



I don't count how many times I've lost - HH

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says he does not waste time counting his losses because fighting for

freedom doesn't come easy.

And Hichilema says he will not go into government with the desire to fix and arrest fellow politicians like

what President Edgar Lungu is doing.

Meanwhile, Hichilema says he is not intimidated by the intended Harry Kalaba, Felix Mutati and

Kelvin Bwalya Fube alliance.

Responding to a QFM Breakfast Show listener, Wednesday, Hichilema said he doesn't count the number of

times he has lost elections because the goal is to seek a better living for the Zambian people.

Story page 2

WE'RE PROBING STARDY - ACC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has confirmed summoning former defence permanent secretary Stardy Mwale for

questioning in corruption related investigations.

Mwale, who was recently transferred to Cabinet Office by President Edgar Lungu, appeared before ACC

investigators yesterday.

ACC Public Relations Manager Timothy Moono confirmed the summoning in response to a press query from News Diggers.

"I wish to acknowledge receipt of your press query in which you wish to find out whether the Commission summoned the Former Ministry of Defense Permanent Secretary Stardy Mwale for questioning. In response to your query, I wish to confirm that the Commission did summon the

Former Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Stardy Mwale today, to assist with an investigation," Moono stated.

He could not, however, disclose further details on the investigations.

"...further details cannot be divulged at this moment, as this may jeopardise investigations. I thank you for your inquiry," stated Moono.

In June this year, News Diggers published an investigation which reported that Mwale owned a multi-million kwacha

farm bordering Nickel Mine near Mazabuka and another 700-hectare farm in Mkushi, among other high-end properties. Sources further told News Diggers that the former Permanent Secretary owned over 1,000 cows at his Mkushi farm, all purchased from unexplained wealth.

When asked to confirm if he owned the stated properties, Mwale said it was not his duty to explain his wealth to the media.

"The best you could have done is go to Mkushi and

verify the farm. But after you have written you are asking me; what should I answer? When you hear such stories, call me before you write. After you have written, why do you want me to explain? When you write like that, other people are following and at the end of the day, they will know that this paper is all about lies! So, about me owning those farms, people will know, there is a system there. You have exposed that I have these farms; it is not my duty to explain to you," said Mwale.

Wina tests positive for COVID-19

By Diggers Reporter

VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina has tested positive for COVID-19 and has since gone into home isolation, President Edgar Lungu has confirmed.

On Tuesday, Vice-President Wina, aged 80, tested positive for COVID-19 following a positive result of her daughter with whom she lives.

Story page 5

Police arrest, release Jay Jay on bond

By Julia Malunga

POLICE in Lusaka have arrested Patriotic Front Eastern Province Youth

Chairperson Emmanuel J Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay and charged him with aggravated assault with intent to steal.

In an interview, Wednesday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo said Jay Jay was likely to appear in court on Thursday.

"He handed himself in today. He has been arrested and charged together with those four that were initially arrested. He has been charged with aggravated assault with intent to steal. He is likely to appear in court tomorrow," said Katongo.

Story page 3

Zambia hits 10,218 COVID-19 cases, 269 deaths

Story page 2

Republic of Zambia
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Services

CODE RED ALERT

SYMPTOMS
Do you know that the symptoms of Covid-19, in addition to Fever, Coughing, Chest Pains, Sore Throat and Headache, now also include the following:

- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Eye infections

When you have any of these symptoms, please don't delay to inform health authorities using the Toll Free line 909.

-COVID-19 IS MY FIGHT, YOUR FIGHT, OUR FIGHT-

This message is brought to you with support from OSISA and News Diggers in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

News Diggers!
ear to the ground

Your behavioural change makes a difference

I don't count how many times I've lost – HH

By Ulande Nkomesha
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says he does not waste time counting his losses because fighting for freedom doesn't come easy.

And Hichilema says he will not go into government with the desire to fix and arrest fellow politicians like what President Edgar Lungu is doing.

Meanwhile, Hichilema says he is not intimidated by the intended Harry Kalaba, Felix Mutati and Kelvin Bwalya Fube alliance.

Responding to a QFM Breakfast Show listener, Wednesday, Hichilema said he doesn't count the number of times he has lost elections because the goal is to seek a better living for the Zambian people.

The listener, who only identified himself as Brother Chisha from Lusaka, asked what strategy Hichilema would use going into the 2021 general elections as he had already lost five previous elections.

Chisha also questioned why Hichilema had continued to use social media to campaign rather than engaging people on the ground.

“Hey, it is citizens adept in losing. Citizens are hurting, that is why the economy has collapsed, that is why there are no jobs, citizens are hurting everywhere. What HH is doing is caring for 17 million children. So when you count those numbers, I don't count those numbers myself. What we are seeking is to better the lives of the people. It doesn't matter how many much long it takes, it doesn't matter. How long did it take to fight for independence? How long was Kaunda arrested? How many times was Kapwepwe arrested? Did they stop fighting for independence? No! Because they knew that independence had to come. As we know that PF has to go because we need to bring a decent leadership, it doesn't matter, keep counting Chisha you will be tired of counting,” Hichiema said.

“Technology is here to stay, if you don't want technology then you are in the wrong place. Technology is here to stay. So if you say to me what you are doing on Facebook? What is Lungu doing on Facebook? Why do we have the Smart Eagles on Facebook and Twitter? What are you doing? Again it shows your lack of understanding of the environment. HH is seeking government to serve the people and not to steal from the people.”

Hichilema said campaigning should not be left to him alone.

“Everybody must be on the ground. This notion

that Bally, HH must go everywhere, every corner, 13,000 polling stations and protect the vote alone, no. This is the unity I am talking about; every one must take it as a duty because we are all suffering to campaign, to be on the ground. Everybody must go and do their work. They shouldn't wait for HH alone because we are all hurting, we are all suffering under this visionless leadership. This is not an HH agenda, HH is doing a lot. People shouldn't see HH working when he is in the police cells. You know, I have been detained 15 times. Zambians have become accustomed that if HH is not in Maximum prison, in Mukobeko, then he is not working, no! The freedom struggle, the liberation struggle, the opportunity to empower youths to go to school, the economy to grow, is an agenda for all of us. It is not an HH agenda as someone tried to say that ‘oh, the opposition has lost by elections, they have lost’. It is your children who are not in school who have lost, it those who have no jobs that have lost. It is the retirees who have not been paid their money that have lost, it is everybody,” Hichilema said.

“Everybody must go and campaign. We were campaigning, it was only last week I was in the Central Province, I am sure you saw the footage. I am not afraid of anything but we shouldn't think that if HH is not in police cells, he is now being chased all over, bullets shot at me in Sesheke, in Kaoma, remember in Chilubi Island there was a by-election I went to be there for 10 days, I was chased out like a dog and Zambians just watched. We are there for you,



we are there for each other. Do not sit and do nothing when the oppressed are oppressing bus drivers. Bally HH is not afraid, if I was afraid, I could have run away from this agenda.”

And Hichilema said he would not go into government with the desire to fix or arrest fellow politicians.

“First, it is not the job of a President, like ourselves and our team united Zambia, to go into government to fix people. Because I have heard Davies Mwila every time he is campaigning in Northern, Luapula Provinces, his campaign message is that ‘don't vote for HH and UPND because he will come and arrest us’. So, you Davies Mwila what are you afraid of? Why is HH going to arrest you? HH does not arrest people, that is the difference we bring to the table...HH is not like you and your friends who arrest innocent people. I have been arrested 15 times, I have been put in a cell with fresh faeces, it is not our duty, our duty is to fix the economy. We will not go out to seek leadership to arrest Lungu for what? I know he is scared of that because of what he did to me. I want him to hear this message, HH, Mr Lungu, is not like you. HH does not seek leadership to punish you, HH seeks to better the lives of you, better the lives of citizens,” Hichilema said.

Meanwhile, Hichilma said he was not intimidated by the Kalaba, Mutati and Fube

alliance.

“What is there to threaten anybody, why would anyone be threatened? It is democracy. Kalaba, Mutati, KBF, who by the way I want you to know something, I know KBF very well. When he talks against HH, I take the higher ground. I know him very well, who he is. We were together at UNZA, I know his character but I will never talk about him. Let the people of Zambia judge him. He tries to talk about me but Kelvin, you know that I know you very well but I will never say things that you say about me because you are free, you are a citizen and you are being oppressed under the PF, your party. You and other Zambians must liberate ourselves from that PF operation,” said Hichilema.

“So, I don't know why you find time to talk about HH all the time I hear you but I choose to be silent but I know you very well. You, where you are seated, know that I know you very well; but I am different from him. That is the difference we want to bring to the people of Zambia; to mature, to focus on issues. I am not the one in government. I can't be threatened by KBF, it takes long to build a political party. In this country, there are people who believe noise making makes you a better person. You must look at the track record of the people, what have they done for themselves, for their families, for society? Then you can check them nicely.”

Zambia hits 10,218 COVID-19 cases, 269 deaths

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country has recorded 237 new COVID-19 cases out of 845 tests, with 350 discharges in the last 24 hours.

And Zambia National Public Health Institute director Professor Victor Mukonka says it is an offense for an employee to fail to disclose when they have tested positive to the virus.

Speaking during the daily COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Chilufya said the country also recorded five deaths, two of which were brought in dead.

“Today, Zambia recorded 237 new cases out of 845 tests done bringing the total number of cases to well over 10,000, therefore standing at 10,218. Again, the spot map does show wide geographic spread and we continue to see cases in different parts of the country. Currently, we have 67 patients admitted to Levy isolation facility, nine are in critical condition and two are on assisted ventilation. We unfortunately recorded two facility deaths from Levy Mwanawasa Hospital and we recorded three BIDs in Ndola, one, Chililabombwe one and Luanshya one. The cumulative number of deaths now stand at 269 of which 266 have been classified as follows: 79 as covid deaths and 187 as covid associated deaths. Three deaths are pending classification. 350 patients have been discharged from our various facilities and that brings our cumulative number of recoveries to 9,126. Therefore, the picture is 10,218 cases, 9,126 recoveries, 269 deaths,” he said.

Dr Chilufya expressed concern over the high number of COVID-19 cases in work places, saying this contributed to the contraction of the country's economy.

“A significant proportion of our institutions in both private and the public sector now have at least one positive employee or one employee that has tested positive. This demonstrates the risk that employees are exposed to as they discharge their duties. The temporal closure of these facilities for disinfection further exacerbates the impact of these work places and continues to contribute to the contracting of the economy. It is time to heed the call to work virtually and to distinguish the essential services that will continue to drive service delivery in the country and to ensure that we stop reinfection at these places. This undesirable situation, if not addressed, can have long term effects on the economy. The landlocked nature of our country as well as the economic vulnerability of the majority citizens who depend on daily earnings for their livelihood has precluded us from imposing a total lockdown in the country. However, this is in line with the guidance to ensure that the economy continues to run while we protect lives and livelihoods,” said Dr Chilufya.

He urged employers to ensure they protect their workforce by ensuring that overcrowding in work places is not allowed and health guidelines are followed to the letter.

And speaking during the same briefing, Prof Mukonka said failure to notify employers of a covid positive test was an offense.

“It is important for anyone who has tested positive to ensure that the employers are informed. In fact, going by statutory instrument number 21, it provides for the notification. So it's mandatory to notify all the cases which are positive for COVID-19. So it's an offense if you hide and you don't notify your employers,” said Prof Mukonka.a

Caritas wonders why DMMU is not disbursing full relief package

By Natasha Sakala

CARITAS Zambia has wondered why relief beneficiaries are not receiving the full package outlined in the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).

In an interview, Caritas Zambia executive director Eugene Kabilika said despite a balanced diet being laid out, beneficiaries were only receiving part of the package.

“What is written and what is supposed to be given by the standards of DMMU is actually a standard diet which provides for carbohydrates, protein and all the necessary things. Like when you talk about maize, talk about beans, kapenta, cooking oil, which is really like, by Zambian standard, that's what it should be but what gets to the actual beneficiaries is a completely different thing. So, you find that the beneficiaries may only get mealie meal, kapenta, beans and all that, or sometimes they get just beans and kapenta or cooking oil, the rest, mealie meal is not there. So it is really actually the implementation of the actual response to the relief

which is problematic,” Kabilika said. “As you know, DMMU itself does not have full capacity to be able to deliver to the beneficiary, they rely on those who help them but through the government systems, it is very problematic because from our experience as Caritas, especially over the 2019/2020 season, it was really political. We monitored the distribution of food in Eastern Province, in Shangombo and also some part of Western Province. The people who are in charge of DMMU distribution at the local level literally politicize the whole process. In some places, they were even fighting because they were accusing each other of favouring relatives, this and that. So it became problematic, it is the implementation itself which has been broken down. I will give an example of Sioma, food went to waste there, nobody was able to take it to Shangombo because from Sioma to Shangombo, it is a bit problematic and it was just marooned and people who needed to get it could not because these administrative [problems] that

were holding that. So, that becomes quite a bit of a problem.”

He further said the government and stakeholders needed to work together to ensure that the vulnerable were cushioned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When you talk about intervention on the impact of COVID-19, especially on the poor households, we are looking at people, like those who live on hand to mouth where they have a small garden and they sell or they buy vegetables from sellers and they go and sell. Maybe they even just make a K50 or something like that. What should have happened actually is to assess how many of those households are vulnerable and we already have figures from vulnerability assessment by DMMU in the areas that were affected by floods, the areas that were affected by drought in the 2019/2020 season...I know and I am aware that the World Food Program is in the process of supporting so many people on social cash transfer and [vulnerable] households in this time

of COVID-19. It will be very useful to help them so that maybe they can live through this difficult situation. So government should have followed that line,” said Kabilika.

“I know that government also has a Social Cash Transfer [programme] but it has been shrouded with all these controversies and all that so much that now, it is not even clear how many are still benefitting or whether it's still happening. If you ask the beneficiaries, some of them will tell you that they haven't received any for the last seven months, for the past 10 months so it's not very inconsistent. If it's consistently done, that can be good, but on the other hand also, civil society organisations that are involved in livelihood [programmes] should be able to find ways and strategies of helping people to increase their production in as far as responding through agriculture and all that. So a concerted effort of everyone who has that can able to alleviate the poverty of the suffering, the vulnerable and those that are affected.”

By Natasha Sakala

HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says he is not happy with the happenings in the Zambia Police Service where provisions of the Statutory Instrument Number 22 on enforcement of COVID-19 regulations were misinterpreted.

And Kampyongo has accused Civil Society Organisations raising concerns about the monitoring of the mobile issuance of National Registration Cards are just doing so to get funding from donors.

Speaking when he featured on Diamond TV’s Diamond Live program, Tuesday, Kampyongo said the fact that the issue of police collecting K750 from the people is being discussed means there is a problem.

“If I was happy, we couldn’t be discussing the issue of K750...So the fact that we are talking about it means there is a problem,” Kampyongo said.

He added that given that the COVID-19 pandemic was a new phenomenon, mistakes were bound to be made.

“This is a pandemic which has hit us from nowhere so you expect that there will be these issues coming up because no one was ready for it, no one was prepared for it. So in enforcing preventive measures, obviously there will be misunderstandings of the measures themselves. So it’s expected that mistakes could be made, misinterpretations could be made and so that’s why we are there to provide guidance. So what you are referring to is the issue of our officers collecting something in the form admission of guilt fees, but you see, every fee that you collect must be backed by law and I know that officers were relying on the regulations of SI 22 which also stipulates penalties for non-compliance and people that are found non-compliant. But unfortunately, for us as legislators, when we are formulating these pieces of legislation for interpretation, we must have a rationale behind what we are crafting and so in those regulations, the 2,500 penalties which has now become famous is applicable to someone who is convicted, it’s upon conviction,” Kampyongo clarified.

“And there are two options, either you pay a fine or serve a term not less than six months or both upon conviction. And so, it could have been some misinterpretation to some extent because the only institution which has got the jurisdiction to convict is the court. So meaning, the police should arrest you for not masking up and take you to court and tried. Upon conviction, that’s when those units are applicable.”

He, however, noted that the provision to arrest those found wanting was still in the SI 22 and warned the public against daring the police.

“What we don’t expect is when you hear that no, people won’t be paying the K750 and therefore I will move still dare the police to say ‘look, what can you do because you are not going to make me pay K750?’ That shouldn’t be the spirit. I think our citizens must take this pronouncement. What

I’m not happy with police – Kampyongo

we are saying is that the police will start to be monitoring, participating in sensitisation and if it comes to the worst, if the lack of compliance comes to the worst and we see that many people have opted to continue putting other people’s lives at risk, they will have no option but to effect some arrests in some cases,” Kampyongo added.

“Look, I must make it very clear that the provision [for arrests] is still there and police can still arrest people and take to court for contravening the regulations but what should be helpful, it’s not about interpretation, the legal minds, we the law makers and what not, explaining this, there is a risk which is a reality. What should we all be doing collectively? You the media who are disseminating information to the public, what role should you play, what is the role of the citizens who are at risk? Because, I don’t want you to be reckless and put me at risk. So should I start kicking you and chasing you myself? The answer is no. The reason why we have got these law enforcers is to make sure that they [protect] your rights just as they [protect] mine. And that’s how it works.”

And the Minister said the issuance of NRCs is the mandate of the ministry and is conducted without being monitored and those crying about it were just doing so for funding.

“We have got CSOs now that are out there making noise to try and get money to justify sourcing for money from donors to do certain things. First of all, you must understand this exercise before we even talk of stakeholders. What is this exercise all about? First of all, the mandate to identify citizens, which the Ministry of Home Affairs executes through the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship, is provided for in the document of the land, the Constitution under part four. This is a mandate that is performed by this department under the Ministry of Home Affairs on a daily basis from Monday to Friday,” said Kampyongo.

“I was asking you deliberately those questions so that you understand because you are a Zambian and you went through a process and when you went through the process, that same process you went through is what everyone that is being registered now is going through. The difference between the permanent offices and the mobile registration exercise we do is to give an opportunity to people, especially for us who represent rural people who might not have chance to move the longest distance from the village of Kabanda to go to Chinsali where the office is, covering 90 kilometers plus. Some of the people, because of this challenge of distance, have lived beyond the mandatory age of 16... for one to be registered. So what this exercise does is to give an opportunity because sometimes, people live beyond the age, and start even having

their other children without being registered as citizens and they only realize the challenge of living like that when they want to access certain government services.”

COVID-19 has worsened high cost of living, lament CSOs

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) says COVID-19 has not brought about new economic challenges in Zambia but it has only heightened already existing problems.

And the Consumer Unit Trust Society (CUTS) says government should consider reducing the income tax rates in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households.

Meanwhile, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) says the civil society organizations should work together and push government to be more transparent on debt.

Speaking during a virtual panel discussion, Tuesday, Ibrahim Kamara from CUTS said ordinary citizens were most affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic because the cost of living has gone up while many of them were no longer in employment.

“In as much as the economy has been crippled, the ultimate people who suffer the most as a result of this COVID-19 are the [ordinary] people. It is important to analyze the impact of COVID-19 in those lines. COVID-19 has to a larger extent magnified the problems that we had as a country. Narrowing down to the extractive, we have seen a decline in revenues predominantly because Zambia is export oriented and the traditional export commodity is a mineral which we export to different countries abroad. When the global markets were shuttered, it became hard to export certain things and to export anything because the boarders were closed. China which was the epicenter for the COVID pandemic also could not export as the economy was crippled,” Kamara said.

“On one hand, of course, we have seen a decline in terms of foreign revenues and also the job market specifically in the extractive sector, we have seen a cut in jobs mainly because the COVID pandemic has brought in challenges and specifically people are unable to work. We have also seen a decline in productivity because some companies are unable to meet some of the cost and of course labor costs. The cost of living also is directly proportional to the prices in the country like if the exchange rate is bad, inflation is also high.”

Kamara highlighted some key economic sectors which had been most impacted by the pandemic.

“In terms of what we export as a country, we haven’t really done much. As others indicated, 70 per cent of our exports are raw materials. And of course we have seen challenges in the domestic sector. We have also seen the Ministry of Finance and specifically the Zambia Revenue Authority cutting down on the target for 2020 in terms of the resources that were budgeted for and this is mainly because of the forecast that has been put in for the economic growth. For the first time in so many years, economic growth is forecasted to go down into the negatives. And when growth goes in the negatives, then we are experiencing a recession as a country. And also in terms of the foreign exchange that you would expect to receive have been affected. In the tourism sector, planes would no longer fly when we were deep into the crisis. We get a lot of foreign exchange from the tourism sector but seeing that we could no longer sustain that, it also became a burden on the local people,” he said.

Kamara noted that the economy was already crippled before the pandemic.

“These are some of the challenges that have only been heightened by the pandemic. We cannot take away the fact that we could have responded well to this pandemic had we set in place certain mechanisms that we would have put as contingencies. For example, we would have looked at the amount of resources that we



Police arrest, release Jay Jay on bond

By Julia Malunga

POLICE in Lusaka have arrested Patriotic Front Eastern Province Youth Chairperson Emmanuel J Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay and charged him with aggravated assault with intent to steal.

In an interview, Wednesday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo said Jay Jay was likely to appear in court on Thursday.

“He handed himself in today. He has been arrested and charged together with those four that were initially arrested. He has been charged with aggravated assault with intent to steal. He is likely to appear in court tomorrow,” said Katongo.

When asked if he had been granted bond, Katongo said, “Yes, he has been bonded”, without stating the conditions.

In July, Banda mobilised PF cadres and stormed Lusaka Central Police where they beat up some unsuspecting officers on duty and got away with an undisclosed amount of money, belonging to one of the officers.

Sources say the incident happened after the C5 anti-robbery squad shot and killed a suspect earlier, who happens to be a relative to Banda. The suspected robber died after sustaining four bullet wounds.

This infuriated the PF official who demanded to meet the officers involved in the shooting incident. However, the officers did not comply, prompting Banda to mobilise cadres and besiege the provincial police headquarters, with at least one visible firearm.

Banda has been on the run ever since.

By Mirriam Chabala
TRANSPORT and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya says bus stations do not belong to the ruling Patriotic Front because they are properties of the councils.

And the Bus and Taxi Owners Association on the Copperbelt and Public Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers have complained that cadres continue to intimidate and overcharge them for loading their buses in public stations even after President Edgar Lungu issued a directive to remove political party cadres from the stations.

An unidentified representative of bus owners and drivers from Ndola complained when they met Kafwaya, Wednesday, that PF cadres were simply too powerful and only bus operators with connections in government were safe from harassment.

Bus stations aren’t PF properties, they belong to councils, says Kafwaya

“The issue of cadres in the stations, you know sometimes why we keep quiet is because we don’t want to be identified tomorrow that ‘you are the one who spoke so much in that meeting so your buses won’t load’. But this is what is happening, we are not free to speak. Cadres are still in the bus stations even after the President issued a directive to have them removed. Maybe after the meeting, I will give you the figures of how much we pay for a bus to load. The last time I raised this issue, they (cadres) told me ‘we will call the commander right now in Lusaka and your buses

won’t load’. But fortunately, I also communicated with honourable Freedom Sikazwe who helped me with the situation. But we can’t keep on using powers that be to survive in this industry,” he complained.

He also complained that unregistered buses had kicked a lot of public bus operators out of the business and that it would kill the industry if not addressed.

“Pirating is an illegality and it should not be condoned. I would have expected that members present would have hit the nail on the head but they are going round the issues. So when I say piracy, we run

businesses and we belong to the council, our investments are big but our returns are minimal. I run big buses, I would run a distance of 1,000 kilometers to and another 1,000 kilometers back to come and receive K500. I have used K1,000 for fuel just to make a trip to that destination and back and why? Because piracy is at play. I feel for the local operators because that is also affecting them. If I tell you that a bus takes a month to go from Ndola to Kitwe, you might not believe me, but it’s true, buses load once a month. This is the scenario we are in. But if government could deal with it, then it

would greatly help,” the representative said.

“For us, we feel like boycotting the public sitting this year regardless of whatever plans the ministry has got. We have been talking for the last 20 years about piracy and you cannot tell me that again, you are going to look into it. You will be dissolved and another minister will also be looking into it, no! Be action-oriented, we are complaining here, we are failing under your ministry and we expect results immediately; you have heard what we’ve got to say, by next week, some action must be taken. It is easy to issue an SI to bring a certain law but to issue an SI to bring a law that is going to protect us, it takes procedure. I think honourable minister, we have been treated like kids in this industry.”

Meanwhile, the representative appealed to government to set aside some funds to empower public transporters as a way of boosting their businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have seen youths being empowered with buses since COVID came, marketers have been given funds, what about us? Honourable minister, you mustn’t forget that we are the biggest employer in the informal sector. You can’t run away from that fact, yet we don’t benefit even the cram that comes from government. So from these funds that have come, we are expecting that we may also benefit, the people we carry are our customers, we must also look after their lives, but we can’t get anything from the government,” said the representative.

And a representative from Chingola identified

as Mwenya wondered what kind of a pro-poor government PF was if did not have the interest of people like them at heart.

“We have seen political parties having security wings, very soon you will hear that us in the transport sector have also found security wings to manage the streets. You are enticing us to become unruly, you are testing us, you are pushing us to the edge. We are soon going to be unruly, not because that’s our nature or desire to become unruly but because the situation is not allowing us to behave ourselves. We don’t know if you people [in government] are there to help us or to kill us, which pro poor [government] are you?” asked Mwenya.

In response, Kafwaya explained that councils were the ones in charge of the bus stations and that cadres had no place there.

“The President doesn’t want this. He’s very clear, he doesn’t want interference. Stations are not for cadres, even you the bus owners and the drivers, those are not your stations. Those stations are for the councils, so if they are for the council, they cannot be for PF because the council is not PF. So councils must find their spot in the bus stops because they are the owners of those places. Our sector only goes there to work. Otherwise, sanitation and all those things is not our business. But since we are one government, I will tell the story to Dr Charles Banda that I have received information that cadres are still interfering with the running of bus stops,” said Kafwaya who also promised to work with his colleagues in government to address concerns of transport sector players.

Public institutions should stop intimidating citizens – Milupi

By Julia Malunga
ALLIANCE for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi says it is unfortunate that National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) decided to sue him alongside News Diggers in an intimidation attempt.

On Tuesday, Lusaka High Court Judge Sharon Nawa dismissed a case in which NAPSA had sued Milupi and News Diggers Media Limited over a publication that allegedly accused it of corruption and mismanagement of member’s funds.

Commenting on the ruling in an interview, Milupi said NAPSA should have addressed the issues which were raised rather than rushing to court.

“It is unfortunate that NAPSA decided to take that route in the hope that they would intimidate both myself as a public figure who cares about the institutions of good governance, the preservations of public resources and also News Diggers as an independent minded media institution. The issues upon which I commented and upon which News Diggers wrote the story, are issues of public interest. Both News Diggers and myself have no personal interests other than the fact that NAPSA is supposed to be the institution of last resort for many workers in this country who spend their time working in various fields. And at the end of their working life, they expect NAPSA to provide for them right up to the end of their life,” Milupi said.

“We have seen in Zambia that NAPSA is one of the worst schemes in terms of value for money, in terms of what pensioners get out of it, completely nothing. And the reason for this is purely whoever runs NAPSA is unable to generate value that they will then use to adequately fund their pensioners. As

a result, we have very little money that comes out. When now they get involved in schemes and projects that are suspicious and we who care about those pensioners raise our views on what has happened, for example the contract that was in question was completely questionable. Instead of addressing those issues because they are public institutions, they seek now to carry out intimidation by way of threatening litigation. We are very pleased that somebody has told them, that as public institution they cannot start suing for libel to those that raise issues of public interest.”

He said NAPSA had been shown that they had difficulties in understanding the law.

“In any case, NAPSA, as a public institution, who are the owners of NAPSA?

Because those are the ones who should feel offended. Is it the management? No they are workers! Is it the board of directors? The citizens of this country are the owners of NAPSA. So if we the owners complain and raise issues on how our institution is being run, how can someone then say we are libeling ourselves? It is like on my farm, if I raise issues that my farm is not doing what it should be doing, how can I sue myself? They have been shown that even understanding the law they have difficulties. In Zambia, they think you can intimidate anybody, no you can’t do that,” he said.

Milupi said he felt bad that the case did not go into full trial because more issues that the Authority was involved in would have been brought to light.

“The companies they

are dealing with, the one on which we raised issues, they are involved in so many things. And in a way, I feel bad that this case did not go into full trial, we would have raised issue after issue where they have been involved in questionable circumstances including the same company that they have awarded a contract to. In a way, they have been saved by having this quick judgement. I think it is a lesson for all public institutions that respond to the concerns of the citizens, do not try to intimidate. In Zambia now, because of the dictatorship we are in, everyone is trying to intimidate everybody else and in the process, they want to be left so that they can eat quietly and do whatever they want. That judgement shows that there is still some order in the accountability. It is a good judgment,” said Milupi.

Political parties should be involved in NRC registration, insists Mwila

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) Secretary General Davies Mwila has insisted that political parties should be part of the National Registration Cards (NRCs) registration process.

And Mwila says the people of Lukashya and Mwansabombwe Constituencies will choose to rise above and reject the opposition alternatives because of the bitterness, falsehoods and tribalism they exhibit.

Briefing the press on the Central Committee’s resolutions, Wednesday, Mwila insisted that political parties should be part of the NRC registration process in order to strengthen democracy.

“The PF attaches great importance to all efforts aimed at enhancing and expediting popular participation of all citizens in the governance process. However, this is not exclusively PF’s responsibility, but the responsibility of all stakeholders, including political parties. For this reason, the Central Committee of the PF has called

on the active involvement of all stakeholders, including political parties such as Patriotic Front, in National Registration Card (NRC) registration process. The PF believes that by doing so, Zambia’s democracy will be deepened and strengthened,” Mwila said.

And Mwila announced that the ruling party had adopted Kasabo Kampampi and George Chisanga as its candidates for the upcoming Mwansabombwe and Lukasha Constituency by-elections, respectively.

He added that the people of the two constituencies will choose to rise above and reject the alternatives offered by the Opposition because of their bitterness, falsehoods and tribalism.

“Building on the good works of our departed comrades, the PF is certain to win both seats because the people shall choose people-centred development, peace, love and national unity, which only the Patriotic Front under His Excellency President Edgar

Chagwa Lungu, continue to offer. On the other hand, our people in Lukashya and Mwansabombwe constituencies will choose to rise above and reject the alternative being offered by the Opposition, namely: bitterness, falsehoods and tribalism,” Mwila said.

“The Central Committee further reiterated that; as political parties start to mobilize for these future by-elections, the focus should be on development-focused (issue-based) campaigns, totally free from all forms of violence. The Central Committee reaffirmed its position that it will not shield any form of criminality. Therefore, the Central Committee is calling on all members of the Party to embrace peace, maximum restraint and exemplary behavior.”

Mwila also said his party would continue holding peace, stability, unity and democracy as its foundation pillars.

“Peace, Stability, Unity and Democracy form our foundation and pillar as a Party. For this reason, the

Patriotic Front has zero tolerance to all forms of violent conduct and speech. Based on this, the Central Committee has encouraged all Party Structures and members, to continue working towards enhancing good governance and promoting a stable political environment because, these are vital to achieving development without leaving anyone behind,” he said.

Mwila called on his party members to actively promote strict adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures.

“The Central Committee believes that the country still has a window of opportunity to avoid a COVID-19 carnage by ensuring individual and collective responsibility, through strict adherence to stipulated guidelines and regulations. For this reason, the Central Committee is calling on all party members and citizens in general, to actively promote strict adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures, and the penalties of not adhering to COVID-19 preventative guidelines and regulations,” said Mwila.

By Diggers Reporter
VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina has tested positive for COVID-19 and has since gone into home isolation, President Edgar Lungu has confirmed.
On Tuesday, Vice-President Wina, aged 80, tested positive for COVID-19 following a positive result of her daughter with whom she lives.
According to a statement issued by State House spokesperson Isaac Chipampe, Vice-President

Wina had some mild symptoms that were being managed appropriately and her condition was stable.
President Lungu has since wished Vice-President Wina a quick recovery.
“Your honour the Vice-President, I am hopeful that the almighty God will be with you, your family, and other people in isolation as you fight this ailment. Get well soon,” President Lungu said.
The Ministry of Health had sent a team of experts

to evaluate Vice-President Wina for a comprehensive assessment of her condition.
“She underwent a comprehensive medical assessment that included history taking; clinical examination, radiological and laboratory testing. The Clinical Care team then recommended that she be managed under

home isolation under the community model with intensive and clinical and nursing monitoring,” stated Chipampe.
“She is in high spirits and working virtually under the new normal. She looks forward to returning to office after recovery and will

continue to advocate for a COVID-free Zambia.”
Vice-President Wina becomes the latest top government official to test positive for COVID-19 after health minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya, Information minister Dora Siliya, Mutotwe Kafwaya (Transport and

Communications), Vincent Mwale (Infrastructure and Housing).
Member of Parliament, Rodgers Mwewa of Mwansabombwe, and Director General of the Zambia Intelligence Services, Samuel Nkhoma died of the pandemic.

Inonge tests positive for COVID-19



High Court reinstates UNZALARU’s recognition agreement

By Zondiwe Mbewe and Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE Lusaka High Court has nullified the decision by the labour commissioner to terminate the recognition agreement between the University of Zambia Researchers Union (UNZALARU) and its management.
And the court has ordered UNZA management to comply with the provisions of the Recognition Agreement and that the losing parties meet the legal costs incurred by the union in prosecuting the matter.
UNZALARU general secretary Dr Kelvin Mambwe, in a statement, stated that based on the court ruling, UNZALARU remained the legally recognized bargaining entity for its union members.
“On behalf of the UNZALARU Executive Committee, I am pleased to inform you that the Lusaka High Court has nullified the decision of the Labour Commissioner to terminate the Recognition Agreement between the Union and the University of Zambia Management. The Court has also directed Management to forthwith comply with the provisions of the Recognition Agreement. It has further ordered the losing parties to meet the legal costs incurred by the Union in prosecuting the matter. This was in a case in which the Union had sued the Attorney General, in representative capacity for the Labour Commissioner, and the University of Zambia Council (See case number 2020/HP/0246),” Dr Mambwe stated.
He stated that the victory was worth celebrating and further thanked his members for having confidence in the union executive.
“In effect, the court’s judgement means that we revert to the pre-existing status quo, where UNZALARU remains the legally recognised bargaining entity for university lecturers and researchers. This is an important victory of which we should all be proud without reservation or any feeling of conceit. We would like to thank you, the membership, for your confidence in our leadership and support throughout this ill-advised attempt to revoke our Recognition Agreement on malicious grounds. Today, it feels good to be a member of UNZALARU,” stated Dr Mambwe.
And according to Lusaka High Court judge Sharon Newa the said decision of the Acting

Labour Commissioner does not amount to a termination of the said agreement, adding that UNZALARU and the University of Zambia Council are still under obligation to comply with the termination provisions of the said agreement.
Judge Newa said it was improper for the acting Labour Commissioner to meet only one party after having heard the application to terminate the Recognition Agreement, and thereafter approve the application.
She added that this showed that she was not impartial in the execution of her duties.
Judge Newa said as such, the acting Labour Commissioner breached the rules of natural justice, as there was lack of fairness in UNZALARU appearing before her, when she was also aggrieved with the union.
She added that the outcome of the hearing was not impartially reached.
“Thus, it was procedurally improper for the Acting Labour Commissioner to approve the termination of the Recognition Agreement between UNZALARU and the university council, as she was

an aggrieved person in relation to the facts giving rise to the university council making the application for the reasons I have given,” judge Newa said.
She therefore, declared that the decision by the Acting Labour Commissioner made on February 4, 2020, approving the university council’s application for termination of the Recognition Agreement dated March 23, 1993 between UNZALARU and the council does not amount to a termination of the said agreement.
“The applicant (UNZALARU) and the second respondent (the university council) are still under obligation to comply with the termination provisions of the said agreement. Further, I grant the order of certiorari, quashing the decision of the Acting Labour Commissioner, and I grant an order of mandamus directing the University of Zambia Council to comply with the terms of the Recognition Agreement,” judge Newa ruled.
She awarded UNZALARU costs of the proceedings, to be taxed in default of agreement and further, granted leave to appeal.

UPND, NDC ponder fielding one candidate in Mwansabombwe, Lukashya by-elections

By Julia Malunga
NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili says he has assigned his vice-president Josephs Akafumba to meet with UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema over plans to field one candidate in the forthcoming Mwansabombwe and Lukashya by-elections.
And UPND chairman for elections Gary Nkombo says the party has not yet reached an agreement with NDC over the matter.
In an interview, Kambwili said he could not personally meet Hichilema because he was recovering from COVID-19.
“We are yet to discuss that. In fact, I have assigned my vice-president, national chairperson and secretary general to meet president Hakainde Hichilema. So we will let

you know what they will discuss. I think they will meet today or tomorrow. Because I am just recovering from COVID-19, I am in isolation. I am getting better,” said Kambwili.
And in a separate interview, Nkombo said his party was open to dialogue on the matter.
“We haven’t reached that agreement for now. You mustn’t forget we are in an alliance that does not include an electoral pact so it is a matter that we would welcome to sit down and discuss with them. But so far, we haven’t done that. We are open to dialogue. It is just that I am out of Lusaka now and I am coming back only tonight so I will ask my committee because I chair the Committee for elections to find out how far they have gone exploring and interrogating that kind of scenario,” said Nkombo.

Court grants Nyirenda interim injunction against expulsion from NAREP

By Zondiwe Mbewe
LUSAKA High Court judge Wilfred Muma has granted expelled NAREP president Steven Nyirenda and three others an ex-parte order of interim injunction, restraining the newly appointed party leader, Charles Maboshe and others from interfering with the administration, governance and use of the party secretariat.
Justice Muma has further prohibited the defendants from issuing statements regarding the National Restoration Party and its leadership.
This is according to an ex-parte order of an interim injunction granted to Nyirenda and three others, Tuesday.
“Upon hearing counsel for the plaintiffs and reading the affidavit in support of ex-parte summons for an order for an interim injunction deposed by NAREP national chairperson Jimmy Mubambwe, it is hereby ordered that an ex-parte order of an interim injunction is and be hereby granted to the plaintiffs, restraining the defendants whether by themselves or by their employees or agents or whosoever, from interfering with the administration, governance and the use of NAREP secretariat situated at plot no. 2386 Tuleteka Road, Lusaka,” read the ex-parte order signed by justice Muma.
“It is further ordered that the defendants be and are hereby prohibited to issue out statements regarding

National Restoration Party and its leadership.”
Judge Muma further directed that the matter shall come for inter-parte hearing on August 27, 2020.
In this matter, Nyirenda and three others have sued Maboshe and other party members in the Lusaka High Court, seeking a confirmation and declaration that the former was duly elected as NAREP president.
Nyirenda and the others further wanted a declaration that the decision purportedly passed by the defendants that Nyirenda was no longer NAREP president be declared null and void, as well as, damages for breach of party constitution.
They also wanted an order of interim injunction restraining the defendants or their agents from interfering with the party’s administration and governance and further, an order of injunction restraining the defendants or their agents from using the party secretariat premises.
Nyirenda, NAREP Secretary General Ezra Banda, the party vice-president Mwelwa Ngosa and national chairperson Jimmy Mubambwe have sued Maboshe, the party vice chairperson Ezra Ngulube and other members, Maybin Kabwe, Frank Sichone, Evelyn Malongo, Susan Chipeta and Thomas Kayola, as defendants.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, August 17, 2020, Nyirenda, Banda, Ngosa and Mubambwe stated that on Saturday, August 15, 2020, around 10:00 hours, NAREP scheduled a meeting for the National Executive Committee (NEC).
They stated that the agenda of the said meeting was to adopt the newly appointed NEC members and matters arising from the previous NEC meetings.
The plaintiffs stated that before the said meeting, Mubambwe requested for a copy of the previous NEC meetings from Maboshe for purposes of identifying NEC members but the same was not honoured.
“The plaintiffs contend that due to the failure to produce the said minutes, Mubambwe raised a concern as to the identity of NEC members considering that the meeting had in its attendance individuals who were not NEC members or rather NEC members whose ratification was pending,” read the claim.
The four stated that following the concerns by Mubambwe over the identification of NEC members, a disagreement arose between them and the defendants which resulted in the exchange of vulgar language and saw the defendants walking out of the meeting.
“The plaintiffs will at trial produce evidence that in fact, the defendants,

prior the arranged NEC meeting which was scheduled for August 15, 2020, had a parallel meeting and its main agenda of that meeting was to ratify the new NEC members and adopt that NAREP joins the Zambia Opposition Alliance for 2021,” read the claim further.
The plaintiffs stated that in fact, they would show proof that the reason for the division in the party was that the defendants wanted the party to join the said alliance for purposes of the 2021 elections.
They stated that after the failed NEC meeting which was scheduled on Saturday, the defendants regrouped on the same day and purportedly resolved that Nyirenda was no longer party president and appointed Maboshe in his place.
The plaintiffs stated that to their knowledge and perusal of the NAREP constitution, they shall produce evidence to the effect that there was no provision of removal of a sitting president through a vote of no confidence other than what was indicated under Article 37 of NAREP constitution.
They added that no justifiable reasons had been advanced against Nyirenda to warrant his removal from office as indicated by the defendants.



NDC

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

Why we deserve your vote



COMBATING ZAMBIA’S POVERTY

NDC believes the biggest indictment to our democracy in Zambia is poverty. The growth of the economy and the various measures that the government has taken to date, have not freed the poor from their poverty trap. In trying to improve the circumstances of the poor, the current approach of strengthening dependency and creating a culture of entitlement has regrettably weakened the natural inclination of these people especially that they are suffering from alienation, desperation and hopelessness. Some under privileged citizens may lack suitable economic skills and may often be trapped in sub-economic rural areas. These require focused anti-poverty measures to improve their lives. The NDC believes both short-term and long-term initiatives are mandatory. In addition, the PF government has failed to deal authoritatively and successfully with poverty. Indeed, poverty and inequality endure at unacceptably high levels. Moreover, there are no signs of the situation improving and there is no plan to turn the situation around. The NDC however, has the compassion and vision to do what is right and what is necessary to address the plight of the poor.

In the short term, the NDC shall provide the following solutions which are essential to improve the living standards of the poor and these include:

- Improvements to the grant system by way of giving better benefits for the aged at prevailing minimum wage every month for each social pension, for child-headed families, and for guardians of AIDS orphans.
- Provision of improved health care

in terms of better local preventive and remedial care for children, unemployed and people with disabilities unable to sustain them selves

- Introduction of a Government-run subsidised food distribution and school feeding programs.
 - Protect social pensioners and grantees from exploitation
- In the longer term, the poor need to be equipped with the skills to build for themselves a decent life styles. Therefore, the NDC believes:
- With government assistance, there is a need to inculcate and promote a sense of self-help and self-reliance to build a better life and to discourage permanent dependency on the state.

- While the NDC approves the widespread provision of a variety of grants to the needy like the social cash transfer funds; this needs to be balanced against

- long term sustainable interventions which encourage self-sufficiency and self-help.
- Education and training is the key to freeing people from poverty. This must be seriously improved. Currently, education of the poor in particular, is in crisis, which contributes to the poor staying poor. The NDC shall prioritise both formal and informal education.
 - Rural agriculture must be enhanced. A healthy agricultural sector is crucial for both food security and for sustainable livelihoods. The NDC shall assist with training, seeds, tractors, fertilisers and so on.
 - The powers and resources of Local government Authorities shall be empowered to be able to raise resources for addressing issues of poverty and local developmental programmes. To achieve this, the NDC shall work with NGOs and civic organizations as partners.



By Julia Malunga
CHIPATA Central member of parliament Moses Mawere says he will re-contesting the seat in next year’s general elections and will not be intimidated by aspiring candidates such as former Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) chief executive officer Zindaba Soko.
And Mawere says he cannot be intimidated by a song composed for Soko because that is not development.
On Wednesday, Soko had said it was too early to state whether or not he would be adopted for the Chipata

Central seat in the 2021 general elections.
He has also produced a song which promises that he would work with the church, youth, women and chiefs once ushered into office.
But in an interview, Mawere said he expected the ruling party to adopt him because of his hard work.
“Definitely, I am working so yes, I should expect that the party is going to adopt me. If I was able to be adopted before I became a leader, what more after being a leader? I am very confident that they will still adopt me because I have continued working. I am very positive. So those who

Let Soko compose as many songs as he wants but that won’t intimidate me – Mawere

are coming on board, they are exercising their freedom of expression by aspiring so I can’t stop them. I am a seasonal politician and you can’t get intimidated by new comers, unless you have not done anything for the people. But if you have worked for the people, you can’t get intimidated. So this is a democratic country where people wanting to aspire is not a crime. People are free

to use their rights to become leaders. They can aspire but that does not stop the incumbent from continuing what they are doing,” Mawere said.
He said Soko should compose as many songs as he could if he thought that was development.
“Zindaba Soko is not the only one, there is Amon Jere, there is Donald Tembo and others who are still coming.

I am already on the ground. I am the incumbent. I am working on the ground so I can’t be intimidated by a newcomer like him. What is important is the ballot paper, ballot box and people’s decision. So if someone has composed a song, maybe that is what he thinks is development. He is very much welcome to compose as many songs as he can,” said Mawere.



By Julia Malunga
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says it has received almost half of the funding for the voter registration exercise scheduled for October, 2020.

Speaking at a press briefing, Wednesday, ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano said the Commission would continue to engage the treasury on the remaining balance.

“The Commission has received almost half of the required funding for the voter registration exercise. In view of COVID-19 and reduced fiscal space, the commission revised the voter’s registration budget from its initial K842 million to K674 million, out of which K325 million has since been released by the Treasury. The Commission will continue to engage with the Treasury on the remaining balance and we are confident that this will be availed as scheduled. On the other hand, the budget for the 2021 polls is estimated at K1.5 billion,” Nshindano said. “The Commission also takes this

ECZ receives partial funding for voter registration exercise

time to thank the Treasury for the commitment despite the many challenges the country is currently facing. We do recognize that resources in the country, especially on the part of revenue mobilisation for the Treasury in view of the depressed economy as a result of COVID-19, has been a challenge but despite that, releases have been made available for this important exercise that we are commencing. And I am sure the exercise will move as scheduled and smoothly.”

He said procurement of election materials had reached an advanced stage.

“Procurements of voter registration and election materials have reached an advanced stage. The commission wants to ensure that both the security and

non-security materials are delivered on time to avoid late or delayed delivery of materials to polling stations. Most procurements have been concluded and some are currently at contract stage and awaiting clearance from the Attorney General as well as the Accountant General offices,” Nshindano said.

He said the publication of the register of voters for inspection would be conducted in March next year.

“...inspection [of the voter’s register] will be conducted from 29th March to 2nd April 2021 for a period of five days. This is the time when all registered voters will be required to verify the correctness of their details. It’s very important to verify your details; if your details are wrong on the poll day, you

might be disfranchised and nobody would want that, after you have taken the effort to register yourself so that you can be able to exercise your rights to vote,” Nshindano said.

And Nshindano said a technical team was currently drawing up specific operational procedures to facilitate prisoners’ voting.

“I wish to inform you that the commission has made steady progress towards preparation to facilitate prisoners voting. The technical team that was constituted to basically come up with guidelines for prisoners voting just returned from a provincial tour of correctional facilities where they went to asses and check the suitability of the facilities in view of the forthcoming

voter registration exercise and subsequent conduct of the elections. This was conducted in all the ten provinces. It is expected that the team will conclude drawing up of the specific operational procedures by mid-September, which will be in time for the voter registration exercise in October. In those guidelines, they will provide mechanisms for campaign if at all the political parties will be allowed to campaign in these facilities and this will be applied equitably. The electoral process does not discriminate,” he said.

“We are yet to communicate and the stakeholders will be engaged as to whether prisoners voting will be extended beyond the Presidential poll to parliamentary and other elections, which include council chairperson and councilors. So at this particular point in time, the guidelines have not been concluded so we might have a situation where these guidelines could only be restricted to the Presidential candidates, depending on the findings from the facilities

and indeed the research that is ongoing.”

Nshindano further said the pre-online registration was regulated by the Commission’s provisions.

“I did cite the law which mandates the Commission in terms of voter registration exercise which is Article 229 (2) of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act which mandates the commission to, among other functions, conduct voter registration. But within that, the Commission does come up with regulations that basically guide on the administration side of how the voter registration is undertaken. And in this regard, we have the 2020 voter registration regulations that guide and do provide for that,” said Nshindano. “The narrative is assuming that the process is end to end online registration, which is not. If you look at the legal provision, it does talk about one presenting themselves before a registration officer, which is still maintained. So what the pre-online voter registration does is that it allows one to upload all your details but you will not be issued with the card online, you will have to present yourself to your voter registration officer who will then capture your biometrics data and verify if, indeed, you are the individual who was doing the online registration.”

I won’t respond to Kaweche’s complaints in media – Lusambo

By Mirriam Chabala
LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says he cannot respond to complaints from Kaweche Kaunda about him in the media because those are family matters.

And Lusambo says those calling for his dismissal from his ministerial position are free to do so because Zambia is a democratic country where everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

Lusambo recently mocked first Republican president Dr Kenneth Kaunda’s children that they were poor now because they missed an opportunity to make money in the 27 years that their father was President of Zambia.

But the sentiments from Lusambo angered Dr Kaunda’s children who demanded a public apology from the

minister.

Later, Lusambo held a “successful meeting with comrade Kaweche Kaunda” who represented the Kaunda family, apparently to “iron out issues that have arisen following my comments targeted at a specific member of the Kaunda Family”.

However, Kaweche afterwards went on Capital FM Radion where he complained about the Kabushi PF member of parliament, saying they had agreed that he would draft an apology for publication but that he went ahead and posted something different on his Facebook page after their meeting.

He said if there was an opposition which took things seriously, Lusambo would not make careless statements like saying First Republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda’s children should have enriched themselves during his 27-year rule.

“Let me tell you something: if we had an opposition that took these things seriously and took some of these things to task, he would not be making some of the statements

he’s making against other people. These are things the opposition should be doing, my brother included, Tilyenji. But it’s like everybody wants to look the other way or doesn’t take seriously and that’s why Panji speaks. It’s not because he’s jealous or he wishes his father was still President, far from it! For the 27 years [our father was in power] if we wanted we would have owned the country, but that’s not us. So I don’t know why minister Lusambo decided to answer this query from my brother. But when I saw it, I brushed it off and said my brother would deal with it. But the reporter who did the story called and asked for my comment. So I did make a comment and that’s when I said we are not thieves, and it’s an insult to the family for anybody to imply that because we didn’t steal then we are stupid. So I said he needed to apologise to us a family,” explained Kaweche on Radio.

When asked to respond to Kaweche’s concerns, Lusambo, in an interview, explained that he could not discuss issues raised because those were family matters.

He claimed that the Kaunda family was just like his own and that he engaged them

every day.

“No, that story I don’t want to talk about it. I don’t discuss family matters in the media. Yes, I post things on Facebook because that is my Facebook [page], but I can’t discuss family matters in the media. That issue is a family matter, I don’t even understand... how has it even become your [matter of] interest?” Lusambo asked.

And asked if he had engaged Kaweche and his family over the misunderstanding created following his Facebook post, he said he was always in touch with the Kaunda family.

“Engaging my elder brother (Kaweche)? You, that’s my family, I engage them every day,” Lusambo said.

And commenting on calls for President Edgar Lungu to relieve him of his duties, the minister said everyone was entitled to their own opinion in Zambia because it was a democratic state.

“...for those saying that I should be fired, I think that is their opinion. We are in a democratic country and we respect people’s opinions. Everyone is entitled to an opinion in this country,” said Lusambo.

Former ministers agree with K4.7m payback amount quantified by State

By Zondiwe Mbewe
FORMER Cabinet and deputy ministers who received emoluments after the dissolution of Parliament in 2016 have not objected to the K4.7 million quantified by the State, as money they are required to pay back.

But the said former ministers and their deputies have told the Constitutional Court that they were not paid their repatriation allowances amounting to K15,000 per person.

Last month, the Ministry of Finance had disclosed to the Constitutional Court that former Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers who received emoluments after the dissolution of Parliament in 2016 were supposed to pay back over K4 million.

Fides Kalangwa, a Director-Policy Research and Standards in the Office of the Accountant General at the Ministry of Finance told the court that the total amount recoverable from the former Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers for the period May to July, 2016 was K4,778,664.10.

And according to a notice of non-objection to the quantum settled by the Attorney General, the former ministers and their deputies have not objected to the K4.7 million quantified by the State

“Take notice that the respondents represented by Messrs Ellis and Co., Messrs D H Kemp and Co. and Messrs Lungu Simwanza and Company do not object to the quantum of emoluments as quantified by the first respondent (Attorney General). Save (i) that the said respondents were not paid their repatriation allowances in the sum of K15,000 per person. (ii) the 31st respondent, Obius Chabu Chisala did not receive his June and July 2016 emoluments as his contract of employment was terminated on June 8, 2016,” read the notice.

In this matter, the State through the Attorney General’s chambers had asked the Constitutional Court to assess the amount of money that Ministers who continued to earn a salary after dissolution of Parliament in 2016 were required to pay back.

This was as a result of the Constitutional Court judgment of August 8, 2016 which ordered Cabinet, Provincial and deputy ministers to pay back to the State all the allowances and salaries they received while the National Assembly was dissolved.

The judgement was rendered in a matter where the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and UPND through its secretary general Steven Katuka, challenged the continued stay in office of the ministers after Parliament was dissolved ahead of the 2016 general elections.

Katuka and LAZ petitioned the court to order the ministers who stayed in office after dissolution of Parliament to pay back the monies they received.

They cited the Attorney General, Ngosa Simbyakula and 63 others as respondents.

DR PWENYE

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

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

Price K95 Each

BOOKING FOR SEPTEMBER, 2020

Contacts Us:

Cell: +260 963 946368 / 0973 134216

Email: sales@farmselect.co.zm

ASTROLOGER 2021

The Enthusiastic and Blood movers (SHAKERS and MOVERS YEAR) good fortune for people born on the 5th, 14th and 23rd analysing PLATONIC or MADE IN HEAVEN type of LOVE

Botanic herbal remedy for BP, DIABETESE, HEMMORHOIDS, STROKE, PULSE

and our new Product for

CORONA

Enquiry Dr. Emma call : 0979 310 300

REMARKS by President Edgar Lungu that the Anti-Corruption Commission is after removing him from power cannot go without comment. A lot of people have been left confused, wondering what is going on with the President. Others have been made to believe that the ACC has been doing some extraordinary work. But we don't think that is true.

It is not uncharacteristic for President Lungu to make such statements. President Lungu likes to communicate in codes, and if you are not listening carefully, you might think it was a drunken statement and dismiss it as something that does not make sense. This is also the reason why he doesn't like to hold press conferences. He enjoys making spontaneous pronouncements that don't deliver a clear message.

It is very important for us to study and understand what the President is saying. The words of a President could mean life or death, and could also mean prosperity or disaster for a country. A president who is careless with his words, especially those spoken in public, may soon find that he is no longer President. This is what those who have an opportunity of talking to Mr Lungu should be advising him. President Lungu cannot continue playing ping pong with people's minds and think no one can see his tricks.

ACC an extension of PF disciplinary committee

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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

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

coming from President Lungu. The message is very clear, it is “do as I tell you but don't get carried away”. It is a warning to anyone who might want to do a genuine investigation of corruption. If it exposes sanctioned misdeeds, it will be viewed as an attempt at regime change and the consequences are well known. No one who threatens those who hold power keeps their job.

From the time that Mr Lungu became Head of State, it has been very clear that he has problems respecting the law when it contradicts what he wants. As far as President Lungu is concerned, the presidency is above the law. This is what we have observed. The President feels he is above the Judiciary and Parliament. And you can see this from the remarks that he makes against decisions that are made by these parallel wings of government. Anyone who has been paying attention will agree that there has been a very deliberate scheme to weaken institutions of government to the extent that we are all surprised when the government loses even the smallest case in court. The expectation is that government never loses any cases.

The same is true about law enforcement.

When you hear President Lungu issue such remarks on the ACC, he says it with confidence because he thinks he is above the law, ACC, DEC, Police and the Constitution as a whole. So many scandals have happened and the law enforcers have been quiet, why? It is because these institutions have been reduced to political puppets of the Executive.

There are cases like the fire tender scandal , the overpriced ambulances, and the bogus Honeybee Pharmacy medical supply contract. It is public knowledge that some senior figures in government received gifts as part of those dirty transactions. How come no one has been arrested? It is because the investigative wings have been heavily compromised.

The only time that ACC has swung into action has been as an

extension of the PF disciplinary mechanism. The ACC are being used to discipline elements that are viewed as being too ambitious and may threaten the President's hold on power. That is the only time that ACC seems to ACT, which is why their cases don't seem to make sense. They are not about law enforcement, but about enforcing 'party discipline'.

It is clear that the PF are using the ACC to fix each other. That's what this is about. The complaint from the President should therefore be understood from that context. It is not possible that this ACC can carry out a high profile investigation that has not been sanctioned by State House. This is not an insinuation. The first print edition that this newspaper published on December 17, 2017 carried a detailed story about how ACC operates.

They categorically stated that they always communicate to the Head of State when they are conducting high profile investigations, especially those involving ministers.

So when the President says ACC is after him, he is definitely trying to fool someone, but also fools himself in the process. There is nothing complicated that he is communicating. He is simply sending mixed signals to confuse the people he is leading. Zambians must be reminded about the leadership changes that have occurred at ACC in the recent past. Those who attempted to fight corruption never stayed. They were criminally hounded out of office to pave way for those who were willing to participate in the comedy that we are now witnessing.

You don't have to be a genius to understand the message that is

ACC as an institution is being used as a whip to beat people into shape for political reasons . If this government was serious about fighting corruption, there would be a queue of government officials appearing in court for their corrupt activities. Today, they are calling Stardy Mwale, but let no one be fooled that this is about investigating corruption. The only thing that can explain Mr Stardy Mwale's appearance at ACC is that he has crossed someone who is more powerful that he is. That someone must have had enough power to even remove him from the Ministry of Defence.

The President's complaint against the ACC is communicating something, but whatever it is, it is not encouraging the fight against corruption.

Crossword puzzle No 672

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

“Every test successfully met is rewarded by some growth in intuitive knowledge, strengthening of character, or initiation into a higher consciousness.” - Paul Brunton

Across	Down
1. Orange pekoe or Earl Grey	1. As well
4. Drink small amount	2. Part of a play
6. Clever remark	3. Known truth
7. Choose	4. Shade of blue
9. Affirmative	5. In an infection
11. Pig's home	8. More pallid
13. Defendant's statement	10. Door sign
14. Poker pot starter	11. Droop
15. Doublemint, for one	12. Potato substitute
17. Cook with fat	16. Strongly encourage
19. Baseball stat.	17. Cookie fruit
21. Halo wearer	18. Small dog sound
22. Space between 2 things	19. Furniture wood
23. Driver's aid	20. Hi-fi component

Crossword puzzle No 671

1	L	O	S		3	F		4	H	O	5	T
	O		6	P	H	O	N	E				O
7	W	A	Y			R		9	N	E	10	W
				11	I	T	12	S			X	
13	W	E	E	D			14	E	W	A	N	
				15	O	N	E			C		
17	A	T	E			O		19	E	T	20	A
			21	K	N	I	F	E			N	
22	D	O	E			R		23	L	A	D	

Readers' Feedback

Kaweche on Lungu being intelligent enough to know how to handle Lusambo

Dear editor,

- "This is an intelligent and challenging statement directed at the president". - Emmanuel Mulenga
- "Lungu cannot discipline Lusambo because he's bootlicker number 1!" - Keith Moono
- "We all thought Edgar is intelligent enough to make good decisions but alas, the man is something else. Trust him at your own peril!" - Kaseba Golden
- "Honourable Lusambo is like a padlock with an alarm system that goes off everytime Uncle chaggs' name is brought up. Understand that and you'll no longer get upset by his comments but will just reaffirm to yourself how badly we need to change government and never make the same mistakes again". - Jaide Travis Zayden
- "You are giving him too much credit boss ECL can never discipline somebody he picked from the gutter and gave him a job to be his vuvuzela". - Maimbolwa Kamanga
- "I thought kaweche was asleep! Good to hear from you. The flame is still burning huh! A word from the oldman (KK) would help to straighten most wrongs we are witnessing today. Nothing stops a former leader to comment on issues affecting the people e.g. paying lip service to the One Zambia - One Nation theme..." - Nathan Francis Chembe

Kampyongo's direction to police to stop arresting, charging those without face masks

Editor,

"When some of us pointed out at this illegality, we were called names. But it's pleasing that, the turn of the event, is a plus to us in the persuade of justice. PF government and the police should just come out open and state that the reason why they abandoning this illegality is because it's not supported by any law. Those who were detained for this may now sue the state for unlawful detention and those who paid have the right claim back their monies". - Kajuba Mazuba

"Was there any legislation legalising the introduction of the K750 and arrests? Has it been revoked or was there none? Can people who paid or were locked up take recourse against the State?" - Genie Wi

"Amazing comedy of errors!!!" - George Mwamba

"Good one Mr Kampyongo, this one action has gained you some sympathy from a few of us, when the regime changes and you're

audited, keep going, we may even shed a few tears when you're jailed". - Jaide Travis Zayden

"And Bowman says Kampyongo has failed to run the ministry!!!" - Ngandu More

"Today arrest, tomorrow don't arrest. Where is your direction mwana wa mai?!" Ethan Joe

"This contradiction is embarrassing mweh!" - Lengwe Kalamwina Ntumba

'At least Sangwa knows how to use his brain, unlike Bowman'

Editor,

- "Yes honourable indeed Sangwa is a disgruntled lawyer but he does something you have been failing to do for ages, he uses his brain!" -
- "This one is a shameless honorable, John Sangwa is not your level neither is he your bosses level, his a renowned State counsel who should be respected". - Vinny Valentino
- "It's like the only word he understood well at school was disgruntled, from disgruntled youths to disgruntled lawyer. Me I love things that are disgruntled, I love the disgruntled youths and this same disgruntled lawyer. Deal with it!" - Richard Mweetwa
- "When power is in wrong hands, consequences are unbearable. But one day, power shall be stripped from him. Days are numbered!" - Humphrey Mulambia GP
- "I've actually stopped getting angry and commenting. All I know is the ACC will once again have its power back when change arrives. All these - Bowman, Dora, Kampyongo etc are writing their own 'abuse of authority charges' in broad daylight, including Lungu. I read the whole 50 page Anti Corruption Act today - and trust me, with all the things they have done, they will not survive the act being enforced in its entirety". - Jackson Thompson
- "Insulting SC Sangwa is insulting Zambians intelligence. Its intelligence against mediocrity.... Sangwa is not your match far miles away....the truth be told in your face. We need more of the Sangwas not bootlickers". - Kenny Sefuka
- "When you think the media is cheering and giving you a platform to express yourself kansi it's a trap to expose your ignorance and low thinking capacity". - Solomon Mwampikita

"Bowman Lusambo is a low life cadre who should be grateful to ECL because no president in the world would appoint him as minister. Bowman Lusambo cannot compare himself to the caliber of John Sangwas stance, and the money he is talking about is taxpayers money. Everybody that knows Bowman Lusambo knows kuti enze Kaponya with nothing before ECL gifted him this ministerial position which is not on his level so let him take a few seats!" - Mutinta Mulonda



Ex-LAZ president's pledge of rule of law agenda once elected in Lukashya

Editor,

- "Joining a band of thieves and pledging the rule of law is like joining a group of armed robbers pledging that you will make sure that the law in not broken while stealing!" - Che Guavara
- "He will be operating in an Utopian vacuum. Welcome to the new normal politics of rule of the Party 'cadres'. You act normal, you are the outlaw!" - Kanyata Mubita
- "These same people who claim to know law are the most cowprits.... When thy are lawyers thy defend criminals in the name of justice... once they enter politics, they are so corrupt and manipulative. For me... No vote for lawyer in politics". - Anord Boncar
- "Wrong agenda obviously because there is no report of breakdown in the rule of law in Lukanshya. Basically he has no agenda for the people of Lukanshya. Maybe at presidency he can do better since he will assume a lawless political party". - Brighton S. B. Banda

#

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.

THE soldiers who ousted Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta say they plan to set up a civilian transitional government and hold new elections.

The spokesman for the soldiers said they acted to prevent the country falling further into chaos.

President Keïta resigned on Tuesday night saying he did not want "blood to be spilled to keep me in power."

The African Union, regional leaders, and the UN have condemned the coup.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, the current African Union (AU) chairperson, urged the soldiers to release President Keïta and others government officials being detained.

The UN Security Council is to hold an emergency session on Wednesday to discuss the latest developments.

Mali, a vast country stretching into the Sahara Desert is among the poorest countries in the world and has experienced several military takeovers. It is currently battling to contain a wave of jihadist attacks and ethnic violence.

The soldiers, calling themselves the National Committee for the Salvation of the People, said they did not want to stay in power.

"We are keen on the stability of the country, which will allow us to organise general elections to allow Mali to equip itself with strong institutions within the reasonable time limit," said the group's spokesman, Col Ismaël Wagué, the air force deputy chief of staff.

What did Mr Keïta say?

On Tuesday night, wearing a surgical mask amid the coronavirus pandemic, Mr Keïta resigned in a brief address on state television.

"If today, certain elements of our armed forces want this to end through their intervention, do I really have a choice?" he asked.

"I hold no hatred towards anyone, my love of my country does not allow me to," he added. "May God save us."

Mr Keïta won a second term in elections in 2018, but since June has faced huge



Mali's military promises elections after coup

street protest over corruption, the mismanagement of the economy and a dispute over legislative elections.

There has also been anger among troops about pay and the conflict with jihadists.

What have the soldiers said?

A televised statement was read out early on Wednesday on behalf of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People.

Col-Major Wagué urged Mali's civil and political groups to help create a "political transition leading to credible general elections for the exercise of democracy through a roadmap that will lay the foundations for a new Mali".

He also announced the closure of all air and land borders and a curfew from 21:00 to 05:00.

Flanked by soldiers, Col Wagué said: "Our country is sinking into chaos, anarchy and insecurity mostly due to the fault of the people who are in charge of its destiny."

It was the war in Libya, almost a decade ago, that nudged Mali along the path to chaos.

Weapons from Libya flooded across the Sahara Desert, fuelling a separatist conflict in northern Mali, which morphed into an Islamist militant offensive, which prompted a coup in the capital Bamako.

It's been a mess ever since, in a landlocked nation that had been a West African success story.

Today French troops, American drones, UN peacekeepers, and British helicopters are all trying - and largely failing - to strengthen security, not just in Mali, but across a vast region increasingly threatened by Islamist insurgencies and other conflicts.

This latest military coup in Bamako appears to be a reaction to those security challenges, but also to corruption, disputed elections, and political drift.

The coup itself seems

unlikely to fix anything.

But it highlights a familiar truth - that while foreign intervention has its uses, the key to repairing a nation like Mali lies in its own hands, and with its own faltering democratic institutions.

What's the mood in Bamako?

Journalist Mohamed Salaha told the BBC that banks and offices were closed on Wednesday but some daily activities were slowly resuming.

A small group of people gathered outside the Independence Monument to celebrate, while some opposition activists detained during the recent street protests have been freed.

However, some people are also worried about the future as it is not clear who is in charge of the country, he said.

What do we know about the mutiny?

It appears that mutinying soldiers took control of the Kati army camp about 15km [nine miles] from Bamako on Tuesday.

It is where President Keïta and the prime minister were later taken after being seized.

However, it remains unclear how many soldiers took part in the coup.

But BBC Afrique's Abdoul Ba in Bamako says it seems to have been led by Col Malick Diaw - deputy head of the Kati camp - and another

commander, Gen Sadio Camara.

After taking over the camp, the mutineers marched on the capital, where they were cheered by crowds who had gathered to demand Mr Keïta's resignation.

They stormed his residence and arrested the president and his prime minister - who were both there.

The president's son, the speaker of the National Assembly, the foreign and finance ministers were reported to be among the other officials detained.

What has the reaction been?

As well as calls by the UN and AU for the release of those held by the soldiers, the Economic Community of

West African States (Ecowas), a regional body, also said its 15 member states had agreed to close their borders with Mali, suspend all financial flows to the country, and eject Mali from all Ecowas decision-making bodies. In recent months, Ecowas has been trying to mediate between Mr Keïta's government and opposition groups.

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has tweeted his condemnation of the "mutiny":BBC



A satellite image shows tug boats and the broken-up MV Wakashio, that ran aground on a reef causing an oil spill, off the coast of Pointe d'Esny, Mauritius in this mid-August handout. The Japanese bulk carrier struck a coral reef on July 25, spilling about 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil in what environmentalists say is the country's worst ecological disaster, killing wildlife and damaging pristine waters. The bulk carrier, owned by Japan's Nagashiki Shipping and chartered by Mitsui OSK Lines, broke apart on Saturday, releasing a small amount of additional oil into the sea. Satellite image ©2020 Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS

Pope demands access to virus vaccines for poor

POPE Francis on Wednesday warned against any prospect that rich people would get priority for a coronavirus vaccine.

"The pandemic is a crisis. You don't come out of it the same — either better or worse," Francis said, adding improvised remarks to his planned speech for his weekly public audience.

"We must come out better" from the COVID-19 pandemic, the pope said.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the pope said, the world can't return to normality if normal means social injustice and degradation of

the natural environment.

Francis said: "How sad it would be if for the COVID-19 vaccine priority is given to the richest."

"It would be sad if this vaccine were to become the property of this nation or another, rather than universal and for all," the pontiff added, without indicating any particular country.

He also said it would be scandalous if all the economic assistance in the works, most of it using public funds, ends up reviving industries that don't help the poor or the environment.

"The pandemic has laid

bare the difficult situation of the poor and the great inequality that reigns in the world," the pope said in his speech. "And the virus, while it doesn't make exceptions among persons, has found in its path, devastating, great inequalities and discrimination," Francis said, adding "and it has increased them."

Throughout the pandemic, many poor, who often have jobs that don't allow them to work from home, have found themselves less able to shelter from possible contagion during stay-at-home strategies enacted by many nations to

reduce the contagion rate. Access to the best health care for the poor is often impossible in many parts of the world.

Francis said response to the pandemic must be twofold. On one hand, "it's indispensable to find the cure for such a small but tremendous virus, that brings the entire world to its knees."

On the other hand, "we must treat a great virus, that of social injustice, of inequality of opportunity, of being marginalized and of lack of protection of the weakest," Francis said.

Francis has dedicated much of his papacy to highlighting the plight of those living on life's margins, saying societies must put them at the center of their attention.

Noting how many are eager to return to normality and resume economic activity, Francis voiced caution: "Sure, but this 'normality' must not include social injustices and degradation of the environment."

"Today we have an occasion to build something different. For example, we can grow an economy of integral development of the poor and not of welfare," the pope said. **New York Times**

Walkies could become the law for German dog owners

TAKING your dog for walks twice a day for at least an hour in total could soon become the law in Germany.

There could also be a ban on keeping dogs chained for long periods.

Rules are also being devised to crack down on "puppy farms" by banning breeders from looking after more than three litters at any one time.

"Pets are not cuddly toys, their needs have to be taken into account," Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner said about the planned changes.

'No knock on the door'

Under the planned rules, dog owners:

will have to take their dogs for walks twice a day for a minimum of one hour in total

will not be allowed to keep their dogs chained for long periods of time

will not be allowed to leave dogs alone the whole day

Breeders will be restricted to looking after a maximum of three litters and and puppies will have to spend a minimum of four hours a day

in human company to ensure they get socialised.

Ms Klöckner said the changes were based on expert advice to ensure animal protection and welfare.

A draft of the new regulations has already been drawn up and could become law early next year. If passed, it will be up to the German states to enforce it.

A spokeswoman for the agriculture ministry said it was very unlikely private dog owners would receive police visits to check whether

they had taken their pooch for a walk. She said the emphasis would be on ensuring that dogs kept in kennels were treated well.

A ban is also planned on showing dogs which have had their ears or tail docked in contravention of animal protection rules. Dogs whose behaviour is not "species appropriate" could also be banned from dog shows.

Ms Klöckner's plans also include new rules on transporting cattle with time spent in transit limited to four-and-a-half hours.**BBC**

UEFA considers using Super Cup as trial for fans in stadiums

UEFA announced on Tuesday that the federation is considering using the Super Cup as a trial for allowing fans back into stadiums.

The federation is currently hosting both the Champions League and Europa League in neutral locations behind closed doors, as supporters are still not allowed to attend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Europe's top leagues recently completed their domestic seasons without fans as well, although there have been friendlies in France with fans in attendance.

On Tuesday, UEFA hosted a videoconference featuring all 55 General Secretaries of its member associations with the key point of discussion being the potential gradual return of fans to UEFA matches.

With one eye on the 2020-21 season and another on the current status of the pandemic numbers, UEFA revealed on Tuesday that the federation could use September's Super Cup as a test run with a reduced number of spectators allowed to attend.

"Today's participants underlined the need for strict hygiene and sanitary measures to be in place to guarantee the health of all those present at a game before allowing fans to return," the federation said in a statement.

"UEFA mentioned that it would be too early to already allow fans into the upcoming UEFA national team competitions matches to be played at the beginning of September and that test match(es) should take place to study precisely the impact of spectators on current medical protocols.

"UEFA suggested to use the UEFA Super Cup, which will be played on 24 September in Budapest, as a pilot match for which a reduced number of spectators could be allowed in." **GOAL.COM**

Man Utd ‘missing a trick’ by not signing Cavani, says Saha

Manchester United are “missing a trick” by not signing Benfica-bound striker Edinson Cavani, according to Louis Saha.

Cavani dropped into the free agency pool at the end of June after failing to agree on a contract extension with Paris Saint-Germain.

The 33-year-old established himself as one of the top strikers in world football during his time at Parc des Princes, scoring 200 goals in 301 outings for the French giants.

The arrival of Mauro Icardi last summer saw Cavani pushed down the squad pecking order, but he still left the club with 21 major trophies to his name, including six Ligue 1 titles.

The likes of Atletico Madrid, Inter and newly-promoted Premier League outfit Leeds United have all been linked with the Uruguayan in recent weeks, and a possible return to South America has also been mooted for the veteran forward.

However, Benfica look set to win the race for his signature, with Cavani confirming earlier this week that he has held talks with the Portuguese club.

Saha cannot understand why United haven't made a move for Cavani, with it his belief that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's current squad is still lacking a natural number nine.

“I think Manchester United are missing a trick by not signing Edinson Cavani this summer,” the former Red Devils star told the Football Index Podcast.

“I’ve followed him for many years and I’m gutted there doesn’t seem to be an interest there. For me, Cavani would be the best fit this summer.

“Cavani has a great eye for goal and his leadership would be a great asset. He has qualities that are very difficult to find on the transfer market.”

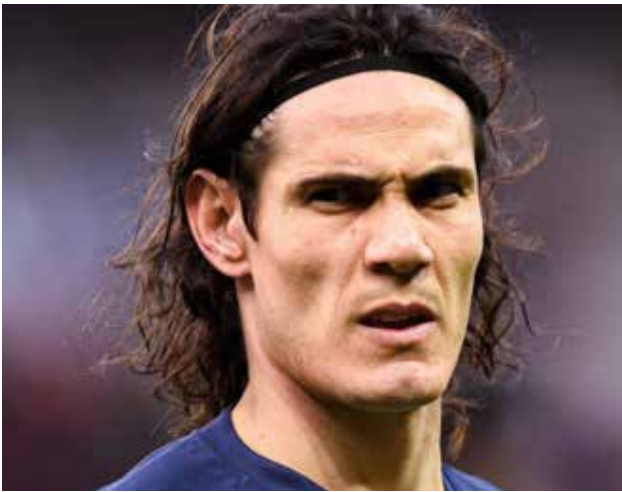
Saha went on to suggest that Lyon’s Moussa Dembele could be a good alternative option for Solskjaer as he looks to bolster his attacking ranks.

The Frenchman is certain that Dembele, who came off the bench to score twice in Lyon’s 3-1 Champions League quarter-final win over Manchester City last weekend, could add a new dimension to United’s line-up due to his physicality.

“I think Moussa Dembele could be an interesting signing for Manchester United,” said Saha.

“I know from my time at Fulham that Dembele is physically strong and he would be a very good target man.

“He would be able to hold up the play and bring wide players into the game as an effective plan B against some opposition.” **GOAL**



Barcelona confirm Koeman as new coach on contract to 2022

BARCELONA have confirmed Ronald Koeman as their new permanent head coach on a contract set to run until 2022.

The Dutchman has left his post in charge of the Netherlands national team to replace Quique Setien in the Camp Nou hot seat.

Barca have released an official statement on their website confirming the news, which reads: “FC Barcelona and Ronald Koeman have reached an agreement for the Dutchman to take over as first-team coach until 30 June 2022.

“The Blaugrana legend, hero of Wembley, the man who handed Barca their first-ever victory in the European Cup returns to Camp Nou.

“This time, however, he will do so as coach as the Dutchman brings more than 20 years of experience as a manager and eight trophies on his CV.

“Ronald Koeman comes to FC Barcelona after coaching in the Premier League, La Liga, the Dutch league, the Portuguese league and also on the international stage with the Netherlands.”

Koeman spoke out on his new role while sending a final farewell message to Netherlands supporters following the KNVB’s announcement of his departure on Wednesday.

“It was an honour to be the national coach of the Netherlands,” said the 57-year-old. “For the past two-and-a-half years I have done everything I can to achieve successes with Oranje.

“I look back with pride on what we have achieved together in that period. The Dutch national team has a bright future, I am convinced of that.

“Everyone knows that Barcelona is my dream club. It feels very special to me to be able to become a coach there.”

KNVB football director Eric Gudde added: “We regret Ronald’s decision, but respect his choice. He has given Orange colour to the cheeks again.”

Koeman played for Barca at the height of his playing career between 1989 and 1995, winning four league titles and the European Cup, scoring the winning goal in the final against Sampdoria at Wembley in 1992.

He has now returned to club management for the first time since leaving Everton in 2018, and will be tasked with steadying the ship at Camp Nou following a disastrous 2019-20 campaign.

Ernesto Valverde lost his job in January, despite the club being top of the table in La Liga, with ex-Real Betis boss Setien drafted in as his successor.

Barca went on to surrender their Liga crown to arch-rivals Real Madrid, before suffering an embarrassing 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat at the hands of Bayern Munich.

Setien’s sacking was made official on Monday after a week of intense media scrutiny at Camp Nou, and technical director Eric Abidal was also relieved of his duties ahead of Koeman’s arrival.

Pirates say Shonga remains suspended

By Abraham Kalito

PREMIER Soccer League side Orlando Pirates has announced that Zambian striker Justin Shonga remains suspended by the club for breaking Biological Safety Environment Protocols aimed at containing COVID-19 prior to a match.

Shonga was suspended together with South African attacker Theminkosi Lorch prior to a match against Kaizer Chiefs.

But while the South African has been cleared to join his teammates ahead of a match day, Pirates stated that Shonga would remain suspended as he awaits his disciplinary hearing.

“Theminkosi Lorch has been cleared to return to the squad following the finalisation of the disciplinary proceedings against him and the lifting of his suspension by the club. Lorch has pleaded guilty to all charges that were brought against him by the Club. Lorch further apologised for his misdemeanor and has accepted the sanction imposed on him by the club. The 25-year-old has joined the squad in the BSE Bubble after undergoing his two Covid-19 tests as per the protocols,” read part of the statement.

“Meanwhile, the club can confirm that Justin Shonga remains suspended as he awaits the finalisation of the disciplinary proceedings against him.”

Shonga has already fallen off the pecking order at Pirates this season.

He has played fewer than 15 matches the entire season and was on the verge of joining a Portuguese side earlier last month but the two sides failed to agree on a fee. Shonga has been an unused substitute on several occasions on match days.



YAMOTO HIRES FORMER AC MILAN BOSS

By Abraham Kalito
NATIONAL Division One side City of Lusaka has appointed former AC Milan and Juventus football director Justin Palmer as manager and tasked him with achieving footballing success.

Club Secretary Mumba Chomba said at a briefing that the club has emphasised to Palmer the need for professionalism and youth development.

“City of Lusaka Football Club has appointed Justin Palmer as general manager. Mr Palmer [was] previously manager of Kabwe Warriors Football Club in the Zambian Super League. His previous

appointments include time working with AC Millan and Juventus football club as a football director. Mr Palmer’s mandate from the board of City of Lusaka is to achieve footballing success while remaining financially sustainable. The club has emphasised to him the need for professionalism and youth development,” said Chomba.

And speaking shortly after he was unveiled, Palmer said his first objective would be to bring in a top coach before looking at developing the “right kind of players”.

“I appreciate the support that I have received so far from the club. City of Lusaka

AC MILAN BOSS

is a historic club of Zambian football. You cannot speak of the history of Zambian football without mentioning City of Lusaka. The club won the inaugural league, but obviously over the last few years, there has been some challenges on the football front. The reason behind this is that we had to develop the infrastructure to become a sustainable club,” said Palmer.

“When it comes to Woodlands Stadium and the pitch, show me a pitch that compares to this here in Zambia, I don’t think you will be able to. There are few football clubs that will honour the pitch and its fans. We need to get back to the top level of Zambian football.

So, that is the first objective in the national division. So, we need to appoint the next coach and we need to look at developing the right kind of players and the right squad of players to compete at the top level.”

Barcelona appoints Koeman

Story page 11

FM TRAVELLERS /MAGODI LODGE LTD

Just arrived is a 32 seater luxury business class coach that includes a coffee making machine and a toilet inside with an excellent aircon facility. The business bus has been scheduled to depart from both Lusaka and Livingstone at 08:00 from Monday to Friday and Saturday Sunday it will be scheduled at the same time from Lusaka to Kitwe.

Just arrived is a 32 seater luxury business class coach that includes a coffee making machine and a toilet inside with an excellent aircon facility. The business bus has been scheduled to depart from both Lusaka and Livingstone at 08:00 from Monday to Friday and Saturday Sunday it will be scheduled at the same time from Lusaka to Kitwe.

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

To make a reservation contact us on +260977424351