  
8. Enthusiast  
9. Single number  
11. A grain  
12. Immediately  
14. Engrave with acid  
15. Bit of change  
16. Shut forcefully  
17. To gain from working

## Crossword puzzle No 624

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# Readers' Feedback

## State Houses' deletion of Lungu's condolences message to Nkurunziza after negative feedback

Editor,

"Why has it become a custom to delete posts of HE Lungu? bola naikosa!" - Davy Sage Mpundu

"We are waiting for Special Assistant to the President for Clarification to Clarify". - Njekwa Nawa

"The mood amongst youths, the majority on social media, is charged toward their plight. Any other issue, no matter how important, is likely be met with sarcasm as long that

issue doesn't address youth burning issues". - Martin Mpukani

"It was like reading his own obituary!" - Sidney Phiri

"My country people can bully even the president on social media!" - Michael Mwitwa

"Hahahaha people of Zambia are angry and hungry!" - Temfuma Sam

"This is not only in Zambia, it's global. Presidents everywhere


are deleting posts. Why do you want to politicize everything. Zambia is a peaceful country'. In IDC's voice!" - Nathan Kangwa

"Those of you who were there in the early 90s will remember the UNIP-KK coined slogan. Kk would shout, "Faka speed mufana," and the partisan crowd wold respond, "Twende." Those were the days when the last embers of the UNIP flame were

dying. And UNIP surey did a "twende" When Zambians are fed up with something, they are cruelly decisive. You can think ni vakubantu". - Larry Mbiri

"We are disgruntled". - Adams Kambila

"You should have read the comments am sure his just wondering how it is that he might end up as the most hated President in the history of Zambia". - Maimbolwa Kamanga



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

## ND! dares Zingman to sue

Editor,

"Very interesting exposure, please don't be intimidated with Zingman or any of those in the pictures!" - McElvis Sims

"If you are not the best media in the country ND! I don't know which is. And you, Zondiwe, are top notch. As I have said countless times already, you are my favourite. Now, to comment on the issue. Does Zingman know that

justification (or truth) is a complete defence to a suit of defamation? But it even does more. It exposes the claimant! Zingman knows better than to sue here. He is making empty threats. Unless he is a dunderhead like those claimants in the Mukula case who sued ND". - Yuri Kasonde IV

"Another Nolle in the making". - Chanda Mwenya

"Better a Pandora box opens". - Frank Temba

## HH on tension in Zambia being due to govt's favouring of Chinese

Dear editor,

"Is not favor it's just because the country is willingly given to them in exchange of all that is ours therefore we have nothing right now and we need to fight and fight harder as it won't be so easy to access them back we need to unite ourselves as a nation with truth and honesty before we engaged in to this fight with all that was signed by some of Zambia's illegal mafia called authorities". - Isaac Chibwe

"How can you bite the finger which feeds you?" - Richard Kalela

"No tension in Zambia. It's only in the minds of people with hidden agendas". - Godfrey Chikonde

"Chinese are campaign tools in Zambia, PF demonised them in opposition today ati shani?" - Godfrey Chikonde

## CSPR's proposed tax reductions

Dear editor,

"This is a sensible suggestion. Government should look into these proposals". - Mike Phiri

"Such are the things that a caring government would do on its own without any prompting/ reminding/ requesting from anyone". - Grace Shankaya

"ERB can do better by reducing fuel prices they have so far defeated any economics or common sense. That act can lower the cost of doing business and lower the cost of staying alive". - Vongo Mwandila

"Teti bane. I can bet you anything, this clueless government is looking for additional ways to tax us kaili they have to pay back the nkongole everyone advised them not to get anyhow". - Mwimanenwa Kamona

"Indeed the cost of living for a Zambian family of five has hit K7,195.60 for 30 days. Looking at the income per month for most Zambians including those in formal employment is far less than that...we need more calls to the Government to seriously revamp the economy. Otherwise, if left unchecked we may cry foul". - Austin Lyembebe

"The government wants money. Thats a no for them. Right now they are thinking of increasing NHI and introduce more punishment to the common citizen". - Clifford Musonda





SCIENTISTS are to test whether an experimental drug can prevent potentially deadly blood clots associated with Covid-19.

The trial, funded by the British Heart Foundation, will test the theory the clots are caused by a hormone imbalance triggered by coronavirus infection.

It will become one of several drugs currently being trialled to prevent the disease's worst effects.

A third of hospitalised coronavirus patients develop dangerous blood clots.

The drug, TRV027, works to rebalance hormones involved in blood pressure, water and salt.

Scientists from Imperial College London, involved in the trial, think that when the virus enters the body, it uses

# Blood clots targeted in treatment trial

an enzyme as a "handle" to enter the cells.

But this disables the enzyme, which plays an important role in balancing the key hormones. When out of balance, the blood can become sticky, leading to clots.

They theorise that TRV027 - which won its creator a Nobel Prize in 2012 - can step in to play this rebalancing role.

Many of the treatments being trialled to treat Covid-19 focus on the body's inflammatory response.

But the hormonal imbalance is a "quite distinct problem" which may provide clues to the question of why some people get severely

ill why others do not, says Dr David Owen, one of the study's leads.

Blood clotting could also explain why Covid-19 seems to particularly affect people who already have cardiovascular disease despite being a respiratory illness, according to the British Heart Foundation.

Different drugs trialled Since Covid-19 is such a complex disease which effects many of the body's systems, this treatment could be used in combination with other drugs says Dr Kat Pollock, a joint lead on the study.

About 60 patients will be given either the new experimental drug, or a placebo, starting next month.

It has been shown to be safe in patients with acute heart failure, although it was not effective as a treatment for this condition.

TRV027 is just one of several different drugs being trialled to ease the disease's worst effects or help the body fight it off.

At least 10 different antiviral drugs including HIV treatment lopinavir/ritonavir are being, or have been trialled to see if they can help fight off the disease.

None has yet been shown to be effective on its own, although there is still hope several could be used together to shorten patients' illnesses.

Remdesivir, a drug that has shown promising effects, works by attacking an

enzyme that a virus needs in order to replicate inside body cells.

Meanwhile plasma - the liquid part of blood - taken from people who have recovered from coronavirus might also help, by giving sick people who haven't recovered the right antibodies to fight it off.

And a number of other treatments are focusing on the body's dangerous inflammatory response to fighting Covid-19, known as cytokine release syndrome.

Meanwhile, Much of Europe is emerging from sweeping travel restrictions today.

The European Union is encouraging member states to get people moving across borders, and police

who've been enforcing border closures have been withdrawn.

Germany lifted a worldwide travel warning on Monday. It said checks at its nine land borders, with countries such as Austria and Denmark, were no longer necessary.

France, too, said it would allow travellers from almost all European Union countries to enter without quarantine.

Elsewhere in Europe, countries such as Belgium, Portugal, Greece and Switzerland have all relaxed their travel restrictions as cases of Covid-19 decrease.

But some measures remain in place. Sweden, for example, has complained that Swedes face major hurdles getting into neighbouring countries.

And Spain said it would not allow foreign tourists to enter until 21 June.**BBC**

## New global extinction target proposed



THE world needs a single goal for fighting the loss of nature, much like the 1.5C target for climate change, according to conservation experts.

Extinctions of plants and animals should be kept well below 20 per year, they propose.

Last year, a UN report found that around one million species are now threatened with extinction.

Progress on biodiversity loss has been "far too slow, limited or ineffective," said Prof Georgina Mace of UCL, London.

Achieving the target should ensure that natural systems "continue to function and meet the needs of people and the rest of life on Earth", she said.

The coronavirus pandemic has put the spotlight on the critical balance between nature and people. Scientists have long warned that close contact with wild animals through hunting, trade or habitat loss puts the world at increased risk of outbreaks of new diseases.

Yet, the timetable for setting new global biodiversity goals has been thrown into disarray by the pandemic. Meanwhile, we are running out of time to deal with the threat, conservation scientists warned last week.

They said human actions had pushed 500 mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians

to the brink of extinction, which is yet more evidence that the world is undergoing a sixth mass extinction.

In the new proposals, published in the journal Science, conservation experts in the UK and Germany call for a long-term goal to reduce species extinctions towards natural rates, with an easily measurable objective of fewer than 20 extinctions a year.

This should apply to all known species of plants, animals and fungi, both on land and in the oceans, they say.

Prof Richard Gregory from the RSPB/ UCL described the target as a "North Star" for nature, "a bright, visible destination for global society to move towards so that we bend the curve of biodiversity loss from the top down, and bottom up, recovering species populations by protecting and restoring our vital ecosystems".

2020 was set to be a "super year" for biodiversity, according to the UN, with new goals and targets thrashed out at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the international treaty tasked with producing the global plan for biodiversity.

The summit has now been postponed until 2021, along with the UN climate summit in Glasgow.**BBC**

# Bollywood actor's death fuels mental health debate



Sushant Singh Rajput's death was met with an outpouring of grief

THE death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput on Sunday has sparked fresh discussions about mental health.

The 34-year-old actor was found dead in his Mumbai home, in what police said appeared to be a case of suicide.

The news was met with an outpouring of grief by fans and other Bollywood stars with the conversation soon turning to mental health and depression.

Actress Deepika

Padukone, who has talked openly of battling depression, said it was important to reach out.

"Talk. Communicate. Express. Seek help," she wrote on her Instagram account. "Remember, you are not alone. We are in this together. And most importantly, there is hope."

Anushka Sharma, who co-starred with Singh in the film PK wrote, "I'm so sad and upset knowing that we lived in an environment that could not help you through any troubles you may have had."

Many others talked about how difficult it was to talk about mental health issues in India, due to a lack of understanding about it and the taboos surrounding the topic.

"The conversation about mental health in India is miles from where it should be. Many people mourning Sushant's death today snigger and gossip when someone known to them sees a shrink," tweeted Rahul Sabharwal, city editor of The Indian Express newspaper.

Another social media user, Noreen Wozar said, "Mental health really needs to become more prioritised in Indian households rather than being taboo and the - if you're depressed, "just

get over it" mentality."

However, Dr Soumitra Pathare, the director of Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, told the BBC that while it was important to have conversations around depression and suicide, he warned against conflating the two, especially in a country like India.

"Research data says that in UK and Europe, depression accounts for about 80% of suicides. But data from places like India show that there are many other reasons that someone will take their own life," he said, adding that the demography for suicide in the country was also very different.

"For instance, suicide is the number one cause of death in younger women. Many are impulsive and we have found that domestic violence is a major cause. Similarly, exam pressure among children under 18 is a leading cause, and of course there are economic causes like those that cause farmers to take their own lives in rural India," he said.

Popular for his acting in both TV and film, Rajput is perhaps best known for MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, where he played the legendary cricketer.

His funeral will be held later on Monday.**BBC**



On Friday, a man is tested for coronavirus in Johannesburg, South Africa.



# Tougher tests await for Madrid, Barcelona in race for La Liga

REAL Madrid and Barcelona will have tougher tests to come but emphatic victories on their return to action at the weekend suggest there may not be much margin for error in what is left of La Liga's title race.

Leaders Barca hammered Real Mallorca 4-0 on Saturday before second-placed Madrid swept Eibar aside 3-1 a day later, having led 3-0 at the end of the first half, only to ease off in the second.

Both performances erased fears that had arisen during the three-month suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic, which saw La Liga go without competitive matches for 93 days.

Madrid looked comfortable in their new home at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium -- part of their training complex -- while Lionel Messi looked fit, with no sign of the tightness in his thigh that was bothering him earlier this month.

Two assists, a goal and 90 minutes played suggested Barcelona's captain is in good shape.

"There were many uncertainties," said coach Quique Setien. "Nobody

was clear what was going to happen. We had some bad touches but we will improve with more contact with the ball over time.

"Overcoming this match like this gives us confidence and momentum with the advantage we already had."

Mallorca and Eibar, sitting 18th and 16th respectively, were always going to represent relatively kind reintroductions for La Liga's title contenders.

Barcelona are at home on Tuesday to Leganes, who increasingly look the most likely side to finish bottom after they lost at home on Saturday to Real Valladolid.

But games away at Sevilla and home to Athletic Bilbao then follow, when perhaps the fitness and form of Setien's side will be better tested.

For Madrid, the challenge intensifies immediately with a home game on Thursday against Valencia, who can ill-afford another stumble after a draw with Levante on Friday left them four points adrift of the top four.

- Conditions favour top sides -

Yet the early indications are that without fans and with key players fit again, Barcelona

and Real Madrid may be set for a more consistent finish to the season.

Without supporters at San Moix to rattle Barca or invigorate Mallorca, all that was left was for the superior technical ability and squad depth of the defending champions to prove decisive.

That will be the case again when they face Sevilla at the usually bouncing Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan on Friday while Madrid will likewise avoid the roar of the crowd when they go to Bilbao's San Mames in a few weeks.

With five substitutions permitted, even when Eibar pulled a goal back in the second half, Real coach Zinedine Zidane was able instantly to bring on three players. By the end he had introduced Gareth Bale, Ferland Mendy, Eder Militao, Vinicius Junior and Fede Valverde.

The total cost of those five players was close to 250 million euros (\$281m) while the five Eibar brought on were worth five million euros, three of them free transfers.

The cost of the 10 players Barcelona and Madrid brought on combined over the weekend was almost 400

million euros while Eibar and Mallorca's 10 cost just over seven million euros.

It means the conditions are more in favour of the top teams finding greater consistency over the remaining games and any mistakes that are made may also prove more costly.

"We know the situation is a bit strange," said Zidane, whose side are two points off top spot, on Sunday.

"But the players are all champions and they can adapt to the situation. We have to get

our heads around it, which is what we're going to do until the end of the season."

Sevilla will try to strengthen their hold on third place by beating Levante on Monday. Getafe are at home to struggling Espanyol on Tuesday, Atletico Madrid visit Osasuna on Wednesday while on Thursday, Real Sociedad -- currently fourth -- travel to Alaves.

La Liga midweek fixtures (times GMT)  
Monday

Levante v Sevilla (1730), Real Betis v Granada (2000)

Tuesday  
Getafe v Espanyol, Villarreal v Mallorca (both 1730), Barcelona v Leganes (2000)

Wednesday  
Eibar v Athletic Bilbao, Real Valladolid v Celta Vigo (both 1730), Osasuna v Atletico Madrid (2000)

Thursday  
Alaves v Real Sociedad (1730), Real Madrid v Valencia (2000) **AFP**



ZAMBIA - MALAWI

TRAVEL WITH US DAILY TO  
*Lusaka - Chipata - Lilongwe*  
1st Bus 05:00hrs  
2nd Bus 06:00hrs  
4th Bus 10:00hrs  
5th Bus 13:00hrs  
Boarding Time: 30mins before departure time  
*Lilongwe - Chipata - Lusaka*  
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2nd Bus 06:00hrs  
3rd Bus 08:00hrs  
4th Bus 10:00hrs

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# Nkana restores supporters' committee

**By Abraham Kalito**  
NKANA has reinstated the club's Supporters National Executive Committee which was dissolved two months ago following a protest against administration of affairs of the super league side.  
Supporters Committee national chairperson Emmanuel Zulu said the decision was arrived at following a meeting with the football club's executive committee over the weekend where pertinent issues were addressed.  
Zulu said the two parties had reconciled and agreed to work together and find solutions to

challenges faced by the club amid the COVID-19 epidemic.  
"The Nkana Football Club Supporters National Executive Committee was invited by the Nkana Football Club Executive Committee to a meeting concerning club issues as well as to engage and find a common working ground. The meeting was very cordial and sober and discussed pertinent issues concerning the club. The two parties agreed to work together and the alleged dissolution of the fans body was lifted henceforth as reconciliation took place," Zulu said.

"As we are all aware, the COVID-19 has brought inertia on clubs in terms of finances, the meeting therefore called on both the club exco and supporters exco to find solutions to sustain the club in the midst of challenges the club is facing. During the deliberations, certain initiatives were floated by both parties and the supporters' exco was incorporated into a committee which has been set up to look at viable projects that could potentially raise the required revenue to meet club expenses and bridge the deficit the club may have."  
He said the information gap

between supporters and the club's top officials had since been bridged and that henceforth, supporters would regularly receive updates on issues taking place within the super league side.  
"As an executive body which represents the fans, we would like our fans to note that the meeting was not called to discuss the fans' petition which has been submitted to Mopani as that is an issue sitting with Mopani. As you may be, aware, the supporters exco has been engaging Mopani Copper Mines on various issues affecting the club. We would like to affirm that such engagements

shall continue as Mopani has indicated that their doors are open to reasonable engagements for the betterment of the club. The Nkana supporters shall continue receiving regular feedback on pertinent issues happening at the club as the information gap between the Club and the supporters has been bridged. We therefore appeal to each and every Nkana Supporter to believe in us as we continue to seek ways to improve our legendary and historical club. We also ask for continued support as we drive the cause of the supporters," said Zulu.



# PATSON SET TO WIN GOLDEN BOOT



**By Abraham Kalito**  
RED Bull Salzburg striker Patson Daka has added another goal to his tally, bringing the total to six goals in four games since the Bundesliga resumed four weeks ago.  
He has now scored 23 goals in 25 matches and is on course towards winning the golden boot accolade.  
His goal on Sunday helped his side record an

emphatic 3-1 victory over Lask FC.  
Daka was substituted six minutes before time.  
His form has triggered interest from European powerhouses.  
Daka is reportedly being scouted by various European football clubs now.  
Meanwhile, Enock Mwepu completed the match and was a key midfielder of the game.

## Casillas ends bid for Spanish FA presidency

SPAIN'S World Cup-winning captain Iker Casillas announced on Monday he was ending his bid to run for the presidency of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) due to the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.  
"I would like to inform you that I have decided not to run for the upcoming RFEF elections," the Porto goalkeeper wrote on social

media.  
The 39-year-old said he was pulling out of the race for the top job in Spanish football as a result of the "exceptional social, economic and health situation that our country is suffering".  
He said the COVID-19 outbreak which has claimed over 27,000 victims in the country had relegated the election into "second place".  
Casillas, who led Spain to their first World Cup title in 2010, had announced his intention to stand against current RFEF president Luis Rubiales back in February.

## ABSA earmarks K100,000 for grassroot soccer development

**By Abraham Kalito**  
ABSA Bank CEO Mizinga Melu says her institution has set aside K100, 000 for the development of a sports facility in Ibex Hill, a move aimed at supporting grassroots soccer advancement.  
Melu told Goal Diggers that the bank has a strategy aimed at supporting grassroots soccer away from the usual sponsorship of the ABSA Cup.  
"Well, in terms of development of soccer, the ABSA sponsorship usually involves cups for example, gold, the training of the footballers.

It included support...like in this case, infrastructure development. There is a sports facility in Ibex Hill, and we have committed a K100, 000 towards developing that complex so we will be helping the community and children around Ibex Hill who will be able to advance their football skills once this infrastructure is completed. So, we are committed also to developing football not only football played on the pitch like the tournament itself but financial literacy for the players, helping some players with their football contracts and in this particular case their

financial support also goes to the grassroots. We support NGOs with such causes," Melu said.  
And Melu revealed that the bank, together with FAZ, would announce fresh dates for the resumption of the ABSA Cup once the Ministry of Health gives a clearance for matches to be played.  
She said ABSA would not review its sponsorship towards the cup because of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
"I think from our side, we are fully committed to the sponsorship, and as far as the football association is concerned, as soon as we get when

the league will resume, we will be able to announce when the cup will resume. But we are committed fully to the sponsorship for the 2020 ABSA cup. The COVID-19 situation has halted this but we will be able to get back to the pitch with the sponsorship. Once the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Sports gives a clearance and guidelines of how it can be played, then we will be able to announce fresh dates when the 2020 ABSA Cup will resume. So, the tournament is already on and we are just waiting for clearance," said Melu.

His defection now leaves the way clear for Rubiales to gain a second mandate in the election scheduled for August 17.  
Casillas played 167 times for Spain, also winning two Euros in 2008 and 2012, and made more than 700 appearances for Real Madrid, with whom he won five La Liga titles and the Champions League three times, before joining Porto in 2015. **AFP**