



A PROBE INTO RWANDA

By Mukosha Funga

A NEWS Diggers! investigation has revealed that the Rwandese national called Nsengiyumva Appolinaire, who was named by that country's rebel leader Maj Nsabimana Sankara Callixte in a court testimony as his link to President Edgar Lungu, is actually a member of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) procurement committee in Zambia.

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ALLEGATIONS

Rwandese linked to Lungu is IDC procurement committee member

E/Province PF will deal with Jay Jay - Mwila

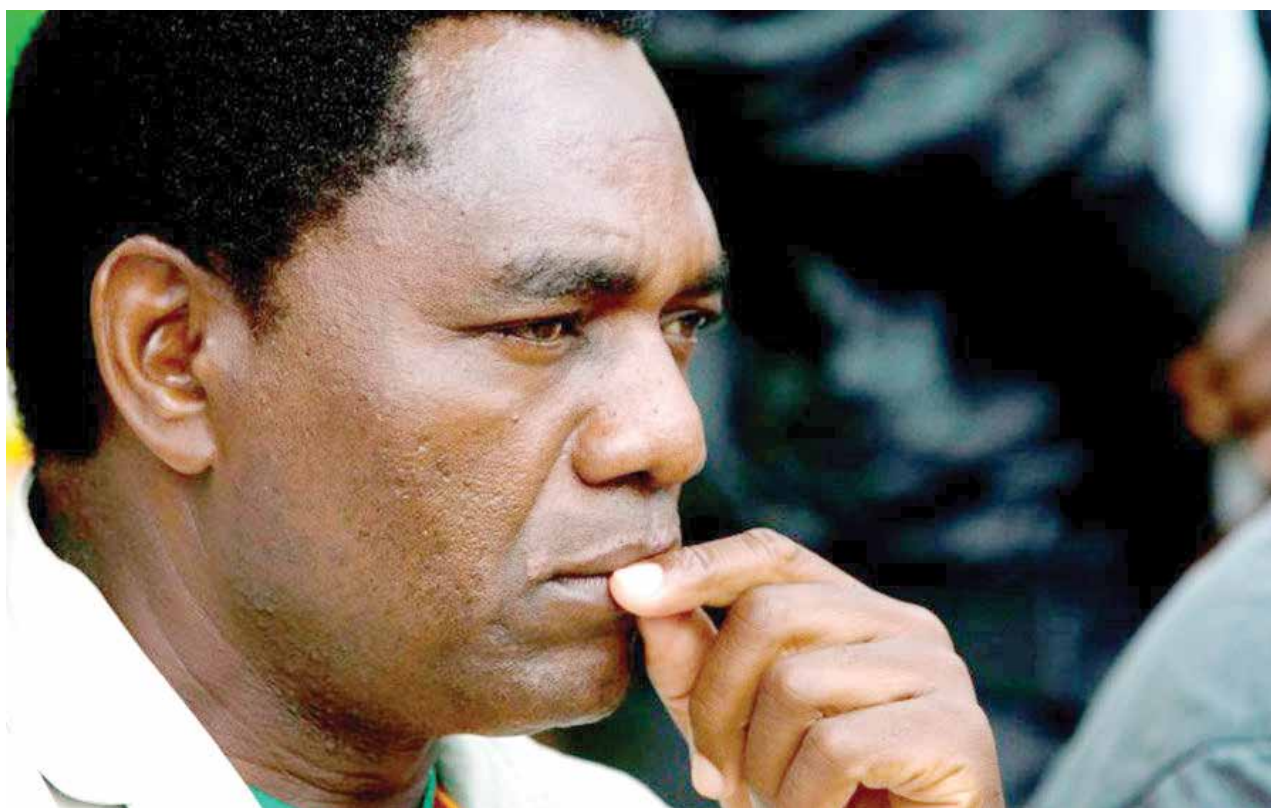
By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says any disciplinary action against Eastern Province chairperson Emmanuel Banda popularly known as Jay Jay will have to be dealt with at provincial level before the recommendations are brought to the Central Committee.

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COVID deaths rise to 128

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HH vows to fire PF cadres in civil service, foreign missions

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Lungu asks Xi Jinping for debt cancellation

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu yesterday asked Chinese President Xi Jinping for debt relief and cancellation in light of reduced revenue due to the negative impact of COVID-19.

According to a statement from Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe, Monday, the two leaders had a telephone meeting.

"President Lungu called for debt relief and cancellation in light of reduced revenue due to the negative impact of the pandemic, as well as competing needs for the country to secure adequate resources to fight the pandemic and stimulate the economy," Chipampe stated.

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Cabinet considering lockdown – Ng'andu

By Natasha Sakala

FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu has urged citizens to wait for Cabinet to make a decision on whether the country will be put on lockdown following the rise in COVID-19 cases.

In an interview, Dr Ng'andu said the decision would be announced in due course.

"The lockdown decision is a decision that is taken by Cabinet as a whole. These are matters that are being considered so it's not one Ministry that makes a decision. So, I think the best thing you can do is to wait and see the decision that will be taken in response to what's happening," said Dr Ng'andu in a brief interview.

Over the weekend, Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya announced that the country had recorded a total of 120 COVID-19 deaths as at July 18, 2020, with the cumulative number of cases shooting up to 2,980, with 19 patients on oxygen.



By Ulande Nkomesha
THE Auditor General's report on the accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other statutory institutions for the financial year ended 31st December 2018 has revealed that parastatal bodies failed to remit statutory obligations of K3.4 billion.

In a statement issued by Auditor General's office head of public relations Ellen Chikale, the office issued four audit reports which have since been tabled in Parliament of which two were regularity audits and two were performance audits.

The report revealed that the University of Zambia accounted for K2.7 billion, about 81 percent of the K3.4 billion not remitted to ZRA, while Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia accounted for 14 percent K465 million Kwacha.

“The report has highlighted failure to settle or remit statutory obligations as the highest irregularity at K3.4 billion. The implication for this irregularity is loss of revenue to government in the case of non-remittances to ZRA and risk of failing to pay employees when they retire in case of NAPSA and Workers Compensation Fund Control Board. Notable institutions are the University of Zambia accounted for 81% (K2.7 billion) and Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia accounted for 14% (K465 million),” Chikale stated.

“The report also revealed that three out of the 16 institutions made questionable payments in amounts totalling K1,247,162. The circumstances included continued payments based on expired contracts, insurance claims paid to officers instead of the institution which insured the assets. Further, four out of the 16 institutions made irregular payments in amounts totalling K4,652,035. The circumstances included payments to officers under the Judiciary who had

Parastatal bodies failed to remit K3.4bn to ZRA – Report

resigned, dismissed, and those whose contracts were terminated; at Nitrogen Chemical of Zambia, commissions were paid to agents without evidence of facilitated sales.”

Chikale stated that the report revealed an overall weakness in corporate governance which resulted in bad decision making.

“Overall, the report has revealed weaknesses in corporate governance which results in bad business decisions. In addition, there were also weaknesses in the implementation of Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems in some of the audited entities. The implication of this irregularity is the failure to realise the full value of the system which results in pronounced inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in the business processes of the audited entity. The other irregularities highlighted were failure to produce financial statements; Poor financial and operational performance; and Weaknesses in contract management among others,” Chikale stated.

Chikale stated that the Auditor General's report on the accounts of water and sanitation companies revealed irregularities totalling to K2,641,990,353 on nine water sanitation companies that were audited.

“This Report, which is the first special report of its kind, contains paragraphs on nine out of the eleven 11 Water and Sanitation Companies that were audited and remained with unresolved issues as at 31st December 2019. The report seeks to highlight the role water utilities play in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No 6, which is Clean Water and Sanitation. The companies audited are Chambeshi,

Eastern, Luapula, Lukanga, Lusaka, Nkana, Northwestern, Southern and Western Water and Sanitation Companies. The irregularities observed in the nine water and sanitation companies were in amounts totalling K2,641,990,353. The major ones being Non Revenue Water, poor contract management and poor debt management,” Chikale stated.

“All the nine water and sanitation companies had non-revenue water in amounts totalling K1,405,739,018. Luapula, Lusaka, Nkana, Northwestern and Southern Water and Sanitation Companies accounted for 69% or K963 million. The Non-revenue water entails water that has been produced and distributed but no revenue accrued due to various reasons. Two water and sanitation companies namely, Chambeshi and Northwestern Water and Sanitation Companies failed to secure performance bonds for on-going works with contract sums in amounts totalling K254,347,838. Chambeshi Water and Sanitation Company accounted for 99% or K252 million. There was also wasteful expenditure at K16 million (K16, 660,814).”

She stated the Audit Report on the preparedness for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Zambia revealed that the integration of the 2030 agenda into national development plans was incomplete and that the identification of resources and capacities required for the implementation of the SDGs was incomplete as financial resources had been partially identified.

Chikale further added that there were inadequate mechanisms and systems in place to monitor, review and

report progress made towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

“This performance audit report has highlighted the process of how the Government was preparing for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the notable findings were that: Integration of the 2030 Agenda into national development plans was incomplete; the review and alignment of the SDGs at the sub national and local levels had not been conducted, the structures for policy coherence were not fully operational; and the awareness of the SDGs had not been integrated at the local level. (II) Identification of resources and capacities required for the implementation of the SDGs was incomplete as financial resources had been partially identified; the budgeting had not yet been linked to the SDGs as the link between the national planning and budgeting was weak. The budgeting framework was not result based as Output Based Budgeting (OBB) was only implemented by three ministries and no assessment of human resources and ICT skills had been conducted. The Output Based Budgeting (OBB) system entails that costs are attached to tangible outcomes was not fully implemented as most Ministries

had not migrated from Activity based budgeting (ABB) to OBB at the time of audit,” she stated.

“There were inadequate mechanisms and systems in place to monitor, follow up, review and report on progress made towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as they were not integrated and coordinated. The structures assigned with the responsibility to monitor and report at the national, sub national and local levels were not fully operational. Data required to measure the SDGs performance indicators to report progress was not readily available. From the foregoing, the purpose of implementing the SDGs whose goal is to ensure that “no one is left behind” could be defeated if the above findings are not adequately addressed.”

Chikale stated that the Performance Audit on the provision of special education in primary schools in Zambia for the period 2014 to 2018 revealed that the Ministry of General Education had not laid out guidelines on infrastructure development on special education and that the Ministry had no specific budget allocated to special education, among other finds.

“The Performance audit was carried out at Ministry of General Education on special education in public primary schools.

It’s hypocritical for Lungu to ask church to pray for peace – Katuka

By Ulande Nkomesha
UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says it is hypocritical for President Edgar Lungu to call on the Church to pray for peace when he has failed to lead the way

in ending political violence in the country.

In an interview, Katuka wondered whether President Lungu had no knowledge that as Head of State, he had the power to end political violence.

“We all know how hypocritical Lungu is, he has never been in charge of anything. He is just holding that office without knowing what powers he has. He is Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, he can bring that violence to a stop within a second, but he doesn't know the powers he has. We have always said (president Levy) Mwanawasa did it within a second, violence was gone, but he has failed. I think Mr Lungu must know that he is in charge of a country, he is in charge of the police, he is in charge of the army, he is in charge of all wings of the government, including the security wings,” Katuka said.

“So, that is the problem. That is why he can even now go to the Church to ask the Church to pray for peace. What facilities have they got to do that apart from divine power from heaven? How does that peace come together? So, he is appealing for the Church to pray because that is the only thing they can do, but he has the weapons, he has the powers, which he can't use! So, it is hypocritical for me to appeal to the Church, he should be the first to say, 'he doesn't want to see violence in the country,' he should take action. He has failed to do what he is able to do using the powers he has. Because of his failures to do it, he is now appealing to the Church no, 'please help us,' what has he done? Even the Bible tells us God only helps those who help themselves. They have failed to help themselves. That is why they

This Performance Audit report has highlighted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No 4 and 10 that aim to ensure quality education and reduced inequalities, respectively. This report discusses challenges that Learners with special educational needs are facing and makes recommendations on how special education (SE) can be improved. The following are the findings: The Ministry did not have laid out standard guidelines on infrastructure development on special education; the Ministry did not have a specific budget line allocated to special education; health facilities lacked proper screening and identification tools for learners with special education,” stated Chikale.

“Assessment centers for learners with special educational needs were only four, country wide; University Teaching Hospital (UTH), University of Zambia (UNZA), Zambia Institute of Special Education (ZAMISE) and Holy Family in Monze. Learners with special needs in some places had to travel long distances due to inadequate numbers of special schools. The Ministry did not adequately monitor and evaluate special education in the country. As a result of the following, Learners with Special Needs continue to be disadvantaged thus being left behind contrary to the SDG implementation intention of leaving no one behind.”

are now waffling and expecting God to come in.”

He said Zambia was slowly degenerating into a finished country because PF cadres had continued to break laws with impunity.

“The indiscipline I am talking about is that his people have no respect for him! How do expect your cadres to go and attack a police station? Honestly, is this a country anymore? Zambia is a finished country in short because nobody respects the rule of law because it is broken down; no one has respect for one another; nobody has respect for life. You can see the moral decay of this society. We have lost value as human beings,” lamented Katuka.

“And again, no one listens to him, his cadres have no respect for him; they won't listen to him. I have heard him say so many times that, 'no, whoever does this, I will deal with him!' But nobody respects him. They don't even listen to him. He is always contradicting himself because at one occasion, he will say the opposite of what he will say at the other occasion so people don't take him seriously. It starts with what we believe in as a people. I have always asked what is the symbol of PF? The symbol itself is violence. What is the slogan of PF? The slogan is pamaka (power), pamaka is violence. So, I don't know why you even doubt who is violent. Their slogan is violence, the symbol is violence and the people speak violence. So, we shouldn't even doubt where this violence is coming from.”

On Sunday, President Lungu called on the Church in Zambia to “passionately” pray for the country's peace during a service at the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) St. Andrews Congregation in Lusaka.

CEC-Zesco impasse has heightened uncertainty on power supply – Chamber

By Diggers Reporter
THE high copper prices on the international market may not translate into an improved Zambian economy because the global macroeconomic environment remains volatile while mining companies' cash flow position is still constrained, says the Zambia Chamber of Mines.

The Chamber also says that electricity supply to mining companies has remained stable despite the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA) between Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc and Zesco Limited, but that the situation has heightened uncertainty about the security of power supply for the long-term.

Copper prices on the international market have surged to US \$6,454.50 per tonne by July 17, 2020, the highest since April last year, according to the London Metal Exchange (LME).

The rise in copper prices comes in the wake of huge supply disruptions in Chile, the world's largest producer of the red metal, following continued industrial disputes and the ravaging Coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted supply chains.

Commenting on the sharp rise in prices, Chamber president Goodwell Mateyo observed that increased prices may not necessarily translate into an improved local economy owing to the ongoing volatile global economic environment.

“Copper prices have risen in recent

times, but the fact of the matter and the reality is that the global macroeconomic environment still remains fairly volatile. The global economy is in recession at the moment; China is getting back to production, but who's buying the products being produced? Although we have an upswing in copper prices, we can't say that's going to be sustained for the long run. We can only see that it's going to remain high in the short-term, but in the long-term, no one knows what's going to happen,” Mateyo said in an interview.

“So, because of that volatility, we are getting the benefits at the moment, but even with this high price environment, there isn't sufficient stability for operations to manage their production around what the copper prices are at the moment.”

Asked if the high copper prices on the international market would eventually translate into improving mining companies' cash flows in view of anticipated higher foreign exchange earnings, Mateyo said only short-term gains were likely.

“I would say yes, in the short-term. If the prices are sustained, and the global macroeconomic environment gets some level of stability, yes, it will be good for our investment and for production. But my sense at the moment is that, there's still a lot of volatility, if the macroeconomic fundamentals in the global environment don't seem to give the impression that they would support

a high price environment in the long-term. And as long as volatility continues, it's difficult to state that that's going to be good for our economy in the long run. In the short-term, yes, it has significantly improved cash flows for a lot of the local mining companies,” he replied.

And asked whether power supply to mining companies had been maintained amid the ongoing dispute between CEC and Zesco, Mateyo, who is also Mopani Copper Mines' general legal counsel, confirmed that mines had stable supply, but cautioned that the issuance of Statutory Instrument Number 57 of 2020, which declared CEC's infrastructure as common carrier, had heightened uncertainty about the security of power supply for the long-term.

“To be fair, the supply of power has been stable and has continued as it was prior to the (CEC-Zesco) impasse. I think the only challenge with the impasse is the level of certainty. So, what's going to happen next year? Is CEC going to supply us power? Or are they going to be our service providers with respect to wheeling charges of power supplied from Zesco? The biggest negative effect that this impasse has had is a lack of certainty with respect to security of supply. In terms of what's going to happen with the declaration of CEC's assets as common carrier and the litigation that commenced as a result of that, it obviously brings on certain levels of uncertainty with respect to what's going to happen in the long-term,” said Mateyo.

By Julia Malunga
PATRIOTIC Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says any disciplinary action against Eastern Province chairperson Emmanuel Banda popularly known as Jay Jay will have to be dealt with at provincial level before the recommendations are brought to the Central Committee.

In a statement, Monday, PF media director Sunday Chanda said Mwila directed Eastern Province Chairman Andrew Lubusha to deal with the matter.

“Ruling Patriotic Front (PF) Hon Davies Mwila has directed Eastern Province Provincial Chairman Andrew Lubusha to deal with the matter as per party procedure in which Provincial Chairperson Emmanuel J. Banda following last week’s fracas at Lusaka Central Police from the Party’s standpoint. He says the party has well laid party guidelines and any disciplinary matter

E/Province PF will deal with Jay Jay – Mwila

involving a party official at Provincial level is within the jurisdiction of the province before any recommendations can be made to Central Committee,” Chanda stated.

“Considering that the accused is Provincial Youth Chairman for Eastern Province, any disciplinary matters related to his case will have to be dealt with at Provincial level before any recommendations can be brought to the Central Committee.”

Mwila said no party official was permitted to break the law and expect to be protected by the party.

“The SG wishes to caution all Party officials and members alike that no one is permitted to break the law and expect to

be protected by the party. He has also reaffirmed President Edgar Lungu’s directive to the Party at large to abide by the

laws of the land mindful that none is above the law,” stated Chanda.

And when asked in a police

WhatsApp group if the service had apprehended Jay Jay, Police Spokesperson Esther Katongo said “he is still at large.”

Kapiri police nab, charge Chipepo with desertion

By Mirriam Chabala
POLICE in Central Province have arrested Jeyson Chipepo, a sergeant who recently resigned from the Zambia Police Service citing political interference and infiltration of the Command by cadres.

Central Province Police Commissioner Chola Katanga

confirmed to News Diggers that Chipepo was picked up on Monday morning and detained at Kapiri Mposhi Police Station awaiting transportation to Muchinga Division where he committed the offence of desertion.

“Yes, he has been picked up. He was picked up this

morning and is currently in detention at Kapiri Police Station. He is yet to be handed over to Muchinga where he committed the offense of desertion from the Zambia Police Service. He was employed by the Zambia Police Service, but he just disappeared. He could not be contacted; he was nowhere to be seen. So he was declared a deserter by Muchinga Police where he belongs,” said Katanga.

Prior to his arrest, Chipepo told News Diggers that he was going to hand himself over to the police in Kapiri because he was not running away from anyone.

“I am going to hand myself over at Kapiri Police. I haven’t been summoned but I am just going there because

I don’t want to look like I am running away. I came to Kapiri yesterday and I was about to leave for Lusaka today, but I couldn’t proceed because I knew that they would intercept me on the way and then I would going to look like I am trying to run away or something. So I am just going to take myself there now,” Chipepo said.

He also denied having deserted his job, saying he was just on leave.

“I even have my leave forms and everything. Those people are just trying to cover up, it’s their job. Two months ago, they promoted me. How do you promote a deserter? They are just trying to lie. They always enjoy shooting in the air and that is what they are doing even now. But we are beyond them,” said Chipepo.

Lungu asks Xi Jinping for debt cancellation



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu yesterday asked Chinese President Xi Jinping for debt relief and cancellation in light of reduced revenue due to the negative impact of COVID-19.

According to a statement from Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe, Monday, the two leaders had a telephone meeting.

“President Lungu called for debt relief and cancellation in light of reduced revenue due to the negative impact of the pandemic, as well as competing needs for the country to secure adequate resources to fight the pandemic and stimulate the economy,” Chipampe stated.

“During the meeting, the two Heads of State acknowledged the excellent relations between the two countries and undertook to further enhance cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. The Heads of State called for concerted global efforts and commended the World Health Organisation (WHO) for its leadership and coordinating role in the fight against COVID-19. In addition, His Excellency the President thanked His Excellency President Xi for China’s support to Zambia’s COVID-19 response.”

Chipampe stated that the two leaders agreed to continue working closely together to safeguard common interests, including on matters concerning the United Nations Security Council.

“President Lungu reaffirmed Zambia’s commitment to the aspirations of the forum on China-Africa Cooperation which had yielded tangible benefits for Zambia through a number of developmental projects. President Lungu also reaffirmed Zambia’s continued support for the ‘One China Policy’ and applauded the introduction of the National Security Law that will ensure the long term security and prosperity of Hong Kong. President Lungu condemned external interference in China’s internal affairs,” stated Chipampe.

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Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



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News Ear to the ground

The Intervening Board: That is Overstepping Your Role!

A FEW years ago, I closely followed a story where management decided to transfer the marketing manager (who reported to the Marketing and Sales Director) to another department. The decision was purely strategic but did not seem to go well with the individual involved. The following day, the Company Secretary received an instruction from the Board Chairperson to call for an urgent Board Meeting. Asked about the specific agenda, the Chairperson indicated, 'Urgent Board Meeting'.

Whenever Board meetings are convened outside procedure and without clear agenda, it causes huge stress to management. It gets worse when the CEO of the organization is not debriefed about the purpose of the meeting but to simply be in attendance. Whenever such happens, especially in quasi-government institutions, the decisions may be terminal, usually the dismissal of the CEO or entire management. This incident was one such meeting that got everyone in management off guard. Making matters worse, management was asked to be on standby while the Board deliberated on whatever the agenda.

After a couple of hours, the CEO was called in, asked why the marketing manager was transferred. His explanation, that it fell within management mandate to make any such decisions was not entertained. He was instructed to reinstate the manager immediately and to ensure this happened, two members of the Board from the Staff Committee made sure the manager moved back to his office before the Board suspended business. It was a one item agenda item and based on an erroneous board mandate.

Simply put from this experience, the Board was intervening in the executive functions of management. Management is referred to as executive management because the responsibilities of the management team start where the responsibilities of the board end, and that is to execute the decisions of the Board. This execution is clearly defined in roles and responsibilities of management as outlined in the CEO job description.

A general description of the CEO responsibilities include: 'Developing' and implementing the long-term strategy and vision for the organization, reviewing regularly the organisation's performance against set objectives, ensuring necessary resources are rationalized for optimal performance and shaping the work culture through, for example, team building and leadership. Transferring staff falls squarely in the sphere of managerial responsibilities. The only person answerable to the Board is the CEO.

When a Board interjects in areas outside its mandate, it frustrates and confuses management. There is nothing more frustrating to management than having a board that always tiptoes its way into offices, and outside regular board time, looking for answers to questions that were never asked. Micromanaging makes management inefficient. It takes away the core pride of being in executive management because you stop being experts in your areas of competence. I can imagine the nature of the relationship between the CEO and the manager; probably the CEO now consulting him for every management decision to please the Board.

Of all (inefficient) board types I have come across (such as passive and certifying boards), the intervening or operating board is the most retrogressive. An intervening board has one common characteristic: Having intense and frequent

meetings and getting involved in executive functions of management. In the Zambian case, though slowly receding over time, micromanaging boards take their oversight function to an extreme. They get involved in day-to-day administrative and operational decisions of the organization, including directing which cleaner should be promoted.

In some SOEs, some board chairpersons demand an office and secretary. They must also be provided with a company vehicle (in which case the oversight function on the management of assets is hugely compromised). Even in cases where there is an executive board as I witnessed at the International Monetary Fund, the separation of responsibilities is very distinct. There are executive and operational activities within the organization that the IMF Board will not know until it is part of the reporting by management.

When my colleagues and I assessed one of the reasons there is standing conflict between the board and management, micromanaging stood out as the number one reason. Whenever one office oversteps its responsibilities, there is a fight. No decent management wants to be undermined by directors whose responsibility is to provide oversight and receive regular reports for which decisions should be made. In any case, how do you provide oversight when you are also an active player in the same matters? It's always said, 'Directors direct; managers manage'.

Before I conclude with reasons why board directors usually drift into micromanage, I should agree that there are circumstances when the board members get to be highly engaged with operational and executive issues. I just took overboard Chairmanship of an international organization and have asked the Chairperson of the Finance Committee (an experienced accountant) to spend time helping the finance department re-arrange the financial reporting system. However, this is limited to special circumstances, such as an organization going through some transition, or serious challenges that require oversight on a very regular basis until the organization comes out of a comma. I should emphasize, this is very rare and whenever it happens, it still sends signals of anxiety among the various stakeholders of the organization such as creditors and suppliers.

There is also another case where the board may from time to time engage management to share ideas outside the ambit of the board process. George Barrett, reputed for providing board leadership in the health industry, gave the following useful guidance, 'I want to know that the CEO would be comfortable with me talking to management if I needed to. I want the CEO to trust me enough to know that I could have a conversation and not do anything that undermines them.'

'But I don't think board members should just be picking up the phone. They may have the right to do that, but it really can cause mayhem. It's important to be able to say to the CEO, "I'd love to talk to the marketing person," and then ideally the CEO is confident enough to say, "I think that's a great idea." That kind of openness is really wonderful. It's not a great sign if the CEO is gun shy about letting his or her people talk to the board.'

The big question is, why do many board members tend to veer into executive functions? The first reason is poor induction. If you pick someone who has been an employee all his or her time to be board director, the mindset is on the executing frequency. Even when such individuals are placed

'There is nothing more frustrating to management than having a board that always tiptoes its way into offices, and outside regular board time, looking for answers to questions that were never asked'.

into board committees that bring them nearer to executive decision-making functions, they still want to go an extra mile, to every day be at the office to supervise certain individuals. For them, board directorship is work, full time work for which they should report to the office every day. They feel they should be the ones to execute the board decisions.

The other reason is the nature of the appointment. Micromanagement that takes place in quasi-government organizations happens mainly because of political authority given to some board members. The appointing authorities may have provided directives aimed at sorting out some specific challenges in the organization, 'There is a lot of laziness among employees; the management team travels too much; and there are members with political interests. Go sort that out.'

It is in the sorting out that there is confusion. Instead of providing a framework and policies to guide the institution towards the attainment of shareholder expectations, some directors get overly excited. They go into those institutions as political appointees with a political mandate and not so much as directors whose responsibility is to provide oversight as per the board charter. I once overheard a newly appointed board chair tell his colleagues, 'The minister asked me to sort management out and heads will roll'.

Micromanaging happens in private companies as well, mainly because the owners do not want to lose control. These are board members who do not trust their own management that they will safeguard and protect their interests. They have no understanding about the set boundaries and that a board functions best when it keeps its hands off on issues of execution. They direct the usage of funds outside the knowledge of the CEO. The question is: why put an executive management team in place when you know too well you do not believe it can perform?

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



Your In-coming Government 2021-2026

BELOVED citizens,
Last week, I had the privilege of engaging with citizens on my Twitter page, where I addressed a number of questions. One matter that kept coming up from numerous citizens, was the issue of the composition of our government, when we assume office next year. I deliberately did not address it but promised to provide detailed feedback on my thoughts and basis for the decisions we will make regarding the composition of the cabinet and many other crucial positions.

I have addressed these issues in past engagements but I'm happy to shed more light. Understandably, many of you are hoping that I'll list names and corresponding roles and positions. Unfortunately, not now, but allow me to provide some context and the foundation for the formation of your government from 2021 to 2026.

Firstly, our team must be a reflection of our key objectives for the first term of office, which include:

1. Turning around the economy
2. Economic diversification
3. Strengthening institutions
4. Strengthening our democracy
5. National unity
6. Quality education
7. Quality healthcare
8. Restoring the rule of law

These objectives among others, are anchored on the goal to raise the standards of living for all Zambians. Points 1 & 2 will produce quality jobs and increase the participation of Zambians across our economy, enabling the creation of local wealth. Point 3 provides for better oversight, discipline, prudence and the fight against corruption. Point 4 will enable free speech, a free press, judicial independence, as well as the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia. Point 5 tackles tribalism and ensures there is diversity of tribe, gender & the youth in our government, where no one will be marginalised. Points 6 & 7 address our goal to invest in human capital and point 8 involves developing independent institutions that are devoid of political influence, ensuring that the three arms of government are independent and effectively execute their mandate.

The above is our agenda and with this background, it will be necessary to have in place a sound team to execute.

We must bear in mind that there is a civil service in place. Our initial assessment of the calibre of many who are employed in the civil service, is that most are actually sound. There has however, been problems with regards to politicization of key roles such as Directors and Permanent Secretaries. A significant number of Directors and PSs will have to be evaluated based on their competencies, performance and record. We certainly intend to inject new blood in such roles and candidates are already in the bureaucracy. Some will, of course, come from outside government.

We will not fire anyone for political reasons but rather, the choice of those who stay or go, will be based on merit. Most good civil servants will stay, even though they were engaged through the PF. This may be disconcerting to many but we have to

be inclusive and objective. It is no secret that the civil service is riddled with highly incompetent PF cadres with questionable qualifications. Those are undoubtedly going. It is also not a secret that the civil service is not a reflection of the diversity of our country. It must be balanced by various tribes, youths, gender and other groups.

The Public Service Management Division, the HR department of the government will conduct an audit to ensure that not only do we have competent and qualified people, it will erase the corrupt phenomenon of "Ghost workers." The civil service must attract excellence and people with the capacity to carry out duties for the benefit of their employers, the citizens of Zambia.

This provides a background on our intentions with the civil service and more light will be shed in our manifesto that we shall launch in due course.

With regards to the Foreign missions/Diplomatic service, like the rest of the civil service, it is all about merit and not who is Bally's friend, relative or tribes mate. Our foreign missions must be occupied by High Commissioners, Ambassadors and officers who are appointed on merit and who can fulfil our diplomatic, trade and economic objectives with absolute excellence. We are highly rigorous when vetting people for roles in the central bank and other important statutory bodies and the diplomatic service must be no different. History has shown that relatives, cadres and friends have graced our foreign missions, but this phenomenon will come to an end. A professional diplomatic service will also facilitate better consular services.

We need career professionals who carry out our outlined objectives. We have developed performance metrics, similar to those used in the private sector, that will be strictly enforced. Our aim is to have a truly competent & effective government that delivers on the people's aspirations. Before we get into the issue of Cabinet Ministers, I'll refresh your memory on where they come from. In accordance with our current constitution, they have to be elected and nominated members of Parliament. It is from that pool of people that I'll make choices. We first of all have to nominate strong candidates for our parliamentary seats who have requisite qualifications and skills in various vocations from the Ministries I intend them to lead. They then have to win the seats before they are eligible to be appointed Ministers. We will not adopt any Minister from the current PF government to serve in any Ministerial position in our government.

I have identified highly impressive candidates that will be nominated to parliament in order to serve in key technical Ministries that will deliver our economic turnaround. These include Finance, Agriculture, Mines, Commerce and Investment.

I must also inform you that we have an elective conference coming up where National Management Committee members will be elected. The Presidential candidate for the UPND will also be determined. I am offering myself for re-election. As you can see, there are numerous factors that affect who will serve in our government but in due course, as we move past various milestones, you will be informed. You have my word on this.

I have heard many of you say that you do

not want "recycled politicians" and I certainly understand why. While most of the people in the next government will be new, understand that there are some former Ministers from previous governments with a wealth of experience and capacity that we will certainly call on. This should not disappoint you because the few who have served in government before, have institutional memory and experience that we certainly need. The ones I have in mind have my full confidence and I have no doubt that they will serve diligently in our government.

I would like to conclude with two final points. First is regarding your next Vice President and the other is concerning why it is also necessary that we withhold the identity of some of your future Ministers.

My running mate, should the party allow me to be the 2021 Presidential candidate, will be a person who would be ready to assume the Presidency should anything happen to me. I am fortunate to have great options and consultations are on-going. This is not a matter that should be rushed to be announced, even if my mind is made up now. I can give an example of the US election, scheduled for this November, where the incumbent's challenger, Joe Biden is yet to announce his running mate within months of the election. This practice is not uncommon, but I can assure you that you will not be disappointed. His/ Her name will be withheld for now and so will the names of the desired Ministers.

What many of you may know by now is that the PF have been engaged in highly undemocratic and disruptive activities to increase their chances of retaining power. Not only did they interfere with the 2016 elections, they have continued to meddle with the electoral process by limiting our freedom of movement, abusing the police, closing media institutions, and buying councillors. In such an undemocratic and hostile environment, we cannot afford to expose the majority of the people that will make up our government. It is a question of timing. Under a normal and functioning democracy, people would be free to show themselves as being part of the opposition and freely express themselves without threats to their lives, businesses, and wellbeing. If Mrs. X were to be mentioned as the next Minister of Agriculture today and she happens to be a business executive in the private sector, it is likely that she would be ostracised, monitored, and suffer loss of business.

There are many who are working with us but cannot come out in the open as it would literally endanger their lives. This is the atmosphere that the PF has created. On the bright side, in the lead up to the elections, they will be revealed for your assessment. Once we form government and restore our democracy and the rule of law, no one will ever have to be afraid of being part of an opposition party.

We are determined to deliver on your aspirations, and we are confident that we have the right team to make it happen.

God bless Zambia.

HH

HH vows to fire PF cadres in civil service, foreign missions

By Julia Malunga

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the civil service is riddled with highly incompetent PF cadres with questionable qualifications who will be fired when he forms government.

And Hichilema says although there will be no single serving minister who will be reappointed under the UPND government, people must expect him to work with some of them who have institutional memory to help him run government.

In a post on his official Facebook Page, Hichilema said the civil service must attract excellence and people with the capacity to carry out duties for the benefit of their employers who are the citizens of Zambia.

“We must bear in mind that there is a civil service in place. Our initial assessment of the calibre of many who are employed in the civil service, is that most are actually sound. There has however, been problems with regards to politicization of key roles such as Directors and Permanent Secretaries. A significant number of Directors and Permanent Secretaries will have to be evaluated based on their competencies, performance and record. We certainly intend to inject new blood in such roles and candidates are already in the bureaucracy. Some will, of course, come from outside government. We will not fire anyone for political reasons but rather, the choice of those who stay or go, will be based on merit. Most good civil servants will stay, even though they were engaged through the PF,” Hichilema wrote.

“This may be disconcerting to many but we have to be inclusive and objective. It is no secret that the civil service is riddled with highly incompetent PF cadres with questionable qualifications. Those are undoubtedly going. It is also not a secret that the civil service is not a reflection of the diversity of our country. It must be balanced by various tribes, youths, gender and other groups. The Public Service Management Division, the HR department of the government will conduct an audit to ensure that not only do we have competent and qualified people, it will erase the corrupt phenomenon of “Ghost workers.” The civil service must attract excellence and people with the capacity to carry out duties for the benefit of their employers, the citizens of Zambia,”

Hichilema said foreign missions must be occupied with officials who were appointed on merit.

“With regards to the Foreign missions/Diplomatic service, like the rest of the civil service, it is all about merit and not who is Bally’s friend, relative or tribes mate. Our foreign missions must be occupied by High Commissioners,

Ambassadors and officers who are appointed on merit and who can fulfil our diplomatic, trade and economic objectives with absolute excellence. We are highly rigorous when vetting people for roles in the central bank and other important statutory bodies and the diplomatic service must be no different. History has shown that relatives, cadres and friends have graced our foreign missions, but this phenomenon will come to an end. A professional diplomatic service will also facilitate better consular services. This provides a background on our intentions with the civil service and more light will be shed in our manifesto that we shall launch in due course,” he said.

Hichilema gave an insight of what his government planned to do when he formed government.

“Last week, I had the privilege of engaging with citizens on my Twitter page, where I addressed a number of questions. One matter that kept coming up from numerous citizens, was the issue of the composition of our government, when we assume office next year. I deliberately did not address it but promised to provide detailed feedback on my thoughts and basis for the decisions we will make regarding the composition of the cabinet and many other crucial positions. I have addressed these issues in past engagements but I’m happy to shed more light. Understandably, many of you are hoping that I’ll list names and corresponding roles and positions. Unfortunately, not now, but allow me to provide some context and the foundation for the formation of your government from 2021 to 2026. Firstly, our team must be a reflection of our key objectives for the first term of office, which include: turning around the economy, economic diversification, strengthening institutions, strengthening our democracy, national unity, quality education, quality healthcare and restoring the rule of law,” Hichilema wrote.

“These objectives among others, are anchored on the goal to raise the standards of living for all Zambians. Points 1 and 2 will produce quality jobs and increase the participation of Zambians across our economy, enabling the creation of local wealth. Point 3 provides for better oversight, discipline, prudence and the fight against corruption. Point 4 will enable free speech, a free press, judicial independence, as well as the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia. Point 5 tackles tribalism and ensures there is diversity of tribe, gender and the youth in our government, where no one will be marginalised. Points 6 and 7 address our goal to invest in human capital and

point 8 involves developing independent institutions that are devoid of political influence, ensuring that the three arms of government are independent and effectively execute their mandate. The above is our agenda and with this background, it will be necessary to have in place a sound team to execute,”

He said the UPND would not adopt any minister from the current PF government to serve in a ministerial position.


“I have heard many of you say that you do not want “recycled politicians” and I certainly understand why. While most of the people in the next government will be new, understand that there are some former Ministers from previous governments with a wealth of experience and capacity that we will certainly call on. This should not disappoint you because the few who have served in government before, have institutional memory and experience that we certainly need. The ones I have in mind have my full confidence and I have no doubt that they will serve diligently in our government,” Hichilema said.

He said he would announce his vice-president in due course.

“Regarding your next Vice-President and the other is concerning why it is also necessary that we withhold the identity of some of your future Ministers. My running mate, should the party allow me to be the 2021 Presidential candidate, will be a person who would be ready to assume the Presidency should anything happen to me. I am fortunate to have great options and consultations are on-going. This is not a matter that should be rushed to be announced, even if my mind is made up now. I can give an example of the US election, scheduled for this November, where the incumbent’s challenger, Joe Biden is yet to announce his running mate within months of the election. This practice is not uncommon, but I can assure you that you will not be disappointed. His/Her name will be withheld for now and so will the names of the desired Ministers,” said Hichilema.

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By Sipiliwe Ncube

ZAMBIA has recorded 178 new cases of COVID-19 and two deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the cumulative total number of confirmed cases to 3,326 and 128 deaths.

And Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Mwansabombwe PF member of parliament Rodgers Mwewa died as a result of COVID-19, among other health complications.

Meanwhile, Zamtel Head Office and FNB Makeni branch have closed after staff members tested positive for the virus.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka, Monday, Dr Chilufya said the country had in the last 24 hours recorded 178 new cases and two deaths.

“In the last 24 hours, we have confirmed 178 new COVID-19 cases, out of 959 tests done bringing the cumulative number of cases to 3, 326. The new cases include 104 that were screened in our health care facilities, 97 were in Lusaka, four in Ndola, one in Mufulira, one in Chililabombwe, and one in Chingola,” Dr Chilufya said.

“Thirty-Five (35 cases) were contacts to known cases and these include 19 from Lusaka, six from Lufwanyama, four from Mufulira, two from Mpongwe, two from Chipata, one from Ndola, and one from Kitwe. 29 were done out of the routine screening, 22 in Lusaka, five in Ndola, one in Mufulira and one in Chililabombwe. And six were health care workers, four from Kalulushi, and two from Lusaka. Four track drivers tested positive in Lusaka.”

Dr Chilufya said the cumulative number of deaths now stands at 128.

“In terms of the deaths, we have recorded 128 deaths in whom COVID-19 was isolated. This follows two more deaths from Levy Mwanawasa isolation centers and UTH. The cumulative number of deaths classified according to World Health Organization guidelines is as follows; 28 COVID deaths, 92 COVID associated deaths, and eight (08) are being revealed pending classification,” he said.

He said 17 patients are on oxygen support while five are in critical condition.

“In admission, we now have 61 patients. 17 patients at Levy on Oxygen support and five are in critical condition. We have discharged 123 cases bringing the cumulative number of discharges to 1, 620,” Dr Chilufya said.

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya

COVID-19 deaths rise to 128, as companies continue closing offices

said Mwewa was swabbed after passing on and the results came out positive for COVID-19.

“Today, we sadly report the death of another member of parliament Honorable Rodger Mwewa, member of parliament for Mwansabombwe who succumbed at Levy Mwanawasa Hospital on Saturday and details have been availed as they have been adduced. Honorable Mwewa died out of complications that he had. He was hypertensive and diabetic and he did develop COVID. The results for COVID-19 only came out after he died. He was swabbed the same day that he passed on,” he said.

And Dr Chilufya said there is an expected rise in COVID-19 cases.

“Today, Zambia reports a dangerous increase in cases and a dangerous surge in the number of cases in our communities. The geographical spread is now countrywide and we have seen a drastic rise in both the number of cases and a number of deaths. This is a call to action for all to adhere to the public health and social measures that the government has put in place. I bear the message from His Excellency President Lungu to all of us that we will only defeat COVID-19 with collective action,” he said.

“We should at individual level and collective level adhere to the measures that will help us bring COVID-19 under control. COVID-19 has disrupted many ears of our livelihoods and it is important that we bring it under control...with the cold weather that we are experiencing today, we will see a surge in cases. This was anticipated. We will continue to see a surge in July, and in August. But we can stop the trend, we can minimize the impact, we can stop community trend with collective action.”

Meanwhile, ZICTA director general Patrick Mutimushi said the authority would now be operating under strict guidelines after one of its staff members tested positive for the virus.

“The Zambia Information and Technology Authority (ZICTA) wishes to inform the general public that a member of staff who works from the Head office in Lusaka has tested positive to COVID-19. In order to manage the current situation and curb the further spread of the virus, the authority will continue to operate under the strict guidelines as recommended by the Ministry of Health and health authorities. We therefore, advise members of the general public and our stakeholders to use digital platforms as well as our toll free line (7070) or email (complaints@zicta.zm) as they lodge their complaints and further engage with the authority,” Mutimushi stated.

And Zamtel head of corporate affairs and government relations Reuben Kamanga announced the closure of the Head office after one staff member also tested positive.

“Zamtel wishes to inform its customers and the general public that Management has decided to close its Head Office located at the corner of Chilubi and Church Roads in Lusaka with immediate effect until further notice. This is because one of our members of staff has tested positive for Covid-19. In the meantime, we urge our customers to visit our service centers in order to access our products and services. Customers can also access our products and services using our online and self-help platforms. We urge customers to adhere to all health guidelines as they visit the service centers,” Kamanga stated.

FNB Zambia equally closed its Makeni branch after one of its members of staff tested positive for COVID-19.

“FNB Zambia can confirm that there has been a case of COVID-19 at Makeni Branch. The Bank has notified the relevant health authorities regarding the developments and the branch in question has been closed. We have put in all the necessary precautionary health and safety measures in place to ensure the health and safety of our customers, staff, and vendors. We also recommend that use our digital channels including the FNB App, mobile online banking to transact and use hand sanitizer or wash your hands if you need to use an ATM,” stated the bank.

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On Tuesday last week, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Matibini asked Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya to render a ministerial statement on whether or not the Executive was in order to flout Coronavirus Health Regulations. The ruling was made following a point of order which was raised by Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu, who cited the commotion that was caused by Patriotic Front cadres at the Magistrates' Court on Thursday, July 9, when Chilufya was appearing in court for his corruption charges.

We knew this was going to be a very difficult task for the Minister because it put him in an awkward position. Indeed, in answering the question by the House over adherence to COVID-19, Dr Chilufya tried to dodge the questions, thanks to the Speaker, who stopped him in his tracks.

Here is a summary of how the Minister of Health tried to dodge questions over the conduct of his supporters at court.

Dr Chilufya: "Mr Speaker, as Minister of Health, I am concerned about the health of all individuals, including the honourable member of parliament, than bitterness. He needs to tone down because it will claim his own..."

Dr Matibini: "Honourable Minister of Health, let's proceed in a temperate way, proceed."

Dr Chilufya: "Mr Speaker, I thank you for your guidance. And Mr Speaker, let COVID-19 not be used as a reason

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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How can Dr Chilufya condemn the cadres he ferried from Mansa?

for people to suddenly become democratic. The UPND has never held elections for many years..."

Dr Matibini: "Honourable Minister of Health, take a seat. I have no doubt that you are able to. The issues under discussion are professional issues. They are health issues. There is a point which has been made about discrimination. So, they would like you to clarify on the enforcement of these measures, which you put in place. And I think for progress' sake, let's confine ourselves to the issues. I know we are in a politically-charged atmosphere. If we won't be able to proceed in a manner I am indicating, then I will just stop this session altogether, because we can't proceed this way. I will just stop it, and I can't be proposing questions and answers. I

expect that we will engage. And we have engaged previously without this kind of situation. I think it's a fairly straightforward subject [and] I don't think it's beyond our management. Honourable Minister of Health."

Dr Chilufya: "Mr Speaker, the agenda of the Patriotic Front Government, under His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, is universal health coverage. Health for all are apolitical. Mr Speaker, we don't want to characterize gatherings on political grounds, on racial grounds on religious grounds, we are stating categorically here that every public gathering held must be in compliance to public health measures that are stipulated under the Public Health Act and Statutory Instruments 21, 22 and 62. Nothing else matters because we aspire for health for

everyone everywhere. And, therefore, Mr Speaker, I use this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders, political, religious and traditional to ensure that as they hold any gatherings of any nature, they adhere to the measures that have been stipulated in the Public Health Act and in Statutory Instruments 21, 22, and 62. Let me use this opportunity to respond to the Honourable member that unity of purpose, solidarity, non-stigmatization, and non-politicization of COVID-19 will be key in responding to COVID-19. So, my response is let us all act responsibly in compliance to public health measures that are stipulated in the laws that exist and protect the public from COVID-19."

In short, the Minister of Health was all over the place, but he could not address the question that

was before him. This is what happens when those in leadership positions are in the forefront of breaking the laws that are supposed to govern the country. How can Dr Chilufya condemn his own supporters whom he transported all the way from Mansa to come and cheer him up at court? It was not logical for him to do. The Minister was the law and the lawbreaker unto himself.

This is why we insist that when a government leader is indicted, especially in a criminal case, he or she must step down to pave way for, not only transparency, but for sanity. Dr Chitalu should have excused himself from the ministerial position for a while and allow somebody to act on his behalf. Imagine if there was a neutral person acting as Health Minister, wouldn't it have been easy for that

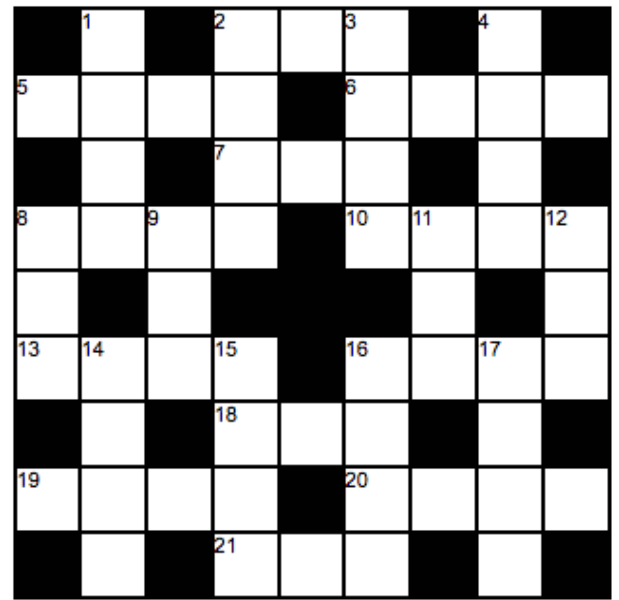
person to condemn the cadres' behaviour that day at court? Of course it would. But how can we expect the person who sponsored the cadres to condemn them?

We can cite a simple example of Mumbi Phiri. As PF deputy secretary general, it was easy for her to gather the confidence and courage needed in condemning the behaviour of her party cadres because she was in a neutral position. She had the moral right to call those the youths "foolish" for accepting to be used by politicians to engage in uncivil behaviour. If Mumbi Phiri was appointed acting Minister of Health, she would not have had any challenges answering questions in the National Assembly.

This is just an illustration of what is expected to happen in the trial of Dr Chilufya itself. The same way that we do not expect the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health to condemn the cadres' behaviour because the boss is involved, is the same way we should not expect any employee at the Ministry to willingly testify against the Minister. It is not possible that this Minister will allow his members of staff to go and testify against him in court. It can't happen without consequences.

This is where the PF has failed this country. The lawlessness is being sponsored by the people in leadership positions. This is why to this day, two weeks after a ruling party official attacked a police station with a gun and stole money, PF has opted to remain silent. They have not condemned the incident because they don't see anything wrong. What a shame!

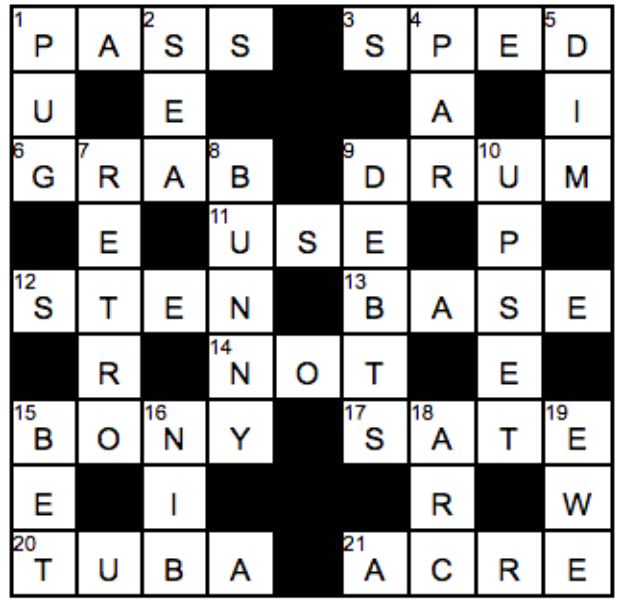
Crossword puzzle No 650



"It is our wounds that create in us a desire to reach for miracles. The fulfillment of such miracles depends on whether we let our wounds pull us down or lift us up towards our dreams."
- Jocelyn Soriano

- Across**
2. Helium or neon
5. Bloodsucking insect
6. Watch
7. Roman 3
8. Cold annoyance
10. Segment
13. One and the other
16. Yearn for
18. Big clumsy man
19. Crust on healing wound
20. Partly open
21. Rowing need
- Down**
1. Blueprint
2. Canter or gallop
3. Stumble
4. Quartet
8. Weep
9. Fall mo.
11. Rainbow shape
12. Deuce; even score
14. Cry of pain
15. Wanderer
16. Off in the distance
17. Above the neck

Crossword puzzle No 649



Readers' Feedback

Fugitive PF official, Jay Jay's fleeing into Mozambique

Dear editor,

"PF are just criminals, even if he was arrested as long as the concerned ministry head is PF and IG is also PF the case wouldn't go far. Why even skip the country? Point at any PF who had or has a case and he or she has been prosecuted and sent to prison. Even serious cases of gassers where lots of people lost their lives as long as the suspects and culprits are PF cases are Nolle, that's it. This is one of the symptoms of a dictator government!!!" - Josh Godwin Musuku

"And I quote 'EASTERN Province PF chairman Andrew Lubusha says the ruling party in the area is still trying to get hold of provincial youth chairperson Emmanuel J. Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay'. The question here is who is supposed to arrest someone who has committed an offence? I was wrong to think it's the police". - Dennis Sibajene Mweetwa

"Ba ZP sure, failing to arrest him pa home and now ati Police are looking for him? Dont know which home they will visit next". - Maxwell Isaac Phiri

"Engage Interpol, if not just pay me, I can deliver him in my car boot. Place a bounty we can do it for the police in case they are scared!" - Thomas Sankara

"So PF know that he supposedly fled to Mozambique Then they know where he is". - Emmanuel Sakala

"A party of criminals". - Maimbolwa Kamanga



Mwiimbu on UPND MPs' decision to work with govt, but not PF officials

Editor,

"Thanks for the free lesson in civics 101! There is a clear difference between the government and the party! We are all part of the the government but not the party in power!" - Joel Saniko Moonga

"Good selection of words, lawyer ni lawyer". - Albert Washa

"Point...it's time to go country wide specially in eastern province... We are waiting for you ba UPND". - Munyaradzi Tendai Zimba

"Of course you are not obliged to work with PF and ECL should stop lying to citizens that developments

can only reach them when they opposition MPs work with PF but when he is collecting tax from these provinces he doesn't ask opposition MPs to come and get the share of taxpayers money. Let him develop the whole country without compromising". - Mutinta Mulonda

"Good selection of words, lawyer ni lawyer". - Albert Washa

"Yes all the opposition parties should start campaigning on the ground

if the president can lie to Zambians that he's only 'inspecting' projects with the entire provincial PF members and followers with him why should others be denied that liberty? Technically a project progress inspection doesn't take more than 20-25 people including the contractor, engineers and his entourage but him it's the entire PF provincial leadership, followers, distribution of party regalia, ululation and addressing followers who has nothing to do with the so called project inspection". - Josh Godwin Musuku

ND OPINION: We're on our way to becoming a failed state

Editor,

"The biggest problem that Zambia currently has is Edgar Lungu, he's the one who has allowed this lawlessness, ever since I was born I have never seen a central police being attacked by political cadres affiliated to the party in power...This is lawlessness of it's highest order. Edgar Lungu and the PF have destroyed the once peaceful Zambia..." - Pierre Fanucci

"This is Lungu's militia, no need to beat about the bush. The presidency is the only powerful institution that can execute or get away with such an action. Unless the state is telling us we have an incompetent and docile intelligence community". - Richard Waga

"What do you expect when you have a President who swore to protect a constitution but is always mute on sensitive issues. Had it been the opposition this time we could have heard and seen what PF is made of. ECL has categorically failed in all areas!" - Crispin Simwinga

"News Diggers we are already a failed state.... Kale kale! If cadres can go and beat up police officers and steal from them at the police headquarters then we're a failed state!" - Ian Malekhanie

"Party militia versus state police! Failed state indeed. It's very risky to the national security to have two pararell 'security wings' both under the head of someone called Stephen Kampyongo and under the Lungu as commander in chief of armed forces. That's the more reason this police officer resigned and this is the reason Bon Kapeso feels enough is enough. That PF cadre who was beaten by police was only paying the price on behalf of those at the minister of home affairs and commander in chief of armed forces, who have allowed this lawlessness!" - Martin Nyanjagha

Police's quest to arrest officer who resigned over political interference

Editor,

"Arrest! Wow! We all know cadres interfere with police work, just days ago they robbed police headquarters, not a small police post in a remote area. At some point people with good intentions say enough is enough, let the guy find other employment and move on". - Nasho Sombe

that powerful, it's got to be a curse from above". - Romakala Chigume

"Instead of wasting that energy on that innocent person can you please find the fugitive PF cadre who is on the ran sha!" - Bias Sichamba

"Who gets arrested for resigning from their job? Who bewitched the PF! Oh of course no man is

"Absenteeism has become absenteeism after a video release? Where were they from 2nd February?" - Levy

Kalelemba

"But why the manhunt?" - Dennis Wei Mulenga

"Can we start with the gassers? One thing at a time mweh!" - Eugene Mulenga

"So now in Zambia if someone is not coming to work you don't fire the person you arrest them!" - Dominguez Aftermath Jr.

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.

Rwandese linked to Lungu, terrorist funding is member of IDC procurement commitee

By Mukosha Funga

A NEWS Diggers! investigation has revealed that the Rwandese national called Nsengiyumva Appolinaire, who was named by that country’s rebel leader Maj Nsabimana Sankara Calliixte in a court testimony as his link to President Edgar Lungu, is actually a member of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) procurement committee in Zambia.

And Appolinaire has told News Diggers! that he has heard about the allegations levelled against him, but declined to explain his links to the rebel movement in Rwanda and his association with President Lungu, saying he was not in a position to talk about the issue because he had been unwell for the past seven months.

President Lungu has vehemently refuted media reports linking him to terrorist financing in Rwanda. Rwandese rebel leader Maj Sankara, who faces 17 charges including Terrorism and murder in Rwanda, told that country’s High Court for International and cross-border crimes that his group,

National Liberation Force (FLN) received money from the Zambian President to launch attacks against that country’s current regime. “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, Monday, claiming they received US\$150, 000 towards the cause.

On Friday last week, upon returning from Kigali where he met President Paul Kagame as President Lungu’s special envoy on diplomatic engagements around the issue, Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Malanji said the allegations bordered on national security, and as such government would launch investigations to establish how the rebel leader could link President Lungu to his terrorist activities.

“I should clear our position over the self proclaimed Calliixte Nsabimana. These allegations are coming from a convict. I had a lengthy meeting

with President Paul Kagame [of Rwanda] as a special envoy of the President of the Republic of Zambia, and the government of Rwanda and President Paul Kagame was very categorical that this convict had been to five countries prior to his arrest and Zambia was not one of them. He was very categorical about this,” said Malanji.

“We are going to dig [into this]. Diplomatically, we are going to engage Rwanda to make sure we find the reason and who could have enticed this convict to bring the name of the President of Zambia and the country into disrepute. We are following this up, soon officers will be going to Rwanda to make sure that we dig and find out why he had to bring in the name of Zambia and the name of President Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu. We want to get to the bottom of everything. When we are doing an investigation, we can’t leave it in suspense. Even you as a citizen you should know that these are matters bordering on national security and we shouldn’t trivialize anything. So we want to get to the bottom of this.”

But according to an investigation, Appolinaire was appointed to the IDC procurement committee in 2015 and re-appointed in 2018, both times under President Lungu’s reign as chairman of the IDC board.

Responding to a press query sent by News Diggers, Thursday, IDC confirmed that Appolinaire was a procurement committee member of the country’s parent company of government owned enterprises.

“Mr. Nsengiyumva Appolinaire, a procurement specialist, is one of the external members of the IDC Procurement Committee. He was first appointed in 2015 by the then Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the PPA of 2008 Section 13(2) (a) and Section 17(1). He was re-appointed in 2018, in accordance with the PPA of 2008. He holds no other position at the IDC,” read the response.

Asked who appoints procurement committee members, the IDC said it was the responsibility of the the Chief Executive.

“Members of the IDC

Procurement Committee are appointed by the Group Chief Executive Officer in his capacity as Controlling Officer, as stipulated in the Public Procurement Act (PPA) of 2008. The IDC Board of Directors does not participate in the appointment of the Procurement Committee or any other matters related to IDC as a procuring entity, as these are handled in accordance with the PPA,” the response read.

Asked to explain the role of the IDC procurement committee, IDC said it was to preside over all transactions relating to procurement, but declined to list the key procurement transactions that had been approved since 2015.

“The role of the Committee is to preside over all transactions and processes relating to procurements undertaken by the corporation in line with the PPA as well as the Public Procurement Regulations (PPR) of 2011.”

IDC also did not respond to the question seeking to establish the status of Appolinaire’s nationality.

Sources within the Rwandese Community living in Zambia told News diggers that Appolinaire is one of the established Rwandese nationals conducting businesses in the townships where he owns some grocery shops. When contacted, Monday, Appolinaire confirmed being the person named in the Maj Sankara court trial, but said he had been unwell since January when he suffered a stroke.

“I have been very sick from January. I had a stroke, so I am not yet functional. Maybe at a later stage, I don’t know when I will be doing my test again by the end of next month to see if I am available to start work again, then we can communicate later,” he said.

When informed that the aim of the interview was to help him clear his name following allegations that came from a court case in which he was implicated in Rwanda, Appolinaire insisted that he was unwell and not in a position to comment further on the matter.

“But sir, for the past seven months I have been down. I heard those things, people came to visit me, but I don’t even watch TV, I don’t follow the news, but once I am fine, we will talk later when I am in position to talk. I am not... I am heard those, but I am not able to read again so it’s a difficult situation for me,” said Appolinaire.

Asked “what is your relationship with the President of Zambia, are you close?” Appolinaire cut the line and became unresponsive thereafter.

There’s suspected COVID-19 cases in schools – Mabumba

By Sipiliwiwe Ncube

GENERAL Education Minister David Mabumba says suspected cases of COVID-19 have been reported in some schools but the Ministry of Health is yet to confirm whether or not they are positive.

And Mabumba says his ministry is in talks with private schools to come up with a reasonable user fee for e-learning classes.

In an interview, Mabumba said he was still waiting for the Ministry of Health to confirm whether or not the suspected cases of COVID-19 reported in schools were positive.

“There are situations that have been brought to my attention but I can’t confirm. We handed them over to the Ministry of Health and we are waiting for them to tell us. So, I can’t give you anything, otherwise, I will be misleading you. So, when there are cases in our schools, our protocol is that we report them to the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Health will take them up. Whether they want to swab everybody, pupils, and the teachers, they have to make that decision, and then they have to get back to us. So my team and I are still waiting until further notice. We have certain schools where similar cases have been reported but we are still waiting for the Ministry of Health to tell us whether yes it is COVID-19 or not. So, until we get information from the Ministry of Health,” Mabumba said.

Mabumba, however, said

reopening of schools for exam classes had been a success story because teachers had done their best to protect the pupils.

“But the reopening of schools in this country has been a very successful story. I have checked across the world and most of the countries, even those who have too much money, are struggling. Others have taken one another to court but here, I am very grateful. I don’t even have a reward to give my teachers for their dedication and commitment. They have dedicated their energies and efforts to just ensure that our pupils continue to remain safe,” he said.

“But where we have got cases that are reported for sure, we will report them to our colleagues in the Ministry of Health. But this far, they are all doing very well. Once the report is out, we will definitely talk to the public because we can’t hide anyway.”

And Mabumba said a committee had been established to discuss with the private schools the need for a reasonable fee for e-learning.

“That one, I am aware and we have set up a committee. In fact, it’s largely in the private schools. We have set up a committee that is looking at two fundamental issues. We want a reasonable fee for e-learning. And number two, I understand the private schools have got teachers and they have to pay them salaries and they have to meet the operational cost. What is it that we can do

to encourage parents? So, there are two key things that my team and the private schools association are looking at. My opinion is very clear in terms of user fees for e-learning but I don’t want to express it until when the Ministry and Private School associations conclude their consultations with their members,” Mabumba said.

Meanwhile, Mabumba

said he was aware of some private schools that had been asking parents to pay school fees despite their children not being in examination classes.

“Then, there are some schools which were asking parents to pay claiming that the second term had started. I challenge them that who gave them the authority to claim that the second term

has started for example for non-exam classes? The only person who has the authority [to declare that] is the President because we are in a pandemic. I know why they were claiming that the second term has started because they wanted to use it as an opportunity to charge. That was very unfortunate and very regrettable,” said Mabumba.

Kungo deserves the same treatment as Chitalu - Masumba

By Julia Malunga

FORMER Mufumbwe PF Member of Parliament Stephen Masumba says the party should lift the suspension slapped on North-Western Provincial chairperson Jackson Kungo for suspicions of corruption because he deserves the same treatment as corruption-charged Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya.

In April, PF secretary General Davies Mwila suspended Kungo for corruption allegations committed at Kansenseli Mine in Mwinilunga District. Kungo was later arrested along with some police officers and other PF members for theft of gold in Mwinilunga valued at over K24.7 million.

Speaking when he met party officials in Solwezi, Masumba said Kungo deserved the same treatment accorded to other corruption-charged officials in the party.

He urged chiefs in the province to support their sons the same way chiefs in Luapula gave solidarity to Dr Chilufya when he appeared in court.

“Whenever we see a person from North-Western Province being in trouble, solidarity is very important. We must

always be there for each other. It doesn’t matter whether we differ in terms of political ideologies and so on but I think what comes first is a human being. I will encourage the people of North-Western Province that what is happening to Kungo today, tomorrow it can be yourself. And so when we begin to support each other even you, when you are in trouble, people will come all over and they will protect you. Look at the solidarity we have seen on our comrade Chitalu Chilufya who is the Minister of Health, we have seen chiefs coming all over from Luapula Province. But where are the chiefs here? We are your children, why are we not being supported?” Masumba asked.

“Because to me, according to the doctrine of presumptions of innocence, you will agree with me that when you look at Kungo and what is prevailing now is that he can be only be given a status of being guilty when he is charged before the courts of law. So these are mere allegations and the young man is not guilty. Why are distancing ourselves? I call upon the leadership of the Patriotic Front to say

‘look, just like you have treated other people where they are coming from a background of being arrested and they have not been suspended from their specific positions, both in government and the party;’

Masumba appealed to President Edgar Lungu to lift Kungo’s suspension.

“I am also appealing before the President that we are down before our knees that let us allows Kungo to be given that same set up where we can have a situation that even as he is trying to appear before the courts of law, we should first of all apply the law apply equally. Where we must see to it that Kungo should not be suspended not even to even expelled because if we do so then it mean that it will be as though the gentleman is already guilty. Just like we have given this opportunity to comrade Chitalu Chilufya who has not been dropped and similarly his position as a member of the Central Committee he has not been revoked. So because of that background I feel even Kungo must be treated in the same way,” said Masumba.

PEP Guardiola is not allowing his attention to drift towards next season despite seeing Manchester City dumped out of the FA Cup, with a Champions League crown still there to be shot at.

Having already lost their grip on one domestic prize in 2020, as Liverpool snatched away the Premier League title, another piece of silverware has been relinquished by those at the Etihad Stadium.

They have landed the Community Shield and Carabao Cup in the current campaign, but the odd wobble has been suffered along the way.

City have also had to fend off the threat of two-year European ban being imposed on them, with an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport required in order to get that lifted.

Guardiola is now in a position to start planning longer-term, with the threat of imminent exits lifted on the back of a ruling from CAS.

The Catalan coach is, however, eager to ensure that

Pep not thinking about next season as Man City narrow their focus on Champions League

focus remains locked on the present.

City, who will finish as Premier League runners-up in 2019-20, still have two top-flight games to take in this term before then chasing down continental glory.

“I am not thinking about next season,” Guardiola told the Blues’ official website on the back of a 2-0 defeat to Arsenal at Wembley.

“We had two titles to fight for and we lost one.

“We have another one and once we have finished, we are going to think about what we have to do for the team.”

Guardiola will not allow heads to drop after slipping out of the FA Cup, with the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss adamant that City did enough to see off Arsenal and

were not undone by tactical deficiencies.

He added: “What these players have done is incredible. But we lost an FA Cup semi-final. You have to play 90 minutes, but we played just 45 minutes.

“In the first half, everything was sloppy, it was not the right rhythm for this kind of game, to reach a final.

“The question is how many chances we had and how many they had. Possession is part of it, but it’s not everything. It’s how many chances you create through the possession.

“When you play in that way, always they can use the counter-attack. How many counter-attacks was not the problem. It was maybe one or two actions. It was not about tactics.” **GOAL**



Mamfumba urges FAZ to quit league

By Abraham Kalito
SOCCER administrator Ricky Mamfunda says government in conjunction with FAZ should take a holistic approach to

tackle the surge in the number of players and staff testing positive to the COVID-19.

In an interview with Goal Diggers, Mamfunda said concluding the league prematurely would be a better option in the wake of an increase in players testing positive to Coronavirus.

“Definitely closing the league prematurely would be a good idea. My view is this, look, the number of COVID-19 cases among

players and staff seems to be on the increase and football being a contact sport, we are at risk of being infected or affected by the rising number of COVID-19 cases so for me I would urge the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and other stakeholders like the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Sports to look at this whole issue holistically because whatever the case, it is not worth it to lose a life just to fulfill a fixture,” he said.

“We are better off if the league is suspended or cancelled and once the virus has been contained we can start afresh as long as we are in very good health. I think we cannot risk our players and officials and any other members of staff and people that are involved on match day. So I, think the best is for FAZ and Ministry of Health to clearly look at this issue

holistically.”

He also said the Ministry of Health should check the compliance levels among Super League clubs on testing for COVID-19 to ensure that all players are tested.

Mamfunda said that football is not important than the lives of the players adding that the lives of those involved in football should be given first priority.

“And also we need to check how and if there is compliance in terms of testing among super league clubs because you may find that some teams may not take their players for testing because they don’t want to risk the so called key players from not participating in a game. So the bottom line which should be underlined is that football cannot be bigger than a players life. We can even play our football once the disease has been contained.”



Messi, Ronaldo and co miss out as Ballon d’Or is cancelled

THERE will be no Ballon d’Or winner in 2020, with France Football announcing that due to the “lack of sufficient fair conditions”, the prize that has been dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in recent times will not be awarded for this calendar year.

A prestigious Golden Ball has been handed out to the best player on the planet since 1956, however the decision has been taken that it would not be right to pick out a leading performer given the circumstances in which professional sport is currently being played out.

That means 2019 winner Messi will keep his crown for another 12 months. The Barcelona superstar has six Ballons d’Or to his name, with rival Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus boasting five.

Two all-time greats would have been

expected to come into contention again in 2020, along with the likes of Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski and Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne.

Every top performer is, however, going to have to wait another year, with United States star Megan Rapinoe also set to keep hold of her title in the women’s game.

France Football said in a statement on their official website: “For the first time in its history, which began in 1956, the Ballon d’Or will not be awarded in 2020, due to the lack of sufficient fair conditions.

“Messi and Rapinoe (as well as [Mattijs] de Ligt and Alisson, winners of the Kopa and Yachine Trophies [for young player and goalkeeper]) will have to wait

a year. The winners of the last edition will have no successors at the end of the year. Because there will be no Ballon d’Or 2020 edition.

“Why? Because such a singular year cannot - and should not - be treated as an ordinary year. When in doubt, it is better to abstain than to persist.

“Because the Ballon d’Or trophy conveys other values - like exemplarity, solidarity and responsibility - rather than merely sporting excellence alone.

“Because the fairness that prevails for this honorary title could not be preserved, in particular at the statistical level and also in the preparation since all the aspirants to the award could not be rightly compared, some having seen their season cut radically short, others not. So how can we compare the incomparable? **GOAL**

Oblak to cost Chelsea €120m

CHELSEA will have to pay Jan Oblak’s €120 million (£110m/\$137.5m) release clause to force contract talks with the Atletico Madrid goalkeeper.

It remains unclear whether the 27-year-old would be ready to leave Atletico this summer, with manager Diego Simeone ready to block the exit of the Slovenia international in most circumstances.


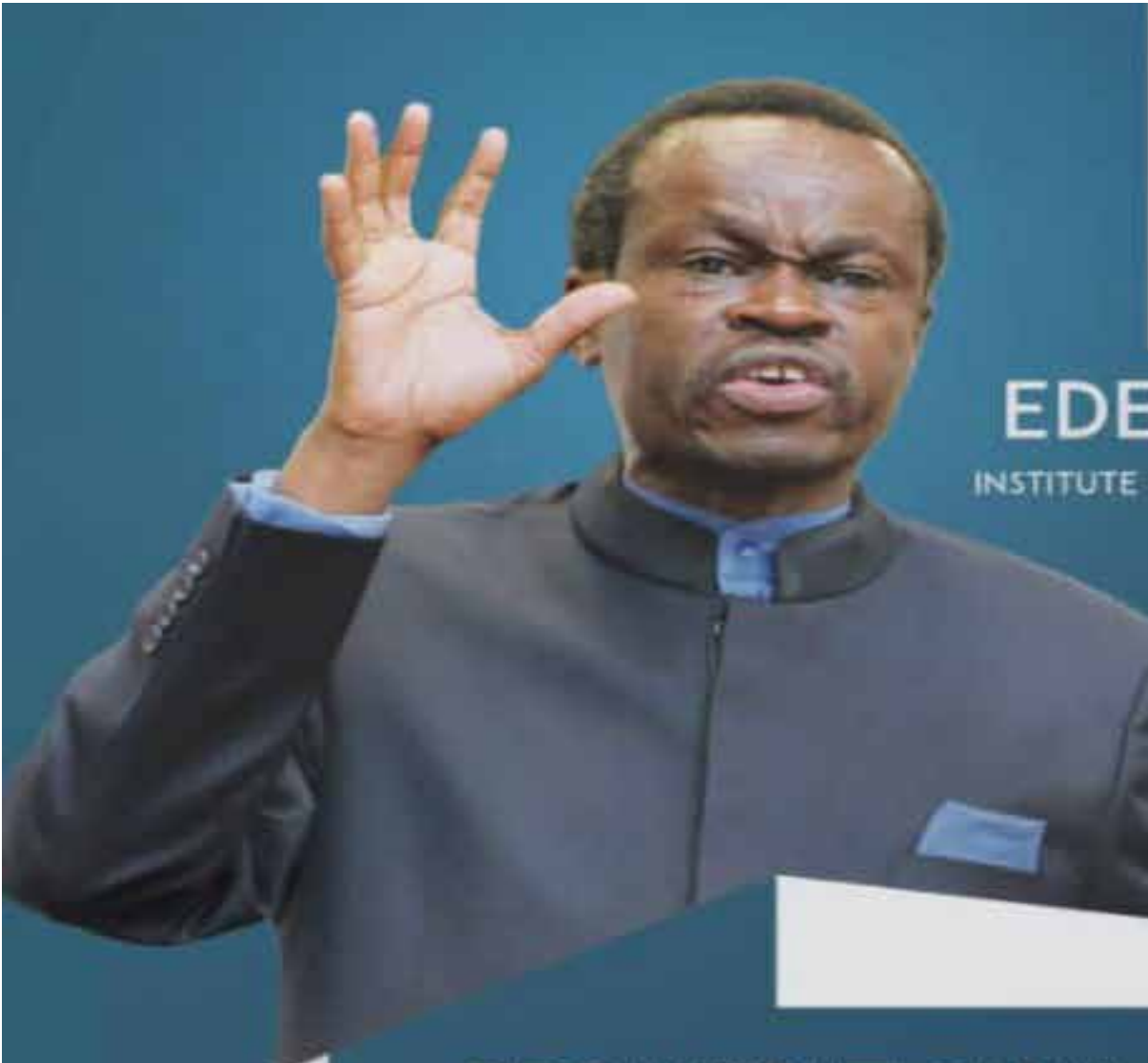
However, the relationship between Chelsea and Atleti is good, having seen the transfers of Diego Costa, Alvaro Morata and Thibaut Courtois conducted between clubs in recent seasons.

Blues boss Frank Lampard remains unconvinced with his goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga, and he would need to find him an escape route to try to balance the books before considering such an offer for a player such as Oblak.

Valencia have recently enquired about possible arrangements to sign Kepa on loan, as they look to move on their current No.1, Jasper Cillessen.

Los Che would be interested in a two-year loan with an option to buy the Spain international, which might end up being Chelsea’s best option for moving on the the £71m (€80m/\$90m) signing from Athletic Club in 2018.

Along with the high fee, Kepa also commands high wages and currently earns £170,000-a-week, which remains a stumbling block and put off Sevilla, who are also considering signing a new goalkeeper. **GOAL**



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