



FIC BOARD WITHHOLDS 2019 TRENDS REPORT ...as acting Director General resigns

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

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ear to the grounds

Court acquits Mushipe of seditious practices

By Zondiwe Mbewe
LUSAKA Magistrate Felix Kaoma has set free Lusaka lawyer Martha Mushipe, who was facing a charge of seditious practices. Magistrate Kaoma said in his ruling yesterday that the seditious material on which the said offence was anchored on

does not appear by any stretch of imagination to contain any seditious words or seditious intentions. Meanwhile, Mushipe has expressed gratitude that justice has prevailed and further thanked the Court over its decision.

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Glencore will offload 90% Mopani shares to ZCCM-IH - Musukwa

By Ulande Nkomesha
MINES Minister Richard Musukwa says Glencore is planning to offload around 90 per cent of its collective shares in Mopani Copper Mines Plc to government through ZCCM-IH.

Story page 7

Zambian men enjoy debating below the belt - Nawakwi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
FORUM for Democracy and Development (FDD) leader Edith Nawakwi says Zambian male politicians are petty and they enjoy debating "below the belt". And Nawakwi says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema

Lungu having sleepless nights over UPND - Katuka

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and Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo should not drag her husband into political discussions because he is not a politician. Meanwhile, Nawakwi says she's uncomfortable being singled out to answer questions on privatisation because there were others who served as finance minister before and after her.

Story page 2

Voter registration will proceed in Oct despite postponed mobile NRC exercise, says ECZ

By Julia Malunga
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says the delayed commencement of phase two of the ongoing mobile NRC registration will not affect the voter registration exercise, which is still scheduled to commence next month. Last week, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said the postponement of the NRC registration exercise was caused by delays in the delivery of key equipment to kick-start the process of NRC issuances.

Story page 3

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
FORUM for Democracy and Development (FDD) leader Edith Nawakwi says Zambian male politicians are petty and they enjoy debating “below the belt”.

And Nawakwi says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo should not drag her husband into political discussions because he is not a politician.

Meanwhile, Nawakwi says she’s uncomfortable being singled out to answer questions on privatisation because there were others who served as finance minister before and after her.

Speaking when she featured on the ZNBC TV Sunday Interview programme, Nawakwi said her male counterparts had failed to match-up to an intellectually gifted woman like herself.

“We still have this problem in our country where if a woman stands up for what they believe in, I think you have seen what has happened this week. Everybody rushes to below the belt. Our men in this country are not used to discussing issues above the belt. Whenever you defeat them in a logical argument, the only thing they can think about is pulling you down. As someone from Kenya said that ‘you want to discuss ideas using your brains.’ But our men in this country are so petty. They think that they are little gods of reason. Whenever you defeat them in an argument, they call you angry, irrational, harboring a garage, they tell you that your marriage is not in order as if their marriages are in order. They characterize you as a female figure who shouldn’t be looked up to. But for me, I see that as a failure of them not being able to match-up with people like me who is intellectually gifted. So, that’s

Zambian men enjoy debating below the belt – Nawakwi



FDD leader Edith Nawakwi

what keeps me on,” Nawakwi said.

And Nawakwi asked Nkombo and Hichilema to leave her husband out of politics.

“So, when someone attacks me the way Gary Nkombo and Hakainde [Hichilema] attacked me, I was on air at Hot FM [and] I never mentioned the name of my sister Mrs Hichilema because she is not in the arena. But from nowhere, they were drawing my husband into the debate. He is not a politician. No mother wants to be in the arena and wants to be told like this little boy (Chella Tukuta) has said that I am a prostitute. I am not a prostitute. And this is an attempt to protect a male candidate,” Nawakwi lamented.

Nawakwi said those who hold different political views should engage her on a

political platform.

“They should engage me on a political platform and on a fact. If you see a number of men who have come to the defense of my opponents, you just sit back and bemuse yourself to say, doesn’t this person that they are defending have a mouth to defend himself? Some of them who have been calling me directly to abuse me, I asked them to say, doesn’t this gentleman have a mouth to defend himself? Equally, I can defend myself. He started a story that I was slumbering and I was responding to that. And I asked very pertinent questions. At what level did he become a shareholder of Southern Sun and take up the leadership? It’s a simple, straight forward and intellectual question,” Nawakwi said.

Meanwhile, asked if she was asleep during the time of

privatization, Nawakwi said she was uncomfortable with being singled out because there were other Finance Ministers who served before and after her.

“You need to understand that I served [as minister] for 11 months from 1997 to 1998 and that’s the period that I am accountable to as far as privatization is concerned. Why didn’t he mention my brother Dr Katele Kalumba? Why didn’t he mention Dr Magande? All these are ministers who came after me. Why pick me alone? In fact, Mr [Alexander] Chikwanda was not even a minister of Finance, he was advisor to the president. So, he should have mentioned all the ministers. So, after that video of him went viral, a lot of people were calling me and I felt like I had a duty to respond. And I was responding to a number

of activities that I felt that I was responsible for. And that is why I was saying that I was responsible for Lima Bank, I was responsible for signing off a project which had been advertised prior to my being Minister and that was Intercontinental Hotel in Livingstone. And those were the two projects that I wanted to answer in relation to Mr Hakainde because I dealt with him across the table,” she said.

She also insisted that Hichilema lured government into selecting a bidder to buy Intercontinental Hotel, which is now Southern Sun.

“There has been a lot said. And as far as the Southern Sun is concerned, I asked him a pertinent question. When the bids were opened, I took a deliberate step to call Hakainde aside and said to him ‘musa (my friend), is this the best bid? The value is US \$26 million, why didn’t you take the one for US \$20 million, why didn’t you take the one for US \$9.5 million?’ There were a number of offers there. His answer was very specific and even a dull person could have understood it. His argument was that; ‘minister, these other people just want the keys for Intercontinental Hotel, they walk in there, clean it up and change the carpets, change the pots and start operating it as is. However, this bid which I am giving to you, lower as it is, is the best bid. We are going to get 250 rooms and there is a consequential investment of US \$15 million,” Nawakwi said.

“Now, at the time, the economy of Livingstone

was dead, if you sell Intercontinental and someone takes the keys and walks in and cleans the pots and starts to run it as Intercontinental, who would you rather take? You will take the one who is going to create some employment and build 250 rooms, to bring in US \$50 million, and furnish it. The other issue that I put across I said ‘colleagues, I want you to create a trust for the people around Livingstone.’ I never said that these shares be put in individual names. Now, to find that the chairperson of the negotiations becomes also the shareholder is what has brought us to this stage. He hasn’t been open enough to say that some of the shareholders in the transaction were residing at Plot 14/ 3A Sable Road but who was residing there? It’s himself. The price was low but the investment attached to it was what convinced the government to say that we were on the right path. If he had declared interest, then ZPPA would have put another negotiator there. Normally in Zambia we think that politicians are the most endemically corrupt people but I think that governance should extend to the private sector.”

Nawakwi also said people must understand the changes made at the Central Bank because the position of Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Governor was not a job in perpetuity for Dr Denny Kalyalya.

“The President of the Republic of Zambia appoints who he wants at his pleasure. Everyone who is appointed by the president serves at their pleasure. And at a certain time, these jobs end. Whether you serve there for 20 years but these jobs end. I know Dr Kalyalya personally. I know his professional acumen. Maybe people don’t understand that while he has served in the West, he has come back to serve here. He is also a farmer. And he has his professionalism which he can’t serve the country in other capacities. It’s not like the Bank of Zambia job was a job in perpetuity. That’s why it was an appointment. And the appointment of Mr [Christopher] Mvunga is purely at the pleasure of the president,” said Nawakwi.

“The new governor should focus on the fact that we cannot develop Zambia by running a monetary policy which only looks at the money side. We need monetary policies that go in tandem with our fiscal policy. We have been taught by this pandemic that depending on the outside will not save us. At this point in time I think we need to take a step back and say ‘has the monetary policy which we have pursued for the past 30 years saved us? We need monetary policy which spurs development. There is no one who is going to borrow money at 30 per cent in this kind of economy. We needed money to stimulate investment. And there was an attempt by the president to release some liquidity into the market (K10 billion). But the question that must be asked is ‘has this money gone to where it was needed? But the Central Bank has taken this money and cautioned the commercial banks.”

Lungu’s dismissal of Kalyalya callous – Sacika

By Mirriam Chabala
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu’s decision to dismiss Dr Denny Kalyalya as Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor was callous and lacked human consideration, says former secretary to the cabinet Dr Sketchely Sacika.

And Dr Sacika has lamented that President Lungu denied Dr Kalyalya a befitting and dignified exit from the central bank by dismissing him like a mere office orderly or politician without any justification.

In an interview, Dr Sacika said he was shocked by President Lungu’s abrupt dismissal of Dr Kalyalya.

“I was shocked at the young man’s dismissal; I have always known him to be a professional man of quality. President Lungu should respect the humanity of others; the exercise of Executive powers without regard to how it is going to impact on the lives of others is abuse of power, and the President should not do that. The President’s decision to dismiss Kalyalya was callous and lacked human consideration. As a result of this dismissal, Kalyalya’s future is now under a very dark cloud. Kalyalya is still a young man with many years still left in him to contribute to society, but who will be willing to hire a person who was dismissed at such a high-level of public service? Nobody can give him a chance anymore,” Dr Sacika argued.

“I served in government at a

very high-level and it is an unwritten rule that when you are dealing with matters of separation at the highest level of public service, you should always provide a safe landing for a person being separated so that they do not damage their future prospects. Kalyalya is not a politician; in politics, you can dismiss your ministers as you wish, but the young man is a professional whose professional integrity has to be safeguarded. Kalyalya is putting up a brave face, but strictly speaking, he’s a destroyed man! His reputation and standing in society are all destroyed. This could have been avoided if President Lungu had acted with a sense of humanity towards the young man.”

Dr Sacika also noted that the underperformance of the country’s economy should not be blamed on one person, but on the PF’s poor economic policies.

“Our economy is in serious difficulties because it is not productive; too many of our able-bodied young men and women have no jobs, they are roaming the streets. So, how can you have an economy where able-bodied people cannot participate in the economy? Our economy is like an under-fed cow, which is producing less and less milk for a population, which is growing and only very few people can have access to the milk...I don’t know why Denny was dismissed, but

let me say that the responsibility to determine economic policy and to manage the economy rests with the government. In our order of things, the person responsible for the economy is the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ngandu). Now, if the economic policy of the government is poor, the economy will collapse and there is nothing a central bank governor can do about it,” he said.

“The PF government’s populist economic policies have only succeeded in creating a debt crisis, which is threatening to sink our country into more difficulties. Once again, Zambia has become highly-indebted and instead of supporting social and economic development, our tax money is going towards paying debts. As a result, government services are collapsing. The Social Cash Transfer scheme for the aged has collapsed and all this is due to poor management of the economy by the government; it cannot be attributed to one man. My concern is that young professionals are treated like office orderlies, who can be dismissed easily. In future, Zambian professionals will be reluctant to take up high positions in government. Kalyalya was recruited as Governor of the Bank from the World Bank where he enjoyed a very high status.”

And Dr Sacika insisted that Dr Kalyalya was not accorded a dignified exit from his position.

“In my opinion, Kalyalya should have been given a safe, dignified exit by appointing him to another government position just to soften the impact of his removal, that is what happens in government. I remember my boss, comrade KK, that’s what he always did; if he wanted to remove somebody from a certain position, he either promoted him to a lesser, demanding position or sent them into foreign service to lessen the impact of their removal, and that’s what President Lungu should have done, instead of kicking out Kalyalya like an office orderly,” said Dr Sacika.

“There was absolutely no reason to remove him that urgently. If President Lungu was unhappy with his performance, the best thing he could have done was to allow Kalyalya to complete his term of office by completing his term of contract. And there was just a big, dark cloud surrounding the circumstances leading up to Kalyalya’s dismissal and I understand his contract was renewed not so long ago. So, what was the point of getting rid of him? Why didn’t President Lungu allow the contract to continue? It’s unheard of that a President can dismiss a Governor of the Bank in the manner that Kalyalya was dismissed, I don’t know the circumstances, but the whole thing is wrong, totally uncalled-for and unacceptable conduct on the part of the President.”

By Ulande Nkomesha
UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says President Edgar Lungu’s continued attacks on opposition political parties is an indication that he is afraid of UPND and is having sleepless nights.

During the opening of the PF provincial conference in Muchinga on Saturday, the Head of State said there was no alternative to the PF because the ruling party remained the people’s choice.

But in an interview, Katuka said President Lungu was having sleepless nights, which was why he had continued campaigning despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have a country where a government that is supposed to be leading the people is in the forefront in hanging the people. He can say there is no alternative, that is his opinion but I do not

Lungu having sleepless nights over UPND – Katuka

think he is sleeping, we are giving him sleepless nights. You have seen that he has been going round the country campaigning. You heard Mumbi Phiri saying others are quarantined while us we are campaigning. If he feels there is no opposition, let him wait, he will see what will happen to him come next year. The PF are not sleeping, you can see they are bringing issues of Nawakwi, they fund Nawakwi to rant, they fund this one to say this. Why are they doing that? It is fear because we have given them sleepless nights. They know on a fair and free credible election, they can’t win an election. The Zambian people are gone, they are no longer with them,” Katuka said.

“The Zambian people have already decided. Whether you

say we are not campaigning, we don’t even need to campaign, the people have decided and they are with us. Those are the last kick backs of a dying horse. We have given them sleepless nights. That is why they are always talking about HH. If he is a nonentity, why are they worried about him? If there is no opposition, why is it that everyday the talk is HH everywhere? It means he is a factor. If he is not a factor, they will not talk about him. He has given them sleepless nights. Now they bring issues of privatization, who privatizes? Is IT not the government. It means all those who were in government were monkeys, they couldn’t see anything and they waited for 30 years to start thinking there must have been something wrong,

it is desperation and fear. The Zambian people are not listening to that nonsense.”

He said the opposition would not stop talking about corruption.

“Who was Bowman Lusambo few years ago? Who was Edgar Lungu few years ago? Those are the people we should be following to find out how they have acquired their wealth. Don’t talk about people who have never held public office. People who have never held public have never had the access to public funds. We are looking at people who a few years could not even buy an underpants

for themselves. We have had people who could not even buy themselves underpants a few years ago but today they have thousands of underpants. We should be asking how,” Katuka said.

“I don’t think we should even debate about corruption, there is completely no debate. People who are in public office now, they are driving big cars, they never drove a fiat, they never rode a bicycle, today they have 10 V8s. So where have they suddenly got them from?”

Katuka said it was unfortunate that President Lungu was disobeying

COVID-19 regulations with his continued campaigns across the country.

“They are killing people with COVID-19 when they are going round. You see, he opened that bridge in Chawama, the following day the BIDs cases rose up meaning he was responsible for that. It is the President who is killing those people, not COVID-19. He has put regulations himself which he is not observing, so who is to blame? It is him. In Zambia you are aware that we had the gassing incident and who was responsible for that? Up to date, we don’t know,” said Katuka.

Counter some of Lungu’s decisions, chief Mphuka tells Ministers

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SENIOR chief Mphuka of the Chikunda people in Luangwa District says ministers and parliamentarians must learn to scrutinise what a sitting Republican President says and say no to certain decisions that he or she makes.

Speaking when PF Lusaka Province executive secretary Kennedy Kamba and his campaign team paid a courtesy call on him at his palace in Luangwa, Sunday, chief Mphuka

urged sitting Cabinet Ministers and parliamentarians to scrutinise what President Edgar Lungu said and challenge certain decisions he made to improve the country’s governance.

“If the President says this, yes, it’s good to look at it and scrutinise it and see whether what is being said by the President is correct. Already, they are speaking of the simple change, which was made [at the Bank of Zambia] and they are saying ‘but why?’ Yes, there

are reasons and you have seen them. You can read. The man has told you what his colours and character is. And should we just continue keeping him in the office? No. That is why at one point, you need to say, ‘no’ to certain things,” chief Mphuka advised.

“We shall allow anybody to come here because he/she is a citizen of Zambia. We shall not bar them from coming. But after we discuss, we shall tell them the truth to say, ‘this is our position.’ Whether they say what and what, we will say, ‘you are coming now when things are in advance and you tell us this?’ This man (Michael Sata) left a good scene. I don’t think we shall have somebody like him. Maybe within the party (PF), you will give us somebody who will be in the same shoes like him. And especially if all the members of the party, the Ministers, the MPs work with the President, this country will change and will be second to none.”

And chief Mphuka insisted that anyone aspiring for public office must explain their source of wealth.

“And the other thing is, when you are trying to stand [in any election] you ask yourself, ‘how did you earn all this wealth? From where?’ You are even boasting that you can feed the whole nation from stolen money! Let us look at your own family, your father and mother. Who is rich there that can give you all that wealth? No one. My only appeal is that let us have peaceful by-elections in Luangwa,” he added.

Meanwhile, chief Mphuka observed that some recipients did not deserve to be beneficiaries of the Social Cash Transfer scheme because they liked insulting their leaders.

“Let him (candidate for Mandombe ward) help us with the few things that are remaining. We were discussing the candidature of this area, especially to the other group. Anyway, since it is ‘one Zambia, one nation’ regardless of political parties, everybody must enjoy the fruits of the government. But some of these people are not supposed to be given Social Cash Transfer, no. You even insult your own father when he is just giving you food, can you have blessings like that?” wondered chief Mphuka.

Voter registration will proceed in Oct despite postponed mobile NRC exercise – ECZ

By Julia Malunga

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says the delayed commencement of phase two of the ongoing mobile NRC registration will not affect the voter registration exercise, which is still scheduled to commence next month.

Last week, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said the postponement of the NRC registration exercise was caused by delays in the delivery of key equipment to kick-start the process of NRC issuances.

But in a brief interview, ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano said that the Commission was yet to engage the Ministry with a view of understanding the extent the delay of the mobile NRC exercise would have on the voter registration programme.

“We are yet to engage them (Home Affairs Ministry) on the extent of delay and guide accordingly. As it stands, our programme remains unchanged,” said Nshindano.

On Friday, Kampyongo had explained that phase two would commence on September 10 and not September 1 as earlier planned.

“Due to unforeseen delays in delivery of some key equipment, the first few days of the exercise started slowly with teams only working close to the established district centres to allow for access to equipment that was only available at the district levels. During the seven days that followed, the Department (of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship) worked tirelessly to ensure that the rest of the much-needed equipment was on the ground in every district. The exercise gained momentum by the 8th and 9th of August when the teams were finally deployed in the far-flung areas of the provinces,” said Kampyongo.

“Initially, the Ministry had planned to overlap the two phases in order to finish the exercise at least 10 days before the Electoral Commission of Zambia starts voters’ registration on the 19th of October. However, taking into the slow start and the challenges of sharing

of equipment and logistics, which the overlap may cause, the Ministry had decided to postpone the starting date for phase two of the exercise from the 1st of September to the 10th of September, 2020. Therefore, phase one will be expected to wind up by the latest, 9th of September, the last day being the 10th, while phase two will commence on

10th September to end 40 days later on the 19th of October, 2020. The Ministry of Home Affairs has already started the distribution of materials and equipment to the phase two provinces. The Ministry regrets any inconvenience this postponement has caused.”

Barclays Bank Zambia, ABSA Bank Zambia are the same legal entity, ABSA tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ABSA Bank Zambia PLC has submitted to the Lusaka High Court that Barclays Bank Zambia PLC and ABSA Bank Zambia are one and the same legal entity, adding that all rights and liabilities of the entity prior to the name change are not affected as a result.

It has, therefore, asked the court to set aside a matter in which Zambia Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (ZUFIAW) general secretary Msiska Chingati has sued it and Barclays Bank Zambia, seeking a declaration that the unilateral and non-consensual transfer of unionised employees of Barclays Bank to the new entity, ABSA Bank, is unlawful, null and void.

ABSA Bank Zambia wants the said action set aside for irregularity, and that in the alternative, Barclays Bank Zambia must be struck out of the proceedings as it does not exist separately from ABSA.

However, Chingati has insisted that Barclays Bank Zambia and ABSA Bank Zambia are two separate legal entities, adding that he intends to adduce evidence at trial to show that the two banks are separate.

He has, therefore, objected to the submissions by ABSA Bank Zambia that his writ of summons and statement of claim should be set aside or alternatively that the originating process be amended by striking out Barclays from the proceedings.

In this matter, Chingati is seeking a declaration that the so-called name change from Barclays Bank Zambia to ABSA Bank Zambia is a sham intended to mask the real nature of the corporate transaction, being a transfer of the business undertaking from Barclays Bank Zambia to the ABSA Group Limited and therefore unlawful, null and void.

He also wants a declaration that the unilateral and non-consensual transfer of

the employees of Barclays Bank to ABSA Bank is a terminating event entitling the employees of Barclays Bank Zambia to payment of redundancy benefits under the applicable Collective Agreement being 4.7 months’ pay for each year served.

Chingati is further seeking an order for the payment of all other accrued benefits and rights being among others, pension benefits, long service award, leave days and repatriation allowance under the applicable Collective Agreement.

But according to an affidavit in support of summons to set aside writ of summons and statement of claim for irregularity, ABSA Bank Zambia Plc company secretary Mwape Mondoloka submitted that Chingati commenced an action against purportedly two defendants namely Barclays Bank Zambia and ABSA Bank Zambia but endorsed the writ of summons with the same physical address for both defendants being Elunda Office Park, Stand No.4643, Addis Ababa Roundabout, Lusaka.

She however, stated that Barclays Bank Zambia, the alleged first defendant was the previous name of ABSA Bank Zambia, the alleged second defendant.

Mondoloka added that Barclays Bank Zambia and ABSA Bank Zambia were one and the same entity.

She stated that ABSA Bank Zambia had great difficulty in responding to Chingati’s originating process because in its current form, the originating process suggested that Barclays Bank Zambia and ABSA Zambia were separate legal entities.

“We instructed our advocates to prepare a defence on the substantive issues raised by the plaintiff (Chingati) in his originating process but we are unable to file the said defence into court because there were two defendants in the cation when there should in fact only be one defendant,” Mondoloka stated.

“Given the fact that Barclays Bank



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Will Zambia’s media survive post-COVID-19?

By Joan Chirwa

A SURVEY commissioned by the Free Press Initiative (FPI) with support from World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) to ascertain how media institutions as businesses were coping with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that about 8 per cent of the industry players have had to cut jobs and salaries as one of the immediate measures to counter the devastating implications Coronavirus has had on the country’s economy as a whole. This survey was conducted between June and July, 2020.

What we are seeing in the media industry is just a tip of the iceberg of the deeper challenges several sectors of Zambia’s economy are currently grappling with amid the battle against COVID-19 that has so far seen almost 12,000 positive cases, with over 280 deaths since the first cases were recorded in the country in March, 2020. In trying to contain the fast-spreading disease, the government implemented health measures that led to the closure of schools, bars, nightclubs, restaurants, gymnasiums, casinos while sporting activities were halted to mitigate the further spread of the Coronavirus. It was after a couple of months that restaurants, gymnasiums and examination classes were reopened, with selected sporting activities resuming. However, bars and nightclubs remain closed as they are considered high risk areas for COVID-19 transmission.

What this entailed was reduced businesses for media houses that rely on these ventures for their advertising incomes, reduced street copy sales for newspapers, reduced subscriptions, leading to a massive decline in incomes for these media houses to sustain their operations. Additionally, for the print media, there has been less traffic on the roads as the number of people working from offices tremendously reduced, with government sending the bulk of non-essential workers home in trying to keep up with the stipulated health guidelines to fight COVID-19, meaning less people on the streets to purchase newspapers. Generally, the economy has taken some battering from COVID-19 and the media industry has not been spared from this – several media organisations are having to firefight to stay afloat, not forgetting the fact that this is an industry that had already taken some knocks from the deteriorating economy way before the outbreak of the COVID-19.

The Survey

The feedback received from the survey revealed deep concerns about the future of the news media post COVID-19 and relative to worldwide trends with regard to the industry. Key highlights from the survey are that for the public broadcaster that has the bulk of its budget funded by taxpayers, we may see freezing of recruitments, doing away with part time staff and putting off less critical investments in equipment for its studios. Further, there will be more demanded of employees to maximise on the expected reduced workforce. But ultimately, the major fears arise from imminent labour disputes as the Treasury takes some knocks from the current global pandemic that has seen expenditures on unbudgeted for programmes to contain the Coronavirus. This will mean constrained funding to public institutions like the

national broadcaster that depend on the Treasury to pay off wages and sustain other operational needs. We are further being alerted by the survey that the scenario could be gloomier for private broadcasters as they expect to undergo painful downsizing to stay afloat post COVID-19. Job cuts, budget slashes and other cost cutting measures are likely to be a common, as incomes continue to dwindle beyond projections made at the beginning of this year, 2020. Many have over the years been operating on shoe-string budgets, and COVID-19 is seen to be around to hit “the last nail on the coffin” for the already limping establishments and the undertakers may already be flexing muscles to do the honours. Many shudder the thought of the injurious results should the situation lead to closures of media organizations! Like others in the industry, newspapers have equally been in a precarious situation-state owned and government funded Zambia Daily Mail and Times of Zambia are currently undergoing restructuring as the government is looking for ways to sustain their operations without them relying entirely on the National Treasury. For many who have not yet turned to digital, except a few like News Diggers and Daily Mail, the impact of the pandemic will be more severe and their existence beyond this situation currently seems bleak owing to the massive cut in newspaper advertising budgets by corporations and companies that have shifted to the digital space for their marketing needs, leaving most newspapers with little or no advertising incomes at all. The reliance, then, is on newspaper sales which have, again, been severely slashed as a result of COVID-19. The trend for Zambia has been on decline for over three years considering falling disposable incomes due to job losses, rising cost of living that has made it almost impossible for families to spare around \$0.70 for a newspaper copy per day. Many have since shifted to social media where they can consume news without having to pay for it, but that comes at a price because credibility comes into question. The Findings What came out of this survey is the fact that media houses were generally unprepared for the challenges that would arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with about 84.64% of the respondents reporting that they were not prepared while only 15.8% indicated average preparedness. It became inevitable for some industry players to implement survival mechanisms such as job and salary cuts that were recorded at 7.69 % of the respondents while 38% of staff took time off work without pay and 23% of the respondents downsized their operations. Other interventions included staff working half day; adapting and creating inventive ways of generating income; reducing number of pages to save on production costs; delayed salaries and no overtime pay, which accounted for 46% of the respondents. While 23% of the media houses were helped with relief packages by the government to counter the effects of COVID-19, the situation still remains dire. It was felt that the government support to the industry to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic was inadequate. But is the government in a position to offer support to the media industry to lessen the effects COVID-19

has had on the sector? Yes it has. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya informed the Free Press Initiative when it presented the Position Paper of the survey that media institutions can actually apply to benefit from the COVID-19 relief fund being disbursed by the Bank of Zambia. But we maintain that the best approach to solving the current industry problem is to have a sector-specific package which can be managed by the Ministry of Information. But going forward, media houses that participated in the survey made recommendations that the government should provide:

- A stimulus package to support industry players
- Waive some statutory obligations to institutions such as National Pension Scheme Authority(NAPSA) and Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA)
- Reduce duty on all imported materials related to the industry
- Tax relief / holidays, tax breaks
- Loans with long term repayment period or grants to help sustain the industry
- Government to fund ministries to carry out sponsored programmes

What Is Required? As the position paper prepared after the survey recommended, the best approach to the current challenges facing media require implementation of three strategic areas identified as the focus for intervention, these need action from both the media houses and the government:

1. Resilience - this calls for action that preserves cash, gives confidence to customers and employees and ensures business continuity. The action should focus on managing customers, cash, costs and capital;
2. Recovery - This strategic action point entails surviving and making it past the downturn through performance improvement and;
3. New Reality- for media houses to position themselves competitively, they need to focus on moving from the short-term challenges to recovery and embrace the new reality brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Media houses are already cash-strapped due to limited avenues for revenue generation. However, they need to come up with measures, as recommended in the Position Paper, to:

- Reserve operating capital for emergencies; improve financial base or revenue so as to have sufficient funds to cushion the effect of unforeseen events; they should have contingency funds which can be supplemented by government loans in times of need;
- Have stable and reliable partners who are not easily destabilised by unforeseen situations; must prepare to adapt to change; they must diversify;
- The need for risk registers in order to have a record of interventions and strategies that worked during the crisis period
- There is need for media bodies to work with media houses to establish a media contingency fund which can be used to support media houses during hard times.

Joan Chirwa is a journalist, press freedom advocate, human rights defender, student lawyer and founder of the Free Press Initiative Zambia. Joan is also former Managing Editor of the defunct Post Newspapers.



How long should a Board Meeting Take?

CONCLUDED the article last week with a story of a board chairperson who took about three hours lecturing management about information management. It appeared this was his area of personal competence and, therefore, took the opportunity to lecture management about how to work. He was not too happy about how management had managed a piece of data and his reaction was a floodgate of unwarranted emotion.

Since he was a chairperson and known to have significant clout in political circles, no one could signal to him that it was time up. The board meeting took nine hours, the longest I ever attended. Some members of management later complained they had missed other crucial appointments, including one who needed to finalise a visa application. That was the highest level of insensitivity I had ever witnessed.

A couple of year later, while in another informal discussion with the individual (months before he passed on), I reminded him about the nine hours board meeting. Even then, some items on the agenda had to be rescheduled. It was getting late and people needed to drive home for dinner.

His response to my question was, 'My brother, we were dealing with a very incompetent management. I needed to remind them about the importance of managing certain things.'

My advice to him was that if the management team was such incompetent, hence requiring a three-hour lecture from the board about how to execute its own tasks, then he was better off hiring another management altogether. The board directs and management manages, and this must always be very clear. It is not expected management will lecture the board about how to carry out its mandate. In like manner, the board should believe it has the right management to executive its decisions otherwise they should swap roles!

Board meetings ordinarily take longer than necessary because the Chairpersons (I single them out) fail to manage them. There are documented qualities of a good board chairperson in terms of effective board management. Once the Board chairperson demonstrates capacity in all of them, then the board meeting should not take more than three hours, especially where we have Board Committees in place.

Influencing and persuading: I have participated in many board meetings chaired by highly influential and persuasive individuals. One of those I have in mind is Albert Wood (now Judge Wood). He knew how to get everyone involved on every part of the agenda, diplomatically influencing everyone to agree without cohesion. How he did it, am not sure, but can only state that he had a way of softly and intelligently selling and collaborating thoughts into formidable resolutions with everyone believing they had a part in it.

I sensed he had a way of manging his positional power as Board Chairperson< his secret, according to my assessment, was in how he built effective relationships with everyone on the board and in management. He engaged well outside board meetings, meaning, he knew how to get agreement from even the most difficult-

to-convince individuals in meetings he had with them before the board meeting. Above all that, Wood was trusted. I have found that board chairpersons who are respected for their integrity and transparency tend to easily convince others to take a position.

One writer defines leadership as 'a collective social process leading to direction, alignment, and commitment toward the organization's goals'. Influence, according to Marc Dellaert, a financial leadership guru, is ' the ability of a person or leader to affect, to shape, or to transform the opinions (convincing) and the behaviors or actions (persuading) of other people without necessarily having a formal authority over them.'

My view is that individuals who can achieve this kind of leadership are highly independent individuals who suffer no inferiority complex. There are Chairpersons who lack either technical or emotional competence but are put in charge of this serious oversight role. Because they are aware of their own intellectual or emotional shortcomings, they tend to intimidate everyone into a decision. It is sometimes under circumstances of indecisiveness and incompetence on the part of the Chairperson that board meetings take long.

Listening to understand: There is another board chairperson I evaluated very highly on effective leadership through listening. This is the former Auditor General Dr. Anne Chifungula. She talked little in board meetings. By listening, she was able to process information, thoughts, and ideas from those debating an issue. She would then understand what the leading thought was, how it would affect the organisation and finally propose to the whole board, 'I take it that the decision of the board should be as follows. Do I have a contrary view?'

By listening and making sense of the seeming confusion, she mined gold out of nothing. This was contrary to another board meeting I attended where the Board chairperson introduced an item, put the agenda on the floor for discussion and says, 'I want all the directors to discuss this matter freely and openly. But before we do so, I have some thoughts I want to put forward.' He pushed forward five thoughts on the agenda item, all of them pointing to why the board should reject the proposal, but still went ahead to invite the directors, 'Having said that, the floor is open'. This ignited an unfortunate and unnecessary discussion that took several hours.

Negotiating disagreements: As I said earlier, the Board meetings for the International Monetary Fund focused on individual countries took no more than 30 minutes. I observed and participated in a few of them as part of management. There were

serious disagreements on issues governing policy and other items. The Chairperson would be fully awake to the discussions. However, core to these board meetings was what happened before board meetings. Contentious issues would have been resolved before the actual board meeting through what the IMF calls, 'Grays'.

This approach is critical for boards where there are diverse interest groups such as unions or minority shareholders. I have participated in meetings where directors representing labour unions would turn the board meeting into a salary negotiation platform. Some of them do not even know why they are on the board. A dynamic board chairperson will successfully negotiate any disagreements in a very diplomatic and astute manner.

Creating group synergy: Great chairpersons are great team builders and where there is board cohesion, board meetings do not usually take long (except in cases familiarity among board members transits board meetings into social gatherings! In this case, directors are afraid of going home during great fellowship!).

All in all, board meetings should be short and to the point. Board committees do their work and their resolutions only come to the board for ratification and not for lengthy debates. Matters arising should not take three hours where there is an action report and management had done its homework. Individual directors on the board should only debate issues that are necessary. Keep quiet if your point has already been raised by another.

Effective boards have meetings of no more than 3 hours 30 minutes. The chairperson will guide discussion by assuming all board members had read through the board paper and simply goes page by page inviting those with issues to raise. A board meeting is not a platform to read through submissions and reports paragraph by paragraph. It is for board members to seek clarification, debate and make resolutions. Doing the contrary makes board meetings extremely boring and time consuming.

Chairpersons should not be afraid of telling a board member to allow for transition! Its is part of business. The Chairperson is the captain and must direct the business of the day with utmost competence. I end with a quote from 'Death by Meeting' by Patrick Lencioni, "If I did not have to go to meetings, I'd like my job a lot more"

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

“It is sometimes under circumstances of indecisiveness and incompetence on the part of the Chairperson that board meetings take long.”

By Ulande Nkomesha
MINES Minister Richard Musukwa says Glencore is planning to offload around 90 per cent of its collective shares in Mopani Copper Mines Plc to government through ZCCM-IH.

And Musukwa says ZCCM-IH will galvanise resources to ensure they manage and operate Mopani Copper Mines prudently.

Meanwhile, Musukwa says Konkola Copper Mines (KCM's) operational performance has improved since the provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu's appointment last year.

Speaking on Diamond TV's programme, Costa, Sunday evening, Musukwa announced that Glencore, which held 73.1 per cent shares in Mopani, was planning on offloading its shareholding to ZCCM-IH, together with a further 16.9 per cent from Calisa Investment Corporation.

ZCCM-IH currently only holds a 10 per cent shareholding in Mopani, according to Musukwa.

"Zambia sits on a huge reserve in terms of mineralisation for copper and several other minerals.

Glencore will offload 90% Mopani shares to ZCCM-IH – Musukwa

Mopani is sitting on huge resources, which can run in access of up to to 40 years, so it is very viable. So, we are very confident that we are able to navigate out of this critical time and ensure that the life of Mopani is sustained. Even from the Glencore perspective, in terms of the investments portfolio, which they have put in their operations is huge; billions of dollars in terms of a new schycotorium, new shaft...All these facets were as a result of Mopani and Glencore knowing very well that Mopani was sitting on a tenement that was viable and was able to sustain itself," Musukwa said.

"ZCCM-IH has 10 per cent shares, Glencore has 73.1 per cent stake and a company called Calisa has 16.9 per cent. When ZCCM-IH, after this care and maintenance process commenced, ZCCM-IH, as a minority shareholder, submitted an expression of interest in increasing its shareholding in the

company. I must report that graciously, Glencore, the majority shareholder, accepted favourably. Further to not only accepting the 73.1 per cent stake, Glencore has actually galvanized even the 16.9 per cent that sits on Calisa together making a total offer of 90 per cent to ZCCM-IH in order to ensure that they take full control of the company."

Musukwa said Mopani faced a challenge of huge operational costs of highly-priced contracts and the engagement of a large number of contractors and expatriates.

"The huge challenge that Mopani has had been the cost profile of exploiting this resource. Government's considered view is that we need to look at how best we can reduce the cost, increase production and ensure that the operations are done under safe rules. Mopani did indicate that they wanted to put the mine on care and maintenance, which is going to put in excess of

15,000 employees in the streets and the government did reject that proposal because it was inimical to the interests of our people. More also, it was inimical to sterilise a resource when we feel it can be exploited, economically, by ensuring that Mopani reduces its cost profile by stopping to procure highly-priced contracts and the engagement of a huge number of contractors and expatriates," Musukwa said.

"So, basically, when they put up the care and maintenance (proposal), we constituted a technical team and the technical team revealed that they were overheads that were being developed by Mopani, which, in our view, if these overheads were reduced, the company can be viable. You will be interested to know that the technical team and experts and people from all walks of life have actually come across and given different perspectives of how to operate and run the mine going

forward profitably. At a time like this, we hope that we can have a smooth managed exit in order to ensure that Glencore and the Zambian government can continue to enjoy a mutual relationship."

And Musukwa said ZCCM-IH would galvanise resources to ensure the management and operation of Mopani was done prudently.

"There is no investor that comes to Zambia with a sack of money or, indeed, money held in some accounts in order to come and exploit these resources. The money that is invested in the mining sector is money that is generated through various vehicles from these mining entities because they have international confidence on the market. We think very strongly that this is a matter that Zambian players, through ZCCM-IH and other entities, are able to galvanise these resources going forward. If you propose to a woman, it means that you

have the capacity to look after them in marriage that is why ZCCM-H has expressed interest. If it didn't have the capacity, it was not going to express interest," Musukwa said.

"ZCCM-IH could not be having money sitting on their profile of this magnitude in terms of a purchase of these shares. ZCCM-IH will be able to galvanise these resources through other entities, through other vehicles. In short, ZCCM-IH is being used as a platform and this is a time where Zambians should not be doubting where this money is coming from, Zambians should be able to organise themselves and look for stake in the company."

He, however, stressed that the funds being mobilised to manage the acquisition of shares and the administration of Mopani would not derive from debt financing, but would be raised from the ZCCM-IH's resources.

"It is not the Government of Zambia, which is raising this money; this resource will be raised through ZCCM-IH. This is a blessing in disguise, an opportunity has presented itself for ZCCM-IH to have a footprint in terms of the mining entity. The resources that are going to be mobilised will be mobilised at that platform, at a business trajectory and not a debt to Government of the Republic of Zambia. ZCCM-IH has connectivity to ensure that we get these resources to immediately pump in the operations and stabilise its production. This is a time where we, as government, are looking at a platform where we can sit and say, 'how best can this operation be run with the support of Zambians?' This is an opportunity where we can give some of our shares to the Zambian public or Zambian businesses or other entities in order to ensure that ZCCM-IH is not overburdened, but have a cake, which they are able to manage," he explained.

Story continues on P10

Court acquits Mushipe of seditious practices

By Zondiwe Mbewe
LUSAKA Magistrate Felix Kaoma has set free Lusaka lawyer Martha Mushipe, who was facing a charge of seditious practices.

Magistrate Kaoma said in his ruling yesterday that the seditious material on which the said offence was anchored on does not appear by any stretch of imagination to contain any seditious words or seditious intentions.

Meanwhile, Mushipe has expressed gratitude that justice has prevailed and further thanked the Court over its decision.

In this matter, Mushipe was alleged to have on unknown dates, but between July 1, 2015, and April 11, 2016 in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown and without lawful excuse, had in her possession seditious material namely: "Strategy of domination, PF against opposition UPND 2015, 2016 and beyond-UPND at crossroads – transition or conflict/PF's use of ethnic divide and rules as a means of maintaining political control in Zambia 2015-2016 and beyond" by General Tendai Muduli, Dr Ngosa Simbyakula and Dydms Mutasa.

The seditious document was allegedly found in one of the offices at Mushipe's law firm in Millennium Village Villa 48, Madagascar during a search that was conducted at the premises in 2016.

Ruling on a case or no case to answer, Monday, Magistrate Kaoma said he had given due consideration to the evidence adduced by the prosecution as well as the defence submissions.

He, however, said that the document admitted into evidence on which the offence of possession of seditious material was anchored did

not appear by any stretch of imagination to contain any seditious words or seditious intentions.

Magistrate Kaoma added that what the prosecution seemed to suggest to be seditious intentions was what was discussed in the meeting alleged to have taken place in Mushipe's office, particularly on the formation of a crack squad, which had no bearing on the said alleged seditious document.

"It is worth stating that from the evidence adduced, particularly the document admitted in evidence and marked P1, on which the offence of possession of seditious material is anchored, does not appear by any stretch of imagination to contain any seditious words or seditious intentions as defined in section 60 of the Penal Code of the laws of Zambia," Magistrate Kaoma said.

"By way of comment, what the prosecution seems to suggest to be seditious intentions is what was discussed in the meeting alleged to have taken place in the accused's office, particularly on the formation of a crack squad, which has no bearing on exhibit marked P1."

He said the prosecution in the matter had failed to establish a prima facie case against Mushipe for the offence of seditious practice and accordingly acquitted her.

"In light of the foregoing, therefore, it is plain that the prosecution have failed to establish a prima facie case against the accused for the offence of seditious practices and as such, I find her with no case to answer and accordingly acquit her," ruled Magistrate Kaoma.

And speaking shortly after being acquitted, the visibly-delighted Mushipe, expressed

gratitude that justice had prevailed.

"According to the evidence that was before the Court, the Court did find that there was no case to answer. I think justice has prevailed and I thank the Court in making a good analysis of the evidence, which was before the Court because there's really no evidence against me," said Mushipe.

Mushipe was in this matter represented by Lusaka lawyers Keith Mweemba and Gilbert Phiri.

During trial, the arresting officer had narrated to the Court how he allegedly seized a document at Mushipe's law firm detailing strategy domination of the ruling PF against UPND from 2015, 2016 and beyond.

Bernard Phiri, 40, a detective inspector based at force headquarters, told the Court that Mushipe allegedly chaired a meeting at her law firm to discuss the said seditious document, which was

given to her by a "well-wisher."

He added that at the end of the discussion, the meeting resolved to form a crack squad, whose aim was to perform acts of violence against the people of Zambia and the State.

The arresting officer claimed that 10 people attended the said meeting, namely: Mushipe, Emmanuel Chilekwa, Ephraim Shakafuswa, Clayson Hamasaka, Nchimunya Siamunjeje, Soko Habinda, Clance Zulu, Sambo Lubasi, Omia Hakanga and Hastings Shakanga.

In cross-examination by defence lawyers Mweemba and Phiri, the witness was asked if he was aware that Charles Mafa, one of the State witnesses, was in possession of the document long before Mushipe even possessed it, the witness said he was aware.

Asked if to this day if the police had arrested Mafa, the arresting officer said no.

He added that Mafa was not arrested because he never sat to form a crack squad.

The State witness, however, agreed that the said document was in public domain as it was on the Internet.

Asked by Mweemba if he agreed that it was erroneous of him to arrest the accused person based on something, which was already in public domain, Phiri said, "no, I do not agree."

He, however, admitted that Mushipe did not author the document and that the said document brought out issues of public interest.

And former Bulletin and Record Magazine journalist Charles Mafa had previously testified that he came in possession of the alleged 'seditious document' in February, 2015, way before Mushipe had it.

Mafa said it was scary that some of the issues highlighted in the same document, detailing how the PF had planned to use violence, tribal division, among other things, to win the 2016 elections, had actually come to pass.



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FORMER Finance Minister Ng'andu Magande says since President Edgar Lungu claims to have taken charge of the economy now, he must share his economic recovery plan with the rest of the citizens so that those who are willing to help, like him, can step in to save the country. He says it doesn't matter whether it is the crocodiles that he went to see in Sinazongwe which reminded him that he was not in charge of the economy, what is important is that he is now committing himself to turning the economy around.

“Some of us don't want to dwell on the history of what he has been doing. If someone admits, don't push him to answer more questions on an admission, what do you gain? What I am interested in is, what is he going to do that we, the citizens, can participate in to turn the economy around? He is saying he now wants to take charge, so we want to know: in taking charge, what is our role as citizens? Where is the plan that we can help to follow?

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Magande's political maturity is inspiring

It is our economy, not his alone,” said Magande to News Diggers!

This is the kind of political maturity that has been missing in this country. Zambia is in a very desperate situation, but our political leaders, especially those in the ruling party, are spending most of their time on arguments and debates which add nothing to the prosperity of the country. The quality of politics in our country calls for deep meditation from all citizens of goodwill.

We should not allow the politics of our country to be relegated to trivialities chosen precisely because

they salve the consciences of the powerful and well-to-do and conceal the plight of the poor and powerless. We cannot have a trend where non-issues are the order of the day as far as discourse is concerned. This practice is unacceptable and needs to be changed.

Our nation's politicians, both in the government and the opposition, need to take stock of their contribution towards the development of our politics and democracy. What is it that they have done to make politics an honourable and dignified service? It is such conduct that makes politics appear to be a

“dirty game” when it should be seen as a genuine way of being at the service of others for the integral development of our country. As citizens, what is our role in ensuring dignified politics in our country?

The answer is in the maturity exhibited by Mr Magande. Instead of laughing and mocking President Lungu, Mr Magande says this economy doesn't belong to Lungu, it will take our participation as citizens to change the direction we are facing. One can only admire such humility and patriotism. Mr Magande's remarks are telling a story of a man who is concerned about the

plight of the poor.

Our people are facing numerous problems and challenges. Most of our people, both in urban and rural areas, can barely survive. There are many people in Zambia who each day cannot meet the basic needs necessary for a decent human life. It is a strict duty of justice and truth not to allow fundamental needs to remain unsatisfied. Our nation is richly endowed with natural resources, but our people live in abject poverty.

All these are the issues that should pre-occupy our politicians and dominate their

discourse. No one would complain if they went for each other over these problems. Now we cannot have a situation where people turn non-issues into the most dominant issues.

Sadly, trivia is what interests our politicians. It is even laughable that at times, the same leaders who perpetuate these non-issues accuse the media of being petty and yet the media is just a mirror of society; it reflects what is happening in the country - be it desirable or undesirable. The politicians need to understand that the situation in the country will not improve as long as they continue to make bickering their only discernible preoccupation.

No one will develop our country for us. And politics need to be taken very seriously because it is the instrument by which people cooperate together in order to achieve the common good. Political leadership is needed to guide the energies of all towards the common good. Zambia needs Mr Magande's maturity if we are to move just one step forward.

Crossword puzzle No 680

1		2		3		4		5
6				7				
8					9	10		
				11				
12		13				14		15
16					17			

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

- Desmond Tutu

Across

1. Cheerful
4. Cigar residue
6. Uppermost
7. Warn
8. Additional
9. Put into words
12. Fishing gear
14. Over the hill
16. Talk on and on
17. Earnestly ask for

Down

1. Blazing
2. Printer need
3. Calendar unit
4. Orangutan, e.g.
5. Loathed
8. Get hitched
10. Unaccompanied
11. Pronto
13. Deer relative
15. Father

Crossword puzzle No 679

1	T	R	A	C	E		4	S	O	N
	R		R		6	V	E	T		O
7	U	N	C	L	E		8	R	E	D
	C					R		E		
9	K	E	10	E	P		11	S	P	E
							13	B		H
14	P	A	D			15	O	U	N	C
	A		17	E	A	R		E		R
18	W	A	R			19	N	I	E	C

Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: If there is anyone who deserved to be fired, it's the IDC board chairman

Editor,
"It's the whole system that is rotten. Apparently the rot starts from the head".
- Justin Sics

"ZESCO spent \$45m to upgrade Musonda Falls Power Station's generation capacity from 5 megawatts to 10 megawatts. That's a spend of \$9m per megawatt

of "improved generation", just how economical/ cost effective can that be? Is that the trend worldwide in as far as it relates to hydropower generation?" - David M Mwanangombe

what's really wrong in the economy. They don't see what people are seeing. There is no one more incompetent than that people who don't know whats wrong or acknowledge it". - Richard Waga

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.

Bowman's struggle with comprehending English

Editor,

"There is no running away. English becomes a measure of intelligence when you put in effort to try and learn it. As for MPs, lawmakers, you have to learn English. How else are you going to make or amend the laws? Even the sinda guy, why can't you hire people to teach you English as opposed to paying cadres? If you are a parliamentarian and English is a problem, then you are not intelligent!!!!" - Swed Mwale

"If you have unfinished business with Ministry of Education, this is what happens". - James Sichamba

"Kikikikiki mwandi chintu chintu imwene,

chashupa our force to reckon was too much grammar!" - Phyllis Musambo Sialumba

"It's true because this English you are seeing, her is a force to reckon with". - Lastone Maleka

"Actually it is. Language skills are some of the early signs of intellectual development. Change that thinking". - Muzala Shinka

"Nobody said speaking english is a measure of intelligence. It's just that knowing and being able to speak english properly with other english speakers makes one effectively communicate and that increases one's confidence". - Samuel Baza Dokowe

'No, Mr. Lungu, Zambians can't wait to vote you out!'

Dear editor,

"We are voting you out next year, the country is on its knees because of you. Cost of living is high, kwacha has no value \$1=K19.6 zesco tariffs are beyond our reach, load shedding , 48 houses with no owner, violent PF youths. What then will make us vote you back in 2021. Leadership must influence and bring positive change!" - Noritah Mwanza

"Yes to vote you out!" - Kajuba Mazuba

"Which zambians?!" - Ignitius Kakoma

"The way ECL speaks about Zambia, one would think he is the first president of Zambia and Zambia belongs to him. PF is not a party of choice rather it uses intimidation, sacking citizens from jobs that dont support them and cripple opposition leaders and their cadres businesses". - Mutinta Mulonda

"I am Zambian but don't put me in that equation of voting for you. Absolutely not!!!" - Namz Kacheya

"I am not among those Zambians that will vote for PF in 2021.. Kaleza kaningambe!" - Jeffrey Mwale

"Dont say Zambians, say your fellow PF members,I am a Zambian yes but I am not part of you, if anything am ready to vote you out!" - Mubukwanu Maliwa

"The most detached and yet hyped president in our history. So detached that he just got control of the economy last week, since he was elected in 2015". - Richard Waga

'Kampamba lying on K1,600 being a COVID-19 relief fund UNICEF initiative'

Editor,

"This is not the way UNICEF runs it's programmes. it doesn't hire carders to run it's programmes". - George Mubita

"Why hasn't government come out in the open and clarified sufficiently the source of these funds, its purpose and how it is being distributed? Why do you fail at literally everything?" - Bupe Kapya

"This is a pure lie. Why asking people to queue for money in that manner? UNICEF is a very organised NGO it can not distribute money in that way". - Adams Kambila

"Why wasn't it announced so that more people benefit.. And why is the process being controlled by cadres?!" - Carol Masupelo Chibesa

"Is it UNICEF demanding NRC details from beneficiaries?" - Chris Rock

"Will follow it up from UNICEF". - Lwando Bbuku

"Why were people not informed by the government because the thing started in secrecy? elo ba UNICEF bakakane". - Geofrey Juma Nkandu

"Which UNICEF?? Beanssss!!! How come it only applied to the Lusaka residents..." - Astone Makina Jnr

"Am sure when UNICEF hears this you and your boss will apologise and say its from Gates Foundation". - Mwamba Alexious

"I am shocked that UNICEF has joined a confused cash transfer. This will encourage Corruption beyond limits. UNICEF should be ashamed". - Abraham Mwamba



By Julia Malunga

THE 2019 Money Laundering Trends Report may not be released anytime soon this year as the Irene Lombe Chibesakunda-led Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board has not given a go ahead for its dissemination to the public.

And Chibesakunda has declined to respond to a press query seeking her explanation on whether she was not conflicted as FIC board chairperson, considering that she has not relinquished her position on the First National Bank board, which is a reporting entity to the FIC.

Meanwhile, sources at the Ministry of Finance have told News Diggers that uncertainty and anxiety has gripped the FIC following the resignation of acting Director General Clement Kapalu, who was expected to launch the 2019 Financial Trends Report after Mary Chirwa took planned leave from work, a month ago.

In June, Chirwa had explained that the 2019 Trends Report, which is usually released before end of May, had been delayed because of COVID-19, saying most officers were working off-site, “making is difficult to complete the verification process on time”.

She added that the internal process was done but awaiting board approval.

“We are done with the report internally, it is just undergoing approvals. As you know, we have a board which also has to approve the report before it goes to the public. We will be able to get to the public I am sure in the course of August. I know that we have our ordinary board meeting at the end of July on the 30th, so at that meeting, hopefully, our report can be approved and then we will be able to release it to the public,” she said.

After Chirwa took leave at the beginning of August, Kapalu who was appointed acting FIC Director General indicated that the report would be released by August 31.

“Nothing has changed from our earlier statement. It will be out this month of August and we are just finalising it. Let’s say by month-end. It could be earlier, but definitely, by the 31st, it will be done,” said Kapalu.

But sources at the Ministry have revealed that the 2019 report may not be released any time soon, because the Chibesakunda-led board was awaiting approval from State House.

“Chirwa and Kapalu are just trying to manage the situation, they can’t say the truth. What is happening is that the board has held on to the report and they have refused to have it released. We are told that some of the money laundering activities that the Centre disseminated to the LEAs (Law Enforcement Agencies) implicates top people in government, including State House. So they are holding the view that if the trends report is released, some member of the public may be able to connect the dots,” the source explained.

“So basically, what we have is a situation where State House feels these Trend Reports, particularly one for 2019 can paint a bad picture of the government and also jeopardize the chances of

FIC board withholds 2019 Trends Report, as acting DG resigns

re-election for the PF. If you recall, there was public uproar when the Centre announced an increase in financial crimes from K4.5 billion in 2017 to K6.1 billion in 2018. So State House doesn’t want that this year, and they have basically told the board not to give a go ahead to its release. Under former FIC board chairman John Kasanga, this report would already have been released, but we are dealing with a board that is not independent.”

A check on FNB records also showed that Chibesakunda had remained on the FNB board despite being appointed FIC board chairperson, a situation the source said created conflict of interest.

“Banks are reporting agents to the FIC. When they pick suspicious financial transactions on company or individual accounts, they provide those details to the FIC which then analyses the data and if they establish a suspected criminal activity, they pass on that intelligence to the LEAs. So you basically cannot have the FIC board chairperson who is also a board member of the bank, a reporting entity. That is conflict of interest,” the source said.

The source also added that the FIC board had been pushing management to remove contentious issues from the report.

“The other thing that has been happening is that management seems to have been resisting the push to tone down the report. You know, I think they had also put in issues to do with erratic funding from our ministry, and

all that, the board feels should not be contained in the report, so the guys there are frustrated. There is also uncertainty and anxieties. You may wish to know that the DG (Chirwa) is on her planned leave and the acting DG has thrown in his resignation. We understand the board has accepted his one month notice to leave the Centre,” said the source.

When called to explain why the report had not been released on the date that he had indicated, Kapalu said he would inform the media when the confirmed date for the launch is decided.

Asked if it was true that he has resigned, Kapalu whose substantive position is Director for Monitoring and Analysis, referred the query to the substantive Director General.”

Meanwhile, Chibesakunda declined to respond to a press query sent to her last Friday.

After persistent phone calls on Saturday, Chibesakunda said she was attending to a bereavement, and that she would respond later. Yesterday, Chibesakunda remained unresponsive to further attempt for an interview and still did not provide any response to the press query by press time.

During John Kasanga’s reign as board chairperson, the FIC revealed a 33 per cent increase in the amount of money Zambia lost to financial crimes from K4.5 billion in 2017 to K6.1 billion in 2018. Corruption cases ranked the highest, with an estimated loss of K4.9 billion of the total amount, while Tax evasion ranked second with an estimated loss of K1 billion,

with theft ranking third at K110 million.

But President Lungu complained that the FIC was on a witch hunt which was poisoning the country.

“The law has to be revisited so that the FIC, if they see something wrong, they tell the police. If the police don’t act, they follow it up and say ba police tabauza (we have told the police) but they are not doing anything. The law

needs to be revised, it’s just creating poison among us. Do you know anyone in that report who stole money or stole six billion or whatever? It’s a mind game, we are being played... I refuse to be part of this mfwiti mfwiti mfwiti, (witch hunt).

Other PF officials and ministers, including the Chief government spokesperson, have been on record stating that the FIC should not be releasing the trends report to the public.

In June 2019, Siliya accused the FIC of jeopardising cases that are under investigation by publishing what she described as half-baked intelligence data.

“This is why the public debate has been about whether

this document should have been circulated to the public or that indeed it is first supposed to go to law enforcement. If the law says that the report should be given to law enforcement agencies but the report was given to the public, this is why the Minister of Home Affairs yesterday on radio refereed to that as professional misconduct,” said Siliya.

In September 2019, following the expiry of tenure of the Kasanga-led FIC board, President Lungu appointed new board directors, headed by George Siame, whose appointment was revoked barely 24 hours later, paving way for Chibesakunda who is the current board chairperson.

Glencore will offload 90% Mopani shares to ZCCM-IH – Musukwa

From P7

Musukwa also said that ZCCM-IH had finalised the appointment of a transaction advisor to work out Mopani’s cost profile.

“So, in terms of how we will work out the cost profile, ZCCM-IH has appointed a transaction advisor, a professional transactional advisor, who will look at all these nitty grittyities. The process of appointing a transactional advisor was just being concluded last week, so I am sure that in the spirit of openness and transparency, the government, through ZCCM-IH, will ensure it makes these details available. Apart from a transactional advisor, a team has been constituted, which bordering across technocrats in Ministries of Finance, National Planning, Ministry of Mines, Justice and other stakeholders, such as trade unions and all people from all walks of life would be incorporated. We are dealing with a process that the government would like to see an open, transparent process anchored on the rule of law,” Musukwa said.

“This process is anchored on mutual trust and understanding with the bedrock of negotiations and discussion. That is why government would like to ensure that Glencore comes out clean as we move through this

process. I must say that tomorrow (Monday) the negotiation processes are going on. I must say from my team, they have actually told me that the last three, four negotiation processes that have been going on, Glencore has shown serious commitment, including ensuring that some of the costs you are talking about will not be costs that are paid in a day. This cost for this entire process cannot be paid in a day, these are costs, which will be escalated in the future as we operate the mine and so on. What we are going to do is that, actually one of the negotiating issues is to put on a temporal mechanism, where both Glencore and ZCCM-IH will begin to look at these cost profiles, even when we have the final process, so that these costs are looked at and ensure that the production and operations continue as priority.”

Meanwhile, Musukwa claimed that KCM’s operational performance had improved since Milingo’s appointment as the mining company’s provisional liquidator last May.

“And for avoidance of doubt, ever since the (provisional) liquidator took over, there are positive results that are being generated at KCM. Clearly, the company was mismanaged,” said Musukwa.A

COVID-19 deaths rise to 288

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZAMBIA has recorded 72 new COVID-19 cases and one death, out of the 1,169 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

And Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the cumulative number of cases now stands at 12,097 with 11,469 total recoveries.

Meanwhile, deputy leader of the team in charge of monitoring community compliance levels to health guidelines Zacchaeus Mvula says people in public places are not wearing the masks properly.

Speaking at a daily COVID-19 briefing, Monday, Dr Chilufya said a 56-year-old man who had high blood pressure died after contracting COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths to 288.

“We report in the last 24 hours a death of a 56-year-old known hypertensive who after contracting COVID-19 presented a raised sugar level. We were doing a fresh diabetes diagnosis of diabetes in a known hypertensive. The combination of hypertension and diabetes is deadly even without COVID-19 but we have noted that during the COVID-19 outbreak that patients who presented COVID-19 are predisposed to hypertension. Today, our appeal is to the patients who are known hypertensive to ensure that you take your medicine

for hypertension as prescribed by the practitioners of medicine,” Dr Chilufya said.

“Zambia in the last 24 hours has reported 72 new cases of COVID-19 out of the 1,169 tests done. We report a death of a 56-yea- old known hypertensive who presented this time with raised sugar. This patient was admitted into our facilities with those features, admitted to ICU, and succumbed. This is the reason why we are emphasizing the need for us to have our blood pressure under control and if you are diabetic, have your sugar under control.”

He said 34 patients were admitted to Levy Teaching Hospital out of which 14 are on oxygen while six are in Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

“The cumulative number of cases therefore after the 72 cases rises to 12, 097 cases. Out of the 72 cases, we picked 61 out of routine screening, 59 from Lusaka and two from Livingstone. Seven (07) are from contacts to known cases and four (04) are from Lusaka, three (03) from Chipata. Four (04) individuals were again screened in the community and out of these, two are from Chikankata and two from Lusaka. A glimpse into our Levy COVID Centre reviews 34 patients in our admission and out of these, 14 are on oxygen and six are critical in ICU. We further report countrywide, 23 patients

and these 23 patients are admitted to the various facilities outside Lusaka and out of these, seven (07) are on oxygen therapy,” he said.

He said 362 patients had been discharged from hospital bringing the total number of recoveries to 11,469.

“We have continued to report progress in terms of recoveries and today we have discharged 362 patients from our care. And therefore, that brings the total number of recoveries to 11, 469. The deaths, with that additional death now stands at 288. This is aggregated as follows; 95 pure COVID deaths and 193 are COVID-19 related deaths,” Dr Chilufya said.

And Dr Chilufya said he was concerned that members of the public were more afraid of police than COVID-19.

“We should not be scared of the police [but] we should be scared of COVID-19. COVID-19 will terminate your life while the police will only enforce what is provided for in the law. The police are co-workers to ensure that we are protected from COVID-19. Therefore let us be focused. We have also noticed that the people who have underlying hypertension and underlying diabetes are predisposed to severe diseases of COVID-19. We have noticed a significant rise in deaths or mortality in people with underlying hypertension or diabetes.

The combination is worse,” he said.

He also urged the police not to abuse people’s rights as they enforce the law on public health adherence.

“Our call to citizens is that let us adhere to public health measures. Our call to public workers that are authorized including the police, let us ensure that we work within the law to ensure adherence to public health measures. And let us ensure that as we do this, we do not abuse the rights of citizens and that we do not brutalize citizens. And to you as a citizen, abide by the public health measures. Bars have not been opened,” said Dr Chilufya.

Meanwhile, Mvula said community monitoring on adherence levels had revealed that people do not properly wear their masks.

“The way people are masking up is not so good. Sometimes you find that the nose is outside. Sometimes the masking is at the chin level. Sometimes people just go to public institutions like the malls and they carry the masks in the pockets and they only wear them when entering the mall. Who are we protecting? Are we protecting ourselves or we just want to show people that we have masks? Let us abide by the guidelines given, failure to which, we are not going to achieve what we want to achieve. Let’s fight COVID-19 together,” said Mvula.

Barbra Banda enjoys purple patch in China

By Abraham Kalito
STRIKER Barbra Banda was the heroine as her strike on Sunday saw Shanghai Shengli triumph against Guangdong Meizhou during a Chinese Women's Super League

clash. The first half lone strike from Banda was all her side needed to condemn their opponents to defeat. The Shepolopolo captain pounced on a rebound after an initial effort was denied by the crossbar in the 31st minute of the encounter. Banda who played

the entire match has now scored four goals in three matches. She is joint-top scorer with Beijing Phoenix's Ma Xiaoxu and Wuhan's Wang Shanshan. The win put Shanghai at the summit of the league with nine points from three matches. Having provided two assists so far, Banda who recently moved from Spanish side Logrono earlier this year seems to be settling down well in China. She opened her Chinese account with a goal and two assists in her side's 5-1 triumph over Zhejiang Hangzhou before bagging a brace in a 4-1 win over Changchun Dazhong Zhuoyue.

Stuttgart fans bid to raise €900m to sign Messi

IN response to the news that Lionel Messi has handed a transfer request in to Barcelona, Stuttgart fans have rallied around to make an audacious crowdfunded bid for the Argentina superstar. Messi believes that he is out of contract with the Primera Division side and eligible to depart on a free transfer this summer, but La Liga has ruled in favour of his club, meaning any team that wants to sign him is likely to have to stump up his release clause of €700 million (£627m/\$835m).

The Stuttgart supporters are apparently unperturbed by such an eye-wating amount of money and have set their sights on raising €900m (£805m/\$1bn), presumably to finance the superstar wages that come with such a name. In order to generate the finances required for a deal to take place, the fans of the side that finished third bottom of the Bundesliga last season - and avoided relegation only because of their success in a play-off - are holding an unlikely whip round. A statement on the GoFundMe page states: "We VfB fans are collecting money to pay for Lionel Messi's transfer. In the event that the planned amount is not reached on time or Lionel Messi joins another club, 100% of the money raised will be donated to Viva con Agua." Formed in St Pauli, Via Con Agua "is a non-profit organisation committed to ensuring that all people worldwide have access to clean drinking water". Manchester City, meanwhile, are leading the way in the race to sign Messi, while Paris Saint-Germain and Inter are also credited with a close interest in the player. All three clubs benefit from wealthy owners and are not having to rely on crowdfunding to generate their finances. Stuttgart, whose star players include Orel Mangala, Nicolas Gonzalez and Silas Wamangituka, have thus far been bringing in far more modest signings this summer than Messi. Waldemar Anton and Gregor Kobel have arrived from Hannover and Hoffenheim for reported fees of €4m (£3.5m/\$4.7m), while Konstantinos Mavropanos has arrived on a one-year loan deal from Arsenal. They will begin their Bundesliga campaign against Freiburg on Saturday, September 19. **GOAL**



Nkole welcomes FIFA meeting

By Ngosa Chalwe
FOOTBALL Association of Zambia (FAZ) aspiring presidential candidate Joseph Nkole has welcomed the pending meeting between FIFA, FAZ government and other stakeholders aimed at resolving the wrangles that have rocked the game. FIFA is today expected to chair the long-awaited meeting aimed at resolving the wrangles that have characterised Zambian football for over six months now. According to a FIFA letter dated August 28, the meeting is set to take off at 10:00hrs and will have FAZ and Ministry of Sports representatives, the National Sports Council of Zambia and a maximum of three representatives from the aggrieved parties. In a statement availed by

his media team yesterday, Nkole said he hoped that the wrangles would be resolved for the betterment of football in the country. He also stated that if elected, one of his main priorities would be to unite the football family, among others. Meanwhile, Nkole said he will also give equal priority to women's football just like their male counterparts. Nkole, a former referee, is challenging incumbent Andrew Kamanga and former FAZ vice-president Emmanuel Munaile in the race to lead Football House. "Our emphasis is bottom-up. We believe the girl-child with football skills should first be in school, college or university," he said. Nkole said his administration would create a bursary scheme where girls that excelled in football would be sponsored to further their education. "Our programme will start with Under-8 girls football under Zambia Schools through the Federation of Colleges and Universities up to the senior national team," said Nkole. "Already existing clubs and new ones will be aided to form into affordable league or tournament or cup formats. We believe club football must break even."

Francisco's move to Australia is big - Enoch

By Ngosa Chalwe
CHIPOLOPOLLO midfielder Enoch Mwepu has described his brother Francisco's move to Austria Bundesliga side SK Sturm Graz as a big move. Last week, Francisco became the third Zambia to join the Austrian top league after he completed a move from National Division One side Kafue Celtic. "Exactly on the day of the start of the competitive game of the 2020/21 season, the black and whites [have] strengthened their offensive series. With Francisco, the brother of Enoch Mwepu, who plays for FC Red Bull

Salzburg, the 20-year-old attacker and junior team player from Zambia was most recently under contract with Kafue Celtic FC in his home country," Sturm posted on their official twitter account on Friday. Francisco joins Mwepu and compatriot Patson Daka who both turn up for champions Red Bull Salzburg. Mwepu said in an interview from Austria that it is a big switch as it has changed Francisco's profile from a local player to a professional footballer. "Yes, it is a big move

that has changed his profile from a local player to a professional player..." Mwepu said. Having played in Austria since 2018, he had some advice for his younger brother. "I only said to him, not to think about anything and just to put his foot on the ground and work...It is time to work for him," said Mwepu. Identified at Chambishi Academy, Francisco has followed a similar career path as his elder brother having also played for Celtic before making his switch to Austria.

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Enoch discusses brother's move to Australia...

IT'S A BIG SWITCH - MWEPU



Francisco Mwepu signs for SK Sturm Graz. Story page 11

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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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