



NAPSA LOSES LIBEL CLAIM

By Zondiwe Mbewe
LUSAKA High Court Judge Sharon Newa has dismissed a case in which the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) had sued ADD leader Charles Milupi and News Diggers Media Limited over a publication that allegedly accused it of corruption and mismanagement of members' funds.
Justice Newa said in her ruling that a corporate body cannot commit the offence of corruption, although its officers can and therefore, no cause of action had been revealed on which NAPSA could attach liability on Milupi and News Diggers.
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...as Court agrees with News Diggers that govt body can't sue for defamation

Zambia nears 10,000 mark in COVID cases

By Natasha Sakala
MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country has recorded 142 new COVID-19 cases and has named Southern Province as the new hotspot.
Speaking during the daily briefing, Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said Southern Province now had 18 cases, most of whom were truck drivers.
He said cumulatively, Zambia was now just a few cases to the 10,000 mark.
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ECZ sets Sept 17 for Lukashya, Mwanasabombwe by-elections

By Ulande Nkomesha
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia has set September 17, 2020 as polling

date for the Lukashya and Mwanasabombwe parliamentary by-elections.
And ECZ says there will be no public rallies to avert the spread of COVID-19, urging political parties to devise other campaign strategies.
In a statement, Tuesday, ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse also said 12 local government by-elections would also be held on the same date.
She stated that the commission had set August 27 as the date for filling in of nominations.
"The Electoral Commission of Zambia has set 17th September, 2020 as the date on which to hold Parliamentary by elections for Lukashya and Mwanasabombwe Constituency and 12 local government..."
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Zindaba Soko eyes Chipata Central seat
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Suspended Mayor of Lusaka City Miles Sampa yesterday delivered mealie meal to a church in Kalingalinga on foot

Kampyongo stops police from arresting Covid-19 offenders

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THE REASON WHY ZAMBIANS WILL VOTE FOR THE PF IN 2021

ZAMBIA goes to the polls in about 11 months and some days. In the context of being a democratic dispensation, the country has witnessed an aggressive campaign propaganda from the opposition, especially the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) which is desperate to take over government power, calling for the change of government and involving themselves in political machinations aimed at whatever cost. We understand desperation and frustration of the UPND because they have been trying to persuade Zambians to vote for Hakainde Hichilema, their leader who has been rejected five times concurrently because he lacks the leadership needed to take care of the country and promote the much needed good governance. Many Zambians will agree with me that because of being rejected over and over, the UPND and their leader Hakainde Hichilema and visibly bitter and frustrated. According to them, they cant see any tangible development or any positive changes that have been brought about by the PF government. It is for this reason that I will endeavour to highlight fundamental achievements of the PF in line with the party manifesto and as reflected in the 7th National Development Plan and the Vision 2030 so that many Zambians may understand where we are coming from and why the PF under the trusted leadership of President Edgar Lungu will bounce back to power in 2021. I will start by giving a brief background and the firm ideological foundation that was established by our hero and founding father of the Patriotic Front Late President Michael Chilufya Sata (MHSRIP) way back in 2001 and who later formed Government in 2011 after defeating the MMD after the general elections. The PF was formed on the basis of a pro-poor party that became a voice of the voiceless in the country. The late President Sata was loved by the majority poor Zambians because he was one of them. He knew what it meant to be poor and to be born and raised in the village. He was a peoples person and that is the more reason why when he finally formed government in 2011, he paid particular attention to rural development by building schools, clinics, hospitals and roads. Late President Michael Sata always used to say We are nothing without the people. I expect everyone in my government and the party to put the interests of the poor people first. It is this ideological perspective of doing things that has seen us through as a ruling party and delivering the much needed development to the people. In the aftermath of the unfortunate and untimely demise of President Sata, the baton was passed to President Edgar Chagwa Lungu to carry on with the national development agenda as prescribed by the

PF manifesto, the National Development Plan and the Vision 2030. These are the strategic documents put in place to steadily propel the countrys development agenda. When we talk about the PF manifesto, it is about the people. It is a key plan deliberately put up to improve the lives of Zambians. People must be free from hunger, poverty, suppressed disease burden and low mortality rate. The 7th National Development Plan like other development plans that preceded, builds on the achievements learnt during the implementation of the previous NDPs. The unique feature of the 7th National Development Plan is that it departs slightly from other NDPs from sectoral planning to an integrated, multi-sectoral development approach under the theme accelerating development efforts towards the vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind. The 7NDP is, therefore, a building block formulated to meet the goals contained in the visions 2030. When late President Sata took over government power in 2011 from the MMD, he embarked on the transformation agenda that that stirred massive investment and development across the country. Zambia became a huge construction site with infrastructure development taking place from across and in all corners of the country. After President Satas demise, President Edgar Lungu was handed over the baton to fulfil to protect late President Satas legacy by ensuring that over 650 clinics and over 30 district health hospitals were built. In terms of attending the needs of young people, the PF government, in line with the 7NDP is implementing various strategies aimed at enhancing skills training and human capital development among young people. In this regard, President Lungu has guided that technical and vocational training will continue receiving adequate funding to promote self-employment, particularly among the youth. This has enabled young people to fully and effectively participate in the economy. When it comes to accessing quality, equitable and inclusive education, the PF government has made significant progress in infrastructure development, teacher training, recruitment and deployment improvement; equity and inclusive education enhancement; youth and adult literacy expansion and improvement, and policy coordination, planning and information management improvement. Through the education and womens empowerment, the PF Government is currently supporting vulnerable women and girls. Over 15,082 girls aged between 14 and 18 to be retained in school. Women groups of over 12, 445 are being empowered with about K2,000 each and an additional 21,000 women in 31 districts are being supported. When you talk about road sector and the PF Governments desire to improve the road network

across the country, late President Michael Sata initiated a robust programme dubbed link Zambia 8,000 and After his demise, President Lungu demonstrated undoubted commitment to the fulfilment of this dream. Today, the country can boast of a better road network than ever before. The Link Zambia 8,000 project is an accelerated road construction programme aimed at transforming Zambia into a truly land-linked country in Southern Africa. The benefits accrued so far from this programme include job creation, reduction of road user costs on transit times and creation of economic growth poles and wealth in outlying areas of Zambia. Since inception in 2012, the link Zambia project together with the L400 has created 18,000 jobs in the road construction sector. Talking about the L 400 project, over 400 kilometres of road have been done in Lusaka, under the rehabilitation and upgrading programme. About US \$348 million was allocated to deal with the challenges faced in Lusaka such congestion of vehicles and motorised and non-motorised traffic conflicts. Alongside these robust programmes, there is another initiative called the Pave Zambia 2000 aimed at providing improved access to various social amenities in urban areas using the interlocking paving bring and cobblestone technology. More jobs have been created in this regard. I can go on and on highlighting immense successes recorded by the PF government sector by sector but one with for sure is that these successes are visible in the eyes of majority Zambians and are treasures of the hearts of the very citizenry. Do you then wonder why the PF has continued to enjoy massive support at grassroots level? Do you then wonder why the PF is winning by-elections even in places well-known as opposition dominated such as Western, Southern and North-western provinces? The answer is very simple; we have a Republican President in Edgar Chagwa Lungu who is very selfless and is for all Zambians regardless of political, cultural or tribal affiliation. President Lungu through his works has won the hearts of many. He has where to point when it comes to delivering development to the people. The opposition or indeed those that claim to be the largest opposition in the UPND and their leader Hakainde Hichilema have nothing to their name apart from political rhetoric. The above tabulated successes in terms of delivering the promised development to Zambians is the major reason why Zambians will vote for President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and the PF come 2021.



“we have a Republican President in Edgar Chagwa Lungu who is very selfless and is for all Zambians regardless of political, cultural or tribal affiliation”

High Court throws out NAPSA's suit against *Diggers*, Milupi

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA High Court Judge Sharon Newa has dismissed a case in which the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) had sued ADD leader Charles Milupi and News Diggers Media Limited over a publication that allegedly accused it of corruption and mismanagement of members' funds.

Justice Newa said in her ruling that a corporate body cannot commit the offence of corruption, although its officers can and therefore, no cause of action had been revealed on which NAPSA could attach liability on Milupi and News Diggers.

She therefore dismissed the action for want of a cause of action with costs to News Diggers, to be taxed in default of agreement.

In this matter, NAPSA had sued ADD president Charles Milupi and News Diggers Media Limited, seeking damages for libel and malicious falsehood over a publication that allegedly accused it of corruption and mismanagement of members' funds.

The said publication was published on June 23, last year and was headlined 'The NAPSA, AVIC deal stinks of corruption'.

But ruling on the application by News Diggers for an order to dismiss the action for not disclosing the cause of action and that NAPSA, being a public body was not entitled to sue for defamation on allegations of corruption, justice Newa stated that it was not in contention that NAPSA was a body corporate.

She stated while a corporation may sue for defamation, it cannot do so where the claim relates to corruption as body corporate cannot commit corruption, in line with the Anti-Corruption Act No 3 of 2012, as well as the authorities relied on.

Justice Newa further stated that even if the torts of defamation and malicious falsehood were separate torts with different elements that needed to be established to prove them, the fact that the claims relating to defamation and malicious falsehood in this matter were anchored on allegations of corruption by NAPSA, a body corporate, the action cannot be sustained.

"This is because a body corporate cannot commit the offence of corruption, although its officers can. That being the position, no cause of action has been revealed to which NAPSA can attach liability on the defendants. In line with Order 18/19/2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of England, 1999, which provides that if a statement of claim does not disclose a cause of action, an opportunity to amend may be given, unless there is reason to suppose that the case cannot be improved by amendment, and as the case cannot be improved by amendment, as a body corporate cannot commit corruption, the second ground of the application equally succeeds," she said.

Judge Newa therefore dismissed the case and awarded costs to News Diggers.

"The action is accordingly dismissed for want of a cause of action with costs to the second defendant, to be taxed in default of agreement," she ruled.

Judge Newa however, granted leave to appeal.

News Diggers had asked the court to dismiss the matter for not disclosing the cause of action, and further argued that NAPSA being a public body was not entitled to sue for defamation on allegations of corruption.

"The plaintiff being a public body and performing government functions is not entitled to bringing any action for defamation or malicious falsehood on allegations of corruption," it stated.

But NAPSA, through its senior procurement manager Justine Mwiinga, argued that like any other corporation, NAPSA may sue to protect its corporate image and reputation.

He stated that NAPSA was independent of government and performed all acts and decisions that any other company may by law

undertake or perform.

Mwiinga stated that as a demonstration that the company makes and operates independently, it joined several other corporate entities in assisting government in its efforts to contain the Covid-19 pandemic when, on March 23, 2020, it donated K1,000,000 to government as part of its

corporate social responsibility.

However, News Diggers, through its News Editor Mukosha Funga argued that the National Pension Scheme policy falls under the National Social Security Policy set by government through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

The media house insisted that

NAPSA could not sue for defamation because it was a government institution.

Funga submitted that the donation of K1,000,000 worth of supplies by NAPSA to the Ministry of Health to help in the mitigation and containment of COVID-19 did not make the authority independent of government.

She added that by way of example, the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) equally made a donation of K1,000,000 to the Ministry of Health and the same did not make ZRA independent of government.

"As regards the claim for malicious falsehoods, and particularly in Zambia, our submission is that the plaintiff may sue on false and malicious accusations relating to issues other than corruption. Corruption is statutorily defined in Zambia and the statute does not provide for commission of corruption by corporate and public bodies," stated News Diggers.

In June, 2019, News Diggers! reported that a NAPSA evaluation committee for the development of River View Park project in Lusaka recommended the awarding of a construction tender to AVIC at the "corrected bid sum of US \$25,707,782.26" against the contractor's offer to do the work at the bid sum of US \$21.6 million.

The committee stated that the extra US \$4 million, which was added to the bidding price, was meant to cater for contingencies and cost escalation as well as Value Added Tax (VAT).

The development triggered public anxiety, forcing ADD president Charles Milupi to demand answers from NAPSA, arguing that it was not for the evaluation committee to put in contingencies as contingencies were included by contractors in the bidding cost.

In their initial reaction, NAPSA, through its head of corporate affairs Cephas Sinyangwe said any aggrieved party questioning the awarding of the controversial tender to AVIC International for the construction of the Twin Palm River View Park should appeal using the laid down procedure.

ECZ denies violating constitutional provisions on voter registration

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has submitted to the Constitutional Court that it has not violated any provision of the Constitution by deciding to conduct voter registration for the 2021 elections for only 30 days.

It has argued that the registration of voters and prescription of the cut-off dates with respect to the registration of voters and the compilation of the register of voters was prescribed under the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016.

ECZ has, therefore, asked

the court to dismiss the petition by Chapter One Foundation with costs.

In this matter, Chapter One Foundation Limited has petitioned the Constitutional Court, seeking an order mandating the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to carry out continuous voter registration between elections.

It argued that ECZ had violated the Constitution by deciding to conduct voter registration for the 2021 elections over a period of 30 days only.

Chapter One Foundation

which cited ECZ and the Attorney General as respondents in the matter, further wants the court to make an order mandating the Attorney General to implement the mobile issuance of National Registration cards throughout the country.

In its petition, the civil society organisation argued that the government had breached the Constitution by implementing the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) in

a manner that contravenes the Constitution.

But in its answer to the petition, ECZ submitted that in the performance of its functions, it was guided by relevant electoral laws, including the Constitution of Zambia, the Electoral Process Act No.35 of 2016, the Electoral Commission of Zambia Act No.25 of 2016 and regulations promulgated under these laws.

It added that Article 229 (2)(c) of the Constitution (Amendment) Act No.2 of 2016 merely mandated it to register voters, however the process of registration thereof was prescribed under the Electoral Process Act.

And in an affidavit in support of its answer, ECZ Chief Electoral Officer Patrick Nshindano stated that the process of registration of voters was prescribed under the Electoral Process Act and not the Constitution.

"In the premises, ECZ prays that the petition herein be dismissed with costs," submitted ECZ.

Ex-LAZ president pledges rule of law agenda once elected in Lukashya

By Julia Malunga

FORMER Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president George Chisanga says it is exciting and emotional for him to be adopted by the ruling party to contest the forthcoming Lukashya by-election.

The Lukashya seat fell vacant following the death of Independent member of parliament Mwenya Munkonge.

In an interview, Tuesday, Chisanga said if elected, he would ensure that laws that were passed responded to the aspirations of the people.

"In this constituency, I wasn't adopted in 2011 because of the decision the party had made. They wanted the sitting member of parliament at that time. So I worked alongside the MP and we delivered that constituency. In 2016, the constituency itself wanted me to stand and they had come to the party and asked that I stand but because the party had already adopted the same candidate who was there, I wasn't given the adoption. And this one, as you are aware, has risen because of the passing on of the area honorable MP who you must know was a friend of mine, we grew up together. So I have been given a request by the constituency and I am responding to the constituency's overwhelming demand that I vie for this position," Chisanga said.

"Of course, an adoption is very exciting but you can't be excited when what you are doing is basically taking over from somebody who died in their line of duty. It is both emotional and exciting. It is exciting because it is the people's demands and emotional because you are taking over from somebody who had started working very well with the party, one of our brothers. So it is a mixed feeling kind of reaction."

And when asked about his plans for the constituency, he said he would provide leadership in developing the area.

"Ideally, it is to provide leadership for the development of the constituency and also to ensure that whatever laws are going to be passed, they are laws

that respond to the aspirations of the people. But you can't talk about individual plans when you are part of a group that runs the constituency. I will work with councilors, I will work with people on the structures, including the branches to see how we can revamp the constituency," said Chisanga.

UPND insists court should dismiss L/stone magistrate's 'undemocratic parties' petition

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UNITED Party for National Development (UPND) has insisted that the petition in which a Livingstone magistrate is seeking an order that the Registrar of Societies deregisters all political parties which have not practiced democracy within their parties through regular elections should be thrown out for lack of merit.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court has reserved its ruling to September 30, 2020 on the said application by UPND.

In this matter, Livingstone magistrate Benjamin Mwelwa has petitioned the Court seeking an order and declaration that any political party which was registered and in existence as of January 5, 2016 and which has not promoted and practiced democracy through regular, free and fair elections, within its political party, has breached article 60(2)(d) of the Constitution (Amendment) Act no. 2 of 2016 and therefore such a political party ceased to exist as a political party in Zambia on January 4, 2017.

He wants an order that the Registrar of Societies deregisters all political parties for having ceased to exist as political parties in Zambia on January 4, 2017 and since violated article 60(2)(d) of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act no.2 of 2016 and section 18(1) and (2) Act no.1 of 2016.

Mwelwa cited Attorney General, Likando Kalaluka and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) as the respondents in the matter.

The court joined Stephen Katuka in his capacity as UPND Secretary General, Elizabeth Chitika in her capacity as

MMD national secretary and Davies Mwila in his capacity as PF Secretary General as interested parties to the petition after they applied for joinder.

After being joined to the petition, UPND through its Secretary General, had asked the court to dismiss the petition for want of jurisdiction as it did not disclose any violation of the Constitution.

Katuka stated that magistrate Mwelwa's petition did not meet the requirements for a matter that should be brought before the Constitutional Court.

He argued that the petition was founded on an act of Parliament, adding that the petition was supposed to be taken before the High Court.

Magistrate Mwelwa however, opposed Katuka's summons to have his petition dismissed, arguing that his petition met all the requirements for the actions to be brought before the Constitutional Court.

And when the matter came up for hearing before Constitutional Court judges, Annie Sitali, Enock Mulembe and professor Margaret Munalula, Tuesday, a lawyer representing UPND, Mulambo Haimbe insisted that the petition was anchored on an Act of Parliament rather than the Constitution and falls outside the matters that the court had jurisdiction over, under Article 128 of the Constitution.

He further submitted that the petition did not disclose the provisions of the Constitution that had been breached or which the petitioner sought interpretation on.

"The petition contains general allegations that lacks specific

Constitution provisions that are alleged to have been breached," Haimbe said.

He said the entire petition was anchored on an allegation that as at January 4, 2017 all political parties in Zambia ceased to exist, which allegation was drawn from the petitioner's interpretation under Order 18 of the Constitution Act no.1 of 2016.

Haimbe added that the reliefs sought by the petitioner were premised on erroneous allegations anchored on the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.1 of 2016.

"This action is improperly before you (court) as no reasonable cause of action is disclosed. The matter is frivolous and vexatious and abuse of the court in terms of the principles enshrined in Order 18 Rule 19 (10) of the white book," he said.

ECZ and MMD adopted UPND's submissions through their legal representatives.

But in response, magistrate Mwelwa argued that his petition was not asking the court to interpret any provision of the law but it was alleging that Article 60(2)(d) of the Constitution had been breached.

He added that the court had the jurisdiction to hear how Article 60 had been breached.

Magistrate Mwelwa said the application by UPND lacked merit as it served the purpose of wasting the Court's time and increasing the cost of the petition.

He therefore urged the court to dismiss the application by UPND.

The court reserved ruling on the said application to September 30, 2020.

By Mirriam Chabala
ACTING NAREP president Charles Maboshe says the party has opted to keep its founding leader Elias Chipimo away from its internal wrangles in order to give him space to enjoy his retirement from politics.

And Maboshe says NAREP is still a committed member of the opposition alliance.

Speaking when he featured on Diamond TV's Costa programme, Sunday evening, Maboshe said the party had decided to keep Chipimo away from its internal differences.

"Which challenges are you talking about, challenges like what has just happened now with Mr [Stephen] Nyirenda? No, not so far, he wanted to retire from politics and we said 'please go ahead

We'll keep Chipimo out of NAREP drama – Maboshe

and see what you can do for the nation in that area. So we haven't been reaching out to him, we have given him a break so that he can focus on that. But if we feel that something is insurmountable, then we will reach out. But so far, these are things we think we can deal with. We believe now that as NAREP, we've got teeth, we are no longer a small baby. But if there is any issue which we would want to hear from him about, then we will reach out to him and I am sure he will have a listening ear," Maboshe said.

And asked if NAREP was still a member of

the opposition alliance, Mabodhe said his party had never left the alliance.

"As you know, the alliance came some time last year, we are part of that alliance. As a matter of fact, we are one of the parties which started that alliance. Mr Chipimo initiated that alliance and when Mr Nyirenda came in, he found us in that alliance and we attended the meetings together with him. But what I am going to do right now is to call for meetings with our provincial headquarters and then we will review what we want to do, we will review our position in the alliance, we will review where we

are and move forward. And this calls for consultation amongst members," Maboshe explained.

"But you need to understand something, there are two things, right now there is a pact which we've signed as alliance members to work together. What has not been done is the electoral pact and I think that's what has remained to be discussed and append our signatures. That is why you can see that when there are by-elections and so on, alliance partners still put their own candidates. So what we are all waiting for is the electoral pact. But we haven't decided on that yet as

a party. So I want people to be consulted on this so that we have a national agenda."

Meanwhile, Maboshe said NAREP made a lot of compromises to make Nyirenda party president.

"Yes, we agree, the aspect of Mr Nyirenda being required to serve one year before he could be appointed was overlooked. But probably, there was a mutual understanding somewhere for the betterment of the party because if someone came and said I am forming a party but then you ask them 'okay, can we make

something work for both of us', but that doesn't stop anybody from our party to say they don't agree. So yes there was that compromise but later on we discovered that Mr Nyirenda had actually never been fit for Presidency," said Maboshe.

On Saturday, NAREP announced that Nyirenda had been removed from the party for allegedly causing divisions.

Nyirenda has since petitioned the Lusaka High Court to declare that his expulsion from the party is null and void.

Lungu should stop risking people's lives – Sinkamba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
GREEN Party president Peter Sinkamba says it is unjustifiable for government officials to argue that they have no control over the crowds that follow President Edgar Lungu.

And Sinkamba says it has been a very difficult time for the opposition to mobilize because of restrictions on public gatherings.

In an interview, Sinkamba said it was very easy for President Lungu to control crowds.

"One of the reasons why COVID-19 has been difficult to control in the US and in Brazil where we have some of the high number of casualties of COVID-19 has been as a result of public gatherings which are uncontrolled such that the leaders themselves have been justifying that the meetings have not effect. The fact is that those gatherings are responsible for the spike in the number of cases in those

countries. We have also seen that kind of trend here where the excuse given by not only the ministers but also State House that the gatherings are uncontrollable. It is not true because at the State House today, you can't find those gatherings. When you go to the State House, there is order there because they use security to prevent those gatherings, meaning that those crowds can be controlled since there is already an example of a place where gatherings are not entertained," Sinkamba said.

"If the President really wanted to control the crowds that follow him when he travels out of town, he cannot have any difficulties at all. The same security which is used to control the crowd at State House is the same security they can use to control the crowds anywhere. So, we do not agree with the notion that it is impossible to control those people. They just like it that the President is being surrounded by a lot of people. And in so doing, they are risking the lives of several people and the cases will keep going up."

He said it is saddening that PF had continued disregarding public health

guidelines.

"It is saddening and we think more needs to be done to ensure that we don't use rhetoric to address a very serious public health matter. We need to be more sober about it and do the right thing. Generally, the PF leadership, the President inclusive, have not helped so much. Wherever there is a PF function, they don't regard public health guidelines as stipulated in the law. And that is the challenge that we have," Sinkamba said.

And Sinkamba said it has been difficult for opposition political parties to mobilize since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"It has been a very difficult time for us to mobilize because most of us had planned to have the installation of new leadership structures at district, provincial and national level. This has been

very difficult to achieve because the activities require us to physically meet and also visit certain areas where our presence is required. But again, we want to comply with the law. We can also do what the PF is doing but we think that is not the right way to do it. So, we are using social media and radio stations as a mode of communication and that is making up for the loss. We only hope that our colleagues in the PF can emulate what the opposition is doing in that regard to avoid escalation of this COVID-19 in the country because the levels that we are reporting now are very dangerous. So, we need to be very serious and we should not use political rhetoric anymore. Otherwise, our hospitals at some point will fail to handle the situation, and we don't want that to happen," said Sinkamba.

Zambia almost at 10,000 COVID-19 cases mark

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country has recorded 142 new COVID-19 cases and has named Southern Province as the new hotspot.

Speaking during the daily briefing, Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said Southern Province now had 18 cases, most of whom were truck drivers.

He said cumulatively, Zambia was now just a few cases to the 10,000 mark.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded 142 new cases of COVID-19 out of 794 tests done and therefore, this brings the number of cumulative cases to 9,981 cases, just short of the 10,000 mark. The 142 cases again are coming from mainly Lusaka and the Copperbelt and also North-Western Province. Southern Province has become worrisome and today, Southern province is recording 18 patients in admission and a lot of these are truck drivers. We continue to see health workers contracting COVID-19 and we recorded 12 healthcare workers in Lusaka with covid. Currently, we have 73 patients that are admitted to Levy isolation centre and 38 of these are actually on oxygen. Out of these, eight are in intensive care unit and this again shows that the sicker patients that we are receiving are on the increase," said Dr Chilufya.

"If you look at the countrywide picture, another 53 patients that is in addition to the 73 patients admitted to various isolation facilities in the country. Like I said, Southern Province, standing out with 18 patients and North-western with four, Central three, Northern three and Copperbelt our epicentre having 27 cases. The number of deaths remains at 264 as we did not record any deaths in the last 24 hours. We have discharged 201 patients and therefore the cumulative recoveries now stand at 8,776 cases."

Dr Chilufya said COVID-19 was affecting the pancreas and urged hypertensive and diabetic patients to avoid self-medication and ensure they report to the health facilities when they fall ill.

We're investigating disruption of UPND programme at PASME radio – IBA

By Ulande Nkomesha
FREE Press Initiative (FPI) founder Joan Chirwa says there is need for the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and the Ministry of Information to school low level civil servants on how radio stations operate.

And IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma says the authority is investigating an incident where Petauke District Commissioner Velenasi Banda

Moyo acting together with some police officers disrupted a paid for radio program on Petauke's PASME FM Radio Station last weekend.

In an interview, Chirwa said she was shocked by the level of ignorance exhibited by Moyo in disrupting a paid for radio program and subsequently closing the station.

"The level of ignorance exhibited by the Petauke DC with regard to how radio stations operate is quite shocking. DCs are supposed to be civil servants that are abreast with the laws of the land. But clearly, Mrs Moyo in this case has shown us that she either knows nothing about the law or has no regard for the law but only to appease the party that facilitated her appointment into the civil service," Chirwa said.

"Who gave her the powers to threaten a radio station and order closure over a very simple matter? In any case, if

there was any violation of the broadcast regulations, the only institution mandated by law to threaten or effect closure on an erring broadcast house is the IBA, not anybody else. Such overzealous behaviour she exhibited must be stopped. There was nothing wrong PASME did by broadcasting a paid for programme for the opposition UPND. That can also be done by the ruling party, nobody can stop any political party from sponsoring a programme on radio."

Chirwa asked Moyo apologise to the radio station and urged the ministry to educate civil servants on laws governing broadcasting.

"We expect the DC to render an apology to PASME for her behaviour. Moving forward, we call on IBA and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services to school these low level civil servants on what the law says with regard to radio stations in their localities.

This will save them some embarrassment," said Chirwa.

And in a separate interview, Mapoma said the authority was investigating the matter.

"IBA is investigating the matter. A complaint has not yet been given to us not in writing. We have talked to the station. We are investigating the matter and if we are investigating, it means talking to everybody involved," Mapoma said.

When asked if the Authority was concerned with the growing trend of disruptions of radio stations by junior government officials or ruling party members, Mapoma said she didn't want to sound political on the matter.

"I wouldn't want to go political. I think those are for political people to make a decision. For us as IBA, we are investigating what took place and what is happening and a statement will be made immediately we finish," said Mapoma.

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By Mirriam Chabala

CIVIL Society Constitutional Agenda (CiSCA) Bishop John Mambo has asked President Edgar Lungu to relieve Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo of his duties, saying he is disrespectful and unfit for public office.

And Bishop Mambo has condemned President Lungu's remarks against the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), saying it is actually ordinary Zambians on the streets who want him out.

In an interview, Bishop Mambo said Lusambo was careless.

"We just have to bring this to an end by bringing people to behave. Here is a man who is saying Kaunda's children are poor because in their 27 years of power, they should have had stolen money. Here is a minister who is saying K2 million is pocket money, so what do you mean the Anti-Corruption Commission wants to remove you? Here is a minister who cannot be fired or disciplined for saying such careless things," Bishop Mambo said.

"People like Bowman should never be allowed to serve in such high positions of power because all they know is to insult and demean people, and anyway, PF is just full of disrespectful people. PF's arrogance of one of its leaders saying 'we shall rule until 1000 years', Zambians cannot be fooled. We've seen this before. Kaunda, the one we [are] insulting now, which we shouldn't, is the founding father of our country. So you cannot insult your father, it's unZambian, it's not our culture, it's uncalled for. Immediately that was done, he would have simply fired him to show that arrogance has no room in this country. Here is Archbishop Telephore Mpuundu saying the same thing about Bill 10 and he's called rubbish by very junior officers. So this must come to an end."

And Bishop Mambo said corruption was written on PF official's faces.

"Corruption is written on everyone's forehead in the ruling elite because the same Anti-Corruption Commission which they are rubbishing today, if it takes them to court, before even the case commences, they start intimidating the magistrate or the judge indirectly by saying 'someone is innocent until proven guilty'. Now the same ruling elites are always in the Auditor General's report, latest being the one which we've had recently over the sale of Mukula trees. Millions of dollars are going missing, but no one has been arrested or accounted for. The same thing has happened on things that we've had in the past, talk about the ambulances, the fire tenders and all that. This literally encourages corruption because...who appoints the Anti-Corruption Commission? Who ratifies them? The head of Anti-Corruption Commission is a judge, is he (President Lungu) saying that that judge doesn't know what they are doing? Can the President no longer trust the people he appointed by himself?" Bishop Mambo

Mambo asks Lungu to fire Lusambo for disrespecting Kaunda's family

asked.

"What we are saying is that institutions of good governance have been captured by the ruling elite in this country and as long as the Head of State is quiet about this, theft and daylight robbery will never stop in Zambia. The only thing that we can do is to go back to 2019 where we said 'enough is enough'. Come 2021, we should simply say 'we can never go with people who have never been tested with power', the other day you were in Katondo street, tomorrow you are a champion of democracy, the other day you are corrupt and nothing works. We cannot continue like that and all we are encouraging you is that kind of stealing that is happening is not good for the country. Corruption is a cancer that has eaten our economy just as bad as COVID-19 has. As we talk and sound as if we are glorifying corruption, we are encouraging more people to steal and what will happen in the near future is that we will have a country of mafias."

Bishop Mambo insisted that President Lungu allegations against the ACC were in bad taste.

"The President's excuses are baseless and the statement against ACC is just in bad taste coming from the Head of State. He's the one who appoints all these officials, how do you appoint bad egg and later on ratified by Parliament? It means that all those that go through

Parliament, they are people we cannot trust, they are people who are ready to corrupt day in day out. But the truth of the matter is just that this government and its commander have failed and they shouldn't look for people to blame for their own failures. And such sentiments from the Head of State against law enforcement agencies just makes sad reading in the fight against corruption. The real people that want PF out are the Zambians in markets and bus stations, not ACC and the FIC, no!" said Bishop Mambo.



Kampyongo directs police to stop arresting, charging those without face masks

By Natasha Sakala

HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has directed police to stop arresting or collecting the K750 fine on people found without face masks in public.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 briefing, Tuesday, Kampyongo warned that officers found wanting would be dealt with as it was not within their power to convict and charge erring citizens.

"I know that of late, we have had some complaints coming from the members of the public in the manner some of our police officers have interpreted the statutory instrument. We are aware that in the statutory instrument,

there is a provision which talks about the punitive kind of measures that should be taken by those who are contravening SI and the directives given by His Excellency the President. And I will quote section 14 of the SI, 'a person who fails to comply with a direction, prohibition or restriction of an authorised officer or otherwise contravenes these regulations commits an offense and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 2,500 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both'. Now, the enforcement and interpretation of this section is certainly not with the police. The interpretation

of this section is to be done by the courts of law so that's why they are saying conviction. Police Service does not convict, police arrests suspects who are then subjected to the due process of the courts and as they are saying, upon conviction," he said.

"Now, regrettably, we have had some officers in certain areas who have taken it upon themselves to collect admission of guilt fees from members of the public and I want to make a clarion call just as the police commander has already done, honorable minister, to all our command structures that this matter must be dealt with immediately. And so, what that means, I have here the communication from the police command to all commissioners of police in the divisions, all the 10 divisions that we have, in which this matter has been brought to the attention and guidance has been provided and in this guidance, the police command is directing all the police commissioners to monitor the implementation of the presidential directives and enforcement of the SI 22 in their respective provinces and ensure that the enforcement is carried out within the framework of the law. Officers are hereby restrained from arresting and charging fines to members of the public not wearing masks but instead they should be able to warn and sensitize violators to minimize the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and so the role of police is to, like any other stakeholders, sensitize people and make them comply only when they feel it's necessary should they effect arrests, which arrest must be also taken to court."

He further warned that officers found wanting would be disciplined.

"Just to make it abundantly clear, no police officer will be tolerated for collecting money as admission of guilt for people who are not masking

up, it's not your duty, it's not your role and so anyone who will be found wanting, the DIG admin is here, you will end up being disciplined," he warned.

Kampyongo said it was unfortunate that citizens had to be policed in order for them to follow guidelines that were in their best interests.

"But I also want to emphasise that members of the public, like we have said, the responsibility to look after yourselves starts with yourselves. The minister has given us where we stand in terms of numbers and what we have lost and those who are still in hospital recovering, we would want to see these numbers go down so that we can go back to our normal way of living. We don't expect that you can only listen when we use minimum force. You know that to get on a minibus, all of you transporters of public transport must make it a point. For example, before someone jumps on a bus, yes it's all about making money but you can't make money while risking the lives of the people who are supposed to give you money. So it's not too much to ask of you, just to ensure that when people are jumping on your buses you make sure that they mask up. It's the same for those of you who are shop owners, shopping malls, that you just come on board and make sure that people are made to ensure that they mask up when they are in public," said Kampyongo.

"Yes indeed, we have been collaborating with the ministry as well to just ensure that the enforcement of some of the measures that we have prescribed for our people are adhered to and this is for the interest of our citizens because the responsibility of our people's health begins with them and it's just unfortunate that we have to enforce, we have to force, we have to use minimum force to just get people to appreciate that their health is very important."

CTPD urges BoZ to either maintain or reduce monetary policy rate

By Natasha Sakala

THE Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) has urged the Central Bank to maintain or reduce the monetary policy rate to supplement efforts being made to curb the effects of COVID-19 on the economy.

In a statement, Tuesday, CTPD researcher for public finance Mataa Wakumelo stated that disruptions in business operations due to the pandemic had continued to negatively impact on productivity and ultimately weighed on economic activity.

"As the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) sets to announce its monetary policy decision this Wednesday, the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) expects the committee to either maintain the policy rate at 9.25% or reduce it. This is in a quest to supplement efforts to curb the effects of COVID-19 on the economy being put forth by Government in general and BoZ in particular. While the Centre notes that inflation has continued to increase, rising to 15.8% in July from 14.0% in March, we remain cognizant of the fact that economic activity has continued to slow down on account of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. Disruptions in business operations due to the pandemic have continued to negatively impact on productivity and ultimately weigh on economic activity. This is exacerbated by the persistent effects of load shedding, albeit rising production costs stemming from,

among other factors, high energy (retail fuel-pump prices and electricity tariffs) prices and the sustained depreciation of the kwacha per dollar exchange rate," Wakumelo stated.

He added that the prevailing inflation was more premised on supply chain pressures as opposed to demand pressures.

"Furthermore, it is our considered view that the significant part of the prevailing inflation is more premised on supply constraints than it is driven by demand pressures owing to the fact that private sector activity has continued to be stifled by liquidity constraints associated with higher debt service payments necessitated by the depreciation of the exchange rate over the review period. In view of the foregoing, we observe that the negative economic outlook on which basis the MPC lowered the policy rate in its last sitting has not registered any improvements in the period under review," Wakumelo stated.

He further stated that the fiscal side should double its efforts to compliment steps taken by the monetary authority to stimulate economic activity.

"It is therefore CTPD's expectation that the committee relaxes its stance by either maintaining or reducing the policy rate. It is also our recommendation that the fiscal side doubles the effort to compliment the steps taken by the monetary authority to stimulate economic activity and minimise the anticipated negative impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods," stated Wakumelo.

I miss him: Remembering Levy Mwanawasa

By Sishuwa Sishuwa
On 19 August 2008, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, the third President of Zambia, died in a French hospital after reportedly suffering a stroke. 12 years later, Mwanawasa remains vivid in death as he was in public life. He is widely regarded as one of Zambia's most effective leaders who secured debt relief, led the country through a period of sustained economic growth, promoted good governance and consolidated the country's democratic tradition.

Although many people know him as president, the presidency was simply the ultimate platform on which Mwanawasa enacted important values whose origin lay in his steady evolution and which define his legacy. These include the importance of family and community; a deep love for learning and growing; capacity for effective and selfless leadership; loyalty to principle; moral wealth of character, including an aversion to corruption; faith in one's fellow human beings; and the proactive use of the law as a shield for the weak and ordinary citizen and not as a sword for the elite and the powerful. Throughout his life, Mwanawasa consistently gave expression to these ideals, starting with his formative years.

Birth and early years

The second born in a family of six, Levy Mwanawasa was born on 3 September 1948 in the mining town of Mufulira on the Copperbelt. His parents were Myria Mokolala and Patrick Chipokota Mayamba Mwanawasa, who was working as a domestic employee to a mine captain before he later established himself as a successful businessman. Mwanawasa went to Arusha Primary School in Lusanya in 1958. He then attended Fiwale Mission school before proceeding to Chiwala Secondary in Ndola where his leadership qualities were first noticed by the school authorities who appointed him Head Boy in 1969, the year when he completed Grade 12. While at Chiwala, an English lawyer Jack Dare, and Julius Sakala, the first black Town Clerk of Ndola City Council, came to the school to give lectures on career choices. It was these talks that greatly influenced the career of Mwanawasa. His former schoolteachers, according to Amos Malupenga's book, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa: An Incentive for Posterity, recalled an ambitious young man who told them that he wanted to become "a big solicitor to serve people".

A student leader

After completing secondary education, Mwanawasa joined Ndola City Council as a trainee cadet under the leadership of Sakala, the Town Clerk who would later go on to become a distinguished member of the Zambian bar. Impressed with his hard work and keen to buttress its legal department, the council sponsored Mwanawasa to study law at the University of Zambia (UNZA) in 1970 where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree three years later.

While studying at UNZA, Mwanawasa's leadership qualities were further developed when he was elected Vice-President of the University of Zambia Students Union (UNZASU), a platform that gave him an early opportunity to hone his political skills and appreciate the importance of fostering competitive democracy. His

UNZASU executive negotiated for the introduction of the National Youth Service initiative, a six-month military-like training programme that saw school leavers and university students taught various skills aimed at instilling discipline, fostering national unity, building patriotism and enhancing their occupational abilities.

A leading lawyer

Following his completion of legal studies, which included passing the qualifying courses at the Legal Practice Institute (now known as the Zambia Institute for Advanced Legal Education – ZIALE) at first attempt, Mwanawasa worked as an assistant at Jacques and Partners, a prominent private law firm under the leadership of distinguished lawyers like John Mwanakwatwe and Willa Mung'omba. He remained at the firm from 1975 to 1978 when he formed his own law practice, Mwanawasa and Company.

The development of his leadership qualities was given another boost when he was elected as vice-president of the Law Association of Zambia in 1982. President Kenneth Kaunda noted Mwanawasa's growing profile and, seeking to utilise his talents for wider public good, appointed him as Solicitor General in 1985. The two however differed over what Mwanawasa characterised as the practice of detaining people without trial, prompting the President to dismiss him a year later.

Mwanawasa's star rose sharply over the course of the 1980s, developing from a young advocate to a leading lawyer who successfully defended prominent dissidents of one-party rule and high-profile suspects like then Zambia Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU) Chairman-General Frederick Chiluba and treason-accused former army commander, Lieutenant General Christon Tembo.

A pro-democracy leader

After 17 years of one-party rule, calls for the re-introduction of multiparty politics gained considerable momentum in the second quarter of 1990. The two prime organisers were Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, then chairperson of the Economics Association of Zambia, and Mbata Chitala, who, on 20 July that year, established the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) as a pressure group to campaign for the return of multiparty democracy in a forthcoming referendum. Other notable figures who were present at the MMD's founding meeting at Garden House in Lusaka included Edith Nawakwi, Muna Ndulo, Fred M'membe, Baldwin Nkumbula, Simon Zukas, Katele Kalumba, Arthur Wina (who was chosen as the leader of the interim national committee), Chiluba (operations and mobilisation chairperson), and Vernon Mwaanga (information and publicity chairperson). Mwanawasa was elected in absentia as MMD chairperson for the legal committee, but he flatly rejected the honour, unhappy that he was not consulted. After great persuasion from his wife, Maureen Kakubo, he reluctantly accepted and went on to offer free legal representation to the civil society organisation.

In September 1990, President Kaunda canceled the referendum and subsequently signed the law that paved the way for the creation of more political parties other than the governing United National Independence Party (UNIP). The MMD transformed itself into a political

party on 4 January 1991. At the party's inaugural convention in February 1991, Mwanawasa, in another public show of confidence in his leadership qualities, was elected MMD vice-president with 63.3 percent of support, defeating Nkumbula and Tembo. Of particular importance was that he had initially refused to stand for any position, declaring that "I want to go back to my practice because we have achieved what we wanted. Dr Kenneth Kaunda has agreed to revert to multiparty democracy and to me that is an achievement, so I want to go back to my practice".

It took other people, mainly a group of educated and reform-minded professionals such as Kalumba, Dean Mung'omba, Robert Sichinga, Mathias Mpande, Gilbert Mudenda and Chitala, who, in recognition of his impressive character traits, persuaded him to change his mind and put forward his name for election. As Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika recalled in Malupenga's book, "we put forward Levy Mwanawasa as our candidate for the vice-presidency. He did not propose his name. We thought if the MMD's dreams had to be realised, a grouping of individuals of that character was necessary. We were saying if UNIP was dictatorial, then we needed to be more democratic. We wanted a leadership that was different from the past". Chiluba, overcoming competition from three others, was elected party president.

Earlier, President Kaunda, responding to popular demands for an early election, had cut short his five-year term, which was due to end in 1993, and set general elections for October 1991. The MMD, featuring as the main opposition challenger, went on to defeat UNIP in an election that saw Mwanawasa elected as member of parliament for Chifubu constituency in Ndola. Chiluba, the party's presidential candidate, defeated Kaunda and, after he took office on 2 November, named a Cabinet that included Mwanawasa as Zambia's vice-president.

The vice-president who resigned on principle

On 8 December 1991, barely a month in power, Mwanawasa was involved in a road traffic accident after his vice-presidential motorcade collided with another car that was driven by Godwin Chirwa, an official from State House and a designated driver of the then First Lady. The cause of the accident was inconclusive. A Commission of Inquiry that was appointed to investigate the issue found that Chirwa was in a drunken stupor when the mishap happened. Unfortunately, Chirwa himself was found dead in unclear circumstances four days before he was due to give testimony in court about the cause of the accident. As well as claiming the life of Mwanawasa's aide-de-camp, Brown Mwale, the accident left the vice-president with severe injuries that required specialised treatment in South Africa.

Mwanawasa continued to serve as vice-president until 3 July 1994 when he resigned his Cabinet position in protest against growing levels of corruption in government and the lack of transparency and accountability. "It is not often that a vice-president of a country resigns", Mwanawasa wrote in his letter of resignation to President Chiluba, but "if my resignation will serve to shake this government into realising the implication of the behaviour of some of our ministers, which basically goes unpunished, my action will have served a useful purpose to our party and this nation". He retained his MMD membership and parliamentary seat.

In December 1995, the former vice-president unsuccessfully challenged president Chiluba for the leadership of the MMD before he chose not to defend his parliamentary seat in the 1996 elections. He retired from active politics that year and returned to private law practice, where he remained successful over the course of the 1990s. In July 2001, following the collapse of President Chiluba's third term bid, Mwanawasa learnt that Chiluba was considering nominating him as his successor and immediately set out to reject the plans. "When I received information that the MMD wanted to have me as their presidential candidate", Mwanawasa is quoted as saying in Malupenga's book, "I went to see Dr Chiluba and said 'I hear that this is what is being contemplated, but I am not interested. If the party needs any opinion from me, I am able to offer that, but I am not interested in party politics'. It took over a week of persuasion to convince Mwanawasa to change his mind and accept the invitation.

Influenced by Chiluba, the MMD National Executive Committee subsequently elected Mwanawasa as the party's presidential candidate.

A champion of good governance, democracy, and economic reform

Mwanawasa took office as president of Zambia in January 2002 after defeating 10 other candidates in the 27 December 2001 election. He immediately set out a clear vision for his presidency in a mission statement where he pledged to "provide continuity with change. In the interest of our Nation, Zambia, and the common good, sacrificing all and expecting little in return, I wholeheartedly commit myself... to serve Zambia and Zambians to the best of my ability with loyalty, honour and integrity with all my heart and strength, with love and justice, with consideration and compassion, with commitment and dedication and in collaboration with all stakeholders, women and men of goodwill, to give fresh hope to our people, to create opportunities for all and bring honour, dignity and prosperity to our country, through honest selfless hard work above and beyond the normal call of duty."

After establishing a clear vision for his presidency and over the course of the next five years, Mwanawasa, in another move that demonstrates the meaning of competent leadership, put together the right subordinates with the required knowledge, skills, discipline and judgement to help him achieve or bring about the desired results. For instance, he appointed to public office principled and talented individuals such as N'gandu Magande (arguably Zambia's best Minister of Finance), Caleb Fundanga (Bank of Zambia Governor), Mundia Sikatana (Minister of Agriculture) and Mumba Mailla (Attorney General). Mwanawasa also carefully ensured that his appointments to public office reflected the ethnic diversity of the country. Tongas, Bembas, Chewas, Kaondes, Lozis, Lundas and Luvalas all found room in his Cabinet. This commitment to fostering a sense of national inclusion was further shown in his choice of the four different individuals he appointed to the position of Vice-President of Zambia, starting with Enoch Kavindele in 2002, followed by Nevers Mumba in May 2003, Lupando Mwape in October 2004, and Rupiah Banda who replaced Mwape after the latter lost his parliamentary seat in the 2006 general election. Such a high turnover of vice presidents demonstrated the willingness of President Mwanawasa to take responsibility whenever required and nurture alternative leaders by exposing them to positions of greater responsibility.

In addition to rehabilitating, maintaining and building new public infrastructure, with clear project selection and high priority investments, Mwanawasa's government also instituted a number of important policy reforms such as decentralisation and an anti-corruption campaign that saw the prosecution of several former government figures, including his predecessor.

Mwanawasa inherited a poor performing economy. Among the issues that he had to grapple with was the mass unemployment that had resulted from redundancies from privatisation and the liquidation and closure of over 250 state enterprises. Others were soaring inflation, high interest rates and the devastating consequences of the January 2002 decision by Anglo-American Corporation to pull out of Zambia's key mining industry due to the declining price of copper, the country's biggest export earner. The government's attempts to reverse the economic decline were severely undermined by a staggering external debt amounting to US\$6 billion, which condemned Zambia to the classification of a Highly Indebted Poor Country. Under the effective leadership of Mwanawasa, the MMD moved to revive the economy in three main ways.

First, his government prioritised food security by enhancing its support towards agriculture. For instance, Mwanawasa made the Farmer Input Support Program (formerly the Fertiliser Support Program) a cornerstone



agricultural policy, one that helped to increase private sector participation in agricultural input markets and improve household food security. He also launched the winter maize project, which turned out to be a success in addressing critical food shortage especially after he rejected the importation of genetically modified maize consignments from the United States of America, on the grounds that the food could be harmful to human beings and the environment.

Second, Mwanawasa's administration resuscitated the strategic mining industry, which had been in freefall since the 1970s, by bringing new investors mainly from Canada, Europe and China. As well as generating significant revenue in form of taxes for the government, the move led to job creation and the revival of the industrial Copperbelt. Third, in an effort to qualify for debt relief as prescribed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, Mwanawasa presided over the implementation of deeply unpopular but necessary austerity measures, including a one-year wage freeze on civil servants' salaries, a significant increase on taxes, a halt in hiring public service labour and reduced funding to social services.

While the President defended the implementation of the new structural adjustment policies as essential to economic recovery, the opposition, led by the Patriotic Front (PF)'s Michael Sata, cited them as evidence of a government that was unresponsive to the concerns of urbanites and promised to deliver (without explaining how) better working conditions such as "lower taxes, more jobs and more money" in people's pockets. The net result was the near-total cancellation of Zambia's foreign debt in 2005. The considerable resources freed from debt repayments enabled the government to tackle unemployment and invest in key social sectors such as education, agriculture and health.

Another area that became the focus of the government under Mwanawasa was constitutional reform. In 2003, he worked with civil society to constitute a broadly representative Constitution Review Commission (CRC), headed by Willa Mung'omba, that was tasked to collect views from the public for constitutional amendment and recommend the best mode of adopting the new constitution. The CRC completed its work in 2005, but the constitutional reform process was not concluded until after President Mwanawasa's death.

Mwanawasa's first term was however not without its challenges. For instance, his 2001 victory was the subject of an election petition that dragged on until February 2005 when the Supreme Court dismissed it. Lacking a clear majority in Parliament, Mwanawasa sought to address the problem by co-opting into Cabinet several articulate opposition MPs such as Sylvia Masebo and Dipak Patel, consequently earning criticism that he was undermining the capacity of the opposition to control the already dominant executive and modify its policy proposals. The nomination of Mumba, a losing presidential candidate in the 2001 elections, to the position of Vice-President attracted the ire of the then main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) who argued that the move violated the Constitution, which prohibited the appointment to the National Assembly of a person who was a candidate

in the preceding general election. In view of this, the UPND moved an impeachment motion against Mwanawasa, one that he survived in August 2003 after members of parliament voted 92-57 against it.

His leadership of the MMD was also tenuous and it was not until July 2005 that he was elected party president, having occupied the position in an acting capacity since 2002.

In addition, the attempted deportation of Postnewspaper satirist Roy Clarke in January 2004, on the allegation that the white British national who had lived in Zambia since 1962 had insulted the President and his ministers, attracted criticism that Mwanawasa was trying to undermine free speech. In a show of judicial independence that was characteristic of Mwanawasa's presidency, the High Court quashed the deportation order. Notwithstanding the Clarke incident, Mwanawasa remained mostly supportive of media freedom, tolerated political debate, and refused to curtail the mobilisation activities of opposition parties and civil society.

On a personal level, Mwanawasa proved to be a model of grace, basic rectitude, authentic love for family (even in its extended structure), care and respect for the dignity of others, and wisdom in judgement. Together with Maureen, he raised his children well and taught them never to be corrupt or extend their hands to public coffers. Despite his demanding public office commitments, Mwanawasa made time for his wife, children and best friends, showing by example that family and community are more important than wealth and status. Tragedy also occasionally befell him. Mwanawasa suffered a minor stroke in April 2006, two months before his mother died in June. The President recovered and won a second term in September 2006. He continued with many of the progressive reforms that he had initiated in his first term in office, centred on service delivery, spearheading economic reform, enhancing food security, creating more jobs, supporting the fight against corruption, and the promotion of constitutionalism and the rule of law.

When Sata, who had been at loggerheads with the president since their time in the MMD in the early 1990s, suffered a heart attack in April 2008, Mwanawasa, consistent with his pledge to serve Zambians with selflessness, sacrificed his qualified personal dislike for Sata to further the leadership ideals that underpinned his presidency. In a move that demonstrated his humanity, he ordered that his main rival be evacuated to South Africa for specialist treatment. Mwanawasa later explained why he took the decision, in a response that revealed his clear appreciation of the role of opposition parties in a competitive multiparty democracy and the benefits that accrue to those in power when they are receptive to criticism. Without such an effective opposition politician as Sata, Mwanawasa suggested, both his leadership and Zambia would have been poor for it.

"If you had asked me before [Sata suffered a heart attack], I would have told you that I don't like this person. I don't even like to hear his voice. That is how much I detested this man because he was maliciously making my job difficult to govern this country. But the news of his illness gripped me with sadness. I realised just how much I needed him. To be President, I do not want to be hero-worshipped all the time. I want people who can correct me, show me that the best it is done would be this way. Of course, if I do not agree, I will tell them that I do not agree for this and this reason. So, I realised just how much I need him around. He is a good fellow to have around", Mwanawasa told the media at a press briefing that was also attended by the recovered PF leader, who thanked him for his magnanimity.

Death and the address to Zambians from the grave

On 29 June 2008, President Mwanawasa left Zambia to attend the African Union Heads of State and Government ordinary summit in Egypt. Later that day, Mwanawasa was reported to have suffered a major stroke that left him in a critical condition. He was subsequently flown to Percy Military Hospital in France for treatment but died on 19 August 2008, aged 59, following what was said to be complications arising from the stroke. President Mwanawasa was put to rest on 3 September 2008.

Addressing Zambia from the grave, in a pre-recorded video statement of farewell dated 23 March 2005 and one that was broadcast on national television, Mwanawasa stressed the values that guided his public life. Expressing gratitude for the opportunities that fell his way and displaying the profound decency and firm

moral compass that were characteristic of his deep sense of self-identity, the address implored future governments to especially fight corruption and is worth quoting at length:

"I am grateful to all of you, for giving me the opportunity during part of my life to serve you as President. It was a privilege which I cherished up to my death. I did all my best to improve the standards of living of you my people. I strove to attend to the production of sufficient food for domestic consumption and for export. I worked hard to encourage investments, both local and foreign, so as to create jobs and so as to enhance the growth of our economy.

"I believed that national development could only be sustained if good governance, respect for the rule of law and democracy were encouraged and not taken for granted. To spur these virtues, the fight against corruption had to be waged relentlessly and without treating anybody as a sacred cow. I regret that in my zeal to facilitate this fight, I lost friendship with a number of some of my best friends and at many times my own life and that of my family members were threatened. I want to assure the nation that no malice or ill will was intended in these initiatives.

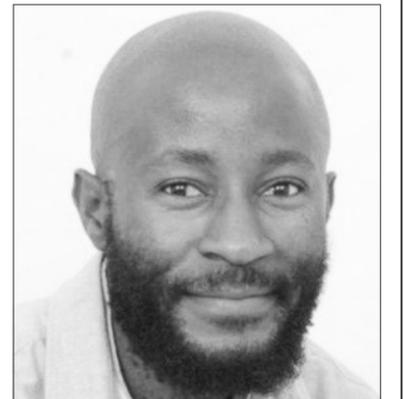
"I was driven purely by love for my country and the urgent need to transform it from poverty to prosperity. I have always been grieved to see so much poverty, hopelessness and anguish in the faces of our children, the leaders of tomorrow. It has always been my belief that nobody has the right to take away what we should be giving to these children and keep them in their selfish pockets. I do hope that the party, the Movement for Multiparty Democracy, can continue with this vision for our nation pursuing the fight of zero tolerance to corruption.

"I was sad when some of you our members appeared to embrace corruption and actually criticized me for fighting the scourge. This vice will not develop our country.

"It is my desire that all future governments will continue to wage this fight. If in my endeavours to provide only the best for my country I offended some of my compatriots, all I can ask is that they should find a place in their hearts to forgive me as no deliberate intentions to harm their feelings without just cause was intended.

"To those who attended my funeral and to those who mourned with my family, I say I am extremely grateful to all of you. I am certain that I speak on behalf of my family that their burden has thereby been lightened."

I miss Levy Mwanawasa. He was a damn good president, who embodied the ethos of basic integrity, soundness in decision-making process, a resilient sense of optimism, and respect for one another's humanity. Constantly rising above partisan considerations and providing decisive leadership, Mwanawasa ended the culture of political violence by party cadres and the humiliating practice of lining up women to dance and welcome the President at airports. Ministers accused of corruption were dismissed before the public complained and subsequently prosecuted. While he saw himself primarily as a lawyer, many Zambians fondly remember Mwanawasa as the President of Zambia that the present demands, a good foot soldier for justice and freedom, and one of the country's genuine post-independence heroes whose leadership was anchored on the promotion of ethical values and social justice.



Sishuwa Sishuwa is a political historian and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute for Democracy at the University of Cape Town.



President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa speaks to then opposition leader Michael Sata, who rose to power in 2011

THERE is a group of youths calling itself "advocates of Bill 10" that has been spending a lot of money promoting the proposed constitutional amendment which, if approved, will take away the citizens liberty from challenging Mr Edgar Lungu's 2021 nomination as presidential candidate within a specified period of time.

Recently these so-called Advocates of Bill 10 announced that they had translated the document into seven local languages and printed it for distribution in various provinces which they have toured to promote the contents of the Bill. Under normal circumstances, we would be saluting this generous gesture of providing civic education to our people. But there is a question that we have failed to answer.

What is the motive behind this 'kind gesture'? Who is paying for this costly undertaking. Touring the 10 provinces of Zambia and conducting research, interviewing citizens and imparting knowledge is not an easy task, it calls for a lot of financial and human resources. We are asking the

Who is sponsoring the so-called Advocates of Bill 10?

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Advocates to tell the nation where they were getting the resources to conduct their operations.

This same group, we are told, is also responsible for erecting huge billboards, persuading the public to engage to support Bill 10. Considering that Bills are enacted in the National Assembly by members of parliament, we wondered how they expected ordinary citizens to support this Bill. This means, they were wasting money on a useless campaign targeting the wrong audience. Again, this brings us to the same question we have been asking, who is paying for this wastage of financial resources?

When he was

asked about this vigorous campaign for Bill 10 and the people behind it, Justice Minister Given Lubinda said he had nothing to do with it and the Advocates of Bill 10 are strangers to him. But we have problems believing this. In our view, the minister knows very well who is bankrolling this campaign, but he is trying to fool the Zambian people.

In fact, we have reason to believe that this group is being sponsored by State House itself. We couldn't help noticing that the recent press conference which the so-called advocates of Bill held was extensively covered by the national broadcaster and the State controlled newspapers. Apart from that, their event

was broadcast live on the State House funded Smart Eagles Facebook Page.

Anyone who has lived in Zambia long enough will relate to this drill. It's a well-known formula for State sponsored propaganda. A bunch of ordinary boys cannot just walk into ZNBC and win a prime time slot on the main news bulletin, get front page coverage in the government newspapers and feature live on a State House controlled social media outfit without anyone, high in rank, from the corridors of powers giving directives to these media houses.

This is not the first Bill that has been presented before Parliament. We have never seen this

amount of desperation in enacting any laws in this country. This is simply unbelievable, and it says a lot about what the people behind the campaign are trying to achieve.

From our point of view, it appears President Edgar Lungu has realized and legal minds around him have told him that the law, as it stands, doesn't give him a chance to stand in 2021, late alone win. So we imagine that they have told him that the first step in overcoming that barrier is to amend the law. This is what they are doing. They want to tilt the Constitution in their favour so that when they file in their nomination, there should not be Article 52 which gives the people of this country power to challenge

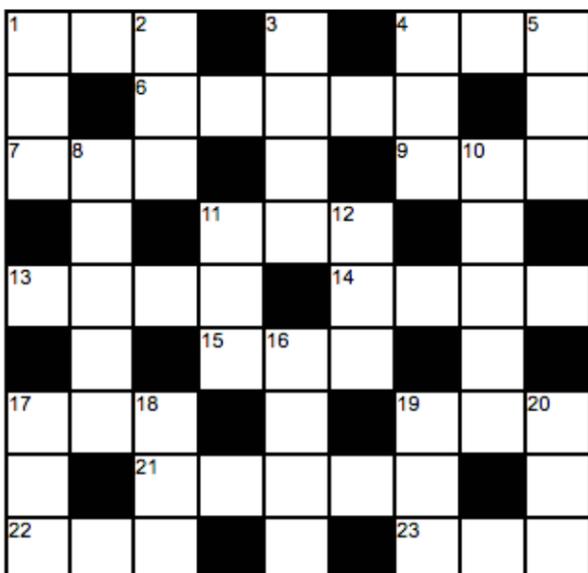
his nomination and get a ruling within a specified time.

In fact they have openly said so. It's not long ago when both the party chairman for legal affairs Honourable Brian Mundubile, and the President himself said Article 52 would disadvantage the incumbent. Their confessions tell us that this Bill 10 has one motive and one motive only, which is to protect the interests of President Lungu.

But we are saying this is not how to govern a country. You cannot make laws that are meant to benefit an individual. These advocates of Bill 10 should not fool Zambians by claiming that they are self-sponsored. We know that they are hired mercenaries with a clearly set out agenda which, as things stand, is destined to fail.

We urge all well-meaning Zambians and their representatives in Parliament to reject this Bill for its ill intentions. Shame on the so called advocates of Bill 10. Shame!

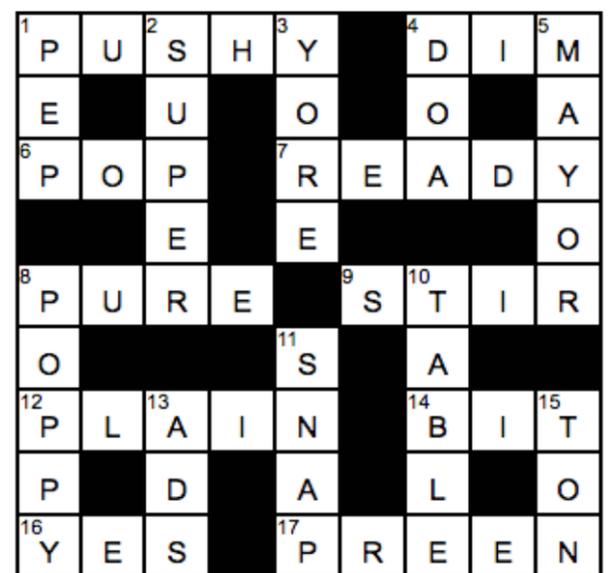
Crossword puzzle No 671



"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."
- George Bernard Shaw

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Part of UCLA 4. Sweltering 6. Call 7. Path; direction 9. Not used 11. "___ a Wonderful Life" 13. Unwanted lawn growth 14. Actor MacGregor 15. Single number 17. Had a bite 19. Greek H 21. Cutting tool 22. Forest female 23. Young man | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not high 2. Watch covertly 3. Snow structure 4. Chicken Little, for one 5. Haul 8. Wide awake 10. Precise 11. Wedding words 12. What you do with eyes 16. Film genre 17. Total up 18. Barely get by 19. Snake-like fish 20. As well as |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 670



Readers' Feedback

Demotion of officer who allegedly predicted Lungu's 2021 defeat shows the failed justice system

Dear editor,

"When did this happen? Was the due process of the law taken before demotion? Was the officer allowed to defend himself against those accusations? Further just a statement of "Lungu takapite" doesn't imply that Hes referring to the Head of state. In law there is no assumption but proof has to be provided. In my view an injustice has been carried

"Police officers are human beings who feel what everyone feels. We suffer together with them. They are seeing the misdoings of this government, the same way we see. Imagine if someone who is on government payroll and in a government house can feel the pain of economic challenges, what more those unemployed, poor marketeers, street vendors without customers anymore, the pensioners who haven't seen their benefits for years, etc? Sivinthu, iliko bad". - Frederick Chinyama Chiteta

"This makes sad reading and sets a dangerous precedence, carders will now be able to affect the lives of hardworking civil servants by simply making false acusations against the presidency. Truly sad times". - Mathews Sakala

"Why believe a cadre before thorough investigations? The speed of his transfer/demotion is "faster than that of light". And why send him to Western province? Is western province such a terrible place that any perceived "wrong" doer has to be deployed there? But ubu buteko, kwena bwakwa chiwa. Nothing lasts forever anyway - it's always darkest before dawn. #2021 takapite!" - Bill Bantu Ntanda

"This action epitomises the failed justice system in this country. When was a thorough investigation carried out for the high command to arrive at this decision? It's like anyone can just wake up and accuse police officers of being anti-PF or government and that will be enough to have them lose their jobs. What's this telling me as an ordinary citizen? That next time I break the law I should just claim the police officer has insulted the powers that be and make the recording go viral? God help us". - Nervous Siantombo

'Lungu's corruption fight has failed!'

Editor,

"If they want corrupt leaders out then they are doing their work. Promote them". - Beauty M. Kabwela Mulenga

"It's time to accept that you have to let go there's nothing you have done apart from making yourself rich and others. You have made Zambian people more poor so why do you want to rule us again? sorry but it's time to go". - Bettye Zack

"Democracy means if people want regime change, they change it, why be uncomfortable with that? Ngati va kanga just share the country we go back to our chiefs and chieftainesses ku ma midzi yatu. Those that want perpetual 'power' can go and apply to be headmen,

indunas, kapasos, or go and set up their own villages, ifili fye simple. Life goes on". - Mercy Mwanza

"It will be the voters that will remove you sir! ACC will then follow up afterwards! Why mwayamba kugona. The fish starts rotting from the head downwards". - Diana Kaumba

"ACC, FIC and Auditor's reports give you evidence of corruption you shout mfwiti mfwiti! And you expect those charged with responsibility of fighting corruption continue doing their job after frustrating their efforts? Auditor's reports FIC reports

ACC reports are gathering dust then you accuse them of plotting to oust you? Are you okay sir?!" - Simon Kumwenda

"Of the corrupt, by the corrupt, for the corrupt.....A Zambian situation". - Steve Lengwe

"Bamudala just appreciate that Zambians gave you an opportunity to occupy an office you are not fit for due to incompetence". - Kajuba Mazuba

"He equates his lack of action to humbleness when it is indeed weakness". - Dalitso Daniel Ngoma

'RB, you were a true statesman for leaving office in 2011'

Editor,

"To the contrary sir ,you are a true statesman, you love your country and wanted to preserve the peace and tranquility, I salute you". - Chris Waluu Mubiana

"We respect you for your action. A loss is a loss and cannot be a win. The will of the people must be respected. After all there is life after being a president". - Katema Malyenkuku

"No, we don't. That's why you are that free Mr president. Had you forced things, your life would have been miserable but with huge account. I am grateful for that action. Other presidents should learn from you because you are free free free. Some will never see peace ever again". - Chong Lee

"Everything has got its time limit on earth, just remembering the SHAH of Iran then Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda of Malawi, comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe all gone truly everything has got time limit no matter how much you want to cling to something but one day, it will be history". - Christopher Phiri

"Zambia is a democratic state Mr president. You did well to accept defeat. It shows that despite other weaknesses you are a true democrat and love the country. Leave those foolish dictators with no love for their people go to hell". - Masabuka Mwanakalando

"You are not a fool our father, you are a wise man. Infact akula sanikwa, we wouldn't have voted for Sata. His successor has made you look like an angel, tivutika..." - Lukonde Chama



'ECL is not presidential material'

Editor,

"This Lungu isn't a Presidential Material mwe. The Man is so misleading. Kuti wasuka wasanguka icipuba if you follow him. Just how as a country have we found ourselves in this position. No we deserve better and that is quality leadership which can inspire and give confidence. And where are his handlers, what is it that they being paid for. Nga kwaliba uku bwesha abafwa, ine Mwanawasa nganali mubwasha, the Man was a true Leader. Honestly me am fed up!" - Mwamba Edgar Swizz

"That's the challenge we have as a country at the moment. There is literally no Leadership at all. How can a Head of State be speaking against his own oversight institutions really. And actually TIZ is right he actually told us that his Ministers are corrupt so what's the fuss now?!" - Emmalito Lias

"It's not even about amnesia. It's a calculated move to intimidate the ACC. Remember how the Concourt was intimidated when it was handling the eligibility case?" - Andrew Sakala

"This is a folktale, it's an open secret that all these investigative and law inforcement institutions are under his armpits". - Dhanx Car Lee Mbwe

"If this man and his cabinet were not thieves they wouldn't have been worried about acc investigations! You only fear acc or police if you have issues so I guess this man has issues.... Haven't mentioned anyone... Bemba say 'imbila yamushi tabayankula" - Ian Malekhanie

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.

Zindaba Soko eyes Chipata Central seat



By Julia Malunga

FORMER Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) chief executive officer Zindaba Soko says it is too early to state whether or not he will be adopted for the Chipata Central seat in next year's general elections.

In an interview, Soko said he was not campaigning in the area but merely having meetings, which has so far been a success.

"I can't say that [I'll be adopted] now it is too early. I just went for meetings. In the future I will be able to announce officially.

For now, I just went for meetings, that is where I come from and I just went to meet my people. Campaigns have not started. I just went for meetings there. I have had successful meetings that is all I can say," said Soko.

Soko has since produced a campaign song which promises that he will work with the church, youths, women and chiefs once ushered into office.

The song also portrays him as God fearing, loving and accommodating.

Court exonerates ZAF officer who was accused of lying in Chimese's case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Magistrate Alice Walusiku has set free Zambia Air Force (ZAF) colonel Dexter Maseka who was accused of lying before court that he knew nothing about properties allegedly belonging to former ZAF commander Eric Chimese in Ibex Hill.

Magistrate Walusiku acquitted Maseka after she failed to connect him to the offence of Perjury.

In this matter, Maseka, a 43-year-old procurement officer of Chamba valley was charged with one count of Perjury.

Particulars of the offence alleged that on July 9, 2019 in Lusaka, Maseka gave false information to Magistrate Nsunge Chanda that he knew nothing relating to the alleged Eric Mwaba Chimese properties situated in Ibex along twin palm road, when in fact not.

In April this year, Magistrate Walusiku found Maseka with a case to answer in the matter.

Maseka however, opted to remain silent in his defence.

But when the matter came up for judgement Tuesday, magistrate Walusiku found that the case of Perjury had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt against the accused.

Magistrate Walusiku found that Maseka did not give false testimony in the said proceedings before magistrate Chanda, adding that there was no evidence that the accused committed perjury.

She said what Maseka had told the court was what he believed to be the truth, adding that there was nowhere else where he gave a statement on oath which contradicted what he said in Court.

"DEC officers never got any statements from accused either ordinary or on oath and are not part of the category that can receive evidence on oath. For perjury to be committed it has to be on oath," magistrate Walusiku said.

She said Maseka therefore could not be faltered over something that he did not do.

"Further, the particulars of the offence allege that the accused person gave false information to honourable Chanda Nsunge that he knew nothing relating to the alleged Chimese properties situated in Ibex Hill, Twin Palm road when in fact not. This statement shows that the accused knew something about the said properties, however it is not known as to what knowledge is being stated here. Is it knowing that some property is there? Or knowledge that it belonged to Chimese?" Magistrate Walusiku asked.

She said there were other avenues that could have been taken by the prosecution team once it appeared to them that Maseka had committed Perjury in the case before magistrate Chanda.

Magistrate Walusiku added that this was not done and therefore, she gave Maseka a benefit of doubt.

"Firstly, in line with section 52 of the Subordinate Court Act Chapter 28 of the Laws of Zambia, an application was to be made in that court in that case for it to deal with him summarily by calling upon the accused person to show cause as to why he could not be punished for contempt of court. If he failed he was to be sentenced accordingly," magistrate Walusiku said.

"Secondly, after an application by the State, the court in that matter was going to hold a preliminary inquiry and if he was going to be found guilty, it was the court in that case to commit the accused person for trial on a charge of perjury. Thirdly, the prosecution were to declare the accused person as a hostile witness. In that case, the State would have cross examined the witness, the now accused person, so that credibility was tested and Justice be done."

Magistrate Walusiku said even evidence by the first prosecution witness showed that the said witness was being supervised by Maseka.

She said the witness did not say if Maseka also worked there but simply said the property was for Chimese and never showed any proof to that.

Magistrate Walusiku said the evidence of ownership was material to that case.

She however, said in this case, no ownership of that property had been shown to show that Maseka knew the owner and lied under oath.

"According to the third prosecution witness, in cross examination she told the court that the original owner for the said property was Chita Lodge, but it was subdivided. Further, the names for general Chimese did not appear on the title deed and that if she was presented with that title deed, she would have said that the property was for Chita Lodge. If the witness could say that the property belong to Chita Lodge and not Chimese, who then is the accused person for him to say that the property was for Chimese when he was not even shown any title deed in the names of Chimese?" Magistrate Walusiku wondered.

She therefore acquitted Maseka after finding that the case of Perjury was not proved beyond reasonable doubt.

"This is a criminal matter where proof must be beyond reasonable doubt. I have failed to connect the accused person to the offence of perjury. I find the case of perjury not proved beyond reasonable doubt. I find the accused person not guilty and I acquit him accordingly," ruled magistrate Walusiku.

She gave the state 14 days within which to appeal to the High Court if they were not happy with the ruling.

Lungu is afraid of ACC probe because he's corrupt - CK

By Ulande Nkomesha

NATIONAL Democratic Congress NDC president Chishimba Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu and the entire PF administration is scared of being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) because of their corrupt activities.

President Lungu on Sunday said those in charge of fighting corruption knew where to find it, but they couldn't dare go there because all they wanted was to remove him from power.

Speaking when he toured Chifuba Market in Ndola where market shelters were being built, the Head of State said the fight against corruption in Zambia had been anchored on politics, accusing anti-corruption advocates of scheming for regime change.

In an interview, Kambwili said President Lungu was the only Head of State in the country's history that had launched attacks on the ACC and wondered why he was scared of corruption investigations.

"The simple question that we should ask ourselves, why is it that President Lungu is so scared of the Anti-Corruption Commission? The President should give confidence to these investigative wings, but why is it that he is always attacking the Anti-Corruption. Ask yourself; which President in the history of Zambia has ever attacked the Anti-Corruption? Which President has ever attacked [ACC]?" Kambwili asked.

"Even that attack on the Anti-Corruption is window dressing. He is window dressing to try and launder the image of this administration. This administration is full of nothing but corruption! They work together with the ACC to launder people but some people want to show that they are not part of what the Anti-Corruption has been doing because we all know that the Anti-Corruption has failed when it comes to investigating those in government and those who are close to those in authority."

He further wondered why President Lungu was getting excited about corruption in councils while his ministers were also engaging in it.

"So, it is very unbecoming for this President to be always attacking the Anti-Corruption. The reason is very simple: it is just to launder themselves. How can the President get excited about corruption in the markets and not get excited by the corruption of a Minister? [Why] not get excited by Bowman Lusambo who everyone knows was a pauper with no money at all? Today, he is the one giving donations, erecting billboards, giving K100,000 to a football team, paying rent for people who have

nowhere to go. Surely, why can't the President get excited and go deeper in these things and find where Bowman Lusambo is getting his money?" Kambwili wondered.

"[State Counsel John] Sangwa said and I quote, 'If you make money in politics, then you are a thief'. That statement is nothing but a fact. If Bowman is a businessman, if Bowman has the ability to make money, why didn't he make money when he was not in government? Bowman today is flashing money all over, Dr Chilufya is flashing money all over; almost all the ministers in Lungu's government are flashing money all over; where have they gotten the money all of a sudden? Those are the issues that President Lungu should be talking about, not attacking the Anti-Corruption. We have asked for a lifestyle audit of all ministers, has the man even responded? So he wants to leave his ministers, he wants to leave the corrupt people and go for the corrupt in the councils?"

He said President Lungu's pronouncements were inciting people to lose confidence in the ACC, which would render the country ungovernable.

"I appeal to my elder brother Edgar Lungu, stop attacking the Anti-Corruption publicly. If you have any issues with the ACC, call them to your office and register your problems, don't go in public. Because if people lose confidence in the Anti-Corruption as a result of Presidential pronouncements, this country will be ungovernable. What happened on [Sunday] should be condemned," Kambwili said.

"He is setting a tone, I mean how can the President say that they are only following my people and those who are doing well? The question is how have they started doing well all of the sudden when they are government? Why were they not doing well when they were not in government? It tells you something; if the President talks like that, he is inciting people to rise against the Anti-Corruption. That is why you can see a person at a roadblock because he is scared of the offence he has committed, he accuses the policeman that this one has said the President will not win elections and within minutes, the Deputy Inspector General of Police transfers him to Shangombo without giving him an opportunity to be heard."

He said attacking the ACC was a sign of guilt from the Head of State.

"I have said and I want to say it again: if the head is rotten, then everything follows. If the head of the fish is rotten, then you know that the whole fish is not okay. This idea of attacking

the Anti-Corruption is the question of the guilty are afraid. If I was President Lungu, what is happening in his government in terms of corruption and defending the people that are corrupt, he should not open his mouth and talk about corruption. If a person has no shame, he can say anything..." Kambwili said.

"This government has no political will to fight corruption. Mr Sata, immediately a Minister was accused of corruption and the Anti-Corruption confirmed that they were investigating, he used to relieve them of their duties. Today, it is presumption of innocence until proven guilty. The law is very clear, the Anti-Corruption Act says any public officer who is being prosecuted for a criminal offence must be suspended. A lot of civil servants have been suspended; why are the ministers not being suspended? Because they know the whole process is to launder them."

And the former chief government spokesperson has said Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe should be investigated for failing to inform the ACC of the corrupt activities concerning the construction of a market at K28 million in Mpulungu.

"What surprised me is how can a Minister be lamenting corruption? Lamentations are for the governed and not for the government. That Freedom Sikazwe has the right to pick the phone and tell the Anti-Corruption 'can you investigate this issue in Mpulungu'. When he brought it before the President, that is serious; and the President should have said 'I am directing the Anti-Corruption to quickly move into that issue in Mpulungu', other than start attacking the Anti-Corruption. Sikazwe, you are part of that corruption. If you are not part of that Mpulungu corruption of K28 million for a market shelter, why haven't you reported it to the Anti-Corruption?" wondered Kambwili.

"By the way, the Anti-Corruption is also very clear; any person who does not report an act of corruption within 24 hours is guilty of an offence, any public officer, minister inclusive. If you don't report an act of corruption, then you are guilty of an offence. Sikazwe should be taken to court to answer for the charges of failing to report the corrupt act within the stipulated time. Ministers don't lament, ministers take action. Why didn't he take action? And he had to wait to come to Ndola with the President? Anyway, that is the result of taking a Rosa mechanic or Fuso Fighter mechanic as Presidential Affairs Minister, those are the results."AZ

COSAFA approves 2020 revised calendar for tournaments

By Abraham Kalito
COMMITTEE of the Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) has unveiled a revised 2020 calendar for tournaments.

Despite the spread of the novel Coronavirus epidemic, COSAFA has crafted and approved a potential blueprint for hosting competitions later this year and next year.

In a statement on the official COSAFA website, the regional soccer governing body has approved other initiatives, including online

training workshops. “The Executive Committee of the Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) has approved several new initiatives, including a revised 2020 calendar for tournaments, subject to the prevailing COVID-19 conditions across the region. While the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on travel and quarantine restrictions remains uncertain in the coming months, the Executive has crafted a potential blueprint

for hosting competitions if conditions allow across the COSAFA region,” read the COSAFA statement.

“The Under-17 and Under-20 COSAFA Men’s Championships serve as qualifiers for the continental finals to be staged by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and as such a priority has been placed on finding a window for these tournaments. The Mauritius Football Association has confirmed they have government approval to host these tournaments in November and December

2020, subject to COVID-19 levels remaining as they are, and strict health protocols being implemented. The continental finals for the Under-17 age-group are scheduled for Morocco next July, while the Under-20 finals are set for Mauritania at a date that has yet to be determined.”

It has also applied to host a Boys Under 15 tournament.

“The organisation is also exploring the potential of hosting its flagship men’s COSAFA Cup during the October FIFA

International window, while the senior COSAFA Women’s Championship has also been pencilled in for October 19-31 in Nelson Mandela Bay. Both are highly dependent on prevailing COVID-19 and travel conditions in South Africa at the time. There is also a plan to overlap the COSAFA Women’s Under-17 Championship (October 15-25) with the senior tournament in South Africa. The Under-20 Women’s Championship, which was scheduled for the Region 5 Games in Maseru in December, has been cancelled for this year after the Games were postponed to December 2021,” read the statement.

“While the 2020 calendar remains uncertain given the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are exciting plans to add as many as three more competitions in 2021, in what will be an incredibly busy time. COSAFA has applied to host a Boys Under-15 Championship in conjunction with the UEFA Assist programme, which will be timely with

CAF focusing more on this age-group for their own development initiatives.”

Further, the region’s soccer governing body has approved the implementation of Online Training Workshops for all countries in the areas of coaching.

“COSAFA has also created a task team to devise plans for the Regional Women’s Champions League which the organisation hopes to stage for the first-time next year, subject to funding being sourced to support this competition. There is also the potential to stage a Beach Soccer and Futsal Championships for the region that is being explored, which would bring the total to ten COSAFA tournaments in 2021. Away from the pitch, the COSAFA Executive committee also approved the implementation of Online Training Workshops for all countries in the areas of Coaching, Referees, Administration and Media, subject to the necessary funding being available,” stated COSAFA.

Simba to clash with ZANACO or Zesco

By Abraham Kalito
TANZANIAN outfit Simba FC have confirmed that the club will host either Zanaco or Zesco United in an international friendly match as part of their pre-season campaign.

The Tanzanian side has reinforced their squad after acquiring the services of Larry Bwalya and Chris Mugalu from Zesco and Lusaka Dynamos respectively.

The clubs started the pre-season campaign on Monday.

Having won the Vodacom Premier League for the third consecutive time,

Simba looks set to do so for the fourth time and are already hopeful of following up their title-winning campaign with even more trophies.

The Sven Vandebroek’s side look set to qualify for the CAF Champion’s League group stage, as a top priority come next season after they were eliminated in the preliminary round by UD Songo of Mozambique in the previous campaign.

The Tanzanian side is looking for ways to quickly incorporate the services of the new additions to the side by

ensuring that they settled down in no time.

The players would immediately join the squad when the first training session is scheduled, as they have all passed their respective medicals during their presentations.

The club’s intensive pre-season schedule starts with an international friendly match against either Zanaco FC or Zesco United on Saturday on the ‘Simba Day’, which culminates into a week of charity activities held by the outfit, known as ‘Simba Week’.



Barca terminate Abidal’s contract as backroom clear-out continues

BARCELONA have announced the termination of technical manager Eric Abidal’s contract as the club’s backroom purge continues.

The Catalan club announced the sacking of head coach Quique Setien on Monday following a dreadful end to the 2019-20 season, Barca having conceded the Liga title to eternal rivals Real Madrid and crashing out of the Champions League in dramatic style.

An 8-2 thrashing at the hands of Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals was the final straw for Setien, who had been brought in to bring back an exciting brand of football that disappeared under the more pragmatic Ernesto Valverde.

Abidal’s final act as technical manager was showing Setien the exit door at Camp Nou.

The French former full-back had found himself in the bad books of club captain Lionel Messi after publicly criticising players for “not doing much work” following the sacking of

Valverde at the turn of the year.

Messi publicly called for Abidal to “name names” in relation to the players he deemed as underperforming, adding that his former teammate’s statement would tar the entire squad – the Argentine included – if he didn’t go into specifics.

Now, the skipper will no longer have to concern himself with the opinion of Abidal, who was let go by the club on Tuesday.

A statement on Barca’s official website reads: “FC Barcelona and Eric Abidal have reached an agreement for the termination of the contract binding both parties.

“The club publicly expresses its gratitude to Eric Abidal for the professionalism, commitment, dedication and positive and close treatment towards all the areas that make up the Barca family, and wishes him luck and success in the future.” **GOAL.COM**

ECZ sets Sept 17 for Lukashya, Mwanasabombwe by-elections

By Ulande Nkomesha
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia has set September 17, 2020 as polling date for the Lukashya and Mwanasabombwe parliamentary by-elections.

And ECZ says there will be no public rallies to avert the spread of COVID-19, urging political parties to devise other campaign strategies.

In a statement, Tuesday, ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse also said 12 local government by-elections would also be held on the same date.

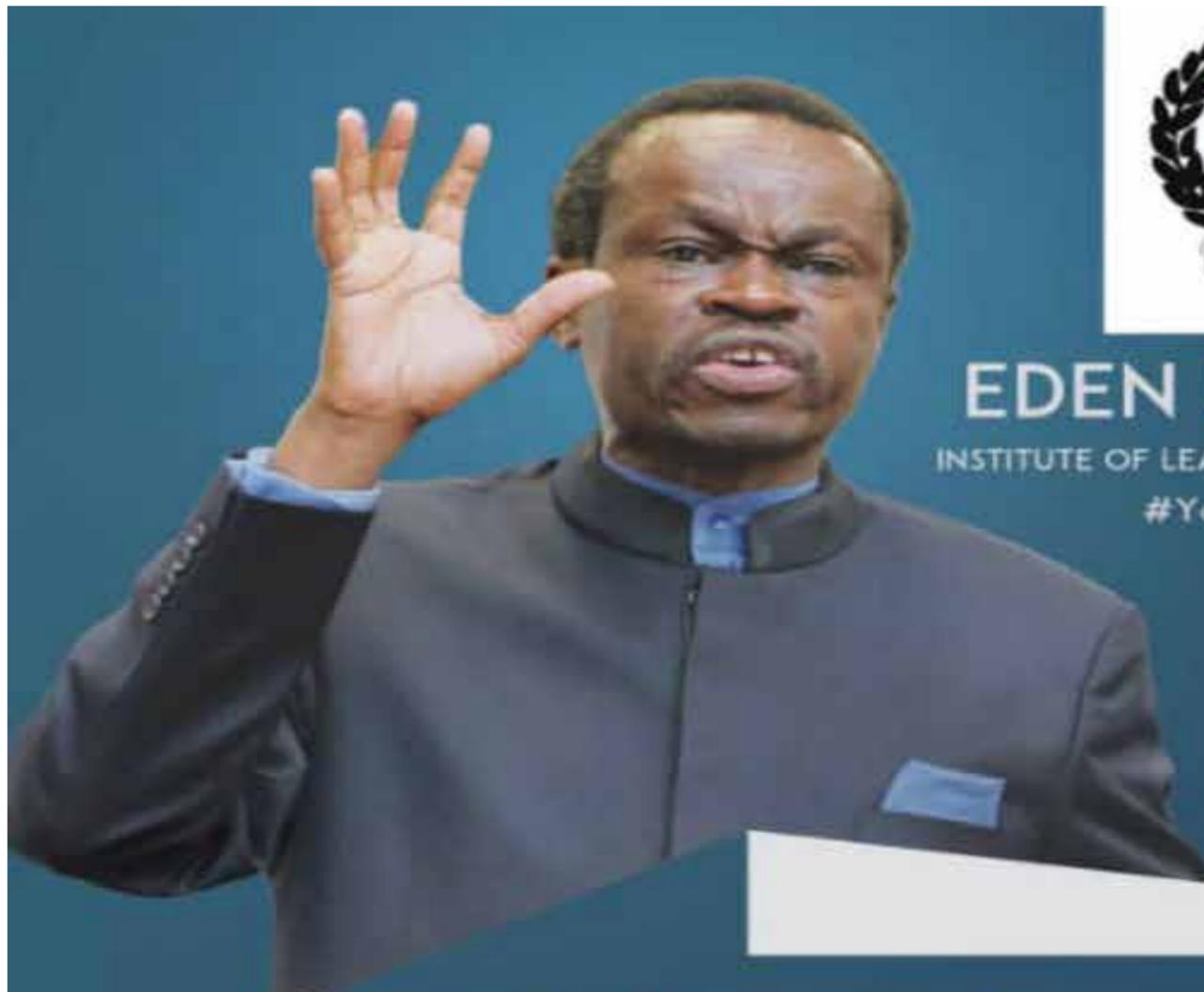
She stated that the commission had set August 27 as the date for filling in of nominations.

“The Electoral Commission of Zambia has set 17th September, 2020 as the date on which to hold Parliamentary by elections for Lukashya and Mwanasabombwe Constituency and 12 local government wards in various districts of the Copperbelt, North Western and Lusaka Provinces. This follows the death of Mr Rodgers Mwewa, MP for Mwanasabombwe Constituency and Mr Mwenya Mukonge, MP for Lukashya Constituency on 18th July 2020. The vacancies in the local government wards have arisen following resignations and death of councillors,” Chimanse stated.

“Aspiring candidates in the by elections should lodge completed and attested

statutory declaration and nomination papers subscribed before a Magistrate, Local Court Magistrate, Head of Government Primary or Secondary School, Principal of a College, Commissioner of oaths, election officer or returning officer on the 27th of August 2020.” Chimanse stated that political parties would not be allowed to hold public rallies and were expected to use other methods to campaign to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

“Kindly take note that stakeholders and participating party members are all required to observe the Ministry of Health Guidelines and procedures on the prevention of COVID-19 at all times. The Commission has put in place measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and is appealing to the various stakeholders in the electoral process to observe the following: political parties are discouraged from holding public rallies to avoid the contraction of COVID-19; political parties and other stakeholders are encouraged to use appropriate campaign strategies such as mobile public address system, distribution of flyers and other political party materials with minimal or no contact with a crowd. Political parties should desist from ferrying cadres from one district/ward to the other for campaigns in districts where by elections are taking place,” said Chimanse.



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