



Court hears how Health Minister bought property linked to corruption CHILUFYA'S EARNINGS HIT K22M BY FEB - ACC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

AN Investigations officer at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has testified before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya's total earnings for the period 2013 to February, 2020, from the National Assembly, PMEC and Henry Courtyard Limited were over K22 million.

Story page 3

Covid-19 cases hit 7,000 in Zambia with 176 deaths

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTRY of Health spokesperson Dr Abel Kabalo has announced that Zambia has recorded 229 new cases of COVID-19 with three deaths in the last 24 hours.

And Dr Kabalo says the overall positivity rate of

specimens received daily in COVID-19 testing laboratories has risen from 1.8% to over 25% in one month

Speaking during the COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Kabalo noted that among the three deaths was a brought in dead (BID) from Itezhi-tezhi and two patients from the Levy Mwanawasa isolation centre.

"Today Zambia has recorded 229 new cases of COVID-19 out of the 1,112 tests that were done. This brings our cumulative total number of Covid cases to 7,022. Of these 229 cases, 84 are individuals screened through our hospital screening. In Lusaka we recorded 52 from our institutions, in Ndola we recorded 25, Solwezi gave us five and then Kitwe gave us two. Of these 229, 73 are individuals identified through routine screening and Lusaka contributed 46 of these and Ndola 27. Sixty three were contacts..."

Story page 3



Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya speaks to his lawyers Tutwa Ngulube and Jonas Zimba (r) at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We've taken the NRC issuance exercise as a party programme - Mwila

Story page 10

SADC displeased with UN move to reconfigure Force Intervention Brigade

By Natasha Sakala

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ Troika Summit plus Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries (FIB - TCCs) and the DRC have expressed concern

over the unilateral decision by the United Nations to reconfigure the Force Intervention Brigade contrary to SADC position.

Story page 10

Lungu insensitive to people's well-being, if Covid escalates, blame him - Nkombo

Story page 4



By Julia Malunga
THE Auditor General's Report has revealed that an officer had unrestricted access to both the production and development environments, which would have exposed the officer to make unauthorised changes to the system that would not be possible to trace.
And the Auditor General has also revealed that the Examination Council of Zambia (ECZ) paid K90,000 towards medical bills for a council chairperson who was not entitled for the benefit.
Meanwhile, the Report has disclosed that the Council procured a personal-to-

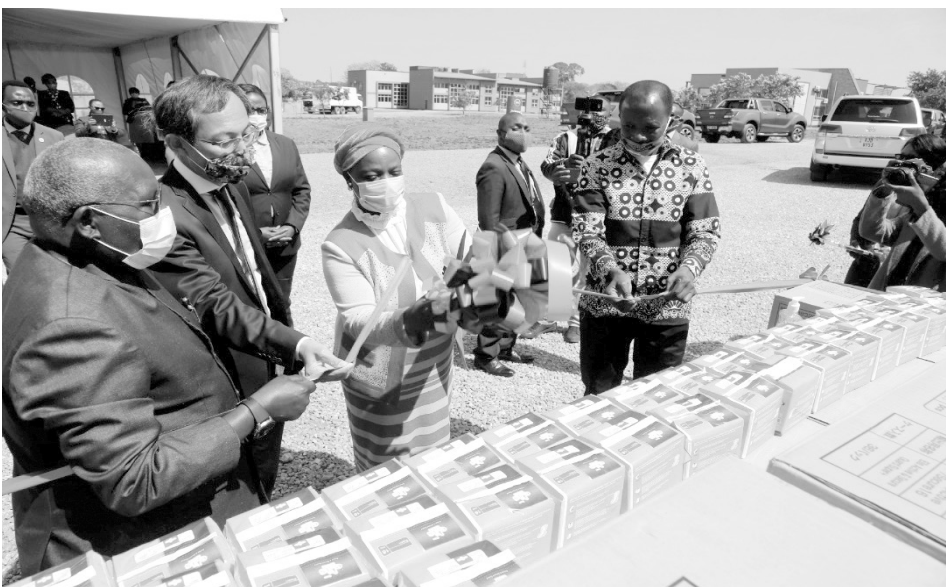
Auditor General explains flaws at ECZ with potential for exam leakages

holder vehicle for a named director at K277,456, which was later offered to the same director at a purchase price of K22,729, rendering it massively under-priced.
According to the report, ECZ had one officer who was managing the users on the application and also in charge of system development and enhancements to in-house developed applications, which was contrary to best practice.
“ISO/IEC 27001: 2005 A.10.1.4 requires that development, test and operational facilities should be separated to reduce the risks of unauthorised access or changes to the operational system. In addition, best practice requires that developers should not have access to the production environment. Contrary to best practice, ECZ had one

officer who was managing the users on the application and the officer was also in charge of system development and enhancements to in-house developed applications, such as Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS), Result Combination and Marks Entry Systems. The officer also had permission to perform all the activities on the system. This implied that the officer had unrestricted access to both the production and development environments. Such unrestricted access to the system exposed the OCRS information to unauthorised changes, which would not be possible to trace,” the Report disclosed.
It stated that the Council did not have a standard on the minimum number of examination-ready items per subject in the storage bank, a situation which would result in examination leakages.
“ECZ had systems for results management, online registration, marks entry and results combination. It was, however, observed that the four systems were not interfaced, and information had to be manually exported from one system to another,

thus exposing it to the risk of manipulation in the transfer process. Item banking is the process of creating and maintaining a repository of test items from which examination questions can be drawn when need arises. Good practice requires that there be enough items per subject at any time in order that leakages may be minimised as any of the items has equal chance of being examined. A scrutiny of the status of the item bank in December, 2019, revealed that the Council did not have a standard on the minimum number of examination-ready items per subject in the bank. As a result, the actual numbers of banked examination items ranged from 1 to 6, which may lead to examination leakages,” it stated.
According to the Auditor General's Report on the Accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other statutory institutions for the financial year ended December 31, 2018, payment of medical bills was irregular because the chairperson was not entitled.
“Section 23 (3) (b) and (c) of the Act states that there will be paid from the funds of

the Council such reasonable travelling, transport and subsistence allowances for members or members of any committee of the Council when engaged on the business of the Council, at such rates as the Minister may determine; and any other expenses incurred by the Council in the performance of its functions. However, a review of payment documents revealed that from 12th February to 7th September, 2018, amounts totalling K90,000 were paid towards medical bills for the Council Chairperson. In this regard, the payment of medical bills was irregular in that the Chairperson was not entitled,” the Report disclosed.
And the Report disclosed that the Council procured a personal-to-holder vehicle for the director at K277,456, which was later found to have been offered to that director at a purchase price of K22,729, rendering it massively under-priced.
“Terms and Conditions of Service for employees on fixed-term contract state that, to arrive at the sale price of a personal-to-holder motor vehicle, the vehicle shall be depreciated using the reducing balance method at the rate of 20 per cent per annum and the sale price shall be the residual amount after depreciation for five years. In May, 2013, the Council procured a personal-to-holder motor vehicle for the director at a cost of K277,456. It was, however, observed that on 18th June, 2018, the director was offered to purchase the personal-to-holder vehicle at K22,729, which was 25 per cent of the residual value of K90,917 resulting in the under-pricing of the vehicle by K68,188,” stated the Report.
It also revealed that a total amount of K246,705 was paid as interest to a company contracted to print and package examination papers due to delayed payments of outstanding obligations totalling over K13.3 million, which resulted in wasteful expenditure.
“On 26th April, 2017, the Examinations Council of Zambia and Stephen Austin & Sons Limited domiciled in the United Kingdom signed a contract for the purpose of security printing, packaging and delivery of GCE, Grades 7, 9 and 12 examination question papers for the years 2017/2018 at a total contract sum of K41,805,847 (GB£3,132,110.17). General Conditions of Contract state that unless the two parties agree otherwise, the payment-delay period after which the procuring entity shall pay interest to the supplier shall be 60 days from the due date of the concerned invoice and the interest rate that shall be applied is 0.5 per cent per month of the invoice value. In February and March, 2018, a total amount of K246,705 (GB£18,388.51) was paid as interest to Stephen Austin and Sons Limited due to delayed payments of outstanding obligations totalling K13,301,041 (GB£996,556.62) resulting in wasteful expenditure,” stated the Report.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:General Education Minister Dr. Dennis Wanchinga, Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Mizuuchi Ryuta, First Lady Esther Lungu and Education Permanent Secretary-Technical Services Dr. Jobbicks Kalumba flag off the distribution of sanitary towels in Lusaka on Tuesday - Picture by Salim Henry

Bowman vows to go radicle on Lusaka residents who flout COVID-19 regulations

By Natasha Sakala
LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has warned Lusaka residents flouting COVID-19 guidelines to be ready to be “badly inconvenienced” now that he is back in good health.
In an interview, Lusambo said that he had now become radical in the manner he would handle the COVID-19 fight because he wanted to ensure that cases in the capital dropped to zero.
“So, for us, as Lusaka Province, we need to change the approach, and we will begin to be radical. And being radical doesn't mean that the people will be killed, we just want to make sure that people start doing the right thing. So, the motorists, if you are more than one person in a vehicle, make sure that you are putting on a face mask; the buses, people visiting the shopping malls; people visiting the shops, we just want to make sure that we just reduce this spread of COVID-19 in Lusaka. As we speak, it's everywhere! We don't even know the person to trust, no one; you can't trust anyone with COVID. So, for me, we are going to double the efforts, if it means inconveniencing the Lusaka residents, we just want them to be ready that we are going to inconvenience them badly. Actually, this time around, it's bad because the information has reached, sensitisation has been done and they've ignored all these things. And it's time for us to inconvenience them and we are going to inconvenience them badly,” Lusambo cautioned.
“So, for me, yes, I am back and we'll be more radical now

because I have seen a lot of things. This period when I was at Levy (Mwanawasa Hospital), I have seen a lot of things, more than the things, which I saw in March. March, after seeing from other countries, we started with awareness, then we started with adherence because by then we had some cases, which was being treated and today it's a different story altogether because I have gone through and I have seen people dying, with my naked eyes, I have seen people dying because of COVID. So, as we are coming now, we will be more radical, actually, we will be more radical than ever because I have seen how people are dying. People are struggling to survive because of COVID.”
He added that the provincial administration will

double efforts as compliance levels had dropped down to zero despite raised awareness.
“So, for us, now, as Lusaka Province, this is not a time to go to sleep, this is not the time to let those detractors, those who talk to give them opportunity to talk, this is not the time. This is the time to make sure that we move in. If it means inconveniencing people, we are going to inconvenience them because we have seen the impact and we will inconvenience them so that we protect their lives. Our efforts now will double from the ones, which we saw us doing in March, April, now it will be doubled because we have seen the impact and some of us have gone through this disease. All those bars, which we are seeing, all those people

we are seeing at night partying, all those places are just death traps. They are death traps I can assure you because COVID-19 is capable of wiping that night club, including the DJ, wiping them like so without anyone surviving, that is COVID for you. It's not just a matter of, 'no, tifuna kuyenda kuma bar (we want to go to the bar),’ said Lusambo.
“This is not a time for those useless things, this is the time, actually, to understand why COVID at this time. This is the time to reflect because you can die at any time with COVID. With COVID, all of us are potential dead people! So, this is a time to reflect and put your life in order, this is not a time to start being excited, this is not a time for partying. This is time to reflect, know

your life, are you going to be acceptable before Heaven. But definitely, we are in this world where people perceive things differently. So, for me, what I have seen, actually, the efforts, which we had put in March, April, May, it has gone to waste because the level of compliance now is almost zero. And this fight is not a government fight alone, this is a public fight so we need the people out there to act responsibly, it is not always that we have to police them, it's time people start thinking on their own.”
On Monday scores of PF supporters defied, Covid-19 guidelines to witness President Edgar Lungu's launch of the Makeni Overpass, and the Head of State thanked the supporters for gathering en masse for the event.

Lungu's eligibility a dead issue, insists Makebi

By Julia Malunga
EASTERN Province Minister Makebi Zulu says Archbishop Telephore Mpundu is being misled on the issue of President Edgar Lungu's eligibility because it was rightly interpreted by the courts of law.
On Sunday, Archbishop Mpundu said the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) risked not having a presidential candidate in next year's election because President Lungu was not eligible to stand.
“Bill 10 is a shameful Bill. Why is it that every administration that comes to State House wants to change the constitution in order to perpetuate them in power? This is wrong! PF is tempering with the constitution in order to perpetuate themselves in power not just the President. They will be remaining there to continue marring administration

in this country. It is a shameful Bill. They should have called it Bill third term. They want to give a third term to Lungu but he has already served two terms according to the constitution. And not only that, a law that is made to benefit one person or to benefit a group of people against others is right from the word go wrong! And that is what it is. What is hidden in that and people fear, this fear must be expressed. What they see is not only to perpetuate Lungu's stay in State House but it is designed in such a way that one person among those who are aspiring to be candidates will be disqualified. And this is criminal. It must be withdrawn,” said Archbishop Mpundu.
But in an interview, Zulu insisted President Lungu's eligibility case was concluded a long time ago by the Constitutional Court and was thus, a

dead issue.
“The only reason why this issue is not dying is because people are allowed to remember dead issues. That is a dead issue. That issue was settled a long time ago by the Constitutional Court so he can't say 'we risk not having a candidate.' As regards to Bill 10, I don't think he can point at any clause that seeks to perpetuate the stay of PF in power. Bill 10 is a progressive bill that seeks to deal with the lacunas that are currently existing in our constitution. It doesn't scare us, it doesn't scare anyone just because someone chooses to be misled and draw a particular line. If it is blue, it is blue, if it green it is green. You can't say 'green is blue', no. We know what it is, we have read it in the right context, and the court has interpreted it in the right context,” said Zulu.

By Zondiwe Mbewe
AN Investigations officer at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has testified before the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya’s total earnings for the period 2013 to February, 2020, from the National Assembly, PMEC and Henry Courtyard Limited were over K22 million.

Chipampe Manda, 34, explained that from the National Assembly, Dr Chilufya earned over K7 million for the period November 2013, to February 2020; over K3 million from PMEC (Payroll Management and Establishment Control) for the period November 2013, to December 2019 and over K12 million for the period 2016 to 2019 from Henry Courtyard Limited in which he is a director and shareholder.

He was testifying in a matter in which Dr Chilufya has been charged with four counts of possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime, contrary to section 71 (1) of the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act No. 19 of the 2010 of the laws of Zambia.

It is alleged in the first count that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown, but between December 1, 2016, and December 31, 2017, in Lusaka possessed US\$200,000, which was used to purchase 6,000 shares in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services Limited from Den Daas Investment Zambia Limited, property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

In the second count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown, but between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017, in Lusaka possessed K270,000 cash, which was used to purchase 2,000 shares in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services Limited from Leo Jonas Ngosa Investment Limited, property suspected of being proceeds of crime.

In the third count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on an unknown date but between January 1, 2018 and December 30, 2019 possessed K3,000,000, which was used to purchase Lot No. 365/366 also known as Spark Guest House situated in Mansa District of Luapula Property, property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime.

In the last count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown, but between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017, in Lusaka possessed US \$52,000, which was used to purchase a passenger boat also known as Transport 32 from Smart Own FZE of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime.

When the matter came up for commencement of trial, Wednesday, Manda testified that on December 17, 2019, the ACC received a report bordering on allegations of possession of property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime against Dr Chilufya.

He said the allegations were that Dr Chilufya owned several properties in Mansa, Luapula Province, among them, Samfya Marines and Tourism Services.

Manda added that ACC received the said report from an anonymous source.

“Investigations into the said allegations were authorised on December 27, 2019, by the ACC acting director general. A team of investigators was assembled to carry out investigations into the allegations,” Manda said.

He said that he then proceeded to go to PACRA to establish the directors and shareholders in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services and companies in which the

Minister had interest in. He revealed that he established from PACRA that there was, indeed, a company called Samfya Marines and Tourism Services, which was incorporated in 2006 and registered in Zambia. “What I gathered is that at the time the company was registered, the shareholders in the company were Den Daas Investment Zambia Limited, Toptec Enterprises Zambia Limited and Leo Jonas Ngosa Investment Limited,” Manda said. He said it was established that Den Daas Investment Zambia Limited transferred 6,000 shares held in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services to Dr Chitalu at a consideration amount of US \$200,000. Manda said that Leo Jonas Ngosa Investment Limited also sold 2,000 shares in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services to Dr Chilufya at the sum of K270,000. He further testified that a Mr Benjamin Kabamba sold Spark Guest House to Dr Chilufya at K3 million. He said initially, Kabamba had borrowed K1,500,000 whose collateral was Spark Guest House from Dr Chilufya, but failed to pay back the

money. “Through my investigations, I established that Kabamba approached Dr Chitalu Chilufya to lend him K1,500,000, which Dr Chilufya advanced to him in two instalments. I established that Mr Benjamin Kabamba failed to pay back the money he borrowed from Dr Chitalu Chilufya. He approached Dr Chilufya and made an offer to sell Spark Guest House to him at K3,000,000. It was agreed that since he was already owing Dr Chilufya K1,500,000, the accused would only top up K1,500,000 for the purchase of Spark Guest House,” Manda narrated. He said that he also established that Dr Chilufya had acquired a 32-seater boat imported from Dubai by a company called Bellchiz General Dealers and Suppliers Limited. Manda said that he established that the individuals behind Bellchiz General Dealers imported the passenger boat from Dubai on behalf of Dr Chilufya between August, 2017, and December, 2017. He said after he established the possession of the properties, he endeavoured to find out if the accused had

witness tells court

the financial capacity from his known legitimate sources of income to acquire the properties in question in that period. Manda said he had established that Dr Chilufya was a Minister of Health and member of parliament for Mansa Central constituency. He also said that the ACC wrote to the National Assembly and PMEC requesting for payments made to Dr Chilufya in terms of emoluments. “The Commission did receive documents from these two institutions detailing the earnings that Dr Chilufya had from November, 2013, to December, 2019. Further in my investigations, I did establish that Dr Chilufya has stake in other companies in which he is either director or shareholder. I established that he was a director and shareholder in Henry Courtyard Limited, Henry Courtyard Hardware and Construction, Henry Courtyard Farms and Henry Courtyard Travel and Tours. Also, he was a shareholder in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services,” he added. “Having looked at the earnings of the Minister,

the earnings from National Assembly totalled over K7 million and K3 million from PMEC. Further, I assessed financial information relating to bank statements for Henry Courtyard Limited from which records from different banks where the company had accounts with. From Henry Courtyard Limited alone, it was in excess of K12 million from 2016 to 2019,” Manda disclosed.

The witness continues with his testimony today. Earlier when the case was called around 09:00 hours, ACC prosecutor Clifford Moonga asked the Court to stand down the matter for two hours so that the prosecution could prepare their witness, who was already at court. He added that the witness would be producing documents, which the State had not looked at. Moonga apologised for the inconvenience. But in response, defence lawyer Tutwa Ngulube said the defence was extremely disappointed in the manner in which the State was handling the matter.

Police gun down robber for allegedly stealing from Trade Kings vehicle

By Diggers Reporter
POLICE in Kasama, Northern Province, have shot and injured one suspected criminal and arrested two others in connection with the theft of money from a Trade Kings motor vehicle, spokesperson Esther Mwaata

Katongo stated, Wednesday. Katongo said this was after a report of theft from motor vehicle was received from Abbas Hussain aged 46 years of Chikumanino of Kasama District who is Trade Kings Regional Manager for Muchinga, Luapula and

Northern Provinces. “Hussain reported that unknown persons stole money from the company’s motor vehicle, a Toyota Hilux registration number ALZ 3825 which was parked at Indo – Zambia Bank along Independence road in Kasama District. The criminals unlocked the driver’s door and got away with K98,025.00. Police made a follow up and caught up with the criminals at Mwiluzi area along Mbala – Kasama road where they had parked their vehicle, Honda CRV registration number ALP 2712 and were changing a font tyre of the said motor vehicle. Upon being challenged the criminals ran in different directions, and in the process one suspect named Ndlovu Basil Bhukumuzi aged 40 years of Bulawayo, a Zimbabwean national was shot on his left side of the thigh while two of his colleagues identified as Soames Ndlovu aged 32 years of Matero East in Lusaka also a Zimbabwean national based in Bulawayo and Silvester Phiri aged 38 years of Matero Lusaka were apprehended. She said the injured suspect was receiving medical treatment at Kasama General Hospital while one other suspect only identified as Amin (Mr Moyo) was still on the run. “A sum of K84,000 was recovered from the suspects and the vehicle which was being used has been impounded. A manhunt for the suspect who is on the run has been launched,” said Katongo.

He said they were aware that the Judiciary had issued guidelines, which relate to criminal and civil proceedings. “We are in a state of emergency and the Court has a task to dispose off matters timely and speedily. The accused was arrested more than three months ago,” Ngulube said. He said it appeared that the State was still fishing for evidence. Ngulube asked the Court to give the prosecution team 30 minutes in which to prepare their witness. Another lawyer, Jonas Zimba adopted Ngulube’s objection. He added that it was a well known fact that orders of the court were to be complied with. “After sitting yesterday (Tuesday), this court made a ruling and ordered that trial should commence today and time to commence business was agreed to 09:00 hours. From 14:00 hours [Tuesday] to 09:00 hours today (Wednesday), the State had ample time to prepare their witness. We appeared before you on July 16, 2020, to set today’s date and the subsequent dates. From July 16, to-date my colleagues have had enough time to prepare for this matter,” he said. Zimba said if the State decided to abandon their task of preparing their witnesses on Tuesday, that should never be the Court’s fault. He added that to disobey the Court’s order that trial commences on Wednesday morning, was disrespectful to the Court. Zimba asked the prosecution to comply with the order and put their witness on the stand. But in his ruling, Magistrate Mwale allowed the State’s application to stand down the matter to 11:30 hours.

Covid-19 cases hit 7,000 in Zambia with 176 deaths

By Natasha Sakala
MINISTRY of Health spokesperson Dr Abel Kabalo has announced that Zambia has recorded 229 new cases of COVID-19 with three deaths in the last 24 hours. And Dr Kabalo says the overall positivity rate of specimens received daily in COVID-19 testing laboratories has risen from 1.8% to over 25% in one month. Speaking during the COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Kabalo noted that among the three deaths was a brought in dead (BID) from Itezhi-tezhi and two patients from the Levy Mwanawasa isolation centre. “Today Zambia has recorded 229 new cases of COVID-19 out of the 1,112 tests that were done. This brings our cumulative total number of Covid cases to 7,022. Of these 229 cases, 84 are individuals screened through our hospital screening. In Lusaka we recorded 52 from our institutions, in Ndola we recorded 25, Solwezi gave us five and then Kitwe gave us two. Of these 229, 73 are individuals identified through routine screening and Lusaka contributed 46 of these and Ndola 27. Sixty three were contacts to known cases, Lusaka gave us 61, Itezhi-

itezhi one and Kalulushi one. Seven individuals identified through healthcare worker screening in Lusaka and then we also had a BID reported amongst these that is from Itezhi-tezhi. Among the active cases that we have in our facilities, 84 patients are currently admitted to our isolation facilities then 45 of these are on oxygen support. Then six patients are in critical condition with five admitted to the intensive care unit. We have discharged 558 persons in the last 24 hours across the country and this brings the cumulative recoveries to 5,667 since the beginning of the outbreak in Zambia,” he said. “We have unfortunately, and on a sad note recorded three new Covid related deaths, one female adult from Itezhi-tezhi as I earlier mentioned who came in as a BID, one 43 year old female who was admitted to a private facility and one 71 year old known hypertensive who was being treated for severe pneumonia at our levy Mwanawasa isolation centres. This therefore brings the cumulative number of Covid related deaths to 176. Following the reclassification of the deaths in which the virus has been detected it has been determined that 59 are Covid deaths while 116 are Covid related deaths and one

death is yet to be classified.” And Dr Kabalo however said the ministry was worried about the poor adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures as the infection rate has increased from 1.8 to 25 percent in one month. “We recognise that the pandemic continues to evolve at both international and local level. We now have established community transmission with increased geographical coverage and unfortunately this is occurring amidst low compliance to public health measures, such as physical distancing masking up and hand hygiene,” said Dr Kabalo. “The overall positivity rate of the specimen that we receive on a daily basis in our COVID-19 testing laboratories has risen from 1.8 percent to over 25 percent in a month. In addition, among the positive cases, the portion representing severe disease has also increased significantly. We will be launching the new national strategy to reduce COVID-19 infections in Zambia and this strategy will provide the guidance on the key interventions that the community must focus on in the current phase of the ‘epidemic’(sic) in this country, Zambia.”

By Natasha Sakala
THE Auditor General has revealed that Western Water and Sewerage Company failed to account for K1,403,820 revenue that was collected in five districts.
And the Auditor General also revealed that the utility owed the Zambia Revenue Authority and

ACC nabs former Senanga magistrate

By Diggers Reporter
The Anti-Corruption Commission in Mongu has arrested former Senanga Subordinate Court Magistrate Chama Mutambalilo for corrupt practices involving K1,200.
According to a statement issued by ACC public relations manager Timothy Moono, Wednesday, Chama Mutambalilo, 50, of Lusaka’s Kamwala South was charged with one count of Obtaining Money by False Pretences contrary to Section 309 of the Penal Code CAP 87 of the Laws of Zambia.
“Particulars of the offence being that the accused on dates unknown but between 1st October 2016 and 31st July 2016 whilst working as a Magistrate at Senanga Subordinate Court in Senanga District of the Western Province of the Republic of Zambia did by false pretences obtain ZMK1,200.00 (One thousand two hundred kwacha) from known persons purporting that the said money was required as logistical support for him to undertake a Court scene visit when in fact not. He has since been released on Bond and will appear in court soon,” stated Moono.

Western Water failed to account for K1.4m revenue from 5 districts

Workers Compensation Fund Control Board K8,635,791 in unpaid statutory obligations and penalties to the National Pension Scheme Authority
According to the Auditor General’s report on the accounts of water and sanitation companies for the financial year ending December 31, 2018, the utility also failed to account for cash withdrawals worth K74,736 as they were not supported by expenditure details.
“Unaccounted for cash withdrawals, an examination of payment vouchers and bank statements revealed that cash withdrawals in amounts totalling K74,736 were not accounted for in that they were not supported by expenditure details. In this regard, the purposes for which the funds were drawn were unknown. In addition, amounts totalling K14,035 were collected by an engineer on behalf of three (3) officers from the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, whose details were not indicated on the attendance list or claim forms. As at 31st December 2019, the money had not been recovered from the officer,” the report read.
“Unaccounted for Revenue Financial Regulation No. 129 (3) provides that the daily cash collections should be brought to account. However, amounts totalling K1,403,820 collected in Senanga, Sesheke, Kaoma, Kalabo and Mongu during the period from 2016 to 2018 were not accounted for in that the daily water sales collections were neither supported by deposit slips nor was cash found on hand. Further, amounts collected could not be traced on the respective bank statements which may result in misappropriation.”
The report also revealed that over K300,000 imprest was issued to 21 officers but had not been retired during the period under review.
“Imprest in amounts totalling

K328,697 issued to twenty-one (21) officers during the period under review had not been retired and no recoveries had been effected as at 31st December 2019. It was, therefore, not possible to ascertain whether the activities for which the imprest was issued were undertaken,” it read.
The report revealed that a further K74,146 meant for implementation of projects was misapplied in Kaoma.
“During the period under review, the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection released amounts totalling K2,936,502 as support towards implementation of projects to improve the delivery of water services in Mongu, Kaoma, and Kalabo districts. During the period from October to December 2017, amounts totalling K74,146 meant for the Kaoma emergency works were applied on procurement of twenty (20) cell phones for staff (K50,000) and a foreign trip (K24,146) by

the Managing Director, activities not related to the purpose of the project funds. Unaccounted for Project Materials-Kaoma; Materials costing K11,630 procured for the works were not fitted or utilised on the structures and no disposal details were availed for audit. Casing Pipes 8, K610 K4,880; Wire Fence Rolls 3 K450 K1,350; DN Flanges 12 K450 K5,400; total K11,630,” the report revealed.
The report revealed that five officers were paid double salaries in December 2017, salary was paid to an employee who had resigned for seven months in addition to the irregular salary increase for the finance manager without board approval.
“During the period under review, five (5) officers were paid salaries in amounts totalling K45,730 outside the payroll for the month of December 2017. However, it was observed that the officers were also paid salaries in the same month through

the payroll resulting in double payments. As at 31st December 2019, the money had not been recovered from the officers. Payment of Salaries to an Officer who resigned On 25th April 2018, an officer resigned from the company. However, the officer was not removed from the payroll and the company continued to pay the officer the salary for seven (7) months in amounts totalling to K69,346. As at 31st December 2019, the funds had not been recovered,” it read.
“The Company recruited a finance manager on a three year contract term. The monthly salary at the time of engagement was K10,962.50 per month. However, a review of the payroll revealed that the officer’s monthly salary had increased from K10,962.50 to K12,943.90. No Board approval for the increment was availed for audit. In this regard, the officer was irregularly paid amounts totalling K15,851.20 in excess of his salary for the period from 1 st

May to 31st December 2018. As at 31st December 2019, the amounts had not been recovered.”
During the period under review, the Company owed terminal benefits and other personal emoluments in amounts totalling K3,112,634 which were still outstanding as at 31st December 2019.
And the Auditor General revealed that the company was owing K8,635,791 in unpaid statutory obligations by end of December 2019.
“Failure to remit statutory obligations as at 31st December 2018, the Company was owing a total amount of K8,635,791 in statutory obligations to the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Worker’s Compensation Fund Control Board (WCFCB) and penalties to National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA). As at 31st December 2019, the funds had not been remitted to the respective institutions,” read the report.

Lungu insensitive to people’s well-being, if Covid escalates, blame him – Nkombo

By Julia Malunga
MAZABUKA Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says it is the highest level of irresponsibility for President Edgar Lungu to allow a multitude of PF cadres to witness the commissioning of an “outdated bridge”.
On Tuesday, President Lungu’s Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe said it was impossible to stop people from seeing the Head of State amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
But Nkombo said that President Lungu was on the campaign trail and did not care about the well-being of citizens, as evidenced by the

huge multitude of PF cadres who witnessed the commissioning of the Makeni overpass, Monday.
“PF are behaving like they are in a one-party State where they disregard their own laws that they make. The Statutory Instrument or the Executive order to do with COVID-19 was signed by Honourable Dr Chitalu Chilufya (Health Minister) and was agreed by the entire Cabinet. They should have said: ‘this is the SI for the opposition only and not for the country.’ Parliament closed because of COVID-19 related deaths of not only staff members, but also members of parliament and we had to shut down abruptly because of that. President Lungu was not alone

down there, he was with his Cabinet. Obviously, we did test for COVID and a few of us were found to be okay and others were found to be positive so Parliament itself was a breeding ground for COVID-19, which means it does not have a selection mechanism where it says: ‘these are PF, these are opposition,’” Nkombo said.
“The act of President Lungu allowing that situation whatever Mr (Isaac) Chipampe said was an act of highest level of irresponsibility coming from a Head of State. People are dying! President Lungu and his entire Cabinet are very insensitive to people’s well-being. If we start recording a high rise [of COVID-19 cases] in Lusaka,

President Lungu and his team must take the blame. It is clear that President Lungu is on a campaign trail for now that is all that matters.”
And Nkombo wondered why some stakeholders celebrated the commissioning of an “outdated overpass.”
“Those people did not walk on their own; there were buses from Chawama, from Kanyama, from all over to launch an old fashioned, outdated bridge! A concrete jungle nothing to be proud about! Today, bridges are made with pillars. Go and see the Nelson Mandela bridge; go into Rwanda and see the bridges that have interconnections. Now here we are celebrating failure! And don’t forget that, that old fashioned bridge from the 19th century was not one that you would call hard work of PF... they borrowed money from the Indian government. And those people who were dancing ‘dununa reverse’ they don’t even know they are suffering because that money was not in the budget . Almost 50 per cent is going to loan repayment and people are dancing,” said Nkombo.

On Tuesday, Chipampe defended the Head of State’s movement to the showpiece event amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, arguing that President Lungu was serious about the fight against the deadly virus.
“The President is serious about COVID-19. The President was invited to that function and it was a public function as you know. So it was almost impossible to stop people from coming to see the President, they wanted to see him. It was a public function, it was not in Nakatindi Hall or in some hotel it was outside. So how are you going to stop people from coming to that function? The President was invited so if you want details about the organisations ask the Ministry of Local government that was their function. You can’t expect the President to stop people from coming to that function,” said Chipampe.

ZPPA urges suppliers to embrace e-GP to maintain supply chains amid COVID-19

By Diggers Reporter
PROCUREMENT entities must embrace the newly-launched Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system to easily circumvent the challenges of procuring supplies or services brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, says the ZPPA.
And the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) says a total of 29,964 registered suppliers have so far been registered to the e-GP system during the second quarter ending June 30, 2020, up from 28,453 entities registered in the previous quarter.
Speaking during a media briefing presenting the 2020 second quarter highlights, ZPPA Director-General Christopher Chichoni announced that the e-GP system had so far proved to provide an alternative for procurement entities that were struggling to secure a steady inflow of urgent supplies amid the Coronavirus pandemic, which had devastated global supply chains because the system is paperless, among other innovative features.
Chichoni, therefore, urged procurement entities to embrace the digital system as a solution to circumvent the challenge of maintaining key supply chains.
In a bid to establish a transparent and competitive procurement system, ZPPA has been rolling out the e-GP system, which has resulted in better efficiency, more accountability and integrity in the

management of public resources.
“Many procuring entities are procuring new and potentially unfamiliar supplies or services on an urgent basis, while at the same time seeking to maintain their key supply chains. Secondly, for procuring entities using the traditional manual procurement system, receipt of bids, especially from foreign bidders, has posed a challenge due to travel restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some foreign bidders are finding it difficult to submit their bids on time, while others are unable to submit their bids. Lastly, due to the prescribed COVID 19 health guidelines on restriction of public gatherings, procuring entities are finding it difficult to allow interested parties to attend the bid opening ceremony. The solution to the foregoing lies in all Pes (procuring entities) embracing e-GP, which is contactless and paperless, among others,” Chichoni said.
“Other options procuring entities can consider when meeting the demands of the COVID-19 crisis include: running contracts, such as framework agreements and extending existing contracts in order to meet increased demand. Variations to an existing contract are permitted under Section 32 of the Public Procurement Act, provided that the increase in demand was unforeseen. It would be prudent for procuring entities to limit any contract modifications to what is strictly necessary in order to deal with the present crisis in accordance with Regulation 39 (5) of the

Public Procurement Regulations.”
He disclosed that the Public Procurement Act, which is currently being reviewed for possible amendment, will target to include a provision to allow for mandatory use of the e-GP system.
“The Public Procurement Act No 12 of 2008 is being amended to provide for a more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable public procurement system. In addition, the amendment is necessary to address issues that are not provided for in the existing legislation, such as mandatory use of the e-GP system, assignment of procurement contracts, increased participation of citizens in the economy and benchmarked prices for commonly used items, among others. The inclusion of provisions on use of the e-GP system in the Public Procurement Bill will help increase citizen participation in the procurement process,” he said.
And Chichoni announced that a total of 29,964 registered suppliers had so far been registered to the e-GP system during the second quarter ending June 30, up from 28,453 entities registered in the previous quarter.
“During the quarter under review, 208 procuring entities were added to the e-GP system, 63 procuring entities were added for full usage while 145 procuring entities were added for Annual Procurement Plan uploads and other notifications. 1,511 suppliers were registered on the e-GP system bringing the total number of registered suppliers on the system to

29,964. This marks an increase from the 28,453 who were registered on the e-GP System in quarter one. In quarter two, a total of 183 suppliers were trained in online bid submission, 20 suppliers were trained virtually in Chipata and Kazungula, while 163 suppliers were trained in person,” said Chichoni.
“During the quarter under review, 160 tenders were processed through the e-GP system using various procurement methods. Exceptional users in quarter two were Zambia Telecommunications Company, ZPPA, National Pensions Scheme Authority, Indeni Refinery, Bank of Zambia, Zambia National Building Society, Zambia Information Communication Technology Authority, Zambia Qualifications Authority, Rural Electrification Authority, Provincial Administration Muchinga Province, Electoral Commission of Zambia, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of General Education, Workers Compensation Fund Control Board and the Zambia Revenue Authority.”
The 2030 Agenda embraces three dimensions of sustainable-economic, social and environmental development.
It has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that build on the progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
The importance of public procurement is highlighted by target 12.7, which focuses on the promotion of responsible consumption and production.

THE ADMISSIBILITY OF DERIVATIVE EVIDENCE IN ZAMBIA IN LIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS AND THE NEED TO DISCARD LISWANISO VERSUS THE PEOPLE (1976) ZR 272 (SC) PART ONE

JOSEPH CHIRWA

INTRODUCTION

ZAMBIA'S judicial system is one of the most traditional systems in the world. As a result of this, the judicial system holds the doctrine of precedent in high esteem. The sanctity of the doctrine entails that courts stick to precedent even if their previous decisions are erroneous or have been so to say overtaken by events. The Supreme Court of Zambia has in a plethora of authorities cautioned against departure from previous decisions even when they are wrong and manifestly out of time. In the case of Match Corporation Limited v Development Bank of Zambia and The Attorney-General:

The principle of stare decisis requires that a court should abide by its ratio decidendi in past cases. Put simplistically in order to have certainty in the law decisions of courts should be consistent and should not be so readily changeable as to make it at any given time what the law is on a given issue. In order to uphold this principle therefore past decisions should not be exploded for the sole reason that they are wrong. Courts should stand by their decisions even if they are erroneous unless there be a sufficiently strong reason requiring that such decisions should be overruled. [Emphasis supplied]

The premise of this thesis is on the last part of the holding by the Court where it said that precedent may be dispensed of where there “be a sufficiently strong reason requiring that such decisions should be overruled.” The question is: can the changing times and the putting of human rights at the helm of adjudication in the Constitution of Zambia amount to “a sufficiently strong reason” requiring decisions such as the one under discussion to be overruled?

FACTS, THE FLAWED RATIO DECIDENDI AND THE TRAVESTY OF THE LISWANISO HOLDING

A. The Facts

The applicant, an Assistant Inspector of Police, was convicted of official corruption, the allegation being that he corruptly received a sum of K80 in cash as consideration for the release of an impounded motor car belonging to the complainant. The evidence on which the applicant was convicted was obtained by means of a trap; the handing over of the currency notes in question by the complainant was pre-arranged with the police, and they were recovered from the complainant's house during a search conducted pursuant to a search warrant. It was common cause that at the time the police officer in question applied for the search warrant to be issued he swore that the money in question was in the applicant's house when in fact it was in that officer's possession. It was argued on behalf of the applicant that the search warrant was invalid and the resultant search was illegal, and that anything found as a result of such search was inadmissible in evidence.

B. The Holding

Silungwe, CJ in reading the judgement of the court opined that:
On the authorities, it is our considered view that (the rule of law relating to involuntary

confessions apart), evidence illegally obtained, e.g., as a result of an illegal search and seizure or as a result of an inadmissible confession is, if relevant, admissible on the ground that such evidence is a fact (i.e. true) regardless of whether or not it violates a provision of the Constitution (or some other law). In our view the evidence of search and seizure of the currency in the case now under consideration, although based upon an irregular search warrant, was rightly admitted by the trial court because that evidence was a relevant fact. [Emphasis supplied]

The Supreme Court went further, rather shooting itself in the foot, to state that:
But we wish to make it abundantly clear that any illegal or irregular invasions by the police or anyone else are not to be condoned and anyone guilty of such an invasion may be visited by criminal or civil sanctions. It seems to us good law that an involuntary confession should as a general rule be excluded because of the danger that it might be untrue but that the evidence of anything obtained as a result of an illegal act should be admissible because it is a relevant fact and therefore trustworthy. It would be difficult to appreciate how a court could consciously close its eyes to a relevant fact that has been presented before it. [Emphasis supplied]

C. The Travesty of The Liswaniso Holding

In showing the travesty in the Liswaniso case, we shall first start addressing the underlined statements by the Supreme Court in their holding regurgitated above. Firstly, it seems that the Court legalized derivative or tainted evidence when it stated that such evidence may be used “regardless of whether or not it violates a provision of the Constitution (or some other law).” What this means is that the Court prioritized “relevance” at the expense of “constitutionality” and “legality”. According to the Court, it does not matter whether law enforcement agencies trample on our rights by conducting illegal searches and seizures contrary to both the Constitution and other laws provided that the evidence was relevant. The supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law seemed to be sacrificed here at the altar of the highest court of the land.

Secondly, the Court seemed to have exhibited a contradictory conscious test when it stated that “it would be difficult to appreciate how a court could consciously close its eyes to a relevant fact that has been presented before it.” In the same breath, the Court was quick to disregard the constitution but developed a conscious of not overlooking tainted evidence. Does this mean that when it came to validation of the abrogation of our constitution the court forget that it had a conscious and a duty to defend and protect the principles and values of the supreme law of the land but could not do so when faced to decide whether to uphold the constitution or validate an illegal and unconstitutional conduct? The answer, unfortunately, seems to be that the Court does not care about the constitution but the relevance of evidence before it.

Coming to another issue, it is not in dispute that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and all laws must conform to it or be declared null and void. In the same vein, an act or omission, such as illegal search and seizure, that contravenes the Constitution is illegal. It thus follows that since illegal search and seizure amount to a violation of a protected and guaranteed right under Article 17 of the Constitution, then such acts must be declared illegal hence cannot be validated by rules of evidence which are subordinate to the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. It follows that the holding to put rules of evidence above a constitutional provision was bad and makes this law bad law.

Lastly, it must be noted that it is trite law in Zambia that common law may only be resorted to in the event that our own laws are inadequate on the matter so much that there is a lacuna or gap in the law read in *pari materia*. In the celebrated case of *The People v Edward Jack Shamwana and 12 Others* it was held that common law may not be resorted to in the event of a gap in the existing domestic legislation which was not the case at the moment of the Liswaniso case as we had Article 19 of the then Constitution which had similar wording as Article 17 of the 1996 Amendment.

In the Liswaniso case, the Court struggled to balance the contradictory holdings between the British and American jurisprudence on the subject matter. For avoidance of doubt, the American jurisdiction, which has a written constitution like ours, holds derivative and tainted evidence as illegal and unconstitutional and consequently inadmissible.

In the American case of *Mapp v Ohio* the Court fortified this stance by holding that all illegally obtained evidence infringed the Fourth Amendment in the United States Constitution that outlawed illegal entry, search and seizure. The American courts have been consistent in this manner and so has the British system which seems to be the direct opposite of the American stance on derivative evidence. The British case of *Kuruma (Son of Kaniu) v R* shows the importance of the obtaining of search warrants to avoid illegal entry, search and seizure. However, the British system seems to have evolved around the holding in *R v Doyle* in which a Canadian Court (which was a British Colony) held that:

...evidence is admissible so long as the fact so wrongly discovered is a fact – apart from the manner it was discovered – admissible against the party.

The Zambian supreme court, in analyzing these cases, noted that:

There are conflicting authorities in common law on the subject of evidence illegally obtained (other than involuntary confessions). In Commonwealth countries there is seemingly no uniform rule on the subject.

After this finding of fact, the Court should have adopted a Zambian approach to the rule guided by constitutional principles rather than adopting a position which is not largely adopted in the common law jurisdiction at the expense of constitutional safeguards.

Continues tomorrow



The National Democratic Congress Party’s NATIONAL SECUTITY REFORMS

6.0 POLICE SERVICE AND PRISON REFORMS

THE obligation of any government is to guarantee justice, safety and security of its citizenry. There is inadequate resources being allocated towards policing and maintenance of law and order; there is over centralization of police functions and the effectiveness of the police has fallen; our borders are extremely porous under the immigration department; there is a lack of proper training of security wing personnel especially the police service; law enforcement agencies are riddled with political interference which surmount to obstruction of justice. Our prison system is ineffective, coupled with overcrowding of prisoners

- On policing, we shall upgrade the training system for law enforcement agencies, with a special focus and attention on investigative skills and forensics,
- At district level, we shall ensure that there is introduction of specialized units to deal with matters of forensic at every district and enhance information, technology and Communication (ICT) at every police station.
- We shall provide sufficient funds and policing equipment for effective, efficient and specialized policing. This shall enable the police to be more visible, accessible and significantly improve response time.
- We shall increase the number of policemen and ensure a developed, well equipped, qualified, and a highly motivated police service that are above partisan politics and obstruction of justice.
- We shall also improve on the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and build juvenile facilities in every province.
- With male sexual encounters

and high rate of HIV and AIDS infections in prisons, government shall endeavour to stop the scourge by improving health service provision to prisons and enhance community service as a form of correctional rehabilitation of prisoners.

- To save marriages and Reduce HIV/Aids in prisoners for inmates, government shall allow conjugal rights to inmates.
- As NDC, more alternative prisons for those convicted of minor offences and build more prisons and correctional facilities. We shall encourage sentencing of minor offences to community service rather than custodial sentences.
- Correctional services shall be provided with an enabling environment for inmates to be productive so as to contribute to feeding and maintenance of prison infrastructure to reduce the burden on tax payer.
- We shall lay more emphasis on teaching prisoners a trade or career which will benefit them in their post-prison life.
- We shall ensure that it is standard practice for every prisoner to earn a minimum wage from the works that they do while in prisons for safe passage to their homes.
- We shall ensure that when appointing the Inspector General of police there is professionalism.

6.2 IMMIGRATION SERVICE

We will ensure that we Overhaul immigration policies so as to;

- Strictly enforce understudy policy across all sectors for purposes of enhancing transfer of skills.
- Curtail corruption in giving work permits
- Enhance boarder security
- To protect local jobs.

6.3 NATIONAL DEFENCE REFORMS

Our service men in the defense forces were trained for times of wars with little emphasis on professionalism in respective fields. We believe the defense forces must have the ability to undertake, mega-constructions and engineering projects; such bridges, sky scrapers, roads, hospitals and similar undertakings. To enhance their capacity; As NDC, we shall undertake the following reforms;

- Enhance military colleges and upgrade them into universities to enhance professional qualifications among service men.
- Defense forces should be able to train their own engineers, IT experts, designers, builders, fabricators and other fields from mare cadet to highly educated, trained, and experienced doctors, professors and consultants in their various respective fields
- We will enhance educational and skills training within ranks so as to enable our service men enhance their skills in academics, skills, and technology so as to reduce outsourcing of goods and services within Zambia Air force (ZAF), Zambia Army, Zambia National Service (ZNS) and all government departments and Ministries.
- Introduction of professionalism will ensure that graduation from rank to rank will also be through acquisition of education and skills in every field.



By Diggers Reporter
The National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) has recommended that government should focus more on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to ameliorate the funding problem, among other remedial measures in the face of the negative impact of COVID-19.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of National Development Planning spokesperson Chibaula Silwamba, Tuesday, the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC), in its resolutions at the conclusion of the recently held virtual meeting, noted the challenges the country was facing and came up with various solutions.

“The Acting Chair of the NDCC, Minister of Finance, Dr. Bwalya Ngandu, MP, indicated that we are living in unprecedented times, with the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the country through health shocks, domestic economic restrictions and

NDCC recommends focus on PPPs to navigate economic woes

lockdowns, revenue losses, increased spending, reduced exports, capital flow reversals and lower commodity prices,” the NDCC recommended.

“Given the unfavourable short- to medium-term macroeconomic and fiscal outlook, Ministries, Provinces and Spending Agencies (MPSAs) are likely to face more funding challenges, especially across non-constitutional and statutory budgetary lines.”

The Committee noted that the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were consequently going to be affected, with funding to most programmes having drastically reduced.

“The Mid-term Review has recommended that government should focus more on Public Private Partnerships to ameliorate the funding problem. The Ministry of Finance to heighten the processes relating to the operationalization of the Public Private Partnerships as one of the financing modalities; All MPSAs to devise innovative ways of achieving more with less,” the NDCC recommended.

“As part of the effort to contribute to economic recovery and sustainable growth, the Ministries of Finance, National Development Planning and Commerce, Trade and Industry should work with the African Development Bank to identify areas which

can enhance private sector participation; while the government is implementing measures to improve the business environment, it is necessary for private sector to step up and take up a more active role in the economic affairs of the country.”

The NDCC further recommended that the private sector should be encouraged and supported to be more aggressive and take advantage of cheaper sources of financing which are offered or leveraged by multilateral institutions such as the African Development Bank, as opposed to more expensive private sources.

The NDCC noted that it was also undeniable that implementing all 7NDP priorities in 2021 under the

prevailing fiscal landscape was a huge challenge.

The Committee recalled its approval of the proposal by the Ministry of National Development Planning to rescope the Implementation Plan of the 7NDP to focus our attention on safeguarding key priorities to cushion the impact of slow growth and COVID-19 pandemic on the poorest and most vulnerable.

“The way forward is that the Ministry of National Development Planning, working with all Cluster Advisory Groups and MPSAs, should finalise the rescoping exercise through a consultative process in readiness for the 2021 Budget. The Ministry of Finance should provide Cluster Ceilings in earnest to assist the CAGs finalise the budget estimates for 2021,” the NDCC recommended.

On the COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia, the NDCC resolutions noted that the Ministry of Health had reported to the meeting the changes in the epidemiology of COVID-19 infections in the recent past, with increases in the number of positive cases, generalised outbreak with increased geographical spread, increased severity of illness among positive cases and increasing risk of dying.

The Committee noted, based on the report from the Ministry of Health, that Zambia was likely to have more COVID-19 cases and deaths on account of high levels of non-compliance to public health and social measures.

“Way forward is that the Ministry of Health in consultation with Ministries of Finance, and Transport and Communications, Commerce, Trade and Industry should heighten COVID-19

interventions by mobilising resources to support response, ramp up screening at all border points and designate specific places for cross-border tracks to park to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” the NDCC stated.

“All MPSAs should take it upon themselves to start distributing sensitization messages/materials on the impact of COVID 19 to support Ministry of Health.”

The Committee noted that the Government had received tremendous support from cooperating partners over the years, and more recently during tremendous economic challenges caused by external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

The Committee stated that government would continue to collaborate with the cooperating partners and civil society organizations in many areas, including in areas which they have traditionally supported and in emerging ones such as the COVID-19 response and climate change.

On 2021 electoral preparation, the NDCC noted that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) had committed to conduct voter registration up to November, which would be in the rainy season and that it would incorporate COVID-19 management content in the electoral process.

The Committee noted that this would include introduction of the Online Pre-Registration Service to reduce the interaction between the applicant and the registration officer.

“The Electoral Commission of Zambia should ensure that logistics are in place to reach the remotest parts of the country before the rainy season starts. ECZ should ensure all requisite materials are in the country in good time, in view of the widespread and global lockdowns and restrictions which have affected movements of goods and persons,” the NDCC recommended.

By Diggers Reporter
THE Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) says the establishment of Integrity Committees in both public and private institutions is key in promoting a culture of accountability, transparency and good governance in service delivery.

And Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Permanent Secretary Amos Malupenga says government is resolved to entrench a culture of honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability in the delivery of services to the people.

According to a statement from the ministry’s public relations office, ACC Director General Rosemary Nkonde Khuzwayo was speaking at the official launch of a training workshop for members of the Integrity Committee (IC) in the information ministry on Tuesday.

Integrity committees key to corruption prevention – ACC

Khuzwayo said Integrity Committees were key in mainstreaming a culture of corruption prevention in both public and private institutions.

She urged institutions to make them an integral part of their routine activities.

“ICs are critical in the prevention of corruption as they strengthen the processes and procedures in institutions in order to improve service delivery. Therefore, managements need to wholly embrace this programme and make it part of their institutions’ routine activities,” said Khuzwayo.

And launching the workshop, Malupenga said government recognised that, as a servant of the people, it was a mere custodian of public assets and resources.

He said as such, those entrusted with the responsibility of presiding over public affairs were expected to do so with the highest level of integrity.

Malupenga said this is why Government enacted the Anti-Corruption Act No.3 of 2012,

which, among other things, provides for the establishment of Integrity Committees in Government Ministries and other Spending Agencies for the purpose of promoting integrity among workers in the delivery of services to the people.

“It, therefore, gives me immense pleasure to officiate at this workshop aimed at orienting members of the Integrity Committee in their work. The inclusion of myself, Directors and other senior staff in the Ministry as participants in this workshop, is deliberate to ensure that all key players in the Ministry are on board for the smooth coordination and implementation of the Integrity Committee’s activities,” Malupenga said.

“From this training, I expect members of the IC to come up with a regular programme of sensitising members of staff on the need to uphold high moral and ethical standards in their work. Sensitisation should be a regular activity among staff in the Ministry in entrenching a culture of integrity, honesty

and responsibility in serving the public on whose behalf they hold those offices.”

He also reminded the media of their critical role in the promotion of the national values and principles such as integrity, honesty, hard work and patriotism which are a cornerstone for selfless service that puts national interest above self.

“I urge the media to prioritise these and other national values in their coverage,” Malupenga said.

He applauded the ACC for the importance it had placed on ICs as a vehicle for corruption prevention.

“The presence of the ACC Director General in this workshop attests to this fact,” said Malupenga.

“As I have stated already, the Integrity Committee is a Government programme for fostering a corrupt-free environment through pro-active, preventive and pre-emptive interventions that promote integrity for effective delivery of services to the people.”

DR PWENYE
2020 YOUR PROBLEMS HAVE COME TO AN END WITH DR PWENYE WITH 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
Bring back lost lovers, 20 minutes ENLARGMENT, financial help. Pay after results. 0974187500

B-BACK
RUB ON VIAGRA

NO COMPLAIN
0979- 310 300
Bronchial & Surface Spray Sanitizer
Email: herb.tan76@gmail.com Cell: 0979-310 300

Rabon Viagra organic




Price K95 Each
BOOKING FOR AUGUST 2020
Contacts Us:
Cell: +260 963 946368 / 0973 134216
Email: sales@farmselect.co.zm

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
Mansa
- 2- bedroomed flats (4) plus bedsitter for sale, wallfenced, gated 24/7 water, price negotiable. Buy 1/2/3 or all.
-For details: 0964-147257

KALUNDU/MARSHLANDS 6 BEDROOMED HOUSE FOR SALE @ K3.9 M/ K2.9M 3 BEDROOMED HOUSE MSC CHALALA K1.2M / K 600,000	3 BEDROOMED HOUSE CHILENJE SOUTH K 450,000/ K300,000= CALL /WATSUP 0977792163 / 0969748353 / 0950792604
---	--

COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR PENS
Fake currency detector pens which detect forged notes.
•Works on forged kwacha notes only.
•Good for shops bureaus, filling stations, lodges etc. Going cheap at only K100 each.Call 0972456831

BATHTUBS
Resurfacing service for old Bathtubs
Any colour
Call 0977 88 62 19
Lusaka , Ndola, Kitwe



Democratic elections with stifled media freedom are a sham

WE are now months away from the next general election. From experience, we can say that we are heading towards a time when media houses become political targets. During this period, some media houses are targeted with closure. Those that are too critical of government will be branded as agents of the opposition and their chances of survival post-election are minimal. Our politicians hate criticism and for that reason, they detest media houses that expose bad governance practices.

During this same period, other media houses will be targeted with bribes in order to compromise their editorial independence. This is true to both the ruling party and the opposition. Our politicians consider the media a stepping stone for political success. Those in government desire to buy editors and journalists in order to help them amplify their campaign activities, with a view to retaining power. Likewise, those in the opposition desire to win the support of media houses in their agenda for regime change, and they are willing to pay for that. When these two forces combine, the resulting quality of journalism in our media houses

becomes undesirable. It ceases to be a noble cause and becomes a business venture where the highest bidder reigns supreme.

But that is not how media houses should be perceived. Journalism is not and must not be for sale. Journalism is about advocating for good governance and accountability, and that cannot be done without fearlessly investigating and exposing the ills among leaders. If there is any media house in this world that is successful for pleasing leaders in that jurisdiction, that institution is not in the business of news reporting. It is nothing but a propaganda house sponsored by the beneficiaries of the praise songs it produces. This is why we say, news is that which someone wishes to suppress, anything else is public relations.

We understand

that the media is an inevitable campaign platform and political parties have an explicit right to provide the electorate information regarding their attributes, political agendas, and proposed plans using the media. Besides meeting directly with the voters, candidates and parties accomplish this task by way of campaigns through the media. But leaders who truly respect the principles of a democratic system do this without endeavouring to destroy the independence of the media.

We are concerned that the Patriotic Front government is not comfortable with the current media landscape, even though it is already heavily tilted towards their advantage. Despite several warnings, they have persisted to push for this statutory media regulation. We have

asked in the past without getting a comprehensive response on what it is that this Media Regulation Bill seeks to achieve. Like we stated in our opinion on Tuesday, the desire for regulating the media is inspired by political motives ahead of the 2021 general election. This destruction of our democratic system can be measured by the depth of tampering with media freedom.

The media is essential to democracy, and a democratic election is impossible without an independent press. A free and fair election is not only about the freedom to vote and the knowledge of how to cast a vote, but also about a participatory process where voters engage in public debate and the contenders are thoroughly scrutinised for the benefit of the electorate. People need to have adequate information about

parties, policies, candidates and the election process itself in order to make informed choices. Therefore, it is the role of a free press to be a watchdog of democratic elections. A democratic election with no media freedom, or stifled media freedom, is a sham.

We would like to argue that participants in a democratic election cannot be said to have equal access to the media when you put in place regulatory laws that target only the private media. It is sad enough that media houses that are funded by taxpayers have remained the mouthpiece of the party in power, and to suggest statutory measures that seek to weaken the autonomy of private media will do nothing less than create a state of tyranny. These statutory media regulatory measures that are being suggested by

the PF government will surely target critical journalists.

What is strange is that politicians who are in government want the media to praise the government, but when they leave power, they want the same media to become critical of the government. Meanwhile, the party in opposition wants journalists to be fearless and aggressive in exposing government leaders, but when the same party forms government, they want journalists to be "respectful when exercising their rights because press freedom is not absolute."

The Patriotic Front and its leaders hated public media when they were in opposition, they fought the MMD government when the Ronnie Shikapwasha-led Ministry of Information came up with media regulation reforms. The Patriotic Front rode on the platform of a very critical and independent media house called The Post. Today, since they are in power, they have not only burnt down the bridge they used to cross, but they also want to destroy the determination of all the other remaining media platforms. How shameless can one be?

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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

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

Crossword puzzle No 662

1		2		3		4		5
		6						
7	8				9	10		
			11		12			
13					14			
			15	16				
17		18				19		20
		21						
22						23		

“Your attitude will either make or break you, we cannot change fate and the tragedies that enter our lives but we can choose how we want them to change us.”

- Nikki Rowe

- Across

1. A hot drink
4. Unhappy
6. A shot from a tee
7. Persona
9. Female sheep
11. Household pest
13. Leader
14. Midway attraction
15. Watch covertly
17. A card game
19. Put dishes on the table
21. Sales spiel
22. Pecan or almond
23. Hankering

Down

1. Casual top
2. Much ____ About Nothing
3. Safari sight
4. Observe
5. Expire
8. Lime color
10. Cake serving
11. Advertisements
12. Attempt
16. Tap on the green
17. Vase
18. Elect
19. Bashful
20. Sunbathe

Crossword puzzle No 661

1	R	O	B	I	N		4	P	U	T
	U		L		E		A			O
6	B	E	E		7	A	R	R	O	W
			N		T					E
8	W	I	D	E		9	C	H	A	R
	A				11	B		E		
12	T	O	T	A	L		14	N	O	D
	E		U		O		C			E
16	R	A	T		17	W	H	E	E	L

Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: Media regulation Bill was drafted without research

Dear editor,

"True the PF is upto no good with this media bill. Look at how they have abused the IBA which does not include public broadcast stations. In South Africa all broadcast stations are regulated by one institution. One huge sign of a weak government is the desire to control everything. Pf today is very weak and therefore needs draconian laws to instill fear in people". - Lassie Kakuta

"Traditional Media has found itself in a precarious position. For instance Hard Copy Tabloids are headed for extinction so is Television. Radio is hanging by a thread thanks to its Interactive nature with Mobile Phone callers. Phone in programmes have become popular because to a large extent Listeners feel Part of the Discussions and are able to influence Programme Content. Unfortunately apart from Prime Tv the rest fall short of inclusion via Text Messages that are Heavily Censored by the Tv Station Managements. When it comes to False Information or Hate Speech. The ZNBC are the leaders in this as they try to impress the PF President. Media organisations are forced to make "Deals" with the government through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Those who are deemed truant like Prime Tv are CLOSED on trumped up charges. Or simply accused of supporting the opposition parties. Social Media is here to stay. The ownership of Mobile Phone Handsets is higher than that of Radios and Television sets. People have very little time to sit and either Watch or Listen to News as it was in the olden days. Those who will use Social Media intelligently will have access to many people resulting in INFLUENCING their Mindset as well. Why should I go and either be Soaked or Scotched in the sun to listen to a political message. Unless you have nothing else to do. In any case it is a Monologue". - Christopher Kalima

Kampyongo's request to Zambians to not judge Mabumba and not see leaders as angels

Editor,

"Why didn't he ask the President not to judge Mabumba?!" - Nkole Nicholas

"Yes, no one is an angel, however, leaders should be a notch higher than your average citizen, that's why they're there, to lead by example, not the do as I say, not what I do arrangement. Progress may only be attained with exemplary leadership, period!" - George Mwamba

"Please don't justify

stupid things Mr Kampyongo, what Mr Mabumba did was very shameful. And remember that leaders are role models in society, what message are you sending to the growing generation?!" - Lazarous Chishimba

"HH was not human for that traffic offence ba Kampyongo? Mayo ba Kabanshi was supposed to be an Angel? Chitotela na Chilufya

na Mabumba are proper humans? Iyo beans yenu ba Kampyongo is called selective justice!" - Lukonde Chama

No one is an angel but no one is above the law, and law must be applied fairly... If Mabumba was from the opposition or any other ordinary Zambian... it would have been a different story.. that's how messed up this country is!" - Marvin Juma

'Chiteme correct on PF performing miracles in last 9 years, absurd ones!'

Editor,

"Yah, sure, indeed. And what great miracles they've been! The absurd fire tenders, the over-priced ambulances, the Nigerian KAFUE-MAZABUKA road scandal for which you apologised, the abnormal costs of roads, your cadres raiding and stealing from the police, the gold theft at a police station...Mighty Miracles sir!" - Lastone Richard Tembo

"Yes! Because even stealing is a miracle, enriching yourselves is a miracle, not making opportunities for people to leave better lives is a miracle, buying Fuel at close to K20 is a miracle, buying 21 electricity units at k100 is a miracle, to name but a few. Dishonorable Chiteme think before you open your mouth!!!" - David Simbayi

"Yes! These are miracles... Fuel, from K7 to K17, dollar from K5 to K18 , mealie meal from K45 to K110, foreign debt from \$2.7bn to \$11.7bn, loadshedding from 2hour per week to 10hours everyday. Indeed these are miracles considering the PF promised the opposite of these things listed!" - Baldwin Michael

"Yes, they've performed miracles, I agree, one man who had only K800,000 in 2015 became a multi millionaire a year later with K24,000,000 in 2016, this is a miracle!" - Chola Mung'oma

"He is very correct. How can a heap of concrete cost 13 million dollars when it was on 85% subsidy from Indian government? It is possible in the miracle world!" - Mwenya Elias Phiri

"Yes, it's a miracle to amass so much personal wealth in such a short time. Academicians, economists and researchers have a very good case study right here..." - Larry Mbiri

"Indeed... Because putting the PF government in the Sahara desert before five years, there will be shortage of sand there. This is a miracle performing government!" - Andrea Mphande Snr



'Chipampe's statement on it being impossible to stop people from seeing Lungu shallow'

Editor,

"That's not the issue. The problem is not stopping people from seeing Lungu, but for Lungu to make sure he doesn't make himself available to be seen by people in a manner that compromises their health by exposing themselves to possible corona infection. Responsible Bally, who is even more popular has behaved more presidential and responsibly, to the extent of sacrificing campaigns in recent by elections which the same PF think they won because they are more popular. So that's an irrelevant, typical SHALLOW and SHAMEFUL statement meant to show as if

Lungu is so loved and popular, when actually NOT. Anyway, going he's definitely going. I'm sure those people want to see him for the LAST TIME". - Munacho Shimapengo

"Should have just issued a statement that the bridge is now open but there will be no ceremony due to Covid 19, by so doing even protect himself from Covid by staying away". - Mweemba Mubita

"Then if it is impossible to stop people from seeing Lungu then also let others

move freely and see whether it is also impossible to stop people from seeing HH". - Lee Nyanga

Leaders must lead by example. So sad. COVID 19 is real. Life is more important than votes and remaining in power". - Ndhlovu George

"People are suffering so they are following just get miracle money and miracle mealie meal from the president because he is dishing out to the people". - Bwalya Boniface Mubanga

#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 Julia Malunga
PATRIOTIC Front secretary general Davies Mwila says he does not expect the people of Kasama to tolerate the behaviour exhibited by the UPND in Monze District who booed President Edgar Lungu during a tour.

And Mwila says he wants to see party functionaries involved in the NRC issuance exercise so that PF can register as many voters as possible.

Speaking when he met party officials in Kasama, Wednesday, Mwila charged that the UPND was a stupid party.

“We are heading for the general elections and I expect active soldiers (party cadres) abali (who) are serious. Filya balechita ba UPND ku Monze (what UPND did in Monze) I don’t expect them to do it here. I am telling you as the chief executive of the party. Filya

We’ve taken the NRC issuance exercise as a party programme – Mwila

fyakutila balepena pena kulya (the misbehaviour depicted by the UPND) this is our stronghold! Bafwile baisa naba ichindika (They have to respect themselves when they come here); this is our stronghold. Ba UPND, I can tell you I don’t need to tell the camera to be [switched off] balintumpa ngamwabalekelesha! Ifi fine ndemweba efyo baba. Ngamwabalekelesha isuleni amenso. (The UPND are stupid when you let them go scot-free! What I am telling you is how they are. Open your eyes.) We want civility in politics,” Mwila said.

“The people of Lukashya will vote for us based on what we have done to them. Telubuli awe, fiko (We don’t get involved in fights. That is dirt). We are a peaceful party and no one should provoke us. That incident that happened in Monze, no one has stood up to condemn, even the NGOs have kept quiet. I have talked about the adoption process; I have put up an advert; it started running yesterday (Tuesday) it will run for about 10 days.”

Mwila said the ruling party had also started preparing their manifesto for the year 2021 to 2026, while the UPND were



Davies Mwila

merely propagating propaganda on social media.

“The opposition should come and point, but I want to talk to the people of Lukashya: with the PF, you are in safe hands. President Lungu doesn’t want to leave anyone behind when it comes to development. The developmental agenda that we have is very clear as PF through our manifesto from 2016 to 2021. And mind you, we have started preparing another manifesto for 2021 to 2026 efyo party yamano yaba (That is what a reasonable party does). You can leave them in social media; they can do their propaganda; they did a propaganda in Serenje that baletupepeka (that they were being chased) they lost the election,” Mwila argued.

He said that the UPND would only remain with Southern Province as their stronghold.

“In Western Province, that is where I am going; they have lost ground. But we have to encourage our people. Tulefwaya tukabashe

na Southern Province, chapwa [by] 10:00 election, naipwa. (We want to leave Southern Province for them. By 10:00 the elections will be over),” he said.

Mwila said that the UPND would be the one who would suffer because the 14 days’ petition period to challenge disputed presidential election results would be insufficient for them.

“They have been against Bill 10 and I want to tell them in 2016 when they petitioned, the current Constitution said: ‘the matter should be disposed off within 14 days.’ 14 days tabachitile nangu chimo paka ba court baisa chita rule chapwa baposa nomulandu. (When the 14-day period of petition came up in the last election, the UPND did not do anything in the scheduled time and the court disposed off the case). In this Bill 10, we have increased the number of days from 14 to 30 days; who is going to suffer? Because we are going to defeat them next year when they run to court, they will find the 14 days. They think they are

clever? We are ready to win the 2021 elections because of what we have done to the people of Zambia,” Mwila added.

And speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the Northern Province Minister Lazarous Chungu, Mwila explained that he was touring the District to prepare for the upcoming Lukashya by-election.

“We are here to prepare ourselves for the upcoming by-elections. We lost our colleague honorable Munkonge, but pafwa abantu pashala abantu (when a person dies, he leaves people behind). So, time has come, now, for us to make a replacement and we have to prepare ourselves as a party. I hope we are ready for this by-election. This is our stronghold and we have taken this election very seriously and I hope that all the soldiers on the ground, our cadres, are ready for the party. We have to prepare the ground for the Head of State and I am told that the period for campaigning will be short so that is where we are,” said Mwila.

Meanwhile, Mwila said he wanted to see party functionaries involved in the NRC issuance exercise.

“We also want to check on the NRCs. As a party, we have taken it as a party programme. We want to involve all the parry functionaries; we need to get the numbers. Once people are given NRCs, we expect to have a higher number of voters. And the voter registration, we expect it in October so we have 40 days and we will have time to visit one or two areas to check on the progress whether our people are going there. So, that is what we have come for.”

Earlier, Mwila donated various items towards the fight against COVID-19 to St John’s Cathedral in Kasama Archdiocese and Chilonga Mission Hospital in Mpika.

Gold price rises above \$2,000 for first time



GOLD has topped \$2,000 (£1,527) an ounce for the first time as traders look for havens amid the pandemic.

Investors have moved cash into the precious metal as Covid-19 cases rise in the US and more money is pumped into the global economy.

The record high gold price has also been driven by concerns over tensions between Washington and Beijing.

Prices of other precious metals, including silver, have also risen sharply since the start of this year.

The price of gold has increased by more than 30% this year as coronavirus cases continue to rise in America, causing dozens of states to halt or reverse their plans to reopen.

The rapid rise in cases, which has dented hopes of a swift US economic recovery, has also helped to drive up the price of silver by around a third this year.

Among the reasons for those rises is investors preparing themselves for a possible pick-up in inflation due to the impact of trillions of dollars of stimulus from governments and central banks around the world.

In Washington, Trump administration negotiators have said that they will work “around the clock” with Democrats as they attempt to strike a deal on more economic relief measures by the end of the week.

According to Bank of America, governments around the world have already announced approximately \$20tn worth of stimulus to combat the economic impact of the pandemic.

Some investors see the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, along with ongoing tensions between the US and China, continuing to push up the price of gold.

Market strategist Margaret Yang says she sees potential for bullion to continue rising in the coming weeks and months: “The mid-to-long-term prospect of gold and other precious metals remains bullish against the backdrop of low interest rate environment and fiscal and monetary stimulus.”

Peter McGuire from XM.com said he sees gold reaching “\$2,200 by Christmas” with silver, platinum and palladium also set to see strong gains.*BBC*

SADC displeased with UN move to reconfigure Force Intervention Brigade

By Natasha Sakala

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ Troika Summit plus Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries (FIB – TCCs) and the DRC have expressed concern over the unilateral decision by the United Nations to reconfigure the Force Intervention Brigade contrary to SADC position.

According to a communique issued at the State House in Zimbabwe, Wednesday, the Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC, of which President Edgar Lungu is the outgoing chairperson, called upon the United Nations Secretary General to convene a consultative meeting with SADC to engage on the SADC regarding the reconfiguration of the FIB.

“The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC noted the strategic review of the United

Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) that was conducted in October 2019, and the subsequent adoption of Resolution 2502 of December 2019 that renewed the MONUSCO mandate for the period of one year. To this effect, Organ Troika Summit Plus meeting commended the Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries for their tremendous commitment, and continued deployment of their troops in fighting the negative forces in DRC. The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC, expressed gratitude to the United Nations for the continued support to the SADC Region and the DRC, while noting with concern the unilateral decision by the United Nations to reconfigure the Force Intervention Brigade contrary to SADC position,” read the

communique.

“The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC reiterated SADC position as was submitted to the UN Secretary General which, among others, appealed that the Force Intervention Brigade should not be tampered with. The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB– TCCs and the DRC welcomed the position of Government of the DRC that it fully supports the SADC position regarding the reconfiguration of the FIB. The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC called upon the United Nations Secretary General to convene a consultative meeting with SADC to engage on the SADC regarding the reconfiguration of the FIB. The Organ Troika Summit plus FIB – TCCs and the DRC commended H.E President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the Chairperson of SADC Organ

on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation for his outstanding leadership and for a fruitful Summit.”

The virtual meeting which was officially opened by President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation was attended by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu; President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, of Botswana and in-coming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Malawi’s President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera; President Matamela Cyril Ramaphos of South Africa, President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli of Tanzania and the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax.

Beirut officials under house arrest after blast

did not happen”.

“We leave it to the experts to determine the reasons,” he said.

Ammonium nitrate is used as a fertiliser in agriculture and as an explosive.

Opening an emergency cabinet meeting on Wednesday, President Aoun said: “No words

can describe the horror that has hit Beirut last night, turning it into a disaster-stricken city”.

What triggered the explosion?

The ammonium nitrate had reportedly been in a warehouse in Beirut port for six years after it was unloaded from a ship impounded in 2013.

The head of Beirut port and the head of the customs authority both told local media that they had written to the judiciary several times asking that the chemical be exported or sold on to ensure port safety.

Port General Manager Hassan Koraytem told OTV that they had been aware that the material was dangerous when a court first ordered it stored in the warehouse, “but not to this degree”.

Lebanon’s Supreme Defence Council has vowed that those found responsible will face the “maximum punishment” possible.

Economy Minister Raoul Nehme told the BBC: “I think it is incompetence and really bad management and there are a lot of responsibilities from management and probably previous governments. We do not intend after such an explosion to stay silent on who is responsible for what.”*BBC*

By Diggers Reporter
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has given the Nkana Midlands Bureau US\$32,000 following appeals for help.

President Lungu, who is also Patron of the Football Association of Zambia, made available the funds to be used to off-set the entire outstanding dues owed by Nkana Football Club to Walter Bwalya, a former player, and for investment in sustainability programmes for the Nkana Midlands Bureau.

Presenting the funds through his aides Wednesday, President Lungu advised the sports community to install systems that will guarantee transparent, accountable, and efficient utilisation of resources so that

Nkana Midlands Bureau in \$32,000 boost from Lungu

there is sustainability in sports management and development in the country.

The funds were received by Nkana Midlands Bureau Patron Chileshe Kandeta, Secretary Dalitso Banda, and Nkana Midlands Treasury Representative Priscilla Katongo Witika.

“As Nkana supporters, we are very, very grateful to the Republican President for coming to the rescue of Zambia’s biggest and most popular sports team, Nkana Football Club. Twatotela

bakateka wesu, Lesa amipaale,” said Kandeta.

“President Lungu has been an ardent supporter of sports in Zambia and his parental intervention to allow the FAZ League to resume on 01 July 2020, attests to that. Speaking on behalf of Nkana supporters, today is yet another day of great appreciation to the President by Nkana’s millions of followers and the sports fraternity at large.

Our prayer and hope is to crown this good news

by winning the league tomorrow.”

Around \$19,300 will be paid to Walter’s lawyers, Wilson and Cornhill Advocates for onward

disbursement to the player as per agreement entered between the club and the law firm.

“We hereby wish His Excellency The Republican

President, good health and success in all his assignments to make Zambia a better place for all of us,” Kandeta said in a statement.

‘I wanted to stay’ ... new Man City winger Torres angry at Valencia hierarchy, reveals he was forced out

MANCHESTER City winger Ferran Torres has explained how he spoke to Pep Guardiola prior to signing for the Premier League club, insisting that his words helped convince him that he was making the right decision.

Guardiola’s side completed the signing of the Spaniard on Tuesday for a £21 million (\$27m) fee, with Torres being brought in following Leroy Sané’s exit to Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich.

The 21-year-old has explained how everything happened late regarding City’s interest, and that he had enquiries from other “very big clubs” before ultimately deciding to head to England.

He told Marca: “Everything was done late with City. The first contact was with Valencia and they said that they wanted to speak with us. Then we reached an agreement before they negotiated with Valencia.

“I was very nervous that day. My agent was in Manchester with the club and he called me to tell me they had an agreement and



I’d play for City. It’s a club who want to win everything so I think I’ll improve a lot here. Very big teams called but I have to keep that to myself.”

On his talks with Guardiola, he added “He congratulated me and gave me peace of mind. It calmed me down and made me want to sign even more.

“[I want] to work, adapt quickly and learn. The more competition you have, the better you become. You always have to be at your best because otherwise you’ll be on the bench.

“On the one hand, I’m

excited and happy, but at the same time I’m sad because I’m leaving my club. Valencia game me everything and trained me since I was seven. I’ve had hard times there and that’s why I ended up leaving, but I want to emphasise that I’m very grateful to Valencia and will always support them.”

Indeed, Torres, who came through Valencia’s academy system and made his first-team debut back in 2017, was left frustrated at his acrimonious exit from the Liga club, revealing that he had wanted to stay put.

GOAL.COM

MAZHANDU COURIER SERVICES

Send and receive your goods with us at very low prices. We guarantee you good care and total security of your goods

QUICK. RELIABLE. AFFORDABLE

For Details:
+260 978 730 192
+260 962 212 157 / 977 935 580

Eden curtains roll down as league reaches climax

By Tim Zulu
A POET once said whatever goes up must come down and that expression comes true this Thursday (today) as Eden championship is set for the photo drama ending.
While Indeni, Kitwe United, Prisons Leopards, Young Green Eagles and Gomes, who have thin chances are poised to take home the top prize, drama is expected to unfold at the near-end drop zone as teams will be out to cling to their dear life or be cut off in the Eden league.

Mumbwa Medics, Zesco Malaiti Rangers, Mpulungu Harbour and lucky Zesco Shockers will need to go out of their way to give it a seesaw balance on the knife edge or left to gasp for final air outside the Eden National league fold.
In Ndola, if foregoing the rule of Club Licencing of featuring one side per club does not apply, then Young Green Eagles with 53 points may cream it all and join their sister club (Green Eagles) in the top tier if Gomes gives up the race from the Levy Mwanawasa dressing room.
Across the Kafubu river in Ndeke township, second placed Indeni with 52 points is said to have its crude oil reach final

heating temperatures and may take the crown too if Zesco Malaiti Rangers, who need everything in this game to guarantee their stay in the Eden fold, fail to keep their turbines running at full throttle.
In Kabwe at Godfrey Chitalu stadium, ask both the host Prison Leopards camp, now on top with 53 points, or the visitors Kitwe United on 50 points just how much they want to go down in the annals of history as maiden champions of this National league that certainly gives you a recipe of ow nerve raking this game will pan out.
But question is; after close to mine months or so of traversing the

wide and far corners of this country, who will emerge champion in the inaugural 2019/20 Eden University National Division One league Season? A little patience from now will give us the answer.
On the other hand, those teams like Kafue Celtic, Police College, Nchanga Rangers, Chambishi, National Assembly and F. C Muza who are perched in safe Eden branches may use their final matches today to spoil the party of their opponents who are seriously in dire need of oxygen or let them give up their last breath.
And this is how their test looks like:

Kafue Celtic host Mumbwa Medics at OYDC, Police College face Sinazongwe United at Imboela stadium, Nchanga Rangers are in Lusaka at Woodlands stadium to get their final bite of relegated Zambeef.
Chambishi are in Mongu to test if Zesco Shockers still deserves a place in the Eden league or not.
At Queensmead Stadium, National Assembly may impose the final fish ban before the time unless visitors Mpulungu Harbour overlook the decree and F. C Muza have travelled to Kabwe to watch the final drills of Soldiers Chindwin Sentries.

NAPSA EXPECT SUPER LEAGUE CROWN

By Anthony Tapa

NAPSA Stars FC head coach Mohammed Fathi says he is happy with the performance of the club from the time he took over in 2018.

He says it has not been easy to survive relegation but teamwork had been key throughout the league.

Fathi is hopeful that his side will carry the day in tomorrow's

week 27 game against Forest Rangers FC.

He has urged the players to take the game seriously because

it had the potential to change their lives.

Fathi further said both the technical bench and the players

are not under pressure, but added that the fans will enjoy the game.

Napsa Stars are leading the

MTN/FAZ super league with 48 points while Forrest Rangers are on fourth position with 46 positions.

Tomorrow's games will mark the early closure of the league due to the high COVID-19 cases recorded among some clubs.

Absa, FAZ defer Absa Cup to 2021

By Goal Diggers! Reporter

ABSA Bank Zambia Plc and the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) have officially announced that the 2020 Absa Cup tournament that was scheduled to take off in March, this year, will resume next year at dates to be

announced following a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Confirming the development in a statement, Wednesday, Absa Bank Zambia head of marketing and corporate relations Mato Shimabale stated that the decision was arrived at

in consultation with FAZ following a rise in COVID-19 cases and health concerns.

"After taking into account the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have come to an amicable decision with the Football Association of Zambia to cancel the 2020

tournament. The cancellation based on the current health concerns and the decision has been made in the best interest of all stakeholders, particularly the players and team officials. As sponsors of the Absa Cup, we remain committed to sponsoring this

tournament in line with our obligation to be a 'Force for Good' in the communities we operate. We are fully committed in supporting the growth of Zambian football and the talent that we have among the youth in line with the Bank's purpose of bringing

possibilities to life," said Shimable.

"Our commitment to the game of football remains unwavering and we will explore the option of having an expanded tournament next year. I would like to sincerely thank our partners namely the Sports and Health Ministries, FAZ and SuperSport for their continued support and cooperation in working with the Bank during this sponsorship."

And FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala expressed despair at the abrupt cancellation, but stressed that health concerns took prominence over sport.

"While we are saddened that we have had to defer the tournament to next year owing to the prevailing health crisis in the country, we are happy that partners like Absa continue to commit to the development of Zambian football, particularly during these challenging and unprecedented times. While the cancellation of the tournament this year is disappointing to the football fans, there was, however, no other way under the prevailing COVID-19 crisis that prescribes strict guidelines to stage matches. We look forward to a spectacular tournament next year," said Kashala.

Absa is also the official African Banking Partner of the globally-renowned English Premier League that will be resuming next month.

MAGODI LODGE LTD




Visit Us Today

FM Travelers is also affiliated to MAGODI LODGE LIMITED that offers accommodation at affordable prices yet an excellent standard with professional staff. Our rooms range from as low as K200 to K600 inclusive of free Wi-Fi, swimming pool, air con and DSTV

To make a reservation contact us on +260977424351