



Allegations against Lungu are very serious but... RWANDA CASE IS A COURT ISSUE

We can't say more until judgement is passed - State House

Story page 2

We're probing disbursement of COVID-19 donations, says ACC

By Natasha Sakala
THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) says it is currently investigating the manner in which some of the COVID-19 donations were disbursed. Speaking when he featured on ZNBC TV2's Morning Live programme, Wednesday, ACC public relations manager Timothy Moono revealed that the matter was being investigated to determine whether or not the donations reached the intended beneficiaries.

Story page 5

Mweetwa apologises for walking out on Speaker

Story page 7



President Edgar Lungu swears in newly appointed Human Rights Commission (HRC) commissioner Reverend Agness Chongo-Phiri at State House yesterday

COVID hits Parliament as 3 MPs test positive

Story page 5

Matibini orders Kampyongo to issue ministerial statement on unruly PF cadres

By Natasha Sakala
SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has ordered Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo to render a ministerial statement to Parliament on PF cadres' lawlessness.

This was after Monze central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwimbu rose on a point of order on whether Kampyongo was in order to remain silent on various attacks orchestrated by PF cadres, including the armed robbery which they staged at Lusaka Central police recently.

Story page 4



By Natasha Sakala

THE Business Survey Report on the impact of COVID-19 on Zambian enterprises has revealed that 38 per cent of businesses in the country had their revenues reduce by 50 per cent due to the pandemic, with four per cent having to completely shut down.

The Survey, which was unveiled by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), revealed detailed the effect of COVID-19 on Zambian businesses.

“Most businesses lost a significant percentage of revenues; 38 per cent more than 50 per cent, while four per cent of the businesses stopped operating completely. Only one per cent of businesses across the sectors estimated an increase in revenue per month whereas five per cent of businesses received similar revenues as before. About 38 per cent of the businesses had revenue reduction of more than 50 per cent and around four per cent of the businesses stopped operating completely. Around 51 per cent of the business surveyed had their revenue reduced by not more than 50 per cent. Some have no change in revenue earning (at 4.96 per cent). While 1.13 per cent of the respondents actually had an increase in revenue; 36 per cent of businesses in the catering and accommodation sector estimated a 90 per cent reduction in revenue per month whereas 33 per cent of businesses in the tourism sector also estimated a 90 per cent reduction in revenue,” the Report disclosed.

“Further, 20 per cent of businesses in the human health and social work sector anticipated a 10 – 50 per cent increase in

4% of Zambian enterprises shut down due to COVID-19 – Report

revenue per month followed by the manufacturing sector with 11 per cent of businesses anticipating a 10-50 per cent increase as well. However, 31 per cent and 28 per cent of businesses in the education and tourism sectors, respectively, closed their businesses completely during the pandemic. Meanwhile, 25 per cent of businesses in the energy sector estimated an increase in revenue of above 50 per cent.”

The Report noted that Muchinga Province was the most affected area with 45 per cent of businesses completely shutting down.

“Muchinga Province was mostly affected by the pandemic (COVID-19) with 45 per cent of businesses in the province having had totally shut down the operations. Lusaka Province was second as about 22 per cent of the businesses in the province having had to shut down their operations. Southern Province had the least effect in terms of the businesses as it had less than two per cent of the businesses shut down. Most businesses across the provinces partially shut down their operations,” the report narrated.

It further stated that the transport and energy sectors hired the highest number of employees with the agriculture sector also following suit.

“8.1 per cent of the businesses in the transport and storage sector hired the highest

number of employees during the period, followed by mining and quarry, which recorded 3.1 per cent of the business reported having hired employees during the period. The business in the agriculture sector also hired employees at 1.8 per cent. The rest of the businesses in other sectors reported not to have hired any employees,” it stated.

And among the recommendations, the Survey participants recommended that government should put up deliberate policies that would ensure continuity in the event of further disruption to the local economy.

“...Set up a coordinated policy package to address the current challenges. In view of the challenges experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was noted that there is need for government to put up deliberate policies that will ensure continuity in the event of disruptions in the economy. Specifically, government should: (a) Analyze relevant policies on public emergencies, selecting and classifying them according to time horizons (short-term, medium and long-term) and type (fiscal, financial, service improvement, etc.); (b) Develop and implement policies that support access to affordable financing and flexible payment periods, timely payment to suppliers of goods and services by government, and offer relief from

payment of statutory obligations (ZRA, NAPSA and Council Levy) during emergency times; this was mentioned by 35.7 per cent of the respondents as an urgent need; and (c) Ensure thorough consultations with all relevant institutions when developing an emergency policy response, such as the K10 billion stimulus package aimed at providing medium-term liquidity facility to help enterprises cope with the pandemic,” it read.

“The Report notes the need to establish clear modalities on how the policy measure will be implemented; (ii) ensure timely implementation of policies to achieve greater impact. According to the findings, many Zambian businesses have reduced their operations affecting their cash-flow, which calls for urgent and timely government support to prevent these companies from collapsing.”

It further recommended

that enterprises should actively study and capture changes in market demand and take actions promptly to reduce negative impacts by rapidly adjusting their manufacturing plan and sales strategy.

“Enterprises should actively study and capture changes in market demand and take actions promptly to reduce negative impacts by rapidly adjusting their manufacturing plan and sales strategy. For instance, some companies have voluntarily shifted to manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) supplies, benefitting both themselves and society. Others have also been speeding-up their business transformations to adapt to consumer preferences and competition patterns that may change after the pandemic. (ii) Streamline businesses and reduce costs rapidly. When confronted with sudden crises, enterprises should take timely

measures to preserve cash-flow. For enterprises suffering from heavy losses, measures such as telecommunication, employee time-sharing and stimulating employees’ creativity for new business models should be fully explored before considering layoffs and salary cuts. (iii) Enhanced risk management. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of risk management. Therefore, there is need for enterprises to have a sound risk management to prepare to cushion the adverse effects of future emergencies. Furthermore, there is the need to apply the Government’s Standard Operating Procedures per Sector that preserve health and safety of workers and customers in the context of COVID-19 as restrictions are being lifted,” read the Study.

The Report was published with the aim of gathering data that will inform policy decisions to enable more businesses thrive during the pandemic period.

It equally highlighted some of the challenges that businesses faced and the impact on their viability as some completely closed due to the impact that COVID-19 had on their cash-flows.

Speaker orders Chilufya to issue statement on flouting of COVID-19 regulations by PF

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has ordered corruption-accused Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya to render a ministerial statement to Parliament this Friday on the continued flouting of the COVID-19 regulations by the Executive and PF members.

On July 10, Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu rose on a Point of Order seeking the Speaker’s ruling on whether or not the Executive was in order to flout Coronavirus Health Regulations.

Mwiimbu also cited the commotion which was caused by Patriotic Front (PF) cadres at the Lusaka Magistrates’ court on Thursday, July 9 when Dr Chilufya appeared to answer for corruption charges.

“The gist of the point of order was whether the Executive was in order to flout the Public Health infected areas Coronavirus disease 2019

Regulations 2020 by continuously holding public meetings. In his point of order, Mr JJ Mwiimbu made reference to three large gatherings which had allegedly taken place at the behest of the ruling Patriotic Front party, first the alleged receipt of over 1, 000 defectors by the PF in North Western Province from the United Party for National Development (UPND), and second, a meeting of PF cadres in Lusaka, and third, the alleged congregation of hundreds of supporters of the Honorable Minister of Health, senior PF supporters and cabinet ministers at the magistrates’ courts despite instructions to the court to restrict numbers,” Dr Matibini said.

“I have since studied the matter. I now direct that the Honorable Minister of Health should render a ministerial statement on this matter to this House by Friday, 17th July 2020,” ruled Dr Matibini.

ECZ commercialising electoral process – UPND

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma says the Electoral Commission of Zambia’s revised nomination fees are still exorbitant.

On Tuesday, ECZ announced that it had revised downwards the proposed nomination fees for the 2021 general election scheduled to be held on August 11, 2021.

In a statement, ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse said the commission had considered all submissions and concerns of stakeholders including other factors such as inflation, increased cost of conducting nominations and polls, among others in coming up with the nomination fees.

“Following the submissions by the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue (ZCID), the United Party for National Development (UPND) and other Stakeholders, the Commission has revised downwards the proposed nomination fees for the 2021 General Elections that are scheduled to be held on 12th August, 2021. In considering the adjustment to the proposed nomination fees, the Commission took into account all the stakeholders submissions and concerns, as well as other factors such as inflation, increased cost of

conducting nominations and polls, including the issuance of the free Voter Registers to all Presidential candidates

which cost K610,000.00 per candidate,” stated Chimanse.

Story continues on P4

It’s Lungu’s enemies accusing him of financing Rwandan rebels – Chama

By Julia Malunga

DEFENCE Minister Davies Chama says President Edgar Lungu’s enemies are linking him to a rebel movement in Rwanda that claims to have received funding from him to overthrow that country’s government.

And President Lungu’s Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe says State House does not want to delve into details on the matter because it is still in court.

In an interview, Chama charged that there were criminal elements that were bent on fabricating falsehoods to destabilize independent sovereign nation-states.

“There is no truth to that allegation. I can speak on very firm ground that Zambia can never ever in its existence support any activities to destabilize a friendly country. Rwanda and Zambia enjoy very cordial relations even though we don’t share a common border, but we are both members of the Great Lakes Region. So, we can never destabilize a country like Rwanda that is making so much progress in Africa. There are so many criminal elements, who want to destabilize countries that are making progress, Zambia is

also making progress. So, they are not happy that Zambia and Rwanda are making progress. There are a lot of enemy elements, who are being planted to make these falsehoods and we must be careful what we get, especially from criminal elements,” Chama said.

But when asked why President Lungu was one of the Presidents singled out, Chama said the Head of State had a lot of enemies.

“When you are making progress, there are a lot of enemies. Even you, there are people who hate the way you look, the way you talk and somebody can fabricate a story about you. They will hate you for nothing. So, it’s part of life. For us, it is very criminal and we wish to warn people who are peddling lies and criminality in order to destabilize countries. We have our own intelligence to refer to, to make sure that we scrutinize that these are falsehoods,” said Chama.

And in a separate interview, Chipampe said whatever was said in the courts of law was not gospel truth.

“We need to be very careful with that one because it is a court issue. So, we shouldn’t say too much. That is why if you noticed my statement, it was

very brief. The reason is that whatever is said in court is not gospel truth until judgement is done and investigations are done. But from our side, we have taken keen interest because these are serious allegations, which have been said in court. But for our part, we will respect the independence of their courts. So, we will wait until their process ends to hear how that case goes. For now, we are not going to say too much because it is a court case and as you know, court cases, you don’t start commenting on them,” said Chipampe.

According to media reports from Rwanda, rebel leader Maj Nsabimana Sankara Calliixte told the High Court for International and Cross-border Crimes Court, Monday, that his group was facilitated by the Zambian President to launch attacks in Rwanda.

He testified that his group, the National Liberation Force (FLN), received money from President Lungu to launch attacks in Rwanda.

Maj Sankara, who faces 17 charges including terrorism and murder, was appearing before court for hearing a case in which some of the victims of the rebel group’s attack were seeking

compensation for the suffering inflicted on them.

Before the case commenced, Maj Sakara reportedly requested to be allowed to tell the Court about funding his group got from one of the Presidents of a country he didn’t want to mention.

Chimpreport.com reports that the presiding judge granted him the opportunity and asked him to name the country and the President so that those seeking compensation also get to know.

He said towards the end of 2017, President Lungu agreed to support opposition politician and leader of MRCD, the political wing of FLN Paul Rusesabagina, to topple President Paul Kagame and immediately offered US \$150,000 for the cause.

President Lungu was in Rwanda for a two-day State visit in February, 2018.

“Early 2019, before I was arrested, one Nsengiyumva Appolinaire, a leader of PDR, one of the many political parties that form MRCD, travelled to Zambia to meet Lungu to discuss how he would offer them more support,” Maj Sankara told the Court.

By Ulande Nkomesha

JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda has disparaged the Opposition Alliance’s potential to form government in 2021, saying they will not manage to replicate Malawi’s success because Zambia’s circumstances are different.

And Lubinda says he has not seen any billboards advocating for Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019.

In an interview, Lubinda argued that the Opposition Alliance stood no chance of forming government.

“There have been alliances in Zambia, which died before people were able to pronounce the name of the alliance. I, myself, was involved in some of the alliances. I was involved in the alliance, which brought together UPND, FDD, the UDA, remember it died before even people knew that we had formed it. It died with Anderson Mazoka. The United Democratic Alliance, when Anderson Mazoka died, it also died. Then we also tried...there was an alliance between PF and the UPND, the pact, what happened? It died! Personally, I have experienced the issue of alliances in Zambia and none of them had ever yielded results,” Lubinda recalled.

He added that several factors were required to ensure a successful alliance, adding that forming them for the sake of ousting a sitting government would not work in Zambia.

“It is not just the question of alliances; it is based on a number of factors: are the people who form that alliance genuine? Are they sincere to the cause or is it an alliance of ‘riders and hope?’ Are these alliances consummated on the basis of offering alternative governments or are they only focussed on removing the government? Removing a government is one thing, but offering alternative government is another,” Lubinda said.

“So, you can form an alliance, you can form as big an alliance as you wish, ultimately, the people will ask: ‘what is this alliance for?’ Is this alliance going to offer alternatives and a better government? And if the people answer negatively to that question, then that alliance won’t even survive because even going to the

I haven’t seen any Bill 10 billboards – Lubinda

nominations, people will be fighting about the reason for the alliance, then they will start talking about who is going to be president? Who is going to be minister? For as long as people are forcing each other purely to get positions, it won’t work!”

He also urged the opposition not to cut and paste Malawi’s successful alliance, which saw Dr Lazarous Chakwera emerge

as that country’s Republican President.

“Remember that, you cannot cut and paste situations simply because an alliance works in Malawi does not necessarily mean that it could also work in Botswana, that it could also work in America, that it could also work in Zambia, no! The circumstances are totally different. It is the same as saying, ‘because my

farmer neighbour this year has produced a bumper harvest, I will also produce a bumper harvest next year and the difference that I saw is that my farmer neighbour married two wives, so I am also going to marry two wives, and because of that I will have a bumper harvest,’ no! So, there are many factors that affect the success of these alliances,” Lubinda said.

And Lubinda said he had not seen any Bill 10



High Court dismisses UNIP’s application against 11 members for lack of merit

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Lusaka High Court has ruled that the case where 11 UNIP members have sued party president Tilyenji Kaunda and others for allegedly holding their positions as Members of the Central Committee (MCCs) illegally is not incompetently before court.

In this matter, 11 UNIP members have sued Tilyenji, UNIP vice president Njekwa Anamela, deputy secretary general Alfred Banda and administrative secretary Welfare Mfunze for allegedly holding their positions as Members of the Central Committee illegally, claiming that their mandate expired in 2005.

Fackson Njovu and 10 others are seeking an injunction to restrain Tilyenji and the others from performing functions of MCCs, an order for an account of all party assets sold from 2000 to date and an order that the outgoing MCCs and the recognised interim MCCs follow the Registrar of Societies’ directive to jointly organise and hold a congress by forming one working group.

But Banda, in his capacity as deputy secretary general of the party, had argued that the 11 plaintiffs were no longer genuine members of UNIP.

According to an affidavit in support of notice of intention to raise preliminary issues, Banda claimed that the lead plaintiff in the matter, Njovu, was no longer a member of UNIP as he defected to the MMD after he sold a party building in Chaisa and he

never applied for re-admission to the party.

He further stated that the other plaintiffs were also not genuine members of UNIP as they had been moving from one party to another, especially, the ruling parties of the time while others were not in good standing with the party due to various disciplinary cases at different levels of the party structure.

Banda further stated that an action based on the same facts and involving the same defendants was earlier filed into court and determined by the High Court already.

He stated that being the case, the action by the plaintiffs was an abuse of court process.

But in his ruling, the district registrar a Mr S. Nyimbiri dismissed the two issues by the defendants that the plaintiffs’ action was premised on facts that were already determined and amount to abuse of court process and that the plaintiffs had no locus standi to take the action before court.

He stated that the claims or reliefs being sought by the plaintiffs were not already determined as they were different from the reliefs which were sought in another matter of 2013.

“The first issue therefore fails for lack of merit and

is accordingly dismissed,” Nyimbiri said.

On the defendants’ argument that the plaintiffs were no longer members of UNIP and had no locus standi to bring the action to court, Nyimbiri said the defendants bore the burden of demonstrating to the court that the plaintiffs did not have locus standi to bring the action

to court.

He said the defendants have, however, not adduced any evidence of the alleged resignation or expired membership of the plaintiffs.

The district registrar said in the absence of such evidence, he found that the defendants’ issue of the plaintiffs’ lack of locus standi was unsubstantiated and as

such, also dismissed it.

“In sum, the plaintiffs’ action is not incompetently before court as alleged. Further, the claims/reliefs sought by the plaintiff are not res judicata for the reasons given above. The defendants’ application, therefore, fails as both issues raised are dismissed for lack of merit,” ruled Nyimbiri.

Ndola magistrate adjourns Chellah’s case to August 14

By Daniel Chansa

THE Director of Public Prosecution has not yet issued consent to prosecute a case in which photographer Chellah Tukuka is charged with criminal libel.

When the matter came up, Wednesday, the state informed court that they were still waiting for consent from the DPP.

In this matter, Chellah, 34, appeared for a mention before Ndola Magistrate Misozi Banda.

He is charged with three counts at the magistrates’ court and one count which needs consent from the DPP

to proceed to trial.

In count one, Chellah is charged with publishing defamatory matter concerning Kalifu Abudulah.

It is alleged that on May 26, Chellah did published defamatory matter concerning Khalif on Facebook in which he said “Khalif your time to leave Zambia has come you chi criminal”.

In count two, he is charged with publishing defamatory matter concerning Khalif.

It is alleged that on June 9, Chellah did publish defamatory matter concerning Khalif Abudulah in form of a Facebook post in which he said “Khalif and Langiwe Lungu, director at ERB stop arm twisting the Government over fuel, you are the reason fuel is still expensive when it suppose to be cheap. Thieves!”

In count three, he is charged with threatening violence.

It is alleged that on June 12, Chellah threatened violence to the property of Khalif motors Zambia Limited in which he said “Khalif if you don’t leave Zambia we shall burn your trucks”.

In count four, Chellah is charged with expressing or showing hatred for persons because of place of origin.

It is alleged that on May 26 this year, Chellah, on his Facebook page, expressed or showed hatred, ridicule,

contempt for Khalif because of his place of origin.

When the matter came up for possible trial before Senior Resident Magistrate Peggy Banda, the state informed court that they are still waiting for consent from the DPP.

But when Magistrate Banda asked the state why they could not proceed with the other three counts which did not require consent from the DPP, advocate Innocent Kamunga said some witnesses were relevant to all four counts.

However, Chellah’s lawyer Ngoze Nyangu argued that justice delayed was justice denied.

“We have an objection to this application. It is a well settled principal that justice delayed is justice denied, and that the state had enough time. The court should notice that the accused is coming from outside and has to travel to attend to this matter. It is unfair on the part of the accused to travel and again travel on a matter that is not showing any sign of progress,” said Nyangu.

But Magistrate Banda said the issue of delayed justice did not stand as this was the first time the matter was coming up for trial.

Magistrate Banda then adjourned the matter to August 14 for mention and September 1 for trial.

Magistrate commits woman accused of murdering boyfriend to High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Lusaka Magistrates’ Court has committed a 37-year-old woman accused of murdering her boyfriend to the High Court for trial.

In this matter, Lydia Mwaba is accused of murdering Shadreck Mwelwa, 29, between March 26 and 27, 2020 in Lusaka.

When the matter came up before Lusaka Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile for explanation of the charge, Wednesday, Mwaba said she understood the charge after it was explained to her.

At this point, Magistrate Mikalile informed Mwaba that she would continue to appear before her for mention awaiting instructions from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to commit her to the High Court for trial.

However, public prosecutor Juvenalis Kamutondole informed the court that he was in receipt of a certificate from the DPP to have Mwaba committed to the High Court for trial.

Magistrate Mikalile then committed Mwaba to the High Court for trial.

Allegations in this matter are that in

March, 2020, Mwelwa’s body, which had injuries on the head, was found outside some houses along a gravel road at Diana Kayemba residential area in Barlastone.

Police spotted a trail of blood spots at the scene and a six inch block with blood.

The trail of blood was also detected at Mwaba’s house, about 40 meters away from where Mwelwa’s body was found.

Owing to the police findings, Mwaba, who was around at her house at the time of the alleged incident and investigations, was then arrested in connection with the alleged murder.

By Ulande Nkomesha
PF deputy chief whip Tutwa Ngulube says Zambia would have been different if past governments worked as hard as President Edgar Lungu.

And Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament says for the first time in history, a bill is being advertised on billboards like Boom detergent washing powder.

Speaking on Muvi TV’s Blunt Talk, Monday, Ngulube said the political landscape was favouring PF because the ruling party had brought about infrastructure development.

“The political landscape right now is favoring us the

If past govts worked like Lungu, Zambia would be different – Tutwa

ruling party because when you look wherever you are looking, you will see massive infrastructure development coming up, you will see a lot of work being done. I think Zambia could have been a different country today if all the past governments actually worked the way President Lungu is actually working. Today when you talk about a lot of things, we have scored

actually as the Patriotic Front. As the Patriotic Front, we have done much work within a short period of time,” Ngulube said.

“When you talk about matters to do with social problems for example unemployment and employment levels, I think the PF has recruited within the last few years more than 40 per cent of the civil service;

talk about nurses, talk about doctors, talk about police officers, talk about soldiers. We know that the PF has done more recruitment in the civil service, the PF has done its work in infrastructure. We all know that government has been recruiting not everyone has been recruited, yes but the PF government has done quite a lot in recruiting. There is belief in Zambia that when you are a graduate, you must be employed by government I don’t think so. We need to teach our people and graduates that going to university is one thing and waiting to be recruited by government is a probability.”

He said the PF was also scoring by spearheading constitutional amendments aimed at ensuring a better Zambia.

“The PF has actually even scored much more in terms of Constitution making processes because in 2015, the President was actually in the forefront ensuring that the draft constitutions of this country are actually made available and the PF made it possible for the new Constitution in 2016. Now the people are saying can we clear the lacunas, I think the

PF is spearheading the fight for a better country and better Constitution,” he said.

Ngulube also lamented that Southern Province was a hostile environment for the ruling party.

“Whatever happened in Monze was wrong and whether there was any tearing of bill boards it was also wrong so two wrongs do not make a right. I am one of the few people who go and campaign in Mazabuka and in Southern Province in general. The environment in Southern Province is quite hostile because in Southern Province, they don’t allow you to wear even a PF chitenge or t-shirt. In a campaign period declared by ECZ, that is how provocative the situation can be but we have tolerated that for a long time. We don’t want this country to degenerate, I want to be free to wear my PF t-shirt in Monze, in Mazabuka in Lusaka wherever. We as PF will not emulate what they did in Monze, we will be civil and we will respect them,” said Ngulube.

And Nkombo said for the first time in history, a bill was being advertised like Boom.

“I want to argue that the political landscape is favouring

PF, I think that he needs to get better lenses to understand why it should not come from a person of his standing as a lawyer to say the President has been spearheading the fight for the constitutional making process. The process of constitutionalism and making process should never be a fight. It should have a central pivot of consensus. I am not even surprised now because I have seen something that was beneath any government; that they could actually for the first time since Zambia became a republic to advertise a bill in a billboard as if you are advertising boom,” Nkombo said.

Nkombo said there would have been mayhem in Mazabuka if PF and the police did what they did in Monze by removing all UPND billboards.

“Had PF and police did what they did in Monze in Mazabuka, I can assure you that there would have been mayhem in Mazabuka. What the police did was highly provocative; they tore down any semblance of a UPND feature. People got agitated. Thank God they did not do that in Mazabuka. So the people of Monze were being reactive,” Nkombo said.

Meanwhile, Nkombo said government had continued to use the COVID-19 pandemic to suppress the opposition in the country

“As a political party, we think that government of the day has clearly taken advantaged of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new normal in order to reduce further the already non existence democratic space in this country. What do I mean? There is discrimination in the manner the statutory instrument that governs the pandemic is applied in the nation. I want to further argue that we thought that the COVID-19 was a pandemic for all but seeing that the democratic space has continued to diminish in the name of COVID- 19, we have have been reduced in fostering our rights and freedoms to associate, our rights and freedoms to assemble, our rights and freedoms to be conscience,” said Nkombo.

“We have seen progressively that when it is opposition, their space has continued to diminish under this new normal because it works for them, the government using the police and not the health authorities who are the owners of the SI. The police have taken that SI to use it the way they have always used the public order to selectively choose who must assemble, when and where. I want to put it to the nation that the new normal has brought challenges to us as a political party, as also opposition parties. We have seen a new normal under the PF where a voice can be attacked ferociously. My President, the Bally, Hakainde Hichilema has embarked on interactions with the country using radio stations and community stations alike. The next thing you are going to hear is that they are attacking Facebook because Mr Hichilema has also decided to communicate to the country via Facebook.”



PF deputy chief whip Tutwa Ngulube

Matibini orders Kampyongo to issue ministerial statement on unruly PF cadres

By Natasha Sakala

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has ordered Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo to render a ministerial statement to Parliament on PF cadres’ lawlessness.

This was after Monze central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwimbu rose on a point of order on whether Kampyongo was in order to remain silent on various attacks orchestrated by PF cadres, including the armed robbery which they staged at Lusaka Central police recently.

following the attack of PF cadres on the Lusaka Central Police station on Saturday.

“Thank you so much Mr speaker for according me this opportunity to raise a very serious security issue. And the point of order I am raising, Mr Speaker, is focused on the honorable Minister of Home Affairs. Mr Speaker Sir, on several occasions, us members of parliament on your left have been lamenting pertaining to the behavior of Patriotic Front cadres. We started raising this issue a long time ago and we warned our colleagues that if they don’t take appropriate action, they will reap and this is exactly what happened. They started by beating a cabinet minister who was beaten who was visiting his constituency. As if that’s is not enough, Mr Speaker, we saw party cadres, PF party cadres attacking journalists at radio stations, They have attacked more than 15 radio stations in this country. Further, Mr Speaker, the most unfortunate incident happened this last Saturday at central police

were PF cadres went and clobbered senior police officers and got money from the police and nothing, Mr Speaker, has been done,” said Mwiimbu.

“These incidences, Mr Speaker, are raIsing fear in the minds of ordinary Zambians. They now believe that PF cadres are above the law and that there is no way that you can appeal to the police for protection. If they can be clobbering very senior police officers where the members of the public go for protection and don’t we think that now the police will be fearing taking action against party cadres especially the PF for fear of being clobbered and we have been raising these issues on the floor of this House and outside of this House Mr Speaker. The point of order, Mr Speaker, is, is the Honorable Minister of Home Affairs in order to remain mute and not to take appropriate action against unruly PF cadres who are known? And these PF cadres hold, Sir, the ones who are involved at Central Police, hold senior positions in the PF party. Is he in order Mr Speaker to remain mute not to allay the fears of the public that there is something that is being done by the Ministry of Home Affairs pertaining to violence?”

And in rendering his ruling, the Speaker ordered that the Minister of Home Affairs should render a ministerial on Tuesday next week.

“My ruling is that the Minister of Home Affairs should come to the house with a report on Tuesday, with a statement of course,” said Speaker Matibini.

ECZ commercialising electoral process – UPND

From P2

“The Commission, therefore, wishes to thank all Political Parties and Stakeholders for the cordial engagement and submissions regarding the proposed nomination fees. Below are the revised and Commission approved nomination fees: Presidential; male K95 000.00, female K75,000.00, youth K60,000.00 PWD candidate K60,000.00. Parliamentary male; K15,000.00, female K13,500.00, youth K10,000.00, PWD candidate K10,000.00. Mayoral; male K15,000.00, female K13,500.00, youth K10,000.00, PWD candidate K10,000.00. Council Chairperson; male K3,500.00, female K3,000.00, youth K2,500.00, PWD Candidate K2,500.00. Councillors City/Municipal; male K1,500.00, female K1,000.00, youth K1,000.00 PWD candidate K1,000.00. Councilor Town/District; male K600.00, Female K500.00 , Youth K500.00, PWD candidate K500.00.”

But in an interview, Kakoma argued that ECZ was commercialising the electoral process.

“Well, those fees are still very high, they are still prohibiting many aspiring candidates. The poverty levels in Zambia have increased, money is very difficult to find; therefore the fees must not act as a barrier to people’s

participation in the election to stand as candidates. There is a worrying trend where the ECZ wants to commercialize the electoral process. They are turning the electoral process into a fundraising venture. Elections should not be about fundraising or making money to make profits. Basically, government agencies are there to provide a service and not to make money. Government is not a profit making organisation, so they should not be putting fees that make it difficult for people to participate in the electoral process,” Kakoma said.

“In fact, the whole election must be funded by the government. All the activities in the electoral process are supposed to be funded by the government. We the citizens pay taxes to government to provide the service. So, if they have a shortfall in the budget, it is up to government to find money to meet the deficit, other than passing on the cost to aspiring candidates to meet the shortfall of the government. The government knew that we are going to have elections in August 2021, they should have preserved the money for the elections other than to try and tarnish aspiring candidates to meet the shortfall. So the nomination fees should be minimal as possible to make everybody afford. The elections should not be such that

only those that are rich can participate as candidates. Even poor people must be able to stand as candidates; because the leadership does not only belong to those with money even those without money can be good leaders. They must be given an opportunity to lead.”

He insisted that ECZ should have maintained the same nomination fees for 2016.

“Of course there is just the inconvenience of so many candidates but we are talking about constitutional rights of anybody who wants to be President to stand. We should not rob them by monetary terms. The old nomination fees, we only tried them in 2016, people should have gotten used to those fees so that even when they are planning to stand, they know that this is the nomination fee that I must budget for. It can’t be every general election that the nomination fees are revised; that becomes very difficult for people to plan. There is nothing wrong with the previous fees though they were high but people adapted,” said Kakoma.

And People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda said ECZ was trying to auction leadership.

“I think we are not 100 per cent happy even though we can give them a recommendation for reducing. We

are not 100 per cent happy because they didn’t stick to the fees that they put in 2016. In 2016, they increased the fees for presidential from K10 000 to K75 000 and then they reduced it to K60 000. So we were hoping that they would maintain the 2016 fees because the idea is that we are not trying to auction leadership. The problem that we have in this country is because of leadership. If we are going to give a platform to people who are visionless just because they have got money, then the challenges that we have in this country will continue. We need to make sure that we do not auction democracy, we need to make sure that we give a platform to as many people as possible to aspire for leadership, not just those that have money,” said Banda.

“It is clear that the ECZ are trying to fundraise from aspiring candidates, which is not supposed to be the case. That is the reason why people pay taxes, some of those taxes must be channeled to conduct elections. It looks now the ECZ are trying to fundraise money from aspiring candidates, so that they can cover for their expenses obviously because the government is broke. We should have a situation where yes we need to pay a fee for commitment but it shouldn’t be exorbitant.”

By Ulande Nkomesha

THREE members of parliament and 10 National Assembly of Zambia staff have tested positive for COVID-19.

In a statement, Wednesday, Clerk of the National Assembly Cecilia Mbewe disclosed that three members of parliament and 10 National Assembly of Zambia staff tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the number of cases at the National Assembly clinic to 19, including six non-staff, who tested positive.

“I wish to inform the media and the nation at

Covid spreads at parley, as 3 MPs test positive

large that some COVID-19 cases have been recorded at the National Assembly of Zambia. Confirmed cases as of Wednesday, 15th July, 2020, are as follows: three members of parliament; 10 National Assembly of Zambia staff; and six non-staff tested at the National Assembly Clinic. This brings the total cumulative number of cases monitored by the National Assembly COVID-19 testing

centre to 19,” stated Mbewe.

“In order to manage the current situation and prevent further spread of the virus, the National Assembly of Zambia continues to operate under strict guidelines as recommended by the Ministry of Health as provided for in the National Assembly of Zambia Coronavirus Disease – 2019 temporary standing orders of 2020.”

And in an interview,

Mbewe said the nurse who died from Parliament clinic was sick with Asthma, and tests were yet to confirm if she also had COVID-19.

“It is true she is dead, but no she did not die of COVID-19, she died of Asthma. I don’t know they are yet to confirm she did not test, she died of Asthma. So until they do the postmortem and they confirm we cannot really tell my dear. You know, speculations, it may be correct and it may not be because she did not test. She was off sick with Asthma, she was asthmatic. So, until UTH does the postmortem we cannot really say. I am sure we will know I don’t know how long it takes but we will know,” said Mbewe.

Zambia has requested support under G20 Debt Service Standstill Initiative – IMF

By Natasha Sakala

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that Zambia has requested support under the G20 Debt Service Standstill Initiative in a bid to help provide temporary fiscal space this year.

This comes after the conclusion of virtual talks between IMF and Zambia to discuss Zambia’s request for emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility.

In a statement, team leader Dhaneshwar observed that fiscal pressures in Zambia had increased due to low revenue collections and higher spending needs, hence the requested support from the G20 Debt Service Standstill Initiative.

“The social and macroeconomic impact of the COVID-19 shock, on top of a severe drought last year, will be heavy. Growth is forecast at around -5 per cent in 2020, substantially lower than envisaged at the beginning of the year, and the number of people living in extreme poverty is expected to increase. Fiscal pressures in 2020 have increased due to significantly lower revenue collections and higher spending needs. Zambia has requested support under the G20 Debt Service Standstill Initiative, which would provide temporary fiscal space this year,” stated Ghura.

“Discussions covered both near and medium-term policies to address these challenges and the underlying macroeconomic vulnerabilities, including the main elements of the revised 2020 budget, with a focus on spending for the COVID-19 health, social and economic response. Discussions will continue as the authorities determine their policies and priorities in the formulation of the revised 2020 budget, as well as the medium-term fiscal stance needed to restore debt sustainability, revive growth and lower poverty.”

IMF staff held virtual meetings with Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ngandu, Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Dr Denny Kalyalya, senior government and BoZ officials and the private sector.

The discussions, which took place from June 22-July

10, covered the authorities’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recent economic developments, the economic outlook and policies for 2020 and the medium-term.



State objects to bail application by “violent” Ndola PF cadres

By Daniel Chansa

THE State has objected to a bail application made by four PF cadres charged with criminal trespass because they are violent and might interfere with witnesses.

In this matter, four PF cadres are charged with criminal trespass on Church land with intent to annoy.

Before court are Bornface Nkonde, 52, Mubanga Chanda, 42, Chivas Munakopa, 41, and Mwenya Mushota, 32, all of whom are businessmen.

When the matter came up before magistrate Arnold Kasongamulilo, the four accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charge.

It is alleged that on June 15 this year, the four accused persons in Ndola jointly and whilst acting together, unlawfully did enter the premises of Petra Institute Church with intent to annoy.

The defence lawyer of the four accused applied for bail stating that the accused persons were ready to abide by the bail conditions set and that they were all of fixed abode.

However, State Public Prosecutor Nelson Mtonga said objected to the application.

“The reason we are objecting is that we have information that the accused are violent and there is a likelihood that they will interfere with the witnesses,” Mtonga said.

But defence argued the four were entitled to bail.

Magistrate Kasongamulilo, however, said he had taken

note of all the arguments, but asked the state to provide proof of what had been stated about the accused persons.

“I will allow an adjournment for evidence to be given today, 16, July. The accused persons remain in custody,” said Magistrate Kasongamulilo.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) says it is currently investigating the manner in which some of the COVID-19 donations were disbursed.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC TV2’s Morning Live programme, Wednesday, ACC public relations manager Timothy Moono revealed that the matter was being investigated to determine whether or not the donations reached the intended beneficiaries.

“Now, it is the aspect of accountability after you have received. But the accountability aspect is of major concern and, yes, we do work with all these stakeholders, the Auditor General’s office, and I

may wish to inform you that, yes, we are investigating the manner in which some of these donations were disbursed out. So, we have a case which we are investigating to determine whether these things went out or were received to the end users or not. But I cannot go into detail, but, yes, we have taken interest, we are investigating and working with the Auditor General’s office and we are making sure that... you see, when accountability calls, it demands certain responsibilities that things that are received from the public are accounted and given to the rightful cause for which they were given,” Moono said.

“Yes, indeed, it is our mandate to take interest in anything that relates to transparency and accountability, and as such, with regards to donations that institutions receive and in particular here, we are talking about COVID, we have taken a lot of interest and like you rightly put it, there has been a lot of public interest in the manner these donations are disbursed after they have been received because what we anticipate or what the public anticipate

is a lot of transparency when these donations are received. And for sure, we have seen some measure of transparency when anyone has made a donation regarding this cause to fight COVID, we have seen announcements, they come on television, there is transparency when these things are given to the public.”

And Moono said the fact that the Commission had in the first half of the year secured seven arrests and convictions was a huge achievement due to the complexity of corruption cases.

“So far, I can inform you that we have already made about seven convictions on a number of cases in corruption and we’ve also made over seven arrests between January and June. These are not mean numbers in the fight against corruption; they look small, but the gravity of the offenses that are involved and even just the nature of the corruption and its investigations, while they are a bit technical, but when you do have a conviction, it’s actually a success. So, by the end of the year, even when we reach 20, 30 convictions, it’s still a good number,” said Moono.

FRA won’t hit 1m tonne target with K110 maize price – CTPD

By Natasha Sakala

THE Centre for Trade Policy and Development has urged the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to increase their maize purchase price if they hope to reach the one million metric tonnes maize target.

In a statement, Wednesday, CTPD executive director Isaac Mwaipopo urged the Agency to increase the K110 per 50Kg maize bag price as most farmers were opting to sell to private buyers who are offering a better price.

He added that a CTPD investigation revealed that some FRA sheds around the country were still empty despite President Edgar Lungu’s directive that the Agency purchase one million metric tonnes during the current crop marketing season.

“The FRA will have a serious challenge in meeting the targeted one million metric tonnes of grain in the 2019/2020 marketing season. In May, this year, Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo announced the Crop Forecast Survey results in which the country recorded a bumper harvest of 3,387,469 metric tonnes in the 2019/2020 agriculture season. This was an increase from the 2,004,389 million metric tonnes

produced last season, representing an increase of 69 per cent. Despite recording a bumper harvest, a recent spot check done by researchers from CTPD in Kaoma and parts of Chongwe districts has revealed that several sheds are still empty weeks after the FRA commenced the procurement exercise. In trying to identify the challenges, we learnt that several farmers were unhappy with the K110 per 50Kg bag price offer from the FRA,” Mwaipopo stated.

“Recently, Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo announced that the FRA would be buying grain on a cash basis following the release of funds. But despite this brilliant incentive, several farmers are still hesitant to deliver grain to the FRA sheds due to lack of trust, which could be emanating from the Agency’s historical delays in paying farmers. We have also noted that several farmers are now opting to either sell their maize to private buyers, who are offering much higher prices, or keep the grain until they see improvements on the prices.”

And he advised government to consider reducing the FRA’s maize purchase target to 500,000 metric tonnes to enable the Agency increase their

purchase price.

“It is CTPD’s observation that farmers are doubting government’s pronouncement that it will be procuring grain on a cash basis this marketing season. Farmers appear to think that government merely wants to trick them in to delivering grain and thereafter subject them to the usual long delays in payments, which causes frustration. Therefore, the Centre recommends the following to government for consideration: FRA should consider re-looking at its participation price; it should seriously consider raising it up to a much competitive price. In an event that the FRA is afraid of the cost implications of revising upwards the price, government can consider the 2020 grain target from one million metric tonnes to the prescribed 500,000 metric tonnes. II). There is need to carry out more sensitization on the recent policy directive to pay farmers on the spot in the 2020 marketing season, most of the farmers doubt this reality. III). With regards to COVID-19, there is need for more sensitization to be done, several small-scale farmers are not adhering to prescribed guidelines, especially with regards to wearing of face masks,” stated Mwaipopo.



12 ENERGY SECTOR REFORMS

(1) PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
Zambia has the highest cost of fuel and other petroleum products in Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional bloc. This is as result of inadequate and costly supply chain and financing arrangement. The taxation system in Zambia also happens to remain the highest within the mainland SADC member states. Moreover, government levies, duties, and other taxes have been higher in Zambia in comparison with other countries. Zambia is also faced with a number of difficulties which include; poor feedstock cargo formulation, lack of adequate national reserves, inefficient feedstock processing and underdeveloped infrastructure meant for importation of finished products.

Research shows that crude oil prices make up 71 per cent of the price of fuel and as such it makes it a major influencer of fuel prices since the remaining 29 per cent comes from distribution, refining, and taxes, which happen to be more stable.

The NDC Government shall do the following to tackle the aforementioned challenges;

- Put in place a transparent procurement system for crude oil and other commingled petroleum products which should reduce the supply chain costs by cutting off middle men.
- Rationalize the tax regime for both crude and finished products by lowering them
- Build suitable national reserves that can last for at least 8 months by constructing fuel depots in all the districts of Zambia and ensure that every part of the country has adequate fuel reserves. This shall be done so that our country is safeguarded from sudden pump price changes as results of price changes of crude oil on the international market and fluctuations in the currency market.
- INDENI refinery has been riddled with inefficient feedstock processing capacity. As such, we shall recapitalize it with new technology to ensure that 80% of petroleum products consumed in the country are made by INDENI oil refinery. This shall retain jobs and value addition within the country.
- We shall build another refinery plant in Western Province, and import

crude oil from Oil Producing nations such as Angola, West African Countries and South America.

- Implement dynamic hedging strategies such as future buying to mitigate risk in price movements of crude oil and changes in the currency market.

(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY
As the NDC, we shall intensify the support and supply of renewable energy which would allow the country to replace carbon-intensive energy sources and significantly reduce global warming emissions, in accordance with the Paris Climate Treaty.

- NDC's aim is to ensure that rural areas have electricity from renewable sources as first line source of energy which should account for about 70% per cent power sources. These include; solar, wind, biomass, hydrogen fuel cell and geothermal.
- Renewable energy industry is more labour intensive. For example; solar panels need humans to install them and wind farms need technicians for maintenance; as NDC we shall ensure employment creation through the use of renewable energy.
- NDC shall formulate a renewable energy policy that shall among other things waver off company tax and bureaucracy for companies that generate and distribute renewable sources of energy in Zambia. A number of researches shows that renewable energy would create more than three times as many jobs as producing an equivalent amount of electricity from fossil fuels. This is so because energy already supports thousands of jobs in many countries including manufacturing, project development, construction, installation, operations and maintenance, transportation and logistics, and financial, legal, and consulting services and sales.
- As NDC, we shall further stimulate growth in clean energy to create a positive economic "ripple" effects which shall benefit industries in the renewable energy supply chain and isolated local businesses shall also benefit from improved household and business incomes.
- As NDC we shall ensure that public

tertiary institutions develop programs and curriculums to offer courses in renewable energy at undergraduate and post graduate levels.

- Establish solar parks in the parts of the country where the solar resource is optimally readily available.

(3) HYDRO-ELECTRICITY GENERATION
For a long time, Zambia has largely depended on hydroelectricity which is dependent on seasons. As National Democratic Congress Party, we shall undertake serious reforms in the energy sector to ensure that;

- There is an increase in the affordability of power in the urban and rural areas at the same time ensuring competitiveness on the regional market. Zambia is blessed with many rivers in the rural areas. And as such we shall promote rural electrification by damming these rivers in strategic positions to provide hydro-electric power.
- We shall unbundle ZESCO into generation, Transmission and distribution to ensure effectiveness in service delivery and enable private sector participation.
- We shall cut nepotism, cadres and over employment of staff at ZESCO to ensure an efficient administration.
- We shall ensure that ZESCO transmission and distribution facility integrates and accommodates renewable sources of energy feeding into the main infrastructure.
- We shall also ensure that local government authorities actively participate and engage in the distribution of electricity to residents in their jurisdiction.
- We shall use old mines to provide a good source of hydro-electric power. Mines have aquifers with large volumes of water under pressure. And this is the nature of our mines. Currently, millions of gallons of water are being pumped back into the Kafue River.
- Create dedicated quality and reliable electricity supply sources for industrial zones and parks

These reforms will in no doubt support our vision of industrialization in every district by providing the much needed electricity for industrial zones and parks.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

CHOMA Central UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa has apologized to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini for disrespecting him.

And Dr Matibini says he will not tolerate gross indiscipline and misconduct from any member of parliament in the House.

Meanwhile, Dr Matibini has referred the matter in which Mweetwa refused to apologize to Vice-President Inonge Wina last week to the committee on Privileges, Absences, and Support Services for further consideration.

On February 28, 2020, Nakonde PF member of parliament Yizukanji Siwanzi raised a point of order asking the Speaker on whether or not Mweetwa was in order to walk out of the House while he was giving guidance.

Dr Matibini had referred the matter to the Committee on Privileges, Absences

Mweetwa apologises for walking out on Speaker

and Support Services for consideration.

He said when the committee asked Mweetwa to exculpate himself, he was uncooperative.

“When asked to exculpate himself, Mr Mweetwa asserted that he was unaware of any law, procedure or tradition precluding a member of parliament from lapsing his or her follow up question. He further indicated that the point of order was not about the walk out or disorder. He further submitted that asking questions in the House was not just a mandate of one person but every other member in the House, and that no one should be punished for lapsing their own question. Further, when asked whether he could not have waited for the Speaker's guidance in the House and then conclude his question or to have excused himself before leaving the House as a matter of courtesy, Mr Mweetwa submitted that in the substantive Point of Order raised against him, there was no complaint about his behaviour towards the Speaker and that he did not see it prudent to discuss the Speaker before the committee,” Dr Matibini said.

“He further indicated that if there was need, another Point of Order could be raised against him concerning his conduct towards the Speaker. The committee further inquired from Mr Mweetwa whether he was remorseful for having walked out in the manner he did. In his response, Mr Mweetwa reiterated that the Point of Order was about him lapsing the question and that it had nothing to do with the walking out. He added that there was no way he could be remorseful over something he did not do and that was not before the committee.”

Speaker Matibini said the committee then unanimously resolved that Mweetwa be given a formal warning for his conduct.

“The committee observed that Mr Mweetwa was uncooperative because he took a legalistic approach instead of simply responding to questions posed to him and that Mr Mweetwa saw nothing wrong with his conduct and was not remorseful for walking out of the House while he was on the floor. And when the Speaker requested him to resume his seat as he sought to restore the House to order. In view of the forgoing, the committee unanimously resolved that Mr Mweetwa's conduct of walking out of the House before he concluded his follow-up question and before Mr Speaker concluded restoring the House to order, amounted to a breach of a decorum and dignity of the House as well as intentional disrespect to the Speaker and to the House as a whole. This

Mweetwa to apologize for his misconduct before the House.

“Your conduct of walking out of the House while you were on the floor and I was addressing the House to restore order amounted to intentional disrespect of my office and to the House as a whole. The House is extremely displeased with your conduct. I wish to state here that I will not tolerate gross indiscipline and misconduct from any member of this House. The honor, decorum and dignity of the House must be protected at all times,” Dr Matibini ordered.

In his apology, Mweetwa regretted his actions and assured the House that he would not repeat his mistake.

“Mr Speaker, I Cornelius Mweetwa, in my personal capacity and in my capacity as member of parliament for Choma Central parliamentary constituency, do unreservedly apologize to this August House and to you Mr Speaker for walking out of the House while I was on the floor and while the Honorable Mr Speaker was addressing the House with a view of restoring order to enable me ask a question. This conduct Mr Speaker was in contravention of the rules of this House. Sir, having reflected on my conduct, which amounts to a breach of parliamentary privileges and contempt of the House, I wish to assure you sir and this August House that from now on, I shall desist from such misconduct Mr Speaker,” said Mweetwa.

Meanwhile, Dr Matibini referred the matter in which Mweetwa refused to apologize to Vice-President Wina for calling her statement shallow and shameful to the same committee.

Mufulira MP’s “only PF allowed to speak on radio” remarks dangerous – Caritas

By Julia Malunga

CARITAS Zambia says it is extremely dangerous for Mufulira PF member of parliament Evans Chibanda to say only a member of the ruling party can be allowed to speak on radio in that area.

And Zitukule Consortium executive director Nicholas Phiri has wondered why Chibanda, who has State media at his disposal, wants to take over private media as well.

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

But commenting on the remarks, Caritas Zambia executive director Eugene Kabilika said the ruling party should be the last stakeholders to stifle other people's freedoms.

“We are in a democratic state where any person is supposed to appear on radio

and be able to share ideas. If the PF remembers very well, Michael Sata was given an opportunity of mobilizing his party during the time of Rupiah Banda. He went out to have meetings. It is strange that now the PF can turn round and say, ‘others cannot organize their party, they cannot be on radio.’ What are we creating, a One-Party-State? I think it is not good in a democratic state to begin to stifle other people's freedoms. It is extremely dangerous in such a situation that we have because it creates an atmosphere of unfairness and when people are not treated fairly, sometimes, they resort to other means of trying to achieve their aspirations. PF should be the last ones to stifle others because they were in the opposition and they know what it means,” said Kabilika in an interview.

And in a separate interview, Phiri said it was not Chibanda's place to decide

who should feature on a media platform.

“Mufulira member of parliament has the Zambia National Broadcasting Services (ZNBC) at his disposal, ZANIS, Radio 1, 2 and 4. He has the whole array of media at his disposal and he wants to take over the private media? What is he doing to the people who want to hear a different voice? Is he suggesting that all the 17 million Zambians will listen to one voice, the voice of the PF, and the President? What nonsense is that? It is not up to the member of parliament to guard who a person should speak to, it is not up to him to censor what I say. It is useless for any leader worth their salt to say who the media should feature,” said Phiri.

Chibanda said as an incumbent, 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 sitting lawmaker.

“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 straightforward. I am blaming the radio station because even for them, they can't allow somebody, who is 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,” said Chibanda.

was because the established practice of the House is that a member should not leave the House immediately after his/her debate. Further, as a matter of decorum, a member who asks a question has to resume his/her seat and is only permitted to leave after his/her question is responded to. As regards to the punishment to be meted out, the committee recommended that Mr Mweetwa should be issued with a formal warning,” Speaker Matibini said.

The Speaker, however, disagreed with the committee's resolve to formally warn Mweetwa and said he needed a much stiffer punishment.

“I am in agreement with the findings of the committee that Mr Mweetwa's conduct breached the decorum and dignity of this House, and that he showed intentional disrespect to my office and to the House as a whole. However, I am not in agreement with the committee on the recommendation that Mr Mweetwa should be formally warned, instead, I am of a considered view that Mr Mweetwa deserves a stiffer penalty for the following reasons; he is not a first offender; was not remorseful about his conduct. In view of the forgoing, I am of a considered view that the punishment recommended by the committee to give him a formal warning is not commensurate with Mr Mweetwa's breach. Therefore, I have instead decided to reprimand Mr Mweetwa,” Dr Matibini said.

And Dr Matibini ordered



Cornelius Mweetwa

properties /real estates for sale

- 2 Executive 3 Bedroomed Flats, All With Master Bedrooms Self-Contained., Wall Fenced, Nicely Located, Makeni.
- 2 Bedroomed House, Chilanga.
- 3 Bedroomed Houses, Master Self-Contained Wall Fenced,Mimosa. 4 Bedroomed House, Master Self-Contained, Fenced in Chilanga.
- 5 Bedroomed Houses Masters Self-Contained in Lilayi. Contact:0954815407/0977888042.

- 2 Semi-Detached 3 Separate Gates (Corner Bedroomed Flats On Plot). Each Flat Has 2 Separate Roads With Bedrooms Which Are Self-contained, Own Borehole, Wall Fenced in Makeni.
- 4 Bedroomed House, Master Self-contained, Own Borehole, Wall Fenced in Chilanga.
- 4 Bedroomed House, Master Self-contained in Chilanga.
- 6.4 Acres, 7.4 Acres Land Near Zesco Power Lines in shimabala.
- Residential Plots In Kafue And Barmoral In Chilanga. Contact: 0954815407 / 0977888042

PAPA & MAMA MPAJE

SAME DAY RESULT
CALL ONLY ON
+ 2 6 0 7 7 0 - 4 4 7 - 9 1 2

POWERFUL HERBALIST
HEALER WITH 45 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE.AND
HELP PERMANENTLY).
-FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
-GET MAGIC WALLET AND
MAGIC BAG TO EARN YOU
MONEY IN DAILY BASIS.
- M U L T I P U R P O S E
MAGIC RING.

DR PWENYE

2020 YOUR
PROBLEMS HAVE COME
TO AN END WITH DR
PWENYE WITH 50 YEARS
EXPERIENCE.

Bring back lost lovers, 20
minutes ENLARGMENT,
financial help. Pay after
results. 0974187500

Dr. Musa

Dr. Musa from
Nyasaland
Currently in Twapia,
Ndola

Solves all problems
100% results / 24 hrs.
-Winning Court cases
and no losing
- Boosting business /
competition



- Quick marriages
- lost lovers
- family problems / get rich
- financial / Job problems
- To revenge and wining anything

P.O Box 33 Chibabula, Mozambique
contact 0963743655 / 0770762561

Vinci consultancy

We can do the following
on your behalf quick and
efficient.

- Limited Company
Formation,
- Pacra Annual Returns,
- Zra Tax online monthly
returns,
- Tax waiver application,
- Zppa, NCC,EIZ and
CEEC Registration.

Call us on 0977999967.



Price K95 Each

BOOKING FOR
AUGUST 2020

Contacts Us:
Cell: +260 963 946368 / 0973 134216
Email: sales@farmselect.co.zm

IN his first-ever television interview since leaving government, the immediate past Attorney General Musa Mwenye expressed concern in the manner the government is fighting corruption in the procurement system. Featuring on Diamond TV, State Counsel Mwenye said it was wrong for the government to award a US\$17 million contract to an individual. He was referring to the controversial Ministry of Health medical supply tender awarded to Honey Bee Pharmacy.

“The procurement system is only as strong as the people who insist on observing the rules. We have just heard that an individual was given a contract for millions of dollars. When have you ever heard, Costa, that Musa Mwenye as an individual was given a contract as Musa Mwenye for millions of dollars? As I know it, procurement procedure is that a company should have been in existence for a certain number of years, that they should have some bank statements, they should give certain documents. I have not, in my time in government, I can’t remember endorsing the grant of a contract to an individual. So for me, it maybe new procedure, it maybe things that we haven’t seen yet, maybe new law but it’s just something that never happened in government, it’s a new thing to some of us. What if the individual dies three days after receiving that advance? What happens? That

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: 0977708285 /0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+260967713093 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

How Attorney General Kalaluka erred in the Honey Bee tender: P1

is the reason why you give to an established company that has a track record because a company is more than one individual,” said Mwenye.

The caution from State Counsel Mwenye is timely. This Ministry of Health scandal is one which should not be easily swept under the carpet and forgotten because it sets a very bad precedent about the procurement laws and norms in this country. We say this because the office of the Attorney General is the last in the line of defence when it comes to public procurement. When the Attorney General objects to the awarding of a tender on grounds that the process was marred by irregularities, it gives the regulatory authorities, as well as

the law enforcement agencies, the much needed will power to act in the interest of good governance. But when the Attorney General gives consent to an illegality, it creates leeway for criminal transactions to take shape in many other government contracts.

In our opinion, the incumbent Attorney General erred in his exercise of authority on this Health Centre Kits supply tender. What we don’t know is whether he was acting on instructions from authorities above him or he opted to pay a blind eye to the irregularities in this scandal for his own benefit. What is clear is that he made a mistake, and we are on a mission to prove this.

When he was asked to explain his role in this

tender, Mr Kalaluka said: “The first time I cleared the contract, it showed HoneyBee Pharmacy Limited. But subsequently, the Ministry wrote to me availing all the documents submitted in support of the tender herein and all such documents do not bear “Limited”. The documents availed to me include: (a) receipt for purchase of bid documents (b) ZRA tax registration certificate (c) ZRA tax clearance certificate (d) certificate of registration for Honeybee Pharmacy (e) pharmaceutical Licence from Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority. All these documents submitted for the tender had Honeybee Pharmacy, WITHOUT ‘limited’. To correct the error, I have since advised the Ministry of Health that a Deed of

Rectification need to be executed to change the name from Honeybee Pharmacy Limited to Imrat Lunat t/a Honeybee Pharmacy. In case of liability, government would pursue the sole trader and not the limited liability company because the contract is with the sole trader. It’s not unusual to award a contract to a sole trader.”

Like a judge who delivers a defective judgment, Mr Kalaluka’s due diligence on the Honey Bee tender and his subsequent approval may have been accepted as a binding decision, but it does not make it right. The taxpayers of this country are being forced to accept a wrong action from Mr Kalaluka simply because of the high office he holds, and we find that to be against the tenets of

accountability.

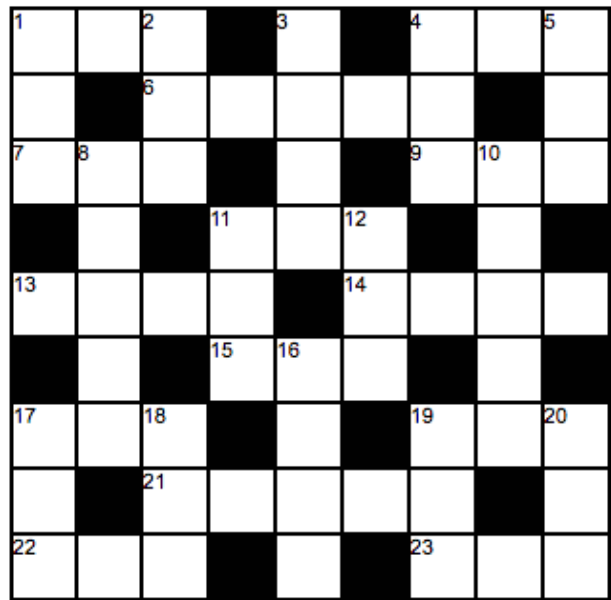
We have shown in our previous stories and opinions on this issue that the Ministry of Health went against some provisions of the Public Procurement Act. In fact, some of the recommendations of the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) were ignored. Upon seeing that a tender worth hundreds of millions of kwacha was being awarded to a limited company and later changed to an individual, our Attorney General should have raised a red flag. He should have taken interest to learn the process that the Ministry of Health used to arrive at this decision.

We have done our homework, we have consulted legal and procurement experts and we are ready to demonstrate that the tender which the Attorney General proudly endorsed was riddled with irregularities. The irregularities are so glaring that State Counsel Kalaluka could have easily spotted them had he been acting in the interest of good governance.

We have gathered a list of irregularities in this tender, starting with the licensing, registration, pharmaceutical inspection results and the role that the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority played in this saga. We will ask pertinent questions that the Ministry of Health, the Attorney General’s Chambers, ZPPA and ZAMRA should answer.

More in tomorrow’s edition.

Crossword puzzle No 647



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”
- John F. Kennedy

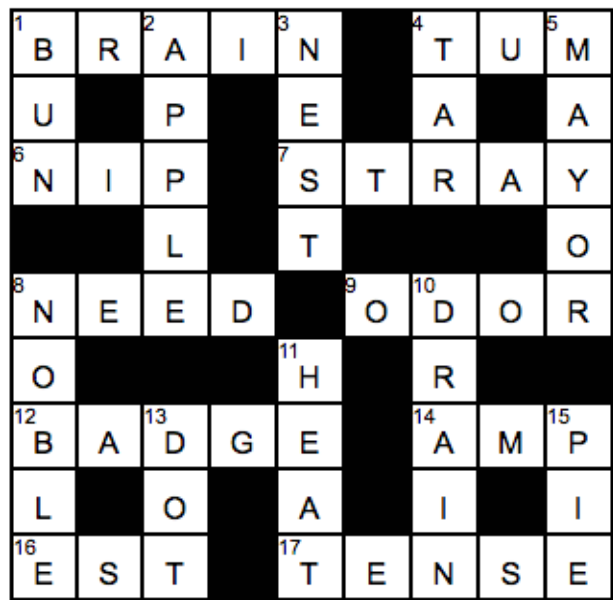
Across

1. Memorable period of time
4. Race
6. Statement of belief
7. Eastern Standard Time
9. Strange
11. Hi-fi component
13. Hit the books
14. Underground plant part
15. Like some wines
17. Horse or house pest
19. Relaxing resort
21. More than enough
22. Outer edge
23. Pint-sized

Down

1. 12/24 or 12/31
2. Perform in a play
3. Give the impression
4. Kanga's kid
5. Silent approval
8. Turtle cover
10. Sag
11. Attention prob.
12. Be nosy
16. Lasso
17. Kitty's coat
18. Sweet potato
19. Darn
20. He is, we ____

Crossword puzzle No 646



Readers' Feedback

Jay Jay's armed robbery case

Editor,

"This is what happens when cadres are left to take the law in their own hands. They think they can do anything! This is a sad harvest of sad seeds sown by our leaders... The harvest is called anarchy (lawlessness). A bunch of anarchists these cadres are!" - Daka Harrison

"You will just hear ati the chitechi SG has distanced his party from the incidence of armed robbery that took place at Central police station, charging that they don't have a cadre by that name in Eastern province. He has further challenged the police to come clean as this could be the work of the opposition who want to dent the image of chitechi!" - Enock Mulumbu Siamayobela

"Maybe the police can now start dealing decisively with these lawless PF cadres! Why sibanamuombe chabe. This chap has a proven track record of violence in Chipata and in Petauke!" - Harri Sons Oko

"I put the entire blame on Mr Lungu. He has vested powers into his PF cadres so they can protect him. These are the same PF cadres who are involved in violence against opposition and ordinary Zambians. Mr Lungu protects such violent cadres as he benefits from the violence. That's how he wins elections through violence and rigging. Mr Lungu cannot win a free, fair and non-violent elections!" - Bill Bantu Ntanda

"If a UPND cadre had been the one who stormed Central Police with it's fully loaded armoury, I am sure yowa president who believes PF is a peaceful party would have justified the use of live ammunition. And called for

reinforcements in the form of the 2nd battalion Zambia Army to sort out that cadre!" - Daniel Maswahu

"They were sponsored by the opposition UPND and as the party we want to distance ourselves from the malicious accusations!' Sunday Chanda's #voice". - Frank Zimba

"Wow! This is very good. Our police have been partisan for far too long now the cadres have launched their attacks on them... See that we weren't wrong to condemn the police on their attitude for unfair application of the laws?!" - Jay Nyendwa

"This shows how broken down the entire governance system is..." - Jonas Lumbila Yaniv

"It's a family issue. Same WhatsApp group. Senior cadres beating junior cadres. That's what happens in a banana republic, where lawlessness is the order of the day". - Larry Mbiri

"This is really unacceptable we can't start attacking police stations like this with impunity. If it was UPND some people would have started lobbying for apologies from HH!" - Jones Samanenga

"If the central police station can be attacked ,what more civilians". - Gloria Kaimana



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.

Tutwa's call to Young to stay out of politics

Editor,

"Tutwa Ngulube and his gaping mouth is causing a lot of shame for the country. Yesterday he was even denying that he said "break their bones" live on the blunt talk program challenging the moderator to show where he said it..PF politics!" - Harrison Sikanyika

"Exactly! We politicians are only interested in there money donations and funding our health system..." - Ngandu More

"This criminal minded lawyer! You have really found a berth in PF. May the Lord deliver Zambia from PF in Jesus's name, Amen". - Sikatema Mulonda

"Ask Nkandu Luo what happened to her visa application to visit the US after you chased Foote". - Richard Waga

"But you are always begging mula from them, sometimes it is better to just keep quiet". - Willie Chibuye

"He has no morals in him left, can't differentiate between a wrong and a right .He has traded reasoning with a job unfortunately". - Davies Nyirongo

"Abanabo kuwayawaya fye, the ink hasn't even dried from his apology to LAZ he already uttering more nonsense". - Mutinta Mulonda

'Yes, it's nonsense to sit Lungu and HH in trying to end violence'

Dear editor,

"Yes it's nonsense. Why should he sit down with HH when he can simply instruct the security wings to enforce the law and his party to respect and obey it!" - Lengwe Governor Kabwe

"Edgar Lungu's political survival depends on the use of PF cadres who harass and beat up opposition members; any effort to call on Lungu to dialogue with HH can't succeed because Lungu knows that he will lose power if law and order is restored". - Chivunda Samusungwa

"The solution to end political violence is by allowing the police to do their job freely. If the police are allowed to apply the law as it is, political violence will be a thing of the past. As long as some groups of people will be at liberty to hold meetings or protests even without informing the police while the other group won't have the right to hold meetings or protests, political violence will continue!" - Newton Kapambwe

"And you called him to be Christian, you have heard how nonsense he has told the church. He doesn't value peace because he thrives on confusion and disunity!" - Ringson Mwansa

"Arresting law breakers shouldn't be a presidential directive!" - Chalimanga Muwowo

"We all know that he avoids peace because survival in the post is anchored on violence. Just prepare guys, meet him in his game!" - Lukonde Chama

'Sangwa right on Lungu to blame for Zambia's mess, not advisors'

Dear editor,

"Yes Zambias mess can't be blamed on advisors. Its the president running the country so he should know whats going on. The mess and problems Zambia is facing is because the country elected a president who had no clue of what it takes to be president, no ambitions, no plans on how he would steer the country, he was just imposed as impyani". - Mutinta Mulonda

"True, why should we blame advisors who are appointed by Lungu? Two can not move together unless they agree". - Noritah Mwanza

"Good insight from a rational constitutional lawyer, Sangwa SC!" - George Mwape

"Sangwa SC is on point.... Let's not include his advisers..... A failure will always be a failure even if he was to be given the best advisors in the weldi!" - Ian Malekhanie

"Imagine he surrounds himself being an appointing authority, then why blaming them when they serve at his mercy? The incompetence we see in those institutions points to Lungu's incompetence himself not those being appointed by him". - Kajuba Mazuba

"Being the appointing authority he must be blamed". - Ceteris Paribus

"He did not wait to fire Chishimba Kabwili and Emeline Kabashi. So why is he keeping Dr Chilufya?" - Annie Sampa

"ECL is to blame... Even with me, my son tells me to drive fast and pass red lights but I don't and if I did the police will still charge me, not my son". - Zacky Zimba

"You are right sir. Mr Lungu is the appointing authority. He moves crooked PSs around instead of firing them. He advocates for corruption cabinet ministers instead of dropping them. He breaks the constitution at will. He injected the ubomba mwibala alya mwibala mantra in the minds of his party. He insights police via Kampyongo to deal with unhappy youths. He alone is single handedly the master architect of anarchy. No advisers to blame. After all he is the one that appoints them. Birds of the same furthers flock together!" - Mary Taguma Bilsborough



The name of Nigerian pastor Enoch Adeboye is among the top global trends on Twitter, used more than 34,000 times in the last 24 hours.

“Today is my wife’s birthday and there are lessons that women, especially so many young brides can learn from her. She is a powerful woman, I know that.

She has many people who take instructions from her, but as powerful as she is, and even though she has seen me in my weakest moments, I have no doubt that I am her head.

It does not matter what is on

Pastor’s sexist post riles thousands on Twitter

her itinerary if I say I would like you to go with me to so and so place the best she can do is try to convince me otherwise.

If I insist, she would cancel whatever she was to do and come along with me. The Bible in Ephesians 5:23 says:

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...”

The husband is the head

of the wife. No matter how educated or successful you are, your husband is your head and you must regard him as such at all times. It is a terrible thing for a husband to feel his wife is his head.

Many men are misbehaving in their marriages simply because they want to establish that they are the head of their wives. Also, my wife is my number one fan.

She wrote in the book Mathematics of Marriage –



which we coauthored, that as my helpmate she knows she cannot help me

without my instructions, so when they come, her response is Yes sir.

Busy as she is, she still cooks my meals and serves me herself. Many young ladies these days leave everything to the house help. My wife still trims my nails for me.

There was a time when I was a teacher and was staying far from town. She had to cut my hair during that period. She is the only partner of the Adeboye Corporation; she doesn’t delegate her primary duties to anyone else.

Just like the virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31:1-31, I safely rest on my wife. Anything I uphold, she upholds too. Can your husband rely on you?.

Make up for your husband’s weaknesses, celebrate his successes, be his number one cheerleader. I wish my lovely wife a Happy Birthday.

It does not matter what is on her itinerary, if I say I would like you to go with me to so and so place... she would cancel whatever she was to do and come along with me.

Plenty of people have criticised the pastor, including calling his words “ugly”, and saying he shouldn’t be using the occasion of his wife’s birthday to focus on the “power” he feels over her:*BBC*

Thieves in SA steal whisky after alcohol ban

TWO days after South Africa reinstated a ban on alcohol to curb the spread of coronavirus, thieves have broken into a liquor store in Cape Town.

“They basically emptied the whiskies out,” Mark Kallend, shop owner of Liquor Bothasig, told News24 about the incident early on Tuesday morning.

“They ripped the safety gate off with their vehicle... they tied a rope around it and yanked it off. They then threw a boulder through the window,” he said.

Bottles of wine and brandy were left untouched, he added. Mr Kallend said the incident showed how desperate people were.

In a speech on Sunday President Cyril Ramaphosa said the alcohol ban - the second this year - would take pressure off the health system.

More than 40% of the 40,000 trauma cases recorded in the country in a week are alcohol-related - something the health system cannot afford right now.

When it comes to coronavirus, South Africa is the hardest-hit country in Africa with more than 275,000 cases.

Deaths resulting from Covid-19 have also risen to more than 4,000, and government projections estimate this could increase to 50,000 by the end of the year.*BBC*

Glee star died of accidental drowning, California officials say



ACTRESS Naya Rivera died of accidental drowning, officials in California have said after a post-mortem examination.

“The cause of death is drowning, and the manner of death is accident,” the Ventura County’s Medical Examiner said.

The 33-year-old, best known for playing cheerleader Santana Lopez in Glee, went missing during last Wednesday’s boat trip with her son at Lake Piru.

After a long search, divers found her body on Monday, prompting an outpouring of love and sympathy from her co-stars.

Rivera was first reported missing last Wednesday, after she had rented a pontoon boat with her four-year-old son at Lake Piru, north-west of Los Angeles. The child was found alone and asleep in the boat and later told police his mother had never returned after swimming in the lake.

Her body was found exactly seven years after Rivera’s Glee co-star, Cory Monteith, was found dead in a Vancouver hotel room of an overdose of heroin and alcohol.

Glee, the musical comedy TV series, ran on the Fox network from 2009 to 2015.

What did the Medical Examiner say?

In a statement posted on Twitter, the

Ventura County’s Medical Examiner said that Rivera’s body “has been X-rayed and a full autopsy has been performed.

“The autopsy findings are consistent with a drowning and the condition of the body is consistent with the time that she was submerged.

“No traumatic injuries or disease processes were identified at autopsy.

“There is no indication from the investigation or examination that drugs or alcohol played a role in the decedent’s death, but specimens will be submitted for toxicology testing,” the statement said.

Who was Naya Rivera?

Rivera began her career as a child actress and model, appearing in TV commercials in the US.

As a four-year-old, she starred in the Royal Family sitcom on CBS and had a number of other TV appearances.

But it was playing cold-hearted Santana Lopez in Glee that made her a star.

In 2014, Rivera starred in the horror film At the Devil’s Door.

The same year she married fellow actor Ryan Dorsey - who is the father of her son. When the couple divorced in 2018, they were granted joint custody.*BBC*

Police to interrogate Malawi ex-President Mutharika over cement-gate

MALAWI Police Service, Fiscal and Fraud Section, is interested to former president Peter Mutharika, in connection with K5 billion (about \$7 million) cement imported duty-free under “personal use” provision in the Presidents (Salaries and Benefits) Act when he was in power but was being sold by business persons, Nyasa Times understands.

This follows the arrest of the security aide to Mutharika , Norman Chisale in connection with the cement import scandal.

Nyasa Times sources said Fiscal Police are interested to question Mutharika on the

matter.

“Police are interested to quiz the former president on the matter as investigations continue,” said a source after Chisale has been interrogated in Lilongwe.

Chisale remains security aide of Mutharika during his retirement.

National Police spokesperson James Kadadzera said police “have been interviewing individuals that might have been involved in the transaction.”

He confirmed Chisale in police custody “for that purpose.”

Earlier, Malawi Revenue Authority official Roza Mbilizi, who allegedly cleared the import of 60,000 tonnes of cement, was held.

Mutharika, who was removed from power in the June 23 court-sanctioned presidential election rerun, is building a retirement home in the Lakeshore town of Mangochi, southern Malawi.

After losing the election, the former president was forced to temporarily move

into a state lodge because the house is incomplete.

Newly elected President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, who in his inaugural speech pledged to deal with corruption, said that before the country of 19.13 million people can begin to rebuild, it must clear the rubble of corruption.

“I will challenge the leadership of judiciary to do more to root out the culture of corruption and selective justice that has shipwrecked too many of our lowest courts,” he said.

Mutharika’s opposition

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) officials have complained that the new administration under the leadership of Chakwera is making arrest of senior members of the party and claimed it is political persecution aimed at killing the party.

But commentators have said there is a lot of rot that is being exposed to have been happening during the DPP regime that requires the long arm of the law to catch up with wring doers- and the fish rots from the head down. -*Nyasa Times*



Ex-Nigerian leader appointed to mediate Mali crisis

FORMER Nigerian president, Goodluck Jonathan, has been appointed a special envoy for Mali to try resolve the political crisis in the country.

He is expected to bring together key parties including President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, opposition leaders, civil society as well as religious organisations for a dialogue on the crisis.

Mr Jonathan’s

appointment was announced by Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, head of the West African economic bloc, Ecowas.

“I have the honour, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to communicate to you the decision to appoint you as Ecowas Special Envoy for the sociopolitical crisis in Mali,” a letter quoted by local

media said.

Mali has been wracked by protests in recent weeks, with demonstrators demanding for President Keïta to step aside over a raft of issues including disputed elections.

The protests have also been fuelled by weak public services and the government’s inability to bring an end to inter-communal and jihadist violence.*BBC*



FORMER Manchester United goalkeeping coach Emilio Alvarez has revealed that he left the club following a fallout with David De Gea over the player’s future, after the shotstopper put pen to paper on a new deal at Old Trafford.

The 48-year-old has played down suggestions that he was released from his role at Carrington, instead revealing that his exit came down to personal and professional differences with the Spaniard between the sticks.

De Gea extended his stay with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s side last September , signing a new four-year contract that will keep him in Manchester until 2023, potentially taking him up to a dozen years with the Red Devils.

Alvarez was brought onboard at United under previous manager Jose Mourinho, having previously mentored De Gea at Atletico Madrid - but the former has now opened up on his United exit, stating that De Gea’s decision to agree fresh terms behind his back was what forced his exit.

‘I didn’t want to coach De Gea any more’ - Ex-Man Utd goalkeeper coach left after fallout with ‘disloyal’ Old Trafford No 1

“It’s not true that Manchester United relieved me of my duties,” he told AS . “In fact, once De Gea renewed, United put an offer on the table for me. It was me who asked to meet with the club so I could tell them I wanted to leave the club.

“It was at this meeting they asked me to renew. I told them I was going but not because I wanted to leave United. I wanted to stop coaching De Gea.

“Aside from being his mentor at Atletico Madrid, where I backed him strongly, I was the person who convinced him to sign for United. I was his right-hand man in Manchester.

“I came to United

thanks to the great work of Jorge Mendes and because Mourinho wanted to sign me to help David develop and to keep him at the club. At that moment, he wanted to leave United.

“After almost three years with lots of work and

meetings with United to renew him and to make him the best paid player in the world, I learned that he had renewed behind my back. Honestly, it felt like a lack of loyalty.

“During negotiations, he also had a falling out with the

person who had carried out all the talks in order for him to be paid what he was paid. At the last minute, someone else meddled. I insisted that I didn’t like that because it seemed disloyal.

“I asked David why he didn’t say anything to me and

he said that he was told not to say anything to anybody. This had an impact on me. The way I understand my profession is that you can’t help someone develop if you do not have total confidence with them and that’s why I decided to leave United.” **GOAL**

Benzema, the rest of Madrid’s squad deserve the Ballon d’Or, says Zidane

KARIM Benzema and the rest of Real Madrid’s squad are all deserving of this year’s Ballon d’Or, according to Zinedine Zidane.

Benzema’s sensational

form has been a driving force in Madrid’s title tilt, with the Frenchman having scored 19 goals in 35 La Liga appearances this season.

Madrid can win the

Spanish top flight for the first time in three seasons should they defeat Villarreal on Thursday, or if Barcelona drop points against Osasuna.

There have been suggestions that Benzema should be in the running for this year’s coveted Ballon d’Or award and Zidane has claimed every Madrid player could be worthy of the prize.

“In football, everyone can have a say. For me, my players are the best,” the Madrid boss told a press conference.

“Karim is not only this year, he has done very well for many years. The Ballon d’Or is won by only one, and everyone can comment, but for me all my players deserve it.”

Los Blancos need only two points from their final two matches of the season to claim

their 34th domestic crown. Zidane believes Real Madrid’s hunger to return from lockdown at their best is what has given them an advantage in the title race.

He also insisted there is no risk of complacency creeping into his squad before lauding the desire his players have shown following the three-month suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“No, not at all,” Zidane said when asked if his side already felt like champions.

“The beautiful thing we have is the energy we put in every day, day by day is what motivates us. The rest, we don’t know what will happen.

“The players when they get here know the history of this club, what it is, what it wants, the ambition we always have. **GOAL**

Mayor threatens to sue LCC over Matero stadium lease agreement

By Abraham Kalito

LAWYERS representing Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa have written to the Lusaka City Council demanding that the institution desists from advertising the Matero stadium for lease or face legal action.

And Lusaka Town Clerk Alex Mwansa has confirmed receiving the letter from Sampa’s lawyers, saying the local authority will respond comprehensively on the matters raised.

Sampa signed a 10-year lease agreement with the Council from 2011 to 2021 to invest personal funds in developing the stadium to be used by his sponsored football team as well as for youth development.

But the council has since advertised that the stadium is ready to be leased again.

However, the Mayor’s lawyers Mambwe, Siwila and Lisimba Advocates stated that they would commence action against the council and seek to obtain any preventive order that would ensure their client’s

rights were protected if the institution did not desist from the manoeuvres.

“We act for Mr. Miles Sampa, the former MP for Matero Constituency and now the current Lusaka Mayor. As you are fully aware, our client, as the area Member of Parliament for Matero signed a 10 years lease agreement with the Council to invest personal funds in developing the stadium and use it for youth development and for use by a FAZ football team he owns called Matero United FC and other community teams in the constituency. He put up the said development as per agreed lease. The lease is for a period 2011 to 2021,” read the letter.

“It therefore has a 1-year life left to completion. Your office has neither had any discussions with our client nor has our client received any formal letter stating that the lease contract is being terminated before expiry date. Our client has also not been furnished with reasons why the decision was apparently made

by your office or the Finance Committee meeting that was chaired by the Matero Ward 28 Councillor Kelvin Kaunda to terminate a Contract duly signed by our Client and yourselves in 2011.”

They stated that the council had decided to proceed and advertise the said Stadium without due regard or notice to their client’s accrued rights.

“We have instructions to commence action against the council and seek to obtain any preventive order that would ensure our client’s rights are protected. Our writing to you is to intended to frustrate our client’s legal rights in the lease. We trust you shall take heed and avoid unnecessary and costly litigation,” the lawyers stated.

And speaking in an interview, the Town Clerk said the council will likely respond to the lawyer’s demands by today.

“We have received a letter coming from the Mayor’s lawyers Mambwe, Siwila and Lisimba Advocates. And through his

lawyers, he has made certain demands arising from the lease between Lusaka City Council and the Mayor. And of course, they have given us an ultimatum that we should respond within three days, failure to which the matter will be taken to court. So, what we are doing now is that we are currently studying the matter and by close of business tomorrow (today), we would have closed all the issues raised in the letter and we will communicate to the lawyers accordingly,” said Mwansa. “What we want to do is that whatever information we will communicate to the lawyers will be the same information we will communicate through you the media to the public. So, we want to do it systematically. We don’t want a situation where our colleagues on the other side start complaining that you are addressing our matter through the press because they have made specific demands and those demands will be addressed tomorrow.”



FIFA meeting will be for formality - Kazabu

By Abraham Kalito

VETERAN soccer administrator Luxon Kazabu says the scheduled meeting between Zambian soccer stakeholders and worlds soccer governing body FIFA will be a formality as the main issues that needed intervention have been resolved.

In an interview with Goal Diggers, Kazabu who is also a former FAZ committee member said the main issues which should have been tabled before FIFA were resolved when a consent agreement was signed last week which saw all parties embroiled in wrangles withdraw

legal actions from the courts of law.

He said the meeting will thus be a public relations indaba where FIFA will reiterate the need to avoid third party interference in the running of football related matters adding that not much will be discussed.

“I don’t think there will be much to be discussed in that meeting, in fact, I think the meeting will now be just a formality. Public Relations sort of indaba, and maybe FIFA would like to reiterate what they have said before regarding observing statutes that they don’t expect interference from any outside parties in the running of the affairs of football, FAZ.

Maybe they would like to emphasise that stance again, otherwise I don’t see much that will be discussed,” he said.

Kazabu said Zambia football stakeholders managed to give FIFA a peace of mind when they arrived at the decision to agree to resolve matters.

“My Guess is that yes, they are not firing full throttle now, the reason being that the country has been able to reach consensus and the matter are no longer before the courts of law. So, obviously that must have given FIFA a peace of mind. Secondly, I do know that there is supposed to be a

meeting with FIFA, to be chaired by FIFA with stakeholders namely government, FAZ officials, National Sports Council of Zambia and other stakeholders,” he continued.

“So, I’m personally patiently waiting for that meeting. I don’t know what the agenda is. We have to wait until that meeting takes place. But what is true is that whatever stance people have taken so far, I do not see them moving away from that stance or changing their minds. They gave guidelines and they gave deadlines over such matters meaning, that the FIFA statues, the FAZ constitution have been complied with. And that’s

all FIFA has been looking forward for us to do.”

And Kazabu said the association is making strides by coming up with programs such as the goal keepers training course.

“We commend the association for the historic goal keeping course currently taking place. That is a department in the game of football. And it is perfectly in order now that we are coming up with such programmes. Perhaps it should have happened a long time ago. Nevertheless, well we are making a start. And this is good for the game of Zambian football.”

MAYOR THREATENS TO SUE LCC

By Abraham Kalito

LAWYERS representing Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa have written to the Lusaka City Council demanding that the institution desists from advertising the Matero stadium for lease or face legal action.

Sampa signed a 10-year lease agreement with the Council from 2011 to 2021 to invest personal funds in developing the stadium to be used by his sponsored football team as well as for youth development.

Story page 11

...over Matero stadium lease agreement



Coca-Cola pulls out of COPA

By Abraham Kalito

THE Coca-Cola company has notified the Zambia Schools Sports Association that it will not be sponsoring the inter-schools soccer tournament as it has been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement, company director Marie Valarie Rochecouste stated that all commercial advertising and sponsorship in the region have been put on hold as the company concentrates on Covid-19 relief and response efforts.

"We are deeply concerned about the growing impact of Covid-19 in the region. These are challenging times for all of us, and we are fully committed to doing everything we can to help. In light of this situation, we have decided that all commercial advertising and sponsorship of events in the region will be put on hold, effective immediately as we shift our focus to COVID-19 relief and response efforts for the most affected communities," stated Rochecouste.

"The Company has come to a difficult, yet necessary decision to withdraw its sponsorship for the COPA Coca-Cola Tournament for the year 2020 until further notice. As a Company, we are doing our part to help prevent the further spread of the virus by prioritizing the health, safety and security of all the participants of the tournament in line with the global health guidelines issued by the health authorities. As we continue to monitor the situation closely, our partnership with ZASSA remains strong. We will continue to take guidance from the local government and health officials, and it is our hope that we shall re-engage in due course for future COPA Coca-Cola Tournaments."



Rashford to receive honorary degree for charity efforts

MARCUS Rashford will receive an honorary degree from The University of Manchester after his summer charity campaign against child poverty.

Rashford hit the headlines in June for writing an emotional letter to the government detailing his experience of using foodbanks in his youth.

The 22-year-old expressed his belief that all children who benefit from free school meals during term time should continue to have access to the service over the summer, as he urged Members of Parliament to update their policy.

The England international succeeded in changing government legislation, before raising over £20 million (\$25m) to aid vulnerable people during the coronavirus crisis

after joining forces with FareShare, a major poverty and food waste charity.

The University of Manchester have decided to present Rashford with an honorary doctorate for his work in the community, which will see him follow in the footsteps of United legends Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton.

The Red Devils striker released a statement announcing the award, which reads: "It's a proud day for myself and my family. When you look at the great names that have been awarded this doctorate in the past, it's humbling."

"We still have a long way to go in the fight to combat child poverty in this country but receiving recognition from your city means we are heading

in the right direction and that means a lot. Thank you to The University of Manchester."

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, the University of Manchester's president and vice-chancellor, praised Rashford for standing up to affect significant change in the city during a hugely uncertain and challenging time for the public.

"Marcus is an extraordinary young man with an extraordinary talent and drive that stretches well beyond the football field," said Professor Rothwell.

"His work for charity and his high-profile campaign will not only help countless young people across our own city, but across the entire country. **GOAL**