



WE'LL FIGHT LUNGU, I'M NOT ALONE - KBF

...Chiluba was more popular but we fought and defeated his 3rd term bid



Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya (r) speaks to News Diggers! Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda during a briefing at her office yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Diggers! partners with Ministry of Information to escalate Covid-19 awareness campaign

By Mirriam Chabala
NEWS Diggers Media Limited has partnered with government, through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, to offer free advertising, radio and television sponsorship for COVID-19 sensitisation programmes.

And Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya has commended News Diggers and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) for showing patriotism in raising awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unveiling the partnership during a

media briefing held at the Ministry of Information, Monday, News Diggers Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda explained that the campaign was being conducted in collaboration with OSISA, and it was meant to encourage behavioural change among citizens.

Story page 7

By Natasha Sakala

LUSAKA lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube has warned the Patriotic Front to be wary or risk not having a candidate in the 2021 general elections if they insist on fielding President Edgar Lungu.

And KBF says as far as he is concerned, Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 is dead, wondering why government wants to bring back a divisive bill.

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Banda suspends Lusaka, Kitwe councils for 3 months

By Natasha Sakala

LOCAL Government Minister Dr Charles Banda has suspended the Lusaka and Kitwe City Councils for three months with immediate effect to pave way for investigations into illegalities around the

allocation of land in the respective municipalities.

And Lands and Natural Resources Minister Jean Kapata has revoked the powers given to the two municipalities which enabled them to sell land, until further notice.

Story page 2

Jay Jay must be arrested, PF won't shield criminality - Mwila

By Ulande Nkomesha

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the party will not shield PF Eastern Province chairperson Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda from being arrested over his violent attack on a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.

And Mwila says the party will proceed with holding intra party elections and thereafter the convention, with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

Meanwhile Mwila says it is Matero PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya who has abandoned the ruling party but brags that the party is considering selecting another candidate from may aspirants for 2021.

Speaking during a briefing, Monday, Mwila condemned

Banda's conduct, saying Eastern Province PF would also take action against him once police fished him out of hiding.

Story page 10

We've reached an alarming stage - Chitalu

By Julia Malunga
HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says there is a sharp spike in the COVID-19 positivity rate.

And Dr Chilufya says the country has recorded 71 new cases and one death in the last 24 hours.

Story page 7

By Natasha Sakala

LUSAKA lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube has warned the Patriotic Front to be wary or risk not having a candidate in the 2021 general elections if they insist on fielding President Edgar Lungu.

And KBF says as far as he is concerned, Bill 10 is dead, wondering why government wants to bring back a divisive bill.

Speaking when he featured on Muvi TV's The Assignment programme, Sunday, KBF insisted that President Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021, warning that the opposition already had arsenals ready to fight his candidature.

"Article 103 disqualified him already, he has been elected twice, he can't stand. Now if we as a party don't face these facts, hard facts, with the law and we pretend we can be dancing around and try to skim, this thing has been done before, in 2001, the late President Chiluba tried to go for a third term and I might add, he was more popular than the current president, what happened? The Zambia people rose and said no third term. What we are trying to do technically right now is go through the back door to bring the president back through a third term, he's

We'll fight Lungu like we fought Chiluba's 3rd term, I'm not alone – KBF

been elected twice. He cannot stand, he is not eligible, so what are we doing? Do we want to be found wanting as a party without a candidate? Because I can assure you, I know the thinking of the opposition, I have fought them many times and from where I sit, I am a strategist, we've also got spies, they've infiltrated those camps and I know they've got arsenal's targeted at us, tukai sanga muli mwamoneni (we will be left stranded). We should be very careful, let's not take this thing lightly. People are prepared to fight," he said.

"From where I am sitting yes, and I am a lawyer, I took oath to uphold this Constitution of the Republic of Zambia and I help defend and protect it, I cannot be part of that illegality. I cannot. Just like I was part of the group, much as I loved ba Chiluba, the late president but I joined the Oasis Forum, we fought him. We've done this before, we've fought a sitting president based on principals of law, we fought

the presidency for a third term and we will do it again."

He insisted that the Constitutional Court did not say President Lungu was eligible to stand as they substituted the question that was presented before the court

"The question that was before the court was never answered. The ConCourt substituted the question that was asked of it. The reason was as precedence will have it, you cannot make a judgement against a person who is not a party to the proceedings. President Edgar Lungu was not part of the proceedings, these were surrogates that were sponsored to go and ask a question to the ConCourt, the court said no, you are not Edgar Lungu, why are you before us with this question, we can't answer this question, however, we shall ask another question, that was the question which they answered, the substituted question. If President Lungu

feels he's eligible, let him go before the ConCourt, let him go and ask for the interpretation...If President Lungu stands it will be an illegality," KBF insisted.

And KBF questioned how the party can fail to produce a candidate within 10 months when President Lungu only campaigned for 33 days.

"We managed to put the candidature if His Excellency the President Edgar Chagwa Lungu within 90 days, we campaigned less than 33 days, we won an election. We've got almost 10 months. Are you honestly telling me with the kind of strategies and planning that I know we are capable of doing, we cannot produce a candidate for an election?" he asked.

"The party right now has got wrangles, we've got differences, we are being labelled corrupt, we are being labelled a bunch of thieves, we are being called names left, right and centre. So those people who are currently in

government, do you think they can turn the fortunes of this party and convince the Zambian people, the undecided voters, those who are sitting on the fence? It will require a bulldozer."

He said he was not alone in his quest and had a much bigger team behind him.

"I appear to be discussing this issue with you alone, I appear to be alone, ba Mwansa, nshili neka, tuli bengi (I am not alone, we are many). We have a mob of people behind us, far much bigger than that Central Committee, original party members of the PF, old members of the party, true greens, the real PF. I am not alone," KBF said.

KBF also insisted that he was still a PF member as the Central Committee which purportedly expelled him had expired.

"The Central Committee is an illegality. There is no central committee, just because you purportedly appointed by the President

does not make you a member of Central Committee, the president can only appoint three, beyond that it becomes an illegality, the whole thing is a sham. Let's be real, we are lawyers, the president and I," he said.

Meanwhile, KBF said Bill 10 was dead.

"Bill 10 for me is a waste of time, a waste of resources, is diverting our attention in the wrong direction, we have an election to prepare for, we have all these differences, all these wrangles in the party, we should be galvanising and coming back together. Bill 10 is divisive, we don't need it. Even if we were going to amend the Constitution, it's not the right time. It's wrong timing. So for me, the intentions for Bill 10 are not noble. I will leave the rules to the Speaker, and the various members of parliament but a bill for me, according to the rules that I have read exists for six months, that's the end of the story. This Bill 10 has been [there] from last year, stopped because of Covid, stopped because of...the bill is dead, let's agree. And in any case, if you have to bring it back, you are bringing it back for what?" asked KBF.

Be creative, it's not time to use old tactics to revive economy – Magande

By Natasha Sakala

FORMER Finance Minister Ng'andu Magande says with the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, governments need thinkers who imagine beyond their lifetimes in order to keep economies thriving.

And Magande says government should focus on employment creation for the youths as opposed to issuing bonds which will only raise the country's debt.

In an interview, Magande wondered why government can't formulate a budget for the next one and half years as opposed to wasting time on a revised budget which will clash with the 2021 budget when Parliament resumes in September.

"We can see the problem now. They said they wanted to revise the 2020 budget and then because of covid, Parliament is closed they are opening in September. In September, the session is for 2021 budget so when will they even consider this revised budget?" Magande asked.

"I was asking somebody today, I said what are the ideas, they said 'No, because we've already started doing the 2021 budget and also the revised budget', I said 'why are we wasting time on a revised budget, you mean someone in government can't say let's change the law now we produce the budget for the next one and half years', why not? What would be the problem, what is so special about starting the budget in January? Why can't they start the next budget cycle in September? Doing the same things the same way you think will give different results, it is the same results."

He said governments needed to engage thinkers during this pandemic.

"There are a lot of things that any government now has to do because of Covid, you need thinkers, people who can think beyond even their lifetimes, someone must say, perhaps me I want to start growing chickens now, and I start with 10 now and this Covid we don't know when it will finish. In 10 years' time, I will be producing 10,000 chickens," he said.

And Magande said government should begin to find ways of doing things differently as opposed to solving today's problems with yesterday's solutions when asked to comment on the issuance of the COVID-19 bond.

"How is that helping them? Already we are covered in debt and then again getting more debt? How do they pay all these loans? What they should do, they should realise now that thousands of young people are in the streets, let them come up with programs for these young people instead of continuing to build roads but borrowing money from the economy, you are again sucking money from the people who have it who are supposed to go and grow vegetables. *Story continues on P10*

By Natasha Sakala

LOCAL Government and Housing Minister Dr Charles Banda has suspended the Lusaka and Kitwe City Councils for three months with immediate effect to pave way for investigations into illegalities around the allocation of land in the respective municipalities.

And Lands and Natural Resources Minister Jean Kapata has revoked the powers given to the two municipalities which enabled them to sell land, until further notice.

The suspension of Council means that the Mayor, his deputy and all the councillors in the two municipalities have been suspended for the stated period in which an administrator will then be appointed by Dr Banda.

Speaking during a joint-press briefing, Monday, Dr Banda announced the development and warned other councils around the country to desist from illegal sale of land.

"I want to say, also, here that it's not just the Lusaka City Council that we are going to talk about, we have also discovered that similar tendencies have occurred in so many municipalities, but principally Kitwe City Council, it seems they have gone overboard just like Lusaka City Council have done! And because of this, dear colleagues, I wish to announce now that I have suspended the Lusaka City Council for three months to give us a chance to correct the ills that are in that Council. May I also announce that I have with immediate effect suspended Kitwe City Council so that we are able to go in and correct the ills and I am hoping that in that three months, as we try to put things correctly, our friends are going to have an introspection and come back as better councillors and civic leaders in those very important institutions," Dr Banda said.

Banda suspends Lusaka, Kitwe councils for 3 months

"Apart from that, let me also send a warning to other councils that are in this habit of perpetually wanting to be on the wrong side of the law that we are not going to spare anybody! There is no sacred cow in this. We may come back soon if these activities persist to do the same, suspend them and correct the issues there and ensure that things are done in an orderly manner. These suspensions are with immediate effect for three months and within this week, I am going to appoint administrators: one for Lusaka and one for Kitwe. For clearing any doubts that people may have, I have invoked Section 56 of Local Act, which empowers the Minister of Local Government to suspend a council when there are problems."

He said government would not tolerate illegality.

"I want to state here that the Ministry of Local Government, together with our colleagues at Lands, will closely monitor the developments to ensure that directives issued are closely followed and actioned upon. Therefore, I wish to reiterate that the PF government will not tolerate any illegality or disorderly allocation of land and that any officer or civic leader found wanting will be reprimanded and appropriate action taken accordingly," he cautioned.

"Given the findings of the site visit and pursuant to the Urban and Regional Planning Act, the Lusaka City Council, the planning authority undertaking functions delegated to them has been instructed as follows: the temporal permit granted to install a trading container on Vubu Road reserve under

Zesco pylons be revoked. Further, the erection of the container must be stopped with immediate effect as the area is clearly unsuitable for the intended development, which I am sure the Council has already worked on. Number two, the permission granted for the proposed extension of stand number 33/35/8632 Emmasdale onto the road reserve be revoked with immediate effect since the land in question is an active access road; the permission for the proposed extension of stand number LUS/17418A along Chinyunyu road be stopped and planning permission cancelled with immediate effect. Since the permission of the proposed extension of stand number LUS/17418A encroaches on the road reserve and is under Zesco pylons, the Lusaka City Council should ensure that the wall fence boundary is reasonably moved away from the road reserve and the Zesco pylons."

Dr Banda revealed that after investigations, it was found that the land, which led to the dispute between Matero PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya and councillor in the area, Annie Chinyanta, was under a Zesco pylon and also an encroachment on a road reserve.

"Colleagues, I would like to inform you that, colleagues from the Ministry of Lands and I went to the site to establish whether the land in question was, indeed, a road reserve and, therefore, not suitable for any form of development. We undertook the tour of other sites in the same area that had been queried by the community; the following were the findings from the visit: a named individual was granted

a temporal permission by Lusaka City Council on 11th June, 2020, to install a trading container on temporal basis for six months, from 11th June to 21st December, 2020, subject to renewal. The land on which temporal permission was granted is on a road reserve and directly under the 11KV Zesco pylon. This is the same area where Honourable Lloyd Kaziya, member of parliament for Matero constituency and Ms Chinyanta, ward councillor for Matero Ward 28, who is also chairperson for the planning and information systems of the Council, had an altercation over the land. The named individual had since started erecting the base for the container. Colleagues, this area is unsuitable for intended development as it would be an encroachment on a road reserve and imposes a hazard to the developer," announced Dr Banda.

And Kapata urged councillors to desist from illegal land allocation for personal benefit.

"I want to take this opportunity to call upon all people in these towns, either in Kitwe, Lusaka or Copperbelt Province; we are going to set a table at our Ministry to receive complaints of similar nature so that we can deal with these issues once and for all. The councillor's duty is not to allocate land, the councillors duty is to attend to people, but it seems like, now, the new trend is that people just want to engage in land allocation. And we have on many occasions mentioned that Lusaka Province, along the line of rail; we do not have land anymore. *Story continues on P10*

By Julia Malunga
 DEMOCRATIC Party president Harry says it is embarrassing and demeaning for President Edgar Lungu to be accused of financing rebels in Rwanda, urging the Head of State to personally address the allegations.

And Kalaba has urged President Edgar Lungu to get tested for COVID-19 because he may be asymptomatic and carelessly spreading the virus and infecting his Cabinet Ministers.

Meanwhile, Kalaba says Dr Chilufya should focus on his corruption court cases and allow someone else to give COVID-19 updates.

Speaking when he appeared on Diamond TV's programme dubbed COSTA, Sunday, Kalaba urged President Lungu to own up and explain the allegations linking him to financing rebels in Rwanda.

"I was reluctant in the

Lungu must personally address terrorist funding allegations – Kalaba

beginning to talk about this because I thought it was a sensitive matter. But then I found out he said it in court, and when I saw the Foreign Affairs Minister (Joe) Malanji travel to Rwanda then I said, 'so this matter is not as simple as I thought.' He met President (Paul) Kagame and I was shocked that an envoy could come back to Zambia and also hold a briefing and begin explaining what happened. You don't do that. He was just sent and his was to talk to President Kagame and come back to President Lungu, it ends there. There is no way he can come back and begin to hold a press briefing to explain what Kagame said in that meeting. You cannot be explaining for him. It's embarrassing for us as a country. Zambia has

been defined as a country where everyone can go but to hear that Zambia wants to get involved in territorial spaces, and that at the very top, our President is the one who is involved is not only demeaning for our country. It hurts!" Kalaba said.

"It takes us away from the people because that is not who we are. We are not defined for things like that. We are reconciliatory. I don't know why President Lungu has diverted from that. These allegations become a dent. For me, Isaac Chipampe (State House Press Aide) should not have been a person to speak

on this matter. President Lungu himself should have looked the Zambian people in the eye and told them 'this is what happened'. Our President needs to tone down his levels of excitement to calm down. He must not behave ordinary, these are grave issues which he needed to explain to all of us. It is shameful to be identified with such despicable acts! This thing has been mishandled. He should be the one to talk about this. Why doesn't he talk? What does he do anyway? Going to look at the fish ponds? Give me a break!"

And Kalaba urged President Lungu to get tested



for COVID-19 because he might be carelessly spreading it.

"They have been careless in the manner they have been conducting themselves, starting with the Republican President himself! The President was in Western Province the other week, he was sharing a platform with Vincent Mwale (Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister) they even exchanged microphones! The President needs to go and test because he is going round the country. He might not know, he might be asymptomatic right now, maybe he could be positive and he could be spreading it!" he said.

He expressed his regret over the passing of two members of parliament last week, but lamented that the PF's desire to push for the enactment of the Constitution Amendment Bill No. 10 of 2019 jeopardised MPs' health.

"Allow me to pay my deep respect and condolences to the families of Honourable Mwenya Munkonge, Independent member of parliament for Lukashya, as well as a very good friend, Rodgers Mwewa, who have both succumbed to COVID-19. It is very sad that we can lose gallant members of parliament at a time when we would have avoided Parliament even reconvening. But we have lost them and may their souls rest in peace. Parliament would have said, 'we wait until cases come down' because their intentions were very political in nature. All they wanted is that Bill 10 to go through it had nothing to do with the Committee reports. In the process, look at what has happened. The nation has suffered a loss," Kalaba lamented.

He also accused government of politicizing COVID-19.

"The testing equipment is so insufficient. We don't even know how many people are sick. Forget about those statistics they are giving you ba Ministry of Health when they will wake up instead of concentrating on their court cases. Those statistics that they are giving you are not sufficient. People in the compounds are not tested. Go in Misisi, Chingola, Mansa, in Mongu so how will you know

who is sick? We are relying on people who are not feeling well going to the hospital and then you rush! The measures that government has taken on COVID-19 have been very reactive in nature. This is a government that hasn't taken this COVID-19 very seriously. Because they say, 'actions speak louder than words,'" he said.

"This COVID fight, yes, has to be a unitary fight, but the government has been political in the way they have been handling it. It is the PF that started making masks written: 'Edgar Lungu 2021.' Already that tells you that it is cosmetic. In Uganda, they are providing face masks for children as young as six years old. In this country, we have been receiving money for COVID-19, but we don't know where that money is going. They thought it was a small issue, they thought it was an issue that they can run away with, but unfortunately for them, this is far beyond them."

Meanwhile, Kalaba said Dr Chilufya should focus on his corruption court cases and allow someone else to give COVID-19 updates.

"Strictly speaking, in a serious environment, Chitalu Chilufya should not be the one announcing the results of COVID-19. He should have a bit of dignity. He should concentrate on issues concerning him at the courts of law. Let him allow technocrats and his permanent secretaries to be announcing the results of COVID-19. Because he is rendering the fight against COVID-19 like it's a joke! This is a serious matter. It downplays the efficacy of the matter at hand," he said.

He also feared that there would be further deterioration of law and order if the PF were to be re-elected at next year's general election.

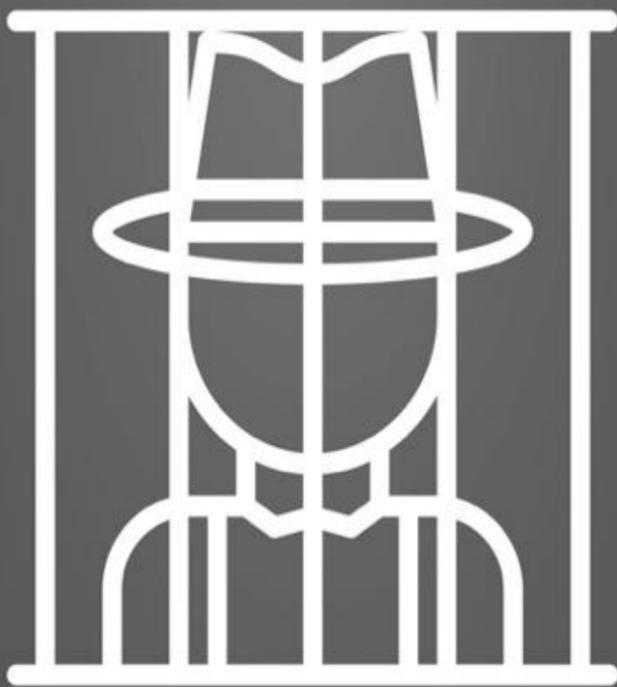
"Never in this history of our country, even when we had vigilantes in UNIP, did we see such kind of arrogance coming from people calling themselves cadres. It is a lack of leadership on the part of the Head of State. Is this the government you would want to continue with in the next five years? I shudder to imagine what can happen if PF wins the elections next year. Everything will just collapse!" said Kalaba.

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Email: sales@meanwoodfinance.co.zm

UPMARKET PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Mobile: +260 965 101096

Email: chifuka.sakala@upmarketprop.com

website: www.upmarketprop.com

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Email: mathews.bizwayo@sherwoodgreene.com

Website: www.sherwoodgreene.com

KATONGO & COMPANY

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WESCOM PROPERTY GROUP

Mobile: +260 966 920153

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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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Board Meetings are Sacred

LAST year, I was 30 seconds late for a scheduled board meeting at one of the local organisations. The Chairman greeted me warmly and as I took my seat, he expressed his displeasure about keeping everyone waiting, 'Director Kanyama, we value your busy schedule though you kept us waiting. The meeting was scheduled to start at 10.00 and looking at my watch, its 10.01. We have lost substantial time.'

I have, however, come to dearly value this chairman for his discipline, focus and attention he gives to detail. He conducts board business with finesse, quality, and efficiency. When considering minutes from previous meetings, it's like Picasso re-working his painting for that wealthy and demanding client. He re-arranges statements to ensure the minutes truly projects the spirit of the deliberations. At times, some of the other directors wonder if he had been given a different copy of minutes full of mistakes and inaccuracies.

He also ensures he is in the country early enough for board business (since he resides abroad). It is clear by the way he handles meetings that he has had incredible international exposure on governance issues. Since the early '90s, he has served on various international boards and appreciates that a board meeting sets the tone about the direction of the organization.

Businesses succeed or fail during board meetings. The board makes significant resolutions that remain binding for the organization for eternity unless reviewed. Mergers and acquisitions take place through board meetings. New assets are acquired or disposed of through that one sentence resolution, 'It is hereby resolved..' A business can close shop completely or operations re-arranged through those meetings. Risks with prospects to destroy the business prospects are identified through those deliberations and decisions immediately made to contain them.

The working capital of the organization, being the lifeblood for its existence, is repositioned through the board decisions that allow the business to either acquire new debts, reduce debtor lead time, liquidate stock or even retrench staff. Given the fiduciary role vested in the board, we can only say that board meetings are nothing less than being sacred. It is worrying to note that the latest Auditor General's report specifies poor decision making by boards of parastatals as one of the key reasons for the weak performance of most of the institutions.

There are elements that make a board meeting scared. First, setting the agenda and its content is something that can either make the entire business of the board successful or fail. In our board evaluations, what comes out are complaints about board meetings failing to focus on strategic issues. The main feedback is that board business focuses a lot on administrative and operational issues. The reason this happens in my opinion is that the board agenda and its content lack the depth to redirect discussion.

The agenda item should seem to have a balance between the reviews of past performance and discussion of forward-looking issues. The temptation to review performance is always high because that is what 'matters arising' always

“It is worrying to note that the latest Auditor General's report specifies poor decision making by boards of parastatals as one of the key reasons for the weak performance of most of the institutions”

seek to do. By the time there is a shift to focus on the strategic issues facing the business, it is five hours, and everyone wants to go home.

It gets worse when those strategic issues are missing in the latter part of the board agenda being board briefing papers and management reports. I have personally observed these briefing papers and management reports also tend to drift into past performance. The management team always wants to report about what it did or not do because that is presumed to be what the board is expecting. The board is equally expecting nothing less than a report about staff performance, court cases the company is facing, strategic alliances that may have been agreed, performance of the business in terms of income for the period and the internal audit reports.

At times, the agenda does not even provide for ample time to debate. It is in the debate issues arise, motions brought forward, voting takes place and resolutions made. A solid board agenda contains the following: Prayer (which happens in most boards in Zambia), Chairman's comments or remarks; Declaration of Interest; Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising; CEO report; financial performance (including risk evaluation/report); Board committee reports'; Formal approval of matters requiring limited discussion; Operational policy issues; Strategic issues and Company secretary's report (which normally has updates on board calendar).

The other element that makes board meetings sacred are the board briefing papers. I have been in board meetings where the management reports are larger than the national constitution. They look like a collection of all departmental reports: from human resources to public relations. Each department sees the opportunity to market its effectiveness to the board by producing voluminous submissions. One would think managers do not have enough time to sort out issues among themselves. Even the information that would be irrelevant for a Board Committee Meeting finds its way into a board briefing paper.

That is why board directors yawn and want to go home soon after the 'Matters Arising'. A board sitting should not be a punishment for being on the board; it must be enjoyable.

Management reports should be short, timely, concise and of substance. Where board Committees exist, these reports should basically be about the Committee briefings and recommendations for approval. In other words, a management report should be focused on issues of board interest and should be action-oriented to allow for clear board resolutions.

I once attended a board meeting where management had several pages of proposals to the board about the procuring of motor vehicles (and even had an addendum containing various suppliers). I was taken aback because this was purely a management issue. The board had earlier in the year approved the budget that also contained capital expenditure. The vehicles were part of the capex budget. Why should the board again seek to re-approve what it had approved?

The real ritual about board meetings is the nature of decisions it makes. This is the part every board member should pay attention to because the resolutions are binding to everyone under collective responsibility. Board resolutions can be found in the board minutes and deliver a precise record of verdicts made at a board meeting. The board should have a record of this resolution because individuals can be liable for the decisions they make. The resolution permits management of the corporation to take on actions on behalf of the company. It can also give specific advice to the management on specific matters regarding the operation of the business.

In reporting about the sacredness of board resolutions, one writer said the following, 'Sometimes the impact of a corporate resolution is so great that the company may choose to present the corporate resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the corporation for input by the shareholders before taking a final decision on the resolution of the corporate resolution. This allows the company to answer questions and build support for the corporate resolution before making a final decision.'

At Zambia State Insurance Corporation where I served as one of the members of management, I observed the solemnity by which board resolutions were captured, inserted, and positioned in board minutes. They were in bold letters, Arial font and inserted with some margin of distance between paragraphs above and below them. This was a sure way of ensuring no one missed such bold statements.

It is against this backdrop board meetings are usually a solemn assembly. Nick Rice, a governance professional writes, 'The whole board is accountable and liable for the board's actions and decisions. Under certain circumstances, individual directors can also be held personally liable if they aren't diligent in their duties. Resolutions provide proof that the board is fulfilling its duties in an efficient, responsible manner.'

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



COVID 19: MISMANAGEMENT IN ZAMBIA

By Charles Kakoma, UPND Spokesperson

THE recent spike in the number of corona virus cases and deaths has ignited fresh debate on the management of the disease in Zambia.

Why is the country failing to control the disease? Before the disease reached Zambia, many concerned citizens including us in the UPND called for a lockdown of the country so that foreigners coming to Zambia and citizens returning to the country are rigorously checked for corona virus at the international airports and other border entry points. These concerns were ignored. In fact, some ruling party propagandists labelled the UPND as a party that harbored hatred for the Chinese people where the disease originated from.

The borders remained wide open for every Jim and Jack to enter Zambia. Later, the Minister of Health published some statutory instruments to contain Covid 19. The health measures included self quarantine period for 14 days for people entering Zambia. There was no strict enforcement of the self quarantine regulation resulting in a Zambian couple who traveled to Pakistan for a religious ceremony or wedding coming back to Lusaka with the Corona virus and passing through the Lusaka Kenneth Kaunda International Airport without being detected or quarantined. To date, people are still flying into Zambia and merely advised to go into self quarantine at their luxurious homes. If someone is already at his home, who can stop him from driving out of his home?

At some point, the Ministry of Health established some quarantine centers in some parts of Zambia. These centers were not being properly utilized for the intended purposes as some videos were flying on social media of the quarantined people dancing and merry making without observing social distancing or wearing masks. In other quarantine centers like the University of Zambia, the truck drivers who were quarantined there were freely mingling with members of the university community. Can it be any wonder that the covid 19 started spreading to the community?

One of the measures contained in Statutory Instruments on covid 19 was prohibition of crowds. However, we have witnessed a situation where the authorities are in the forefront breaking the rules. We have seen the Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya himself organizing crowds to support him at the Magistrates Court where he is facing corruption charges. We have also seen the Minister Lands Jean Kapata and Lusaka province Minister Bowman Lusambo drawing crowds of people to receive donations from them in total disregard of covid 19 health regulations. What is even more baffling is a situation where the Head of State himself is also allowing Patriotic Front and government officials to organize

huge meetings and rallies for him to address. President Lungu has been touring several provinces including Southern, Western, North Western and Northern provinces under the guise of inspecting developmental projects but in effect launching his presidential campaign for next year's election. He has been holding large meetings with headmen, chiefs, and party officials in violation of the health regulations that his government put in place. The signal that this presidential program was sending was that if the President can address huge crowds of people, many of whom had no face masks and probably not washed their hands with soap, then what stops everybody else from holding meetings under the NEW NORMAL.

For some people, the New Normal as announced by government meant going back to our old ways of life. The leaders were underplaying the seriousness of the disease leading to some citizens doubting whether or not the Corona Virus exists.

We have also seen the ruling party inducing by-elections for councilors by bribing opposition councilors with jobs in the public service and offering them money to resign. The resultant by-elections have drawn crowds of people from epicenters of covid 19 like Lusaka to rural areas for campaigns, thereby contributing to the spread of the virus. The other way in which the government has mismanaged the Covid 19 is on its handling of the cases. The strategy by government was to embark on mass testing and contact tracing. The implementation of this strategy has been a total failure resulting in the disease continuing to grow.

Where is the government doing mass testing now? It appears the government is just fire fighting. In Lusaka which is the epicenter of corona virus, mass testing has been lackluster. There has been no systematic approach to mass testing and contact tracing. For example, before the country lost two members of parliament, there was no program to test MPs and staff at the National Assembly of Zambia. Of the three arms of government, people have been raising concerns at the possibility of an outbreak of Covid 19 at Parliament and the courts where large groups of people gather. There has been no program to test people and staff at the courts.

Even under the executive arm of government, mass testing and contact tracing is necessary to safeguard the lives of the citizens. We have under the executive arm of government, institutions such as prisons. Whereas in many parts of the world, the countries are reporting cases of Corona virus in prisons, in Zambia it's quiet. Has there been any testing of the prisoners and staff at our correctional facilities? We just hope that God is protecting this group of citizens.

Under the Ministry of Education, we have teachers and our children in Grade 7, 9 and 12 attending classes to prepare for examinations. One would have thought that as a systematic approach towards the protection of teachers and pupils, a mass testing and monitoring mechanism was in place to determine what is happening on the ground. We have not heard anything about what is happening to the lives of our children in schools. Some of these children are coming from compounds that are affected by the Corona virus. It will be Alleluia to the Lord if God is keeping our teachers and children away from Covid 19.

The public deserves to know why the government strategy of mass testing and contact tracing is failing. Is it a question of financial resources? What about the various donations that have been made to the government? What happened to the various budget lines in the national budget that were shifted from various Ministries, Departments and Spending Agencies to the Ministry of Health to fight Covid 19?

Is it a question of human resources? What happened to the thousands of health personnel recruited at the beginning of the outbreak of Covid 19?

Why is the government struggling to provide personal protective equipment to front line health workers?

The public needs to know.

Now that the corona virus cases are skyrocketing, what next Mr President? The Corona virus pandemic has left a trail of economic destruction. Some sectors of the economy are permanently shut such as private schools and bars. There are a lot of nursery and primary teachers in private schools that have not received salaries since schools were shut in March. There has been no deliberate attempt to provide a rescue financial package for this sector. Similarly, many workers in bars and taverns have had no salaries since the closure of drinking places in March this year. The workers and the owners of these businesses have rent to pay, electricity to settle, health bills to pay and food to eat. The government is mute over these sectors. The bar owners have argued, for example that it's unfair to close their businesses while allowing people to continue buying alcohol in chain stores like PicknPay, Shoprite, Spar and Choppies. Why can't the government provide a lifeline to bars to sale on take-away basis? Even when bars are closed, people have not stopped drinking. Does government know the source? Some of the people have resorted to kachasu and other illicit drinks.

Government has to revisit its strategy on Covid 19. It cannot continue to govern in a business as usual style. People are dying.

By Mirriam Chabala
NEWS Diggers Media Limited has partnered with government, through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, to offer free advertising, radio and television sponsorship for COVID-19 sensitisation programmes.

And Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya has commended News Diggers and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) for showing patriotism in raising awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unveiling the partnership during a media briefing held at the Ministry of Information, Monday, News Diggers Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda explained that the campaign was being conducted in collaboration with OSISA, and it was meant to encourage behavioural change among citizens.

"We are disturbed as a newspaper to see that a lot of people in Zambia are not taking the fight against COVID-19 very seriously; people are not hand sanitising, people are not practicing social distance, people are not wearing masks. So we have come on board to partner with the Ministry of Information and other relevant government organisations to escalate this awareness campaign. Our approach is that we want to go intensive on social media, radio, television as well as online via Zoom or webinars. Already, we have partnered with some radio stations, we started a programme with Breeze FM in Chipata, it's a 13 series programme and we actually hosted the Minister of Infrastructure Development Honourable Vincent Mwale who was talking about his experience. We are doing the same here in Lusaka, we have partnered with Radio Phoenix, from here we are also going to be talking to Hot FM, Joy FM and several other media partners. We have also partnered with Diamond TV and we are going to be having various TV programmes," Mwenda said.

"These programmes are open to government officials and they can go on those platforms and be able to educate the people

Diggers partners with Ministry of Information to escalate Covid-19 awareness campaign

because we understand that as the media, we have only been reporting statistics but we've done very little to wage a serious campaign to educate the people. We want to make sure that when someone opens Facebook for example, one of the first things they will be able to see is an awareness message about COVID-19. People need to know where they will be able to get verified facts, people need to know the emergency numbers and the symptoms of COVID-19 as they browse social media. Sometimes there are so many myths that people in rural areas associate with as to how this virus is spread. So to demystify that, it is upon us as media houses to partner in this particular campaign that we are launching [today] because this is really not a fight for the government, it is not a fight for the party in power, it is a fight for every Zambian.

Asked how much money has been set aside for the campaign, Mwenda said the funds were segmented in different categories as there was also an allocation for investigative reporting around accountability for COVID-19 donations.

"It's difficult to single out the amount towards social media or radio and television sponsorship because the package that we have set aside has different segments. There is a segment where resources have been allocated to investigative reporting towards accountability. You need to understand that we are not stopping our work, obviously there are donations being made and it is our responsibility to investigate how the monies are being utilised," said Mwenda inviting private and public media journalists to take interest in the reporting opportunity.

"And by the way, if you are a private media journalist or a public media journalist and you want to do a very good investigative story, we are able to partner with you, finance your needs and make

sure you do that investigation, you can get in touch with our office," said Mwenda.

In response, Siliya, who is also Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, commended News Diggers and its partners for being patriotic in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Today must be a landmark occasion because hearing you speak, I think that it is a reflection of what civilised engagement should be. I think the impression that government and private media should always be fighting is an erroneous one. I am extremely pleased that this initiative to partner with the Ministry of Information on a critical national matter is coming from you and this is why I have referred to it as civilised engagement. I think it is patriotic because you are saying 'this is my country and the media is not an island, we are in this together'. I think that is extremely important. We in the ministry of

information and the rest of the government have been very concerned because even media personnel are affected by COVID-19 directly or indirectly. So this is why I am extremely pleased that you have taken this initiative. For us we are partners of all media in Zambia. As a ministry, our job is to hold the hand of all media including private media. And sometimes you have to hold our hand too like today," said Siliya.

"Our concern has been that people know about corona but to move from that point to behavioural change is where we are having a challenge. People must really change in terms of behaviour, like you rightly said, government cannot fight this alone. We need all partners to fight the stigma first of all because we have noticed that there is a stigma, people are hiding, and they believe that by telling their colleagues that they've got corona they might be ostracised in

society. Number two, the myth that young people cannot get coronavirus is a serious myth. That's why we are very happy that you are coming in full force with the use of new media such as social media so that we can reach a very specific demographic segment of our society and that is the youth. So really we can only congratulate you News Diggers for such patriotism for your country and really putting on record that the media does not operate in a vacuum; you operate in a real environment and in this environment we've got there is something called corona and we all have to address it because nobody is spared."

Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary Amos Malupenga who was also present at the briefing encouraged News Diggers and other media to champion behavioural change.

"Indeed this is a milestone, the the minister

rightly observed. Usually it is us [as] government who go to media house asking for partnerships, but in this case, it the media coming to us, private media for that matter, because there is always that perceived hostility between private media and government. They are not just coming to ask for partnership, they have brought the resources. How else can we thank that gesture? For us, it is just to effectively utilise the platforms because we really need to reach out to the people. As we have heard, the challenge so far has been to effect behaviour change. I don't know is we first have to see images like we saw in Spain, Italy for people to change behaviour. They say it's better to learn from the mistakes of others than to learn from your own mistakes. If we have to wait until we start dying in thousands for us to effect behavioural change, is that where we want to be? So I think this partnership has come a the right time, and we will make sure that we effectively use the platforms for us to reach out," said Malupenga.

By Julia Malunga

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says there is a sharp spike in the COVID-19 positivity rate.

And Dr Chilufya says the country has recorded 71 new cases and one death in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, a specialist in infectious diseases at Levy Mwanawasa General Hospital Dr Francis Mupeta says some people are developing complications after recovering from COVID-19.

Speaking during the COVID-19 daily updates, Monday, Dr Chilufya said there were many more cases in the communities that were being picked up.

"When you look at the positivity rate in Zambia, we are seeing a sharp spike. If you look at the week beginning 1st June, we were at about 1.8 percent positivity and when you look at the way we are proceeding, we are now at 25.4 percent. This is a very steep rise in our positivity. It means that there are many more cases in the community that are picking up. And every week we are seeing a rise in

We've reached an alarming stage – Chitalu

positivity and this needs to be stopped. The rate at which we are moving is alarming," Dr Chilufya said.

He warned against having meetings.

"In the last two weeks a Head of Department did call for a meeting for officers from other provinces and this meeting was held in a congregate set up and what we saw in that meeting was one officer from one province having very mild symptoms and hardly noticed. And as we speak today, all those provincial heads are now nursing COVID-19. The message is this: avoid meetings, you can have meetings virtually and avoid unnecessary congregate settings; you can't afford to do that," he advised.

Dr Chilufya said 21 patients were currently on oxygen.

"If you look at the test profile for Zambia, in the last 24 hours, we did 209 tests and we recorded 71 positive cases and out the places where these cases are coming from, you are seeing cases in Lusaka, Solwezi, Ndola and Kalulushi. We have 21 patients on oxygen in our COVID facilities and two are in a critical state. On a positive note, we have discharged 465 cases. Zambia has been ramping up the number tests and so far we have tested 76,727 cases and recorded a total number of 4,552 cases," Dr Chilufya explained.

"Cumulatively, our country now stands at 2,815 recoveries. Deaths still stand at 140. And out of these, when you classify them, 98 are COVID associated deaths while 39 are pure COVID deaths. Seven contacts to known cases in Lusaka and Solwezi. One health worker in Lusaka. 19 detected through hospital screening in Ndola Lusaka and Solwezi.

44 identified during routine screening in Ndola and Kalulushi. One death in Levy Mwanawasa Isolation centre."

And Dr Mupeta advised members of the public not to trivialize any symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have 80 patients in the facility. COVID is not a hoax. It is both a concern and a worry to us as doctors and nurses managing these patients because it is unpredictable. It is a new disease and we are learning a lot on how to manage it. But there are certain surprises which we are experiencing. Even when we discharge patients, we have started [seeing] a number of people seeing patients developing complications that we never anticipated. Some people are just coming with just a complaint of fatigue and when we evaluate them, we actually find that it's COVID. And the cough that we are seeing is not the typical cough like we have experienced in Tuberculosis where people have a protracted cough. It is more like a simple cough with saliva. So it is beyond a cough or a fever, it's affecting all systems, joint pains, a mild sore throat, feeling weak and so on. So my advice to members of the public is that do not trivialize any symptoms you may have in this period," said Dr Mupeta.

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THERE are two types of politicians. Those who go into government to selflessly serve the country and those who go in to get rich.

Those who go into politics to genuinely serve are usually already content with what they have privately achieved in life. They are not looking for bread and butter. Such people have nothing to lose when they leave government. If they see that they no longer share the same values with their appointing authority, they simply ask to be excused, they resign. These are the people who say, "the pay I get from the government makes very little or no difference at all to my lifestyle".

Unfortunately, there is not one politician in this government who is at that level of leadership. We can't see anyone who can say, "I am content with what I had even before joining the government, and if the people whom I came here to serve say they don't want me anymore, I have no problem resigning. These people who are leading our country are not clean. There is no need to speculate about this. We can ask the question, how many of our Cabinet ministers can claim to have made money genuinely? Our point is that politicians who go into government to genuinely serve the people are those who are content with what they have in life, and they consider their

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Those who refuse to resign from govt went in to get rich

service a sacrifice.

Now, those who go into government to get rich are bad leaders and they can also be said to be failures. They went there to try and improve their lives. Those who go into government to get rich have difficulties resigning. People will call them thieves, criminals or plunderers, but they will never succumb to such public ridicule to resign. Even when the Law Enforcement Agencies indict them for criminal charges, they refuse to resign because they fear going back to the lives that they ran away from.

Such leaders do not get satisfied with money, it is never enough. So since their salaries are small,

they open themselves up to corruption and bribery. That is why such government leaders are easily bought. Their offices are up for sale to the highest bidder.

They have no problem splashing money around because it is not their hard earned income; it's proceeds of corruption. Some of these people who survive on awarding corrupt government contracts end up living artificial lives because those monies give them a false sense of achievement. But when they are challenged with the need for them to resign from government, they fail to do so.

Their lives become unsustainable because they are used to having

a lot of money in their pockets to waste. Such leaders cannot resign from government.

Sometimes they use the argument that resigning sends an embarrassment message to the President. We don't understand how resigning can be considered an insult to the appointing authority when it is the same President's government that has indicted you for corruption. Surely, if you went into government to genuinely serve the people, why should you allow your name to be tarnished over criminal allegations? If you are innocent, why would you want to stay in the same place where people are accusing you of stealing

from? The only reason an accused person would insist on staying at the crime scene is because they want to tamper with evidence.

Mr Harry Kalaba resigned from the PF government citing corruption and abuse of office among senior members of the government. He did not wait to be accused of corruption, and no one can point a finger at him today accusing him of being a thief. That is a sign of good leadership. Although we cannot vouch for Mr Kalaba's innocence or his motive for wanting to go back into government leadership, we can confidently cite him as an example of what a good leader does when

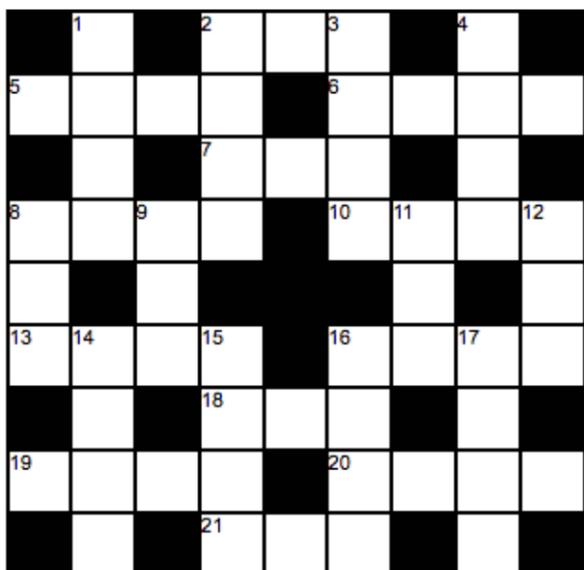
he no longer shares the same values as the appointing authority.

This is why we say good politicians are those who are content with what they had before joining government. But this is not to suggest that rich people make better politicians, no! We have seen self proclaimed rich politicians in this country jumping from one party to another looking for survival. They want to be part of government at all costs so that they can establish means of syphoning public resources. Today they are with this party, tomorrow they jump to another party, and before you know it, they are back in bed with the same people whom they were insulting yesterday. All this, they do in search of access to government tenders and contracts.

Meanwhile, those who went into government to get rich don't only focus on enriching themselves, they go all out to fix those who are trying to oust them from power. That's why you hear someone claiming that "I am a self-made successful businessman", but at the same time they're complaining that "government has squeezed all my businesses". If you are a self made man and you don't need any government business, why are you complaining? It's a game between those who went into politics to get rich and those who are trying to get in for the same motive.

Bonse niba pompwe!

Crossword puzzle No 655



"Life is not easy. We all have problems-even tragedies-to deal with, and luck has nothing to do with it. Bad luck is only the superstitious excuse for those who don't have the wit to deal with the problems of life."
- Joan Lowery Nixon

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Crossword puzzle No 654



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: PF confident about Lungu's eligibility because ConCourt succumbed to their threats

Dear editor,

"Lungu will receive a shock of his life, 1 by being banned from standing in 2021 by the Courts and 2 by massively being rejected by the voters using the ballot box. Konse nizotina bamudala aba". - Zulu Taciturn

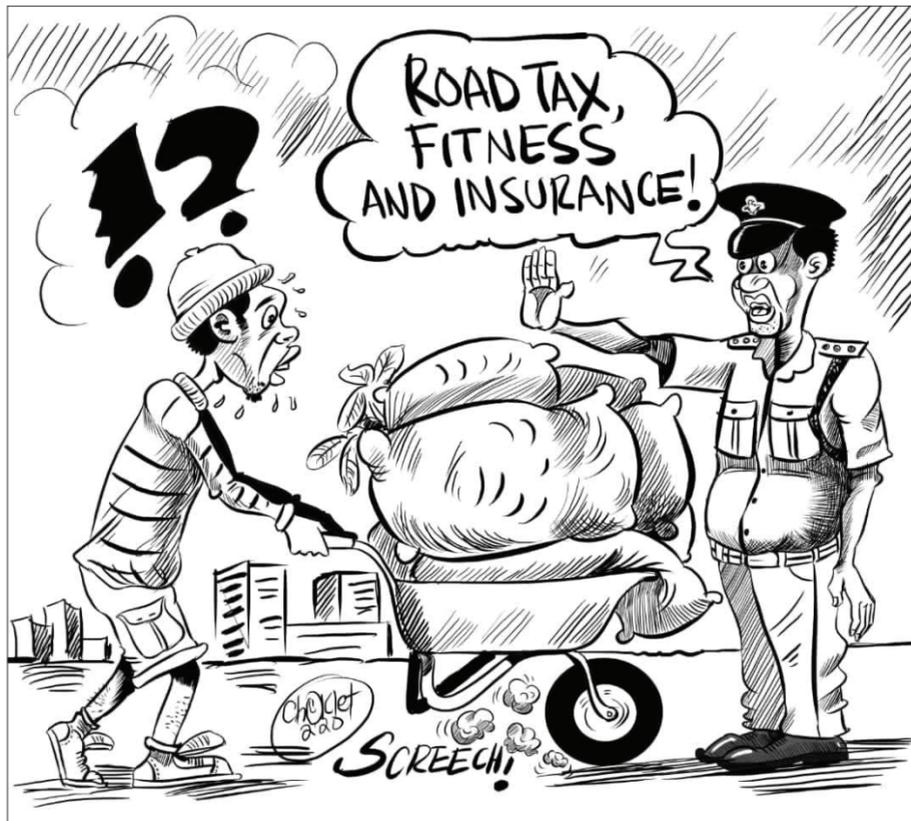
"I think there are some people within PF who could secretly be harbouring the thought of seeing ECL lose the nomination battle. If Concourt should say he doesn't qualify then chaos will reign in the ruling party. That's precisely the reason why the obnoxious Bill 10 has been pushed so hard to rule out the nomination stage petition". - Lastone Richard Tembo

"Even those judges in Malawi who cancelled the Mutharika win were at one time intimidated! Not all days are Sundays!" - Thomas Sankara

"All governance institutions succumb to their appointment authority, including ECZ which may not even do anything lawful for fear of 'chaos in the country'. Urgent institutional reforms were needed, but the executive slipped and got away with Bill 10". - Sarah Musongole

"When Parliament is dissolved you will know who is truly with President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. I have not known Zambians to be sincere when they are eating the crumbs falling from the dinner table". - Leslie Mwape Chibuye

"Imwe let's not even fight about him standing for presidency, he will be the best candidate to hammer in the 2021 elections, this I am telling you, look at the numbers that have u turned that supported him, a new candidate will be a tough mountain to climb, but for him he will have a lot of pointers to decampaign him". - Kamba Mbewe



Chitalu's advice that Zambians shouldn't attend funerals amid COVID-19

Editor,

"And yet Sunday Chanda was ranting about the UPND's absence from the late Mwewa's funeral. The confusion in this party is out of this world. No unity of purpose, whatsoever. And then people expect you to unite the nation, let alone deliver on your campaign promises?!!!!!" - Lombe Moses

"Yes, in the same vein, it is not time to attend court cases with hundreds of party cadres to intimidate the judge in charge of Dr Chilufya's corruption cases!!!" - Haggai Muzeya

"Dr. Chitalu and other Ministers should be the last

people to give advice on gathering large crowds!!!" - Chola Mwale

"This is what upsets me about this guy and the entire PF. It's like laws and regulations are only ours to obey and follow. 2 to 3 days ago, him and other MPs, mainly from PF attended a burial that came as a result of COVID19 and now you want us to adhere to your words?" - Martyn Arteta Nyambe

"After ferrying citizens from all over the country to come

and give you solidarity at court over your stealing, now you want to say people should not attend funerals because Southern province was burying one of their chiefs today... Chiwamila galu kuluma mbuzi? It was just a day ago when you were at the funeral of the MP that died and it was full of PF. Insoni ebuntu!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Funerals and courts... Remember those cadres you took at court to give you solidarity". - Victor Mboyonga

National Assembly's correction of Chitalu's record on Covid positive MPs

Editor,

"Truth has been in short supply with Chitalu Chilufya since he was charged with corruption cases, he looks absent minded. Body language can tell. How does clerk of parliament give more 'correct' figures than the Dr? Maybe someone needs to advise him to resign for now and concentrate on his cases". - Sarah Musongole

"Such is very worrying! You can see why people don't have confidence in figures the Health Minister announces". - Crispin Simwinga

"I said it, we should have a ministry of clarification on government statements. So using statistics and probability, we can say, of all the figures the minister has announced only a third is correct. In short, whatever he announces just divide by 3 as long as the figure is more than 3". - Asa Amisi

"Unfortunately, we don't have a clerk of the nation to correct him on the national updates. He gives daily updates when people only get their test results after 2 to 3 weeks". - Derrick Siame

"We need the correction ministry as soon as possible". - Estone Simpasa

Kampyongo's pledge to deal with fugitive who attacked police

Editor,

"You are such an embarrassment to the the police service, the worst home affairs minister!! Even proudly saying the police officer was attacked and severely beaten at the central police station... Mmmm what an embarrassing event! anyway, that can only happen under your leadership. You were proudly grooming cadres and now they are ripe, they want to eat you alive instead, please deal with them alone don't involve us, we were not there please!" - Nchimunya Hindam Moonga

sebanya, na manje mukalibe kugwila muntu anakakwila boma? ZP, where is your pride and honor? How are you expected to serve and protect zambia if you can't protect yourselves? Aikona man, niku chimwa uko!" - David M Mwanangombe

"Where are we going to take complaints if the police are now complainants? Lawlessness must come to an end". - Mex Phiri

"But if it was a UPND cadre who did that awe kwen! ZNBC news would be having 45mins on the same subject. Now that it is a PF cadre bali ziii!!!" - Enza Pule

"He is on the run and yet they are not putting a bounty on his head! Declare him a wanted fugitive and add cash, we apprehend him for you. Ati PF is the most peaceful party in Zambia! Lies!" - Thomas Sankara

"Basilikali naimwe muti

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

By Ulande Nkomesha
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the party will not shield PF Eastern Province chairperson Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda from being arrested over his violent attack on a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.

And Mwila says the party will proceed with holding intra party elections and thereafter the convention, with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

Meanwhile Mwila says it is Matero PF member of parliament Lloyd Kaziya who has abandoned the ruling party but brags that the party is considering selecting another candidate from may aspirants for 2021.

Speaking during a

Jay Jay in hiding, PF won't shield criminality – Mwila

briefing, Monday, Mwila condemned Banda's conduct, saying Eastern Province PF would also take action against him once police fished him out of hiding.

"Central committee chaired by His Excellency President Lungu reaffirmed its position on those who wish to commit criminal activities in the name of the party or the President that the long arm of the law must reach them without any hesitation whatsoever. The central committee strongly condemns the despicable reported incident at the Lusaka Central Police where alleged PF members led by

a Mr Jay Jay Banda attacked law enforcement officers. The central committee has since called for the immediate stern action, which should culminate in the effective arrest and prosecution of all the perpetrators," Mwila said.

"The central committee reaffirmed its position not to shield any form of criminality whatsoever. In this regard, the central committee is calling on all members of the Party to exhibit maximum discipline and exemplary behavior if the Party is to remain attractive, and as a Party of Choice for the majority of Zambians. In short, the central committee is saying those cadres must be arrested. First and foremost he (Banda) is in hiding and we are asking police to get hold of him. Once he is out, action will be taken by the Province."

Mwila said all party members involved in illegal gold mining in Mwinilunga had been officially dropped from their positions.

"The central committee received a detailed report regarding illegal gold mining at Kasenseli Mine by party officials in North Western Province. Once again, the Party's firm and consistent position is that it will not tolerate any form of illegality and criminality committed in the name of the party or the President. In this regard, all party officials linked to illegal gold mining and theft of gold deposits have been dropped from their positions. In short, all those who were involved have been removed from their positions. The Chairman Mr Jackson Kungo has been removed, chairlady Catherine Mukuma has been removed, the chairman for Mwinilunga district has been removed, the constituency chairman for Mwinilunga

has been removed. They remain ordinary members of the party," he said.

"While they remain ordinary members of the Party, the accused are facing criminal prosecution in the courts of law and no one will be protected. Further, a team comprising of central committee members will be deployed to North Western Province to ensure that affected party structures in the province continue with their usual programming."

And Mwila said the party would continue holding intra party elections with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

"The ruling Patriotic Front cherishes the ideals of intra-party democracy, and this is an ideal which defines who we are as a party. This is extremely important because, ensuring and promoting intra-party democracy is the only way that the Patriotic Front continues to renew its mandate with the people, the general membership on whose behalf we lead. Against this background, elections in the Party will continue under the New Normal," Mwila said.

"As part of Patriotic Front's democratic nature and in complying with Article 60 of the Republican Constitution, the central committee reaffirmed its earlier resolution to conduct elections in the remaining six (6) Provinces namely; Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga, Northern, Western and Southern Provinces. In holding these elections, the secretariat will ensure that there is maximum compliance to public health regulations concerning COVID-19. In this regard, the elections committee of the party is hereby guided to prepare and act accordingly."

He said once intra party elections are concluded, the party would hold its general conference.

"Once all the remaining provincial elections have been held, the central committee will receive a comprehensive report which shall guide preparations for the party's general conference to be held under very strict adherence to the public health regulations, guidelines and certification vis-à-vis COVID-19. It is of paramount importance that both the electorates and observers are kept safe and secure during our intra-party democratic processes. As we are all aware, our country goes for general elections next year in 2021, with or without COVID-19. This therefore makes intra-Party elections an absolute must. However, these intra-party elections shall be held and completed under very strict adherence to public health regulations, guidelines and certification vis-à-vis COVID-19," Mwila said.

He said the party appointed a committee to carry out a forensic study of the violence and intimidation that took place during the intra party elections in Mandevu and Munal.

"Following reports of violence and intimidation,

the Central Committee has appointed a Committee to carry out a forensic study of party elections held in Mandevu and Munal Constituencies. This independent Committee will submit its findings and recommendations to the Secretary General before the end of August 2020, for determination. Let me reiterate that our Party's position is zero tolerance to violent conduct and speech," he said.

Meanwhile, Mwila said Kaziya had abandoned the party and the party was considering selecting another candidate for Matero in 2021.

"It is him [Kaziya] who has run away from the party as far as I am concerned as SG he has abandoned the party. Us we are watching and if he thinks that he is so special we will sideline him and pick another person. There are too many people who want Matero and we are going to win by big margins. The central committee resolved to revisit the party's adoption process for members of parliament, council chairpersons or mayors and councillors to ensure the will of the grassroots is respected in the selection of candidates ahead of the 2021 General elections," said Mwila.

Be creative, it's not time to use old tactics to revive economy – Magande

From P2

Now you are saying, we as a government we can pay you a better interest, instead of you selling your tomatoes at Soweto market, so bring your money here so that we get it as a government. That is not the correct way of going now after this Covid. Covid is saying 'don't do things the way you were doing them last December or last September', the world has changed now. We need things that create employment for all the young people and that is what they should do differently," said Magande.

"They are not thinking differently, the bond that they are floating, is the same as treasury bills, it's the same as a foreign bond, it's nkongole (credit). So what is going to happen now, somebody will go to Zanaco, his friend is a manager and he says 'mwana (my friend), can you give me K20,000 I want to go and rear chickens' and then from there this chap will get the K20,000 he walks to the Bank of Zambia, he goes to pay for a bond, so the money is going to go in unproductive things. What is more important is not even money, it is people, the people must be occupied now. We are going to head for a crisis, instead of...thousands of young people will be roaming streets, they need to be occupied, doing something. Some of them should even be saying look, they have already partitioned this Forest 31 in Chongwe they want people to go there, the extension officers are already there to advise you on how to grow cabbage. Now you are again saying 'no, government is looking for money so those who have money, come and buy the bond', it's nkongole (credit) again, it can't work."

Banda suspends Lusaka, Kitwe councils for 3 months

From P2

I had written a letter three years ago to Lusaka City Council to stop allocating land because

there was no land in Lusaka, but they have continued to give out land! So, we are withdrawing our agency until after three months, we need to put their house in order," said Kapata.

"The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources gave land agencies to local authorities and this was done through circular number 1 of 1985 and this circular has outlived its cause. This is why, as a Ministry, we are reviewing the circular so that we can bring it to the current time where we are. I also want to take this opportunity to caution all our provincial land officials in the provinces not to endorse illegality. Before they can endorse or start preparing for title, they must be able to verify that those pieces of land are available for allocation. So, having said that, I also want to add that, as Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, we are withdrawing our agency, the agreement that we had under circular number 1 of 1985 from Lusaka City Council and Kitwe City Council, for three months until further notice. We need to do an audit in those districts and towns and see to it that sanity is brought. We also want to do an audit to see to it that most of the illegality is corrected."

Luapula United a hoax, Lungu free to pick preferred running mate – Chilangwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

LUAPULA Province Minister Nickson Chilangwa says Luapula United is a hoax and President Edgar Lungu will not be coerced into picking a running mate from that region.

And Chilangwa says the pedicle road connecting Luapula and Copperbelt Province is a scandal and that RDA engineers must be made to pay for certifying a road which is falling off.

When asked to explain the Luapula United movement, an initiative interpreted to be a scheme in which MPs in that province were using to front a running-mate leadership campaign during ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Chilangwa said such a thing was non-existent.

"Luapula United is a hoax! It was created by some individuals to make those of us from Luapula to put us in a bad light to say, 'we are too ambitious,' that we want to do that. But that is not possible. If Luapula United really existed, I am the provincial chairman; I am the provincial Minister, why is it that I have not been invited to a single meeting for Luapula United? I don't think so. Are MPs divided? No. We may argue amongst ourselves and we may debate amongst ourselves," he said.

And he insisted that President Lungu should not be coerced into deciding who he should pick as running mate for next year's presidential election.

"Even [the issue of MPs wanting to be running mates] was part of the game plan by those who created Luapula United and they said, 'the reason why Luapula United has been created is for the simple reason that they want to be a running mate from Luapula Province.' And that is what it was so that we are seen in bad light. No sir, no single person has expressed... And how do you become a running mate when the President decides the candidate? Running mate is a preserve of the President. The presidential candidate must not be coerced into deciding who must be his running mate. The candidate must not be coerced into thinking that he must pick 'ABCD from this region.' He must make an informed decision depending on the parameters on the ground," Chilangwa said.

And Chilangwa complained that the pedicle road connecting Luapula and Copperbelt Province was a scandal and that Road Development Agency (RDA) engineers should be held accountable for certifying a substandard road.

"The pedicle road [connecting Luapula to the Copperbelt Province] has been a scandal! But I must also say that our engineers in this country need to be serious. You cannot certify works on a road that is falling into pieces! You cannot do that. This is your country. You are doing a road that is falling into pieces and somebody must certify that? And you are getting paid? That is totally unacceptable! So, for me, the Engineering Institute of Zambia (ECZ) must up their game. They must come round the table and say, 'yes, our member here erred.' Those roads are certified by engineers; they are supervised by engineers to say, 'this road has been built according to the expected specifications...' And the roads are falling into pieces. Meanwhile, people are running with invoices to say, 'we want to be paid.' What kind of thinking is that?" Chilangwa wondered.

"So, for me, that is totally unacceptable and I think heads must roll. People must pay for their sins because it is written. For me, pedicle road, in its current state, is a scandal and I am not mincing my words. It's totally unacceptable! And you want to blame President Lungu for it? No. We have to blame ourselves, we have to blame our engineers, we have to blame

RDA."

Meanwhile, Chilangwa lamented that Luapula was ranked as one of the poorest provinces in Zambia and continued to remain underdeveloped due to lack of economic activities in the area.

"Luapula Province, yes, is known for other reasons and one of the reasons Luapula Province is known for is that it's one of the poorest provinces in the country and that's where the Luapula Expo started from. The province is underdeveloped owing to one major reason, which is the lack of major economic activities. Luapula has not attained its potential due to low economic activities. And one of the reasons why Luapula has not attained its full potential is due to poor energy. Luapula hasn't got industrial energy up-to-date of 55 years after independence," said Chilangwa.

"The other reason is that Luapula has gone through a transformation period. In the early 70s, Luapula was well known for its fish industry. The Bangweulu-Luapula-Lake Mweru fishery area was the biggest provider of fish for the province and on the Copperbelt Province. But over the years, the resources started diminishing. There was no real drive to deal with this particular problem."

By Abraham Kalito

NATIONAL team coach Milutin Sredojevic has acknowledged Austrian based Chipolopolopo players Patson Daka and Enock Mwepu will be key to Zambia's qualification for the AFCON and World Cup tournaments.

Speaking when he conferred with the duo prior to their departure for Austria, the Serbian international said Zambia will have to win all the remaining fixtures in the AFCON qualifiers to stand a chance to qualify adding that the two footballers were key.

"We are here in conclusion of AFCON qualifiers where we have four matches left. We need to win four matches in order to qualify to that tournament. And also we are starting world Cup qualifiers for Qatar 2022. We have a lot of work ahead of us including the AFCON qualifiers and World Cup qualifiers for Qatar 2022 against Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea and Tunisia. Where we are right now in the seven step plan is to put the foundation that will lead the pyramid all the way up to fulfill our ambition and you two (Patson and Enock) are very important professional players in your club and we request you to keep in mind the Qatar dream that is supposed to be also yours," he said.

Micho took Daka and Mwepu through his seven steps technical master plan whose objectives is to ensure qualification for both AFCON and the World Cup.

"We believe that you, together with others are part of the set-up that is supposed to turn this (World Cup) dream of 18 million Zambians into reality. Let us play an

Micho puts faith in Daka, Mwepu



attractive brand of football that Zambians will love to see from the body language which will carry the national team jersey with pride."

Meanwhile Redbull Salzburg star Mwepu, said Micho is courageous enough to help Zambia qualify.

"We had a great time with him and he explained what he wants us to do and we are just looking forward to seeing how we can work everything out but it was a successful meeting. He is a coach who wants to help the national team win for the fans, players, FAZ, government and everyone else involved. He wants to create a relationship where everyone is able to support each other, love one another and play one game. I love his gesture and courageous words and I just pray that his plans and systems

during his tenure be successful. Myself and other players are looking forward to help, work with him and give him what he deserves, I think we will have a great time with him," he said.

And his compatriot, Daka

expressed how delighted he was to received guidance from the Serbian trainer.

"He is a great man with good a personality and I think he is a man of values and knows what he wants to

achieve and what he expects from us, so I have a direction on what I have to work on and what he expects from me. My target is to do as much as I can to help the team, work as hard as I can to help the team

achieve its goals. I will try my best also to do my job because as a striker it's about helping the team by scoring and in other areas so I just have to continue improving because I have a lot of things to learn."

Kamanga discusses the possibility of introducing VAR in Zambia

By Abraham Kalito

ANDREW Kamanga has insisted that there is a huge possibility that the video assistant referee technology will be introduced next season following the training of officials in analysis.

In his weekly campaign posts, the FAZ president

pointed out that Zambia is at an advantage as the country has one of the first individuals in Janny Sikazwe to use the technology.

He said FAZ is setting trends by training staff in video analysis.

"As FAZ we are also looking to setting trends by

having some of our people trained in video analysis. The program has already taken off with the technical experts having conducted two courses while another one is currently going on in Lusaka and enters day two today. When I talked about Zambia introducing Video Assistant Referee (VAR)

technology in our league, I was ridiculed by some sections of our football," he said.

"They were quick to scream about costs and the practicability of such technology in our situation. However, they neglected to see that we already had a head start by having one of our referees Janny Sikazwe among the first whistle-men in the world to use VAR at the 2016 FIFA Club World Cup. Sikazwe was at the centre of the match between Real Madrid and Kashima Antlers in Japan. Sikazwe has gone on to referee at FIFA World Cup matches as we saw in Russia in 2018."

Kamanga also took a swipe at critics saying things that are not understood should not be criticised.

"Zambia already has the advantage of having its league matches broadcast across the African continent through our partnership with SuperSport. We can draw huge benefits from this partnership that could ensure that we experiment with this technology. So it can never be by accident that we are training several individuals in Video Analysis. We will also make use of this expertise in ensuring that our game improves through the use of technological tools," Kamanga said.

"On our part we are committed to using every tool to ensure that we develop our game. All these programs fit into our 10-year strategic plan that is a guiding principle for everything that we do. We also hope that going forward, we do away with the practice of criticising anything that we do not understand. It is my prayer that we go into this brand new week with a positive mind. As always I wish everyone a productive week and observe all the guidelines as we continue to fight the covid-19."

Kafue Celtic, Prison Leopards clash hits snag

By Tim Zulu

THE itchy sensation to show who is who in the much awaited blockbuster fixture in the Eden University National Division One League between ball switchers Kafue Celtic and shrewed Prison Leopards over the weekend certainly left many faithful followers of the game quite disappointed.

This FAZ Week 25 clash that was scheduled for OYDC

had officials running back and forth trying to get a clear bill of COVID-19 results from health experts for the 23 Kafue Celtic players but discovered that results were not in sequential format as the list had other people who were tested other than Celtic players.

Running out of time to isolate Celtic players from the list, with the doctor assuring the participants that all was ok, the

football mother body decided to switch the would be mouth-watering encounter to Sunday, the following day.

But again, it was the same old story; no progress was made from the previous day and before long, the two National league giants lost hope and left the artificial turf in disbelief as no latest information was coming forth from the health experts.

Kafue Celtic team Manager Wilfred Banda said disappointing as it was, and factoring in the peculiar situation at hand, there was little they could do as the decision to play was beyond their shoulders.

"We are equally disturbed and at pains to say the least because we did our tests earlier on Tuesday and we were assured of results before Saturday, but we don't know what has caused

this anomaly, so as it is, there is little we can do, just like our opponents (Leopards) who are concerned. Our hands are tied too because we cannot play without clearance and ignore the recommended health guidelines. We did our part so if results are not here, even when they are negative or not, we can't force things," said Banda.

And Prison Leopards Director of Sports Godfrey Mbewe told Eden Media that COVID-19 is a dicey thing not to joke with and they cannot take the risk to force the team to play.

"I am sure you are aware that we are handling a lot of inmates and if anything went wrong here, it means we can create a very big bush fire which we can fail to extinguish in our correctional facilities. So it's quite unfortunate especially when you consider the expenses incurred and all that. So I think for us going forward, wherever we go, be it at home or away, as long as we are not sure, then we will find it difficult to play," said Mbewe.

The other Eden games that went on the tight spotlight because of a similar situation were those of Police College vs Nchanga Rangers and Young Green Eagles vs Malaiti Rangers, save for the Zambeef vs Muza F.C that failed because of fixture miscommunication between the two sides.



MICHO PUTS FAITH IN DAKA, MWEPU

By Abraham Kalito
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