



Abyudi Shonga is new LAZ president

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

FORMER Attorney general Abyudi Shonga State Counsel has been elected new Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president.

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Home Affairs PS Dr Chileshe Mulenga dies

By Julia Malunga

HOME Affairs Permanent Secretary Dr Chileshe Mulenga has died.

His wife, Mary who is NGOCC Board Chairperson, confirmed the development to the organisation's secretariat.

"We regret to inform you that Dr. Chileshe Mulenga, husband to the NGOCC Board Chairperson Ms. Mary S. Mulenga has died. Dr. Mulenga was also Home Affairs Permanent Secretary. Details of the funeral will be shared in due course," read a notice from NGOCC.

Dr Mulenga also served at Eastern Province Permanent Secretary before President Edgar Lungu transferred him to the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2015.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - TELESPOHORE

It's time for Lungu to bid farewell

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President Edgar Lungu (c) flanked by Western Province Minister Richard Kapita (r) and Patriotic Front Provincial Chairman Kufuka Kufuka are welcomed by residents of Luampa in Western Province yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

There is nothing wrong with me campaigning whilst on duty - Lungu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says there is nothing wrong with him to campaign

during his provincial tours because it is part of his job.

The Head of State said this after touring

an Agriculture Service Centre in Sioma District of Western Province, Sunday.

"I heard someone saying that I travel

too much already. I haven't yet travelled. If I am campaigning, what's wrong with that? If I am..."

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Jeering a politician is within acceptable expression of opinion - Germany Envoy

By Natasha Sakala

GERMAN Ambassador to Zambia Achim Burkart says jeering a politician is within the acceptable range of expressing an opinion.

Government has officially condemned residents on Monze District in Southern Province, an opposition UPND stronghold, for booing President Lungu when he toured the town.

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Only PF is mandated to speak on radio in Mufulira - PF MP

Story page 6



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
VICE-President Inonge Wina says just like the PF promised, there is now money in “some” people’s pockets and a lot of jobs have been created.

And Vice-President Wina says it is alarming that opposition UPND leaders delight in promoting hooliganism judging by their failure to condemn the booing of President Edgar Lungu in Monze.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina says the Anti-Corruption Commission does its work without any interference.

During Vice-President’s question time in parliament, Friday, Moomba UPND member of parliament wanted to know why the PF government had not fulfilled its campaign promises of providing more money in people’s pockets.

In response, Vice-President Wina said some people’s pockets had money.

“Mr Speaker, indeed there is money in some people’s pockets. This government has created a lot of jobs in the districts through the creation of new districts. Quite a number of young men and women have been

PF has put money in some people’s pockets – Wina

employed as pubic workers in these areas. This government has embarked on a robust infrastructure development of roads, hospitals and schools. And at these construction sites, there have been a lot of young people employed in the various categories and they have definitely earned money. So, it does not necessarily mean that this government has not done much to support the livelihoods of our people. And with stimulus packages now introduced, more people will be able to gain extra income from their economic activities,” Vice-President Wina said.

And Vice-President Wina said it was alarming that opposition UPND leaders delighted in promoting hooliganism.

“Let me begin by stating that clearly, I am deeply saddened and disappointed by the behaviour of all those involved in this very

unpleasant act against the Head of State. And to assume that this is an expression of human rights and democracy is indeed to miss the point. On 11th August 2016, Zambians exercised their democratic rights to vote and elected Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu as President of the Republic of Zambia. It follows then that President Lungu is the President of all Zambians regardless of political standing and voting patterns and is therefore entitled to an appropriate reception as Head of State in any part of this country,” she said.

“Furthermore, Mr Speaker, our Zambian culture and indeed African culture, in general, encourages us to respect our elders and leaders in society and treat them with dignity. It goes without saying that the position of Head of State necessitates the utmost respect from all Zambians regardless of political affiliations. And it is therefore regrettable that some negative elements want to tarnish Zambia’s record of political stability by sowing the seed of discontent and disturbance in their constituencies. I am alarmed that to-date, we have not seen any of the political leaders from the particular

constituency where these ugly events took place, stand up and condemn the behaviour of the cadres. That in itself speaks volumes, but I will leave it to the Zambian people to make their own judgement on certain leaders who delight in promoting hooliganism.”

Meanwhile, when asked by Chikankata UPND member of parliament Justine Mwiinga on why the PF government was failing to ask its corruption-charged ministers to step aside to allow the ACC do its work freely, Vice-President Wina responded saying; “The ACC is at liberty to investigate anyone including senior leaders in government. And this work is ongoing as can be seen from the cases that have been taken to courts of law. So, the executive does not interfere with the work of the ACC whatsoever.”

Monze Central Member of Parliament Jack Mwiimbu also asked Vice-President Wina to clarify on the sentiments attributed to some cabinet ministers that the opposition would not be allowed to campaign in prisons despite the ConCourt’s ruling that voters had the right to vote.

In her response, Vice-President Wina said no political party was allowed to campaign in correction facilities.

“No political party has been allowed to canvas for votes from prison service centres, not even the ruling party. The Patriotic Front is not allowed to. If the commissioner-general of the correctional services had made a statement, government has not yet received an official presentation of that report. It might have been an utterance on his part at that time but as far as government is concerned, we have not received any written report from the director-general. Secondly, Mr Speaker, there is no policy yet governing the conduct of political parties in correctional service. So, if the honourable members want this to be brought to the House, that will be done but for now, we are saying that no political party should go into correctional service to campaign for a vote,” Vice-President Wina responded.

And asked by Lundazi Independent member of parliament Lawrence Nyirenda on whether or not government had plans to introduce a Coronavirus allowance for members of parliament in order to be in conformity with other countries, Vice-President Wina said MPs should instead share their allowances with their electorates.

“I think the opposite should prevail. It’s the members of parliament who should share their small allowances with the people in their communities and in their constituencies who have been impacted negatively by Coronavirus. And I do not believe that parliament has plans to introduce a stimulus package to support the members of parliament,” Vice-President responded.

Meanwhile, when asked by Ikelengi UPND member of parliament Elijah Muchima if PF members were immune from COVID-19 judging by their continued holding of social gatherings, Vice-President Wina said receiving defectors did not require police permission.

“Receiving defectors is not conducting a public meeting. The UPND has also been conducting its own meetings in the name of not only card renewal but intra-party elections. Receiving defectors is not a constitutional issue but a social issue. You cannot stop people from defecting from one party to the other. There are also individuals who are also defecting from the PF, maybe to other parties. But these are not planned meetings where the police have to give permission. So, the COVID-19 has come for everybody and I don’t think it’s the PF members alone who will die from this disease,” responded Vice-President Wina.

Abyudi Shonga is new LAZ president

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Former Attorney general Abyudi Shonga State Counsel has been elected new Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president. Shonga was contesting the LAZ presidency against a female competitor Mutumu Nzala Mwape, who was seeking to become the second female head of the organisation after Linda Kasonde, who left the position for Eddie Mwitwa.

Like Kasonde, who is now heading Chapter One Foundation, Mwitwa did not re-contest the seat after serving one two-year term, leaving room for Shonga to win a tightly contested race at the LAZ elective general assembly in Livingstone, Saturday.

Other new office bearers include Lungisani Zulu and Ngosa Simachela who went through unopposed as LAZ vice-president and Honorary Treasurer.

LAZ Council Members are: Anne Gray-Kunda, Siakoola Hastings Pasi, Zacchaeus Musonda, Iven Mulenga, Chintu Mulendema Mulopa Ndalameta, Benson Mpalo, Matilda Kaoma, Steven Simwanza, Kampamba Kombe and Billingtone Mosha.

BoZ explains intervention efforts to stabilise kwacha

By Ulande Nkomesha
THE kwacha’s recent appreciation against major currency convertibles has come in the wake of excess dollar supply, compounded with drastically reduced demand for imports, says the Bank of Zambia (BoZ).

According to financial market players, the kwacha rallied against major currency convertibles to breach and appreciate below the K18.00 per dollar psychological

barrier for the first time since late May to trade at an average K17.90 per dollar.

The last time the local unit hit these levels was at the end of May, this year, where it traded at around K17.91 per dollar.

Responding to a press query, BoZ explained that the local currency had benefited from the drastically reduced demand for imports in the wake of the COVID-19 impact on the local economy, while

the central bank had, on the other hand, intervened to stabilise the kwacha’s volatility.

“The BoZ intervenes in the foreign exchange market to dampen volatility in the exchange rate and also accumulate foreign exchange reserves. In the recent past, the foreign exchange market has been characterised by excess supply as demand for imports has drastically reduced, mainly due to the decline in economic activity attributable to the

impact of COVID-19. It should be noted that over the past two quarters, the trade balance has been positive, largely reflecting a sharp contraction in imports, that outweighed the decline in exports,” BoZ stated.

“However, the BoZ has occasionally provided liquidity to the market through outright sales of foreign exchange to commercial banks, especially for energy related imports. This is intended to smooth out the adverse effects of temporary large demand relative to supply in order safeguard macroeconomic stability. The BoZ has also purchased foreign exchange from the market, when conditions allow, to help build international reserves. More recently (from June 9, 2020), all the mining companies are now paying statutory obligations (i.e. not just mineral royalty taxes) in US Dollar to BoZ. The BoZ in turn provides the resulting kwacha to ZRA. In line with the exchange rate policy, the value of the Kwacha against trading partner currencies will continue to be market determined to reflect prevailing conditions.”

Traditionally, the kwacha strengthens in July due to mid-year corporate taxes, which fall due, dubbed the ‘July effect’.

The local unit did appreciate to hit the K17.90 per dollar ahead of the July 10 tax deadline, but has, however, started to depreciate back over the K18.00 per dollar mark owing to dwindling supply after most corporates have already made conversions for their taxes.

It’s silly for Dora to suggest that UPND is most violent party – Katuka

By Ulande Nkomesha
CHIEF Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya i hallucinating by stating that the UPND is the most violent party in the country, says UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka.

In an interview, Katuka explained that the Monze incident where local residents booed President Edgar Lungu to express their displeasure could not be compared to the several violent acts the PF had perpetuated against the UPND and other opposition parties.

“There was no violence in this country until the PF came on the scene. Before the PF came on the scene, a panga was a garden tool. But now, it is a dangerous weapon because of the PF. Even when Dora talks like that, it is hallucination! Is this the first time that a Head of State has been booed? Booing has no risk to his life, nobody risked his life by booing at him. His life was not in danger in any way. President Kaunda, who brought us this independence, was pelted at Independence stadium. President Rupiah Banda was blocked by Sata in Solwezi, his motorcade was blocked and because he had a civilised team of people, all he did was he stopped and even shook hands with

Sata. If you remember in Ndola, the PF cadres blocked George Kunda, the (late) vice-president’s motorcade; he had to take another route to avoid trouble,” Katuka recalled.

“So, I don’t see why they are making an issue out of no issue. President Hakainde was whisked out of Sky FM through the rooftop to run from PF cadres who were downstairs with guns! Can you compare that with what happened in Monze? President Hakainde at Moba Hotel in Kitwe was attacked by PF cadres with guns, did anyone apologise or condemn it from the PF? Nothing. We have heard, recently, when Hakainde is in his house speaking to a radio station in Chinsali, people go and attack the voice on radio, has anybody apologised? So, what nonsense is that, others should apologise for just booing at a person who is just passing on the road? And they were just flashing their party symbols, that is what I saw. We have seen how President Lungu has jumped on a plane and when he is leaving, he flashes his party symbol to everyone. Meanwhile, he is saying he is ‘inspecting government projects.’ So, why does he flash a symbol when he is doing government duties?”

He said the PF government was the most childish government the country had ever seen.

“So, it is nonsense when Dora talks like that, she is just hallucinating and she is being silly! There is no way they can condemn that incident in Monze when they have not condemned those other incidences I have given you as examples. So, chiwamila galu kuluma mbuzi (so it is better for the dog to bite a goat), is that what it means? PF is the worst government since we got our independence because they are unresponsive, irresponsible, uncaring and childish! There is more ‘caderism’ in this government than any other government. It’s a composition of cadres wearing the jackets of leaders,” he said.

And Katuka insisted that the UPND saw no reason to apologize for the Monze incident when the PF had failed to apologise for their violent acts on several occasions.

“Why do they want others to apologise when they have never apologised? They have never condemned their own actions. Remember Chishimba Kambwili was attacked in Kabwe; who attacked him? It is the PF. I was part of those, who were

attacked at Intercontinental (Hotel) during the (Constitution Amendment) Bill 10 debate. So, all that to them is nothing. The biggest crime that anyone has done is booing Lungu because ‘he is God,’ that is what you mean? ‘If you boo Lungu then you will never go to Heaven, but if you attempt to kill Hakainde Hichilema, there is no issue.’ So, for me, it’s nonsense, it is a very very cheap type of thinking. You don’t expect people who are mature to think like that,” said Katuka.

“They must realise that if they have never apologised, we really find it unnecessary to apologise for nothing because the incidents I have given you are worse off and were life-risking than what we saw in Monze. So, there is no need to apologise. When you talk about violence, it has been brought by the PF; we never had this. Zambia was a peaceful country and people walked around without fear. But now, we are not safe. I do not know when I can be attacked by the PF. PF does not own the people it is governing on behalf of the people. For them, it is cheap excitement to be in government. So, I think they are just being childish, silly and irresponsible!”



**WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY,
BUT IT'S THE GOVERNMENT
WE ARE AFRAID OF.**



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

By Julia Malunga
ARCHBISHOP Telesphore Mpundu says it is time for President Edgar Lungu to bid farewell to Zambians because he has served his two terms.

And Archbishop Mpundu says the PF must not brag that they are already celebrating the 2021 election victory, warning that the party would be shocked because the mood in the country was “enough is enough!”

Meanwhile, Archbishop Mpundu says the political establishment is filled with little men who are afraid of the formation of OCIDA (Our-Civic-Duty Association).

In an interview, Archbishop Mpundu insisted that the controversial Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 was illegitimate, as it sought to extend President Lungu’s stay in office.

He stressed that time had come for President Lungu to bid farewell to Zambians because he had already served his stipulated two terms.

“Why are they insisting on Bill 10? I remember, in your (News Diggers!) paper where Vice-President, her ladyship, Inonge Wina was saying, ‘we will stop cadres from harassing people, who are having meetings if you support Bill 10.’ What I understand is that, it is a euphemism for a third term. We are now going into elections and the political party in power is campaigning, which is illegal! Bill 10 is designed to get rid of the rights of citizens that is enshrined in the Constitution that says, ‘If somebody has served this country twice as President, he has been sworn in twice, he cannot go for a third term.’ Now, they want to put it in such a way that this does not sound as a third term,” Archbishop Mpundu said.

“The government should come out in the open and tell us that this is Bill (10) is a third term and once this is done, there will be peace. But people have seen through it and they are not happy about it. We commend the Catholic Bishops for saying this Bill is retrogressive. My predecessor, Merdado Mazombwe, told Mr (Fredrick) Chiluba that ‘the time for him to go had come.’ I am sure they are going to say it now. President Lungu has served, go away! But they want to change that to accommodate a third term, it is wrong! And they are bringing nice things saying, ‘this time, we are going for 50/50 representation in Parliament and the disabled...’ This is only cosmetic. What have they done all this time? They have not done anything for them. Time has come to call a spade a spade. He should simply say, ‘thank you so much people. I have served you for two terms. I am going.’ Let us not beat about the bush. Bill 10 has no legitimacy. This is a sacred document. We must respect it. Do we want a small party to change the Constitution? This is a shame! Let us grow up, politically!”

Archbishop Mpundu said the PF government ought to be ashamed for not giving opportunities to the opposition to freely mobilise their members.

“The PF started campaigning, even before COVID-19, and now they are using it to prevent others from campaigning, why? They should feel ashamed that they don’t give equal opportunities to the opposition. They think I have started OCIDA (Our-Civic-Duty Association)? I am just a simple member. It is just another

It’s time for Lungu to bid farewell – Telesphore

organisation, they are afraid of their own shadows. The political establishment is filled with little men, very frightened!” he observed.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Mpundu cautioned the ruling party not to celebrate their 2021 election victory yet because they would be shocked.

“The PF cannot celebrate victory right now. They will be shocked, they will be very surprised. The mood out there is ‘enough is enough!’ They shouldn’t celebrate yet. President Lungu has not even been nominated yet. Let them celebrate nothing. What makes a president have a good reputation is the performance of his government. Where are we from the economic point of view? We are nowhere, so how can he be popular? The performance is coming from the people he has chosen to surround himself with. Here, we have the 48 houses, ambulances, (Ronald) Chitotela and now it is (Chitalu) Chilufya; he chose all these people so how can he be popular with thugs around him? There will be a reaction in this country. People have only so much tolerance,” he cautioned.

He also lamented that governance had terribly been marred by the ruling party.

“What happened in the (Dr Kenneth) Kaunda regime? He was powerful and now Bill 10 wants to make President Lungu an emperor in everything. He wants to be an elephant trampling over everybody. Governance has terribly been marred by this regime just like the previous ones, but they are having their own brand. This makes me feel bad. This is not what our forefathers fought for. We want a listening government. There is discrimination. If we have good leadership, we will again become

one. The poverty levels are high! So many people are rich, so many people are poor. Right now, I am not proud to be a Zambian. I cannot pretend. We should be above tribalism, people should be judged by their character,” Archbishop Mpundu explained.

And Archbishop Mpundu observed that what happened to President Lungu in Monze last week where local residents resoundingly booed him was “tit for tat.”

“What happened to Hakainde Hichilema in Shiwangandu? He was nearly manhandled, he was not given a chance, he was not given police protection and this is on tribal basis. Now, the President goes to Monze and he wants to be treated like a king when he is not according to his opponents the exact thing that he would want? So, this is ‘tit for tat.’ I have been around for quite some time. Political violence was brought in by UNIP so from that time, there has never been peace. This political violence is carried by cadres, these are paid thugs, they are crooks when they are supposed to be behind bars! And now, the government is using them in order to coerce their political opponents in a corner,” Archbishop Mpundu said.

Archbishop Mpundu cautioned the PF government to halt the behaviour of their cadres, particularly in view of their tendency to besiege public buildings, like court premises.

“The opposition is not allowed to use public media. This is nonsense, rubbish! We have to be democratic and this means being tolerant to one other. Here, we know how to coerce the political opponents into submission. That is not true democracy, this is a shame to this country. These political cadres in PF are not invisible; one day,

they will meet their match, they will be pounded, and people will be killed. We are warning these people in government to stop it because they will be responsible for what will happen. People are fed up with hypocrisy,” he complained.

He apologised to the youth for not doing enough to protect their future, but urged them to take interest in the affairs of the country.

“Excuse me young people, I am apologising to you, as a parent, as a senior citizen we have not done enough to protect you. Your future has been ruined! I wish I would have done more by talking and telling the government no

matter they brand me. Tomorrow, you will hear that, “Telesphore wants to be president, what for?” I hate partisan politics, but I am a politician. I am interested in how this country is being run. A philosopher Plato once said: ‘if you are not interested in the affairs of the country, how you are being ruled, you will run the risk that one day, you will wake up to find you are being ruled by fools!’ Be interested in the affairs of your own country, otherwise, you will find that the people who are ruling you are far below average intelligence,” he said.

Archbishop Mpundu also wondered why President Lungu failed to fire corruption-accused Ministers.

“What happens in this country, someone has allegedly been accused of doing something and that someone stays in government instead of withdrawing to let the investigations be done. He/she still remains in government so

that they can destroy records, threaten the organs of people. It’s not right! Wherever you go, if you are accused of having allegedly done something, on moral grounds, you step aside. But if you don’t do it on moral grounds, you are lying to yourself and the President has the right to say, ‘step aside, when investigations are done, you can come back,” said Archbishop Mpundu.

“Investigating organs are supposed to be given free rein. How are they supposed to investigate the President if they say, ‘he is involved in Mukula transportation?’ We just hear that. Allegations must be investigated. But no, Chilufya and Chitotela are still there. How can I be proved guilty if I am still holding that same office I have abused? We have qualified investigative organs that are not given a chance! If you give them free rein, they will do a good job. The police are politicised instead of serving the nation, they serve the government.”

Jeering a politician is within acceptable range of expressing opinion – Germany Envoy

By Natasha Sakala

GERMAN Ambassador to Zambia Achim Burkart says jeering a politician is within the acceptable range of expressing an opinion.

Government has officially condemned residents on Monze District in Southern Province, an opposition UPND stronghold, for booing President Lungu when he toured the town.

But in a tweet, replying to Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya statement on the Monze incident, Burkart observed that despite the jeering not being polite, it also happened to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“Jeering against a politician might not be polite but also happened to Chancellor #Merkel. In line with David Young’s speech on the July 4, it seems to me to be within the acceptable range of what people not liking this politician can do to express an opinion,” tweeted Burkart.

Last week, United States Embassy Chargé d’Affaire David Young said it was unfortunate that in Zambia, it was frowned upon to say anything critical about government or leaders without risking being censored or threatened with arrest.

Speaking during a digital American Independence day celebration held by the American

embassy on July 4, Young noted that anyone who occupies public office should be willing to be criticized; fairly and unfairly.

“It is unfortunate in Zambia today that it is frowned upon to say anything critical about seeing your government leaders or problems in government without risking being censored or even threatened with arrests. The first of reservists for freedoms is freedom of speech and in many ways, it is the foundational of civil and political rights. It is central to all freedoms, expression through the press, assembly, peaceful protests, belief. If you can’t say what you believe, you aren’t truly free. Today, freedom of speech is under threat around the world. In many countries, you risk imprisonment for simply voicing your opinion which is the violation of the basic tenet of liberty,” said Young.

“Now freedom of speech is often difficult because at its, core it requires that people who decide to go into public life must tolerate criticism from all corners. Whether you are a mayor, a police chief, a diplomat or a national leader, democracy requires you to sign up for public criticism. If you want to have political power and influence and status and responsibilities of public office, you have to be willing to be criticized fairly and unfairly sometimes you might even be called names.”

Namugala rules Malama out of order over climate change comment

By Julia Malunga

FIRST Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Catherine Namugala says Kanchibiya PF member of parliament Dr Martin Malama should desist from stating or suggesting that the UPND members do not support the fight against climate change.

Speaking when rendering a ruling on a point of order, raised by Katombora UPND member of parliament Derrick Livune against Dr Malama, Thursday, on allegations he made that the UPND did not take climate change seriously, Namugala said Dr Malama was out of order.

“Honorable members will recall that on Tuesday 25th February 2020 while the house was considering a ministerial statement on the floods situation in the country, delivered by Olipa Phiri Minister in the Office of the Vice-President and Mr K Mbangweta Member of Parliament for Nkeyema constituency was on the floor. Mr D Livune Member of Parliament for Katombora Constituency raised the following point of order; Sir, before His Excellency the President Edgar Lungu came to this House to talk to us about climate change over which we all agreed with him. The UPND brought a motion to this House after consultations with its leadership including Mr Hakainde Hichilema. It is on record that we

members of the UPND moved a motion in this House on climate change and told our honourable colleagues on your right side that climate change is real,” Namugala narrated.

“His Excellency President Lungu just agreed with the UPND when he came to address the House. Mr Speaker, it is now a trend by honourable Dr Malama to bring up the issue of climate change and purporting that the UPND does not agree with the fact. On the contrary Dr Malama is one of those who voted against the motion that the UPND brought to this honourable House. Is Dr Malama in order to continuously bring up the same issue and mislead the nation thereby bringing confusion in this House when we on your left side agreed with his Excellency the President Mr Edgar Lungu, Mr Hakainde Hichilema and even you Mr Speaker and the whole House on climate change. Dr Malama continuously brings up this matter to mislead the nation. Is he in order when your records show that he is one of those who does not believe that climate change is real because he voted against your noble motion. Sir, I seek your ruling whether he was in order to continue to play it simple on the issue of climate change,”

Namugala said Dr Malama in his debates said some opposition leaders

criticised President Lungu on the threat of climate change.

“On the 5th of November 2019, when the House was considering the supply motion, Dr Malama debated as follows; Sir, not long ago the President came to this House and was talking about climate change. And some politicians went to town laughing about it. However, when the heatwave came, he wanted to talk about climate change and load shedding. But the Zambian people questioned him. That man has now stopped talking about climate change because he has realised that what the President was talking about is real,” Namugala recalled.


“On 21 February 2020 during her honour the Vice-President question time, Dr Malama asked the following ‘Mr Speaker, not long ago His excellency the President of this Republic Zambia came to this House to address the nation. Amongst the many challenges he talked about was the threat of climate change. Some opposition leaders however have gone to town criticizing him about this. What advice does the government have for the UPND leadership to ensure that it does not unnecessarily criticize well intended messages from the Executive,”

Namugala ruled that Dr Malama was out of order.

“Honorable members, at this

juncture the issue for determination whether the UPND tabled a motion on climate change as alleged by Mr D Livune. Accordingly, the office of the honourable Mr Speaker conducted a search of the verbatim to the House to ascertain whether such a motion had been brought to the House by the UPND. The search revealed that on Wednesday 19th October 2019, Mr AL Lifuma a UPND member of parliament for Kabompo Constituency moved a motion to urge government to accelerate implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the motion was seconded by Mr H Kunda,” said Namugala.


“Honorable members, it is clear that combating climate change is one of the SDGs. Therefore, the UPND’s motion on SDGs shows that the party is in support of the fights against climate change. And that it acknowledges the challenges associated with climate change. The UPND is therefore on record as supporting the fight against climate change. In view of the foregoing therefore, Dr Malama was out of order and should in future desist from stating or suggesting that the UPND members do not support the fight against climate change because that assertion is not supported by the record referred to above.”



CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

This is a weekly column aimed at sharing CTPD's perspective and steering public debate on various issues pertaining to Trade & Investment Law, Public Finance Management, Extractives and Human Development.

TODAYS TOPIC:
Understanding Small-Holder Finance and Marketing issues in Zambia
with Dr. Simon Manda



Understanding Smallholder Finance and Marketing Issues in Zambia

AGRICULTURE is a big deal in Zambia. National government policies acknowledge the sector as an engine for growth and driver to poverty reduction. For a long time, the sector share of employment has floated between 48 – 52%. Yet the sector's share in total output (Gross Domestic Product) revolved between 10 and 13% since 1990. The sector has faced challenges such as those related to finance and marketing, more especially among small-scale farmers.

In this series, I will concentrate on realities and challenges of agriculture finance and marketing among small-scale farmers in Zambia. I will delve into what should be done by state and non-state actors to strengthen support in credit and marketing for small-scale farmers in Zambia in order to drive an agenda for national growth and poverty reduction.

The series is timely given recent efforts by the Centre for Trade Policy and Development to launch two studies around Agriculture Finance and Marketing in Zambia later in the month. The next two series of articles, I will aim to highlight some of these elements and lessons learnt thus far. Thus, the overall objective of the two articles will be to shed more light on national realities and challenges related to agricultural marketing and mechanisms for access to finance among small- holders.

Let us begin with the element of agricultural financing. Zambia is replete with historical efforts aimed at facilitating financing for agriculture, but most have been defunct. Examples include: Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC); Credit Unions and Savings Associations (CUSA); Zambia Agricultural Development Bank; Zambia Cooperative Federation Financing Services (ZCF-FS); and Lima Bank. Any significant efforts aimed at facilitating agriculture credit must thus take into account historical failures and successes as learning points.

Globally only 1% of commercial lending goes to agriculture. In Zambia, recent reports such as those from Bank of Zambia show that of the K41.3 billion credit disbursed by commercial banks between 2nd-quarter 2017 and 3rd-quarter 2018, only 9.7% went to agriculture (BOZ, 2018). In fact, if we remove commercial farmers, only 0.4 % went to small and emergent farmers. In 2015, the Rural Agriculture and Livelihood Survey showed that of 1,124,485 male headed households, and 387,893 female headed households, only 15% and 9.6% respectively, received some form of a loan. Clearly,



agro-financing is skewed towards the big players – the corporate sector yet the majority of producers in the sector are small-scale farmers. For small-scale farmers, agriculture financing is scarce, expensive and takes too long to be realised. In fact, another key element to add here is that the nature of finance is in the form of short-term loans which often fail to accommodate the long-term nature of agriculture.

On the other hand, banks and other creditors have always argued that agriculture financing is risky and expensive, and characterised by high default rates, leading to huge bank losses. In their view, agriculture financing should consider high collateral coverage and high-risk premiums which can lead to higher lending rates for agriculture. And this is where the problem lies for small-scale farmers who often lack requisite collateral and or capital for repayment.

Let us talk about some of the identified risk factors in agriculture financing. First is that key elements in agro-value chains such as production, distribution and marketing can be characterised by several risks which makes agricultural lending a very risky business.

For our purpose, let us take marketing risks. Some of the related risks include unpredictable market environment, lack of hedging mechanisms through forward markets, government export bans and generally government interventions. Most small-scale farmers in Zambia rely on rain-fed agriculture

which is especially susceptible to climatic factors such as drought and floods. They cultivate on customary land tenure which does not qualify for collateral for commercial loans. Recent reports have shown that only 4.1% of the approximately 1.5 million small-holder farmers have title to land. Combined, these are serious challenges that impact the possibilities of accessing credit for small-scale farmers.

This raises the need for the national government to strengthen efforts aimed at improving agriculture marketing and financing for small-scale farmers. Addressing these components would greatly encourage small-scale farmers and other rural producers to engage in agriculture which would help to stimulate rural growth by enhancing opportunities to improve rural income disbursements necessary for driving an agricultural transition, poverty reduction, commercialisation and value addition.

In the next article I will delve into how agriculture marketing and financing can be improved. I will draw on regional experiences such as from Tanzania in order to highlight Zambia's own efforts around agriculture marketing and financing.

About the Author:Dr Simon Manda is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Trade Policy and Development. He is also a Lecturer at the University of Zambia Department of Development Studies.

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By Julia Malunga
MUFULIRA PF Member of Parliament Evans Chibanda says only a member of the Patriotic Front can be allowed to speak on Radio in Mufulira because it was not yet time for campaigns.

Chibanda said, in an interview that Radio Mafken was to blame for the chaos that occurred in the district because they hosted an opposition leader on the radio station instead of the ruling party.

He said as incumbent MP, he was the only mandated politician to speak on radio, adding that there was nothing wrong with him campaigning as that was his privilege as seating lawmaker.

On Friday, two Patriotic Front cadres sustained injuries after they were beaten by residents of Mufulira and UPND cadres for trying to stop a program that featured UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema.

Later, a horde of PF cadres stormed the station threatening to burn it down, before they proceeded to hold a protested march against the UPND leader.

In an interview, Chibanda said by law he was the one mandated to speak on radio stations in Mufulira.

“I spoke to the radio station manager and I said ‘look, there is a law which prescribes what time campaigns must take place’ simple and straight forward. I am blaming the radio station because even

Only PF is mandated to speak on radio in Mufulira – PF MP

for them, they can’t allow somebody who is not a PF member who doesn’t hold a seat to start campaigning. It is not right. I have blamed them where there are people who are trying to dislodge us who are going there to campaign. For me, I am prescribed by the law to be able to go on the radio station to talk about what I am doing because for now, I am the elected representative of that constituency. So unfortunately, if I have that privilege to seem like I am campaigning it is the advantage as the incumbent,” Chibanda said.

“I am the one mandated by law to go and articulate things that are happening in the constituency because I am not just a PF MP, I am the MP for everyone in that constituency. So by law I am given the green light and power to go and talk about issues that are happening in my constituency. I told that radio station to be professional. This is the second time in the history of that radio station that they have caused havoc. The other time they went on air and propagated that they were ritual killers in the residential area. The people got agitated and burnt down a police station. So the media must be professional if you are going

to be [agents] of hate then you will set this country on fire. I spoke to the management of that radio station where I told them that what they are doing is not correct. You cannot start allowing campaigns on the radio station when we still have over a year to go to elections.

Chibanda also claimed that Mufulira residents must have reacted that way because they were not happy with what the opposition leader was saying on radio.

“All I am saying is that these political parties especially the opposition must desist from starting the campaigns now. This is not time for campaigns in the country. PF still has the mandate to rule this country until 2021. Those people must be patient for now they are just causing unnecessary acrimony within the people when they start campaigning. The constitution of this country is very clear on when campaigns are supposed to start. It is an offence to start campaigning before that period has been allowed by the law. Now when you are going on the radio station and you start despising others you are causing unnecessary agitation in the community and this is why you are having this

misconduct,” Chibanda said.

“When these opposition leaders are being invited on these radio stations, they should know what they should be saying to the people. If they will be agitating the people then they are the ones causing hate speech. I don’t know what whoever was on radio was saying, but for people to react, they should not have been happy with whatever he said. It is not time to start calling each other names,”

Chibanda condemned cadres from both the ruling and opposition party.

“Let the law take its course and all those that will be found wanting should be brought to book. No one is above the law, we are all Zambians. This whole excitement is coming because of people wanting to think they have the right to do whatever they want to do, no. What has happened in Mufulira is uncalled for, it is an embarrassment to the people of this country and residents of Mufulira. For me two wrongs can never make a right, a wrong is a wrong. Whether it is PF or UPND who started the fight, it is not right! We are all Zambians for crying out loud. Even when there are killings, who are we killing? We are killing ourselves, we are killing



PF cadres protest after two of their cadres were beaten by UPND

our own brothers and sisters. For what? All for the sake of power? My colleagues who are in the opposition are causing all this unnecessary fights because according to them they feel that it is time for campaigns, it is not. And then it is causing us the PF to say we can’t allow this!” he exclaimed.

Meanwhile, Chibanda said allegations levelled against him that PF cadres were using

his vehicles to harass staff at the radio station were false.

“That is not true and will never be true. I am in Lusaka and you are aware that Parliament is sitting. Let them send you number plates for those cars. That is a mischievous and silly allegation. Those who are claiming that they are my cars let them give you evidence,” said Chibanda.

KBF can continue hallucinating, but he stands expelled from PF – Chama

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) deputy national chairman Davies Chama says Lusaka lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube can continue dreaming about his ambitions to contest the party presidency.

And Chama in an interview said it is laughable that an educated lawyer like Fube does not understand the party constitution.

Reacting to Fube’s remarks last week that he does not recognise his expulsion from the PF because the Central Committee that expelled him had no mandate, Chama said the lawyer was hallucinating.

“First and foremost there is no vacancy in the party for the office of the president or whatever he is insinuating. He is a lawyer and as a lawyer, he should be able to understand. And if he is a member of the party as he claims, he seized to be a member of the party as far as the party is

concerned. And it is in the public domain. Refusing to accept his expulsion, he can hallucinate. And anyone can hallucinate. If they tell you that you are not a member of this family, you can demand anything you want,” Chama said.

Chama said the Central Committee’s mandate was still valid until the next general conference.

“But as far as the party is concerned, the Central Committee made a decision and the Central Committee still has a mandate until the time we will go to the general conference. This is an old member of the party and he understands the party constitution and how this party has evolved over time. And even during the presidency of the late President Michael Chilufya Sata, he should understand how the party runs. But he just seems to be hallucinating anyway, and there is nothing we can do with his hallucination,” he said.

Meanwhile, Chama said Fube stood expelled and could only continue dreaming about becoming PF president.

“He can dream as much as he wants because any person has the right to dream. He has a lot of time to dream and so let him continue dreaming. Otherwise, he is not a member of the party and if you are not a member of the party and he can’t contest any position in the party. It’s as simple as that. Even a grade two pupil can easily understand that. If he cannot understand that as he calls himself that he is a lawyer, then I don’t know. Maybe you can explain to him. It’s laughable that even a so-called lawyer cannot understand simple things like that. Then we don’t know where we are heading to with the legal fraternity. The man is expelled from the party and if he doesn’t want to accept, it’s up to him,” said Chama.



President Edgar Lungu (c) tours the Zambia-Angola Canal in Shangombo on Saturday, July 11, 2020. Picture by Salim Henry

PF violence may discourage people from voting – Sinda MMD chair

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda
SINDA District MMD chairperson George Mwanza says he regrets campaigning and supporting the PF government in 2016 because the ruling party has continued to perpetuate violence and has lamentably failed to deliver on its campaign promises.

In an interview, Mwanza observed that Zambians had lost faith in President Edgar Lungu’s government and the PF violence to a level where some voters were vowing not to cast their vote at next year’s general election because of the Head of State’s failed leadership and his Cabinet.

“People have lost faith in this leadership. Even those who were government supporters are no longer government supporters. Instead of saying, ‘they are going to vote for the opposition,’ they are saying, ‘they will not vote at all’ because they are disappointed and also afraid! I was one of those who campaigned, who supported this government, but I

regret and those others that supported this government are regretting! This is a sign that people are disappointed,” Mwanza lamented.

Mwanza explained that the drastic deterioration of Zambia’s economy showed that the country had no leaders.

“Leadership has collapsed to the point that we don’t have leaders! We have Cabinet Ministers going on air declaring war against citizens and the President is watching! People carry offensive weapons wanting to kill each other, and the President is watching,” Mwanza complained.

Mwanza added that President Lungu had also disgraced his leadership by circulating fake pictures of road development from Nigeria.

“Imagine, the President, himself, is always ranting against fake news and what does he do? He gets pictures of another country and claim its his road works! Shameful deception! From there, they want us to believe

them?” Mwanza wondered.

When asked to comment on the Monze incident where local residents booed President Lungu to voice out their displeasure, Mwanza said booing was not a crime as it was a simple protest against the current leadership.

“Boeing is not a crime, it is a simple protest. If people are deceived, they just told him, ‘we want this way!’ That’s not an insult. In Monze, HH was not there, UPND leadership was not there, but people decided to show the President that they were not happy with his leadership,” Mwanza replied.

He also observed that Zambia Police and PF cadres caused residents to react because they pulled down opposition flags and billboards.

“Police and PF cadres removed opposition billboards and flags, and people just decided to let them know that, ‘the person we want is this one. You, you are not fit to be our leader!’ It’s as simple as that,” explained Mwanza.

He also recalled that during the MMD government, then-vice-president George Kunda had his motorcade blocked by the PF during their time in the opposition

“During MMD government, our vice-president, George Kunda, was attacked by PF cadres and his motorcade was blocked. And that time, Michael Sata was there, but when you see the Monze issue, HH was not there, UPND leadership was not there...” he added.

Mwanza, who contested as a district council chairperson in 2016, urged voters to never shun voting because the danger remained that undesirable leaders always found their way back in public office.

“Not voting is making things worse because the same leadership you are against, the same leadership you are up in arms with, will bounce back into power using different methods....,” cautioned Mwanza.

By Julia Malunga
MBABALA UPND Member of Parliament Ephraim Belemu says it is unacceptable that the Ministry of Energy has not included information pertaining to the petroleum products procurement schedule in the annual plans for 2018 and 2019.

Speaking when he debated the Report for the Committee on Energy, Water Development and Tourism, Thursday, Belemu said it was not possible that the Ministry of Energy did not procure petroleum products in 2018 and 2019.

“Madam, the committee notes that the cost of fuel is too high in comparison to other countries in the SADC region due to numerous taxes lamped on the wholesale and pump prices build up. The committee recommends that the government should urgently review the tax regime for all petroleum products in order to ascertain the actual cost of fuel. Madam the committee notes with concern that the Ministry of Energy did not include information pertaining to procurement of petroleum products in the annual plans for 2018 and 2019. The committee finds this unacceptable and it’s not possible that there was no procurement of petroleum products in 2018 and 2019. The committee strongly urges the government to ensure that the Ministry of Energy compiles with the guidelines and regulations on the public procurement act number 12 of 2008,” Belemu debated.

He recommended that the petroleum Act be urgently reviewed in order to line it with the key changes and the developments that had taken place in the downstream sub sector.

“In line with its terms of reference as contained in standing orders number 157 (2) the committee focused on topical issues of the petroleum industry in Zambia, challenges and opportunities. Madam, the committee was informed that the petroleum act chapter 435 of the laws of Zambia was enacted in 1930. The act was amended in 1964 and 1994 but still did not take into account new developments in the sub sector such as the integration

Parley Committee wonders why govt has no fuel procurement schedule for 2018-2019

of bio fuel in the country’s energy mix, regulations of filling stations and the fuel marking program. Further, the Act continues to refer to local councils as the institutions mandated to regulate and issue licenses in the downstream sub sector when this function has since shifted to the Energy Regulation Board. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the petroleum act chapter 435 of the laws of Zambia be urgently reviewed in order to line it with the key changes and the developments that have taken place in the downstream sub sector,” he said.

Belemu further recommended that the government urgently upgrades and rehabilitates infrastructure in order to increase production and efficiency.

“Madam the committee observes that both Indeni Petroleum Refinery Limited and the Tanzania Zambia Mafuta Tazama in short pipe lines are experiencing operational challenges as a result of age of the equipment which has been in existence for over 40 years. Further, Indeni Petroleum Refinery cannot process Low sulphur diesel due to lack of diesel hydro tetra units. Yet Zambia has committed to the SADC regional framework for harmonisation of low Sulphur diesel and vehicle emissions. Which will enter into force by the year 2022. The committee therefore recommends that the government should as a matter of urgency upgrade and rehabilitate this infrastructure and prioritise the procurement of the diesel hydro tetra unit in order to increase production, efficiency and to meet the international and regional standards specifications,” said Belemu.

And in seconding the motion Lusaka Central PF Member of Parliament Margaret Mwanakatwe said government was losing a lot of revenue because of tax evasion

by unscrupulous vendors.

Mwanakatwe urged the government to channel resources to the Ministry of Energy in order to ensure that they constructed bulk storage facilities.

“The downstream sub sector during interactions with the stakeholders, it was

clear that illegal fuel vending is the major challenge for the downstream sub sector. In this regard, the government is losing a lot of revenue because of tax evasion by unscrupulous vendors in this vice. The committee is therefore urging the government to intensify its efforts to curb this vice

through marking programs. The committee also noted that out of the 344 service stations only 11 were situated in rural areas as such the rural areas are severely under served or poorly served,” Mwanakatwe said.

“And as such we are finding those same illegal fuel



vendors supplying perhaps even substandard petroleum products. We are therefore urging the government to bridge this gap by constructing many more service stations in the rural areas. Thirdly the committee is concerned that the country does not have storage infrastructure for strategic petroleum reserves. In this regard, madam speaker we are urging, as a committee, to channel resources to the Ministry of Energy in order to ensure that they construct bulk storage facilities to ensure that the country has got strategic petroleum reserves,”

She said a national petroleum company could serve as an important statutory institution.

“We believe that a national petroleum company could serve as an important statutory institution to support the development of this sub-sector and integrate it into the economy. In light of this, the committee urges the government to abide by the provisions of the law and ensure that the national petroleum company is created,” said Mwanakatwe.

UNZA VC bans staff from airing grievances in public media

By Julia Malunga
UNIVERSITY of Zambia (UNZA) Vice Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba has warned employees against airing their grievances in public media, stressing that failure to comply would result in disciplinary action.

In a letter dated 8th July, 2020, Prof Mumba said the university had provided adequate frameworks through which employees could air their concerns.

“University Management has observed with great concern the tendency by university employees to air their concerns or grievances in the public media. The University of Zambia is a public university established under the Higher Act 4 of 2013. Arising from the nature of our incorporation, we are all public workers of the Government of the Republic of Zambia. Given that public representation made by employees of the University of Zambia without clearance from the University Management could potentially bring the government into disrepute I caution therefore that any employees making such representation will face the University’s disciplinary action,” said Prof Mumba.

“Be reminded that

the University of Zambia has provided adequate governance frameworks through which employees could air out their grievances. These include the University of Zambia Disciplinary and Grievance code, the Whistle blower policy and the Sexual Harassment policy. Be guided accordingly.”

UNZA management has recently come under fire from the University of Zambia Lecturers’ and Researchers’ Union (UNZALARU) over its decisions, as staff went to the press to air their grievances.

In April this year, UNZALARU wrote a letter to Professor Mumba, asking him to cancel out the appointment of Dr Jackson Mwanza as Dean of Students because of alleged irregularities that accompanied his selection to the management position.

And UNZALARU said it was disappointing that at a time when the institution was grappling with inadequate funding from the central government, Management, decided to create a totally unnecessary position of UNZA Spokesperson.

In a letter dated 2nd April, 2020 UNZALARU president Dr Evans Lampi said the appointment of Dr Mwanza to the position of

Dean of Students Affairs violated the university values.

“There are two reasons why we refuse to stand by and watch you or any member of the University slaughter with impunity the essential values of this public institution that we all love and why we insist that the appointment of Dr Mwanza must be reversed with immediate effect. The first is that Dr Mwanza never applied for the position of Dean of Students. Instead, he was simply invited for formal interviews for the position alongside two other academic members of staff. These are Prof. Boniface Namangala from the Institute of Distance Education and Prof. Osbert Sikazwe from the School of Mines. Like Dr Mwanza, both Prof Namangala and Prof Sikazwe never, at any time, applied for the position of Dean of Students. Even more odd is that the other two interviewees do not qualify to be considered for the position in the first place,” wrote Lampi.

“The second reason why we believe that the appointment should be revoked is that the failure to do so would create

a terrible precedence and institutionalise wrongdoing in the recruitment of staff to our esteemed university. Already, we are disappointed with how Miss Brenda Bukowa, another of our colleagues who is a lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, was recruited to the position of UNZA Spokesperson without any formal advertisement for the position. The University already had the position of UNZA Public Relations Manager, occupied by Mr Chibale Damaseke, when the post of UNZA Spokesperson was created. At the same time, the University also had the position of Deputy Public Relations Manager, one that was occupied by Mr Mulunda Habenzu, so if it was felt that Mr Chibale is ineffective, why was he not relieved of his duties and his deputy promoted? If both Mr Chibale and Mr Habenzu were deemed ineffective, wasn’t dismissing and replacing them with more competent professionals the most cost effective way of dealing with their incompetence?”

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President Edgar Lungu is being very unfair to the Patriotic Front. Very unfair! We say this because it has become very clear (even to him) by now that his participation in the 2021 general elections will invite a significant reduction in his party's chances of retaining power. This President is not a novice politician, he has been around long enough to know when there is general dissent for the country's leadership. Elders know when they go to visit a patient whether there is hope for recovery or a dark cloud is looming. They are able to tell, and even though they can't say it, they prepare the family for the imminent sad news.

We are surprised that this particular President doesn't seem to see his end in office. Despite all the signs, he is not willing to prepare his family. He is hearing the booing, but his solution is that police must tame the public with arrests. He can see his paid disgruntled supporters being overpowered in the supposed PF Copperbelt strongholds, but his solution is that protesting residents must be disciplined. Where any normal person would see resentment and disapproval, our President Lungu is seeing a fresh opportunity to continue in office. Is that normal? Where is he drawing all that confidence from?

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
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President Lungu has lowered the bar for political leadership to such a heartbreaking level that there is no standard anymore. We can't have government leaders, ministers and lawmakers threatening to break the bones of citizens who hold divergent views. Are we such an orphaned country that we will allow such shallow minded fools to continue leading us into a ditch?

For giving us low caliber ministers who are making Zambia look like a banana republic, President Lungu has become a liability to all of us. For landing us in this debt crisis, President Lungu has become a liability to all of us. For unleashing the police to arrest anyone who questions his bad governance, President Lungu has become a liability to us all. For institutionalising corruption and glorifying thieves around him who have looted the Treasury, President Lungu has become a liability to all of us.

If he doesn't want anyone else in the Patriotic Front to contest the elections next year, that's his personal problem and that of his party. But the rest of Zambia must say no to any further mediocrity in government leadership. We have said before that we don't hate President Lungu as an individual but he is the worst liability that we have as a country. He has caused enough pain.

Lungu is not just a PF problem, he's become a liability to all of us

Why is President Lungu doing this to his party? This is high level selfishness. A leader who says "it has to be me, whether we win or lose" is a very bad leader and needs to be condemned. Of course, a few bootlicking members of the ruling party believe that this man is the best candidate they can field to win the next general election. But we know that there are also a few level headed people in the Patriotic Front who, unfortunately they cannot speak out, know that this will be the most difficult candidate to sell even if they force his face on the ballot against the eligibility clause.

There are strong grounds why President Lungu should feel ashamed about standing

again in 2021, even if the law permitted him. First, he knows that he has not performed to people's desire and expectations. The depreciating kwacha, inflation, the debt mountain, the high cost of basic goods, unprecedented corruption, breakdown of rule of law and shrinking democratic space, among other indicators, can all attest to the fact that this President has failed. They lied about lower taxes, they lied about more money in people's pockets, and they continue to lie about job creation. What reason does he have for wanting to continue in office?

Second, like we have repeatedly said in the past, this man told the whole nation that he

was only going to be a transition President from January 2015 to August 2016. That's what he said when he was first elected into office, as he announced his Cabinet at State House. He said "I am just a transition leader and I am not here to stay. I have never had an ambition to be President and this is not my calling. But as a country, we need to see a proper peaceful election process, so I am here to transition you to the next election so that you can decide now whom you want to lead you." Where has the ambition to rule Zambia forever come from? What happened to the transition presidency?

So, like we said before, President Lungu needs to be grateful.

An entire five-year full term is something that Michael Sata never had, Rupiah Banda never had. This transition President is very lucky that by the time we will be getting to the 2021 elections, he will have ruled for almost seven years already. Is he saying there is not a single reasonable person who can carry on the mantle in PF next year? This is selfishness of a dangerous level.

But the reason why we are bothered about this selfishness is because President Lungu's third attempt at power is not just a PF problem. This man has now become a liability to all of us as citizens of this country. Zambia needs to get back its high standards in politics.

Crossword puzzle No 644

1		2		3	4		5
6	7		8		9		10
			11				
12					13		
			14				
15		16			17	18	19
20					21		

*"If you really want to eat, keep climbing.
The fruits are on the top of the tree.
Stretch your hands and keep stretching
them. Success is on the top, keep going."
- Israelmore Ayivor*

Across

1. Child's play
3. Dance movement
6. Cap and gown wearer
9. Alike
11. He's behind the catcher
12. Get rid of
13. Merit
14. Iota preceder
15. ____ of March
17. Patella's place
20. Light brown
21. Potato

Down

1. Silly Putty container
2. Large body of water
4. A hot drink
7. Circle shape
8. Tricks
9. Put into words
10. Combine
15. Make angry
16. Corn unit
18. Tot's rest
19. Final; finish

Crossword puzzle No 643

1	M	A	2	Y	B	3	E		4	S	A	5	Y
	A			A		6	A	R	K				A
7	L	A	M	B	S			8	A	S	K		
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14	B	O	A				15	U	N	D	E	R	
	O		17	C	A	P			I				E
18	B	U	T			19	E	L	D	E	R		

Reader's feedback

'Abyudi Shonga's election spells the end of LAZ'

Dear Editor

They should create a rotation leadership for Female and Male - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

*This is the end of LAZ. Let's not forget that this guy was Appointed Attorney General and he was Lawyer SC Representing Edgar Lungu on his 2021 Presidential Eligibility. Let's not forget 2017's gold scandal..let me end here for now
Congratulations to our new LAZ president Abyudi Shonga - Godfrey Nkoondo - McElvis Sims*

Mutume was a great candidate i hope she can start as honorary sec then it becomes easy to ascend to top leadership wish the best next time my dear. lets see what Shonga brings because Eddie was courageous enough to deal with these tyrants ba pf. - Kenny Chewe

Hope the new LAZ President has heard the statement that came out of the American Embassy in the last 48hrs concerning the unfair application of the public order act & generally the lack of political tolerance by the ruling party - Peter Mmembe

That name take me back to the 90s. Jesus I don't wanna go there again.....Xaviour Chungu, Stella Chibanda, etc. - Kingsley Kaliye

Gone to pf advantage now. So even lawyers don't know how to vote - Loghan Hankomone

Let's hope he is chafed mentally to handle other theoretical lawyers who are easily bought with a morsal of bread so that they applaud their stomachs more than efforcing good rule of law that can bring equality in freedom ,freedom to access economic opportunities . - Canaan Mbale

Linda and Mweetwa destroyed LAZ with their pro UPND agenda. Yes, PF has taken control but LAZ is not supposed to be pro UPND or pro government. I blame Linda and Mweetwa for being used -

Liteta Mwachisompola

Dark days lie ahead...with RB's boy at the helm. LAZ should just be shut down it's no longer useful. - Bashi Katongo



Lungu's claim that UPND will continue losing elections due to their 'violent conduct'

Editor

PF is in power and must create a peaceful environment. Why mentioning UPND who need protection? PF cadres destroyed UPND properties in mufulira. PF was beaten by irate mufulira residents and not UPND. What reasoning is this in the weldi? - Geoffrey Chishimba Chiyumbe

Blame game always, but if government wanted violence to come to an end it would ended a long time ago, the reason is simple application of the law selectively. - Stephen Phiri

Your excellence, i thought you handlers are not properly informing you, as you say this, your PF cadres are at it in Mufulira, so what not revenging are you talking about? You are behind sir. - Ignatius Mwansa Shilangwa

Ba Freedom Sikazwe, Ba Lubinda and others who mean well in the leadership of our able leader,..... please help Dr. E.C Lungu to come to terms with reality on the ground that people will take Bally to State house next year. - Charles Kabwe

sometimes when you want to sale yourself as holier than thou to the people God always shines the light of the skeletons in your closet that are full of corruption, lies, and no leadership qualities - Kris Mubanga Malama

There is a difference between UPND and UPND supporters. The head of state should know that better. Secondly, booing is a form of protest. If you say we are democratic, them embrace the package democracy comes with. Infact, commend those who booed you because normally what we see are people resorting to violence in such situations but those people were peacefully expressing their feelings. - Mulamfu Siamweene

If only he knew that people were fed up with his rule and that they no longer believe whatever he says and that they can't wait to vote him out next year, he wouldn't have made this statement! - Ian Malekhanie

We know that they have lost but that's non of our business and its not what people elected u to tell them.is that part of development - Elias Ndhlovu

US Envoy's condemnation of continued violation of freedom of speech in Zambia

Editor

They dont understand what violation of freedom of speech is. They think it's another donation to their political party - O'brie Mukuka Kuka
True Democracy level the playing field and embrace competition.. You can't boast to be popular when its only your voice which is heard ; Democracy is a practice and not a empty or mere slogan. - Kenny Sefuka
Of course the American ambassador must be shocked to hear Dora Siliya on TV saying booing ECL amounts to treason. Zambias democracy has deteriorated since PF came into power - Mutinta Mulonda
What they are doing is just degrading themselves because the international community is watching closely - Chricious Chongo

PF cadres' threats to burn down Mafken Radio Station Done

Editor

Mushokabanji

The Police chief will be answerable for this lawlessness . His command should not bow down to political pressure. The police are professionals who should take charge and stop this cadre nonsense which is already gettaing out of hand. The world is watching - Katema Malyenkuku

A ruling party should never behave like this. These are serious signs - Mayamba Sitali

Civil War is looming,I said it yesterday and I will say it again,Zambians are not that foolish to continue watching this kind of foolishness continue happening in this nation. - Reuben H Siwila

Their leader is in Western Province busy claiming that the PF are the victims but that they will not avenge and vengeance belongs to God. President Lungu really takes us for fools - Collins

police work under the orders of the one sending these same cadres. We have ourselves to for wrong choices of leadership. - Maxwell Tembo

This country has become ungovernable because of carders from a single political party. Whatever is happening is shameful and should be condemned by all well meaning Zambians. - Muyunda Kalaluka

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says there is nothing wrong with him to campaign during his provincial tours because it is part of his job.

The Head of State said this after touring an Agriculture Service Centre in Sioma District of Western Province, Sunday.

“I heard someone saying that I travel too much already. I haven’t yet travelled. If I am campaigning, what’s wrong with that? If I am working and in the process, I am campaigning, what’s wrong with that? I am supposed to campaign for progress on behalf of the people of Zambia wherever they are. I am campaigning for projects that these projects that we promised the people of Zambia are delivered. That is the campaigning that we are talking about, ‘voila!” President Lungu said.

He said it would be difficult for him to know the challenges faced in implementing government projects if he remained stuck in Lusaka.

“For me, this justifies my moving about the country because if I didn’t come this way this time, I wouldn’t have known about it and probably the minister wouldn’t have been pushed to pledge what she had pledged. There are a lot of projects that we are very ambitious about as PF Government. We really want to transform this country [but] sometimes resources don’t allow us to do all our

There’s nothing wrong with me campaigning whilst on duty – Lungu

plans and this has affected the progress of the works here. But I would have not known had I been stuck in Lusaka. So, I think that it’s imperative that I visit regularly so that even the smallest of projects in the Ministry [of Fisheries and Livestock] which the minister may either ignore the voice of her helm or either be told about them so that we can given the progress in time,” said President Lungu.

Earlier during the tour, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Professor Nkandu Luo told the President that the Sioma service centre had suffered poor funding hence the delay in its completion.

“The World Bank gave

us money to put up service centres. The total number done now is four and we are putting

them in different parts of the country. But this particular project suffered an exchange



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (centre) flanked by Western Province Minister Richard Kapita (right) and Patriotic Front (P.F) Provincial Chairman Kufuka Kufuka being welcomed by residents of Luampa in Western Province on Sunday, July 12, 2020. Picture By Salim Henry

loss. But, as a ministry, we are just saving money here and there so that we can complete this project because these are very important projects in our livestock activities. We funded the contractor and he has assured me that he has bought most of the materials that

are required and he has also started paying the workers. We are on course and we will see to it that this project is finished in a few months. They have promised me [that it will be done in] four months but we shall continue monitoring progress,” said Professor Luo.

Transport Minister tests positive for Covid-19

By Natasha Sakala
TRANSPORT and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya has tested positive for Covid-19, few days after the burial of his late mother.

In a Facebook post, Kafwaya strongly recommended that Covid-19 measures are adhered to as it can be contracted even at a funeral of a loved one.

“Sadly, I come out of my mothers’ funeral Covid-19

positive. To all country men and women, it is my strong recommendation that we maintain the Anti Covid-19 measures that the Government has put in place. As can be seen here, one can catch it even at funeral of a loved one,” he stated.

Kafwaya further expressed gratitude to everyone who supported him following the passing of his mother.

“Thank You. I have learned that in certain circumstances, even strong people need support. But for me, who entirely depends on other people; at the passing of my mother, I got my full support of people from all walks of life. I will forever be indebted to you all. Thank you to everyone. Your support reduced my burden, my sorrow and loneliness.

Your material, moral, compassion and outpouring of love expressed in a myriad of ways was more than I needed. Natotela! For my mother you lived a humble life full of goodness. The reception of your passing from people known and unknown to me taught me that even though you were poor, you were indeed very rich. Today I am more

convinced that a good name is better than riches. And based on this, I will join my fellow Christians in proclaiming that ‘Let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done.’ Thank you for a life extremely well lived, and when you spoke, I wish I listened more – mwende bwino mayo,” stated Kafwaya

Pope ‘pained’ by Hagia Sophia mosque decision

POPE Francis has said he’s “pained” by Turkey’s decision to convert Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia back into a mosque.

Speaking at a service in the Vatican, the Roman Catholic leader added that his “thoughts go to Istanbul”.

Hagia Sophia was built as a Christian cathedral nearly 1,500 years ago and turned into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of 1453.

The Unesco World Heritage Site became a museum in 1934 under Turkish Republic founding father Atatürk.

But earlier this week a Turkish court annulled the site’s museum status, saying its use as anything other than a mosque was “not possible legally”.

Pope Francis confined himself to a few words on the issue: “My thoughts go to Istanbul. I think of Santa Sophia and I am very pained.”

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the first Muslim prayers would be held in Hagia Sophia on July 24.

Shortly after the announcement, the first call to prayer was recited at the site and broadcast on all of Turkey’s main news channels. Hagia Sophia’s social media channels have also been taken down.

Islamists in Turkey have long called for it to become a mosque again but secular opposition members opposed the move.

Defending the decision, President Erdogan stressed that the country had exercised its sovereign right, and he added that the building would remain open to all Muslims, non-Muslims and foreign visitors. ‘Voices not heard’

The Pope is one of several religious and political leaders worldwide who have criticised the move.

The World Council of Churches has called on President Erdogan to reverse the decision.

The Church in Russia, home to the world’s largest Orthodox Christian community, immediately expressed regret that the Turkish court had not taken its concerns into account when ruling on Hagia Sophia.

It has also drawn condemnation from Greece, and Unesco said its World Heritage Committee would now review the monument’s status.

One of Turkey’s most famous authors, Orhan Pamuk, told the BBC that the decision would take away the “pride” some Turks had in being a secular Muslim nation.

“There are millions of secular Turks like me who are crying against this but their voices are not heard,” said Mr Pamuk.

History of a global icon
Hagia Sophia’s complex history began in the year 537 when Byzantine emperor Justinian built the huge church overlooking the Golden Horn harbour

With its huge dome, it was believed to be the world’s largest church and building

It remained in Byzantine hands for centuries apart from a brief moment in 1204 when Crusaders raided the city

In 1453, in a devastating blow to the Byzantines, Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II captured Istanbul (formerly known as Constantinople) and the victorious conqueror performed Friday prayers inside Hagia Sophia

The Ottomans soon converted the building into a mosque, adding four minarets to the exterior and covering ornate Christian icons and gold mosaics with panels of Arabic religious calligraphy

After centuries at the heart of the Muslim Ottoman empire, it was turned into a museum in 1934 in a drive to make Turkey more secular

Today Hagia Sophia is Turkey’s most popular tourist site, attracting more than 3.7 million visitors a year. **BBC**

Jada Pinkett Smith tells Will Smith of her ‘relationship’



The couple have been married since 1997

JADA Pinkett Smith has revealed on her chat show in a heart-to-heart with husband Will Smith that she did have a relationship with singer August Alsina.

Speaking to Smith on her Facebook show Red Table Talk, the actress said that the relationship happened while the pair were separated.

“We were over,” she says. “From there, as time went on, I got into a different kind of entanglement with August.”

Mr Smith then presses her, saying “an entanglement? A relationship.”

“I was in a lot of pain and I was very broken,” she countered.

The pair have been married since 1997, have two children together, and said they are currently back together after a split.

The couple said they

wanted to do the show to clear up speculation circulating in the media over an interview August Alsina recently gave to a radio morning show, The Breakfast Club.

The rapper said he had been in a relationship with Pinkett Smith and that Smith had given the affair his “blessing”, leading to speculation that the Hollywood power couple were in an open marriage.

“The only person that can give permission in that particular circumstance is myself,” Pinkett Smith said.

“I could actually see how he would perceive it as permission because we were separated amicably and I think he also wanted to make it clear that he’s also not a home-wrecker. Which he’s not.”

She had not spoken to the rapper in years, she added.

Smith asked her what she

felt she was looking for in the “interaction” with Alsina about four-and-a-half years ago.

“I just wanted to feel good,” she replied, as her husband nodded sympathetically. “It had been so long since I had felt good.”

Now the couple are back together, Pinkett Smith said they had reached a place of “unconditional love”.

Towards the end of the interview, Smith told her: “I’m gonna get you back first.”

Pinkett Smith laughed and responded: “I think you got me back! I think we’re good on that.”

At the end of the chat, the pair fist-bumped.

“We ride together, we die together. Bad marriage for life,” they said in a quote derived from Smith’s Bad Boys movies. **BBC**

Messi sets new La Liga record for goals, assists during Barcelona's clash at Real Valladolid

LIONEL Messi became the first player in La Liga history to score 20 and assist 20 goals or more in the same season when he teed up Arturo Vidal for Barcelona's opener against Real Valladolid on Saturday.

The Argentine superstar already had a career-high 19 La Liga assists to his name this season, but his slide-rule pass to set up Vidal ensured he wrote yet another page in the history books.

He is the first player to reach 20 assists in La Liga since former team-mate Xavi in 2008-09, with no player combining that feat with 20 or more goals in the Spanish top flight until now.

The 33-year-old is just the second player to achieve that feat in Europe's top five leagues this century, after Thierry Henry scored 24 goals and contributed 20 assists for Arsenal during the 2002-03 Premier League season.

Messi currently stands on 22 goals at the top of the goalscoring charts, four clear of his nearest challenger Karim Benzema, highlighting his continued importance to the side despite his advancing years.

It is also yet another reminder to the club's board of his immense talents, with speculation about his Barca future continuing to swirl around Camp Nou.

Earlier this month, a Cadena Ser report claimed Messi was ready to call time on his illustrious Barca career when his contract

expires next summer.

Goal has learned Messi does not want to leave Barcelona but has grown increasingly concerned with the leadership of the club off the field as well as the team's struggles for consistency on it, prompting him to bring contract talks to a halt.

If the six-time Ballon d'Or winner were to hold out on agreeing fresh terms until the turn of the year, then he would be free to discuss pre-contract arrangements with any suitors.

It has been suggested that the contract impasse could potentially precipitate a premature end to Josep Maria Bartomeu's presidency, with club elections set to take place in June 2021.

Bartomeu has insisted that Messi will end his career at the Catalan giants, while his rival presidential candidate Victor Font has also expressed his confidence that the forward will remain at the club.

GOAL

Arteta shoots down Tierney exit talk

MIKEL Arteta has shot down any suggestion that Kieran Tierney could leave Arsenal when the transfer window opens.

The left-back arrived at the Gunners last summer in a £25 million (\$30m) deal from Celtic, but has endured an injury-hit first season in north London.

That led to some suggestions that the Scotland International could be moved on, with his former boss Brendan Rodgers said to be lining him up as a potential replacement for Chelsea target Ben Chilwell at Leicester City.

But having returned to full fitness during the coronavirus-enforced shutdown, Tierney has become a regular since the restart - starting six of Arsenal's seven games, with his performances earning widespread acclaim.

GOAL



End of FAZ disputes impresses Lungu

By Abraham Kalito

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he is gratified that soccer stakeholders have successfully managed to end wrangles at the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) as directed.

On Saturday, FAZ, the Ministry of Sports and other football stakeholders signed a consent judgement to avoid being sanctioned by the world's soccer governing body FIFA.

President Lungu posted on his Facebook page, Saturday, that move implied that the warring factions were patriotic enough to place the interest of the country before self.

"The hallmark of patriotism is placing the country and the greater good before self. In this regard, I am gratified that parties in the FAZ election wrangle signed a consent judgement which prevents any punishment from the world football governing body, FIFA. Football unites us and puts Zambia on the world map," President Lungu stated.

He reiterated the need for the National Team to return to the glory days where the Chipolopolopo boys were revered as one of Africa's best.

"I therefore wish to congratulate everyone who appended their signature to the aforementioned agreement. By exhibiting grace and magnanimity, you have spoken to the best of who we are as a people. The soccer fans as well as my Government both want football to be played on the pitch, and the National Team to return to its glorious days. So, well done to you all," stated President Lungu.

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Cricket league 2020 continues

By Abraham Kalito

THE maiden cricket league has so far been successfully organised with the majority of matches played at Kamwala grounds in Lusaka.

The league which started on July 4, 2020 is expected to end by month-end.

The 10th match of the Zambia Cricket League 2020 was between Lusaka Heats, who are at the bottom of the league, and Ndola Blitz, the current table-topper, yesterday.

The Ndola team won each of their first three matches before suffering a 10-wicket defeat in the recent anticipated match against Kitwe Knights.

On the other hand, the Lusaka Heats started the tournament with a narrow 6-run loss but followed it with a comfortable 24-run victory.

But their batting fell apart on Saturday, which resulted in back to back huge defeats. The league is being played behind closed doors with just a few spectators.

KAFUE CELTIC READIES FOR EDEN LEAGUE

By Tim Zulu

EDEN University National Division One League side Kafue Celtic hot striker Albert Kangwanda says his side still has a great chance of getting back to the top of the Eden league and that they are more than determined to give it their all with the last drop.

Kangwanda said not all was lost for the club.

“Look here, not all is lost for us because there was a time when our intensity and winning chemistry was so high and we enjoyed leadership of the Eden League, but that is not to say all hope is lost and we cannot go back and reclaim the top position. Given the talent, the commitment of wanting to win games, we have a youthful well balanced and ambitious squad and if you took your

time to ask any player, they will tell you one thing, taking this team to the super league is the top most priority,” the 21-year-old Kangwanda said when he featured on the Eden Football Show-biz on Joy FM, Saturday.

The lethal striker with 10 goals to his belt said despite their current position on the log, the Crocs, as the team is fondly known, have what it took to go in the annals of history by winning the first ever National Championship.

“We are alive to the fact that we have 10 games ahead of us and make no mistake, these will be tough games to negotiate because every team in this Eden League, especially the top 6, wouldn’t want to give up their position so easily. They will be no room for error or you be left in total anguish,” Kangwanda said.

“These will be excruciating matches that will be determined by a baby with no teeth mistake. So I think it

will come to a situation where whoever wants it more will get it and I hope and trust that team will be Celtic.”

Asked how the team is shaping up ahead of the League resumption amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the reliable Kafue scoring machine said the team is itching to get things done.

“So far, so good. We are shaping up very well and from what I see from my colleagues since we started our trainings,

is that there is hunger of not only wanting to play but to get back to the top. So I believe we have a team that is capable of winning promotion and will make it difficult for other teams,” Kangwanda said.

Kangwanda, who is the second top scorer behind his former clubmate Mwiza Siwale (11goals) who is now under the books of Red Arrows, says as target man, he had no pressure on his shoulders to be on the score sheet game in, game out.

“Goals just come depending on your position and instinct so I will take each game as it comes. If I can’t score, my captain Max or Pumulo Siwanga are good finishers, they can do the job,” said Kangwanda.

Kafue Celtic, who are on the 6th position with 42 points, date the current National League leaders Prison Leopards in a week 23 battle of titans in Lusaka on July 25, 2020 under strict health guidelines.

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Just arrived is a 32 seater luxury business class coach that includes a coffee making machine and a toilet inside with an excellent aircon facility. The business bus has been scheduled to depart from both Lusaka and Livingstone at 08:00 from Monday to Friday and Saturday Sunday it will be scheduled at the same time from Lusaka to Kitwe.

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