



WE'RE ALREADY CELEBRATING - PF

By Mirriam Chabala
LUSAKA Province PF chairman Paul Moonga says the ruling party does not care whether the Opposition Alliance fields one candidate in next year's general election because no one will stop President Edgar Lungu from winning.

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2021 victory certain, with or without Opposition Alliance

Grenade cuts gold-seeking Luangwa man into pieces

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

A MAN believed to be between the ages of 30 and 40 has died and his intestines ripped off after a grenade which he was holding exploded in Luangwa District.

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Short voter registration period may be ECZ's trick to favour PF - PAC



By Ulande Nkomesha

PEOPLE'S Alliance for Change president Andyford Banda says the Electoral Commission of Zambia is being rigid by not wanting to extend the timeframe for voter registration.

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A Petauke trader moves a cow's head to the market for sale

Lungu should be ashamed for telling the same Mulungushi Textiles lie, says Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala

CHISHIMBA Kambwili says the announcement by President Edgar Lungu to fully operationalise Mulungushi Textiles in Central Province's Kabwe district by January next year is a big political joke.

Kambwili, who is opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) president, said in an interview that it was embarrassing that the Head of State could repeat the same "lie" he told during the 2016 election campaigns to woo people into voting for him again in another election.

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HH president of S/Province, we won't allow him to mobilise anywhere else, says Bowman

By Julia Malunga

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has locked himself out of the Copperbelt because his supporters booed President

Edgar Lungu in Monze.

In an interview, Lusambo said Hichilema was a president of Southern Province and would not be allowed to mobilize in other parts of the country.

"Hakainde Hichilema has locked up himself. He is the President of Monze and Southern Province because other parts, we will not allow him to mobilize. President Lungu is a flag carrier, you should give him respect. Let them behave like that when we are with councilors not the President..."

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Mweetwa explains why Monze residents booed Lungu

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By Mirriam Chabala
LUSAKA Province PF chairman Paul Moonga says the ruling party does not care whether the Opposition Alliance fields one candidate in next year’s general election because no one will stop President Edgar Lungu from winning.

And Moonga has advised Zambians to stop following retired Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu, saying he claims to be a Christian when in fact not.

In an interview, Moonga boasted that the PF was there to stay and that it was already preparing for 2026 general election because 2021 was already a done deal.

“For us, we only have one agenda and that is to unite

Chavuma man kills biological brother

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 41-YEAR-OLD man has allegedly been murdered by his biological brother while attempting to separate his siblings who were fighting over a plot given to them by their parents.

According to a statement issued by police spokesperson Esther Katongo, Monday, the incident happened on Sunday around 17:30 hours at Sanjongo area in Chavuma District.

“A male adult, aged 41, identified as Benjamin Kuku of Maseka Village Chief Ndungu in Chavuma District was allegedly murdered by his biological brother. It is alleged that on Sunday 5th July, 2020 around 17:30 hours at Sanjongo area in Chavuma District, two biological brothers named Njonjo Kuku, 57 and Chipungu Kuku, 46, both of the same village, were fighting over a plot given to them by their parents, eventually their young brother Benjamin Kuku attempted to separate them, but unfortunately was stabbed in the chest by Njonjo Kuku and bled profusely to death,” stated Katongo.

“Police visited the scene and picked the body, which is now in the mortuary at Chavuma Mission Hospital while the suspect is in police custody and will appear in court soon.”

As PF, we’re already celebrating our 2021 victory – Moonga

this country. Our politics is not based on tribe, or colour or lineages. Our politics is based on ‘One Zambia, One Nation’ and to take this country to the highest level that everybody would not even believe. So, we are not scared of any political party or any candidate. We have got formidable, now he’s (President Lungu) even stronger than before because now he understands the politics in State House and he cannot gamble anymore. When Edgar Lungu goes in 2026, one of his lieutenants who are learning his leadership style, one of them will emerge a winner in 2026. So, we are there to stay, tell them,” argued Moonga.

“2026 we are winning, 2021 tinawina kudala yeve osakamba nokamba! (We’ve already won the 2021 elections so don’t even talk about them!) We are already celebrating our 2021 victory. The debate, now, should be about 2026. We are planning ahead as PF. If you don’t plan, it will be an accident. So, we are far much ahead

of the opposition because we are planning for 2026. The opposition is behind because they are still crying about the elections, which they lost because they still don’t know

how they lost. We know how we won and we know how to improve to win big time. We were at 51 per cent in 2021, now we are aiming at 75 per cent victory. So, that’s the

Grenade explosion cuts gold - seeking Luangwa man into pieces

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

A man believed to be between the ages of 30 and 40 has died and his intestines ripped off after a grenade which he was holding exploded in Luangwa District.

In a statement, Monday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo stated that the deceased identified as Elias Phiri died instantly after he attempted to check for gold in a grenade.

“The deceased is reported to have gone in the bush, North East of Luangwa Bridge approximately 1.2 Kilometers up hills of the Luangwa River to cut some trees and whilst there, came across an object which he suspected to be containing gold. He hit it with an axe and it exploded and the fragment injured him severely, cutting his left palm, caused severe wounds on his right palm, intestines were ripped off and had deep wounds on both thighs. The axe used was also damaged. The grenade also damaged some trees at the scene of the fatal incident,” Katongo stated.

She stated that police have picked the body and that relatives intend to bury it without post-mortem.*Story Continues on P7*



difference between ourselves and the opposition.”

Moonga reiterated that the ruling party had a Christiano Ronaldo in President Lungu, adding that the PF were already celebrating the 2021 election victory while preparing for the 2026 polls.

He also argued that the opposition had no agenda other than removing a legitimate government from power, which was delivering its promises to Zambians.

“We are not threatened by any candidate. I keep on saying time and again that they can bring five defenders on one striker I call Ronaldo. Edgar Chagwa Lungu is unstoppable! We don’t care if the Opposition Alliance will field in one candidate because the people of Zambia know our capacity to deliver services; they have seen and our work will speak for us. The opposition only has an agenda and

that is to remove Edgar Chagwa Lungu and PF out of government, so after that, what next? You have only one sole agenda of removing a legitimate government from office, who is doing fine, so if you remove him (President Lungu), what next?” Moonga asked.

“So, you can see that there is nothing these people are going to offer. What are they offering on the table? Their campaign is not issue-based, it is malicious and scandalous! The opposition has continued to call us corrupt, but we are delivering. Just over the weekend, the President was in Southern Province to deliver projects. So, we don’t choose where to take development whether they voted for us or not. Once we are voted in office, everyone becomes our people, including HH and all those arrogant and finished characters in their new alliance!”

And Moonga alleged that the pioneers of the recently-launched OCIDA were being used by the opposition to remove the PF government from power.

“What can they offer? What will (Dr Sketchley) Sacika offer the Zambian people? Retired and tired people want to come back to politics. How can you bring Kalusha Bwalya back to start playing football? He had his time, now we have Patson Daka and [Enock] Mwepu. So, this is time for Edgar Chagwa Lungu. Some people have tried, but they have failed. Even at school, if a child has failed exams five times, even parents become tired sending that child back to school. So, these are tired politicians whose agenda is nothing, they are just saying, ‘we shall field one candidate’, which candidate? They have one only one candidate in mind and that is HH. The rest are [all] being used, we know the agenda behind. We have Telesphore Mpundu, retired Bishop, a man who was cheating to be a Christian, yet he is not. Bishop Mpundu, are those people you can surely be following?” asked Moonga.

Mwiimbu wonders why PF is panicking over Article 52 if they have an eligible candidate

By Ulande Nkomesha

MONZE Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu says the PF are desperate to enact the Constitution Amendment Bill 10 of 2019 to ensure that no one challenges President Edgar Lungu’s eligibility to stand as President next year.

Mwiimbu said that the PF were desperate to enact Bill 10 to ensure that no one was able to challenge President Lungu’s eligibility to stand as President next year.

“Honourable Mundubile has just confirmed the irrational and emotional discourse pertaining to Bill 10 by the Patriotic Front. It is important to note that Article 52 in the current Constitution protects the interests of the citizens of this country. The rationale behind Article 52 is to ensure that a person who does not qualify does not contest the election in the democratic dispensation. The qualifications and the disqualifications that are provided under the Act

specifically are not exhausted and this is why Article 52 was provided to ensure that members of the public are given an opportunity to bar a person who does not qualify from contesting elections. This particular clause is not targeting any particular individual whatsoever. It is now interesting to note that the PF are so emotive in their quest to have Article 52 repealed,” Mwiimbu said.

“They have realized that Article 52 does not allow candidates to contest the elections who do not qualify and they have just realized that their candidate Edgar Chagwa Lungu does not qualify to contest the 2021 election. That is why they have been very emotive over this issue on Bill 10. As far as we are concerned, the reason why the PF have been insisting to proceed in enacting Bill 10 is nothing else, but Article 52. That is all they are interested in. They are trying to protect the candidature of Edgar Chagwa Lungu. All along they

have been trying by all means to mislead Zambians as to why Bill 10 must be passed. But it has been made very clear by Honourable Mundubile that for all intents and purposes, they are bringing in Bill 10 in order to ensure that Edgar Chagwa Lungu is on the ballot paper in 2021.”

He added that the clause did not in any way disadvantage any person vying for public office, but was just a desperate move to ensure that President Lungu’s eligibility was not challenged next year.

“The argument that Brian Mundubile is trying to indicate and tell the nation that, ‘Lungu will qualify’ does not hold water. If he qualifies to contest the elections, why the panic in the PF camp over Bill 10? As far as we are concerned, we fully support the provision of the current Article 52 and we will not want any of these provisions, which are progressive to be repealed through an illegal process that is currently in place. We have come to the conclusion that

there is no other motive other than ensuring that President Lungu is on the ballot paper in 2021, that is the reason behind Bill 10, nothing else,” said Mwiimbu.

“They are desperate! They think that President Lungu is the only candidate that can win elections in 2021. But us, as UPND and other progressive opposition political parties, we do not mind whoever is put as a candidate for PF for 2021, the PF will still lose the election! We do not want to allow illegalities to take place in the country by ensuring that unprogressive provisions are introduced just to protect an individual. Honourable Mundubile is saying that he doesn’t want provisions to be targeted at individuals; what he is trying to do and his PF, they are bringing in a provision just to protect an individual. Have you ever heard of any other person, a councillor or an MP, who has complained against the current Article 52? None at all.”

Mweetwa explains why Monze residents booed Lungu

By Julia Malunga

UPND deputy spokesperson Cornelius Mweetwa says Monze residents booed President Edgar Lungu because police officers and PF cadres defaced opposition billboards in that area.

In an interview, Mweetwa, who is also Choma Central UPND member of parliament, said people were simply expressing their displeasure to the Head of State on the police conduct.

“What happened in Monze is that

President Lungu’s visit and people behaving like that was a result of irresponsibility on the part of police. Zambia Police, together with the PF cadres, a day before President Lungu’s arrival went on rampage removing all UPND billboards. They defaced portraits that were hanging around in Monze for Hakainde Hichilema. That incensed the people who decided that if they removed the Chitenges and portraits, they were going to show him that they were not happy with him. Why didn’t that happen

in Livingstone and Mazabuka? It is because police working with PF cadres did not go to deface any UPND material. That was not a reaction to President Lungu, that was a reaction to police and cadres to show President Lungu to say ‘you cannot allow this,’ Mweetwa said.

“PF regalia is everywhere in Zambia and no one has conducted an act of defacing them or removing them. So why do that in Monze? They were sending a message to the Commander-in Chief to put the

police in check because the police are not part of a political arena, they are neutral. People had an obligation to highlight police insensitivity by what they did. They did not say President Lungu should not come to Monze, did anyone throw stones at him? No.”

And Mweetwa vowed that the party would still go and meet people in the ruling party’s perceived strongholds.

“I don’t think it is a question of stronghold, we will be meeting our people there. If PF wants to steer and

bring about physical confrontation in their perceived strongholds, they can be, who cares? For what I know is that there is no permanent stronghold. If there was a permanent stronghold, MMD would still have been in power today because Southern Province was number one stronghold for MMD. In 1991, Southern Province gave MMD 100 per cent vote whereas Eastern Province was still voting for UNIP. This is how politics is. So if PF thinks they will be there forever they are daydreaming,” said Mweetwa.



By Ulande Nkomesha
ALLIANCE for Democracy and Development president Charles Milupi says President Edgar Lungu’s justification for not firing corruption-accused Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya gives credence to assertions that he prefers to associate with corrupt people.

Speaking in an interview Milupi said the decision that was taken was wrong as the President should be the first to uphold morals in the country.

“The portfolio of the Minister, especially when we have this pandemic, this is a serious pandemic, do you really need some in charge of this health portfolio to be the one who goes to court, the one who is supposed to prepare his defence? Or would want someone who has a free mind to lead us out of this pandemic? So from an administrative point of view, the President is totally wrong! I don’t know who advises him but it gives credence to the notion that he prefers to be with corrupt people because this Minister is not the only one alleged to be corrupt, he is not the only one who has been taken before court,” Milupi said

“That is why we are even so suspicious of even the acquittals we are seeing of these Ministers, because it might just be a ploy to get these people off if there is a change of government. The President ought to show that the fight against corruption is real because it has impacted negatively on our economy. That is why our engagement with the IMF and other bilateral bodies will not proceed successfully

Lungu prefers associating with corrupt people - Milupi

until we show that we are on top of corruption. When you have a Minister appearing before court and you act as if you are clever that he is innocent until proven guilty, you are doing this country a lot of harm because the re-adjustment of our debts which is required will not happen as long as they continue to take the attitude like that.”

He insisted that keeping Dr Chilufya in office sent a wrong message to law enforcement agencies and judges.

“In this particular case when you get a Minister to continue, the President is sending a message that he is 100 per cent behind this Minister. If he sends a message like that, that he is 100 percent for this Minister, if that message goes to the judge, goes to the magistrate, goes to the prosecutor, goes to the Director of Public Prosecution, goes to

DEC goes to everybody that ‘I as President I am 100 per cent in support of this particular Minister in terms of the case, so be careful’, so let us look at what has happened in the past. Emerine Kabanshi, at what stage did he fire her from Cabinet? It was not even investigated, the matter was not even before courts but he dismissed her on account of the allegations that were made. We have no problem with that but this Minister of Health has been charged and the matter is before courts,” said Milupi.

“This leaves us in a very bad state because the President should be the number one moral guide for this country. The President should be the number one law officer. One would expect that for the President to rise where he is as President of this country, he has done basic

administration in other areas leading to his ascension to the Presidency. If you look at the country, there is a hierarchy; first the is the President, there is the Vice-President then there are Ministers, that is the highest level, I am talking about the

Executive. When the Anti-Corruption Commission finds that there is sufficient evidence for them to pursue a case against that particular Minister, they need the freedom and latitude to be able to execute that without looking over their shoulders

afraid that this person might do this or that because they are juniors to the Cabinet Minister. That is why the President is expected, when a matter like that happens, that he lays off that Minister; either fires them or suspends them, relieving him of their duties to allow the law enforcement officer to carry out their jobs properly. So when the matter goes to court, first of all the prosecutors, the witnesses, or the DEC they should not be under any pressure that this person they are doing this to can carry out certain actions that are detrimental to our well being.”

Lungu should be ashamed for telling the same Mulungushi Textiles lie – Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala
CHISHIMBA Kambwili says the announcement by President Edgar Lungu to fully operationalise Mulungushi Textiles in Central Province’s Kabwe district by January next year is a big political joke.

Kambwili, who is opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) president, said in an interview that it was embarrassing that the Head of State could repeat the same “lie” he told during the 2016 election campaigns to woo people into voting for him again in another election.

“(Laughs), [that is a] big political joke! Big political joke, we’ve heard those jokes before. You see, I have told Zambians before that this man (President Lungu) is not interested in running the affairs of the country, he is only interested in remaining in power. Whenever it’s gets close to elections, he starts to issue false promises. But I want to warn the people of Kabwe, don’t buy President Lungu’s deceit. The man opened Mulungushi Textiles four days before elections in 2016 and closed it 18 days after elections. Today, he can come and lie to you again that he wants Mulungushi Textiles to open before January next year? It is all lies! If President Lungu wants to keep up appearances, you know what he’s going to do? They will look for money to run Mulungushi Textiles from January 2021 to maybe August, and immediately after elections, they will close it again,” Kambwili said.

“Some people have no shame, they just tell lies without any shame. If you tell you people one lie in one election, can you surely go and repeat the same lie in another election even if you have no shame? Isn’t that just embarrassing? Isn’t it embarrassing that you can tell the same lie and you are not even ashamed? Insoni ebuntu, ba Lungu balekwatako insoni (President should be ashamed of himself). May God bless him as he prepares to exit State House.”

Kambwili asked Zambians not to trust President Lungu.

“Zambians don’t trust President Edgar Lungu, more especially on Mulungushi Textiles. These guys their interest is just to remain in power and continue making money for themselves, they don’t care about the welfare of the people of Zambia. Are you not shocked? Why is it that after announcing the reopening of Mulungushi in 2016, it’s been four years and they’ve not reopened it and they just want to do it now? Zambians I am begging you, don’t buy this joke. Even if by fluke or crook, they reopen Mulungushi Textiles in January next year, there is no sustainable plan for it. They will only open it for window dressing to woo the people of Kabwe to try and vote for them. I can assure you that after August next year, that factory will be closed. Remember, they opened it in 2016 for about a month or two and closed it thereafter. This time, they will open it in January and close it in August,” Kambwili said.

He said it was impossible for PF to keep Mulungushi Textiles open.

“You know, it is not a question of opening Mulungushi Textiles, it’s a question of protecting local industries. When they open Mulungushi Textiles and then the Chinese continue flocking this economy with their cheap Chitenges, the vitenges that will be produced at Mulungushi Textiles cannot meet

the price that the Chinese are producing it for, meaning, therefore, that it would be window dressing and the factory will collapse. What needs to be done if they mean it is that if Mulungushi Textiles is opened, we should not allow any chitenge being imported in this country from anywhere. And by the way, it is not only Mulungushi Textiles that was closed, there was Kafue Textiles as well. When they closed these two factories, it was not for anything, they did so because they could not compete with the outside. Can President Lungu tell us whether they will completely top the importation of chitenge from China and Tanzania then we can maybe believe them that Mulungushi Textiles will be sustained. But it is for political expediency,” he said.

Kambwili reminded Zambians of other tricks which the PF government was employing to woo people into voting for them in 2021.

“Have you ever heard in the past FRA buying maize on cash? But this year, they buying maize for cash. But they are failing to pay Council workers. Lusaka City Council workers have not been paid, retirees have not been paid. But they have found money to pay cash for the maize, do you know why? I will tell you why. Since they know that if FRA goes to ask for maize on credit, people will not sell them because FRA’s price for maize is lower than what the private individuals are buying for. So they are worried that FRA will not have maize to come and misled the people of Zambia with that the price of mealie meal has dropped during elections. So what they want is to buy a lot of maize so that towards the elections, they will get the FRA maize, give it free to the millers and ask the millers to produce cheaper mealie meal for the elections and then increase the prices after the elections,” he said.

“People of Zambia wake up! Wake up! Don’t give chance to President Lungu to manipulate you. He has manipulated this country for far too long. But this time, watch him and don’t allow him to manipulate you.”

And commenting on President Lungu’s announcement while in Mazabuka on Saturday that his government would consider building houses for teachers and health workers among other civil servants in future, Kambwili said that would not happen because government had no money.

“The President was telling the people of Southern Province that they are going to build houses for nurses and teachers, bufi bena Zambia (it’s all lies people of Zambia)! Where are they going to get the money? Right now this country has over borrowed. Nobody is ready to lend money to PF anymore. So where are they going to get money to build houses for the teachers? All these are just electioneering tricks by the President. How many houses have they built for the police? They have only brought ubuloshi mu (witchcraft in) police camps. How do you build 25 houses against the population of 1,000 policemen? Then you want to start telling teachers and nurses that you are going to build houses for them. If they cannot increase your salary, teachers and nurses, how can they build you houses? Ask the President where he’s going to get the money to build houses for teachers and other civil servants. The President was just lying, don’t take him seriously dear Zambians,” said Kambwili.



Charles Milupi

Lubinda withdraws defamation case against Lukuku

By Zondiwe Mbewe
JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda has discontinued a matter where he had sued Republican Progressive Party (RPP) leader James Lukuku for accusing him of being a foreigner and questioning his patriotism to the country.

This is according to a notice of discontinuance filed in the Lusaka High Court Principal Registry on July 1, this year, by his lawyers from Messrs Kaunda Kaunda Legal Practitioners.

“Take notice that the plaintiff (Lubinda) has of this date wholly discontinued this action,” read the notice.

In this matter, Lubinda was seeking damages for libel and an order of interlocutory injunction restraining Lukuku, his servants and agents from publishing similar libelous and malicious videos and articles relating to him.

He was further claiming an order of permanent injunction, punitive and exemplary damages, interest on the said damages and costs.

Lubinda, who is also Kabwata PF member of parliament, stated in his statement of claim that sometime in June, this year, Lukuku recorded himself in an untitled video in which he confidently stated that he (Lubinda) was a foreigner and further questioned his patriotism to Zambia.

“The Defendant (Lukuku) particularly stated as follows:

‘When you look at Given Lubinda, you should ask him before you start talking about Bill 10; where is your National Registration Card? It’s going to be interesting for you to check on the National Registration Card of Given Lubinda so that you can ascertain if that person has got the nation at heart. When you meet Lubinda, before he talks about Bill 10, ask him who is his chief? The other question that you are supposed to ask Given Lubinda is, what’s the name of his father and mother?... And ask him what kind of a nationality he is because some of these people you don’t even know ku sukulu kwa mene bana yenda ngati ni kuti. They have formulated a new Bill 10 nomba ewo bepwishe ni nani pali iyo Bill 10 iyo apangile iya new. Why is it that at every corner, it is foreigners invading this country? But we know of people that have got questionable nationalities. They are at the forefront of formulating Bill 10. Cino ichalo democracy nga ya onaika ifi fine balefwaya ukonaula Parliament. Once Parliament is destroyed, Given Lubinda is not going to be affected by any chaos that we can have in this country because even his children don’t stay in Zambia,” read the claim.

Lubinda stated that the said words in their natural and ordinary meaning meant and had been understood to

mean that: he was an imposter, a fraud, a cheater and was not patriotic to Zambia.

He added that the words were also understood to mean that he did not care for Zambians, he forged or fabricated his primary and secondary school certificates, was a thief and did not respect land alienation procedures.

Lubinda stated that the video had been widely published and circulated on social media, and electronic media in general, within and outside the jurisdiction.

“On the basis of the foregoing, in the estimation of ordinary and right-thinking members of the public, the plaintiff (Lubinda) has suffered, and continues to suffer, scandal, ridicule, odium, contempt, and embarrassment generally,” read the statement of claim.

He stated that the words complained of were false and were maliciously published by Lukuku without lawful excuse.

Lubinda further stated that politics was not about character assassination, but about putting forth developmental ideas and policies.

He stated that freedom of expression and all media freedoms were not a passport to attacking private lives, and generally character assassination, of political opponents, and accordingly the aforesaid freedoms were not absolute.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
RULING Patriotic Front (PF) member of the mobilization committee Bizwell Mutale says the UPND thuggery exhibited by the people of Monze District is a representation of Hakainde Hichilema alone and not of all Tongas.

In a statement, Monday, Mutale charged that the attempt by UPND cadres in Monze to stone President Edgar Lungu's entourage was of Hichilema's bidding and area member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu and should be condemned.

"The reckless talk and provocative behaviour by Hon Jack Mwiimbu resulting in UPND cadres attempting to stone and embarrass the Head of State, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, on his recent visit to Monze District was very irresponsible, shameful and extremely disgusting! As a proud Tonga from Monze, I am with many other



Not all Tongas have bad manners, just HH – PF

tribemates from Southern Province, who are extremely disappointed by Hakainde Hichilema, Mwiimbu and UPND thuggery as it goes against the traditional values of Ba Tonga people who practice a culture of respect for elders and authority," Mutale stated.

He charged that the UPND leadership under HH had a deliberate strategy calculated at inciting anarchy and igniting confusion in the country.

"Zambians must be reminded that this is not happening for the first time. It is clear that the UPND leadership, under HH, have a very deliberate strategy calculated at inciting anarchy and igniting confusion by provoking the Presidential convoy and State security whenever the Head of State goes on developmental tours in perceived UPND strongholds. It is the same thing that HH did in Mongu where he attempted to compete with the Presidential convoy and it is also the same thing he repeated in Kaoma and then Sesheke when he turned a blind eye to his cadres, who put big rocks and boulders to block the road the Presidential convoy was using, thereby,

endangering the life of the Head of State and putting the entire nation at great risk in the process," Mutale added.

He stated that the

malicious irresponsibility of Hichilema, Mwiimbu and the UPND is capable of plunging the country into chaos.

"It must be condemned in

the strongest terms. HH's lust for power at all costs is now a disgrace to Ba Tonga. He does not represent the nationalism of our forefathers such as

PF determined to use police to prolong its stay in power - Kalala

By Mirriam Chabala
FORMER State House Chief Policy Analyst Jack Kalala says it will be difficult for the opposition to campaign in 2021 because the ruling party is determined to use the Zambia Police Service to prolong its stay in power.

Kalala has, however, urged the police to be professional at all times, reminding them of their Constitutional mandate of protecting the nation and the people without fear or favour.

In an interview, Kalala called on the police to reflect on their performance from the time PF came into power, explaining that the police service had a mandate to serve all citizens of Zambia regardless of their political affiliation.

"These people (PF) are

determined to remain in power and they are going to make it very difficult for the opposition to campaign in 2021 just like they did in Chilubi Island. They will use the police. But my appeal to the police is that they should sit down and review their performance up to now because they don't exist to serve a political party, they are there to serve the people of Zambia. The police are there to protect Zambians, to give protection to each and every citizen. But if they are given orders to say 'go and beat up that one because he has spoken, go and arrest that one', they should refuse," Kalala said.

"They should follow the law, they should not just arrest people because they have been given instructions, no! They have a Constitution to follow. Otherwise, if they continue to do that...you are aware in fact that even the IG said they are working very well with PF government, that the PF has bought that and that. It's not the PF that has bought the equipment for the police, it's the people of Zambia. It is the people of Zambia who paid tax to buy that equipment for the police. Now that equipment is not intended to be used against the people of Zambia. They are supposed to protect the people of Zambia, not PF. PF is just a political party."

He reminded the police officers that there was life before the PF came into power and that it would continue even after the party was voted out of office.

"Life does not start and end with PF; we have had other political parties in power before in this country,

they have come and gone. But the police service remains the same. For example, IG Kanganja, when did he join the police service? He was not employed by the PF government. Most of these senior officers were employed a long time ago...Kanganja was employed during the time of UNIP and the others were employed during the time of MMD. So this shows you that regardless of which party is put in government, the officers should remain neutral. The police should not protect the PF constitution which says that PF should be in power forever. Who told them that it should be in power forever? It's Zambians who have the mandate to put a political party in power for period of five years. Then after five years, they review the performance of this party and then make a decision. If they decide that this party has not performed well or that this President has not performed well, then they [vote] him out and put in another person and it continues like that. That's what democracy is all about," said Kalala.

"So Zambia is a democratic state and the police should defend democracy because that's what is in the Constitution. There is nothing in the [Republican] Constitution that says PF should be defended, no! What is there is that democracy should be protected: the rights of this country should be protected, the freedoms of speech should be protected along with all the other freedoms of the people and that's the mandate that the police have and any other person in uniform working in government."



Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula, Mainza Chona and Elijah Haatuakali Mudenda to name a few. The UPND leader and his party's morally-deficient character does not represent the spirit of nationalism," Mutale stated.

"How can HH and UPND fix anything when he and his officials are either preoccupied with frustrating government development projects everywhere in Southern Province or busy inciting civil unrest and destr[uction]? Why needlessly risk ethnic bloodshed breaking out in Monze and spreading nationwide just to satisfy one man's selfish ego? The waywardness of one man can never be bigger than the honour of the entire Tonga-speaking ethnic group of Southern Province."

He stated that it had been a habit of the UPND in Southern Province to victimize and brutalize people who were not members of their party.

"HH and Mwiimbu want to make it look as if all southerners are UPND when in fact not. The truth is that UPND in Southern Province victimize and brutalize any southerner that is not UPND. It is even much worse how they mistreat non-southerners affiliated to other political parties in the province. It is shameful! HH is not the messiah of Southern Province or anyone else as he claims. He is in fact a liability to Southern Province. Under his instructions, UPND members of parliament and councillors are shunning progressive engagements with key government officials, including the Head of State, and frustrating government development efforts in Southern Province," Mutale stated.

He further charged that Monze had continued to remain undeveloped because of Mwiimbu's unwillingness to work with successive governments.

"Honourable Jack Mwiimbu has been member of parliament for Monze for 20 years (2001), yet what can he point at? Monze constituency is not as developed as it should be. Why? This not because of unwillingness on the part of successive governments under MMD and PF, but because of Mwiimbu's unwillingness to work with respective governments of the day to bring development to the people of Monze. He appears to have a misplaced belief that only a 'government under a Tonga party led by HH' should bring development to Monze and Southern Province," stated Mutale.

"In the meantime, Mwiimbu has been drawing a salary and sitting allowances from Parliament, plus gratuity, from the National Assembly since 2001. He appears to have no problems with getting a salary and gratuity from government, but appears to have a big problem with meeting government officials seeking to take development to Monze. This is typical of UPND MPs and councillors in Southern Province. I appeal to my fellow southerners in Monze and across Southern Province to open their eyes!"

Short voter registration period may be ECZ's trick to favour PF – PAC

By Ulande Nkomesha
PEOPLE'S Alliance for Change president Andyford Banda says the Electoral Commission of Zambia is being rigid by not wanting to extend the timeframe for voter registration.

And Banda says now is not the right time to talk about an opposition alliance ahead of the 2021 general election.

ECZ Chief Electoral Officer Patrick Nshindano recently said the commission would not extend the 30-day voter registration exercise timeframe because everything must be prepared and set towards the date that had already been enshrined in the Constitution for the 2021 general elections in August.

But Banda, in an interview, said the timeframe set for voter registration by the Electoral Commission of Zambia was not adequate to reach the targeted 2.3 million new voters.

He said people should not be surprised if the ECZ starts playing tricks with the process, charging that the electoral body was controlled by the PF.

"In our meeting with ECZ, we did mention on the voter registration and more so for the number of voters they are targeting. They are targeting about 2.3 million in a period of one month. We told them one month is not enough and some of the proposals we said were that they need to start the online registration early, so that voters can start registering before the time of the physical registration begins. We know that the ECZ is controlled by the PF government and it wouldn't be surprising if there are tricks that are to be played. We may find that voter registration would have happened in the so called PF strongholds and then it has not happened in the opposition strongholds. Definitely, we will have new strongholds as we go into 2021," Banda said.

"So the ECZ should not be rigid because this is a do or die election; people have to register to vote. We don't want a situation where voters are disadvantaged. We have a lot of people who don't like to stand in queues, we need to make sure that we take care of everyone and ensure that this issue is settled out. I don't think ECZ will lose out if they even do it for another six weeks or a month, I don't think they will lose out because this is the most critical part of the electoral calendar."

And Banda said it is not wise to rush into alliances for the sake of change.

He said Zambians must be given chance to make their electoral decisions in a proper way.

"As the People's Alliance for Change, we believe that it is better to bring about change but we want a situation where people are sure about the change they need going into 2021. I think rushing into creating alliances just for the sake of change, these are situations where you find people start calling for change every five years. We should not forget that 10 years ago, people were calling for change, again they want change, they are saying that they are tired; this is because we have not given the people a chance to actually choose their leaders in a proper way," said Banda.

"Now, we want to play with the anger of the people and their desperation to bring out change? That should not be allowed. In any event, this is democracy...for now, we need to let all political parties to play their role by selling themselves ahead of the elections. We don't want a situation where a few stakeholders are programming people to start calling for the opposition to come together. I think if they have strong manifestos, it would be good for them to encourage voters to pay attention to all the candidates as they make the right decision. We don't want change just for the sake of change."



Board Appointments Not for Novices

I WAS at a corporate governance induction programme and as I prepared myself for the presentation, I scanned the audience to know who generated a tiny female voice. I know that some institutions bring in interns to training sessions to support with logistics, but these usually sit some distance away. I was inquisitive about this participant and since everyone was just returning from coffee break, I beckoned the CEO for a side engagement.

‘Director, that young lady over there, is she part of the management team?’ I asked, though fully convinced she was an intern because she looked incredibly young. It was, however, not unusual for me to engage in such discussions because I also take a lot of interest knowing my participants. This helps me know how to engage and probably tone down on content. However, my question ignited some subtle laughter from the CEO before he answered, ‘Director, that lady is my boss. She is one of those to review my contract next week.’ I came to learn she was a college student appointed to the board by the appointing authority. In family businesses, that is somewhat a common feature.

It was, nonetheless, evident from this brief discussion that the CEO was probably excited he had a novice on the board, someone he could easily bulldoze so that he had his way on most board decisions. There is nothing sweeter for a CEO than to have a board of novices, one whose neck you can easily twist. You are always assured decisions will go your way and you are a defunct executive chairperson of such a board. It can also be true that a board full of novices is a risk to the organization and this is the kind of board that will not renew your contract even if you scored 99 percent in the KPIs.

I have met board directors who worship the CEO, this happens even for State Owned Enterprises. I recall a moment I was running a board induction and one female board member kept referring to the CEO as, ‘Sir,’ (nothing wrong about that but the tone was that of total submission, unquestionable loyalty). The CEO may have hinted to some directors he had a strong hand in their appointment to the board. This lady may have never imagined she would ever serve on a board, let alone a board where such a personality was the CEO.

It takes one with a strong spine

to change loyalty levels and be able to maintain what we consider as ‘Board independence’ (by the way, board independence is not only about the Board members being able to act professionally without undue influence from the shareholders; there are many boards that are not independent of management and such behaviour exists even among the established multinational companies).

Going back to the issue of the young lady who served as a new director on a parastatal board: I have no serious problem exposing young people to high level organizational appointments. If they are engaged early, we will have incredible diversity on individuals eligible to sit on boards. It is such young people capable of bringing up quality contributions if respected and valued. We have come from a culture of ‘Old Boys Club’ where the same individuals got appointed to several boards. It is not so much about what these individuals will contribute to the organization but what the organization will contribute to them.

There are individuals who take pride proclaiming they sit on 20 boards as though that is a sign of efficiency and effectiveness. This trend has not fully disappeared in Zambia especially in the private sector where directors appoint one another and such becomes an issue of serving a friend’s back (multinationals usually appoint directors who are not political but are very close to politicians, which gives them an opportunity to lobby for certain interests quietly).

There has been significant improvement for State Owned Enterprises where most seats are reserved for professional bodies such as ZICA, LAZ, EIZ (though even here, the appointing authority will ask for three nominations and one of the names would have been suggested by the appointing authority to this professional body for consideration and that’s the name that gets picked).

The main benchmark for a board appointment is experience. To appreciate the importance of experience as an essential benchmark for board appointment consideration, let us revisit and assess some of the roles and responsibilities of a board member. First, it is the fiduciary responsibility. This is about trust. For anyone to be considered trustworthy, it means they have travelled a journey of tests and trials and emerged unscathed.

A director should be an individual

who values the importance of acting honestly, in good faith and in the best interest of the organization. Such individuals usually focus their minds on protecting their individual reputation, ‘If I act dishonestly, the reputation I would have built over many years will be ruined by this small decision; am I prepared to destroy my legacy for this?’ I do not think a novice with little understanding of what personal reputation means would possess this kind of ‘obligation of loyalty and duty to uphold the integrity of the organization’.

The other thing directors bring to the table is skill and diligence. Even in board evaluations, we ensure this requirement for assessment sits on top of a long list of questions. It is also for the same reason individuals appointed to directorship positions in certain countries are mainly retired technocrats who have nothing to bring to the table except skill and diligence. A director must demonstrate the degree of skill and diligence that can reasonably be expected from someone of his or her knowledge and expertise. A corporate governance guru, Susan FitzRandolph writes, ‘A director must demonstrate the degree of skill and diligence that can reasonably be expected from someone of his or her knowledge and expertise.’

I recall sitting in a board meeting where, as member of management, we needed the guidance of the board on an extremely critical matter that potentially had irreparable damage to the company if not addressed that period. We looked to the Board as a resource appointed to provide knowledge based on how they may have handled such a situation from other engagements. At that point, one board member lifted his hand and my heart relaxed. I told myself, ‘This is a man of incredible experience, retired from the civil service and now has something to offer us over this problem.’

The Chairperson acknowledged the hand and when he made his contribution, it was something totally unrelated and we all wondered if we were in the same boardroom. This shows that sitting on the board is not necessarily about age but one’s experience. There are individuals who have served 30 years in the public sector but their real experience is only worth three years and there are other young people who have served five years but when they make a contribution, its worth 30 years’ experience.

Individuals appointed to the

boards also have the obligation to have an honest exercise of power. FitzRandolph puts an interesting argument, ‘Power cannot be passive. It must be exercised through regular attendance, diligent review of materials, active participation in decision making, asking for clarification regarding issues and impact of decisions and always balancing the objects of the organization against its ability to attain those objects.’

My own experience has shown that individuals with incredible career experience apply themselves much more effectively in board meetings than upstarts. As you grow, you are much more awake to your responsibilities and expectations of others than when you are young. This is debatable and would not like it to be an issue here; am just sharing from my personal observations and experience. We can, however, agree that, for what its worth, board directorship is not for novices and it is not something to be excited about!.

Chibamba Kanyama is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors- Zambia and Trainer of Trainers on Corporate Governance.

There are individuals who have served 30 years in the public sector but their real experience is only worth three years and there are other young people who have served five years but when they make a contribution, its worth 30 years’ experience.

By Natasha Sakala
ZESCO Limited has disclosed that it made an application to Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa to have Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) Plc’s infrastructure declared common carrier because they were avoiding being blocked from supplying Konkola Copper Mine (KCM) with electricity.

And Zesco says they don’t plan to subsidize KCM, but will patiently wait for payments because the mining company remains a “strategic investment”.

Meanwhile, the power utility has insisted that there is no political interference in its operations and is not aware of any political taskforce that was set up to help with Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA) negotiations.

Speaking on Diamond TV’s Costa programme, Sunday, Zesco director of strategy and corporate services Patrick Mwila revealed that the utility applied to Nkhuwa’s office to have CEC’s distribution and transmission lines declared common carrier to avoid being blocked from supplying power to KCM.

“The law does assume that parties will agree, but where there is unreasonableness, then it then allows a party to appeal to the Minister and to the regulator to declare that portion as common carrier. Open access is the policy. We appealed because we have an agreement with somebody and we saw that we are going to be blocked,” Mwila disclosed.

He added that under the current legislation, all monopolistic tendencies that existed in the past had been discouraged.

“What I am saying is that, at the end of the day, we know that when there is open access, it means that even our own customers are subject to competition. If another player, it could be CEC or another one, is saying, ‘I have seen that contract is coming to an end.’ We are not a single player, open access actually disturbs any monopolistic tendencies...So, nobody stops anybody. Now, in the past, maybe in the 80s or 70s, Zesco or CEC would have said, ‘you want to take this power that side,’ so maybe I could block you and say, ‘No, I have an interest in that customer, so I will just make it difficult for you.’ So, all that that

Zesco applied to Nkhuwa to declare CEC’s assets common carrier, reveals Mwila

law does is that it ensures that there is fair play because you, as the owner, you retain ownership and the idea of that law, if you read that law, which is not in the Electricity Act as well as the Energy Regulation Act, is that it just empowers every player in the electricity supply industry to be able to come to you, just like normal businesses do,” he narrated.

“Let’s say you have got this line, which is going this way, the owner of this distribution line and I know there is clear capacity, ‘can we discuss, we are going to pay you, a commercial rate and, hopefully, if we negotiate all we do is register that agreement with the regulator,’ there is no need for anything bad. Should Costa say that he feels that it may injure some of his business interests, which may not even be there because...if you are in business, then what would happen is that if you already have use for it, no one can force you. But if you’ve no use for that capacity, why keep it because you have to demonstrate that my capacity is taken up and we will see it by the agreements that you have. But here is the alternative, if that law doesn’t come, have you considered the alternative, which will be that if CEC wants to import power from Lunsemfwa or from Maamba or from SAPP and then Zesco will block. If Zesco wants to take power through CEC, CEC will block. Zesco wants to take power through the lines that are held by North-Western [Energy Corporation] and they would block, would that be good for the customer?”

And Mwila observed that KCM remained a critically important and strategic asset to risk loss of power supply.

“Can I take a hit of US \$100 million? First of all, let me just assure you that even just the amounts of money that are owed to CEC, the majority of that money belongs to Zesco because you must remember that there was only one supplier of power in this arrangement; we were the underwriter to that agreement in the sense that

Zesco supplied to CEC and CEC onward supplied to KCM. Of course, going to the books, it will show that KCM owes CEC and as well CEC owes us whatever they are saying they are owed. So, there is no difference. From that perspective, it means that if KCM hasn’t been paying to CEC and CEC has decided not to pay Zesco. Let me just say this, you cannot supply power from those mines at the moment unless you want to basically bring the mining activities to a halt. So, it’s strategically too critical. So we’ll be patient. In terms of tariff, I can assure you that the tariff we have gotten from KCM is much better that we got from CEC,” Mwila claimed.

However, documents filed in the Lusaka High Court by Zesco in support of its action against CEC included a term sheet, which revealed that the national utility had actually accepted a lower power tariff from KCM for it to start supplying electricity directly to the mine.

KCM will pay a tariff lower than what Zesco and the government advocated for as the end-user tariff for mines, effected in 2017, and which all the parties agreed to.

The Zesco-KCM term sheet as shown in court filings indicated that the former had agreed applicable tariffs for the power supplied to KCM to be US \$39.746/kW/month as the capacity tariff, and US \$0.0279/kWh as its energy tariff for a term of one year, which brings in security of supply questions for KCM.

The mine’s new tariff compares with about US \$44/kW/month capacity fee and US

\$0.03209/kWh as the energy tariff under the CEC-KCM Power Supply Agreement (PSA.)

This means that the other mines supplied by both Zesco and CEC, and even domestic consumers, will be subsidising KCM because at the time that Zesco is increasing tariffs for its domestic customers, it is also giving cheaper rates to a mining customer.

And Mwila argued that smart metres were a necessity as most of the current prepaid meters will be obsolete by 2024, hence the need to be replaced.

“Even as we are speaking right now, every year on average, we are spending about US \$20 million on just the metres that we have. That is normal because one, remember that we have between 80,000 to 100,000 coming onboard in Zesco, new connections every year, then we have what we call faulty metres. Investment in metres is an ongoing exercise and especially in the distribution area. Let it be known also that the current prepaid metres have got a feature where they become obsolete, most of them by the year 2024. They are calling it some TID, there is a certain register, which registers something and this is going to flood or basically it will be overfilled and it will reset,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mwila claimed that he was not aware of any input made by any political taskforce in the negotiations with CEC over the expired Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA), which lapsed on March 31, 2020.

But prior to the SI, Patriotic Front secretary general Davies Mwila announced in early March that the ruling party had

appointed a task force to ensure that the negotiations for the BSA between Zesco and CEC were concluded before March 31, 2020.

The PF secretary general, who also unveiled former finance minister Margaret Mwanakatwe as the chairperson of the task force, claimed that the move was made in the interest of protecting the 400 jobs at CEC.

“I am not aware of their input to this, they may have had an input because I mean there is a relationship between the ruling party and the government and they are within their rights to have an interest in that because it’s policy. But let me look at Zesco. As technocrats, we were guided by government

that we will need to renegotiate an interim agreement. But that’s guidance, looking at the strategic nature of the Copperbelt, you cannot leave that thing undone. What was agreed on, even as we negotiate a longer-term solution, which we knew would take time because when you are trying to dismantle such agreements, you cannot do it overnight. So, we agreed that we should meet with CEC, agree on a short-term agreement for a year that will allow all parties to work on a better agreement, that was all,” argued Mwila.

“The input in terms of what was done, I will tell you, we were assisted during the talks that we had with CEC, but I didn’t see any political party members there. I just want to assure you that in terms of the agreement and how we negotiated, at the end of the day, it was the Zesco board, Zesco management and the Zesco technocrats, and I can assure you that there was no political interference.”

Grenade explosion cuts gold-seeking Luangwa man into pieces

From P2

Meanwhile, Katongo said a female pedestrian died on the spot after he was hit by a Toyota Harrier in Nyimba District.

Katongo stated that the accident happened on Sunday around 18:30 hours opposite INDO -Zambia Bank within Nyimba.

“The accident happened when the driver of the motor vehicle lost control of the due to excessive speed in the process hit the pedestrian who was walking on the pedestrian track on the left side of the road. Involved was a Toyota Harrier registration number AJC 9726 which was being driven by Kessons Phiri aged 39 years of River Side, Nyimba District who escaped unhurt while the pedestrian identified as Diana Chibanda, unknown age, of Moza compound in Nyimba District sustained fatal head injuries and died on the spot. The body of the deceased is in Nyimba District Hospital Mortuary awaiting post-mortem examination,” stated Katongo.

HH president of S/Province, we won’t allow him to mobilise anywhere else – Bowman

By Julia Malunga
LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has locked himself out of the Copperbelt because his supporters booed President Edgar Lungu in Monze.

In an interview, Lusambo said Hichilema was a president of Southern Province and

would not be allowed to mobilize in other parts of the country.

“Hakainde Hichilema has locked up himself. He is the President of Monze and Southern Province because other parts, we will not allow him to mobilize. President Lungu is a flag carrier, you should give him respect. Let

them behave like that when we are with councilors not the President. The Copperbelt is a no go area for the UPND as long as I remain the mobilization coordinator. If they want politics of caderism, they know me. We are not going to tolerate that nonsense! They are coming for massacre in the Copperbelt. We are not going to allow stupidity. The President is always on duty 24/7 and he has no restrictions to visit any constituencies. We are going to protect the President of the Republic of Zambia and we are going to assure the UPND that the line has been drawn,” Lusambo said.

“We are not going to allow any misbehaving in Lusaka in case they (UPND) have forgotten me. Zambia’s democracy has grown and this time around, we should be competing on issue based campaigns and not on caderism. We should know that we have a President in State House and he is the constitution holder for our country and he has mandate to work. And those youths who have been used, stop this! President Lungu wants youths who are productive,

youths who add value to the development of our country. It is very unfortunate that the UPND can start playing those politics, some of us we have PhDs in that type of politics so there is no one who can compete with me. Hakainde Hichilema is a baby in politics.” Lusambo said Non-Governmental Organizations should condemn youths who booed President Lungu in Monze.

“The NGOs that support things that are not good, we want them to condemn these things. We are waiting for their voices. If it was Bowman in Kabushi, the entire radio wave would have been Bowman. If they are not going to condemn these things, let them be assured that we know these politics extremely well and we can’t be beaten on this. We have no apology to make, President Lungu is not a President for a kantemba (sole trader) political party like the UPND, he is presiding over the economy over the country. It is not a joke. They are not only offending President Lungu but his supporters as well. If this a game they want, we will enjoy it,” said Lusambo.

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President Edgar Lungu has continued touring the country in the name of inspecting development projects. Wherever President Lungu goes on his so-called tour of duty, he meets ruling party officials whom he tasks to mobilise votes ahead of the 2021 general election. There is nothing sinister about this combination of government and party activity on the part of the Head of State. This has been the norm since time immemorial.

The only problem we have is that this government has banned all other gatherings of political nature on the basis of the prevailing Coronavirus outbreak. Opposition leaders are being denied permits to interact with their political party officials to strategise and mobilise ahead of next year's election the way President Lung is doing. So every project that President Lungu inspects or commissions ends up being a PF campaign meeting, while the UPND, NDC, DP, PAC, NAREP and other opposition leaders are not being given a chance. This is not fair!

We have noticed that there is now an increase in the

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Don't block opposition over Covid pandemic, Lungu is campaigning

number of projects that the Head of State is inspecting because he wants to have as many political meetings as possible. While we don't find anything wrong with a Head of State touring the country, we must state that it is not normal for President Lungu to inspect every project that government has embarked on. Where are his ministers and permanent secretaries? Where is his State House Special Assistant for Project Monitoring and Evaluation? If AVIC International has constructed staff houses for Zambia National Service

officers, what is wrong with handing those housing units to the ZNS commander, Defence Minister, Provincial Minister and the State House official in charge of project monitoring?

In our view, the explanation that President Lungu is gallivanting across the country to inspect projects is a song meant to put the opposition to sleep, and people should not waste time listening to his lullaby. The real reason the Head of State has been on this vigorous countrywide tour, supervising the construction

of everything from toilets to fish ponds, is because he is on a full-fledged campaign. He has decided to give himself a head-start. This is typical of tyranny.

President Lungu is in gear 5 of campaigns ahead of the 2021 general elections. If anyone doubts this, they must listen to what he says whenever he takes to the podium. The man doesn't finish his speech without asking for votes, and calling on his party structures to mobilise new members ahead of the elections. If that is not a full-fledged campaign, then we

don't know what is.

On February 8, 2018 when he visited Ndola, President Lungu told the opposition to join him in the campaigns. He said: "People are saying I am traveling a lot and I am campaigning; yes! Campaigns have started, so what? If you want, you can also start campaigning, elections are in 2021, I am doing my job." This is July 2020, meaning President Lungu has been campaigning for the past three years. But what space has he left for his competitors to campaign? Nothing! Again, this is very unfair in a democracy.

And that is not the only problem. The other unfortunate thing about early campaigns is that they paralyse the functions of government. Ministers, members of parliament and all other appointees of government stopped focusing on delivering services to the people a long time ago. They have instead been going out to secure votes.

This is why we are seeing a lot of campaign-based project implementation. However, campaign-based projects are not development; they are nothing but campaign gimmicks, which last only as long as the campaign itself. Some of the projects which the President has been commissioning will never be completed, especially if the people in that region do not show interest to support the party in power.

If there is COVID-19, President Lungu should sit down spend time with his family. If he feels the risk is not serious for him to continue touring the country, he must extend the opportunity to his rivals. If he wants to take the risk and head out to mobilise his party, the same privilege should be granted to the opposition.

Crossword puzzle No 640

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“We begin to learn wisely when we’re willing to see the world from other people’s perspective.”
- Toba Beta

Across

2. Stitch with needle and thread
5. School corridor
6. Thing that's worshipped
7. No longer in vogue
8. Tuck away
10. Track down
13. Not any
16. Counterfeit coin
18. Likely
19. Terror
20. Snakelike fish
21. Unused

Down

1. Terminate
2. Low speed
3. In the company of
4. Bridal attire
8. Male offspring
9. Possess
11. Website address
12. Picnic game, ___ of war
14. Not shut
15. Make money from work
16. One-pot dinner
17. Not pretty

Crossword puzzle No 639

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Readers' Feedback

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

Editor,

“Zesco is under IDC and the Chairman for IDC is the President, they are the ones who have been allowing all Zesco nonsense. Change the Government and you will get fresh minds to steer Parastatal Companies into a new direction. However, as long as we have these same people in leadership, it will be one useless project after another.

If we had the late President Sata or Mwanawasa, Zesco can’t even dare to mention this Smart meter project. We have examples in Rwanda what US\$23 Million can do in the energy generation solar projects, now imagine this US\$40 Million they want to worst on useless smart Meter Project”. - Kelvin Chiti

“When someone runs out of ideas, it’s chipatepate. For how long will they fail to find lasting solutions to power in the country? Please come for free

advice!” - Lazarous Kay

“There is a need to employ qualified electricians, technicians and management staff. Caderism is the major cause to the failure of Zesco”. - Enerst Ngosa

“Leadership is in the trenches at this institution!” - Mulemwa Sikufele

“Don’t say Zesco... say PF has run out of ideas”. - Kaoma Chola

“Hasn’t the water reached Kariba dam yet?” - Justine Mtambo

“Instead of purchasing 42 fire trucks at \$42million dollars the PF government could have invested the Money in solar power plants at a cost of \$20million dollars...” - Djsparx Zambia

“What do you expect when the top positions in the company are occupied by PF carders?” - Lister Lusimbu

Sishuwa on Hichilema – Kambwili combo enough to defeat PF

Editor,

“But will Kambwili agree to be running mate?” - Chanda Ch

“Yes some opposition leaders are just on paper, is Tayali an opposition leader just like Cosmo Mumba, Danny Pule, Sean Tembo, these are PF surrogates”. - Noritah Mwanza

“Gravely move mistake ever about to be made guys HH can carry the day alone for the next elections.CK knows this and he is calculating his moves, don’t be cheated”. - Joao Mulukisi

“Not a good move, it’s more pragmatic than right. Why should people lose faith in the power of right and settle for what works? That is carrying over problems which Zambians will soon want out. The MMD carry over has not worked well, let’s learn from that, recycling should only work where there are no good raw materials”. - Andrew Simate Sitali

“Dr put the whole issue under the microscope and analyze it carefully! Do you think the old members of UPND such as Nkombo, Mwitwa, Nalumango can welcome the idea of Chishimba being a running mate? People have saved the party for more than 20 years just to come and see Kambwili as vice president! KAMBWILI IS STILL PF BE VERY CARE WITH HIM, HE IS NOT STABLE! !!” - Penias Mbewe

Wina’s claim that govt will arrest PF cadres who disrupt public gatherings if people support Bill 10

Dear editor,

“Its not about Bill 10 to end injustices, we need a sound leadership that is disciplined and that has a heart for the people and the rule of law will be applied. Remember Madam Veep, a good leader can leader a nation with a bad constitution, however even with a good constitution but with bad leadership we will still have injustices and a collapse on the rule of law. #PanSiPanyaNganye”. - Ross Josphat Kasikili

But sometimes I get so disappointed with this agogo, she must be very ashamed for misleading the nation, how can she say what she has said! Retire agogo to save some shame, bill 10 has nothing to do with cardrism, if u say bill 10 is the answer to cadrism, how did the late mwanawasa manage cadrism? Agogo you are telling us that you have failed us”. - Kapika Kapika

“Wow!!! So the current law is on hold until bill 10 comes in? This government be full of jokes!” - Samuel Chileshe

“Ummmm these are dangers of having old eggs in power.They have nothing sensible to say because their brains have stopped functioning in other words they are tired and they have run out of ideas.We are living in the 21st century where a lot of people are literate on some these issues, you cannot hoodwink us into supporting a cause without properly stating the good side of it”. - Kapambwe Grunt Mulenga

UPND MPs’ refusal to meet Lungu in S/Province

Dear editor,

“Sure after destroying their property and you say come and attend our meeting this is slow thing”. - Felix Siamwilu

“After Destroying their BILLBOARDS AND CHITENGES you want them to meet you? Really? What kind of Unthinking is this? Indeed its Do as I Say Powers at work!” - Alfred Herrera Maluba

“Why only talk about UPND MPs? What about independent members? Did they meet him?” - Lovemore Ryan Nalishiwa

“Did he request to meet them?” - Viktor Marvin

“They removed UPND billboard in Monze, is this what PF government wanted UPND MPs to witness?” - Harvey Scala Goldust

“A dose of his own medicine”. - Kabungwe S. Namukombo

“HOW CAN THEY MEET SOMEONE WHO TORE AND DESTROYED UPND BILLBOARDS?” - Samuel Kertis Sikalongo

“The PF say the opposition can not have meetings because of covid 19, but Lungu wanted the opposition to meet him at campaign rallies in Southern Province, is he mad? Learn to practice what you preach ba Lungu”. - Noritah Mwanza

“Good call. Why others (ruling group) are able to move around the country, organise rallies and assemble people but for the opposition, its a problem? This is very bad for democracy”. - Shi Mubanga

“That’s how decent men and women behave they don’t mingle with crooks!” - Ian Malekhanie

“COVID-19 rules is for everyone to obey including the president as he is the one who set the rules”. - Barnes Reeves



China warns UK over Hong Kong ‘interference’

CHINA has warned the UK not to interfere with Hong Kong following the imposition of a new security law, as one pro-democracy campaigner begged for international support.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming said the UK's offer of a path to citizenship for up to three million Hong Kongers amounted to "gross interference".



Beijing brought in the controversial and sweeping new law.

Opponents say it erodes the territory's freedoms as a semi-autonomous region.

Activist Joshua Wong had earlier called for more support, asking his fellow Hong Kongers and the wider world not to "kowtow" to Beijing.

But Ambassador Liu said he hoped the UK would

reconsider its offer.

"The UK government keeps making irresponsible remarks on Hong Kong affairs," he told reporters.

The ambassador said a decision on exactly how Beijing intended to respond to the offer would be made once it knew the details.

The UK has argued that China has reneged on an agreement made in 1997, which offered certain freedoms to Hong Kong for 50 years in return for handing the territory back to Beijing.

Numerous other countries, including the US, Canada, Japan and Australia, have also expressed concern over the imposition of the law.

The new law, which was brought in last week, targets secession, subversion and terrorism with punishments of up to life in prison.*BBC*

Kenya's aviation industry received a boost on Monday after the government announced a planned resumption of local and international air travel despite the country still reporting increased numbers of COVID-19 cases.

In March, the government suspended all international flights in and out of the country. In May, the government then extended a ban on commercial flights, with the exception of flights arriving to evacuate foreign nationals. In addition to emergency flights, cargo flights were also exempted during the suspension.

President Uhuru Kenyatta in an address to the nation said that domestic flights will resume on July 15 while international flights will resume on August 1.

These, President Kenyatta added, will be in strict conformity with all applicable guidelines and protocols from both the Ministry of Health and civil (local and international) aviation authorities. He noted that additional requirements applicable at the ports of departure, arrival or transit must be adhered to.

President Kenyatta said an agreement had been reached that the country had reached certain level for re-opening.

"According to the experts and stakeholders, we have not met the irreducible minimum 100 percent. However, consensus amongst them is that we have

Kenya resumes air travel



reached a reasonable level of preparedness across the country to allow us to re-open," President Kenyatta said.

The news is welcome for the national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ), which had switched its focus to operating cargo and repatriation flights following the suspension. The carrier which predominantly operate passenger flights was banking on a rise in demand for freight to boost business after it suspended its domestic and international flights.

The airline has struggled for a number of years posting losses and came under additional financial pressure due to the costs involved in placing staff under quarantine.

KQ is expected to sack an unknown number of staff, reduce its network and

dispose of certain assets, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters. Last week trading of Kenya Airways shares was suspended due to an impending government buyout.

CEO Allan Kilavuka said that KQ had lost an estimated \$100 million in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns.

In March, Jambojet, the budget carrier and a subsidiary of KQ, suspended its flights to Kigali and Entebbe citing a reduction of travellers on its international routes.

Kenya becomes the latest East African country to announce a resumption of air travel after Rwanda which said that its airports will reopen for scheduled commercial flight operations at the start of August.*Reuters*

Bus driver left brain dead after ‘attacked over face masks’

A bus driver in the south-west of France has been left brain dead after reportedly being attacked by passengers who refused to wear face masks.

The driver in Bayonne had refused to allow several people - who had no tickets and were not wearing masks - to board the bus on Sunday night, a police source told AFP news agency.

The man, who is in his 50s, sustained serious head injuries after being punched.

He was declared brain dead on Monday.

Face masks are mandatory on public transport in France.

According to France Bleu, a number of people have been arrested. Union sources told the local radio station that the driver had attempted to prevent the group from bringing a dog on board.

Regional bus services have been disrupted as drivers refuse to work following the incident.

A video that claims

Covid-19 is a "political hoax" manufactured by the United States "deep state" has got five million views and 100,000 shares on Facebook.

The video is still accessible but it has been labelled "false" on Facebook by a fact-checking organisation and on YouTube viewers are warned of "inappropriate or offensive" content.

The film was uploaded by a well-known follower of QAnon - a wide-ranging unfounded conspiracy theory - which believes President Trump is battling the "deep state" and global elites who are involved in corruption and child abuse.

The video contains several unsubstantiated claims blaming Democrat politicians for manufacturing the pandemic in an election year.

It features in our latest weekly round-up of the most prominent examples of coronavirus misinformation spreading in the United States.*BBC*



People take to the streets of Belgium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Congo's independence from the European nation.

Malawi cancels independence day celebrations



President Lazarus Chakwera also scaled back inauguration plans

MALAWI'S new president, Lazarus Chakwera, has called off independence celebrations and further scaled back plans for Monday's formal inauguration.

Both events were due to be marked by a huge jamboree in Lilongwe's football stadium.

On Saturday, the president announced the stadium's capacity would be halved to 20,000 to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Now the stadium festivities have been cancelled altogether, with the inauguration being moved to a military barracks to be witnessed by only 100 specially-invited guests.

The cancellation will put a dampener on the euphoria generated by the historic opposition triumph in a recent election re-run, after last year's fraudulent polls were overturned.*BBC*

Scientists alarmed over ‘unrealistic’ Covid vaccine deadline

A group of Indian scientists has warned a deadline to launch a Covid-19 vaccine for public use is unfeasible.

The Indian Academy of Sciences warned against "any hasty solution that may compromise rigorous scientific processes and standards".

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had said it "envisaged" the vaccine to be launched by 15 August, which is India's Independence Day.

The ICMR has since said the date was "not a deadline".

The controversy first arose after a letter written by ICMR chief Balram Bhargava to 12 institutes selected for conducting human trials for

the vaccine - named Covaxin - was shared widely on social media.

In it, he had directed them to expedite human trials so that the vaccine could be launched on 15 August by fast-tracking all approvals related to it.

Non-compliance, the letter warned, would be treated "very seriously".

Adding to the confusion, a statement by the Ministry of Science and Technology deleted a line from an earlier statement that said it was unlikely that any of the vaccines under development in the country - including Covaxin - are likely to be ready for public use before 2021.

This led to a firestorm of protest and criticism, with many saying that the 15 August deadline was nothing but optics and would seriously damage India's credibility.

Prof Partha P Majumder, president of the Indian Academy of Sciences, told local media that the trial period of a month announced by the ICMR was "unheard of", adding that it "gives a bad name to the industry of biomedical research and pharmaceuticals".

However, the ICMR has since sought to clarify its comments, saying that the 15 August date was "not a deadline" and was merely an attempt to cut red tape - not

an attempt to compromise on safety trials.

India's Mint newspaper quoted an anonymous ICMR official as saying that the initial communication had been misunderstood.

A vaccine would normally take years, if not decades, to develop. However, researchers across the world are hoping to achieve the same amount of work in only a few months.

Most experts think a vaccine is likely to become available by mid-2021, about 12-18 months after the new virus, known officially as Sars-CoV-2, first emerged.

Even that would be a huge scientific feat and there are no guarantees it will work.*BBC*

Only a Messi-Ronaldo hybrid could match Pele - Tostao

LIONEL Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo cannot be considered to have topped Pele on a list of all-time greats, says Tostao, with a mix of two modern day superstars required in order to get near the Brazilian icon.

Pele's standing at the top of any greatest list was unchallenged for several years, with Diego Maradona the only player to get close to him.

Messi and Ronaldo have, however, raised the bar of individual excellence to heights rarely seen before over the course of their remarkable careers.

The Argentina and Portugal internationals have sent records tumbling, while helping themselves to enviable hauls of individual and collective honours.

Many believe these exploits have lifted them above Pele, but Tostao still considers a man he won the 1970 World Cup alongside to be the finest player to have ever laced up a pair of football boots.

He told FIFA.com: "I think Pele was better than all of them. For me, there's no comparison. Pele was far more complete. He had every quality that a forward could have. He didn't have one defect.

"Messi's spectacular, but he doesn't head the ball like

Pele did, he doesn't shoot as well with both feet, he doesn't pull off the moves that Pele did.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is an exceptional player, but he doesn't have the ability that Pele had and he doesn't pull off the incredible passes that Pele did.

"If you take the qualities of Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi, put them together, then you'd have a player to compare to Pele!"

Tostao also gave his take on whether Maradona sits alongside Pele, saying of the Argentine World Cup winner: "Maradona was spectacular, but he wasn't on Pele's level physically, he didn't score the numbers of goals Pele did."

Pele has always placed himself at the top of any chart, with the South American rightly proud of all that he achieved. He has, however, admitted in the recent past that he considers Portuguese power to sit above Argentine flair when running a rule over the current crop of superstars.

Pele told Pilhado when asked to offer his input in a long-running debate: "Today the best player in the world is Cristiano Ronaldo. I think he's the best, because he's more consistent, but you can't forget about Messi, of course, but he's not a striker." **GOAL**



Hazard has been and done it, Pulisic is potential - Lampard

FRANK Lampard is eager to avoid making any comparisons between Eden Hazard and Christian Pulisic, with the former Chelsea star having "been here and done it" while the United States international remains one for the future.

Plenty are looking to place forwards from the past and present into a

shared talent bracket. Given that both have filled the same role on the left of the Blues' attacking unit, it is easy to pass one off against the other.

Hazard, though, spent seven successful years in west London before heading to Real Madrid in 2019, with 110 goals recorded by the Belgian while collecting two Premier League titles and a couple of Europa League crowns.

Pulisic is only just starting down a similar path, with the USMNT star approaching the end of his debut campaign in England.

The 21-year-old has registered eight goals and six assists, helping to keep Chelsea in the hunt for a top-four finish and major silverware.

Lampard, though, is reluctant to compare the American with Hazard, with the hope being that

Pulisic will become a talismanic presence in his own right.

The Blues boss told reporters ahead of a Premier League clash with Crystal Palace on Tuesday: "Having played with Eden and seen him come to the club at a relatively young age, similar to Christian. We saw the development of him.

"But he had a special talent straight away of being able to receive a ball and have great balance and go past players so well. He would draw a lot of players towards him to open up space for others. He was pretty unselfish in how he would make assists.

"I think Christian is possibly more direct in his style sometimes, in terms of how he goes past players and runs off the ball, which I like.

"Eden would come and get the ball and take it past players a lot. With

Christian, sometimes I think he has the ability to break the line and run forward, which is a really great trait in the modern game.

"In terms of the comparison, which is why I stayed away from it a bit, Eden has been here and done it and did it to an incredible level. Christian has it in his hands to make a real impact over a long period of time.

"The thing I'm so happy with now is when we're playing teams and the games are tough and you're finding it hard to break teams down, he's taking responsibility to change that, to change it in moments by using his ability to turn quickly and go past people.

"It's been great to see and, as I keep saying, there's a lot of development to come for Christian. I'm very happy with him." **GOAL**

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Mohammed hints on possible Nkana contract extension

By Abraham Kalito
NKANA defender Musa Mohammed has opened up on the possibility of extending his stay in the country once his contract comes to an end.

The Kenyan international has been at the Kitwe-based side for the past two years but his contract is set to lapse at the month-end.

He told Kenyan media that he still has options to join another Zambian clubs.

“Other clubs have shown interest in my services and we have had some negotiations. I have an elaborate decision to make on the way forward. I hope to have some news soon,” said Mohammed.

“I could renew my deal at Nkana. I have enjoyed my stay at Nkana and even though we did not win titles over there, we had some great success especially in the continental matches. Life in Zambia and Kenya is almost the same and the club is professionally run.”

Zambian clubs Lusaka Dynamos and Tanzanian bigwigs Azam and Young Africans (Yanga) are among the teams rumoured to be eyeing the centre back, who captained Kenya to the 2017 Cecafa Senior Challenge Cup victory on home soil.

The Kenyan also enjoyed a stint in Europe, at Albanian club FK Tirana, and is considered among

the most capped players of all time at Gor Mahia.



TOO TIGHT

FAZ won't resolve disputes within ten-day FIFA ultimatum - Simataa

By Abraham Kalito
SOCCER administrator Simataa Simataa says it is not possible for the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) to resolve all disputes within 10 days as directed by the world soccer governing body FIFA.

Meanwhile, Simataa

says the letter that FIFA has written to FAZ implies that the current executive has failed to work in accordance with FIFA instructions, adding that Zambia might be given a FIFA normalisation committee as a sanction.

Simataa told Goal Diggers that the current

administration has delayed to take action and that it will not be possible for them to implement the FIFA directives.

“FIFA doesn't rush into bans. And in circumstances like this, I would be very surprised. Look at the history of FIFA bans, it

is where government has walked in and removed an entire executive. Sometimes even installed a new one. That's were the first priority is a ban. In this case, the sanctions can be a normalisation committee. It implies that this executive has failed to do what they had been instructed to do. In the letter, they have been told to reconcile everybody and they have got up to Friday, this letter came on the 30th [of June],” Simataa said.

“So these guys have already lost five days. And they have five days to finish off. They have already lost five days. But even if they had ten days or one month, I don't think they would have resolved the issues. When the normalisation committee comes...it means indirectly, they would have been removed from office by FIFA. A three-man committee takes over FAZ and runs it under FIFA.”

He said in his opinion, FAZ would not to resolve the issues because of the time factor.

“The reason why I think this whole resolution will fail, number one, it's time... If you subtract Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday which are holidays, then they only have two working days to do this,” said Simataa.

“So are you sure that this administration will call for a meeting within two days and resolve all the issues with the aggrieved persons? It can't succeed within ten days. Number two, assuming that all is in order, who is going to chair that meeting? Definitely not the offender because the offended will feel hurt. They won't be ok.”



Barcelona's Lionel Messi dribbles Villareal defenders during his team's 4-1 win away on Sunday

Arteta has shown 'courage' at Arsenal - Rodgers

MIKEL Arteta has been “outstanding” in coping with the pressure at Arsenal and shown “courage” in his initial months at the helm, says Brendan Rodgers.

Leicester City are scheduled to take in a trip to north London to face Arteta's Arsenal in the Premier League on Tuesday.

They won November's reverse fixture 2-0 as Unai Emery's tenure

with the Gunners was drawing to a close, with Arteta taking charge the following month.

Arsenal have won four straight games in all competitions ahead of the Leicester clash at Emirates Stadium, and Foxes boss Rodgers has been impressed with the impact a former club captain has had in such a short period of time.

“I think Mikel has done very,

very well since he's gone in,” said the 47-year-old, whose team are currently sitting third in the table.

“He's gone into a club with huge expectations, which he knows from being a player there. He's gone in on his first job, into a huge task, and I think how he's dealt with it so far has been outstanding.

“From a tactical perspective,

he's made it very clear how they want to play. The style, you can see.

“That is not an easy style to put in place and implement, especially at a club that wants to be challenging straight away as well.

“His courage since he's gone in, to want to develop that. They've played with a couple of different systems but the style has always remained the same. **GOAL**