



Opposition has no option for winning 2021... WE NEED ONE CANDIDATE - HH



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema with his Opposition Alliance partners at the National Registration office where they went to enquire about the "selective issuance of NRCs" across the country

By Julia Malunga
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says in order to end corruption in the country, there is need for the Opposition Alliance to field one candidate in next year's general election. And Hichilema says the Judiciary and Army should emulate their Malawian counterparts and work in the public interest. *Story page 5*

Police will intensify clampdown on social media abusers - Govt

By Mukosha Funga
HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says government is enhancing the Zambia Police Service's capacity to ensure that people who are in the habit of abusing other citizens through social media are held accountable.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu says government will endeavor to prioritize and increase the budgetary allocation and disbursements to the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) as a way of encouraging their work.

And Dr Ng'andu says government, through his Ministry, will during this session of Parliament table a Bill with amendments to the FIC Act Number 46 of 2010 to make it mandatory for law enforcement agencies to act on matters referred to them by the FIC.

Speaking when Parliament considered a report of the Committee on Cabinet Affairs for the fourth session of the 12th National Assembly,

Mwiimbu wants court to halt Bill 10 proceedings
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Explain Zingman, Findlay affair - TIZ

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
TRANSPARENCY International (TI) Zambia Chapter president Rueben Lifuka says State House is not a clearing agent for any business transaction, hence the need for government to explain the relationship between President

Edgar Lungu and Belarusian oligarch Alexander Zingman. Meanwhile, Lusaka businessman Valden Findlay says he will not comment on the News Diggers' published pictures where he was seen dining with President Lungu and

Zingman. In an interview, Lifuka said it is a disservice to the people of Zambia for government to remain mute without explaining the kind of business Zingman was doing with State House. *Story page 7*

ZCTU CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY ILO CONVENTION C190 AND RECOMMENDATION 206 FOR ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK

The Zambia Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU) endeavors to promote gender equality in the labour movement and beyond. It aspires to promote zero tolerance to sexual harassment and other forms of Gender Based Violence.

ZCTU recognizes that whilst both women and men experience violence and harassment in the world of work, unequal status and power relations in society and at work often result in women being far more exposed to violence and harassment.

It is for this reason that ZCTU and its affiliates welcomed the adoption of a robust and forward-looking international labour standard in the form of Convention 190 and Recommendation 206 that aims at eliminating Violence and Harassment in the world of work.

The Convention C190 presents an extraordinary opportunity for unions to move their fight against gender-based violence forward as it seeks to establish the right of everyone to a world of work, free from violence and harassment. It is the first international law to do so.

C190 provides a momentum for trade unions and other stakeholders to fight violence and harassment in the world of work. Unions have an important role to play to make sure the Convention becomes part of national laws.

The Zambia Congress of Trade Unions and other stakeholders are working very hard with Government to have the Convention ratified by the Republic of Zambia.

Gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work

The Convention defines this as violence and harassment directed at persons because of their sex or gender, or affecting persons of a particular sex or gender disproportionately, and includes sexual harassment.

Violence and harassment against women because they are women (for example, bullying of pregnant women, sexist and belittling insults) would be gender-based violence and harassment.

Violence and harassment against people who are, or who are perceived to be, gender non-conforming or gender non-binary would also be gender-based violence and harassment.

Why is ILO C190 important?

C190 is the "Violence and Harassment" Convention, adopted on 21 June 2019 by the International Labor Conference. It establishes the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.

Who Does the Convention cover?

All individuals in the world of work are covered, including:

- Employees as defined by national law and practice;
- Persons working irrespective of their contractual status (including, for example, temporary agency workers, freelance



workers, workers hired through platform businesses);

- Persons in training, including interns and apprentices;
- Workers whose employment has been terminated;
- Volunteers;
- Jobseekers and job applicants; and
- Individuals exercising the authority, duties or responsibilities of an employer. The Convention applies to all sectors, whether private or public, both in the formal and informal economy, and whether in urban or rural areas.

"Violence and harassment in the world of work can happen everywhere - online, in the physical workplace, during the commute, where workers rest, eat or attend to their health and sanitation need, as well as at social gatherings"

Does the world of work mean the physical place of work, such as an office or factory?

The world of work is a broader concept than just the physical workplace. The workplace can be a public space, as it often is for workers in the informal economy, such as street vendors, market traders and waste pickers, as well as other workers such as park wardens.

It can also be a private space as it is for domestic and home-care workers, home-based workers and individuals who are tele-working. Violence and harassment in the "world of work" can occur during work-related events and activities, including off-site meetings and training, work-related trips and travel and social activities, such as office parties or outings.

What can trade unions do to make the protections in C190 and R206 a reality?

Violence and harassment is incompatible with any notion of decent work. It affects people's ability to obtain work and to stay in work, as well as their physical and mental well-being. It affects workplace culture, dignity at work and productivity. It is therefore a key issue for trade

unions to organize around. Trade unions can, amongst other actions:

- Join the campaign for the ratification of C190: #RatifyC190!
- Engage in dialogue and policy setting with government representatives and politicians to prevent, address and remedy violence and harassment in the world of work;
- Ensure that measures to prevent address and remedy violence and harassment, in line with C190 and R206, are included in collective bargaining agreements;
- Negotiate workplace policies and procedures on violence and harassment in the world of work;
- Provide gender-responsive training to trade union representatives and shop stewards to participate in risk assessments on violence and harassment in the world of work;
- Provide gender-responsive training and guidelines to trade union representatives and shop stewards on handling complaints and providing support to victims of violence and harassment in the world of work;
- Raise awareness and provide information and education, in accessible formats, to workers on violence and harassment in the world of work, including specific information on gender-based violence and harassment;
- Ensure that violence and harassment, including attendant psychosocial risks and hazards, are part of occupational health and safety measures;
- Negotiate workplace policies and procedures addressing equality and non-discrimination; and
- provide training to trade union representatives and shop stewards on equality and non-discrimination, including on handling complaints of discrimination.

Employers and trade unions

- Can assist workers experiencing domestic violence by negotiating:
 - Paid leave for victims of domestic violence;
 - Flexible work arrangements and protection; and
 - Temporary protection against dismissal for victims of domestic violence.

Employers and trade unions should also ensure that domestic violence is included in workplace risk assessments; provide a referral system to public mitigation measures for domestic violence, where they exist; and raise awareness about the effects of domestic violence.

RATIFICATION OF ILO CONVENTION 190 AND RECOMMENDATION 206 will undoubtedly seek to cover all aspects of worker and human rights holistically and comprehensively.

This is our tool and we should use it!

By Mukosha Funga

HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says government is enhancing the Zambia Police Service's capacity to ensure that people who are in the habit of abusing other citizens through social media are held accountable.

Speaking when he updated Parliament on the security situation in the country for the period between February 20 to June 19, 2020, Wednesday, Kampyongo said some falsehoods being spread on social media were alarming and could be a threat to the peace that the country had enjoyed since Independence.

In his statement earlier, Kampyongo explained that a total of 603 gassing incidences had been recorded countrywide from August 28, 2019, to June 19, 2020, with 476 arrests for riotous behavior, 116 arrests for murder, 49 arrests for gassing, 83 deaths and five false alarms.

"I am pleased to report that there have been no reports of attacks on households living in unfinished buildings/houses. There have been no further incidents recorded since 4th March, 2020. However, the Zambia Police Service recorded criminal incidences that created widespread public insecurity up to 4th March, 2020. The details of the criminal incidents reported between 20th February and 4th March, 2020, are as follows: The Zambia Police Service recorded 570 incidents of spraying offensive and choking chemicals in homes, schools and colleges. These incidents were concentrated in the outlying rural parts of

Police will intensify clampdown of social media abusers – Kampyongo



our country, broken down as follows: Copperbelt 369, Lusaka 56, while Muchinga and Western have 37 each. Other incidents were reported in Central (Province) with 19, Luapula 17, Southern 16, Northern 13 and Eastern Province 6," Kampyongo said.

"During the period under review, North-Western Province did not report any incidents of homes, schools or colleges being sprayed with offensive and choking chemicals. The Zambia Police Service during this period under review arrested 49 suspects for spraying offensive and choking chemicals in homes, schools and colleges. All the suspects are appearing in various courts of law."

Kampyongo informed the House that spreading false information in some instances also led to riots and innocent

persons being targeted by mobs.

"The spreading of false information through social media platforms to some extent declined during the period under review. This can be attributed to the Zambia Police Service having arrested some people, who were using social media platforms to spread falsehoods and incite members of the public to take the law in their own hands. To that end, three people, one female and two males, based on the Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces, respectively, were arrested for the promotion of hatred, violence and public disorder. The three apprehended persons are appearing before the courts of law," Kampyongo added.

"Mr Speaker, the spreading of false information through social media platforms and

word of mouth led to riots, looting and destruction of public and private property. Four provinces, which experienced disorderly during this period are: Lusaka, Eastern, Central, and Luapula provinces. To restore order, the Zambia Police Service arrested a total of 367 persons for disorderly behaviour. 133 of those arrested were in Lusaka, 117 in Central Province and Eastern and Luapula provinces accounted for 65 and 52, respectively."

Kampyongo also revealed that a total of 68 lives were lost in eight provinces as a result of instant mob justice.

"With regard to incidents of instant mob justice, a total of 68 lives were lost in eight of our provinces broken down as follows: Northern 16, Central 14, Copperbelt 10, Lusaka 8, Eastern 7, Luapula 4 and

Southern 3. Mr Speaker, so far, 116 people have been arrested in connection with instant mob justice incidents. The arrests were recorded in Central 35, Muchinga 30, Copperbelt 13, Northern 12 and Southern and Luapula with 10 arrests each. Others were arrested in Western 4, Lusaka and Eastern 1. Those arrested are appearing before the courts of law. Investigations into the deaths of all those who died at the hands of instant mob justice have also continued. It is my sincere hope that the long arm of the law shall in due course bring all those responsible for the deaths of our people through instant mob justice to book," Kampyongo said.

And responding to a question from Chitambo PF member of parliament Remember Mutale, who wanted to know what government was doing to stop the spread of falsehoods on social media, Kampyongo said the police was being empowered to clamp down on such unscrupulous individuals.

"Yes, Mr Speaker, it is a concern, indeed, that some citizens have taken to social media, which, ideally, is supposed to be a communication tool for our people. But some unscrupulous citizens have taken to social media where, now, they are concocting falsehoods, some falsehoods, which can be

alarming and a threat to the peace this country has enjoyed over the years. So, what we have done, we are not sitting back, Mr Speaker, we are capacitating the Zambia Police Service, who are closely working with the Zambia Information Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) in ensuring that the people, who are abusing other citizens using social media, are made to account. And this, I want to assure the people of Zambia, that it is a matter we are not going to relent because citizens, who have suffered at the hands of these unscrupulous characters range from those that are in authority and ordinary citizens," said Kapyongo.

"So, Mr Speaker, my assurance to the honourable member of parliament for Chitambo and the people of Zambia is that we are going to create an environment where, even a have-not, can still have their freedom protected. So, it's very important that I make a clarion call to all those who think they will be able to get away with these activities that it's time they took an introspection and stopped these activities because they will have themselves to blame and this I must make clear. We are also reaching out to the Judiciary so that we can have a platform where when these matters are investigated; they are expedited through the judicial system."

Kampyongo also revealed that investigations into the death of Frank Mugala, a former pupil at Chazanga Primary school, who was shot by the police during a riot in the area, were still ongoing.

PF's intolerance has dented Zambia's image – Mwiimbu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
LEADER of Opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu says the ruling Patriotic Front has dented Zambia's image by their arrogance and intolerance to opposing views.

And Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says it is no longer a secret that the PF has killed the Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) space in Zambia.

The duo said this in Parliament, Tuesday, when they debated on a report of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Human Rights, National Guidance, Gender Matters and Governance for the fourth session of the 12th National Assembly laid on the table on June 11, 2020.

Committee chairperson Mathew Jere lamented that the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) had for the past seven years suffered low budgetary allocations and appealed to the Executive to fund it to revitalize its agenda.

Mumbwa UPND member of parliament Credo Nanjuwa said there was need to integrate the APRM, together with other programmes like the Seventh National Development

Plan (7NDP), United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the National Budget to make it effective.

He also said CSOs were a vital force in the articulation of programmes of the APRM, hence the need to involve them.

By definition, the APRM is a mutually-agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by African Union (AU) member-states as a self-monitoring mechanism. Then, Kanchibiya PF member of parliament Martin Malama said the APRM was important as it recognized the rights of women just like the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019.

"Zambia needs to be on a projector, and the Peer Review Mechanism is very important on that line, that is why I am excited that under the Bill that is before this House, we are looking at issues to do with Gender Commission and also

just to assure the women of Zambia that we heard their cries. It's important that we get more women in the House so that good governance is upheld," Malama said.

Nkombo said that the APRM was an important toolkit for good governance and democracy.

"I see that most of the staff talked about in the report is surrounding funding for this particular department. This department, if it were to be assessed from 2008 when Levy Patrick Mwanawasa was president, I am sure by now, it would have recorded enormous benefits in its own assessment as to how much improvement has been made on the APRM. And when the UPND comes into power, we will give it its own secretariat, such as COMESA, where it will be easy and visibly seen by the public. It is alarming to learn that even a member of

parliament does not know what the APRM is all about. This is a good governance toolkit that surrounds democracy, prudent management of country affairs," Nkombo said.

He charged that the PF government had reduced the space for CSOs to provide proper checks and balances.

"The CSOs are supposed to be part and parcel of this review mechanism. Today, ever since the Patriotic Front came into power, it is not a secret that the CSOs started to die. From the time of president Frederick Chiluba to the time of president Michael Chilufya Sata, we may have recorded a little bit of progress on this Africa Peer Review Mechanism in terms of how we manage ourselves. But alas! To say that under PF, the human rights of citizens have been downtrodden and mutilated to a point where CSOs do not exist anymore. Mr

Speaker, the APRM in terms of its funding should get a little more money that organizations that have been resilient and have stood the test of time, like the NGOCC. NGOCC is a CSO and has tested the storm of PF brutality and dictatorship. The rest of the NGOs or the CSOs are under the mat now, they don't exist anymore, they don't have a voice. They provide part of the check and balance of the Executive," Nkombo observed.

And Mwiimbu, who is also Monze Central UPND member of parliament, said the PF had dented the image of the country through the atrocities it had committed.

"Of late, we have witnessed a number of unwarranted attacks by the PF cadres on those who are appearing on radio stations and attacks on radio stations. What has happened, Mr Speaker, is unprecedented. It has only occurred during the reign of the

PF. It never happened before. The PF are intolerant to any opposing views. Almost every radio station in this country, Mr Speaker, has been attacked by PF cadres. What good governance are you talking about if the track record can speak for yourself? What has happened is denting your image. Can you recall the atrocities that were committed against you during the days of MMD? Why are you doing the things, which you used to condemn during those days? You are worse than the way MMD was," Mwiimbu argued.

He also condemned the continued holding of public gatherings by the PF when other political parties were not allowed to do so.

"The Minister of Health (Dr Chitalu Chilufya) came to this House telling us that there is COVID-19 in this country, that we should observe social distancing and that people should not gather in groups of more than 50. We, as opposition, have obliged. But the PF have not obliged to that Statutory Instrument. They have continued holding rallies in Zambia contrary to the COVID-19 regulations. The members of the opposition have been denied the right to assemble under this COVID-19 arrangement. Our colleagues on your right, Mr Speaker, with impunity, they have continued doing what is prohibited under the Act," said Mwiimbu.

"Whenever the President travels around the country, multitudes of people travel with him, contrary to the regulations. What rule of law are we talking about? During by-elections, a lot of illegal activities have taken place. One of these is associated to the DMMU; instead of providing relief to people, who are suffering as a result of hunger, they are distributing mealie meal and other essentials to voters. The PF are acting contrary to the laws of the country. What the PF is doing is making us fail to get help from bilateral and multilateral institutions, especially the IMF and the World Bank."

In winding up the debate, Justice Minister Given Lubinda challenged those who felt strongly about Africa's governance to form a caucus of parliamentarians.

"The African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council has representation from academia, from CSOs and, indeed, a few from government. The issue of parliamentarians being left out, I have lamented this myself that those parliamentarians who feel strongly about Africa's governance, please come up and form a Caucus of Africa Peer Review Mechanism. Form it and run it. I will support you. I hope that when we do that, we can find a person who can run it as I run the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption, and not one who will bring it down. When we have matters such as this before us, let's use them for the purpose of building. Let's not use them as an opportunity to throw bitterness around and bring matters that are not related to the subject. We now are talking about Bill 10. And when we said, 'please, colleagues, here is the raw document, let's discuss it,' what did they do? No, they walked out!" said Lubinda, while mocking the UPND.

Ng'andu promises increased funding to FIC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu says government will endeavor to prioritize and increase the budgetary allocation and disbursements to the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) as a way of encouraging their work.

And Dr Ng'andu says government, through his Ministry, will during this session of Parliament table a Bill with amendments to the FIC Act Number 46 of 2010 to make it mandatory for law enforcement agencies to act on matters referred to them by the FIC.

Speaking when Parliament considered a report of the Committee on Cabinet Affairs for the fourth session of the 12th National Assembly, Wednesday, Dr Ng'andu said government appreciated the important role which FIC played in combating financial crimes.

"Mr Speaker, the House may wish to note that there is a strong link between corruption and money laundering. In order to effectively fight corruption, the FIC collaborates with ACC. The collaboration between the two institutions is as provided for in the Section 533A, which provided (for) cooperation and exchange of information with law enforcement agencies. Further, the cooperation is enhanced between the two institutions through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The government, through the Ministry of Finance, will during this session of Parliament table a Bill with amendments to the FIC Act Number 46 of 2010, which incorporates the recommendation to make it mandatory for law enforcement agencies or competent authorities to act on a matter referred to them by the FIC and report on the progress and outcome of matters referred to them by center," said Dr Ng'andu.

"Government appreciates the important role that the FIC plays in combating crimes, including corruption, and as such, through the Ministry of Finance, we will endeavor to increase the budgetary allocation and disbursements to the FIC. We will ensure that funding to the Centre is prioritized, among other competing needs. Mr Speaker, the government, in conjunction with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Justice, shall

through the Anti-Money Laundering Authority coordinate the capacitation of law enforcement agencies and asset forfeiture unit prosecutions authority in order to ensure that Zambia prioritizes the pursuit of criminal proceeds, combat corruption and financial crimes using financial intelligence gathered by the FIC."

And speaking earlier, mover of the motion, who is also Mongu Central UPND member of parliament Mwilola Imakando, observed that there was need for a national policy framework in dealing with domestic cooperation and coordination on matters on terrorist financing.

Imakando added that the Committee also noted a lack of an anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism strategy and policy after reviewing the submissions of stakeholders, who appeared before the Committee.

"The Committee, therefore, urges the government to expedite the finalization of anti-money laundering/countering the financing terrorism strategy and policy as this will ensure that key money laundering and terrorist financing risks are addressed. The Committee expresses worry over the provision in the FIC Act that allows FIC to request for feedback on the progress of an investigation or report that was shared with the law enforcement agencies or competent authorities. This is because the Act does not place an obligation or duty on such a law enforcement agency or competent authority to act on a matter referred to it by the FIC. If this continues, it will weaken the effectiveness of FIC. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the government should ensure that the law is amended to make it mandatory for law enforcement agencies to act on matters referred to them by the FIC and report on the progress and the outcomes of matters referred to them by the FIC," Imakando said.

Imakando also observed that funding to the FIC was inadequate to enable it carry out its duties effectively.

"This also affects the organization of other activities, such as the recruitment of employees and undertaking sensitization or public awareness campaigns. In this

regard, the Committee recommends that there should be increased funding to the FIC to enable it carry out its mandate effectively. The fight against financial crimes is very sophisticated and it requires specialized skill and continued training. Therefore, the need for more funding cannot be over-emphasized. A well-funded intelligence centre will be able to provide an actionable financial intelligence report," said Imakando.

And Luangeni PF member of parliament Charles Zulu, who seconded the motion, encouraged the FIC to do a lot more marketing about their work so that people could know who they are.

"The stakeholders submitted that there is no coordination between the law enforcement agencies and FIC and this brings about problems between the FIC and law enforcement agencies like the police, the Drug Enforcement Commission, ACC. The other problem we found is that FIC does not inform the public adequately so that the public knows what they are there for. So, FIC should do a bit more in selling themselves so that people are aware of their role in this country," advised Zulu.

Meanwhile, Ikelengi member of parliament UPND Elijah Muchima argued that there was no problem with the existence of the FIC, but that heavy political interference was what needed to be dealt with.

"Time has come now for the government to stand firm on its position, whether this institution is required or not. The report has revealed that Zambia needs this report, what is not needed is political interference. We have a lot of institutions that we have established, they should not be cut and paste. We should be going into depth into achieving realism. We establish institutions, but at the same time, these institutions are being used for political expediency, this should stop! FIC has investigated some cases, given to other agencies, but these agencies have remained mute. This is discouraging the effort of the officers, who have been mandated to investigate cases. We need to revisit the law so that the FIC is given more powers. Indeed, there is very little difference between corruption and money laundering," said Muchima.

"In Zambia, when there is a small

issue concerning an opposition member, law enforcers are very quick to arrest and detain! But when it comes to real issues that are denting the image of the country, those cases are not even investigated. But we should be together in fighting corruption as a country, it should not be one-sided where only opposition members are to suffer, but those in the ruling party are kings and queens. This, Mr Speaker, should be condemned."

And Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo informed the House that government had no intention of merging the FIC with the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) because the institution was operating competently on its own.

"What we need to strengthen is the collaboration between institutions because intelligence information will still remain intelligence information and it can only be shared to the authorities that are able to competently utilize that information and avoid the risk of people starting to speculate. I think the challenge some of the investigative wings have had is this aspect where the information they are supposed to work on in terms of investigating is already in the public domain and maybe the suspects they are supposed to pursue are already alerted. So, these are things that we need to apply our minds to in order to make this institution effective and perform its functions. Mr Speaker, on our part as government, we look at this institution with law enforcement agencies as a glove and a punch in a boxing ring because they need one another in order for them to pursue these cases and protect this country. There is need to make sure that they follow the movement of finances and they affiliate to other institutions that are beyond borders," said Kampyongo.

"So, we are not in any way going to combine the work of FIC with that of the Drug Enforcement Commission. We at Home Affairs are very happy with the fact that the person, who is at the helm of this institution is a product of DEC, who we groomed and we are happy with the work that is being done. So, we need to collaborate and just make sure that this institution operates competently without being drawn in public ridicule."

By Joseph Mwenda

ZESCO Limited has announced the rolling out of smart meters that will enable the power utility to regulate the usage of electricity by switching off certain appliances in customers' households that exceed a given consumption threshold.

Managing Director Victor Mundende announced last week that the project would be done at a cost of US\$40 million.

Why will Zesco spend millions of dollars on limiting its customers' power consumption when it survives on selling the commodity? What is the cost benefit for this investment? Who will pay when the power regulating process results in damage of customers' appliances? Has load-shedding become Zesco's core business now? Are Zesco managers trying to steal from this smart metre supply tender?

In this verbatim, News Diggers gets up close with Zesco Senior Manager for Corporate Affairs Dr John Kunda, who responds to customer concerns and goes into detail to answer the above questions:

Mwenda: Can you explain how this smart metering will work

Dr Kunda: So this conversation on the smart metering was being discussed in the context of a graduated load shedding schedule moving forward. As we are moving towards a time where you have an energy mix, you need a balance to be automated so that the switching on and off and managing of the balance in the grid is smart. You know, even now some of the things like loading your units, currently you have to manually punch them in, we would like to move to a situation like your smart phone where you buy tokens through the bank and immediately it's loaded as you punch in your meter number. There are things like, how do you control for non revenue-electricity within the system or the losses. Some of them are due to human error just like we know in operations and everything else. It's the same with the water sector where we are moving from post paid to prepaid meters in order to reduce on losses. So the smart metering system goes with the smart grid. We don't need to send drivers to Mkushi to go and physically switch off a feeder, you are spending fuel, and you have human labour and all that.

Mwenda: Doctor, I would like you to speak to me as a lay person, that's the first thing, because if you speak more from a technical side you will leave me again uneducated and I would like to learn from your explanation. Please address me and my colleagues in Chazanga and everywhere else who don't understand. What will the smart meter do in a household?

Dr Kunda: Apologies Mr Mwenda. Okay, so the smart meter will do a number of things. Knowing you as a

Enquiry into Zesco's plans to regulate power consumption in customers' household

customer, you want to know what you are consuming and you want to know what is draining most of the energy mu nyumba (in the house) right? The smart metre will give you that. It will give you, indications on which of your appliances for example are drawing energy at a particular time and it will always be giving you a signal. This is common practice, it's being implemented for in Africa. Then the other thing is for example, for now if you have a fault in your house you have to call me or you have to call the call centre, with the smart metering, the smart grid system, the network becomes visible from a central point and we will be able know immediately something trips in your property. It will be picked up by the system and then we can respond to it. If there is an electrical hazard, something has fallen or the power lines, for now we have to depend on people to report because the system is not visible centrally and we can't see it but now with the smart grid system you are able to tell and respond.

Mwenda: So from the consumption side, when this metre identifies which appliance is consuming more than the recommended threshold, what will it do?

Dr Kunda: So for example, if you as a person now you have your stove fully switched on, let's say three plates all of them are running and we are running these campaigns and sometimes you are using the bigger plates instead of using the smaller plates and all that. You will know and it will become predictable for you were you are consuming most of your energy. If your geyser is on for the whole day or for most of the hours, you will be seeing from your smart gadget. So it also gives you power to control and manage what you are using. Now.

Mwenda: Sorry to cut you short, but that's where the issue is. My next question was going to be, if it shows me what is consuming more power, why won't Zesco allow me to decide which particular appliance to switch off? Why do you, as Zesco, want to override my choice and switch off my cooker or my geyser?

Dr Kunda: It won't switch off your appliance. The only time they talked about managing the load is in a crisis. When there is a crisis in an area, what happens now is that you switch off everyone.

Mwenda: Are you saying it won't select the appliances to switch off but it will simply switch off the entire residential area.

Dr Kunda: No, we are not switching off, so what is happening is that in a particular grid area we are not going to switch you off like the practice now, if there is too much drain, because there is a crisis we switch off everybody. But what you can do is that because you can graduate the allocation, the allocations

are graduated and you say, "anything that will exceed beyond this", in your home, at some point you may not be able to switch on the geyser and the stove at the same time because you may exceed [the threshold]. At a time of load crisis where the system has become unstable, the geyser won't go on but the stove will go on for example.

Mwenda: And if it was already on before you switched off, it means the geyser will go off because it has exceeded a certain consumption threshold, isn't that what you are saying?

Dr Kunda: No, you just won't be able to switch on because it will be warning you. It will give you the beeps, "ti ti ti", like what's happening now for example if you are running out of units. So you are able to make adjustments.

Mwenda: Doctor, I need you to clarify this particular point because you see, when your MD was making the statement, he categorically said "from the comfort of our offices to the comfort of your homes, we will be able to identify which appliances to turn off..." and so that is where I think a lot of anger from customers is coming. Personally as a Zesco customer I am disturbed to hear that if I have more appliances switched on in my household, and Zesco has now identified there is a crisis situation in my grid, they will simply switch off my appliances that are on and consuming more power. That's what your MD said, is that correct or not?

Dr Kunda: It is correct, and what we are saying is, you know switching off is also not... for example we are not saying in this home what is there, there is a fridge, and there is a geyser, let me switch off the geyser first, no. It's in terms of power usage, what is it that is maybe consuming more power because the other alternative is simply switching off everything so that you don't have any power at all. That is the alternative right? The other alternative, from an engineering perspective, and I hope I am speaking from that level, is now to simply reduce the power that is available. So all your lighting are on, in your home you can switch on certain appliances and then certain appliances that consume so much, beyond the threshold are off. Again it is only in a crisis and it's a smaller component of that crisis. And I hear you were you are saying it's like you are intruding into my space and wanting to dictate what I can do with the power that I have paid for in my home, that's what I am hearing.

Mwenda: That's exactly the point.

Dr Kunda: And what we are saying is that instead of them having a total black out in your area, Mr Mwenda, we are saying, let's just reduce. Once the crisis is out, and stable, everyone goes back to normal. Then the next point

I wanted just to say is that this is being projected for a period of five years, right? It's a projection. So US\$40 million is not like money sitting in account here or waiting to...

Mwenda: Sorry to cut you short again. We are going to discuss the funding issue later and of course we could like an explanation on that. But before we proceed, let me give you a scenario. Let's say, after a crisis, my cooker which you as Zesco switched off using your smart metre can't turn on any more, who takes responsibility for that damage? How do you deal with clients who will come to you and say "you have burnt my cooker" or "you have damaged my geyser" how are you going to deal with that?

Dr Kunda: Okay, where there has been a complaint lodged in about Zesco having burnt assets in people's homes, we have taken up investigations to ascertain how it could have happened and in some cases some independent verification is done. So we receive those cases and there is a facility for that. Again, that's the beauty of this smart metering system because it will have a record of what you were receiving even when we took you off and probably then we will be able to ascertain what transpired, purely engineering.

Mwenda: Have you had cases where Zesco has been found wanting and they have compensated the customer?

Dr Kunda: I know that there have been cases for compensations and I know that there are some that have been dismissed, I don't know how many have been honoured but I can get you that detail.

Mwenda: Just one more question from the consumption side, from the clients point of view. What role is ERB going to play in this because I would like to believe there must be some regulatory authority's role at some point. Will this be within your legal framework, because people are threatening to sue you? I would like to know what right the service provider has to, you know, for lack of a better term, intrude in my place and be able to control the gadgets in my household. I would like to understand how ERB has allowed you to do this and the Consumer Protection Commission as well.

Dr Kunda: To be honest with you, I would be incompetent to speak on the regulators interventions or role but of course whatever we implement as Zesco is within the legal framework. We respect individuals' privacy in providing this service. Nothing will be implemented that jeopardises that. But your concerns are valid and I would like bene Hang'andu at ERB to give you answers from the regulators perspective. There is also consumer protection, and there is Zambia Weights that will be talking about those issues.

Mwenda: Now educate me a little bit about profitability.

One of the concerns, you were just explaining before I cut you much earlier that the US\$40 million is not sitting in an account. The general understanding has been that you are going to buy these meters and the process of purchasing and installing is going to cost that much. Now, we are saying why is Zesco, one, going to spend all that money in reducing consumption instead of increasing generation capacity and where will the money come from?

Dr Kunda: The reason actually why we have to invest into a smart system is because the investments in generation for now, I think have been enormous and we are projecting to have excess, all things being equal. We are projecting to have excess of power. So just to give you an example ba Mwenda, on the Kariba side, the installed capacity is about 1,080 MW of power, then if you are looking at Kafue upper, it's 990 MW of power. Looking at Kafue Gorge Lower, it's 750 MW of power. Itzhi tezhi is giving you about 120 MW of power, Victoria Falls is giving us 110 MW. Then there has been these investments in Lusiwasi, Chitambo and then the solar systems that have been put in place, right? We have like 600 MW another over 700 MW of solar. The weakness with solar is at night, battery storage is not good because it's not as stable as thermal or nuclear and all that but in terms of what we have invested in, in the last eight, nine years, the projection is to have excess power for local demand.

Mwenda: And when Zesco does its math, it finds that with this particular investment of US\$40 million, what you will save will be practically equal to what you will have invested?

Dr Kunda: No, but overtime I think the investment, especially in energy losses and managing the grid and with these down time and all that I think in terms of the cost, a cost benefit analysis was done, I just don't have the numbers, I can talk to the finance guys to give us what actually the numbers were even in the feasibility stage of the investment that was going in. But you are looking at, you know the cost saving opportunity to Zesco particularly in the farming blocks were distances are significant there are issues of transporting staff, there is maintenance of vehicles, there is fuel and other operational costs in these areas. So the increase in the digital footprint will reduce significantly on that element.

Mwenda: And you said that it's not like this US\$40 million is sitting somewhere in an account?

Dr Kunda: No, it's not.

Mwenda: We are given to understand that you are actually going to get a loan.

Dr Kunda: (Laughs)

Mwenda: And we are now worried that these guys want

to steal from this.

Dr Kunda: Ati tifuna tiidye (so that we should squander it?)

Mwenda: Yes, Mufuna mudye apa manje ba Zesco (So that you eat from the tender now as Zesco) (laughs)

Dr Kunda: Ati banyamata bafuna ku nyopola aba (That these guys now want to chew the money). No Mr Mwenda, on a serious note you are looking at a five year projected time frame ai? And the costing if you want to break it down, with our current customer base which is likely to grow, it's about US\$40 per meter, right, and then that is like US\$8 per year per customer. So we are looking at a projected investment and the replacement cost over time, what it would mean. Yes. So that's how we have projected it as Zesco limited. And it's not a loan

Mwenda: Oh, it's not a loan?

Dr Kunda: No it's not a loan!

Mwenda: So this partnership with the company in Ndola that you are partnering with, what does it entail then if they are not getting a loan? They will supply the meters but how will they get the money? Obviously it's not for free!

Dr Kunda: I don't know the legal detail in terms of how they split in financing will be but what I can assure you is that this is not a relationship that is starting now. I know that Zesco, ati mutu ukakula siulewa nkonyo (a big head cannot avoid punches), we are a parastatal and anything, if people want to attack boma (government), sometimes it's difficult to distinguish so they just hammer. Upitile uku mudala, upeza (you pass this side my brother, you find) collateral blow, (Laughs). So I hear you ba Mwenda. There was need for us as Zesco to provide a clear explanation.

Mwenda: So now, Zesco at this moment is trying to reduce the consumption, and you are advising customers to switch to solar and gas, how will you manage to get back these customers when you reach your projected surplus generation?

Dr Kunda: Yes, we are even encouraging you to use gas because it's cheap.

Mwenda: You are short of encouraging us to use malasha (charcoal) (laughs)

Dr Kunda: No, malasha is environmental degradation so I am not going to encourage you (laughs).

Mwenda: So now, when you have that excess generation capacity, what are you going to do to get me back on the grid because you will have too much power and you will have less people using it.

Dr Kunda: Thank you, beautiful question and I am glad you've asked it. First, ba Mwenda, load shedding is not our core business.

Mwenda: Well, it looks as if it is at this stage, so that's why we are saying you are darkening the nation, not powering the nation. **Story Continues on P7**

By Julia Malunga
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says in order to end corruption in the country, there is need for the Opposition Alliance to field one candidate in next year's general election.

And Hichilema says the Judiciary and Army should emulate their Malawian counterparts and work in the public interest.

In an interview, Hichilema said NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili's suggestion to field one candidate at next year's crucial presidential election was the way to go.

"There is no option to unity of purpose. As we seek to rebuild the country, unity is the platform on which we can rebuild the country.

Opposition will win if we field one candidate – HH

Re-uniting our people for a purpose and re-constructing the economy destroyed by the PF is the basic minimum. I think that suggestion cannot be challenged by anyone seeking public office in order to serve, not to steal, as we see under the PF. PF is there to look after themselves. In order to remove an autocratic government of the PF, in order to end corruption, which has damaged our society beyond imagination, in order to bring our people to end segregation, which is quite evident. You can see from the appointments in

the Cabinet, appointments in the ambassadorial appointment. So, in order to end this, we need unity of all well-meaning opposition parties," Hichilema said.

"And not just political parties, other formations of right-thinking Zambians, other Zambians, who love this country, who retrieve it from total collapse. What I

see in 2021, what is desirable is two groups as it has always been. In the early 1990s, it was Zambians who wanted democracy against the One-Party-State, Zambians won. As it was in 2001, somebody wanted to perpetuate themselves in office against the Constitution as they are doing now under Bill 10, Zambians won. For the fourth time in

our history as a country, there should be one group that consists of the bad, the PF and their surrogate parties, and a small number of corrupt people, who are enjoying and benefiting at the expense of the people who cannot be allowed to talk and get arrested. And after getting arrested, they offer them a K30 million that is what corrupt people do. On one hand, they shoot you! If they don't kill you, they rush to take you to the hospital and appear like they are good people."

Hichilema argued that the sole candidate selected would represent the majority of Zambians.

"The other group is the nationalists, the genuine opposition political parties, like ourselves, it is the upright church that have stood on the side of the oppressed, it is the so-called disgruntled youths, it is the marketeers that are suffering, those who are retired in national interest from public service, those who go to bed without food, it is everybody. So, it will be them in PF versus the rest of us in the country, and we will win! The people will win as they won before in historical cases. We should not divide ourselves and this is what my colleague, Kambwili, was saying. We should front one candidate; around that candidate, the good side of Zambia will be represented or will galvanize themselves and avoid fragmentation," Hichilema said.

"Any attempt to fragment it is an attempt to indirectly support the PF that has no respect for the rule of law, respect for freedom of expression. So, let us liberate ourselves. The invitation goes to all of us, who are called downtrodden, offended by PF. We are in the majority to rise and work together to use our democratic platform to deliver change in an overwhelming manner, and not to allow the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to manipulate the will of the people."

He observed that Zambians could learn lessons of unity from Malawians after that country successfully conducted a peaceful election, which resulted in a change of government.

"In Malawi, we learn lessons of unity among the

people of Malawi, who refused to be segmented on the basis of the region they come from, the language they speak. I am sure you know that in Malawi, since the first independent president, Kamuzu Banda, four presidents came from one region. In Malawi, they have three regions; the South, the Central and the Northern Regions. After the One-Party-State was removed in 1993 in Malawi, all the four successive presidents came from one region that was from the southern region," he recalled.

"So, the people of Malawi said, 'we can't allow the doctoral to rule at the expense of development of Malawi. So, they all got together and they removed the dictator. And the people of Malawi were resilient when the dictator was threatening them with teargas. The Judiciary worked for the people of Malawi, not for the corrupt ruling party; we can learn from that. The men and women in uniform stood on the side of the people. The (Electoral) Commission of Malawi removed the corrupt chairman who delivered a false election. We don't want the Lundazi issues of 2016 where wrong results are being announced."

And Hichilema insisted Zambia did not need international observers who were siding with the government to witness elections in 2021.

"The Malawians did not depend on international observers, who come and drink tea in hotels and then say: 'the election was free and fair,' that is unacceptable! And the international observers must be ashamed of themselves. The Malawians told the observers that, 'we did it without your help; in 2019, you declared Peter Mutharika duly elected.' If it were not for the people of Malawi who went to the streets, the Judiciary, who refused to be corrupted, there wouldn't be a new Malawi today. The international observers all said the election in Malawi was free and fair, what shame! We don't want international observers, who collude with corrupt regimes as was in Malawi as in in this country, Zambia, in declaring a fraud election free and fair election," said Hichilema.

It's concerning for KCC to send bailiffs over disputed debt that's in court - Mopani

By Natasha Sakala
MOPANI Copper Mines Plc says the move by Kitwe City Council (KCC) to send bailiffs to pounce on the company over a disputed debt which is active in court is concerning.

And union sources have disclosed that the company has reached a deadlock in its discussions with government over continuing with its application to put the mine on care and maintenance.

Bailiffs, Wednesday, pounced on Mopani Copper Mines after the mining giant refused to pay K54 million property rates allegedly owed to Kitwe City Council under the new valuation roll.

In a statement, Mopani public relations manager Nebert Mulenga stated that Mopani had an agreement with KCC which remains valid until the end of 2020, adding that the High Court granted the company a stay of execution against the award of

the new rates. "Mopani Copper Mines Plc entered a five-year agreement with Kitwe City Council in 2015 to pay property rates of K8 million

per annum. This agreement remains valid until the end of 2020. Earlier this year, the Council, without prior consultation, increased the rates to K58 million (+600

percent) contrary to the provisions of the Agreement, and rejected Mopani's offer to pay the undisputed amount of K8 million while negotiations were ongoing. Mopani Copper Mines Plc has since disputed the adjusted rates in the High Court, which granted the company a Stay of Execution against the award of the new rates. Mopani remains a long standing partner to Kitwe City Council. The act of sending bailiffs to collect a disputed debt, which is still before the courts of law, is concerning. Mopani has since made the full payment for the undisputed K8 million and remains hopeful of a swift conclusion to the matter," stated Mulenga.

And sources have disclosed that government and Mopani have not yet found common ground and talks are still on-going to stop the mine from going on care and maintenance.

"We have a deadlock, Mopani's position based on the assessment of the business by the parent company and all that is going on, the business environment, they are supposed to proceed on care and maintenance come 1st August because we pushed in the notice for three months on 1st May. We are remaining with 29 days to get to the 90 days but then the government has said no and they have constituted a team," said the source. "A team has come, we've given them all the reasons, we've given them all the information they needed, they haven't gotten back but they just indicated preliminarily that as government, 'we are not going to allow that Mopani should proceed on care and maintenance'. So at the moment, we are still in discussions, it's not cast in stone and they have not come to a common ground because government's definitive position is no care and maintenance, Mopani's definitive position or Glencore's definitive position is care and maintenance. So we are hanging in there and we are hoping before the end of this month, they should come to a common position but engagements are continuing."

RTSA extends deadline for road tax payment

By Natasha Sakala
THE Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has extended the deadline for the payment of road taxes to July 16, 2020 to ensure all motor vehicle owners are registered on the integrated Government Service Bus (GSB) and Payment Gateway System.

In a public notice issued by RTSA Head of Public Relations, Fredrick Mubanga, the agency stated that following the extension, there

would be no enforcement of the validity of road tax until the stated grace period ends.

"The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) wishes to inform members of the public that the payment for Road Tax has been extended to 16th July 2020. This is to ensure that all motor vehicle owners are registered on the integrated Government Service Bus (GSB) and Payment Gateway System to allow them to access RTSA services online. Therefore, there shall be no enforcement of the validity of Road Tax until the stated grace period ends," Mubanga stated. "The agency also wishes to remind motorists and fleet owners on the availability of the RTSA online payment platform under the integrated Government Service Bus and payment gateway system. Motorists are therefore advised to register and pay for following services online through the provided link; Motor vehicle license ('Road Tax'), driver's license (renewal and duplicate), roadworthiness application ("road fitness test") and motor vehicle registration (temporal registration). All clients are advised to visit the RTSA service centers for on-spot registration under Government Service Bus and payment gateway or register online."

And when contacted, Police public relations officer Esther Katongo said police officers will abide by the extension.

"As officers, we don't harass people. If there is that extension, there is always communication which is given to the police from RTSA to say they've extended the period. So officers just oblige," said Katongo

FRA starts paying farmers for 2020 maize purchases

By Natasha Sakala
THE Food Reserve Agency (FRA) says it is confident about reaching the one million metric tonne target as farmers who have supplied maize to the Agency have started getting paid following the Treasury's disbursement of K1 billion.

In an interview, FRA executive director Chola Kafwambulula said despite entering the market early ahead of the 2020 Crop Marketing season, the farmers' response had been good during the three days of maize purchases.

"We have just been buying for three days, but the response is good and the farmers that supplied in the last three days when we started have started getting their money, we have started paying them. But we normally reach the peak around August. But so far, the response has been very good, and we already have K1 billion from the Ministry of Finance. So, this money is already disbursed. I can only urge farmers, who are still shelling their maize to start selling to FRA," Kafwambulula said. "The other issue is that we normally start buying around July, and this year, we entered the market one month early. So, we are urging all the farmers to just speed up the cleaning process and then they start delivering. Especially farmers in the northern part of the country, you recall that we had floods in the northern part of the country and also rain, and also the rain stopped very late. So, we are just urging farmers to quickly start shelling up, but so far, so good. And we are confident that we will reach the one million tonnes target."





PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

(PAC)
Viva New Zambia!!!

Why we deserve your vote



MALAWI!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

PEOPLE must know that power is not permanent, at least that's what we keep learning every day and we have learnt this from the past. When people are fed up with those that they have entrusted with power and they seem not to be changing, the only viable option is change. This article is half quoted from the Nyansa Times entitled "Nyenkwe is real for Mutharika as MCP returns to power after 26 years" written by Lowani Mtonga.

To start with I would like to congratulate His Excellency President Reverend Lazarus Chakwela and his Vice President Saulosi Chilima for winning the June 23 2020 elections. And below is the article by Lowani Mtonga and how the Mutharika regime looked so alike to our today's PF regime and I quote:

"Malawians turned out in large numbers to vote on 23 June in fresh presidential election following the nullification of the May 21 2019 election results by the Constitutional Court on Feb 3 and confirmed by the Supreme Court of Appeal because of gross irregularities. They voted the incumbent Arthur Peter President Mutharika out of the office and ushered in Malawi Congress Party Reverend Lazarus Chakwera who won with an admirable 58.57%.

The fall of Mutharika from the presidency was slowly coming. Unfortunately, he ignored all the warning signs from opposition parties, civil society, judiciary, religious organisations and other interest groups to make amends. It was a matter of time before his tribal grouping and regional empire crumbled at the ballot box.

Like King Pharaoh, Mutharika hardened his heart over the years and paid a blind eye to the cries of Malawians to govern the country for the benefit of everyone. He grew stubborn and never listened to anyone, and he was not comfortable working with people from other regions.

All top positions in government and state-owned companies were a preserve of a few people from one tribal grouping and those from the Southern region where he comes from. Lucrative contracts went to cronies and those politically or tribally connected. Embassies are filled with friends, relatives

and regional mates.

Public institutions such as Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority, Malawi Revenue Authority and Electricity Supply Company of Malawi were used to siphon resources to fund DPP activities and the tribal grouping Mulakhwo wa Lhomwe. Mutharika presided over a government that was characterised by impunity, unfulfilled promises, corruption, nepotism, regionalism, marginalisation, abuse of state resources. Mutharika is one individual who was not moved by the plight of Malawians or worried or cared about the accusations levelled against him. He forgot that one day he would need the very people he was ignoring and victimising. It became clear that Mutharika would not make it with 50+1 voting system. He did not realise that a person cannot win from one tribal grouping. It was clear that northerners would not vote for him because he had nothing to develop the region save for laying foundation stones. For example, there is nothing on ground for the construction of Mombera University and Mzuzu Airport. Many projects across the region have stalled. Quota system was also a thorny issue among northerners.

Malawians will never understand how someone who is a professor of law, taught at reputable American universities and lived in US for 40 years displayed such high level of incompetence, reduced himself to tribal / regional leader, was part of the corrupt system, fought the judiciary, failed to initiate constitutional changes to improve democracy, allowed corruption to spiral out of control, allowed people to abuse and siphon public resources without taking action.

For the majority of Malawians, Mutharika's humiliating defeat is punishment for acting with impunity. He made so many mistakes and failed to correct them. He has left a bad legacy that would take some time to be forgotten". End of quote.

Hmmmmm, this seems a lot like the current PF regime. Hence we as PAC believe that if we have to talk of real change, the PF need not to just change the Presidential candidate but the whole PF government has to go. Changing the Presidential candidate won't be sufficient

because no matter how good the new Presidential candidate would be, it will be difficult to uproot all the damage caused by PF.

From the article above, you can see that damage was not caused because Professor Peter Muhtarika was not learned or exposed but he had a certain belief system in him that he hoped he could use to dominate the political space in Malawi. Hence as we go in 2021 let's pay more attention to all the Presidential candidates.

Tribalism can destroy a country and institutions. If a leader has a belief system that only people from his tribal grouping are the only ones that he can protect, he will ensure that all institutions are littered by people of his tribal grouping.

All those vying for the Presidency must commit to major reforms in government once given an opportunity after the polls on August 12, 2021. Reforms are necessary because when you have a group of leaders who have done everything to ground institutions for their benefit, it means reforms are not an option. But reforms is not just changing people and putting your own people, reforms is changing systems, strengthening institutions of governance, respect for the rule of law etc. As PAC we commit to that.

We promise to appoint a competent team of people that will combine experience, passion, energy and ideas to run the PAC government. A lot needs to change after the PF. If you didn't understand the damage caused by the PF, that article by Lowani Mtonga should give you an idea.

The People's Alliance for Change believes that we have reached a juncture where the country needs total transformation, reforms and change. PAC is in an alliance with the Zambian people demanding change and an overhaul in the way we do things, the way we relate and think. It's a total challenge for change in the mind set and a challenge for change from a non-progressive leadership with a belief system that is outdated and not in tune with the times we are living in.

Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Natasha Sakala

LEADER of opposition in parliament, Jack Mwiimbu is seeking leave to apply for judicial review over Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini's decision to allow debates on Bill 10 to continue despite the fact that it had lapsed.

Mwiimbu, in his application filed on July 2, is also seeking, among other reliefs, that the court should order all proceedings in the National Assembly relating to the Bill to be stayed until after the determination of the matter or further order of the court.

Mwiimbu, the applicant in this matter, has cited the Attorney General as respondent.

In the affidavit filed in the High Court, Mwiimbu noted that the Speaker of the National Assembly did not acknowledge that the bill had lapsed and erroneously concluded, in his ruling to the point of order raised by Mazabuka Central member of parliament Gary Nkombo, that the House could proceed with consideration of the bill.

He stated that following the announcement by the Vice-President that consideration of the bill should continue, the Speaker allowed debate and proceedings to resume with Chipata Central member of parliament, Moses Mawere, expected to resume debate from where he had left off when the House adjourned sine die and at no point did the Speaker address the House on the matter of the bill having lapsed.

"That, despite the Honorable

Mwiimbu wants court to halt Bill 10 proceedings

Speaker allowing the House to proceed in the aforementioned manner, at no time prior to or during the resumed debate was it agreed that special dispensation be made in respect of the established practice and procedure of the house to the effect that a bill lapses after six months and is accordingly killed. That despite numerous representations having been made on the matter of the lapse and consequent death of the bill, the decision of the Speaker to allow resumption of consideration, debate and other processes relating to a the bill on a date yet to be advised but within the current session of the National Assembly continues to be in force," read the affidavit in part.

Mwiimbu further stated that in a press statement issued by Government Chief Whip on 25th June, it was conceded by the author that the bill lapsed on 4th June, 2020 according to established parliamentary practice and procedure.

"Contrary to what is stated in the press statement, the standing orders committee cannot and did not extend the life of the bill which in any case, had already lapsed by effluxion of time and had been "killed" on 4th June 2020, well before the proceedings of 24th June 2020. That to the best of my knowledge, belief and

understanding of parliamentary practice and processes, there is no procedure that allows for restoration to the order paper, consideration, debate or extension of the life of a bill after it has been killed due to lapse of time, since after such lapse of time the bill ceases to exist," the affidavit further read.

Mwiimbu is therefore asking the court order the Speaker of the National Assembly to discontinue any further consideration, debate or other proceedings in relation to the bill.

"The reliefs sought are as follows: an order of certiorari to remove the decision into this Honorable Court for the purpose of it being quashed; an order of mandamus directing the Speaker of the National Assembly to discontinue any or any further consideration, debate or other proceedings in relation to the bill; a declaration that the decision is invalid, null and void and of no effect; an order that all proceedings in the National Assembly relating to the bill be stayed until after the determination of this matter or further order of this Honorable Court; any other relief that the Honorable Court may seem just in the circumstances; an order for costs; and that all necessary and consequential directions be given," read the affidavit.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
TRANSPARENCY International (TI) Zambia Chapter president Rueben Lifuka says State House is not a clearing agent for any business transaction, hence the need for government to explain the relationship between President Edgar Lungu and Belarusian oligarch Alexander Zingman.

Meanwhile, Lusaka businessman Valden Findlay says he will not comment on the News Diggers' published pictures where he was seen dining with President Lungu and Zingman.

In an interview, Lifuka said it is a disservice to the people of Zambia for government to remain mute without explaining the kind of business Zingman was doing with State House.

"Transparency International Zambia finds it unfortunate and a great disservice to the Zambian people that the Government has elected to remain mute without providing any information on the nature of the business that Mr. Alexander Zingman and colleagues are pursuing with this country. It is our considered view that a clear statement on the nature of business and relationship maintained between the government and these international business persons is appropriate and put to bed any speculations," Lifuka said.

He wondered how business transactions which were a preserve of government ministries and agencies were now being done by State House.

"We want to believe there are specific protocols followed whenever there is such engagement with international business persons and this is not necessarily the preserve of State House but the respective Ministries or government agencies. It is our expectation that State House is not the clearinghouse of any business transactions but this is the domain of line ministries and/or government entities, including Zambia Development Agency. It will be a matter of grave concern if international business persons circumvent the formal route of establishing a presence in this country and instead solicit the assistance of State House to do

State House not a clearing agency for business transactions - Lifuka



so as this will be tantamount to trading in influence, patronage and potentially a conflict of interest," Lifuka said.

"While we understand that President Lungu has a role in providing the necessary political impetus and policy direction to attract international investments, the interface of such investors should be with the respective government entities who have the technocratic capacity to assess the viability of any proposed business and advise on how Zambia can benefit from such investments."

He condemned business entities that dealt directly with State House, saying they disadvantaged other players who did not have similar proximity.

"International and local investors who go through State House make the playing field uncompetitive and disadvantage other players who do not have the same proximity to power. Business entities that have the blessings of State House make it difficult or impact negatively on the mandate of technocrats in Ministries to mere rubber stamp [decisions made at State House]. In such a scenario, the question which arises is: why should any investor or business person then go through ZDA or a line ministry to discuss their investment proposals when they can get express permission from State House? Why should a company that has already been to State House be bothered with undertaking an expensive Environmental Impact Assessment which is required under the

Environmental Management Act?" Lifuka asked.

"These are the challenges that such engagements with business persons have - it renders the government machinery redundant and reduced to confirm decisions made elsewhere even if these are not in the best interest of the country. This breeds impunity and disregard for government functionaries and if this practice is not stopped forthwith, soon, all businesses will be lining up to try and catch the President's eye and support. That then will be the entrenchment of state capture and before long, these business persons will start to determine the public policy direction of this country."

He said President Lungu and his government owed the Zambians an explanation on the matter because it is in public interest.

"We reiterate our call; President Lungu and his government owe the Zambian people further information on the nature of these engagements with Mr. Zingman and his colleagues, as long as this has to do with public interests. Unless, of course, we are told this is private business and/or a reunion of comrades. We want to remind President Lungu of the commitment he made during his inauguration in September 2016 and we quote -'I can only totally submit myself to the good lord almighty, to continually guide me to dutifully, diligently and faithfully, with humility, fulfill my duties and obligations to our country. I have sworn to be a servant to every Zambian and no individual or group of individuals or class of individuals shall hold me, hostage, to serve their personalized interests. I will not disappoint you,'" Lifuka quoted.

"We call on President Lungu to seriously reflect on his words and do the honorable thing to ensure that the speculation and suspicions generated by his contacts with these international business persons are cleared. We want to believe that if there is nothing untoward in this engagement, President Lungu will not have a problem providing the Zambian people the necessary information."

And Findlay, when contacted, refused to comment on the matter.

"No comment. I am not going to answer anything from you. You write your stories then you ask for a comment? No thank you," said Findlay before he hang-up.

Enquiry into Zesco's plans to regulate power consumption in customers' household

From P4

Dr Kunda: Iwe mudala iwe (but you my brother), ati loadshedding looks like your core business (laughs). We find ourselves in a situation where we are paying more for lack of foresight. Especially in yesteryears, especially when people should have invested, in the 90s we had opportunities to invest, we never

did that that's why we are where we are. Load shedding is giving us losses as a company. Now, the energy saving drives, we are encouraging people to use gas and saying use your alternative energies, it's because we know ba Mwenda, power is not cheap, yet we don't have a lot of investment in the sector because the return is not good. If mudala electricity was like gold or diamond, we would have had excess already but because the return on investment is not good, that's why it is difficult to attract investment in the sector. Ma Chinese mudala and other European guys would have invested heavily in generation but they know the return is not very good. What we are saying, to answer your question, what

are you going to do with excess when you have excess power. You know what we have done, we are positioning ourselves to be the hub in the region, to take advantage of our comparative positioning to become the hub for the region. So for example, we signed an MOU with Angola, to create an interconnector because they are far behind and they will need power we have signed another interconnector with Tanzania. We would like to go as far as East Africa. We are looking at Zimbabwe, we are looking at Botswana because most of the power they are saying there is thermal driven and it's quite expensive.

Mwenda: Dr Kunda you've done well to provide this explanation to the people, and I think that this is the conversation that you should be having with us in the media because there are serious concerns out here.

Dr Kunda: I know. Our crime, actually, has been lack of clarity.

Mwenda: Thank you very much Dr.

Dr Kunda: Thank you so much, have a good day, bye.

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WE are continuing to raise questions against the decision by Zesco to implement the smart metering project at a cost of US\$40 million. We recall that a few months ago when the power utility announced an increase in electricity tariffs, we wondered why Zesco was increasing the price of a commodity that it did not have in stock. Despite the objection from the public, Zesco went ahead and effected the increase amid long hours of load shedding. Months after that increase, Zesco is back to announce that they will now install smart metres which will enable them to regulate energy consumption in a household. We have the right to raise further questions on this issue and we want Zesco to come out and provide an explanation.

We still have a load shedding schedule of between eight and 12 hours in most parts of the country. People have bought units at a very high cost but the service is not there. Now on top of that, they are saying once power is restored, Zesco will have the right to regulate how that power is consumed. We stated yesterday that this kind of thinking is very dangerous.

Yesterday, we had a privilege of engaging with the Zesco senior manager for corporate affairs

Dr John Kunda who attempted to explain the reasoning behind this initiative. Unfortunately, we are not satisfied that his explanation makes business sense. In our view, Zesco is not fully prepared to provide answers to its customers who are concerned about this decision.

We asked Dr Kunda: What role is ERB going to play in this because we would like to believe that the regulatory authority must have a role to play in the new initiative? Will this be within your legal framework? What right has the service provider have to intrude in customers' households and be able to control the appliances? Has the Energy

Regulation Board and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission allowed you to do this?

To this, Dr Kunda responded: "To be honest with you, I would be incompetent to speak on the regulators' interventions or role but of course, whatever we implement as Zesco is within the legal framework. We respect individuals' privacy in providing this service. Nothing will be implemented that jeopardises that. But your concerns are valid and I would like bene Hang'andu at ERB to give you answers from the regulator's perspective."

This would suggest

that Zesco has not done its homework. They have not yet engaged all the stakeholders to hear their views and concerns. How can a national power utility go ahead to announce such a move before setting out a clear implementation roadmap? There is a problem. Zesco is doing things in a trial and error manner. They are not sure about the cost benefit for this undertaking, but they are determined to do it. Why?

Our advice to Zesco is that they need to swallow their pride and begin to seriously look at unbundling. Zesco, in its current state, has been unable to attract investments because the

generation, transmission and distribution is being handled by the same management, the same command centre. If generation and transmission was moved to another unit, it would attract investment, which would improve the load management that they are trying to address with that colossal amount of money.

It's not long ago when Zesco was on a project of moving customers from fixed charges to pre-paid or metering system. The metering project is just finishing now. Some installations around the country are probably still on fixed charges. Now, already, they want to do away with all the meter boxes

which they are still installing in people's houses so that they can put another set of boxes! Where will they take these current metre boxes, which we understand are in excess of one million? Will they just throw them away? How much financial wastage is that?

This is what we mean when we say there is a management crisis at Zesco. Our people must realise that the leadership at Zesco has run out of ideas. Initiatives such as the one being suggested using the so called smart meters is a call for help. This is Zesco now shouting Mayday! Mayday! They want help from the customers, they can't think of any other way out.

We would like to advise citizens to take this distress signal from Zesco very seriously if they want their small businesses to stay alive. When you are in a fast moving vehicle and you see the driver jumping out, just know that you are headed for disaster. When your pilot takes up the crash position, you must not argue with his judgement; he knows there is nothing else he can do. Zesco says switch to solar and gas, listen to them. They know what they are talking about. Amano nayapwa, if they had a way, they would start selling charcoal to their customers.

News Diggers!

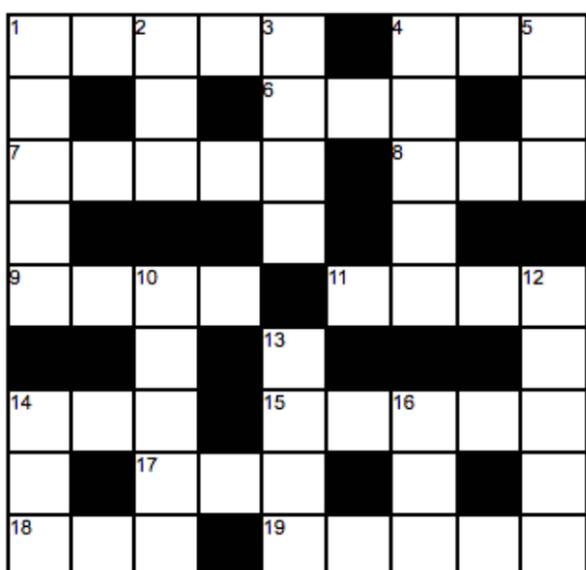
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Switch to solar and gas cookers, Zesco has run out of ideas

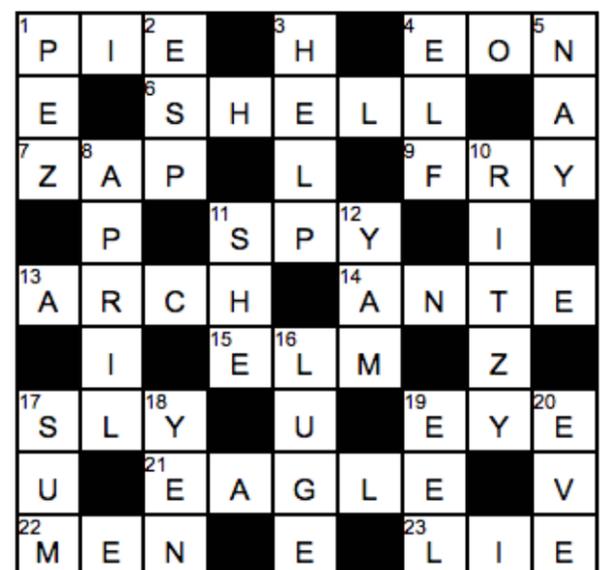
Crossword puzzle No 638



“Until you believe you can do it, it’s going to be difficult to convince anyone else you can do it.”
- Toni Sorenson

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Crossword puzzle No 637



Readers' Feedback

Mumbi's description of Zukas & team as job seekers

Editor,
 "It's a shame that this statement made it to print! We all have known Mr and Mrs Zukas as freedom fighters. They fought for independence, later in 1990 the Zukas fought for reintroduction of multi party politics in Zambia. Unless if Mumbi wants to rewrite history, that is what they are known for. Mr Zukas is a principled man who wouldn't be seeking for a job at that age! So when you see the Zukas coming out then you know they are fighting injustices or defending democracy!" - Shi Chilambe

servant of Zambia. He deserves respect and honor. History has proved him right that he has always been on the right side". - Jonas Lumbila Yaniv

"Very disrespectful of our senior citizens Mumbi. Let them have a voice, things are not right in the country. We are a country that respects our elders unless you are changing this belief, our youth will disrespect you mercilessly. Lead by example. They fought for our freedom and so they have the experience to help solve some of the decay in our country". - Juliet Musesa Zulu

"Are you sure? There is no good remaining in you. Remember in 2011 how almost all the COSs stood with PF and that time it was good. Today they stand against your injustices, they are bad? The same way MMD felt at that time, you will feel it now. All key stakeholders are saying no to PF the way you are doing things". - Siciabi Mooya

"Checks and balances in a democracy must be supported by all well meaning citizens. It is unbelievable that the ruling party is not happy with the move taken by senior citizens. These are the same people who will run away from ECL in the near future". - Trevor Jengajenga

"The disrespect on Zukas! That man has done more for this country. A true patriot and

"Ba mayo, ba fyashi abo. Not everything should be about politics those men and women have done much good to this

Country than your lot and it is because of your rot that they have come out in retirement to try and correct your mistakes. Please take back your words". - Lubumbe Chipulu

Yande Mpundu Siame
 That's how arrogant leaders react, Youth's protest ati distrustful, fathers speak out, ati job seekers..

Rex Chipoya
 Hmmm surely when you don't have anything to say its better to keep quiet, senior citizens seeking jobs????

"Mum, there's a reason why they say silence is golden especially to people and leaders of your caliber. Kindly and humbly shut up before we undress you with comments and then join that njomba in calling us disgruntled youths. At that age you think Zukas and his fellow eminent and senior fathers and mothers are as desperate and stranded as you? And who tells you PF is the best place where morally respected & principled citizens should seek for jobs, if at all by accident they can do that? Kindly quarantine your mouth before it betrays and embarrasses you, are we together mum?!" - Kelvin Mwiinga



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.

Chikoya's warning to govt over abuse of state machinery

Editor,
 "We don't need to look far away to Malawi. We have our own history. Remember how RB's MMD went flat out with campaign materials and intimidation through violent behaviour? Can you see the

cycle repeating itself once more under the current government?". - Thabale Ngulube

"Very true....but well sometimes power gets to peoples heads to an extent were one can't see clearly any longer". - Michael Ngala

ND! OPINION: Lungu's hypocrisy: Chitotela, Chitalu, innocent; Kambwili, Kabanshi guilty before trial

Dear editor,
 "Let us be serious as citizens, we can't just be watching these so called leaders playing with law in order to protect themselves from prosecution even after we can clearly see their corruption. if it means changing gvmnt every. 5year in order to deal with corruption, so be it!" - Baldwin Michael

"State house is a hive of criminal activity and a haven of criminals. Who doesn't know that Zambian state house stinks of corruption. This is a thug place where all sorts of evil things against Zambian people are made". - Bill Bantu Ntanda

treated innocent until proven guilty by ECL's jury but Zambians will laugh last next year as impartial justice by the people will be applied". - Callaghan Mwamba

"if true that makes a sad reading as it is showing selective application of the law where CK and kabanshi were deemed guilty until proven innocent while corrupt Chilufya and Chitotela are

"When you comment ati opposition, so citizens have to be clapping. You may wonder were PF hide when such issues are being raised. It's like all of a sudden they have no bundle only to have them when opposition make mistakes". - Rich Banda

"What about Tukuta sir, has he been proven guilty?" - Anthony Sichone

"It only proves that the rules don't apply to them". - Kelvin Pumulo

Political parties' request to slash nomination fees by half

Dear editor,
 "ECZ must reduce the current nomination fees by half not the proposed fees. ECZ is not there to make money from nominations, they use tax payers money to run things. High nomination fees are a dent on democracy, no one should be disadvantaged by charging high fees. To borrow president Obama's words 'The power of our vote, not the size of our bank accounts should determine our democracy', end of quote. Politicians should not be buying their way into government". - Lassie Kakuta

Only the rich to participate, this is a conduit to Exclusion and Inequality. A Bare Minimum should be the Standard as ECZ is Not for Profit, Infact Fuse Fixed Fees in the Electoral Process Bill 11 of 2019 to Avoid Mischief from the Electoral Commission of Zambia. There Can be No Fair Elections without a Fair Environment, Stop Trying to Disenfranchise the Majority because you are well paid by tax payers money. Let the Zambian People Decide who they Want Via Vote Not Via Exclusion of the Less Privileged. Abash Injustice #ECZNominationFeesMustFall". - Daniel Zj Sichilongo

"This Conduct of Nshindano trying to Create an Elitist Environment in a Country filled with Majority who live below a "dollar" a day should be stopped for democracy's sake, this is not an Aristocracy that Allows

"Politics is for the rich in Zambia that's why we the poor have no voice, our identity is meaningless with us not taking part in national issues". - Giftkentry Chanda



By Julia Malunga
DEMOCRATIC Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba says President Edgar Lungu has forgotten the importance of putting his citizens forward that is why he is wining and dining with outsiders.

And Kalaba says artists should get the K30 million which will be provided by the government and compose songs against them.

Speaking when he featured on Live Radio's live issues, Thursday, Kalaba said Zambians were spectators in their own country.

"If the President takes interest in wining and dining with outsiders the way we saw in today's (Thursday) News Diggers Newspaper, then he forgets the importance of having his own people go forward. That is why you find that most of these contractors in this country are coming from outside and our own people are just spectators. In the scheme of things that is where the problem is. We don't have our people, especially the youths doing these projects. When I resigned, people said I was playing politics. They said Kalaba is just power hungry, tell us who is corrupt, today we have seen that our own President is dining wining with contractors if that is not corruption, I don't know what you can call it," Kalaba said.

And Kalaba wondered why it was difficult for President Lungu to fire Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya.

"Today, we have our own Minister of Health appearing before the Anti-corruption Commission with four counts to deal with if that is not corruption, what is it? Previously, just a while ago we had honorable (Ronald) Chitotela appearing before the ACC. I hear he has an acquittal. We are yet to authenticate that acquittal in future. There are several other officials in PF they can't resign because they

Lungu has made Zambians spectators while he dines with outsiders – Kalaba



have got their hands all over the show, so they can't. I am not going to point at anybody and that is the stance that I have taken but time has got a way of equalizing issues, time talks and time heals a lot of things. For me, time has vindicated me because those who were saying that there is no corruption... My sister (Emerine) Kabanshi two weeks later was chucked out because of the social cash transfer money," Kalaba said.

"Kabanshi was fired when they were issues of misapplication at the Ministry of Community Development she was dropped but Chinese Zambia Air Force commander even before the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) complain the President said he was corrupt but the president dropped him even before the DEC moved in but now you have Dr Chitalu Chilufya arrested by the ACC and the president issued a letter that according to an article he is innocent until proven guilty. Why didn't he use the same method on Chinese and Kabanshi? But these people you were comfortable to fire them. What's so difficult about firing this person? My colleagues in

the PF should learn that our president will do anything to make himself survive politically and he will use anybody as a scapegoat."

Kalaba said Dr Chilufya had embarrassed himself.

"Dr Chilufya's name is dented. Even if you put an acquittal. And he has gone in the annals of history that he is the first health minister who was arrested while sitting in that office, it's a shame. He has embarrassed himself and a lot of people," he said.

Meanwhile, Kalaba said that the love of the youths by the government was fake.

"The love for the youths is

fake. Today government hears the youths are talking, they host meetings at government complex to give youths money and now they say 'we have K30 million which we are giving the youths' they have not told us how the youths will access that money, they have not told us what skill they are looking for go fund the youths, they have not told us how provinces will access that money. So for artists, get that money, compose songs against them so that they can learn that these jokes they are trying to advance, time is gone. Because you cannot be taking youths for granted. And this time Zambians have realized that they have been played for too long, what people want is to have an agenda that is going to be pro-youths. The youth themselves want to craft their own agenda because if they craft their own agenda it will be easy," said Kalaba.

"I was taken aback and realized that the agenda of the youths was no longer there. What is there is an agenda for the foreigners, it is the Chinese that the PF are so interested in, look at the people doing business in this country it is the outsiders, the Lebanese. The ordinary youths themselves do not have anything with the development of this country. I am saying when we form government, we will make sure that the local people, women and youths take

SA police suspended for evicting naked man



FOUR police officers in Cape Town are to be suspended after dragging a naked man from a house in an eviction caught on video.

Footage shows the man being thrown to the ground and stopped from re-entering the shack in Khayelitsha settlement.

When he manages to break free and run into the home made of corrugated iron, its front wall is ripped off leaving him exposed.

South Africa's Housing Minister Lindiwe Sisulu called the incident "inhuman".

"We wish to condemn with the strongest terms an act which sought to degrade an individual like what we have witnessed," she said, adding it "has no place in our democratic South Africa."

In a statement on Wednesday evening, the city of Cape Town's safety and security chief Richard Bosman said: "We are in the process of suspending four staff members involved in the incident, pending the outcome of the investigation."

"The suspension also ensures that staff are not targeted while on duty. We are saddened by the conduct depicted on the video footage, and we do not condone any forceful and dehumanising conduct by our staff members."

Local media report that the part of Khayelitsha where the video was filmed is subject to an eviction order and has been earmarked for redevelopment.

Only 49 homes are allowed to "temporarily remain on the land until after the lockdown," Mr Bosman said.

"After the removal of illegal structures, new attempts are made to invade again on a daily basis." **BBC**

Mystery as hundreds of elephants found dead

MYSTERY surrounds the "completely unprecedented" deaths of hundreds of elephants in Botswana over the last two months.

Dr Niall McCann said colleagues in the southern African country had spotted more than 350 elephant carcasses in the Okavango Delta since the start of May.

No one knows why the animals are dying, with

lab results on samples still weeks away, according to the government.

Botswana is home to a third of Africa's declining elephant population.

Dr McCann, of the UK-based charity National Park Rescue, told the BBC local conservationists first alerted the government in early May, after they undertook a flight over the delta.

"They spotted 169 in a three-hour flight," he said. "To be able to see and count that many in a three-hour flight was extraordinary."

"A month later, further investigations identified many more carcasses, bringing the total to over 350."

"This is totally unprecedented in terms of numbers of elephants dying in a single event unrelated to drought," he added.

Back in May, Botswana's government ruled out poaching as a reason - noting the tusks had not been removed, according to Phys.org.

There are other things which point to something other than poaching.

"It is only elephants that are dying and nothing else," Dr



McCann said. "If it was cyanide used by poachers, you would expect to see other deaths."

Dr McCann has also tentatively ruled out natural anthrax poisoning, which killed at least 100 elephants in Botswana last year.

But they have been unable to rule out either poisoning or disease. The way the animals appear to be dying - many dropping on their faces - and sightings of other elephants walking in circles points to something potentially attacking their neurological systems, Dr McCann said.

Either way, without knowing the source, it is impossible to rule out the possibility of a disease crossing into the human population - especially if the cause is in

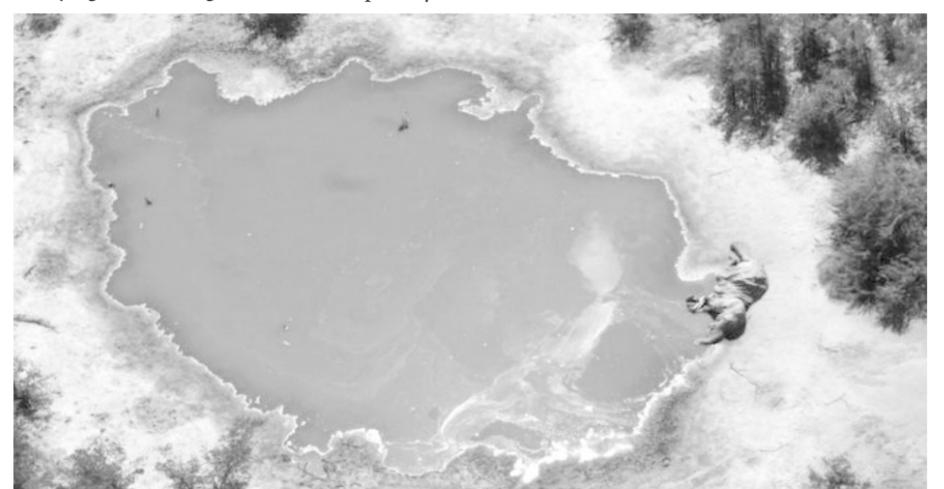
either the water sources or the soil. Dr McCann points to the Covid-19 pandemic, which is believed to have started in animals.

"Yes, it is a conservation disaster - but it also has the potential to be a public health crisis," he said.

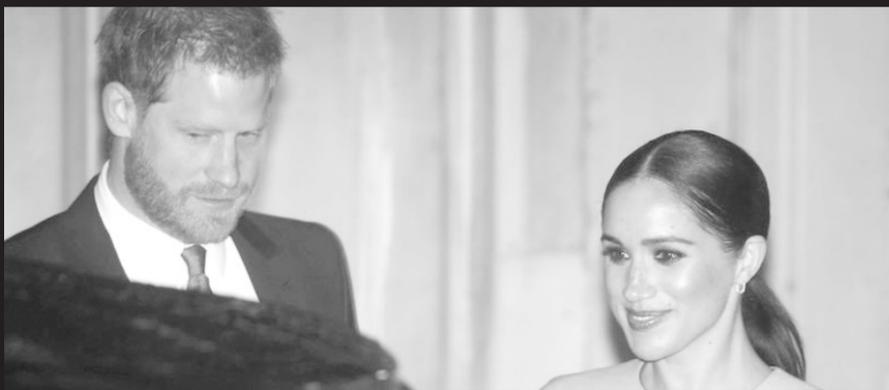
Dr Cyril Taolo, acting director for Botswana's department of wildlife and national parks, told the Guardian they had so far confirmed at least 280 elephants had died, and were in the process of confirming the rest.

However, they did not know what was causing the animals' deaths.

"We have sent [samples] off for testing and we are expecting the results over the next couple of weeks or so," he said. **BBC**



Meghan felt 'unprotected' by UK royal family while pregnant - court papers



MEGHAN, the Duchess of Sussex, felt "unprotected" by the British royal family while she was pregnant with her son Archie, according to London High Court documents filed as part of her legal action against a tabloid newspaper.

Meghan, wife of Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince Harry, is suing publisher Associated Newspapers over articles its Mail on Sunday newspaper printed last year which included parts of a handwritten letter she had sent to her estranged father, Thomas Markle, in August 2018.

Markle and his daughter have not spoken since he pulled out of appearing at her wedding to Harry three months earlier after undergoing heart surgery and following news he had staged photos with a paparazzi

photographer.

The Mail justified publishing the letter by saying five unnamed friends of Meghan, who gave birth to Archie in May 2019, had put her version of events in interviews with the U.S. magazine People.

"The Claimant had become the subject of a large number of false and damaging articles by the UK tabloid media, specifically by the Defendant, which caused tremendous emotional distress and damage to her mental health," her lawyers said in a submission to the High Court.

"As her friends had never seen her in this state before, they were rightly concerned for her welfare, specifically as she was pregnant, unprotected by the Institution, and prohibited from defending herself." **Reuters**

Guardiola's toughest test yet: Can Man City boss emulate Ferguson and rebuild his own team?

NEXT season will represent a new challenge for Pep Guardiola.

The Manchester City boss has never before started a new campaign as a former title-winning manager for the same club.

In his four years at Barcelona, Guardiola claimed the Liga crown at the first attempt and retained it twice. He had already announced he was taking a 12-month sabbatical from the game when Real Madrid dethroned the Blaugrana as champions of Spain in his final season at Camp Nou.

Three years at Bayern Munich then resulted in three consecutive Bundesliga triumphs and, after a third-placed finish in his maiden campaign at City, he delivered back-to-back Premier League titles, in 2018 and 2019.

So, when the new season gets under way – whenever that will be – one of Guardiola's sides will be trying to put themselves back on their perch for the very first time.

Such is the high turnover of managers at the elite level these days, many never get the opportunity to reclaim a title, as even a second-placed finish can be deemed 'failure' and, thus, result in the sack.

However, Guardiola has never been forced out by any previous club. On the contrary, he left both Barca and Bayern on his own terms. In addition, he has never been one for long tenures.

The upcoming season, though, will be his fifth at City – a significant milestone for Guardiola and one could that present him with the toughest test of his stellar

coaching career to date.

Of course, Thursday night's opponents, newly crowned champions Liverpool, will be the biggest obstacle standing between Pep and another Premier League trophy.

Jurgen Klopp's side set a historic pace to clinch their first top-flight title in 30 years, and the noises coming out of Anfield suggest that the Reds will remain relentless in their pursuit of success.

There remains a belief at the Etihad Stadium that they can get the better of Liverpool – just as they did last season, when they pipped the Merseysiders to the title by a point.

However, there is an acceptance that tweaks will need to be made to the squad this summer.

At the start of the season,

the City boss told his players to forget about the success of the previous two years and "start from zero", but they have fallen a long way below their usual standard of excellence, as underlined by the fact that they have suffered eight league defeats already this season – more than their previous two campaigns combined (six).

Working under the Catalan is physically and mentally exhausting, and some players struggle to cope with that kind of intensity for more than a couple of years.

"I will be watching the rest of his season closely, just as my bosses have to decide whether I deserve to stay here," Guardiola said in January. "With my eyes, I will look at the players and see who deserves to be here and what I need to do.

"I speak often with the club and we will take a decision after this. Everything in football is related to performance – it's the same for me and the players."

There was never a question that the club's hierarchy would jettison a coach they hold in the highest esteem; one they would dearly love to stay beyond the final year of his contract.

However, as previously demonstrated at Camp Nou and the Allianz Arena, Guardiola has always been mindful of overstaying his welcome beyond the point where his players grow weary of his demanding nature and stop following his instructions.

There have even been moments at City when he has questioned whether

that point has already been reached – not least during a frank exchange of views with senior players after a run of bad results over the spring.

However, he does not believe he has lost their trust, and the 2-1 victory at Real Madrid in February, when Guardiola risked an unorthodox line-up and formation, has only restored faith in the coach, his methods and their chances of Champions League glory.

In terms of next season, the arrival of a new centre-back, full-back and forward during the transfer window would undoubtedly reinvigorate and improve the squad, but Guardiola's own approach will also be interesting.

In the past, he has been tough and uncompromising in his drive to improve players, performances and results.

However, after two draining, almost-flawless campaigns, he tried to adopt a more relaxed attitude this season. It has not paid off in the punishing Premier League.

"When you win everything, your players have great confidence in themselves, they believe that if they have managed to win two, three, four times, they can do it again," he revealed after his first campaign with City.

"At the same time, there is a risk that they think they are better than they are, and you have to calm them down. And when you do not win, you have to be closer to them, empathise and make them understand that we can win next time.

"The advantage of managing these situations is that they are willing to let you help them."

Guardiola has maintained he will not follow in the footsteps of Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger, who both stayed at the same club for two decades or more.

The legendary duo proved adept at rebuilding teams, particularly Ferguson, who won the Premier League in his final season at Manchester United in 2013, 20 years after his first title triumph at Old Trafford.

Whenever someone threatened to end the Red Devils' reign, the Scot would lead them right back to the top.

That is what Guardiola must now do at City. Given he has mastered every other aspect of the coaching game to date, it would take a brave person to bet against him doing so again. **GOAL**

Saka signing more important to Arsenal than retaining record-breaker Aubameyang

ONE down, one to go!

Contract talk has dominated the headlines at Arsenal in recent months, with the futures of Bukayo Saka and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang very much up in the air.

But on Wednesday, Saka put an end to all the speculation when he signed a new long-term deal with the Gunners, committing his future to the club until the summer of 2024.

Attention will now turn to Aubameyang, and whether he follows suit will go a long way to deciding if Arsenal can start competing again towards the top of the Premier League over the next couple of seasons.

Mikel Arteta has already stated that he wants to keep hold of the striker at "all costs", and talks will accelerate with the 31-year-old over the coming weeks ahead of what will now be a shortened summer transfer window.

But whatever happens with Aubameyang, Arsenal have already secured their most crucial signing of the summer by convincing Saka to stay.

That might raise a few eyebrows with people when you consider the Gabon international's impressive scoring record since he made the move to Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018.

But losing Saka at this stage of his career would have been a hammer blow to the club and to the



Arsenal fans.

Saka is a player who has progressed through Arsenal's academy at Hale End at an incredible rate, one who the club have invested vast amounts of time and money into to shape him into the player he is today.

He has been with Arsenal since he was seven, and thus has the club in his blood. So it would have been heartbreaking for those coaches who have helped him develop and for the supporters who have watched him progress through the ranks to lose him at this point.

"I think he represents every value that this football club stands for," said Arteta in the aftermath of Wednesday's announcement. "He

has come through the academy, earned his respect with hard work and accountability and you can see the progression that he is having as a player but as well as a person.

"He is a player that his team-mates really like, that I admire and he has a big hunger to become even better, so I think it is the perfect thing to do right now."

This is a deal that has been months in the making for Saka. It was obvious during the four senior appearances he made last season that he was something a bit special, but the giant strides he has made since the start of the current campaign have even caught him by surprise.

"Everything's happened

so quickly," he admitted. "I came up to Colney [from Hale End] last year and then all of a sudden I was playing against Manchester United in the Premier League.

"That game in September, man... I was standing on the pitch at Old Trafford before the match – it was just my second-ever start in the Premier League – and it finally hit me: I'm in the Arsenal first team."

He has never looked back since. Saka was an unused substitute during Wednesday night's 4-0 success against Norwich City, with Arteta taking the chance to rest the youngster who has made 33 appearances in all competitions this season.

He has three goals to his name and 11 assists. No teenager has hit that

number in a single season for Arsenal since Cesc Fabregas in 2006-07.

The fact he has done that in a year which has seen him play under three different coaches and be deployed in several different positions, including a prolonged spell at left-back, speaks volumes for his quality.

No matter where he plays, he performs. And for a player of his age that is very exciting.

"I love playing for Arsenal," said Saka, when asked why he had extended his contract. "I love playing for the coach, the fans, my team-mates, I really believe in the philosophy that the boss is bringing and what he's building, and I'm just really excited to see where he's going to take us in the future." **GOAL**

Auba sets new Arsenal record

ARSENAL ace Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang notched his 50th Premier League goal for the Gunners against Norwich to become the club's quickest player to that mark in the modern era, reaching the milestone on the occasion of his 79th appearance.

With his future still very much in doubt, the Gabon international opened the scoring against the relegation strugglers by robbing goalkeeper Tim Krul and then tapping into an unguarded net.

Soon afterwards, he laid on his side's second against the basement club, delivering the pass from which Granit Xhaka fired under the Dutchman from a testing angle to make it 2-0.

It was, however, his contribution from the opener that fired him into the club's history books as he notched the mark in a quicker time than legendary figures such as Thierry Henry and Ian Wright, who took 87 and 101 games respectively to reach the mark in the red of Arsenal.

Indeed, only five players have been quicker to the 50-goal mark in the history of the Premier League.

Andy Cole, who came through the Arsenal youth ranks before achieving fame at Newcastle and Manchester United, is the fastest to his half century, grabbing it in 65 games, one fewer than Alan Shearer and three quicker than another former Old Trafford star in the form of Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Anfield favourites Mohamed Salah and Fernando Torres both reached their 50 in 72 matches, putting the former Borussia Dortmund and AC Milan forward, who turned 31 last month, in illustrious company. **GOAL**

CRICKETERS LAUNCH LEAGUE

By Abraham Kalito

THE Zambia Professional Cricket Association has launched the first ever league which will kick off on July 4, 2020 with four teams scheduled to participate at the maiden competition.

Speaking during the launch in Lusaka, Thursday, Sports Minister Emmanuel Mulenga said the maiden cricket league would contribute to the Vision 2030 whose aim is to attain at least 80 per cent of citizens participating in a sport of their choice.

He said in the absence of major sporting events, it was time for Zambians to showcase their cricket talent to the world and contribute to the development of the nation.

"You may wish to know that sports, including cricket, can be a tool for positive youth development if used appropriately. Let me take this opportunity to call upon the young people to stand with the government in leading the country on a path to sustainable development. I wish to appeal to the association to consider investing in sports related programs that help advance the welfare of the youth in the country. As a Ministry, our vision is to attain at least 80 percent of the citizens' participation in a sport of their choice by the year 2030. The establishment of the Zambia Professional Cricket League will certainly contribute to the attainment of this vision. We are optimistic about the cricket future of Zambia," Mulenga said.

He noted that the cricket world was expanding and the government thought now was the time to create a

platform where Zambia could showcase its cricket talent to the world.

"It's time for us to showcase our sporting talent to the

world when there are not lots of sporting events going on. I wish to congratulate the teams that will be participating at the maiden tournament

namely Lusaka Heats, Kabwe Stars, Kitwe Kings and Ndola Blitz. You are already winners by participating in this important tournament

and it is hoped that you will inspire others to choose the sport of Cricket and indeed participate at a professional level," said Mulenga.

Duggary calls Messi 'half autistic' in shocking rant



FORMER France striker Christophe Duggary has been roundly criticised for insensitive comments made towards Lionel Messi, in which he referred to the Argentine as a "1.5m tall kid" who is "half autistic".

Duggary was speaking on RMC Sport as part of the broadcaster's coverage of Barcelona's 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, a match in which Griezmann was subbed on for the final minutes of yet another disappointing display under Quique Setien.

The 48-year-old maintains

that Griezmann's struggles to nail down a starting spot at Camp Nou are down to a lack of harmony and caused outrage when proposing a solution to the problem.

"What is [Griezmann] afraid of? A kid who is 1.5 metres tall and half autistic?" the 1998 World Cup winner said. "All he has to do is show some balls at some point."

"I've been saying for a year that he has a problem with Messi. He has to hit him in the face."

"It's true that Messi could give him more passes, but honestly I am not surprised.

Griezmann loses balls, doesn't play with confidence. Griezmann should go and talk to Messi to solve the problem."

Of course, Duggary's comments caused outrage throughout the football world and he has since issued an apology, albeit later deciding to delete the response from his social media account.

"I'm sincerely sorry for the breadth and depth of my remarks about Lionel Messi," he tweeted. "I didn't want to stigmatise people with autism disorders, that was not my intention. I apologise to the people I shocked and will

do it again (apologise) on Team Duga (TV show) this evening."

Messi was not the only Barca employee Duggary singled out for criticism, however, with under-fire coach Setien getting both barrels from the Frenchman.

"He is not a decisive coach. Setien is very nice but he doesn't have the right credentials - he didn't know who to change," Duggary said. "He replaced Sergio Busquets in the 85th minute to bring in Ansu Fati and launched Griezmann in in the 90th. **GOAL**