



ECONOMY ALMOST SHUTTING DOWN...

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says the economy is almost shutting down in some sectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic so it is imperative that he takes control of the situation, as the man in charge.

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It's time I take control, as man in charge - Lungu

IMF cautions govt against interfering with BoZ

By Diggers Reporter

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it is imperative that central banks' operational independence in African economies is maintained without which improvements in living standards will not be possible.

Commenting on President Edgar Lungu's dismissal of outgoing Bank

of Zambia (BoZ) governor Dr Denny Kalyalya, the IMF stated that central banks' operational autonomy in developing economies was important to sustain economic growth.

"We note the change in leadership announced over the weekend at the Bank of Zambia before the end of the previous governor's mandate. The macroeconomic stability that most developing countries have enjoyed in recent years has greatly relied on the much-improved effectiveness and increased independence of central banks. It is imperative that central banks' operational independence and credibility is maintained, particularly at this critical time when economic stability is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Without credible institutions and sound policies, sustained economic growth and much-needed improvements in living standards will not be possible," read a statement issued by IMF press officer Lucie Mboto Fouda, Monday.

Court summons acting ACC DG for 'intimidating witness'

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has summoned Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) acting director general Rosemary Khuzwayo to appear before him today and show cause why contempt of court proceedings should not be instituted against her for suspending an investigations officer who testified in Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya's case.

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Kwacha plummets after Kalyalya's dismissal

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Republic of Zambia
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Don't govern like you are in opposition, Musa urges govt

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

FORMER Attorney General Musa Mwenye says presidential appointments must take into account tribal balancing in order to build unity in the country.

And Mwenye has advised the Patriotic front government

to stop governing like it's an opposition party, citing an incident where President Edgar Lungu attacked the Anti Corruption Commission.

Meanwhile, Mwenye has wondered what was so urgent for President Lungu to appoint

a new Bank of Zambia (BoZ) in session to ratify his new office Governor when Parliament is not in session to ratify his new office bearer.

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Yaluma fires Fisho Mwale as ZDA board chair

Story page 4

By Stuart Lisulo

GOVERNMENT still needs to implement strong fiscal policy where the budget deficit and high levels of inflation are kept under control if the Bank of Zambia's (BoZ) relaxed monetary policy is to have any meaningful impact, says economist Chibamba Kanyama.

And Kanyama says interest rates on loan facilities should not be expected to significantly decline despite the slashed benchmark policy rate of eight per cent due to the elevated risk levels associated with COVID-19.

But Kanyama has hailed the now former BoZ governor Dr Denny Kalyalya for being courageous and taking decisive action to cut the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to a historic low in a bid to safeguard Zambia's financial system stability and protect people's livelihoods.

In an interview, Thursday,

Reduced MPR not enough to revive economy – Kanyama

Kanyama observed that while the reduced MPR of eight per cent was a welcome development to cushion the impact of the Coronavirus on the country's economy, he stressed that government still needed to focus on implementing strong fiscal policy.

He cautioned that high inflationary pressure remained a grave threat towards full economic recovery, which required strong fiscal discipline to rein in high inflation.

Last Wednesday, the central bank slashed the benchmark policy rate by 125 basis points to 8 per cent from 9.25 per cent in a bid to safeguard the

country's financial stability to offset the devastating effects of COVID-19, as cases look set to continue rising, the second successive rate cut this year and the lowest MPC rate historically.

"Now, we are talking about inflation standing at 15.8 per cent and then you are lowering the policy rate. When inflation is that high, the response is to treat this disease because the real cancer we have to fight right now is inflation, and even if you improve liquidity, the way the BoZ wants to improve liquidity, increase credit to the private sector, reduce interest rates to improve consumer borrowing, but the pocket power has been

compromised because they (consumers) are not going to fetch as much as they fetched last year; the same amount of money is going to fetch less because inflation is high. That is what worries me now," Kanyama said.

"So, the BoZ is really facing a very difficult situation whether to target inflation and bring it down because we all expected that inflation by this time of the year will be around where it should be when there is food crop in the system, but it has stalled, and we are coming to the end of the year. So, the real threat to private sector growth is inflation. Unless we have strong

fiscal discipline, this is where it really matters. Managing expenditure, managing our debt levels...we will continue to second-guess monetary policy as to where it will trigger growth."

He said interest rates on loan facilities might not significantly decline despite the slashed benchmark policy rate of 8 per cent where commercial banks would resist cutting lending rates due to the elevated risk levels associated with COVID-19.

"The real threat to the private sector right now is inflation and the fiscal deficit because government is going to the (financial) market to borrow money and at the same time, the private sector is going to the same market so interest rates may not

even come down as we thought because there is competition out there. Government is going to look for the dollar to service the debt and the same private sector is going to the market to look for dollars to import machinery, raw materials...what happens? The exchange rate is shooting up! Compromising growth of the private sector," Kanyama charged.

"In the nominal (lending) rates, we will see some kind of decline and that is supported by the K10 billion (BoZ Refinancing Facility) pumped into the system because that one has got some ceiling of 17.5 per cent. So, as a result, the commercial banks are faced with this competition: the BoZ money, which the same commercial banks have to lend at 17.5 per cent and their own money, which they have to lend at about 30 per cent. So most of their clients are going for this other money, and that is what has contributed to what you are observing now. But, also, remember that this is nominal, the real interest rates have still remained as high as they should be; if anything, the private sector risks under COVID-19 have increased so the potential of companies defaulting is higher than ever before. That is factored into the pricing of money by commercial banks."

Kanyama, the Bridges Limited chief executive officer, hailed Dr Kalyalya, who was dismissed by President Edgar Lungu, Saturday, for being courageous and taking decisive action to cut the benchmark policy rate to a historic low in a bid to safeguard Zambia's financial system stability and protect people's livelihoods.

"The governor means well! And I must congratulate him, he is a very courageous man, he is trying to score as many goals as possible to ensure he wins the game. But, unfortunately, in the economic equation, he is not alone; monetary policy alone can never sustain the economy; monetary policy is a stabiliser to allow fiscal policy to ignite growth," said Kanyama.

"In terms of stabilising the financial system, the central bank has done very well, and I really congratulate the central bank because they have been very truthful on the actual reality of the economy; they have been very truthful about what should be happening in this country; their focus is on ensuring stability."

Zambia's budget deficit has leaped to K17.2 billion from K14.8 billion announced in April largely attributed to a reduction in economic activity, according to Ministry of Finance data, as the country's debt levels remain elevated.

Last month, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu unveiled his second successive supplementary budget worth an unprecedented K15.01 billion; with K5.7 billion earmarked towards debt servicing, representing around 38 per cent of the total budget, while K5.5 billion will be allocated towards expenditure drawn from the COVID-19 bond, leaving only K3.9 billion remaining to fund other government functions.

On the other hand, the foreign exchange market has so far remained unresponsive to the benchmark policy rate cut as markets closed at K19.10 per dollar from an opening of K18.98, Friday.



MISA Zambia is calling for submissions for the 18th edition of the Platinum and Golden Media Awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held on 25th September 2020 in Lusaka at Golden Peacock Hotel.

Eligibility

The Awards are open to Zambian based journalists from print, electronic (Radio and Television) and online media. An entry for the Awards must have been published or broadcast between the period 29th September 2019 to 4th September 2020.

MISA Zambia will honour outstanding works of journalism in Zambia in the following categories:

1. Golden Award Television
2. Golden Award Radio
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The deadline for the submission of the entries is on 4th September, 2020 at 17.00.

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By Natasha Sakala
MABIZA Resources contractors have expressed concern over the company's proposal to forfeit 60 percent of money owed to them or have it paid over a period of three years in instalments.

This is a matter in which over 200 contractors are demanding payment of US\$18 million owed to them by Mabiza Resources, which runs Munali Nickel Mine in Mazabuka.

The owed amount is for a period of 10 months. According to a letter obtained by News Diggers!, Mabiza, in a letter to the contractors, is proposing 40 percent cash payment and forfeiture of the outstanding balance as one option.

"The new plan: Option 1, immediate cash settlement. Immediate payment of 40% of the amount due on acceptance, this being in full and final settlement of the amount outstanding by Mabiza. Signed agreement to a compromise agreement on the above basis to ensure that no legal action can then be commenced against Mabiza for recovery of the remaining amount. Mabiza reserve the right to formal verification of the amount outstanding by independent auditors PWC. Alternative Option, option 2; Payment in full Settlement in full over 36 monthly payments. Signed agreement that in accepting payment in full and as long as the payments are maintained; no legal action will be commenced against Mabiza for recovery as long as the payments are maintained. Mabiza reserve

Munali Mine contractors seek Lungu's intervention in recovery of \$18m owed

the right to formal verification of the amount outstanding by independent auditors PWC," read the letter, signed by chief executive officer Anton Mauve, in part.

"Mabiza continues to be in a position where it cannot pay you immediately and can only pay you as a result of continuing to trade and a proportion of the new funding that has been agreed and committed by the shareholders. Mabiza has listened to the feedback from the first payment plan it proposed to suppliers, namely: That the payments were on a quarterly basis; and the period to obtain full payment was too long." And the contractors have expressed concern in an open letter to the President over the delay in getting their money despite giving the company adequate time to put its house in order.

"Our action has been provoked by the failure of Mabiza Resources Limited to settle funds that are owed to us, the Suppliers for goods and services rendered up to end of December 2019. The Management of the mine has categorically confirmed its inability to settle this debt in a sustainable manner, citing reasons of which none can be attributed to force majeure or actions beyond the mines control. The reason stated by the mine is that the

initial management team was incompetent and reckless, causing and allowing for the accumulation of debt to Suppliers. Mr. President, it is definitely NOT the fault of the Suppliers that Mabiza Resources Limited recruited an incompetent team to handle its investment. The letter submitted to Your Office on 29th July 2020 details this case thoroughly. Presently, the mine has issued Payment Plans to the Suppliers proposing two options for settlement as follows: 1. The Supplier to accept settlement over 36 months (3 years) instalment payments, or; 2. The Supplier could accept an outright payment of 40% of outstanding amount as final settlement i.e. to forgo 60% of revenue earned," the open letter read.

"Mr. President, you will agree that this is equivalent to an insult to our investment and loyalty to the mine, it is completely unacceptable. This is an investor that came into our country committing to grow our economy. This behaviour is contrary to these commitments. Sir, as was contained in the letter of the 29th August 2020, it has not been our desire to immediately resort to the last course of action as an approach to recover our funds without exhausting all relevant avenues as we are doing now. Our hope is that our

request for your intervention receives the attention it needs. Sir, there is no other higher office in this country to that of the Republican President and thus our confidence to obtain sustainable result with this action. From the time that we submitted our letter to your Office, we have not received any feedback indicating any suggested resolution. Therefore, the intention of this Open Letter is to reinforce our efforts to engage Your Office for a peaceful resolution and for the removal of any perceptions of us overlooking Your Office in our escalation plan."

The contractors further stated that failure to them getting a response by 31st August, they will reconvene and agree on a next course of

action, describing the mine's decision as inhuman.

"We respect law, order and peace in this country and are aware of the need to preserve the reputation of Your Office. Generally, the economic situation in our country and globally is very harsh, we have no luxury to entertain actions such as that being portrayed by Mabiza Resources Limited. We feed our children and sustain ourselves through our businesses, keeping our funds for more than ten (10) months is inhuman and an infringement to our rights and trade ethics. All our services to the mine were legitimately offered to the mine and therefore do not deserve this treatment. In summary, the intention of this Letter is to

request your intervention in this matter. We are disgruntled men merely seeking to obtain what is rightfully ours, we do have other options, but we will respect law and order as long it serves justice. Sir, beyond this letter, remains very few other options before we resort to other means," read the letter.

"The mine requested for our goods and services and they stated a thirty (30) day payment term for the goods and services rendered. We have sacrificed to give the mine ten (10) months since they began operating under the 'new' management in November 2019. We cannot sacrifice any further, we need our money now. For follow up purposes, we have given this Letter to the 31st August 2020 to prove effect. Beyond this date, we the Suppliers will reconvene and agree on our next course of action. We are confident for a fruitful result. Yours faithfully, Disgruntled Mabiza Suppliers Consortium (Zambia)"

Ramaphosa reprimands Mboweni

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has reprimanded his Finance Minister Tito Mboweni for condemning President Edgar Lungu's decision to fire Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Dr Denny Kalyalya.

According to a press statement issued by Acting Spokesperson to the President Tyrone Seale, President Ramaphosa said Mboweni's remarks did not reflect the views of the South African government and its people.

"The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, has strongly reprimanded the Minister of Finance, Mr Tito Mboweni, following comments made by the Minister on social media regarding the removal of Zambia's Central Bank Governor by President Edgar Lungu. In one of his tweets, Minister Mboweni is promising to mobilise if not given reasons why the Central Governor has been fired by President Lungu. President Ramaphosa wishes to assure the government and people of the Republic of Zambia that the unfortunate remarks do not reflect the views of

the South African government and its people," Seale stated.

And Seale stated that President Ramaphosa and South Africans remained committed to maintaining the deep and solid bonds of friendship between the two countries.

"The issue is being addressed to ensure that such an incident does not occur again. South Africa and Zambia enjoy strong historical relations dating back to the days of the struggle against Apartheid. South Africa remains committed to maintaining the deep and solid bonds of friendship between the peoples of South Africa and Zambia," stated Seale.

Immediately after President Lungu fired Dr Kalyalya, Minister Mboweni took to Twitter to condemn the decision, calling it nonsensical and warning that he would mobilise against the Zambian Head of State.

"Presidents in Africa must stop this nonsense of waking up in the morning and fire a Central Bank Governor! You cannot do that. This is not some fiefdoms of yours! Your personal property?! No!!" tweeted Mboweni.

Yaluma fires Fisho Mwale as ZDA board chair

By Stuart Lisulo

COMMERCE Minister Christopher Yaluma has fired Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) Board Chairperson Fisho Mwale with immediate effect for unknown reasons.

Confirming the development in a brief interview, Monday, Mwale, who is also a Yaluma Limited director, said he was no longer the ZDA board chair after having his contract of employment terminated.

"It is true. I am not chairman of the board right now," Mwale said, without disclosing the actual reasons.

And when reached for comment, Yaluma acknowledged the development, but could not elaborate on why Mwale had been relieved of his post by press time.

He, however, pledged to engage the media in due course after further discussing the matter with Mwale.

Yaluma recently appointed the Mwale-

led ZDA board, which consisted of private sector representatives and representatives from government line ministries.

Mwale, who is also Aquaculture Development Association of Zambia chairperson, was deputised by Enoch Bwalya, both from the private sector.

Other private sector representatives that were appointed to the board were Chisoma Lombe, Chiwego Zulu, Rebecca Katowa, the Zambia Sugar Plc managing director, among others.

The ZDA's mandate includes facilitation of Zambia's economic development by promoting investment and competitiveness of businesses and promoting exports from the country.

The Agency is also responsible for building and enhancing the country's investment profile for increased capital inflows, capital formation, employment creation and

promoting the growth of Micro, Small and Medium enterprise (MSME) sector by working with government to create an investment climate that can propel long-term sustainable domestic growth.

Zesco-CEC stand-off will hurt FDI inflows into energy sector – Chizonde

By Natasha Sakala

THE impasse between the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) and Zesco Limited has reduced investor confidence and will negatively impact much-needed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into Zambia's energy sector, says Public Financial Management Consult senior economist Bright Chizonde.

And Chizonde says that the Ministry of Energy has failed to provide clear policy guidance to provide leadership in resolving the dispute between the power utilities as evidenced by its misplaced role in the whole process.

Responding to a press query, Chizonde lamented that the CEC-Zesco dispute had reduced investor confidence, which would negatively impact the much-needed FDI inflow into the energy sector.

"The standoff has reduced investor confidence and will, therefore, negatively impact the much-needed FDI inflow into the energy sector. This impact will be both in the short-term and long-term but will certainly be more pronounced in the long-term. At a time when the country is grappling with an energy crisis, we needed to attract investment into the sector through protecting property rights and creating an enabling environment for increased investment," Chizonde stated.

He stated that the dramatic fall of CEC's share price on the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE) was down to Zesco's failure to renew the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA).

CEC's share price on the LuSE dropped to K0.76 per share by Friday from K1.21 by the end of trading on June 12 in the aftermath of the utility's BSA, which lapsed on March 31, 2020.

"It is no doubt that CEC's historic performance on the LuSE is directly linked to the gains from the BSA. The fall in CEC's share price can, therefore, be linked to negative investment sentiments and outlook created by the standoff. Any equity investor will be cautious about investing in CEC's stock because the gains will not be as much as when this agreement was in place," he observed.

And Chizonde, a former Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) researcher, stated that the Ministry of Energy had failed to provide clear policy guidance to provide leadership to resolve the dispute between both power utilities.

"The Ministry seems to have misplaced its role in this process. Government is expected to deal with market failure in order to restore efficiency. The Ministry should have quickly facilitated for a new agreement

in order to safeguard the interests of investors in both the capital markets and the general mining sector, as well as secure the employment generated by these entities. Therefore, in playing such a neutral role, government should have not used its policy monopoly to take over the private assets of CEC. It makes more sense to make the distribution lines and infrastructure of Zesco a common carrier in order to attract private investment through reducing set-up costs," stated Chizonde.

Last month, Energy Permanent Secretary Trevor Kaunda said that the Ministry of Energy was in the process of reviewing the controversial Statutory Instrument Number 57 of 2020, which had declared CEC's infrastructure as common carrier, to enable other power utilities have access to Zesco's infrastructure in the same way Zesco has access to CEC's transmission and distribution lines on the Copperbelt.

Following that declaration, the national power utility went on to sign a Power Supply Agreement with Konkola Copper Mines, CEC's hitherto biggest customer, despite the mining company still owing in excess of US \$144 million to the Kitwe-based utility in unpaid electricity bills.



Fisho Mwale



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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

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When mistrust rocks Board-Management Relationship

TWO weeks ahead of a scheduled corporate governance training eight years ago, the company secretary for this large state-owned enterprise asked me out for lunch. I was one of the trainers. I took it the meeting was to help me understand more about the organization, particularly the strategic plan and the board charter, the two critical documents we need in advance before any training. Facilitators always seek to ensure our programmes are not casting stone as demanded of the Melvin King Toolkit on corporate governance that we use. I personally seek to adapt governance facilitation to what patterns to Zambia as there is nothing like one-shoe-fits-all.

Instead of the company secretary meeting me alone, two other members of management were on the team. We did not waste time but get on the subject as we prepared to line up for the buffet. The company secretary quickly introduced the other members on the team as the Finance and Human Capital Directors, respectively.

'Mr. Kanyama,' continued the Company Secretary, 'we thought we talk to you ahead of the training of our board members next week.' He went on to share some concerns and reservations management had with the Board, acknowledging the relationship had been far from being cordial. According to the management, the Board was suspicious management was undermining its authority by concealing very vital information from the Board. As far as management was concerned, the Board was demanding too much, seeking to venture into areas that was outside its jurisdiction and responsibility.

They continued, 'We really hope you can emphasise during the training that the Board should keep its distance; and that it should respect management. What we are experiencing from the board members is sure disaster and there is no way we can run a company where we are daily being accused of concealing information. We will really appreciate, Mr. Kanyama, if you focus on these areas because you are dealing with a topic that is broader and appropriate to the situation, we are in.'

I plainly alerted the team as to my responsibilities as a facilitator for the two-day retreat. As facilitators, we were not supposed to be arbitrators to a problem unless engaged as such. To be fair, I told the colleagues that I would inform the Board during the facilitation that I had met them and had brought forward their expectations that needed to be discussed as part of the training agenda. This did not sit well at all, 'No, Mr. Kanyama. The Board should not even know we met you before the training. That will be recipe for deepened mistrust.'

I went ahead to disclose during the training that I had met part of the management and that there were issues that required the attention of

both the board and management. I conveyed the message in good faith, demonstrating management had meant well and that everyone was concerned that we needed to find a solution, under the best corporate governance practices.

The Chairperson quickly took the floor, 'Mr. Facilitator, Sir, we really, really appreciate you have opened up this issue for discussion. I am also happy management had time with you and do hope that you told them about how best to handle a Board.'

He paused a moment to capture some breath, 'The truth is that we do not trust this management. These people are hiding vital information from us. How do we run a board when they don't trust us?'

That opened a very transparent and cordial discussion. We dealt with the main issue that had rocked the board-management relationship. It had to do with disclosure of data. On one hand, management had concluded there was information that was not necessary for the Board to know. Some of the issues were strategic in

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There are board members and managers who always exhibit this 'know-it-all' mentality and when they are challenged, they don't take it well

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nature. As one put it, 'We operate in a highly competitive environment and we deal with very sensitive information. We fear some board members may inadvertently share this information to unauthorized parties and we are doomed.'

The Board, on the other hand, believed before the minister knew about anything, the Board had to know. 'Everything about this company is the responsibility of this Board; administrative, operations or strategic; we have to know. It is not fair for this Board to read about certain developments of the business in the papers. They are promising the minister something on television and this Board is kept in the dark.'

That gave me the opportunity to orient the Board to its own statutes, the board charter and all other pieces of information of material nature that would properly position the board-management relationship. Some of them relate to procedures, processes, systems and structures. If these are not elaborate, there will be some conflict in the relationship. Without each party being fully aware of its responsibilities as defined

by the board charter, suspicions will arise.

In addition, some mistrust is purely personal in nature. There was once a case of a board chairperson who had sought appointment as CEO of the same company when the incumbent was fired. Unfortunately, the appointing authority settled for a member of management and this soured the relationship between the board and management.

In other cases, the tension between the board and management arises from poor emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence speaks of possessing five key skills: self-awareness (recognizing own emotions and many of us are extremely poor at this; expecting one party to be emotionally stable while we are not); self-regulation (ability to control and redirect negative emotions and this is where we see management always receiving the beating for any shortcomings!); optimism (strong drive to act and when this is absent, there are counter accusations in the boardroom for lack of action); empathy (cross-cultural diversity, which speaks a lot about how to manage diversity in the boardroom); social skills (expertise in building teams and this is where board chairpersons should demonstrate this rare ability of building trust among non-trusting parties).

There are board members and managers who always exhibit this 'know-it-all' mentality and when they are challenged, they don't take it well. I remember sitting in a board meeting where the CEO of the organization turned his debrief into a PowerPoint lecture about how acid tests for calculating insolvency are arrived at. The board members felt belittled because some of them were senior partners in auditing firms, possessing incredible financial knowledge about anything in that area. Where there is no respect for others for what they have gained, there is huge mistrust.

I also attended another board meeting where the Board chairman lectured management on simple information management. He talked for three hours and the board meeting took nine always (a topic for another day). Management left the meeting thinking their intellectual competency had been undermined by 'this man who knew nothing after all'.

It is very easy to build a cohesive, frictionless and trusting board if individuals understand their roles and responsibilities. Those statutes, articles of association and board charters do not exist in a vacuum. They are fundamental documents that all board members and management should familiarize themselves with. Once individuals adhere to best corporate governance practices as outlined in these documents, there will be no offside by any party. We call such a board, a harmonious board and its known for resounding resolutions!

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

By Julia Malunga
HOME Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says consultations on issuance of National Registration Cards to inmates are ongoing.

And Kampyongo says over 331,472 people have

We've issued over 331,000 NRCs – Kampyongo

been issued with National Registration Cards in five provinces since the exercise commenced.

Speaking at a press briefing, Monday, Kampyongo said there was a need for a census to be conducted to find

out how many inmates did not have NRCs.

"Obviously consultations are currently going on to

see how that court ruling of allowing inmates who are in our correctional facilities exercise their liberty to

vote. You may wish to know that even if people go into incarceration, those that are Zambian citizens go with their NRCs and as you can see, on their records there are NRCs there so if there will be need to give NRCs to those inmates who could have lost, it certainly shall be done. We still have got the second phase going on and we can see at what point the exercise can be extended to the correctional facilities. We will also depend on the information that will come from the correctional service command because they should be able to take census of how many people could have lost their NRCs for example in Chimbokaila so that even as officers are assigned to go there, they know the numbers of those who have lost because it's not everyone in the correctional facilities who don't have NRCs," Kampyongo said.

Kampyongo urged eligible citizens who lived in provinces which were in the first phase to take advantage of the exercise.

He said the second phase of the exercise was scheduled to commence on September 1, 2020.

"As of yesterday, the 23rd of August, the cumulative totals of the province stands as follows, First registrations, males, 29,403, female, 32,202 total, 61,605. Replacement of damaged and lost NRCs; male 7,897, female 8,868 and the total is 16,765 bringing the grand total for Northern province to 78,370, that's for Northern Province. Luapula province, first registration male 27,593, female 26,938 total 54,531. Replacements male 8,801, female 12,357 total 20,458 bringing the grand total for Luapula Province to 74,989. Copperbelt Province first registration, male 13,745, female 15,889 total 55, 65. Replacement or damage of NRCs male 12,393, female 11,653 total 24,460. Bringing the grand total for Copper belt province to 79,111. North Western province first registration stands at male 13,745, female, 15,899 total 29,644. Replacements male 6,661, female 5,929. Total 12,590 bringing the grand total for North-Western province to 42,234," said Kampyongo.

"Eastern Province first registration stands at male 19,070, female 20,177 total 39,300. Replacement male 9,951, female 8,373 total 17,468 bringing the grand total for Eastern Province to 56,768. The grand total cumulative for all the five provinces now stands at 331,472. The exercise is ongoing even as we intensify preparations for the phase two of the mobile registration which kicks off on the 1st of September 2020 in Southern, Western, Central, Muchinga and Lusaka Province. I can only urge all eligible persons who live in provinces that are in the first phase to take advantage of the exercise."

Meanwhile, Kampyongo said the Ministry had not received reports of foreign nationals being given NRCs.

By Natasha Sakala
THE Ministry of Health has announced that Zambia has recorded 66 new COVID-19 cases out of 346 tests done, with 146 recoveries in the last 24 hours.

And the Ministry has disclosed that it is currently employing plasmapheresis, a model similar to dialysis, to treat severely ill COVID-19 patients.

Speaking during the daily briefing, Monday, ministry permanent secretary Dr Kennedy Malama said that of the 66 cases, 41 were identified in Ndola through routine screening.

"In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded 66 new cases of COVID-19 out of the 346 tests done. This is a far much bigger drop compared to yesterday. We continue reviewing the situation as a response team and early this morning, we looked at what is affecting the testing platform. We assure you, we will continue doing our best to ensure that we attain those targets of testing per day which we have set ourselves. This therefore brings the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in our country to 11,148 cases. The 66 new cases in the last 24 hours include 60 cases identified through routine screening; in Ndola 41, Lusaka 17, Kitwe one and Serenje one. We had five contacts to known cases in Lusaka and one individual identified through hospital screening in Ndola. So once again it is clear that Copperbelt and Lusaka continue to be the top epicentres but the rest of the country also continues recording new cases this includes urban, peri-urban and the rural parts of our country," he said.

"Currently, 61 patients are admitted to Levy Mwanawasa COVID-19 isolation and treatment facility. Out of these 61, 34 are on oxygen therapy and two are on ventilators under intensive care. Outside Lusaka, we have 38 patients who are admitted to our isolation facilities with 19 on oxygen therapy. No facility deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours. 146 patients have been discharged today bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 10,208. One of the positives we have seen in our response as a country is a significantly improved recovery rate. Our recovery continues to be above 85 percent consistently and this is commendable to the response team across. Therefore, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in the country stands at 11,148 including 280 deaths and 10,208 recoveries."

And Dr Malama said health officials were using blood plasma from those who had recovered to treat those who were not responding to the other treatment protocols. "We have recently added another level of care where

Zambia records 66 new COVID-19 cases

we are using plasmapheresis, a model which is similar to dialysis and treat our people. We are also using plasma from those who have recovered. Plasma is a blood component which we extract from those who have recovered and give it to those who have COVID-19. This new model has seen some good outcomes in our people and we are documenting this for replication to the rest of the country. These are some of the key treatment interventions which we have put in place as a country and as I have alluded to earlier, these are informed by the highest level of evidence to give assurance to the Zambians, when you visit our treatment centres, the outcomes are very impressive. Our people who came in very sick, some of them we were

almost losing hope but with the treatment we have [put in place], we have saved far much more people than we have lost and it's our conviction that if we continued on this trajectory, our mortality or loss of life in our health facilities will be very low," said Dr Malama.

And speaking during the same briefing, director infectious diseases Professor Lloyd Mulenga said majority of patients in the isolation facilities were on oxygen therapy.

"Majority of the patients that we have in the facilities are those who are on oxygen therapy which is a good drug and very key drug, we have seen good outcomes with it and then also we have drugs which reduce the

inflammation, the reaction of the body to the virus which is dangerous and that reaction, the inflammation if it's not controlled can lead to various complications so we treat that reaction to the virus by giving dexamethasone. But also in certain people who do not respond, we go further ahead and give other anti-inflammatories...only in certain indicated individuals. Then also, one key thing we have learnt with COVID-19 is the ability of the blood to start forming clots and once we have these clots, they can seed anywhere in the body, they can seed in the brain and someone can present with a stroke; they can seed in the heart, they can present with a heart attack; in the kidney, they have renal failure. So everywhere,

wherever there is blood, they can seed and form those clots. So we have heparin as a key drug to prevent those clots forming," said Prof Mulenga.

"Then now, there are some individuals overtime whom we have seen have not responded well to those therapies and what we did employ is to try and remove their blood, the blood component, the plasma. When we remove the plasma, then we infuse another set of components, albumin and also we get blood from those that have recovered and they have enough antibodies and we infuse those antibodies into those antibodies in those that are severely sick and who have not responded to these other three strategies. And we have seen good response with that."

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has summoned Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) acting director general Rosemary Khuzwayo to appear before him today and show cause why contempt of court proceedings should not be instituted against her for suspending an investigations officer who testified in Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya's case.

Magistrate Mwale directed that Khuzwayo be summoned following an application made by one of Dr Chilufya's lawyers in the matter, Tutwa Ngulube.

Ngulube said Khuzwayo's decision to suspend the investigation officer was not only an attempt to influence the witnesses in the proceedings, but also an attempt to intimidate truthful witnesses.

He expressed concern that in future, witnesses would fail to give truthful testimonies in court for fear of being suspended.

This is a matter in which Dr Chilufya is charged with four counts of possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

Earlier this month, Khuzwayo suspended ACC investigations officer Chipampe Manda who testified in court that Dr Chilufya did not commit an offence, adding that the Health Minister had the capacity to acquire all the properties he is accused of acquiring through proceeds of crime, from his legitimate income.

When the matter came up for continued trial, Monday, Ngulube brought Manda's suspension to the attention of the court, adding that there appeared to be a serious violation of his client's rights and an attack on the independence and credibility of the court.

He said the court had power to protect its witnesses and the integrity of the proceedings.

Ngulube said he was aware that when matters were before court, it was serious for any witness or officers of the court to be punished, disciplined or ridiculed for what they said on oath.

"We are aware that the only person who testified from ACC in this matter is Mr Manda. The position he gave to this court is that as far as his investigations were concerned, he did not believe that Dr Chilufya had committed any crime," he said.

Court summons acting ACC DG for 'intimidating witness'

Ngulube added that Moono also confirmed at a press conference that ACC had decided to suspend Manda because of the testimony he gave in court.

He said section 116 of the Penal Code made it a clear case of contempt of court if any person penalises a witness for whatever they said in court.

"The gist of our application is that the decision by the acting director general of ACC to suspend the witness was aimed at influencing the witnesses in these proceedings and also to intimidate truthful witnesses. We, therefore pray that this court summons before court, the said Rosemary Nkonde Khuzwayo, the ACC spokesperson, the acting secretary and all directors to confirm this memo and whether indeed it refers to these proceedings," Ngulube said.

Ruling on the application, magistrate Mwale said he found it prudent for him to summon Khuzwayo and inquire into her conduct, which bordered on the independence and integrity of the court.

"Having listened to the serious allegations touching on the administration of justice, it is prudent for this court to inquire into the conduct of the ACC acting director general. I therefore direct that the acting director general be summoned to show cause why contempt proceedings should not be instituted against her," he ruled.

Earlier, three prosecution witnesses testified in the matter.

ZANACO branch manager- Acacia branch, Saniyo Gumbo testified that on May 8, 2020, an officer from ACC visited the bank to inquire about some transactions that were made on Mansa Batteries for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019.

He said he checked into the system and confirmed that the account was active and further generated a statement.

The witness said according to the bank statement, on September 8, 2017, there was a cash deposit of K750,000 with a narration as payment for Sparks Guest House.

He said on October 31, 2017 there was another cash deposit of K400, 000

whose narration was purchase of Mansa Guest House.

Gumbo said on November 31, 2017 there was a cash deposit of K695,219 whose narration was purchase of Spark Guest House.

He said on November 3, 2017 there was a cash deposit of K89,781 for the purchase of Spark Guest House.

In cross examination by Ngulube, Gumbo said the four deposits did not amount to K3 million but to K 1,935,000.

Asked if he had any suspicion that the said transactions could be proceeds of crime, the witness said no, adding that he did not know the source of the money.

And Assinia Banda, an operations manager at ZANACO, Lusaka business centre said ACC officers approached her on June 8, 2020 and requested for account documents for one of the bank's clients Ali Mulangu.

She said regarding the said account, on August 28, 2017, there was a credit of USD13,650 and a debit of USD 23,500 going outside the country to Smart Own FZE.

Banda said on August 30, 2017, there was a deposit of USD 20,000, another deposit of USD 9,000 and a telegraphic transfer of USD 29,000 in favour of Smart Own FZE.

Another witness, Patrick Chilekwa, an assistant inspector of companies in the compliance and awareness unit at PACRA, testified that sometime in April 2020, he received officers from ACC who wanted information regarding the shareholding in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services Limited.

He said he availed the officers documents and that on the first form, a company called Top Tech Enterprises Limited transferred 2,000 ordinary shares to Leo Jonas Ngosa Investment Limited.

Chilekwa said on another form, Den Daas Investment Zambia transferred 6,000 shares to Dr Chilufya.

In cross examination, the witness confirmed that there was nothing wrong with the transfer of shares.

Trial continues today.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
FORMER Attorney General Musa Mwenye says presidential appointments must take into account tribal balancing in order to build unity in the country.

And Mwenye has advised the Patriotic front government to stop governing like it's an opposition party, citing an incident where President Edgar Lungu attacked the Anti Corruption Commission.

Meanwhile, Mwenye has wondered what was so urgent for President Lungu to appoint a new Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Governor when Parliament is not in session to ratify his new office bearer.

Speaking when he featured on Muvi TV's Assignment programme, Sunday, Mwenye wondered why 90 per cent of presidential appointments were from Eastern and Northern provinces when the country had many regions.

"I have no problem with competences but we have to ask certain questions as a people, did it have to be a person from Eastern Province to be appointed for example? Why is it that at the moment, 90 per cent of appointments are from Eastern and Northern Province? This country is a huge country and some of you people in the media need to start interrogating this because it is a source of disunity. Why is it that every time there is a replacement, it has to be an Easterner or a Northerner? Why is tribe becoming an issue? It's a huge problem and it builds despondence. Zambia is for all of us. And there is a reason why Dr Kenneth Kaunda always said 'One Zambia One Nation'. Presidential appointments have to take into account tribal balancing as well. There was a time you couldn't make an appointment without balancing. You can't have a situation where when someone is fired, you can even predict what the replacement will be. No. Let us balance

Don't govern like you are in opposition, Musa urges govt



these things up. Otherwise, we are creating a recipe for exclusion, creating a recipe for people to feel unfairly treated. You cannot continue like this. There are a lot of able people in this country from several regions," Mwenye said.

And Mwenye said by firing Dr Denny Kalyalya, Zambia had lost a fine person to occupy the position of BoZ governor, further wondering what was so urgent about the changes.

"Dr Kalyalya is a fine professional. Those are some of the professionals that are hard to come by and hard to convince to work with you. So, my curiosity is to understand what could have prompted the termination of his contract at such short notice and abruptly because we won't have a substantive governor of the Bank of Zambia for a couple of weeks now because parliament is not in session. And as you know, there is need for ratification. It's a very inconveniencing time. He brings confidence to the market and markets are all about confidence. What this does is it builds negative sentiments. And there must be a lot of thought given to a replacement," Mwenye said.

He further said inept as government may consider South African Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni's comment about Zambia, it gave a snippet of how the country was considered by outsiders.

"We need to be very careful how we are portraying ourselves internationally and certainly when we interact with our friends from other countries in these meetings, we find it difficult to defend some of these things and our international image is getting

battered," Mwenye said

Meanwhile, Mwenye said it breaks his heart that every time leaders talk, they support the corrupt.

"The last interview I heard by Dr Kalyalya himself indicated that there is a shrinkage of the economy by 5 per cent instead of increase. So we are growing at negative 5 per cent. We left the economy at 7.1 per cent, for those of us who worked with President Micheal Sata. We are entitled to ask why?...If you look at the figures from 2011 when we took over office, the TIZ corruption perception index in this country was 32 per cent. It rose sharply to 37 per cent in 2012. By the time 2014 was coming, we had increased it to 38 per cent, the best TIZ corruption perception index. You cannot divorce economic performance from stopping the leakages," he said.

On sentiments that the ACC had become agents of the opposition, Mwenye said it was bizarre that PF were governing as though they were in the opposition.

"How?...You see, opposition politics and the ruling party are different. You can't govern like you are in the opposition. You can't attack your own institutions because you are the ruling party and you have the instruments to change and make those institutions effective. If the ACC is not working, equip them," Mwenye said.

And asked on the continued stay in office of ministers facing corruption-related charges, he said such ministers had no moral authority to lead the people.

"In a mature democracy, the minister himself should have resigned. And if he doesn't resign, you summon the minister and say 'I am

giving you chance to resign or I will fire you.' And they leave. President Sata did that. So, what is wrong in doing that now?" Mwenye asked.

He urged investigative agencies to do the right thing and demand for autonomy from those in power.

"To those agencies, I would appeal, they need to... do the right thing in those offices. And sometimes, the sign that they are beginning to do the right thing is when you start hearing complaints about them. The Anti-Corruption Commission is supposed to check on corruption in government agencies. They are not meant to be friends of those in power. For them, when they are hated in those offices, it means they are doing a good job," Mwenye said.

Meanwhile, Mwenye said free press is shrinking in Zambia and that those closing media institutions now would have no platform to air their views once voted out of power.

"...you can't close every media institution, because what will speak for you when you are not there? Night follows the day. You will not be there one day. The free press is shrinking. From 2016 until now, The Post is gone, Prime TV is no more. You also suffered a closure here (Muvi TV) at one time. And this leads to self-censorship. These people who hop from one party to another...will need to be in the opposition and will want to have space like the media to air their views," warned Mwenya.

Lungu has given PF cadres power to misbehave - Andyford

By Ulande Nkomesha

PEOPLE'S Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says PF cadres do not respect the law because the Head of State has given them powers to misbehave.

Commenting on a recent video of a traffic police officer who had an altercation with a PF cadre which saw Deputy Inspector General of Police disciplining the officer, a decision which was later reversed by Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo, Banda described the continued misbehavior of PF cadres as a cancer.

"PF cadres are a cancer. They have been given the power by PF leadership, the President himself. We have seen a lot of indiscipline of the PF cadres, they stop vehicles on the road. [Recently], I was going to the gym, they were stopping vehicles as they were going for a procession of a funeral, which is so much indiscipline from these cadres. We blame this on the leadership and obviously the police can't do anything because they realize that the PF cadres are more powerful than the police," Banda said.

"I mean, we have seen this happening...we saw what happened few days ago where a cadre was intimidating a police officer. We saw cadres attacking a police officer at Central Police out of all the places in this country."

He said the PF leadership was giving lip service on the continued behavior of cadres.

"It is just lip service from the PF leadership when they say they don't tolerate violence. What have they done to ensure cadres are disciplined? Nothing! As long as the PF leadership or the PF government won't give the mandate to the police to discipline cadres, cadres will continue to do what they wish. They will continue to pass traffic lights, they will continue to stop traffic in all these places. They will continue to have the opportunity to do whatever they feel like. As long we continue to weaken the Zambian Police, that is what will continue happening," Banda said.

He predicted an increase in the levels of intimidation by the PF as the country was moving closer to the 2021 general elections.

"I think they will try and intimidate the opposition, they will try and intimidate the police; but I think going forward, in 2021, it is our earnest belief that people will have to protect the elections like their lives depend on them. So in as much the PF will try and intimidate us, I believe that a lot of people will risk their lives to ensure that the PF doesn't pull through. I believe tabakapite (they will not win)," said Banda.

Aggravated assault case fails to take off as Jay Jay faces other charges in Chipata

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SUSPENDED Patriotic Front Eastern Province youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others have been dragged to court for allegedly assaulting a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station, with intent to steal.

Lusaka Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale could, however, not explain the charge to the accused persons yesterday as only four appeared before him.

Banda, who was absent, was reportedly in police custody in Chipata and scheduled to appear before the Subordinate Court there.

The accused persons in this matter are: Banda, 35, a businessman of Petauke, Eastern Province; John Lungu, 26, a general worker of Garden House, Lusaka; Maxwell Pito, 20, a peasant farmer of Lusaka West; Moses Silyonde, 27, unemployed of Kanyama and Lyford Phiri, 21, unemployed, of unknown residential address.

It is alleged that on July 6, 2020 in Lusaka, the five jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown and with intent to steal, assaulted Allan Mbahwe.

Banda is being represented by lawyers Jonas Zimba, Osborne Ngoma and James Matarilo.

When the matter came up for explanation of the charge before Magistrate Mwale, Monday, only Lungu, Pito, Silyonde and Phiri were present.

After Magistrate Mwale questioned Banda's whereabouts, the accused's surety James Sakala explained to the Court that Banda was in police custody in Chipata and was scheduled to appear in the Subordinate Court there.

Magistrate Mwale then adjourned the matter to Friday for explanation of the charge.

In another matter, a Lusaka man and his company have been dragged to the Lusaka Magistrates' Court for allegedly engaging in immigration consultancy without lawful authority.

In this matter, Louis Nyongani and Louis Nyongani Company Limited are charged with three counts of illegal consultancy.

In count one, it is alleged that Nyongani on June 2, 2020 in Lusaka, engaged or conducted himself in the profession of immigration consultancy without lawful authority.

In count two, it is alleged that on June 16 this year in Lusaka, Nyongani engaged or conducted himself in the profession of immigration consultancy without lawful authority.

In the last count, it is alleged that Louis Nyongani Company Limited between June 2 and 16, this year in Lusaka, engaged in immigration consultancy without lawful authority.

Meanwhile, a 36-year-old registration officer has also been dragged to court for allegedly obtaining K5,000 from another by falsely pretending that he will renew his passport.

In this matter, Sekeli Mutukwa of Lusaka's Woodlands area has been charged with obtaining money by false pretences.

It is alleged that on February 27, 2020, in Lusaka, Mutukwa, with intent to deceive or defraud obtained K5,000 cash from Jones Dumisani Pemba by falsely pretending that he will renew his passport when in fact not.

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WE are concerned that since assuming power, our President has changed Finance Ministers four times and this is the second Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor under his six year reign so far. Surely, that shows that the problem is not the appointees, but the appointing authority. What is even more worrying is that despite all these changes, nothing is changing the economy. In fact, it's getting worse.

In our view, that is a signal that you are applying wrong methods in dealing with a situation. Experts say you can solve political problems with economic solutions, but you cannot solve economic problems with political solutions. This is one thing that President Lungu must know. That approach has been tried in the past and it has failed miserably.

Since we can't see any scandal that necessitated the dismissal of Governor Denny Kalyalya, and President Lungu is not willing to share the intel that inspired his decision, we can only speculate. Maybe it's true that the Central Bank boss refused to print money on political demand. If, indeed, it's money that he refused to print, then we can only liken President Lungu to Idi Amin of Uganda who thought producing foreign currency is

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Lungu wants to solve economic problems with political solutions

like cooking ugali.

There is no way that President Lungu can convince anyone that he removed Dr Kalyalya on the basis of incompetence. We believe that everyone in this country, including the newly-appointed Governor, held Dr Kalyalya in very high esteem and we all know that the man was more than equal to the task. So, this move gives credit to speculation that the President probably wanted a user-friendly Central Bank governor, who could take political orders without raising questions.

If the governor did nothing wrong, but the President simply decided to flex his muscle for no good

reason, then we can only guess that perhaps whisky may have been involved in that decision-making process, and a bit of cheering from cadres: "Mutamfyeni fye uyo alatuletelela".

In fact, the dismissal of Dr Kalyalya doesn't look so different from the case of a police officer who was demoted and transferred to a remote location on grounds that he was saying "Lungu takapite". Within minutes after a cadre accused the officer of predicting doom for the Head of State, the poor cop was punished without being subjected to a disciplinary hearing – just like President Lungu couldn't wait for Monday to fire Dr Kalyalya.

If President Lungu made the decision because he didn't like what Dr Kalyalya repeatedly said about the Zambian economy and how negative sentiments from politicians were affecting the exchange rate, he must know that even his new appointee will say the same things when he settles in that office, unless he is not a competent financial expert. It is the duty of the Central Bank governor to explain, not just monetary policy, but also factors affecting the economy. Warning from that office must be taken seriously.

This Central Bank Governor who has been shown the door had been very consistent.

There is nothing that he has said recently about the projected recession, which he didn't say before. It's not the first time that he expressed concern over how we are running the affairs of this country. Followers of this page saw some of the honest quotes that we published from him in our Monday edition.

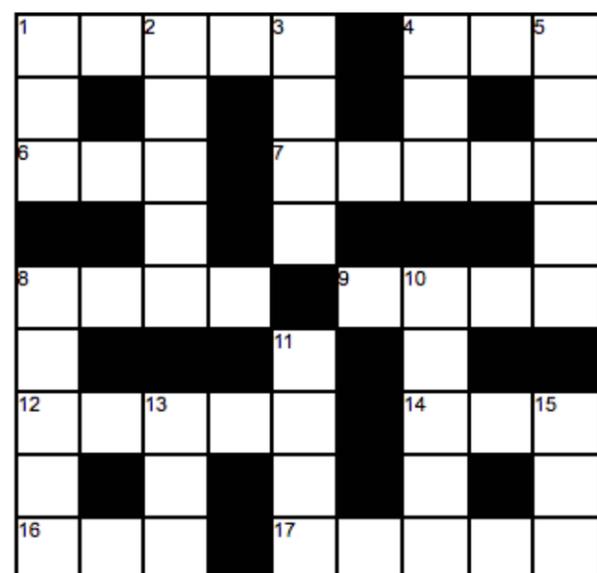
So, the dismissal of Dr Kalyalya is ill-timed. On one hand you're saying you want to engage the IMF. But look at the signal you are sending. We have nothing personal against Dr Kalyalya's replacement, he surely deserves a chance to prove himself, but even he would not agree to the timing of such a crucial decision.

Although the South African Minister of Finance, Honourable Tito Mboweni, was way out of his line for meddling so rudely in another country's sovereign affairs, his observations and concerns are legitimate. These are the same views that we are sure several ministers in President Lungu's Cabinet had, but could not speak out for obvious reasons.

Monetary policy is not to be interfered with by politicians. The moment you send a signal that politicians are in control of the Central Bank, there are very few lenders who will deal with you because you are sending a picture that you are going the Zimbabwe route. It shows that you don't want internationally respected professionals to be advising you. No disrespect to Honourable Mvunga, but many people may consider him as a politically astute person than a banking technocrat; and it's possible that he may have been assigned to implement a political agenda.

Anyway, it's President Lungu's time to hire and fire as he wishes, and we will shut up for now to allow him enjoy his prerogative. We hope he will also respect the prerogative of the Zambian people when time comes for them to decide his fate next year.

Crossword puzzle No 675



"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud."
- Coco Chanel

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|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overactive 4. Friend 6. Cause imperfection 7. Challenged 8. Give a hoot 9. In the near future 12. Did nothing 14. Pooch 16. Morning moisture on grass 17. Highway divisions | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kind of meat from pig 2. Less contaminated 3. Disrespectful 4. Apiece 5. Weighed down 8. Youngster 10. Antiquated 11. Thing that's worshipped 13. Attorney's expertise 15. Fuel |
|--|--|

Crossword puzzle No 674



Readers' Feedback

Editor,

"Its not easy to just accept defeat. You may first of all go into denial, but later accept, go through pang of pain then heal. RB went through such. It's a normal process. He conceded. He is a hero. That's why its good to behave like Mandela. With dignity when power is still sweet, Mandela left the dancing stage. Leaders should learn to just declare they are not standing in the next election..." - Sam C S Muchumba

ND! Opinion: We respect Rupiah for respecting the will of the People

"With due respect, I think politicians should understand that real power is in the hands of the Zambians, the question as to whether the sitting president should except the results or not is not an issue because it is the people of this country who decided who should rule them, so Mr Banda shouldn't sound as if he did us a favor, he just followed the will of the people!" -

Japher Cora

"We should applaud leaders who uphold the constitution they swore to defend! President RB wasn't a perfect man just like all of us but he elected to walk the talk..." - Joel Saniko Moonga

"So RB lost an election and people keep celebrating him for accepting defeat? The chap lost and he deserved what came to him. Even Edgar if he will lose, definitely he will have to step down, there are no two ways about it,

don't be fooled". - Eugene Mulenga

"He is not the first former president of Zambia to accept election defeat neither will he be the last one". - Prince Melvin

"PF are so misguided that they think that people fighting for regime change are criminals. They think democracy is just a word and forget that it entails that the people's will is all that matters. Not PF's sense of entitlement or Lungu's pride, but the will of the people". - Richard Waga



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Mucheleka on Kanganja, Kapeso failing to run police

Editor,

"Ba Kapeso, just good at doing public relations on TV and radio. We also remember how that cadre who was arrested at court using a ZESCO vehicle was given public relations slaps and relased within 30 minutes. We said it. Kapeso is just hoodwinking gullible Zambians. I personally followed his cadreism when he was Southern province commissioner. Him and Charity Katanga cannot fool me. Even during gassing it was Kapeso and Katanga and Kampyongo who were making a lot of public relations noise without action. We know

that they were part of the inner circle that knew the real plans but were thwarted by mob Justice eruption. Zambia needs a complete overhaul. PF as a whole MUST GO for normalcy to return". - Munacho Shimapengo

"Compare and contrast Chella Tukuta's case and Jay Jay's. Our police service is very amazing!!" - Ken Peters

"Quote, 'Officers saw it appropriate to charge Jay Jay with aggravated assault rather than aggravated robbery'. Wasn't there shooting involved? Wasn't there money stolen from police officers? Unbelievable!" - David M Mwanangombe

'Mwila can't compete with HH's competence levels!'

Dear editor,

"Lack of English comprehension, application of common sense, reasoning and morals is what has happened here". - Symon Flava Jr.

"Mr SG, why exposing your ignorance in public like that? You have made the general public to know who you are academically. You have lowered your office as SG. I did not know that such highest office of the party could be manned by a less educated person like you. Sorry to say that any way". - Harward Mukonka

"HH completed his form five at 18 years, become a millionaire at 30 years! Davies Mwila completed his grade 12 at 56 years, passed with 6 points even though it is his spirit which wrote the exam, become a millionaire from looting government coffers, so whose head has something wrong?!" - Che Guavara

"Leadership demands that those with a vision

should not quit no matter how much they fall. I admire such people like my visionary President HH". - Namz Kacheya

"And so did PF lose many elections previously until the nation decided MMD had become big headed.... history has a habit of repeating itself". - Emmanuel Sakala

"Why didn't you give up on getting grade twelve results at 56years of age and you want HH to give up. Just accept that is giving u sleepless nights, come 2021 we are voting for him". - Field

Miselo

"We haven't rejected HH. When you pass an exam using leakage don't be proud for nothing. As far as we are concerned HH is still our choice. Our bally. Nothing you say will sway us from voting for HH. He will fix this rotten economy which you and your party are responsible for". - Agrey Siyunda

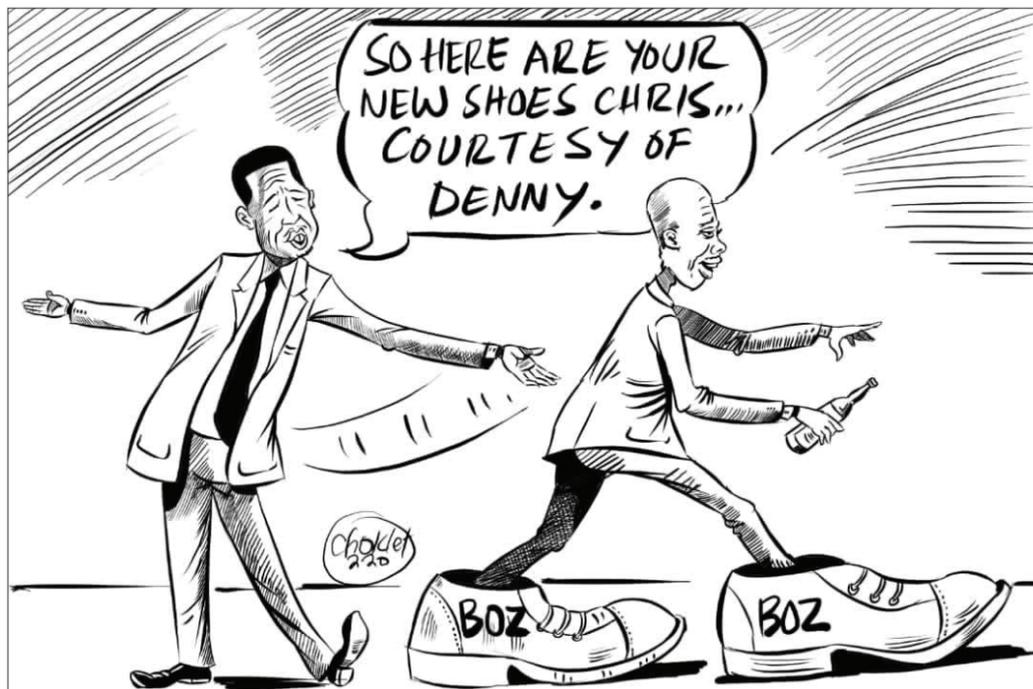
"Point of correction: Zambians have not rejected HH; its crooks who have been stealing his victory!" - Newton Muchanga

Lungu's replacement of Kalyala with Mvunga

Editor,

"He has picked his drinking mate. Watch the Kwacha..." - Chipango O'Brien Kakinga

"It's simple, put a PF cadre as Governor so you can have unlimited access to the Treasury and drain it at your leisure, especially to fund your election rigging activities like buying voters. The money has to come from somewhere. Lungu must go!!!" - Jackson Thompson



"Inheriting a poisoned chalice. Our economy is under severe debt distress due to excessive borrowing. Any change of personnel at Bank of Zambia governor level will not arrest the decline!" - Felix Nkonge

"So in this regime if you speak and act professional you instantly press an exit button for yourself....remember Luck Mulusa he criticised the wheelbarrow so called fire trucks". - Christopher Mwandila Daka

"This is the most useless appointment by President Lungu. That Jameson has eroded his mental faculties!" - Mavu Sakalunda

"Now watch the Kwacha free fall!" - Ken M. Mukuka

"It seems one can get away with ignorance and incompetence at the presidential level. Yes the law says a one who has specialised training and experience in economics, finance, accounting, banking, law or other field relevant to banking, as prescribed qualifies to be Central Bank governor, but this dude - he only has international banking and structured finance experience. Also, having training or background in fields relevant to banking doesn't necessarily mean one will make right choices/decisions especially if there's political pressure coming from his close ally - the kateka. Anyway all the best of luck to Mr. Christopher Mvunga". - Samuel Baza Dokowe

"Is it true that wise Denny has been fired just because he refused to print more money?" - Chiti Mwana Mutembo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SOUTH Africa's Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni says his Tweet about mobilising against President Edgar Lungu for firing of Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Dr Denny Kalyalya had nothing to do with internal politics.

Mboweni, who is also former chairperson of the SADC committee of Central Bank Governors, said he wants the regional body to rise up and defend the independence of central banks so that respected technocrats do not get fired anyhow.

Speaking when he featured on Spring24 TV, Monday, Mboweni stressed that central banks were important institutions, hence the need for Heads of State to give them freedom to operate independently.

"Don't focus on a boundary or a country called Zambia. Focus on the African continent and what we must do about good corporate governance? And the Bank of Zambia, which is very dear to my heart by the way, and Dr Kalyalya is a very dear friend of mine;

My Tweet had nothing to do with removing Lungu, but the need to respect central banks – Mboweni



Tito Mboweni

he is a highly-educated African. He has a PhD in economics. What do I mean by mobilise? I am already speaking to the committee of Central Bank Governors in SADC to mobilise. I am trying to reach out to the committee of African Central Bank Governors to mobilize.

They must speak out and defend central banks and central banks' independence," Mboweni explained.

He said his tweet about mobilising over President Lungu's decision to fire Dr Kalyalya had nothing to do with removing the Head of State.

"It has got nothing to do with removing presidents from office. So, mobilising on my part had nothing to do with Zambian politics. It had to do with central banks' independence. And for central bankers and other people who believe in the independence of central banks to rise up and defend Dr Kalyalya," Mboweni added.

He said Zambia had for unknown reasons failed to pass the draft law, which was supposed to deal with how central bank governors should be appointed or dismissed.

"The process to deal with appointments of central bank governors and to dismiss them is in the Zambian Parliament. I drafted the law, [but] they don't want to pass it. The draft legislation is there in Parliament. We want central banks' independence.

A governor must be appointed by procedure and if need be, should also be removed by a procedure. Procedure and process must be fair. I can't just wake up in the morning and decide to dismiss my security guard without process. What are they charged for? So, the law that is sitting in Parliament there in Zambia explains the procedure. What wrong had the governor done?" Mboweni wondered.

He said he had respect for all African presidents, but asked them to also respect central banks governors.

"I used to be the Chairperson of the Committee of Central Bank Governors in SADC, and at some point, I was also the chairman of the Association of African Central Bank Governors. So, the central bank is very dear to my heart and I mean no

offence to political leadership in Zambia or in South Africa. I know that the South African President is unhappy with me. He was chastising me today (Monday) for my tweet, but I have due respect to all the African presidents. But could they please also have due respect to central banks governors? These are very important institutions for the economic functioning of Africa. And can they please give us some respect?" he asked.

And asked by News Diggers! in an interview if he would apologise to the Zambian government over his tweet, Mboweni said, "What for? I think the matter is closed now. But I will still come to Pamodzi Hotel as soon as travel is allowed. I will come to Pamodzi and enjoy my Lusaka and my Zambia."

Kwacha nears K19.50 per dollar

By Stuart Lisulo

THE kwacha has continued to sharply depreciate and is expected to hit K19.50 per dollar owing to continued high demand for the greenback on the local market, compounded with little supply.

According to financial market players, the kwacha maintained a weak position, depreciating to crash through the K19.00 per dollar mark last Friday for the second time in the country's history, continuing its depreciating trend to now average K19.45 per dollar from averaging around K18.60 per dollar just 10 days ago, a further slide from K18.13 per dollar at the start of the third quarter.

The kwacha's huge losses mean that the local currency has depreciated by over six per cent since the beginning of last month, while losing around 4.4 per cent in value from its trading position 10 days ago.

This is the second time the local currency depreciated to hit these levels in Zambia's history after hitting the K19 per dollar mark in early April.

According to FNB, the kwacha is expected to continue losing value on account of heightened dollar demand.

"With some US dollar demand orders still pending, our initial expectation is to see further easing of the local unit in today's (Monday's) session. Trades north of the K19.50 mark are possible," FNB Zambia stated in its daily market update.

"Having stabilised at around K18.20 for the past few months, the USD/ZMW finally broke the K19.00 psychological barrier last week. The local unit lost c3.5 per cent through the course of the week to close at K19.20 from an opening of K18.59. Volumes were uncharacteristically low, particularly on the LHS (Left-Hand Side). In a surprising move, President

Edgar Lungu relieved the Bank of Zambia governor Dr Denny Kalyalya of his duties on Saturday, August 22, and replaced him with the former Deputy Finance Minister Mr Christopher Mvunga. We will await further changes in the Monetary Policy framework going forward."

And Cavmont Bank explained that the dollar demand emanated from the agricultural and energy sectors.

"The past week has seen the kwacha steadily come under pressure following an increase in demand from the agriculture and energy sector," stated Cavmont.

Commercial banks, such as Zanaco and FNB Zambia quoted the local currency trading at an average K19.06 and K19.43 per dollar; K19.09 and K19.45 per dollar for bid and offer, respectively, by close of business, Monday.

Most market experts predicted that the kwacha was likely to continue its free-fall as government continues to grapple with a huge fiscal deficit and heavy public debt burden, which continues to put pressure on the local currency, while Dr Kalyalya's abrupt dismissal from the central bank would heighten speculation on the local economy and shrink investor confidence.

Mwila finally suspends Jay Jay

By Julia Malunga

PATRIOTIC Front secretary general Davies Mwila has suspended Eastern Province youth chairperson Emmanuel J Banda commonly known as Jay Jay for misconduct.

And Eastern Province Police Commissioner Luckson Sakala says Jay Jay did not appear in court yesterday because he was not yet indicted.

In a letter dated August 24, Mwila gave Jay Jay 14 days to exculpate himself.

"PF secretary general Davies Mwila has suspended Provincial Youth Chairperson for Eastern Province Jay Jay Banda from his position with immediate effect following his alleged conduct at Lusaka Central Police and the alleged illegal public procession in Chipata District. It has come to my attention that you have been accused of storming the Lusaka Central Police Station where it is alleged that you beat up some unsuspecting officers on duty, getting away with undisclosed amounts of money belonging to one of them and the alleged illegal procession in Chipata District

after you were released", read the letter.

"In view of the above and the subsequent criminal charges that have since been levelled against you by the Zambia Police Service, I find your alleged conduct in breach of Article 75, regulation 29(c) and (f) of the Party Constitution. I therefore suspend you from your office and given 14 days to exculpate yourself why further disciplinary action should not be taken against you. Last week, PF secretary general warned that there would be no sacred cows in the party and no one will be allowed to commit criminal activities using the party as a shield. He has since called for exemplary behaviour from the Party's general membership."

And in an interview, Sakala said Jay Jay was still in custody.

"He has not appeared in court; they have delayed to indict him. I am sure he will be indicted this afternoon and he will appear in court tomorrow morning. Apparently he is still in custody," said Sakala.

Economy almost shutting down, I have to take charge – Lungu

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says the economy is almost shutting down in some sectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic so it is imperative that he takes control of the situation, as the man in charge.

And President Lungu says he will not hesitate to fall on the opposition like a ton of bricks if they misbehave.

Meanwhile, President Lungu yesterday told Sinazongwe residents that he was delighted they had gathered to meet him despite the COVID-19 guidelines.

Speaking when he addressed the Sinazongwe residents, Monday, President Lungu lamented that revenue generation had reduced tremendously.

"As a government, we are spending so much money to fight COVID-19 and at the same time, our income generation has reduced tremendously. Because of this, the economy is almost shutting down in some areas; tourism is also an area which has been badly hit; the area of commerce and trade has generally been affected. The revenue coming in through the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) through the Ministry of Finance has dwindled significantly. So it is imperative for the man in charge, myself, to take control of the situation by visiting the likes of Zongwe Farms to find out what we can do together to improve productivity in that sector where they are involved. I brought with me the

Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Minister of Tourism so that they have an appreciation of what can be done in this difficult time to help this industry. I am sure we have seen enough. We are going to tell our Minister of Agriculture as well that there is potential for Agriculture in the Southern Province," President Lungu said.

"I just want to assure you that we will do our best as a government and in doing our best, we will also pray to God to do his best so that at the end of the day, we get out of this COVID-19 situation. I have to emphasize that we have to do our best and have faith in God Almighty and leave the rest to him. I am saying this because somebody somewhere said to me that 'why does Lungu think of God when he is in trouble?' I think of God when I am in trouble, even when I am not in trouble because I know that it is God who is the most powerful. The Bible teaches me that only a fool says 'there is no God.' So let faith, do our best and look to God. We will pull out of this

together and life will get back to normal if not better."

And President Lungu ordered police to deal with lawbreakers strongly.

"To you my friends in PF, please, there is no room for violence in PF. I am saying so because 2021 is near, it's next door and we will be voting during that time. I don't want you to be injured or killed during that time because after elections, there should be continued peace and happiness again. Why should you injure yourself because of that member of parliament or that president? I am saying this in response to people who say I don't condemn violence, I don't speak out on violence please stop it! And for you police men, deal with lawbreakers strongly!" President Lungu ordered.

"And you know the law will take its course because that is what we want. No one is above the law. When you break the law, you are on your own. And I will not stop talking about this because I am in charge of this country. When law and order breaks down, the blame is on me. In other

words, the buck stops at me. If things fail to run properly, Zambians or God will hold me accountable for that failure so I will not allow break down of law and order for whatever reason. By the same talking, I am warning the opposition that I will not hesitate to fall down on you like a ton of bricks if you misbehave."

Meanwhile, President Lungu said he was pleasantly surprised that the people of Sinazongwe met him, despite COVID-19 guidelines.

"This was not intended to be a meeting of any sort. It was supposed to be a meeting at Zongwe Farms to see how things are. But I am glad that you found it in your heart to come and welcome me, this is how it should be and I am very grateful. This is a surprise to me because I am aware of the COVID-19 regulations which restrict gatherings and also makes it difficult for people to gather in this manner. The reason why I came here is to simply see the effects of COVID-19 on the various sectors of the economy," said President Lungu.



City carry no 'grudges' with UEFA over Champions League ban - Al Mubarak

MANCHESTER City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak says the club want to build bridges with UEFA after their ban from the Champions League was lifted.

The European governing body banned City from European competitions for alleged "serious breaches" of their Financial Fair Play regulations, only for the decision to be overturned on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

City were critical of UEFA's handling of the initial investigation, insisting all along they were innocent of any charges, although they were fined €10million (9m/\$11m) for failing to co-operate with

the probe.

Now Al Mubarak says the matter is finished and is hoping to build a strong relationship with UEFA, with City becoming a European stalwart ahead of the start of their 10th successive Champions League campaign in October.

"Life is too short to carry grudges," Al Mubarak said. "It is an important competition. It is one of the most prestigious competitions in the world of sports and it is a competition we want to win and it is a competition we have to respect in order to win."

"This was a challenge, it's behind us, end of story as far as I am focused on

one thing. How I can help this club compete in this competition and win it and how to have a constructive relationship with UEFA, I think it's the only way to go."

Last season's Champions League campaign ended in disappointment with a 3-1 defeat to Lyon in the quarter-finals after a poor season that saw City finish 18 points behind Liverpool.

Pep Guardiola has already started to strengthen his squad with the additions of centre-back Nathan Ake and Spain Under-21s winger Ferran Torres.

City are also interested in Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly, and Al Mubarak hinted that they are

prepared to break their strategy of signing young players with potential if Guardiola wants a player to go straight into the first team.

"If you look at the acquisitions we have made over the past couple of years, there's a consistency in the type of player we have targeted in terms of age and quality," he added. "So we will continue down

that road.

"The age bracket, we are always looking at it as a priority for the first team, in that 20-25 year old category, that's kind of the spot that we like."

"At the same time, the reason I don't like to box myself in with this answer is because sometimes opportunities come up that fit with what the manager wants and with what we

need for the squad that might be out of that box and if that's the case, we're pragmatic enough to make that move.

"So nothing is set in stone. We clearly have a way of doing business in terms of targets that are well defined but at the same time, we're pragmatic enough to take the opportunity if that opportunity comes up." **GOAL**



Bruno Fernandes billed as Man Utd captain material

BRUNO Fernandes is a Manchester United captain of the future, according to former Udinese manager Andrea Stramaccioni, with the Portuguese considered to boast all of the qualities required to be a leader at Old Trafford.

The Red Devils moved to snap up a talented playmaker from Sporting in the January transfer window.

Having monitored Fernandes for some time, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side were hoping to see a calculated mid-season gamble pay off.

The 25-year-old midfielder has exceeded all expectations in England, with a role quickly taken up as an integral part of United's plans.

Fernandes has claimed that there is even more to come, having already shown himself to be a useful source of goals and assists, with an ambitious performer targeting continuous improvement.

It could be that his talismanic presence sees him inherit the armband at some stage, with Stramaccioni of the opinion that the Portugal international would make a fine skipper for United.

He told Sky Sports of a player he

worked with in Italy: "Bruno is a very good boy, a very good person. He is a really hard worker, he's positive."

"When we were at Udinese he worked a lot and his approach was always positive."

"He can certainly captain Manchester United, he is a really talismanic player. He is loved by the fans, respected by his teammates – even from opponents."

"To be captain of Manchester United is something really, really important. I hope he will be."

"I think now we don't need to think about this kind of thing, he has to think about keeping his performance at a high level, as he is doing, and step by step gain the respect of everyone around him – the media, the fans – and continue to keep a high level."

It could be that Fernandes is reunited with Stramaccioni in English football further down the line, with the Italian tactician revealing that he has come close to landing prestigious posts in the recent past.

He added: "I was close in the past to Sheffield Wednesday, but it was four or five years ago." **GOAL.COM**

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Lungu wants stadia upgraded - Sports Minister

By Abraham Kalito
 SPORTS Minister Emmanuel Mulenga says President Edgar Lungu has instructed him to ensure that the David Kaunda stadium is developed to a modern stadium.

Three weeks ago, the Ministry

of Sport signed a memorandum of understanding with the Football Association of Zambia FAZ that will see the development of various stadia across the country to modern stadiums.

Mulenga said the president

is on him to ensure that the 'DK stadium' as it is commonly known, is developed so that the first republican President can be honoured.

"This is one of the stadiums that will be renovated by FAZ. And

it's going to cost a lot of money and it will be turned into a modern stadium. We need to give an update to the stadium to appreciate the first republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda. The President of Zambia is actually on my throat to ensure

that the people of Eastern Province are given a modern stadium. It will be upgraded to a modern stadium, development in this province can spur improvements in the province and the country at large," Mulenga said.

MESSI IS MR BARCA

...PSG boss Tuchel expects forward to stay in Catalunya

PARIS St-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel says Lionel Messi is "very welcome" at the club - but expects the forward to remain at Barcelona.

Tuchel's French champions lost 1-0 to Bayern Munich in a tightly contested Champions League final on Sunday.

"What coach says no to Messi?" Tuchel told BT Sport. "I think Messi finishes his career in Barcelona. He is Mr Barcelona."

It is thought Messi, 33, has never been closer to leaving the Nou Camp.

The Spanish giants' season ended in a humiliating 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat by Bayern.

Messi is Barcelona's all-time top scorer with 634 goals in 731 games and has won four Champions Leagues, 10 La Liga titles and six Ballons d'Or.

Qatari-owned PSG are among the few clubs in world football with the financial capacity to meet his buyout clause of 700m euros (£627.96m).

"We decided not to talk about transfers in this period," said Tuchel. "We will sit together in the next days. We have many things to do to keep the level of the squad."

PSG have won the Ligue 1 title in seven of the past eight seasons, but it is in Europe's elite competition where

owners Qatar Sports Investments measure success.

They had not previously gone further than the quarter-finals of the Champions League since their takeover in 2011 - despite spending a combined 402m euros (£362m) on forwards Neymar and Kylian Mbappe alone.

Neither Mbappe nor Neymar were able to find a way past Bayern, but Tuchel said he was "proud" of the Brazilian for playing "a match with an incredible capacity" - adding it was "a miracle" Mbappe was available at all following an ankle injury. **BBC**



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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.

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