



FIC SCANDALS OUT

By Mukosha Funga
THE Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) has reported a sharp decline in the overall number of suspicious financial transaction reports, but with a record high loss of money from laundering activities. And the Centre has reported that the major drivers for generation of proceeds of crime in Zambia is corruption associated with public procurement.

Meanwhile, the Centre has told of a case where a law firm helped in the laundering of K10 million earned from a corrupt government tender and another case of public officials, who embezzled K4 million after manipulating the government payment system.

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Zambia records 34 new COVID cases, 3 deaths

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country has recorded 34 new COVID-19 cases and three deaths in the last 24 hours.

And Dr Chilufya says the total number of deaths is 292, out for the cumulative 12,415 positive cases recorded so far.

Speaking at the daily COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Chitalu said Zambia recorded its first covid related BID in Lundazi.

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Law firm involved in money laundering, corrupt tenders and govt officials who embezzled K4m from payroll system



President Edgar Lungu (l) waits as Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, Finance and Economic Development Dr. Mike Masiye (r) presents his oath of office during swearing in ceremony at State House in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

HH demands \$3m, public apology from Nawakwi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has demanded an apology from Forum for Democracy and Development president Edith Nawakwi for

calling him a criminal who benefitted from the privatization process of some state owned companies.

Hichilema has further demanded US\$3 million from

Nawakwi for the loss he has incurred both locally and internationally due to her defamatory statement against him.

The opposition leader

says Nawakwi should meet his demands with 24 hours ending today (Tuesday), as failure to do so would attract court proceedings.

In a statement issued by his lawyer Mulambo Haimbe of Malambo and Company, Hichilema stated that Nawakwi should make a detailed and unreserved retraction and apology to him and publish it in the same manner and with equal prominence to the defamatory statements she made against him.

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Disbursement of Covid-19 relief funds worries UN

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE United Nations (UN) in Zambia says there is no registration fee for citizens registering as potential beneficiaries of the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme (ECT).

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Chambeshi Water employees in 3 months salary arrears

By Ulande Nkomesha
CHAMBESHI Water and Sewerage Company Limited employees have gone for three months without being paid their salaries.

But Chambeshi managing director Luckson Simumba attributes the delay in salary payments to the company's failure to raise enough revenue, triggered by government's pronouncement for all utilities not to disconnect households that are defaulting on bill payments.

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KBF warns of unnecessary upheaval if govt takes action against HH

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Zambia records 34 new COVID-19 cases, 3 deaths

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country has recorded 34 new COVID-19 cases and three deaths in the last 24 hours.

And Dr Chilufya says the total number of deaths is 292, out for the cumulative 12,415 positive cases recorded so far.

Speaking at the daily COVID-19 briefing, Wednesday, Dr Chitalu said Zambia recorded its first covid related BID in Lundazi.

"In the last 24 hours, we conducted 729 tests out of which 34 came out positive. We unfortunately recorded three deaths out of which, one facility death at the University Teaching Hospital while we were waiting to move the patient to Levy. A 55-year-old Hypertensive patient with underlying challenges of diabetes did succumb to COVID-19 after developing respiratory failure. The other mortality involved a 74-year-old man at Levy Mwanawasa Hospital. We recorded a Brought In Dead (BID) in Lundazi and this is the first time we recorded a BID in Lundazi due to COVID-19," Dr Chilufya said.

He said new districts like Nkushi in Central Province and Lumezi in Eastern Province had recorded their

first COVID-19 cases.

"What is also unique about figures for today is that we have seen districts that have not recorded COVID-19 before like Mkushi today recorded its first COVID-19 case. This then brings the number of districts in the country that are affected by COVID-19 to 71. Against that, it shows the generalized infection and the wide geographic spread," Dr Chitalu said.

He disclosed that 29 patients were admitted to Levy Mwanawasa COVID facility and 12 in other provinces outside Lusaka.

"29 patients are currently admitted to Levy COVID-19 facility and out of these, 14 are on oxygen, four (04) are in intensive care unit. Outside Lusaka, put together we have 12 patients with five (05) on oxygen therapy. Out of these, seven (07) are on the Copperbelt, three (03) in Southern Province and two (02) in Northern Province," the minister said.

And Dr Chilufya said 15 patients had been discharged from isolation facilities in the last 24 hours as the cumulative total number of recoveries stood at 11,494.

"We have in the last 24 hours discharged 15 patients from our isolation facilities and

that brings now the cumulative number of cases to 12,415 out of 118, 553 tests conducted so far. Recoveries continue to be high at 11, 494. Our deaths are now at 292 of which 97 are classified as COVID-19 deaths while 195 are COVID-19 associated deaths. We do take note that 90 per cent of the cases detected have recovered so far and that's a decent recovery rate," said Dr Chilufya.



L-r: Former vice presidents Enoch Kavindele and Nevers Mumba walk with Secretary to Cabinet Patrick Kangwa at the funeral church service of former Cabinet Minister in MMD government Ephraim Chipampe Chibwe at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on Tuesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Nawakwi will have challenges justifying her claims against HH in court – UPND

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango says it is shocking how people are demanding that Hakainde Hichilema accounts for his wealth when those serving in government have refused to undergo a lifestyle audit.

And Nalumango says FDD leader Edith Nawakwi should think of how she will justify herself in court if she is sued for calling Hichilema a thief.

In an interview, Nalumango argued that critics questioning Hichilema's source of wealth were wasting their time because the opposition leader had a clear track record of working hard.

"How is it that the same people, who are calling for Hakainde to account for his wealth, are the same ones who have refused to undergo a lifestyle audit? And for them, they have become richer within five years from the streets! Some of them have become so

rich! Why ask Hakainde to account for his wealth? What of the Republican President (Edgar Lungu), who declared K2 million in 2015 as he entered the State House and the following year, he declared K23 million! I go for the Head of State because it is declared and I don't know how his worth is today. And people can spend time asking a person of many years ago with a track record and clearly paid for the work done. It is sad," Nalumango said.

And she wondered how Nawakwi would justify her claims against Hichilema if the matter was to be taken to court.

"For us, Mr Hakainde is a visionary person, who rose from the village and he was so visionary that he started building a house in Kalingalinga, while he was still at school. A man, who has worked so hard to get what he has today. How is Nawakwi going to justify

that if she was to be taken to the courts of law? Today, he is being called a thief for purchasing a house, which was on public tender. Just on that particular house in Kabulonga, how will Nawakwi explain?" she asked.

She said that Nawakwi abated crime by going into an alliance with a thief and keeping quiet for many years.

"And Nawakwi went into an alliance with a thief! It means that she abated crime. If she knew that there was a crime, why did she keep quiet for this long? Is it that she fell out along the way or is it that she is cooking up a story for political expediency? That is my little sister, Nawakwi. This is extremely disappointing," Nalumango said.

"For us, as a party under president Hakainde, we declare to offer service to the people given an opportunity. For us, it is

not about the corruption that we have seen in PF. It is good that the debate about privatisation is on, but we know it is political. Edith Nawakwi as former finance minister also knows that Hakainde has explained his role in the privatisation. He has even been put in the privatisation where he had completely no role. The only role he played was to recover money on behalf of the Zambian people. And I don't think this is the time to play around and try to destroy the character of an individual whom God has given strength to work hard and get some kind of wealth."

Nalumango insisted that Hichilema had worked hard to earn an income and build his wealth.

"When you are selling, as a State, you don't just look at one issue, you look at the development plan. If the people, who were in Cabinet at that time did not explain the rationale that was used

to give the bidder, and why Hakainde anyway? Is he the only one who bought the Zambian privatised companies? And if you talk of Intercontinental [Hotel] Livingstone (now Southern Sun), this is one entity that has prospered and continues to generate income to the Zambian individuals and to the State compared to many that were purchased by many people that have collapsed. You can't call this man who is a hard worker a thief. What did he steal? By buying? And was it him as an individual? They have accused him of selling the mines. Have they found him guilty? A company does not belong to only one person. And if any money was made, it could have been shared within the administration and to individuals, who were probably shareholders. This man is a hard worker who started in Kalingalinga building a house on his own," said Nalumango.



CSPR asks govt to upscale SCT programmes

By Ulande Nkomesha

CIVIL Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) programs manager Chimuka Nachibinga has called on government to setup practical measures in the 2021 budget to cushion the high cost of living.

In an interview, Nachibinga said high inflation rates, depreciation of the Kwacha and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had negatively affected the economy.

"First of all, we have seen that a number of people have actually fallen into a poverty trap due to the adverse effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. Most of the people have lost employment, they have lost income, businesses have been lost, businesses have closed, production itself has become very expensive. Even just to put food on the table as we speak right now, it has become very difficult for the common Zambians. In addition to that, we have also seen free fall of the Kwacha itself. As we speak right now, I think the Kwacha has depreciated so much that to an extent,

that it has become so much difficult for common Zambians to actually do business especially those that are importing goods from outside. Then inflation also goes up, it is very difficult for now for the consumers to be able to access these good and services because the prices have gone up," Nachibinga said.

"Survival will be very difficult because as we speak, a lot of people have actually fallen into poverty. So survival would be very difficult. We will have a situation where people go for days without having meals because even what they had saved has been depleted because of the high cost of living. Government needs to scale up and help its people at this particular point in time."

Nachibinga called on government to consider allocating five per cent of the 2021 budget to social protection programs like the social cash transfer in order to reduce poverty levels.

"Government should come in and cushion this high cost of living which has gone up due to inflation,

high production costs and so on and so forth. We have seen some efforts which government has made, especially in the introduction of the emergency social cash transfer where even in the nominal figures have actually been increased to around K400 monthly. What we wish as an organization is to see that all the eight million, even those that have fallen into poverty due to the COVID-19 are actually safe guarded. This calls for government to actually scale up all the social protection programs especially those that are related to hand outs such as social cash transfer," Nachibinga said.

"Government should take social protection as an economic pillar in the post COVID-19 [period]. Government needs to allocate more resources to social protection programs. We have been advocating that five percent of the total budget for 2021 should be actually allocated to social protection programs; because of the potential that these programmes have to contribute to economic

growth and also to safeguard the living standards of the majority poor people."

And Nachibinga said there was need for the government to upscale the fight against corruption to ensure that public resources are safeguarded.

"In terms of illicit flows, everything has to start with the governance that we have, it has to start from the helm where by the President himself needs to condemn issues of corruption in our country, because if this is unchecked then it will become a habit and it means that people will believe that corruption is the order of the day. Corruption has actually affected us adversely. Like you can see, last time as indicated through the FIC, we lost above K6 billion. That money was supposed to be channeled into other profitable ventures that would have contributed to generating income in the country but it has gone into people's hands. So if we were to fight corruption and illicit and financial flows, it has to start with the people who are at the helm," said Nachibinga.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

2021 PF presidential aspirant Kelvin Bwalya Fube (KBF) says government's intentions of taking action against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema over privatization allegations will bring unnecessary upheaval in the country, judging by the current mood.

And Fube says government's ill timed desperation over the matter will not solve anything but will only make Hichilema popular.

Meanwhile, People's Alliance for Change (PAC) leader Andyford Banda says the Patriotic Front (PF) government has no moral right to talk about the mismanagement of the privatization process because they have presided over the most corrupt regime.

In a statement, Tuesday, KBF urged government to

KBF warns of unnecessary upheaval if govt takes action against HH

reconsider its position on the matter.

"It is true, HH did not disclose material facts at the time and that he did benefit both before and after such contracts were executed. It is true, HH has not answered nor explained his double dealings. At law, a case may be made. However, from a purely nationalist perspective, reading the statement from my sister Hon. Dora Siliya, I would strongly recommend that our government reconsiders any intended action against HH. I am not sure what problem is intended to be fixed here,

but it is clear that this will be a recipe for unnecessary upheaval in the nation going by the mood. Desperation is of little measure when it solves nothing, but makes a villain popular because of bad timing. We have COVID-19 to deal with; balance of payments of national debts; an ailing economy; serious youth unemployment and no clear policy direction," KBF stated.

"My advice to the government is that this is not the time to play into the hands of the unsuspecting poor hungry Zambians, who may just be looking for a reason

to be unruly and riotous. HH will be just too happy to be the martyr the Zambians will use to make the nation ungovernable. Do not play into his net. Leadership, sometimes requires wisdom; above all else the capacity to overlook the wrong that may breed anarchy, disruption of civility and even possible death of innocent Zambians."

And KBF urged Hichilema to defend himself on the issue and allow Zambians to make their own judgment.

"Hon. Nawakwi has done her duty by informing the nation of what she knows. But one, who speaks alone, never

makes a mistake. Let HH speak in his defense. Then let the Zambians judge. Yet, this I say the government must not take any action against either party right now. We have serious problems and we need serious answers. This privatisation discussion is just that for now, a discussion. The majority villagers do not even care anymore. Let us focus on the real issues. It's time to change the game and some players," stated KBF.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, Wednesday, Banda said the privatization issue was mere propaganda.

"We have noted with

dismay the propaganda by the PF government on the privatization process of national assets when the same government has been the most accused in corrupt activities. We are baffled that the government of President Edgar Lungu should be the one who should make a lot of noise and behave as though they are angels sent to come and clean up the privatization mess when we have had three successive Republican Presidents before. While we know that privatization was a mess, we believe all the previous Presidents and their administration after privatization could have dealt with this issue if the many ills coming out now were gross. We tend to wonder why this should excite the current administration which has run out of messages to give the people," Banda stated.

"We believe that the PF government has no moral right whatsoever, to talk about the mismanagement of the privatization process because they have presided over the most corrupt regime in the history of this country and everyone can clearly see that this is a political move to eliminate some candidates that are running for office in 2021. We strongly do not believe in this privatization debate as it is nothing but a disruption to the many issues that we need to be focusing on; among other things we need answers to fresh questions around the purchase of the 42 fire trucks, ambulances, mukula tree sales, gold mining scandals, overpriced roads, debt, a failing economy and the numerous acquittals on corruption allegations."

Banda warned that PF's propaganda against opposition opponents would not succeed.

"Before casting a stone on their opponents, let the PF investigate itself in all the scandals it has been implicated due to the mismanagement of national affairs. It is only after that, Zambians will take them seriously on any other matter. We want to assure the PF and it's surrogates that this privatization propaganda against political opponents will not succeed because people have woken up and are able to see through the maneuvers to eliminate some candidates. We further hold a strong view that calls to institute a commission of inquiry into the privatization process would be costly and only create an impression that this is politically motivated. We challenge the PF to desist in its attempts to divert the people's attention to non-issues as we want to focus on their performance prior to the 2021 polls that are fast approaching," stated Banda.



Press Statement

Notice of Name Change

Following the public announcement in March this year of acquisition of some of Vodacom operations in Africa, including Zambia, by Synergy Communications Limited, we are pleased to inform you that the transaction has since been completed.

Consequently, AfriConnect Zambia has been renamed to **inq. Digital Zambia**, effective 7th August 2020 and will soon be rebranding to this new identity in line with all other OPCOs under the Group.

Under the new brand, inq. Digital Zambia will be launching a range of new solutions as part of its strategy of becoming the leading Pan-African cloud and digital service provider.

Mr. Raphael Maseko, inq. Digital Zambia Managing Director explained that: *"While maintaining our trusted and reliable enterprise communication solutions, we are rolling out our new digital solutions such as Video Analytics using Edge Artificial Intelligence (Edge AI) to address some of the practical challenges in Security, Public Health adherence, Health and Safety, Compliance, Retail analytics, etc. We are also introducing Software Defined Networks (SDN) and Network Function Virtualization (NFV) based solutions to help businesses achieve efficient management of their security, branch orchestration and simplification of network functions. We are also positioning ourselves to handhold our customers to confidently execute their cloud strategies"*

Despite the change of name, all other existing contact and identification information (i.e. Company registration number, address of registered office, VAT Number, bank account numbers, telephone numbers, etc.) remain unchanged. The change of AfriConnect's company name does not

affect our rights and obligations with regard to pre-existing contracts with, our business partners or customers.

As of 1st September 2020, all business correspondence, orders, contracts and all negotiations will be conducted under the name inq. Digital Zambia Limited.

Situmbeko Chocho
Company Secretary
inq. Digital Zambia

By Mukosha Funga

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) has reported a sharp decline in the overall number of suspicious financial transaction reports, but with a record high loss of money from laundering activities.

And the Centre has reported that the major drivers for generation of proceeds of crime in Zambia is corruption associated with public procurement.

Meanwhile, the Centre has told of a case where a law firm helped in the laundering of K10 million earned from a corrupt government tender and another case of public officials, who embezzled K4 million after manipulating the government payment system.

FIC Director General Mary Chirwa stated in her introductory statement accompanying the released 2019 Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Report that the Centre disseminated 44 intelligence reports to Law Enforcement Agencies with suspected losses valued K984 million, compared to K6.1 billion reported in 2018 from 80 intelligence reports disseminated.

"During the period under review, the Centre received a total of 790 reports comprising of 748 Suspicious Transaction Reports. In addition, the

The scandals in the 2019 FIC report, including 6 cases of money laundering worth K450m

Centre received a total of 149,625 currency transaction reports in the year, 2019, compared to 75,592 currency transaction reports received in 2018. This represents a 98 per cent increase in the number of currency transaction reports filed with the Centre. The increase was on account of more reporting entities becoming aware of their reporting obligations. Of the total suspicious transaction reports received in 2019, 101 were analysed out of which 44 were disseminated and 57 were closed as there were no reasonable grounds for dissemination," stated Chirwa.

"As previously stated, one of the major drivers for generation of proceeds of crime is corruption associated with public procurement. During the period under review, suspicious transaction reports received related to procurement corruption reduced. As a result, the number and value of intelligence reports associated with this predicate offence also reduced. Further, the reduction in the number and value of intelligence reports analysed is attributed to unpredictable

funding. This adversely affected the Centre's ability to verify suspicious transaction reports. As a result of which the Centre disseminated 44 intelligence reports to law enforcement agencies with suspected losses valued at K984 million compared to the K6.1 billion reported in 2018 from 80 intelligence reports."

And according to the report, some mining companies have been repatriating proceeds from mining activities in Zambia to offshore jurisdictions, while declaring losses to the Zambia Revenue Authority.

"In addition, analysis of suspicious transaction reports in 2019 indicates that some institutions are operating in Zambia without being registered for taxes. In other instances, institutions are registered in the wrong tax category. For example, institutions are registered for turnover tax when their turnover has already significantly exceeded the prescribed threshold. Methods employed to evade tax include: (i) Repatriation of proceeds from mining companies in Zambia to offshore jurisdictions, while

declaring losses in Zambia. (ii) Use of employee accounts by corporates; (iii) proceeds were channeled through employee accounts in order to reduce the revenue and, therefore, the tax liability. Some corporates continued to employ false accounting techniques to reduce their tax obligations. This was done through group company loans and use of personal accounts for business purposes. (iv) None declaration of exportation of resources, such as Rosewood (Mukula). (v) Under valuation of precious stones and base metals that are exported to foreign jurisdictions," read the report.

The Centre reported six cases of money laundering worth an unprecedented K450 million.

"During the period under review, the FIC disseminated six intelligence reports bordering on money laundering compared to 12 in 2018. However, the value of the disseminations increased from K195 million in 2018 to K450 million in 2019. The major predicate offences that contributed to the generation of proceeds of crime were tax evasion and corruption," the

report read in part.

The report cited a law firm that was involved in money laundering activities earned from a corrupt tender.

"[Case 1]. PEP A, head of a public institution H, manipulated the tender process and influenced the awarding of a contract to company Y for the supply of equipment at an inflated price. He received a percentage of this inflated price in return. [Case 2] Companies MC and PM, foreign-owned, were awarded contracts by a public institution headed by P, who acquired unexplained wealth after his appointment in the public sector. Company MC transferred ZMW 10 million to a law firm. The funds were then used for the purchase of properties on behalf of P. Company V, another foreign-owned company, subcontracted by Company MC, purchased properties on behalf of P. These properties were registered in the names of third parties associated to P. He was subsequently accused of concealing property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime."

The report cited another case of a foreign millionaire, who was involved in the facilitation of tax evasion.

"The Centre received information on suspected fraud involving Mr. X, a foreign national resident in Zambia and shareholder in three companies. It was alleged that Mr. X held assets in excess of US \$30 million in a bank overseas. Of this amount, US \$22 million was from two of his companies in Zambia. A review of the financial statements showed that shareholders had advanced loans to two of the companies that were loss-making for the period 2016 to 2018. The analysis revealed that the companies were transferring funds to Mr. X's personal account in a bank overseas and later received these funds as loans. The high interest payments on the loans put them in a loss-making position, hence reducing their tax liability. Further, the inquiry revealed

that one of the companies was not registered with the Zambia Revenue Authority for any type of tax," the report revealed.

The Centre added that government had continued to lose huge revenues meant for public service delivery due to heightened levels of corruption.

"The Centre received a total of 18 reports involving suspected corruption mostly perpetrated by individuals charged with authority. Government continues to lose funds that are meant for the provision of public goods and services due to corruption. It was observed that individuals used their positions in public institutions to influence the awarding of contracts to companies in exchange for gratification in the form of cash, real estate and motor vehicles," read the report.

The Centre cited a case where some government officials created accounts of ghost workers whom they paid salaries, accumulatively amounting K4 million.

"There were also a number of reports to the Centre on suspected corruption that bordered specifically on fraud and/or bribery. Public servants were the perpetrators who were paid in order to grant favours to business persons, especially foreign nationals. One of the major sources of corruption continues to be single-sourcing of projects, which are non-competitive. The contraction of loans on these projects also attracts usury arrangement fees, in some instances up to nine per cent of the amount of loans contracted. These fees are distributed between agents and persons responsible for the projects in public institutions. Projects under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements and loans contracted by quasi-government bodies from private entities are of particular concern," disclosed the report.

"Public officials with access to payment systems abused their positions and embezzled K4 million. These officials created fictitious accounts onto the system as employees and paid them monthly salaries. The proceeds were used to purchase various properties."

We're still reviewing Zesco's infrastructure, which could be considered common carrier – Ministry

By Diggers Reporter

THE Ministry of Energy says it is still reviewing all of Zesco Limited's transmission infrastructure, which could be considered common carrier in line with the Statutory Instrument (SI) Number 57 of 2020.

And the Ministry says it remains in full support of discussions between Zesco and the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) resuming to enable the two commercial entities to reach an amicable outcome following the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA).

Providing an update on the SI since its promulgation into law, Ministry of Energy acting Permanent Secretary, Sandra Ndhlovu, stated that the Ministry was still reviewing all of Zesco's transmission infrastructure, which could be considered common carrier, to enable other power utilities have access to Zesco's infrastructure in the same way Zesco currently had access to CEC's transmission and distribution lines on the Copperbelt.

On May 29, Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa promulgated SI 57 declaring CEC infrastructure as common carrier.

Government has in the period following the issuance of SI 57 come under much criticism and pressure from an array of interested parties and the public, who view SI 57 as having the intent of expropriating private investment in an attempt to allow the two entities under its control, Zesco and Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), continue to trade on terms that would

not be economical to a private commercial entity such as CEC.

Subsequently, in early June, Zesco agreed to be paid a lower electricity tariff for the continued supply of power to KCM, which is at a reduced rate than what was contained in the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) CEC had with the mine, according to court filings.

But Ndhlovu announced that the Ministry was still reviewing Zesco's infrastructure, a process expected to be concluded soon.

"The review process is still ongoing and should be concluded soon. Zesco has massive infrastructure totalling over 12,000km and needs time to review. The Ministry

is currently reviewing all transmission infrastructure," Ndhlovu stated in response to a press query.

She also stated that the Ministry remained in full support of talks between Zesco and CEC resuming to enable the two commercial entities reach an amicable outcome following their lapsed BSA, which expired on March 31, 2020.

"The Ministry in implementing its mandate to develop and manage the energy sector, encourages constructive dialogue among parties so as to reach a meaningful decision. Further, the Ministry is in full support of discussions resuming and thus does not need to authorise discussions

between the two commercial entities," stated Ndhlovu, who also allayed concerns relating to CEC's massively fallen share price on the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE), which had deteriorated significantly since the start of the second quarter of this year.

CEC's share price fell to K0.76 per share by the end of trading on September 1, 2020, from K1.21 on June 12 amid continued anxieties over the developments surrounding the utility.

The SI is currently being disputed and has ignited court proceedings, as CEC and Zesco seek to resume talks for the possibility of new power supply arrangements.

Former Evelyn Hone College employee sues for unlawful dismissal

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A FORMER Evelyn Hone College employee has dragged the institution to the Lusaka High Court seeking damages for dismissing him on allegations that he solicited money to issue a bursary form from one of the parents to a student at the institution.

Daniel Kabala, who has sued Evelyn Hone college as the defendant, is praying that he be reinstated to his normal duties at the institution or alternatively be compensated K300,000 for wrongful dismissal.

He also wants to be paid his dues, being his basic salary at K3,309,48, transport allowance at 20 per cent of his basic salary, housing allowance at 25 per cent of his basic salary, leave days and gratuity at 32 per cent of his basic pay and any other terminal benefits due to him with interest at the current Bank of Zambia (BoZ) lending rate from the date of dismissal to the date of judgement.

Kabala further wants damages for unlawful dismissal, damages for loss of income from date of dismissal, costs and any further order of the Court.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Kabala stated that he was a resident of Kasaka Farms, Kafue.

He stated that he was employed by Evelyn Hone College on June 6, 2007, not until on December 7, 2016, when he was dismissed.

"The plaintiff (Kabala) shall show at trial that on November 1, 2016, it was alleged by the defendant's management that the plaintiff was alleged to have solicited for money to issue a bursary form from one of the parents to the student at the defendant college," read the claim.

"The plaintiff shall further show that following the said allegations, he was on December 7, 2016, dismissed from the services of the college as a senior patron."

Kabala stated that despite having shown innocence and exculpated himself on December 15, 2016 against false allegations, the college's disciplinary committee went ahead and found him guilty of the allegations and terminated his services.

He claimed that even after being wrongly dismissed, Evelyn Hone College went ahead without his consent to use his mobile line for commercial purposes to generate funds for themselves by placing an advert in print media to all issues relating to the fees for hiring, purchasing and participating fees of gowns during the June/July, 2018, graduation ceremony where he did not benefit anything out of it.

"The plaintiff shall show at trial that, according to the Disciplinary Code, Appeals and Grievances Procedure under the Schedule of Offences and Penalties Clause 7.0 E, there is no charge given to the plaintiff to warrant dismissal," read the claim.

Kabala stated that the defendants had erred in dismissing him as they failed to investigate further on the said allegations in accordance with disciplinary code 6.10.5 (b) as they merely acted on the allegations, contrary to what the code of conduct provides.

He further stated that the institution did err in terminating his services as they failed to charge him with a specific charge as provided for in the Disciplinary Code of Conduct Clause 6.4.1, which provides that the supervisor or other charging officer must charge an employee with an appropriate offence.

Kabala further stated that he believed that his dismissal was unlawful and irregular due to the fact that the defendants acted on a mere allegation and failed to investigate the allegations further to ensure that all the principles of natural justice were applied as provided for in the Disciplinary Code of Conduct.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
THE United Nations (UN) in Zambia says there is no registration fee for citizens registering as potential beneficiaries of the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme (ECT).

In a statement, UN Zambia national information officer Mark Maseko condemned attempts by criminals to delay the programme.

He urged members of the public to beware of fraudsters soliciting money in return for the promise of a future payment under the same UN-funded programme.

“The UN in Zambia has noted with concern recent media reports on the COVID-19 ECT. This is a government programme, which the UN is supporting through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), in keeping with the UN’s core values and principles of neutrality and impartiality with utmost respect for national sovereignty and ownership with a clear focus of leaving no one behind. The public has also been alerted to alleged activities being carried out by fraudsters, who solicit money from the public in return for the promise of a future payment. The UN wishes to condemn any attempt at derailing this very important social assistance programme. No potential ECT beneficiary is charged any registration fee. The UN will continue to support the government to ensure that the right

There’s no fee to access COVID-19 emergency funds – UN

beneficiaries receive the necessary financial support they deserve under the current difficult situation,” Maseko stated.

Maseko revealed that the UN committed to make monthly payments of K400 per household for a period of over six months as part of its effort to address the impact of natural disasters and COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable families.

“In the recent past, the SCT programme has been expanded to address the impact of natural disasters and COVID-19 on lives and livelihoods through

separate ECT initiatives. In response to the drought conditions in many parts of the country in 2019, the UN supported the MCDSS with short-term ECTs to 92,202 households based on those already registered in the SCT programme, selected in 23 drought-affected districts. As part of the Government of Zambia’s COVID-19 response plan, and in line with the UN Zambia’s COVID-19 Emergency

Appeal (food security and social protection pillars), the UN is now supporting the government on a supplementary short-term ECT programme for vulnerable households affected by COVID-19. This programme will make monthly payments per household of K400 over six months,” he explained.

And Maseko stated that the COVID-19 ECT programme would cover 18 districts and reach

an estimated 249,200 households.

“The SCT programme has been running in Zambia since 2003. The UN joint-programme on social protection involves a number of UN agencies – UNICEF, WFP, ILO and UNDP. The beneficiaries in this programme will be made up in part by those already registered in the SCT scheme, and additional households identified as either vulnerable

or food insecure. To ensure careful targeting of the beneficiaries, it was agreed with the government, among others, that this would be done in phases, preceded by a validated database of beneficiaries and a tight payment system. In total, the COVID-19 ECT programme will cover 18 districts and reach an estimated 249,200 households (approximately 1.2 million people),” stated Maseko.

By Ulande Nkomesha
CHAMBESHI Water and Sewerage Company Limited employees have gone for three months without being paid their salaries.

But Chambeshi managing director Luckson Simumba attributes the delay in salary payments to the company’s failure to raise enough revenue, triggered by government’s pronouncement for all utilities not to disconnect households that are defaulting on bill payments.

The workers, who spoke anonymously, engaged News Diggers! in separate interviews to reveal that they were owed three months’ salary arrears.

They also complained about their low wages,

which had negatively affected their livelihoods and standard of living.

“Delayed salaries is the main challenge. Salaries are low and they delay to come and we have no idea why they delay. Generally, we are a water utility that has suffered a lot from our top management. We are not considered as unionised workers; we are in arrears of three months. We are ever promised of change that does not change. Our management does not engage us on anything. All we hear is: ‘the company has no money and government does not fund us.’ Which kind of a government would give out a directive without funding? We never know where the money goes, they spend it on

Chambeshi Water employees in 3 months salary arrears

unnecessary tours, which require heavy funding in allowance. Now, imagine our landlords and other creditors,” the workers said.

“We need your help in spreading our sorrows, mwandi. This company is not as bad as they make it look. We need proper leadership. People who are considerate and less intimidating and manipulative. We are hungry, frustrated and are losing hope in government and top most management as it is. I personally feel that we have been misused. No over-time, one person works for more than 10 hours! We have no freedom of speech. Our representatives are not to be trusted. They don’t stand in for us, but only for their selfish needs. They don’t give us lump sums, they just give us for a month. So, as we are speaking, we are waiting for June salaries. It is not only unionised workers that are not paid on time, even management. But the thing is, management have better salaries than the rest of us. They are always in transit, they are always moving and they have those allowances.”

But Simumba attributed the salary delays to the failure of the company to raise enough revenue due to government’s insistence for utilities not to disconnect households that were defaulting their bill payments.

“I don’t know the issue of low salaries because they negotiate for their own salaries. So, that is not a matter management can respond to. In terms of the

delayed salaries, yes, they have been some delays to pay salaries because of the following factors: it is a well-known factor that the directive not to disconnect customers, who are defaulting to pay for water bills and this has affected our revenues and hence the delays in paying the salaries to the workers, including management. It is not only the unionised staff, but also management. Yesterday, we were in a meeting with the (Water Development) Minister, Honourable Dr Jonas Chanda, who promised that the Minister of Water, Energy and Finance had a tripartite meeting as directed by the President (Edgar Lungu) to bail out the utilities that are worst hit like ourselves,” Simumba narrated in a separate interview.

“So, we are hoping that the water bills that government owes the institution to a tune of K2.5 million, this money has been prioritised to be paid to Chambeshi Water. So, we are hoping that once those funds are received, the first priority is to pay the workers. So, we are hoping that within a short period of time, as promised by the Ministry, the funds will be released by (the Ministry of) Finance. Already, the Ministry of Finance has engaged us in terms of the water bills, so we sent them and we hope that the funds will come.”

Simumba said the struggling water utility had envisaged a payment plan which would reduce interaction between customers and workers in a bid to fight COVID-19.

“In terms of collections with our defaulting customers, we have gone into a payment plan with most of the customers to raise our revenue then we have also created a platform in terms of the mobile payments, customers will be paying from the comfort of their home because you know we are in the COVID period. So, in terms of interaction with our customers, that has actually reduced. That is why we cannot disconnect because of the directive and we can’t visit the properties of these customers. So, we are using a code 265# and they then are paying through MTN, Zamtel and all that,” explained Simumba.

“These are some of the initiatives we are doing and also we are communicating through the radio station to entice our customers to pay, but you know, if you are not disconnecting there is no enforcement of customers to go and pay unless you do a disconnection. So, that has affected our cash flow. But we are doing everything possible to ensure that funds are raised and then we pay the workers and also buy chemicals. It is not only workers per say, we are also looking at chemicals; we are looking at electricity; we are looking at statutory obligations...if we are not meeting all those to balance up our costs, then it may affect in one way or the other in terms of running operations. We are paying workers slowly as much as we raise the money, we pay those that we can so that we are able to reduce our indebtedness with our workers as well.”



LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF LUSAKA PLANNING AUTHORITY

THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING ACT
NO. 3 SECTION 53(2) OF 2015 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), intends to apply for planning permission for change of Land use from Residential to Mixed Use, on Sub 15 and Sub 16 of F/378a, Ibex Hill, City of Lusaka.

The plot measures approximately 8.0925 Hectares and 10.7375 Hectares in extent. The application may be viewed at the Office of The Town Clerk of Lusaka City Council P.O Box 30077, Lusaka and submissions or observations on the application may be made to the planning authority without charge. Submissions or Observations must be in writing and made within the period of 30 days beginning on the first date of the period for the publication of this notice being 2nd September, 2020 and ending on 1st October, 2020.

ALEX MWANSA
TOWN CLERK
For/ CITY OF LUSAKA PLANNING AUTHORITY

Date of erection of a site notice 2nd September, 2020.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has demanded an apology from Forum for Democracy and Development president Edith Nawakwi for calling him a criminal who benefitted from the privatization process of some state owned companies.

Hichilema has further demanded US\$3 million from Nawakwi for the loss he has incurred both locally and internationally due to her defamatory statement against him.

The opposition leader says Nawakwi should meet his demands with 24 hours ending today (Tuesday), as failure to do so would attract court proceedings.

In a statement issued by his lawyer Mulambo Haimbe of Malambo and Company, Hichilema stated that Nawakwi should make a detailed and unreserved retraction and apology to him and publish it in the same manner and with equal prominence to the defamatory statements she made against him.

“Our instructions are that during the programme (Hot FM), and subsequent thereafter on other forms of media, including the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Television, you made false, malicious and defamatory statements against our client whose aim, purpose and effect was, inter alia, to expose our client to hatred, contempt and ridicule; to embarrass him in the eyes of the general public; to lower our client’s reputation in the estimation of right thinking members of society; to cause him to be shunned and avoided; and generally to create an impression in the minds of the global community, given our client’s international repute as a businessman and politician, that our client is a thief and/or a person of miscreant behavior who does not respect the rule of law or deserve to hold public office as President of the Republic of Zambia, for which our client aspires. Consequently, our client has suffered irreparable damage to his reputation, severe embarrassment, harassment, hatred and ridicule in respect of which our client has instructed us to seek reparation from you as we do here,” Haimbe stated.

He stated that Hichilema had suffered severe damages both locally and internationally due to Nawakwi’s statements against him.

“Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, and whilst our client’s right to make any or any further claim against you, in relation to your recent

HH demands \$3m, public apology from Nawakwi

conduct towards him remains fully reserved, our client’s instructions are that the defamatory statements were to the effect that: (a) our client is or was at the material time a criminal; (b) our client involved himself in theft and corruption by alienating a house located on Serval Road in Kabulonga, Lusaka (which you purport belonged to Lima Bank) to himself as liquidator of that institution; (c) our client involved himself in undisclosed illegality regarding the receivership of RAMCOZ; and (d) our client abused the privatization process in general and in particular with regard to the transaction for the sale of the assets of Mosi O Tunya Intercontinental Hotel in Livingstone and related assets which you allege that our client ‘sold to himself,’ Haimbe stated.

“As alluded to above, the allegations contained in the defamatory statement are devoid of any truth. They are malicious and aimed at damaging our client’s hard earned reputation as an astute businessman, as a person worthy of holding office as President of the Republic of Zambia and as a law abiding and God fearing citizen of Zambia, and the world at large, quite aside from being a clear violation of his guaranteed human rights. The defamatory statements were made without due regard for the true factual position regarding the subject matter thereof and in contumelious disregard for the law.”

As compensation for the loss incurred, Haimbe demanded that Nawakwi pays his client a sum of US \$3 million in addition to a retraction of her statement and a public apology.

“Our instructions are therefore to demand the following: (a) a detailed and unreserved retraction and apology from you to be published in like manner and with equal prominence to the defamatory statements, the text of such retraction and apology to be approved by us; (b) that you undertake in writing to desist from making the defamatory statements or any similar statements going forward; (c) while our client recognizes that your actions have caused irreparable harm that cannot be atoned for in monetary terms, you will note that he has been put to great expense and

inconvenience on account of your conduct; (d) this entails that our client has incurred and continues to incur great expense both locally and internationally in order to mitigate the harm that you have caused to him. Our client places the cost of the foregoing, which includes legal costs

incurred thus far, at the conservative sum of US\$3,000,000 which our client hereby demands from you. Our client is amenable to receiving reasonable proposals as to how you intend to settle the said sum. Our client’s rights however remained reserved,” he stated.

Haimbe demanded that the claims be met within 24 hours, ending today or court proceedings would commence against Nawakwi.

“Our client further demands, in view of the pressing nature of this matter that address his demands within 24 hours

hereof, that is to say no later than Thursday, 3rd September 2020, failing which our client will be constrained to take out proceedings before an appropriate forum so as to protect his interests. Should our client be forced to do this, it will be without further recourse to you and at your cost. Kindly note that owing to the public nature of your actions towards our client, we have been instructed to, and do hereby, avail a copy of this letter to the media for their information by way of a press statement,” demanded Haimbe.

Hunger has consumed Nawakwi – Mweetwa

By Julia Malunga

CHOMA Central member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa says hunger has consumed former finance minister Edith Nawakwi as evidenced by her attacks on UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema.

And Mweetwa says Nawakwi is behaving like “a prostitute” who goes for the highest bidder.

Speaking at a press briefing, Wednesday, Mweetwa said people should be wary of politicians who wanted to engage in politics of convenience.

“The people of Zambia should be wary of people who want to do politics of convenience, not politics of service to the nation. In 2006, HH was Nawakwi’s darling fit to be president now HH is a baboon in a maize field simply because hunger has consumed Nawakwi. In 2016 ahead of the elections, the nation will recall that madam Nawakwi was going round some parts of the country donating chickens to women groups and now it has become apparent and clear that whereas she was doing that as a leader of the opposition political party, the truth of the matter is Edith Nawakwi was leading an NGO in the name of political party to champion women’s participation in politics and not running a political party,” Mweetwa said.

“That is why she attracted sponsorship from the Nordic countries which enabled her to be donating those chickens. And in the process, because she had no following and genuine people to speak for her, she had to employ individuals to be her image builders to be speaking for her so that funders in Europe could think she had a viable political party. And once she lost in 2016 miserably...she got less than 50 percent votes at national level than the vote I got here in Choma Central. In one constituency, I got more votes than Edith Nawakwi nationwide. So on that political score, I am more popular to the people of Zambia than Edith Nawakwi. Now that she has realized FDD is dead and that her political misfortunes have come to a dead end, the only way...is to go where kasaka ka ndalama (the bag of money) is to begin to attack HH to please PF.”

He wondered how a person like Nawakwi with a record tainted with corruption and abuse of office could now become an anti-corruption

crusader.

“The issue that has consumed national debate has been the issue to do with privatization which some drum beaters of PF have taken up as a flagship campaign tool to try and discredit the president of the UPND, having seen clearly that now HH is unstoppable, that now the road to State House, the road to the economic recovery of this country, the road to the recovery of our country back to decency and governance of laws and not governance of men is clear. All forms of people are now lining up to join the PF choir to chant slogans and sing on behalf of President Edgar Lungu and the PF because the PF themselves have become so discredited and so disliked by the people of Zambia. No one is willing to listen to them anymore. They now have come up with different discussions. A discussion being championed by the former minister of finance during the Chiluba administration, an administration of corruption, the Chiluba regime will be remembered for leaving a legacy of corruption in this country. That is the administration Nawakwi belonged to. Before that, corruption was a taboo in Zambia. People did not know how to plunder national resources. It had to take the Chiluba regime that Nawakwi belonged to initiate this country to make corruption a part and parcel of life,” Mweetwa said.

“And now, after [her] attempts to become President of Zambia had failed and having concluded in her mind that she stands zero chances, she has gone to join the PF choir, singing praises of the PF, masquerading as an anti-corruption crusader, and for many who know her are now asking how a person with a clear record that remains tainted with corruption and abuse of office, irrespective of the Carlington maize deal, can now go on an anthill and crown herself as number one crusader against abuse of national resources. She has a right to speak on issues of corruption and in any other issues of national importance as a citizen but morally speaking, many people are questioning whether or not she has a higher moral ground where she has perched herself to begin to be number one anti-abuse of national resources campaigner.”

He challenged Nawakwi to speak on her involvement in the Carlington

Maize deal.

“People are now asking: ‘when are we going to be told the full story of the maize scandal that madam Nawakwi was named and in those transactions in Canada to do with the Carlington maize saga?...We would like madam Nawakwi to tell the nation who Ari Ben Menashe is, what is his relationship to her, under what circumstances were they discussing the issues of privatization, where, which hotel, what other things they did and what they talked about? There is a lot about what people know about people who have been in public life and sometimes, people opt to keep quiet because as it is said, it is better to let sleeping dogs lie,” Mweetwa said. “We would like madam Nawakwi to tell the nation what transaction they were making with Ari Ben-Menashe in Canada. We also want an explanation whether it is not true that when they returned from Canada to discuss the issues of privatization in Canada, Francis Kaunda, one of the lead negotiators on the issues of privatization, actually did issue a statement that negotiations of privatization were being made difficult because of Edith Nawakwi.”

He said Nawakwi was behaving like a prostitute.

“In 2006, she wanted HH to become president of the country; 14 years ago when the issue of privatization was newer than today, when Edith Nawakwi was a defector running mate of HH, what has happened? Edith Nawakwi now is behaving like a prostitute who goes for the highest bidder because in 2006, Edith Nawakwi went to bed with HH under the UDA alliance and told this nation that HH was the right person to be president. In 2015, 2016, who has forgotten how Edith Nawakwi told this nation how unfit president Lungu was, how his corrupt PF has been and now she is the spokesperson of PF? A person leading an organization which said PF was incompetent to lead the people of Zambia, to govern Zambia, is now fit to be president of Zambia and HH who was fit 15 years ago, she is now calling him a baboon or chimpanzee in a maize field? Typical prostitute!” said Mweetwa, who also challenged the government to deny allegations that they had set up a task force at the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate Hichilema and pave way for his arrest.

By Ulande Nkomesha
GOVERNMENT'S intention to acquire 90 per cent shares in Mopani is a recipe for disaster because the mine will eventually go down the drain, says Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi.

And Milupi says the government's approach in taking over companies that are in private hands is sending a signal that government does not want Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

In an interview, Milupi said both government and ZCCM-IH had no financial capacity to acquire the shares Glencore was intending to offload.

He explained that government's current indebtedness, coupled with the huge fiscal stress it faced, made it impossible for government to acquire the shares.

"This government now wants to take over upto 90 per cent of the Glencore shares. Mopani has a

Govt can't afford to buy Mopani – Milupi

valuation, which, when I looked at the figures some time back, I think this comes to maybe a billion dollars. Government will not be able to take the mine free of charge, they will have to pay money. So, government has to think carefully, where are they going to get that money? They have depleted the reserves, unless they want to allocate all the remaining reserves to the buying of Glencore, so that they take over Mopani. We are an over borrowed nation in excess of US \$25 billion. Lenders are unwilling to lend Zambia. This government cannot borrow money to come and buy shares in Mopani. So, where are they going to get money? The takeover itself does not make sense because you can't buy something if you don't have the money," Milupi said.

"When you say, 'you will source for funds...' from where? First of all, because of the way they

have conducted themselves, the over borrowed nature, this country is rated very poorly. We are slightly just above junk status if you look at the rating agencies. That means anyone willing to lend to this country they will now charge a fortune, it is called yield rate. ZCCM-IH, if they are saying they are going to source, last time I looked at their balance sheet, I think they have roughly about US \$43 million. Now, you are asking someone who has US \$43 million to buy something that is worth US \$900 million does that make sense? It doesn't make sense. Are they going to borrow? If government itself is failing to borrow from the IMF (International Monetary Fund) how can ZCCM-IH be able to borrow? They should have sat down, resolved the issue with Mopani and charted a way forward."

Milupi said that political interference would

also characterise Mopani's operations if government took over.

"The other aspect I want to mention is that, to operate the mine is not an easy thing. In a situation, now, where there is so much segregation arising from government, there is so much nepotism, there is so much tribalism. People get appointed into quasi-organisations and parastatals one can easily see a situation where as soon as they take over Mopani, which people are going to be appointed? They don't even care about qualifications as we have seen in KCM, they have got a lawyer. So, we will see the same thing being perpetrated in Mopani not on the basis of merit, but on the basis of where people come from. That is a recipe for disaster! In a short time, we will see Mopani going down the drain," Milupi cautioned.

"This government,

the way it is set-up, it is not really positioned to run anything, especially something that pertains to mining, something that pertains to business. I do not think that they are in a position to run. This is not to say that parastatals can't operate, you will need political will, you will need meritocracy, you will need people who will task the board of directors what are the deliverables? You will need a management appointed purely on merit. If you do that, any parastatal can succeed. Going into an election, you will see the PF abusing Mopani in terms of employing their own relatives, cadres; in terms of the direction of business, contracts will now be towards cadres. As we have seen in KCM, as we have seen in Zesco and so on. All these factors put together is a recipe for disaster."

And Milupi observed that government's approach of taking over private sector

companies was sending a negative signal that government was no longer interested in attracting much-needed FDI.

"The last point, when you start to take over these companies that were in private hands, you are sending a clear message to the markets that Zambia does not want Foreign Direct Investment. Whether you like it or not, what you have done in CEC (Copperbelt Energy Corporation), what you are doing in Mopani, what you have done in KCM, you are just saying you don't want Foreign Direct Investment. That is going to impact negatively on the development of this country and creation of employment," said Milupi.

"We have seen that these people will not be stopped by anything. We have seen what happened in KCM, we have seen what happened in Copperbelt Energy without any viable reason, they went and disturbed something that was doing so well. We are now seeing what is going to have in Mopani."

Last Sunday, Mines Minister Richard Musukwa announced that Glencore Plc is facilitating the offloading of 90 per cent shareholding in Mopani to ZCCM-IH following its submission to increase its shareholding in the mining company.

While Musukwa acknowledged that ZCCM-IH did not have money sitting on their profile of this magnitude to purchase Glencore's shares, he explained that the parastatal would be able to galvanise these resources through other entities.

Cabinet will consider creating Office of Procurement General – Lungu

By Julia Malunga
ZAMBIA Institute of Purchasing and Supply (ZIPS) says government gets unfairly attacked over certain contracts because there is no senior procurement officer who can clear the air as well as coordinate that function.

And President Edgar Lungu says Cabinet will consider creating an office to oversee all government procurement in order to restore people's faith in public transactions.

Speaking when the ZIPS executive paid a courtesy call on President Edgar Lungu, Wednesday, ZIPS president Chibwe Mwelwa said having no high ranking office in charge of procurement subjected the process to manipulation.

"When the World Bank and IMF is trying to look at Zambia, they will look at what kind of procurement procedures you are having. Zambia's procurement system is one of the best in Africa. We also know that the Financial Intelligence Center (FIC) report and corruption allegations speak very strongly on procurement. The allegations that this government receives, some of them unfairly, most of them border on the procurement process. The FIC report makes a lot of allegations around the manipulation of the procurement process. Procurement has a huge stake in the realization of the plans in transforming Zambia into an industrious middle income prosperous nation to foster socio-economic justice. The first challenge we are having is the low level position of the procurement in government. This is a big problem," Mwelwa said.

"The highest position one can be in government is deputy director of procurement. We don't have any director of procurement in government, I think we only have one in the army. It creates a very big problem because then the procurement officer is left to some level of manipulation because he has nowhere to report to. If I am head of procurement in the Ministry of Energy for example, I report to a PS, so if I have a problem with the PS, I don't have anywhere to report to. The control of funds in government, there will be Finance, internal audit and procurement. So the finance is very well protected with the Accountant General at PS level, Internal audit very well protected at PS level, procurement has been left without any person to help them or look after. This issue of not having legitimate power in the procurement process has resulted in manipulation of the procurement process. There is no anchor in government. Your Excellency, it sounds like a little joke but procurement is not resident in any position in government. There is no individual who is responsible of procurement in government."

Mwelwa said there was need to create the position of Procurement General.

"We have raised these issues but that problem has created many issues. The problem came because historically, that function was resident in the tender board so the tender board was doing some procurement in the Ministry. When the new act was formed, that role was removed and never replaced. So individuals in the procurement function under the Ministry

of Finance are literally not reporting anyone functionally. This is why this country is very unfair by saying 'the minister has bought this' some of them who are very funny they even say 'the President has bought' because there is no person in government to point at who can explain what happened. And most of those allegations when we listen to them, they are explainable but there is just nobody else who can explain that process," said Mwelwa.

"Some people attempt to explain but they end up saying wrong things in the process. So we feel that if there is a person in government who can be responsible for that, we would be able to answer a number of these things that they say has become a problem. We are proposing to you today for the position of Procurement General. This Procurement General will ensure that there is value for money and will anchor the procurement

process in government. Most people erroneously think that, that is the role of ZPPA but [it] is just a regulator they do not control procurement, they just formulate the laws and make sure they are formulated but the actual implementation in government structure is a very big void."

And President Lungu said he would consider the recommendations.

"I guess what you are talking about is value for money that is what we are all looking for. How the process of procurement can be restored in terms of integrity in the eyes of inspecting Zambians including those cynical Zambians. Mine is simply to encourage you to ensure that both public and private procurement practitioners in the country strive for value for money and give us hope and confidence in the system. The various proposals that you have made will be made will be considered

at looked at by the Minister of Finance and all those others involved in spending resources and also raising the monies," said President Lungu.

"I think that our government is committed that challenges that you face as procurement agencies are dealt with accordingly. But obviously reshuffles and transfers are the prerogative of the employer. I believe that if I hire a lawyer in government, I am free to deploy that person to work anywhere he could be serving under the Ministry of Justice but I can send them wherever I want to. Similarly, yours as professional colleagues is simply to help us make sure that this function is professionally administered by all those who subscribe to your association. As to whether we should create a big office to be in charge of all the procurement function in the country, I think we will look at it as Cabinet."



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Silver Edge

ON August 30, a contact with well-placed sources within government reached out to us and urged us to take FDD leader Edith Nawakwi's privatisation allegations against UPND president Hakainde Hichilema very seriously, no matter how useless they sounded. The contact informed us that government was going to use those allegations she made on Hot FM to arrest the opposition leader. According to this source, the PF government was planning to harm Hakainde Hichilema, but they had been struggling to have access to his body.

Arresting HH over privatisation a dangerous undertaking

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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being fake news. It's hard to believe that government officials at the level of Cabinet Minister sat down to write such a statement. The statement is not only embarrassing, but it also signals unprecedented levels of desperation to stop an opposition leader from participating in an election.

Why is the PF so desperate to arrest Mr Hichilema? What do they want to do to him? Is it true that they want access to his body so that they harm him, or kill him? Is this what the humble, God-fearing President has resorted to? Is this a charge that a reasonable government can rely on to arrest an opposition leader or anyone else for that matter? What kind of reasoning is this? To the Honourable Minister who issued that statement and any other government official, including the President, if he is part of the scheme to arrest and harm Mr Hichilema, we make a simple, earnest appeal: please, do not set the country on fire! There already exists a huge heap of pent-up frustrations and cumulative anger among Zambians for different reasons that all have to do with the failure of the State to meet their yearnings and aspirations. Do not light or set this heap ablaze. The consequences of the explosion might be too horrific to ever imagine.

"The PF have been looking for potential cases on which they can arrest Mr Hakainde Hichilema. Unfortunately, they found nothing after a long search. The ruling leadership then hatched a plan to arrest Mr Hichilema for his role in the privatisation of State companies during the era of president Frederick Chiluba. Madam Nawakwi's allegations are useful for this purpose. The PF thinks that Zambians, many of whom were either not born or too young at the time, are likely to believe whatever she says because she was Minister of Finance at the time of privatisation. The primary motive behind the impending arrest is to have access to his physical body, not to convict Mr Hichilema since any trial would expose the bogus nature of the charges and the serious weaknesses in the

prosecution's case. Once they have Mr Hichilema in police custody, the plan is to eliminate him. However, some people in power are of the view that killing him can set the country on fire. Instead, they are proposing that it's better to find a pliant judge who would be willing to convict Mr Hichilema and disqualify him from running for the Presidency," reported the informant, adding: "It is like they regret not killing him when he was in remand prison for treason."

We are not too much into conspiracy theories, and so we gave very little attention to this intel, which sounded quite unthinkable to us. In our view, we stated to the informer that this was too far-fetched. We argued that the PF may have gotten away with the bogus treason charge in 2017 without creating a crisis, but arresting the biggest opposition leader months before a

contentious election, let alone eliminating him, would turn this country upside down. "The PF leadership would have to be completely out of their minds to adopt such a foolish strategy, and only a mad person in government would authorise a dangerous scheme of that nature," we stated.

To our shock, even before the statement from the Chief Government Spokesperson, Dora Siliya, could circulate to the public on Tuesday, the contact reached out to us again showing us the same document and saying: "This is what I was warning you about. Like I told you, they want to use madam Nawakwi's allegations to arrest Mr Hichilema so that they can have access to his body. This is very sad. How can a nation be led or rather misled to self-destruction this way?"

In her statement, Honourable Siliya stated

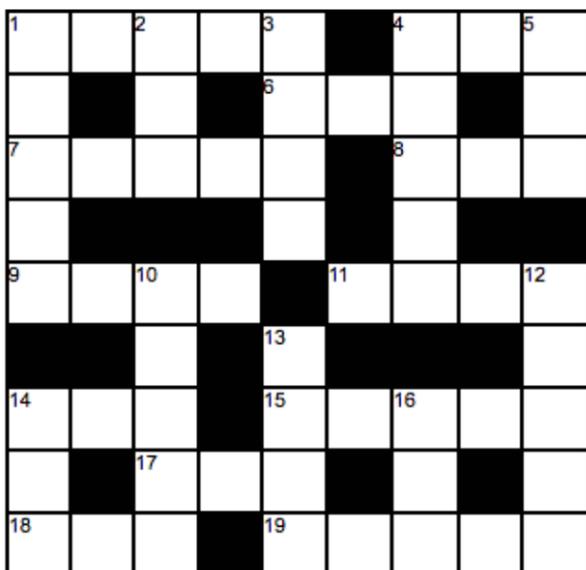
as follows: "Nawakwi, through her various media engagements, has categorically stated that Mr Hichilema failed to declare interest, while presiding over the sale of public assets in which he had personal interest. Government finds Mr Hichilema's conduct, if true, to be a clear case of corrupt practices, bordering on non-declaration of interest, in winning a bid. Government is, therefore, studying the matter and is following closely the reaction by the citizens who are the true owners of the property in question. The nation will be informed of the steps that the government will take, should it become necessary to act on behalf of the citizens of Zambia."

The statement from the Minister also tallies well with the political analysis given by UNZA lecturer Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa who also stated as follows:

"PF are creating the pretext on which they may move to arrest Hichilema soon for being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of corruption. I heard Nawakwi the other day saying that Hichilema dubiously acquired a house in Lusaka and inviting State investigative wings to arrest him. What Nawakwi is doing, however, is to push to the front the privatisation issue because Hichilema is gaining momentum. She is doing so in a way that suggests that the PF are building a profile for his arrest on a bogus charge of corruption. And who knows what they may do to Hichilema when he is in detention?"

We still don't pay too much attention to outrageous conspiracy theories, but this does not look like a baseless conspiracy theory anymore. Reading the strange statement from the Minister, one would not help but imagine it

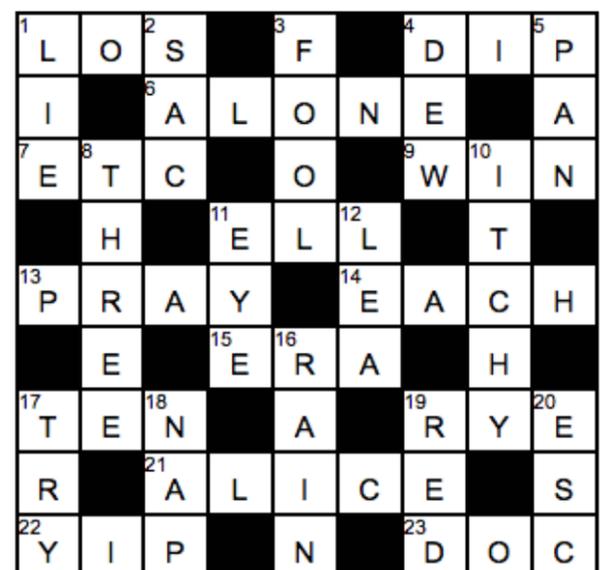
Crossword puzzle No 682



"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you."
- Shannon Alder

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comes up short 4. Deli choice 6. Target towards a goal 7. Lag behind 8. Far from friendly 9. Not common 11. Relinquish 14. Business name abbr. 15. Played a role 17. Egyptian cobra 18. Psychic's claim 19. Current style or fashion | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not now 2. Resort 3. A seasoning 4. Amused look 5. Opposite of sell 10. Postgame summary 12. Concluded 13. Engrossed 14. Anger 16. Kickoff aid |
|---|---|

Crossword puzzle No 681



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: Time will come for the PF tycoons to explain their hefty donations

Editor,
 "And yet PF want to paint a picture as though HH was no accomplished success as a corporate executive, as though he was a good for nothing loafer before

privatization". - David M Mwanangombe
 "Please Can the Govt pay the 3500plus civil servants retrenched in 1999 since it has this kind of money to dish out.Civil Societies

and the Church please Speak For these suffering people some of whom have since died". - Muchindu Mwaanga

"Bowman used to walk from the MMD Secretariat to home just 6 years ago, Kaamba used to sell junta at comesa today they are millionaires, chilufya just used to own some lodge used for short time

in Mansa not worth more than k300,000, today he is worth k20m, and bamudala, in 2015, worth, k2m, in 2016, K22m not knowing which number will be in front of K_00m? Anyways time will come for the. To tell us whether it was satanism or stealing?" - Che Guavara

"Easy come easy go!!" - Simon Walden

'NRCs were given to PF strongholds'

Editor,
 "What is happening in our country is amazing. Are we not ashamed of drama building up as 2021 elections draws near. Honestly some provinces were granted chance to obtain NRCs whilst others are not given such chance. Sure Zambia my beloved country what has happened to ??? God intervene in the current happenings". - Emmanuel Fulawulu

this institution like its their own personal company where they dont have to consult anybody". - Mutinta Mulonda

"But why postpone the NRC issuance after giving everyone in the Northern corridors?" - Peter Mwape

"So after issuing nrcs to strong holds using government machinery. Some un civilised people are now saying other places dont pay taxes and have no right to vote. Please opposition insure this case is given urgent attention before courts of law". - Sylvester Moomba

"ECZ is an Incompetent institution not fit for purpose, they run

'Nawakwi should know privatisation issue a non-starter'

Dear editor,

"No need to use the gender card trying to hoodwink people! She's one of the reasons women's political clout in this country is being undermined. She, herself, has been recklessly scathing in her criticism of her male adversaries". - Douglas Simonda

"We know you weren't the only one involved but you've been the most outspoken in the last few days, what did you expect would happen?" - Dalitso Daniel Ngoma

You singled out HH yet he is not the only economist who was involved in privatisation of national assets, yet imwe u don't want to be singled out. Don't hate the player but hate the game, You started this. The best is to go to court if u don't want to be singled out!" - Mable Kayula

"The more pressing issue as at now is the Kwacha , otherwise the privatization issue

is a non starter. It happened more than thirty years ago. It should just be used as a lesson in civics or history. Work on the valueless kwacha because it is disturbing our projections". - Paul Mushota

"Each time when this woman is on radio,she sounds like someone who has been sponsored to talk ill of someone who never served in government. Nawakwi and her friends robbed Zambia the future it deserved by privatizing companies. I get bored with her ongoing talk of issues that happened 20 years ago. She is playing cheap politics. To what end does this

a non-starter'

benefit us today? We want to discuss issues that are affecting us today and those that will affect us in the future". - Lee Clive Nalumino Nyambe

"You singled out hh yourself why should you complain? please stop politics of personal vindettas .you served as finance minister in the chiluba government where were you when HH was stealing? sleeping on duty ? Kkkkkkkkkk . just forget about the promissory notes and mobilise your FDD". - Sylvester Chungu

FIC's withholding of 2019 Trends Report

Editor,

"So the reason why the fic report has been withheld is because of scandals which can cause someone to faint. Your resignation ba acting director general indicates that at least we still have people of integrity who cannot sell their souls to the devil for three pieces of silver. May God give more wisdom to not tolerate stupidity of shielding corrupt fools". - Kajuba Mazuba

"Then disband it, why having an institution that it's mandate is being politically controlled??? Kudos to FIC Director for her resignation. The FIC report is a vital report because it's a financial litmus of the Nation". - Ashu Madiba

"Carders have infested FIC, ACC, ZRA, ZESCO, BOZ and the courts. Such a doomed way of governance by this rogue regime". - Chaka Kelly

"PF criminals shielding their loots..this report must be unearthed at all cost....can someone expose these thieves..." m- Kool Int

"Let's hold leaders in government accountable. Why did the DG resign and why has the report delayed? Public needs to know". - Mary Mulenga



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.



Misuse of Covid-19 funds 'frightening'

AN investigation into the use of South Africa's Covid-19 relief fund has revealed "frightening findings", the auditor general says.

Kimi Makwetu described overpricing and "potential fraud".

He said in some cases personal protective equipment (PPE) was bought for five times more than the price the national treasury had advised.

The report also has flagged up 30,000 relief grants which "require further investigation".

Mr Makwetu has been tracking the spending of 500 billion rand (\$26bn; £19bn) which is equivalent to 10% of the country's gross domestic product.

"A lot of the effort that we put into this on the detection side of things has revealed a

number of frightening findings that require to be followed up very quickly so that there is no significant passage of time before the required actions are implemented," he said at a press conference on Wednesday.

The allocated funds were meant to assist vulnerable households with food parcels, unemployment grants, support small business, farmers and to also procure personal protective equipment.

Will the corrupt get caught?

By Nomsa Maseko, BBC News, Johannesburg

Corruption was "amplified" - that's the term used by South Africa's auditor general in his report on the misuse of funds which were aimed at mitigating the impact of coronavirus in the country.

Wednesday's

announcement of the damning findings has angered many who had suspected there was fraud and corruption in how the government dealt with the allocation of funds, particularly the millions of dollars which were supposed to purchase PPE for schools and hospitals.

South Africans expect President Cyril Ramaphosa to act decisively on this issue.

It appears he has already begun.

Politicians accused of corruption, particularly those within the governing ANC, were told to resign and open themselves up for investigation by law enforcement agencies who have started to investigate many illegal transactions which took place.

But South Africans want to see real action - they want to see



politicians facing trial and being convicted for corruption.

That's the only way to convince them that the government is serious about tackling corruption.

In May, South Africa introduced social relief of distress grants of 350 rand per month for people who are unemployed.

But Mr Makwetu said the system was vulnerable to hackers, fraud and "double dipping".

Out of four million people in the database he said the "somewhere around 30,000 beneficiaries require further investigation".

He also said there was a need for the area of procurement of

PPE to be "further scrutinised" as "there are instances of the price being 200% and, in some instances, five times more" than the price the national treasury had advised.

He referred a list of cases pointing to the high risk of fraud to investigators and is expected to publish a fuller report in November. **BBC**

Ethiopia plans massive free bread hand-out

THE authorities in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa plan to distribute hundreds of thousands of loaves of bread for free as part of celebrations to mark the Ethiopian new year, 2013.

The one-day treat, on Monday 7 September, will start five days of celebration to mark the last month of the Ethiopian calendar.

Back in June, the government unveiled a huge bakery on the outskirts of the capital.

Officials say it has the capacity to

produce two million mid-size loaves of bread a day.

A government official shared a video of the Sheger bakery in operation during the launch.

It is not clear how many loaves are planned to be baked in this bakery and how much it would cost the city authorities.

Bread is a favourite food in Addis Ababa and queues outside bakeries are common.

Ethiopians will celebrate New Year 2013, on 11 September, 2020. **BBC**

THE Zimbabwean government has announced that schools will be reopened in two weeks for students who will sit for examinations later in the year.

Those preparing to sit for Cambridge examinations will resume on 14 September.

Students preparing for Zimbabwe School Examinations Council (Zimsec) exams scheduled for 1 December, will return to school on 28 September.

The cabinet made the decision after consultations with education and health officials.

Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said

Zimbabwe to reopen schools in two weeks

the two weeks were enough for measures to be put in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Zimbabwe has 6,559 confirmed cases of Covid-19 according to the country's health ministry.

The World Health Organization and Unicef last month urged African nations to consider reopening schools safely to secure the future of children who were being affected by the long

closure.

Meanwhile, Malawi's new President Lazarus Chakwera has reappointed the country's army commander sacked by his predecessor after troops protected protesters contesting elections marred by fraud.

Mr Chakwera said the appointment of General Vincent Nundwe as commander of Malawi Defence Force took effect immediately. **BBC**



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CAF unveils final calendar for continental games

By Abraham Kalito
THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has unveiled the final calendar for all continental competitions set for the 2020/2021 season which begins in September.

While the current season of CAF competitions, including the champions league and the Confederations Cup, is yet to conclude, Africa's football governing body have decided to release

the new calendar for the upcoming season. CAF has clarified to Member Associations (MAs) which of their teams would be allowed to participate in the upcoming editions.

The new guidelines were released on Tuesday on their official website.

"Member Associations (MA) are requested to register their representatives on the CAF Content Management System (CMS) guided by the following scenarios; For MA's that completed the 2019/20 season, the engaged teams

shall be the teams qualified from their national competitions for 2019/20 in accordance with the criteria of engagement as stated in Articles 2 and 3 Chapter 4 of the regulations. For MAs that did not complete the 2019/20 season but set a criteria to classify the teams or homologate the standings in the national competitions for 2019/20, the engaged teams shall be the teams qualified from the national competitions 2019/20 in accordance with the criteria of engagement as stated in Articles 2 and 3 Chapter 4 of the

regulations," it stated.

"For MAs that could not complete the 2019/20 season and considered the season canceled, the engaged teams will be the same representatives for the 2019/20 Interclubs season taking into consideration the quota of each association according to their ranking. For MAs yet to complete their season or unable to finish before the engagement deadline, they will be requested to choose one of the above-mentioned criteria to determine their representative(s) subject to the approval of CAF."

CAF also released the ranking of the top Member Associations, based on how their representative clubs performed in various competitions over the past five years.

Zambia was ranked 7th just behind South Africa while Morocco topped the list.

Egypt and Tunisia are in second and third place respectively. Democratic Republic of Congo, Algeria and South Africa all came before Zambia in that order while Nigeria Guinea and Angola fell behind the copper bullets.

Man Utd sign Van de Beek in £35m deal



MANCHESTER United have completed the signing of Donny van de Beek from Ajax, having agreed to pay £35 million (€39m/\$46m) plus £4m in add-ons for the Netherlands international midfielder.

The 23-year-old joins on a five-year deal with the option to extend for an additional season.

Terms of the deal were agreed on Sunday between the clubs, and the transfer has now been made official by the Old Trafford side after they reached an accord over personal terms with the player, who has also passed a medical.

Van de Beek, who was not involved as Ajax tackled Eintracht Frankfurt and Union Berlin in friendlies over the weekend, has therefore become United's first signing of the 2020 summer transfer window.

Speaking to Man Utd's official website, the Dutchman said: "I cannot begin to explain how incredible an opportunity it is to join a club with such an amazing history.

"I would like to thank everyone at Ajax. I grew up there and I will always have a special bond with the club.

"I am now ready to take the next step in my career and perform at the highest level and there is no higher standard than Manchester United. **GOAL.COM**

Zambia in 'easy' draw for 8-nation U-15 tourney

By Ngosa Chalwe
ZAMBIA has been handed a seemingly easy draw in this month's eighth nations Under-15 tournament dubbed "Vlatko Markovic" scheduled for Croatia.

Last year, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Croatian FA on the sidelines of a FIFA congress held in the French capital Paris.

The agreement included, among other things, exchange programmes aimed at the development of youth football between the two countries.

In the follow up to that MOU, Zambia was invited

to participate at the junior tournament which will feature players who are under the age of 15.

According to the fixtures released by FAZ communications manager Sydney Mungala, Wednesday, Zambia will be in Group B alongside Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

The junior Chipolopolo

boys will be the only African side at the tournament which will also feature the hosts Croatia alongside Group A opponents Qatar, Montenegro and Bulgaria.

Zambia, who will be drilled by Super Division side Red Arrows coach Chisi Mbewe, will first take to the turf against North Macedonia on September 23, before squaring off with Bosnia and Herzegovina in

their second match.

They will face Romania in the final group match on September 25.

The final ties will be staged on September 27 to decide the winners, with the bottom placed sides facing each other to decide the eighth and seventh placed side while the race for fifth place will be between the third best placed sides in each of the two groups.

Messi would need 'cojones' to join Real Madrid, says Kroos

LIONEL Messi would be highly unlikely to swap Barcelona for Real Madrid and would need to show "cojones" to remain if Spain if he departs Camp Nou, says Toni Kroos.

The future of Argentina superstar Messi remains shrouded in doubt after he made the club aware of his intention to leave following Barca's humiliating 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Messi did not show up for pre-season training this week, nor did he appear for coronavirus testing on Sunday, as he believes a clause in his contract is now active making him a free agent - something Barca dispute.

A reunion with Pep Guardiola at Manchester City is seen as the likeliest outcome should Messi seal

a spectacular exit, with Barcelona presidential hopeful Victor Font expressing his belief that the Premier League club are the 'top candidate' to sign the 33-year-old.

Kroos also sees that as a possibility, but the Blancos star cannot imagine Messi becoming a Madrid teammate any time soon.

"I do not think he will come to Real Madrid, if I have to rule it out categorically," he said on the Einfach mal Luppen podcast with his brother Felix.

"To stay in Spain: You need cojones for that. I think hardly anyone in the football world can imagine Barcelona without Messi."

Kroos added "that it could most likely be Pep and City" for Messi, while admitting Barca losing a player of his calibre would

not be a bad thing for La Liga champions Madrid.

"If one of those players no longer plays in the rival team, one can imagine that we do not consider it as something necessarily bad," Kroos, whose Madrid side overhauled Barca to win the title last season, said.

"Messi away from Barcelona means that Barcelona lacks a total weapon."

Kroos is preparing for a Nations League double-header against Spain and Switzerland and revealed he is no longer told by Germany head coach Joachim Low when he has been selected for international duty, only if he is being rested.

"It's actually like this, if I don't hear anything from Jogi, I'll travel there too," he said. "Regardless of whether I'm nominated or not." **GOAL.COM**

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NKWAZI TARGETS

Messi would need 'cojones' to join Real Madrid, says Kroos

Story page 11

HONOURS

By Ngosa Chalwe
AFTER a dismal display that saw them finish the league just two places above the relegation zone, Nkwazi coach Dennis Makinka says the club needs to challenge for honours next season. Over the seasons, Nkwazi have struggled to be counted among the consistent teams in the top flight oftentimes, leaving to the last days of the season to survive relegation. This is in contrast to other defence and security service sponsored

teams like Green Buffaloes, Green Eagles and Red Arrows who have proved to be a force in the topflight. Makinka said in an interview yesterday that he was looking to turn the fortunes of the team when the season kicks off in October. "No team wants to just participate. We want to compete for honours, maybe to play in the ABSA Cup, finish in the top four or top eight, it will be okay," Makinka said. "We are trying to build a new team, not completely new but we had new

players who came in during the mid-season so we need to get to know each other well." The Zambia Police sponsored outfit finished on 12th position with 32 points, managing six wins, 14 draws and seven losses in 27 matches played before the close of the season. Makinka said there was a need to change the situation where the team was fighting relegation from the onset of the season. "This is why we train, we want

to finish in better places and not always fighting relegation like the season which just ended, we were fighting relegation from week four," said Makinka. "This time around, we want to improve, make new mistakes, not every time making the same mistakes. We want to do something new, we want to try something else." The 2020/2021 season is expected to kick off next month depending on the COVID-19 situation in the country.

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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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