



TIZ ASKS ACC TO PROBE PF DONATIONS

...as you ask HH to explain his wealth, you must do the same

By Julia Malunga
TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should take interest in the hefty donations being made by government officials. On Sunday, Patriotic Front Copperbelt Mobilization Committee chairperson Bowman Lusambo donated K70, 000 and K50,000 cash to Roan and Mpatamato marketeers in Luanshya respectively. Commenting on the donations in an interview,

TIZ executive director Maurice Nyambe called on the government to give the ACC the freedom and space to conduct investigations. "It is a big concern to us when you look at the period we are in. In some circles, that can actually be political corruption because what is the purpose of giving those donations? Yes, people say 'it is helping to recover from COVID-19' but I think it raises a lot of questions. Even the source of the money,

yes you can say someone has been in business for a long time but I think if you are going to ask the same questions that are being asked, for example that somebody like Hakainde Hichilema needs to show us his source of his wealth, then the same questions can be asked to senior government officials who are going round dishing out money. I think the ACC should take interest in some of these things," Nyambe said.

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Kwacha yet to reach worst levels - Musokotwane

By Ulande Nkomesha
FORMER finance minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane says Zambians should brace themselves for harsher economic times as the local currency is expected to depreciate further against other convertibles. *Story page 4*

There's a headwind coming, economy in ICU- Vernon

By Julia Malunga
VETERAN politician Vernon Johnson Mwaanga says it is shocking that while the economy is in the intensive care unit, government officials are arrogantly exhibiting scandalous opulence, which is way above their salaries and allowances. *Story page 10*



Privatization debate not a PF baby - Sunday

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) media director Sunday Chanda says the ruling party has nothing to do with the debate around privatization as it is an issue between UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his FDD counterpart Edith Nawakwi. And Chanda says PF identifies with the suffering of the masses, given the escalating cost of living and doing business. *Story page 10*

IG warns against ferrying of cadres to Lukashya, Mwansabombwe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
INSPECTOR General of Police Kakoma Kanganja says the command is aware of some political parties who are mobilising cadres from different parts of the country for transportation to Lukashya and Mwansabombwe constituencies ahead of the by-elections. *Story page 7*

We may have more COVID cases than what's being recorded - MOH

Story page 10

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FAR HE HAS GIVEN US ONLY
ONE JOB.**

THE JOB OF GETTING HIM OUT



**NO MORE PF
PROMISES**

#BallyWillFiXIt 

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SENIOR Chief Mukupa Katandula of Nchelenge District in Luapula Province on Monday appeared before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on summons, as a shareholder and director in Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited.

This is in relation to a complaint that has been lodged in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court against Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited for failure to surrender two water permits to the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) within seven days as stipulated in the Notice of Surrender.

The traditional leader earlier said chiefs had not done anything wrong to authorize Luapula Hydropower to invest in power generation at the Kabwelume and Kundabwika waterfalls.

Chief Mukupa could, however, not take plea in the matter after a prosecutor from WARMA applied to amend the indictment to include two directors of Luapula Hydro Power Corporation Limited, Brian Chisala and Katambi Bulawayo.

Other chiefs who are shareholders in Luapula Hydropower Corporation are the Chitimukulu, who holds the stake on behalf of the Bemba Royal Establishment (BRE), Chief Kapena (Nchelenge), Chief Mumpolokoso, Chief Mushota (Kawambwa) and the Mwata Kazembe of the Lundas of Luapula Province.

And speaking to journalists before he appeared in court, Chief Mukupa said Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited was one such project which was benefiting chiefdoms in the Province, adding that as traditional leaders, they authorised the company to operate in their chiefdom so that it helps develop the area.

In the matter before court, Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited, Chisala and Bulawayo are charged with one count of failure to surrender water permits contrary to the provisions of section 86 (2) of the Water Resources Management Act No.21 of 2011.

It is alleged that Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited, being a company incorporated in Zambia and having its registered office at Plot No. 62 Roan Road, Kabulonga, Lusaka, and the two directors between August 7 and 27, 2020 in Lusaka, having been served with a Notice of Surrender of Water Permits Numbers 10371 and 10372 failed to surrender the permits as required by Section 86 of the Water Resources Management Act No.21 of 2017.

And according to a complaint lodged against the said accused persons before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court, Monday, WARMA stated that Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited, having been served with a Notice of Surrender of Water Permits numbers 10371 and 10372 on Friday, August 7, 2020 failed to surrender them within seven days as stipulated in the Notice of Surrender.

"The accused herein contravened the requirements of the Act by failing to

Surrender Water Permits numbers 10371 and 10372 within seven days contrary to the provisions of section 86 (2) of the Water Resources Management Act No.21 of 2011," read the complaint.

And when the matter came

There's nothing wrong chiefs did to authorise Luapula Hydro to invest in power generation – Chief Mukupa



Chief Mukupa Katandula of the Tabwa speaking people of Kaputa district at Lusaka Magistrates' Court on Monday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

up for plea before magistrate Nthandose Chabala, Monday, WARMA in-house lawyer Chapatama Ngaba applied that the indictment be amended to add Chisala and Bulawayo as directors of the company as the second and third accused persons in the matter.

Magistrate Chabala in her ruling granted the said application to amend the indictment as the law allowed that an indictment could be amended at any stage of trial before the accused were placed on defence.

Ngaba then applied for an adjournment following the amendment of the charge sheet in order to serve the two other accused persons.

The matter comes up on September 21, 2020 for plea.

In this matter, the accused persons are represented by defence lawyers Jonas Zimba, John Mulwila and Chimuka Maggubwi.

Speaking in an interview earlier before he appeared in court, Chief Mukupa said there

were rules and regulations that they followed to be part of the projects, adding that Luapula Hydropower Corporation Limited was one such project which was benefiting chiefdoms in the Province.

"Without this company nothing can be done. No wonder as chiefs, we asked the company to operate so that so it can bring development. We have many schools without power. We have problems in hospitals without electricity.

We are happy as chiefs to appoint this company to bring development to our chiefdoms. The project was not only benefiting people in his chiefdom but the entire country," chief Mukupa said in Bemba.

He further said there was nothing wrong that the traditional leaders had done in authorising the said company to generate electricity in the Chief.

Chief Mukupa added that as chiefs, they were the owner of the land and had to bless every project that take off in their chiefdoms.

Bill 10 matter still in court, its mischievous for Lubinda, parley to comment on it - Mwiimbu

By Julia Malunga

MONZE Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu says Parliament and Minister of Justice Given Lubinda are trying to be mischievous by suggesting that the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 will be tabled in the next parliamentary session.

On Monday, Clerk of the National Assembly Cecilia Mbewe said Bill 10 would be resuscitated and restored to the Order Paper in the parliamentary session which resumes on September 11, 2020.

But in an interview, Mwiimbu said the matter was still in court.

"I want to state that Parliament and the Minister of Justice are very mischievous over issues pertaining to Bill 10. They are aware that the matter is in court and the court has not rendered its judgment on the same; therefore, it baffles me for them to be commenting on a matter that is in court. Are they trying to influence the court to make a decision in favor of parliament? If that is their intention, that is very unfortunate. Courts must be left to operate independently without influence. How can they be talking about bringing the Bill on the floor of the House when they know that the matter is in court? They (Parliament) have always been insisting that when a matter is in court, commenting on it is sub judice. I have no doubt in my mind that what they are telling the nation is sub judice. I urge them to desist from making comments pertaining to Bill 10. Let us wait for the courts to render judgment on this matter," said Mwiimbu

Mbewe said like any other Bill that lapsed due to the abrupt adjournment of Parliament, Bill 10 was no exception.

"Yes, like all other Bills that lapsed due to the abrupt adjournment of Parliament, Bill 10 will be resuscitated and restored to the Order Paper in accordance with Standing Order Number 126 of the Standing Orders of the House," said Mbewe.

Parliament adjourned sine die on July 21, 2020, ahead of schedule due to escalating cases of COVID-19 at the time, which saw 15 members of parliament and 11 staff of the National Assembly testing positive to the novel Coronavirus.

And on July 23, 2020, Lubinda had clearly indicated that Bill 10 would return to Parliament, whether opposers liked it or not.



COPPERBELT ENERGY CORPORATION PLC

Notice and Agenda of the Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc will be held on Wednesday, 30th September 2020 at 10:00 hours via Zoom and a call back telephone service on the link provided below, at which the following business will be transacted:

1. To consider and adopt the minutes of the Twenty-First AGM held on Friday, 29th March 2019.
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019, together with the Report thereon of the Auditors.
3. To ratify the dividend payment made on 4th March 2019.
4. To consider and adopt the recommendation for the appointment of Messrs PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the Company.
5. To elect Directors of the Company in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company.
6. To consider and approve the variation in the remuneration of the Directors.
7. To transact such other business as may properly be transacted at an AGM.

A Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy by form of proxy or power of attorney to attend and vote in his/her/its place. Such proxy need not be a Member of the Company. The instrument appointing a proxy and, if applicable, the authority under which it is signed, must be deposited at the office of the Company Secretary at Headquarters, 23rd Avenue Nkana East, Kitwe or alternatively deposited at the Lusaka offices of CEC on 2nd Floor Green City, Stand 2374, Kelvin Siwale Road, Off Thabo Mbeki Road, Lusaka opposite the showgrounds or sent by email to the Company Secretary at chailaj@cec.com.zm, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

By order of the Board

Julia C Z Chaila (Mrs)
Company Secretary

NOTES

(a) The AGM will be held electronically and streamed live through Zoom and a telephone call back facility using the details that will have been shared with Members after successful registration on the link below:

Registration Link: <https://eagm.creg.co.zw/eagm/Login.aspx>

Telephone Call Back Number: +260 211 450073
NB: The call will be at no cost to Members.

- (b) Please note that Members are required to register for the AGM in advance of the meeting on the link provided in (a) above.
- (c) To register for the AGM, a Member must have a working email and an active cell phone number.
- (d) The window for registration for the AGM shall be open on Wednesday, 9th September 2020 and automatically close at the commencement of the AGM on Wednesday 30th September 2020.
- (e) After registering, a Member will receive a confirmation email and SMS (text) containing information about joining the AGM.
- (f) After registering, a Member will also receive their Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE) ID number which they must have on the day of the AGM in order to vote on the resolutions.
- (g) To fully participate in the AGM, a Member must have a reliable internet connection.
- (h) Queries on how to log into the AGM, registration or on the voting process can be channeled to Corpserve Transfer Secretaries on mobile numbers +260979420470 (Joseph Phiri) or +260977519641 (Mutinta Chileshe) by email on info@corpservezambia.com.zm; Joseph@corpservezambia.com.zm; Mutinta@corpservezambia.com.zm or to the Copperbelt Energy Corporation Telecommunications and Information Systems Department on mobile numbers + 260966826759 (Choolwe Nalubamba), + 260 965835700 (Parton Chulu) or 260 967686924 (Mainza Mwiinga) and by email to nalubambac@cec.com.zm; chulup@cec.com.zm and mwiingam@cec.com.zm.
- (j) In accordance with Article 12.1 (2) of the Articles of Association of the Company, two Members holding between them a majority in nominal value of the issued ordinary shares of the Company present in person or by proxy will be deemed to form a quorum.
- (k) Ordinary Resolutions are passed if more than half of the votes are cast in favour of the resolution.

Other Details

Members are advised that the Company has a website providing information on the AGM. Posted on the website are copies of the Notice and Agenda for the AGM, the appropriate Forms of Proxy, the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2019 and other relevant documents. The Company's web address is <https://cecinvestor.com>.

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Mine Workers' Union of Zambia (MUZ) says government's intention to buy 90 per cent shares in Mopani Copper Mines from Glencore will redeem the mine's operations.

In an interview, MUZ president Joseph Chewe hailed government's recent announcement of its intention to acquire Glencore's 90 per cent shareholding in Mopani, saying the move will help resuscitate the mining company.

Chewe argued that unionised workers could no longer trust expatriates to run the company as it had continued to retrench workers.

"It's Mopani who wants to put the mine on care and maintenance, how does nationalisation come in when it is Glencore, who is not willing to be in this country like they have done in Congo, South Africa they have also closed mines, they don't want to be mining, they want to be trading. People promised that privatisation will bring good things, that it will bring jobs, mines will be (well) capitalised. The investor can no longer be trusted to run our mines. Look at Vedanta how they have ripped the mine, you will cry if you go to KCM (Konkola Copper Mines)! You will cry how they run down the mine and these are privatised mines," Chewe said.

"What Mopani has done in the last 20 years of existence, they have sent more people into graves; they have sent more people into destitution than ZCCM. When we were working under ZCCM, there was job security; you will get a job until you retire if you are not dismissed on disciplinary issues. Mopani, yes, they have invested, but there has been no sustainability on jobs. It has been quarrel after quarrel! Even suppliers

Govt take-over of Mopani will revive mine operations – MUZ

and contractors have been complaining, all the big contracts are going to South Africa and outside. So, who has been benefiting in Mopani?"

Chewe said the privatisation of mines had relegated Zambians to more suffering and poverty.

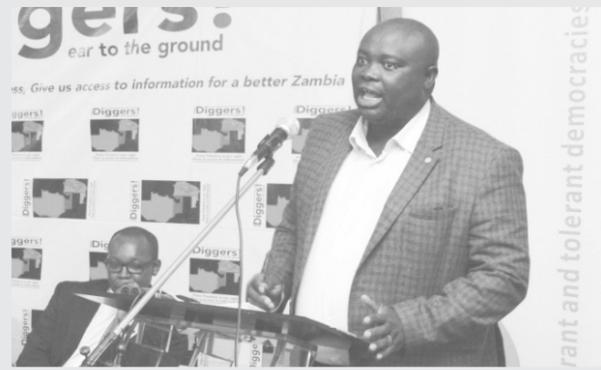
"That privatisation (process) made Zambia lose out and development retarded in terms of the mines that were privatised. So, we, the people on the ground, in terms of jobs, we have lost out. Have you heard any government institutions say, 'they are going to put this institution on care and maintenance and retrenchment' like what we have witnessed in the last 20 years? The World Bank and the IMF cheated this country that privatisation is going to work, it has never worked here. It is not government, but it is Glencore who wants to go. People are suffering here!" Chewe complained.

"What is important to know is what mistake did ZCCM make, for instance, government was getting more money from ZCCM operations that is how it collapsed. You remember Kaunda was getting money from KCM to build a bridge in Eastern Province, to build a bridge in Northern Province, government was getting money to pay students at UNZA and other projects, so that was the problem. Having known those mistakes, that is where we can work on those issues. Look at the Chinese mines, all the Chinese mines that we have in Zambia, Luanshya Mines, it is CNMC (China Nonferrous Metal Mining Company) and it is government; Chambeshi

Mines is CNMC and it is a government institution. That is why China is rich, the money goes to government and not individuals."

And he said that it was better for government to control mining companies as this would sustain miners' livelihoods.

"People are not working, for instance, Mopani closed the central shaft and they also shut Mindolo North, but Copper is there, so what was the intention? Ill intention! We are far much better under a government watch because anyone who will be President they will be held accountable. Now, can you hold accountable where the owner is in Switzerland? He makes decisions that are not



favourable for local Zambians that depend on that asset. So, they (government) are not nationalising, they are responding to what Glencore said. If they put the mine on care and maintenance, who are they killing? They have been killing people indirectly! Our bigger picture is our mines

running properly. So, if they start closing the mines, how will our children learn? What is important is that we need to protect jobs. The Chinese have shown us that they can run the operations successfully," said Chewe.

Glencore Plc is facilitating the offloading of 90 per cent

shareholding in Mopani to ZCCM-IH.

The Swiss-based commodity and mining company had earlier this year announced its intention to place Mopani on care and maintenance, signalling its desire to exit the Zambian mining sector in response to its escalating operational costs.

But some stakeholders have cautioned government against any planned move to acquire its stake as it could render the mining company commercially unviable due to possible excessive political interference.

According to ZCCM-IH first cautionary announcement issued on September 4, 2020, the holding company has commenced discussions with Glencore Finance (Bermuda) Limited regarding the future of Mopani Copper Mines Plc.

Glencore Finance is the major shareholder of Carlisa Investments Corporation, which in-turn, is the majority shareholder of Mopani.

Address soaring cost of living in 2021 budget, JCTR urges govt

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) has called on the Ministry of Finance to ensure a pro-poor budget for 2021 is implemented to address the skyrocketing cost of living in Zambia.

And JCTR says the cost of living for the month of August, 2020, stood at K7,178.22, reflecting a marginal reduction of K26.02 from the month of July, 2020, which stood at K7,204.24.

In the latest Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB), JCTR acting programme manager for social and economic development Siamachoka stated that there was need for government to analyse the impact of COVID -19 on the economy as it prepared for the election year to cushion the

high cost of living.

"As attention shifts to the 2021 national budget, JCTR urges government to continue prioritising social protection programmes, especially Social Cash Transfer (SCT), as a way of addressing the rising cost of living in the poor and vulnerable households. The Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu) recently indicated that government intends to scale-up Social Cash Transfer payments in the coming year to provide some additional support to the Social Cash Transfer component of the budget. JCTR would like to see the Social Cash Transfer benefiting many more poor households than is the case at the moment. The importance of attending to the needs of the most vulnerable people in our society cannot be

overemphasized," Siamachoka stated.

And reflecting last month's BNNB, Siamachoka observed that the marginal reduction was caused by a slight reduction in prices of food items like roller mealie meal, fruits and groundnuts, among others.

"The JCTR BNNB for the month of August, 2020, stood at K7,178.22, reflecting a reduction of K26.02 from the month of July, 2020, that stood at K7,204.24. Reductions in the basket were noted in prices of the following food items: other fruits, such as oranges and apples moved from K283.33 to K244.33; cassava flour moved from K135.50 to K100.91 for 6Kg; roller mealie meal moved from K175.71 to K 161.00 for two 25Kg bags; pounded groundnuts 1Kg fell from K102.16 to K80.20 and

beans moved from K121.52 to K104.84 for 3Kg," Siamachoka narrated.

"Increases were, however, recorded in the prices of kapenta that rose sharply from K188.19 to K301.21 and vegetables that increased from K442.93 to K493.39 for 40Kg. From the non-food, but essential items, the price of charcoal increased from K266.67 to K272.00 for two 90Kg bags from the preceding month. Other items, specifically washing soap, vaseline and tissue recorded minimal increases of between K1 and K6."

She added that the JCTR remained concerned with the sustained high cost of living that had averaged over K7,000 in the last seven months.

"JCTR remains concerned with the sustained high living cost that has averaged over K7,000 over the past seven months. The basket is high given that most commodities cannot be accessed by poorest and vulnerable households

who have low incomes to afford basic necessities. From the August basket, particular attention is placed on the sharp increase in the price of kapenta, a nutritious food item which is a source of protein, omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids due to reduced supply. This entails that consumers will have to spend more to access this food item. This becomes a challenge at household level due to constrained income levels that have been threatened by the pandemic," observed Siamachoka.

"Vegetables are another case in point which during the dry season tend to increase in cost due to scarcity. In spite of this, JCTR is pleased that roller mealie meal, cassava, pounded groundnuts and fruits have continued to record a price-decline. JCTR, therefore, calls on households to deliberately incorporate roller mealie meal, pounded groundnuts and vegetables in their daily diets in order to improve nutritional outcomes especially during this time of the pandemic."

Kwacha yet to reach worst levels - Musokotwane

By Ulande Nkomesha

FORMER finance minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane says Zambians should brace themselves for harsher economic times as the local currency is expected to depreciate further against other convertibles.

And Dr Musokotwane says the 2021 National Budget will be rendered useless if government does not engage the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In an interview, Dr Musokotwane said the kwacha was more likely to depreciate further beyond the current level due to the continued debt repayments being made by the government.

Yesterday, the kwacha hit a record of K20 to a dollar in bureaux while the interbank rate was hovering around K19.90.

The kwacha is trading around K26.30 against the British pound, K23.50 against the euro and K1.19 against the South African rand.

"The kwacha has reached a milestone, the K20 to the dollar; but don't expect that to be the worst. Zambians must brace themselves for tougher times. We have been telling the nation over and over again that

with these debts that the government has, it has been collecting more and more dollars which will be leaving the country to go and pay the debts, leaving a few around or rather leaving less dollars in Zambia to be utilised for imports and other things. When the dollars are leaving the country like that, the kwacha will fall," Dr Musokotwane said.

"When I say this is not the worst yet and therefore the worst is yet to come, it is because the levels of debt payment are going to increase. As you know, in 2022 alone, the Eurobond alone, we are going to pay \$750 million and then interest payment and all these payments, so unless the government does something to agree with these creditors whom we owe money, the exchange rate is bound to get worse and worse."

He said the current friction between the government and the mines had also affected the performance of the kwacha.

"There is a lot of tension between the government and the sector which is the main producer, the mines. As you know, today, there is KCM which is struggling because of what government did to put it under liquidation. In the

meantime, there is no clarity how the company is going to operate. Now we are talking about taking over Mopani and in the process, the commitment on the mines is bound to weaken," Dr Musokotwane added.

He further claimed that the government was printing more kwacha notes which had created a shortage of United States dollar.

"The government is printing kwacha to spend, what does that mean? It means that they are creating an artificial demand for dollars because these kwachas that they are printing, they want to buy dollars, whereas you and I can't print money. We are constrained by how much we have in our pockets. For government, they are not constrained, the only constraint for them is the moral uprightiness but which is not there. They are printing money so when you complain about K20 to a dollar, for them, it is nothing because they are printing the kwacha, so these are the forces that are causing the exchange rate to go wild. They may have short term impact but the real things are what I have explained now," Dr Musokotwane said.

And the Liuwa UPND member of parliament said the government

needed an IMF bailout to effectively implement the 2021 national budget yet to be unveiled.

"This government must come to terms with the IMF because the most immediate relief that is required is to tell the creditors that this amount of money you are looking for, we cannot afford, let us increase the payment period. So I was paying for five years, let us increase that to 10 years. To convince the creditors to agree to that they must get assurance that you are doing something to the economy. This is important for Zambia to agree with creditors on a repayment period but backed by an IMF programme, which will be more or less some kind of an overseer supervising government that they are running the things properly," said Dr Musokotwane.

"The 2021 budget we are talking about is nothing! The budget has already been spent because 90 percent or maybe 95 percent of the money goes to pay salaries and debt servicing. We are only talking about five percent where the Minister now says with this five percent, what am I going to do? So, the budget is already spent, there is nothing serious that is going to come out of it."

The importance of transformational leadership in crisis situations

By Sishuwa Sishuwa

In times of crisis, disruptions or significant challenges, transformational leaders holding public office should:

- Demonstrate competence to resolve the challenge at hand in a way that does not worsen the problem. Now, competence involves wisdom in judgement, dignity in action, soundness in decision making, ideally founded on the best knowledge available at the time and capacity to effectively communicate a vision about how the leader hopes to carry others along in getting past the issue. Let me illustrate this point with an example of how leaders in Zambia and the United States have responded to the coronavirus pandemic. Presidents Edgar Lungu and Donald Trump were not averse to holding mass gatherings at a time when their governments were restricting physical meetings and advertising social distancing as an effective response to containing the spread of Covid-19.

The problem here is twofold: first, the leader is not only facilitating the spread of the disease but also sacrificing citizens to their attempts to get elected. Second, the leader is effectively undermining the government's health guidelines or policies by communicating conflicting messages to the public. This is the highest form of irresponsibility. In case of Zambia, we have also seen how leaders have used Covid-19 as an instrument to deny other people their rights to organise or meet. What is required in moments of crisis is the resolve to provide high-quality leadership, even in instances where you are facing a major health pandemic like now. And a leader can do that through speech, regular updates that communicate hope and resilience, and by demonstrating leadership through action.

- Demonstrate the will to resolve the challenge at hand. I will illustrate this point with the problem of corruption, especially in government. Corruption is insidious and more deadly than Covid-19, but what the disease has done is to show that in the absence of transparent and accountable leadership, corruption can worsen. In Zimbabwe, South Africa and even Zambia, we have read reports of how money and other resources allocated to the fight against Covid-19 have been looted or misused. Here, we see how corruption kills. But corruption has other consequences. It distorts the private sector, side-lining those who do not support those in power. Such businesspeople are denied access to government tenders or are squeezed by the authorities in ways that undermine efficiency and effective public service. This is because those who secure tenders are not necessarily the best bidders but those connected to power or ruling party functionaries. In this way, corruption makes projects more expensive because those awarded tenders are quite often the wrong people: those with little to no capacity to supply the required goods or to build a quality road.

Corruption also undermines good governance, especially when you have a leader who undermines watchdog institutions or investigative wings of the state like the Anti-Corruption Commission. A leader with the will to fight corruption should grow or strengthen these institutions, not undermine them. There are two ways this can be achieved. One is by developing a much more open and transparent process of appointing the leadership of these institutions. Vetting should be encouraged so that the public can have a direct say in the appointment of, say, judges or commissioners of the ACC. It is not simply about the legal qualifications. It is also about possessing qualities like integrity and moral wealth of character.

How do you have a magistrate accused of corruption presiding over the case of the accuser? Both the magistrate and the head of the judiciary in Zambia somehow do not see this issue as a conflict of interest that undermines judicial integrity. How do you appoint a politician as a central bank governor, a position that requires independent judgement and professional independence? How do you retain in your government a permanent secretary who fabricates their higher educational record by claiming that they have a PhD from Princeton and another one from Oxford even when those universities make it clear that the individual concerned is lying?

It is important to create the necessary rules and safeguards that would let the public have a direct say in scrutinising some of these appointments to public office because several members of the public know the weaknesses of the appointees even before they assume office. The other way of strengthening the fight against corruption is to make the anti-corruption institutions more autonomous and accountable by ensuring that

they report to parliament, not the executive, and that their leaders enjoy security of tenure similar to those of judges. How do you have a situation where the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Financial Intelligence Centre report corrupt cases to the executive when the latter is quite often the culprit?

- Unite people, especially in ethnically diverse or fragmented societies. Transformative leaders promote diversity (ethnicity, gender, race, disability, minority rights, etc.) and build social inclusion. In times of serious divisions, be they political or ethnic, effective leaders respond by seeking to build an inclusive society, one where no one feels marginalised or denied any opportunity that ordinarily should be available to them because of their ethnic identity, gender, race, or political choices. There are at least two ways this can be achieved. One is through a change in legislation. Constitutions, in particular, can influence behaviour in multi-ethnic societies. Let me illustrate this point using the example of Kenya.

At one time, Kenya felt that it had a particular problem of ethnicity, where one or two ethnic groups were overly represented in certain public service jobs while others were excluded or only had tokenist representation. To ensure diversity, the Kenyans enacted a constitution that recognises, respects and promotes ethnic inclusiveness, and which allows citizens to challenge the government or private sector if they note that a department or unit is not ethnically representative. What we see here is ethnic inclusivity in the public and private sectors as a deliberate constitutional value.

Just as we reflect gender diversity in our statutes, we should do the same for ethnic inclusiveness. There is a bit of this value in Zambia's constitution, but it is couched in very broad terms, making it difficult to enforce especially in the absence of a progressive judiciary. Of course, someone might say, 'but the president has the discretion to appoint'. That is true, but the freedom to appoint does not mean only appointing friends or members of one's ethnic-language group or those who come from the regions that support the president's party. It is easy to see the absence of a woman from a workspace, but much more difficult to regard the absence of a member of another ethnic group from a board or department as a problem. No one is born into any position in government. They are recruited, but if the recruiters are not constrained by institutional rules and are people who are committed to ethnic particularism, they can easily fill an entire government department with members of only one or two ethnic groups or people who hail from only two regions in a country that has many ethnic groups and regions.

The other way of achieving inclusiveness rests on individual agency and awareness. A leader who seeks inclusiveness has to pay deliberate attention to the ethnic composition and diversity of their appointments to public office even in the absence of any law that requires them to do so. In Zambia today, it is impossible to look at appointments to public service without being struck by the calamity of the appointing authority's loyalty to particular ethnic groups and his distaste for others. How does one explain the fact that nearly all Cabinet ministers, permanent secretaries and members of parastatal boards in Zambia today are from two ethnic language groups in a Republic that prides itself as a multi-ethnic nation? This is scandalous and reflects a lack of commitment to building inclusivity.

This kind of leadership stokes ethnic divisions. It fragments societies even more. President Levy Mwanawasa was once accused of persecuting Bemba speakers because those who were facing corruption charges largely came from two provinces. Yet the problem was created for him by his predecessor who appointed more members of two ethnic groups to public positions. Their numerical superiority in government positions meant that they were largely the ones who had opportunities to steal and they consequently faced prosecution for suspected corruption.

- Promote meritocracy and recruit the most talented individuals to help resolve the challenge at hand. This may be in relation to how to reduce poverty, tackle inequality or build a strong civil service. An incompetent civil service, for instance, harms development; an effective one facilitates it. But it is impossible to achieve the latter if leaders ignore merit and do not seek the best brains in the country to help them navigate a major challenge or build a better society. In times when incompetence is rife and economies are registering negative growth rates, effective leaders should search for the most skilled, sober and talented

citizens, persuade them to join the public service and help them achieve their visions. This is how President Mwanawasa identified skilled professionals like N'gandu Magande, Caleb Fundanga and Martin Kalungu-Banda and convinced them to join his team. He implanted meritocracy, especially in relation to filling up those public positions that are so crucial to the effective functioning of government and service delivery.

This commitment to talent identification and meritocracy was also there under founding President, Kenneth Kaunda. He had great respect for educated people. It is a leadership attribute that also explains how the Kenyan economy has risen to become the strongest in East Africa today. There is no shortcut to merit because those appointed on merit deliver. Kenya pays for its recurrent expenditure, including salaries for health workers and teachers, without support from donors. So, in times of disruption, the leader has to realise the value of merit and this is where the process of appointment that I talked about earlier comes in. It is critical.

- Seek out to build consensus in times of divisions. This may be in relation to how best to enact a broadly acceptable constitution. A constitution is not a partisan document. Neither is it a tool for the powerful, professionals, elites, or urbanites. It is a set of guiding rules that must protect and empower everyone and by which everyone should be held to account. It is therefore important to build consensus with all the citizens when making a national constitution if the ultimate product is to be embraced by most and to be durable. President Mwanawasa recognised the importance of building consensus especially on national subjects that should be above partisan interest such as constitutional making process. He brought together diverse voices from civil society, students, the political opposition, and traditional leaders to bridge the divide between these interest groups. Transformational leaders understand the importance of expanding the space for democratic dialogue, strengthening institutions of governance, free media, the rule of law, procedural justice, respect for everyone's rights, and non-institutional politics.

- Recognise the importance of planning and implementation. A country should have development plans, but it is also important to implement them. Planning determines the allocation of resources because there are always competing interests. Of course, this requires thinking, monitoring and evaluation to take stock or provide feedback on what is being done. One has to have a clear understanding that a road is important here, not there, because it will generate returns or more money. A leadership that is not competent cannot plan, however. It does not devote any serious thinking towards even empowerment plans. Before dishing out money to interest groups such as youths and artists, a leadership that hardly plans does not ask the question: what are we trying to achieve here? It simply gives out the money on a patronage basis and much of it is never repaid. When the money finishes, the no-plan leadership runs to China and Western countries and institutions to secure more debt, bankrupt future generations, and perpetuate the three sins of poverty, inequality and dependence. It is therefore important that in times of challenges such as debt, leaders should promote accountability and transparency and implement carefully crafted plans that seek to reduce waste in public resources. This also requires tolerance for opposing views and active listening. Does it make sense, for instance, for the leaders in government to procure 42 fire trucks at a cost of \$1 million each at a time when public sector employees have gone several months without pay, when public universities are no longer the sites of research and making critical knowledge about the country's fate because of chronically poor funding, and when thousands of citizens are dying from hunger, the poor state of public roads and the lack of basic medicines in public hospitals?

Does it make sense to procure a presidential plane costing millions of dollars at a time when a country is almost drowning in debt? Or to invest in expensive crowd control equipment when the citizens taking to the streets are simply yearning for the fulfilment of basic aspirations – a job, a roof over their head, food, and respect for their civil liberties including the right to assemble, associate with anyone and express themselves freely? Leaders must exercise prudence, selflessness and ultimately act in the best interest of the public.

This is part of the remarks made by Sishuwa Sishuwa on the occasion of the Levy Mwanawasa Public Lecture on "Leadership Challenges in Times of Disruptions" on 4 September 2020.

By Mwema Banda
in Chipata

VETERAN politician Vernon Johnson Mwaanga says it is shocking that while the economy is in the intensive care unit, government officials are arrogantly exhibiting scandalous opulence, which is way above their salaries and allowances.

And Mwaanga has urged Zambians not to vote for any member of parliament who supports Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 Of 2019.

In a statement titled "I can feel the headwind coming our way", Tuesday, Mwaanga said it is worrying that politicians were attacking each other using hate speech instead of fixing the economy which had reached alarming proportions.

"Our economy is in the intensive care unit. The kwacha-dollar exchange rate has reached alarming proportions, national debt continues to rise to unsustainable levels, inflation remains high, food and public transport costs for workers have become prohibitive particularly for ordinary citizens, our public health facilities are on their knees, a number of businesses are either closed or operating at greatly reduced capacities. Many workers are out of employment and struggling to put food on the table for their families. The astronomical increases in the cost of Zesco power have not helped matters either. In contrast, our political leaders are busy attacking each other using vitriolic language and engaging in pantomime politics. They don't seem to know or understand the immense value of political dialogue, which has served our country well in the past. Political dialogue has now become more difficult than it was during the one party system," Mwaanga stated.

"The abusive language, the insults, the ethnic outbursts and the hate speeches I am hearing from some of our exuberant politicians worries me to no end. This is not who we are as Zambians. Disagreement amongst ourselves is normal and expected, but we can disagree in a very civil matter, without being disagreeable. Opponents in politics should not regard themselves as enemies. This is what modern politics require in a democracy." Mwaanga questioned the source of wealth of government officials who were making generous donations amid an economic crisis.

"In the midst of all the hardships people are going through, the ruling clique continue to arrogantly exhibit scandalous opulence, which is way above their salaries and allowances, which are in the public domain. Some of them have built or bought houses, blocks of flats, farms etc, using unexplained and suspicious sources of funds. They make generous pledges and donations to different party organs, social clubs, Parliamentary Constituency by election fundraising functions. The unanswered question is where is this money coming from?" Mwaanga questioned.

And Mwaanga said citizens should not vote for members of parliament who support Bill 10.

"Electoral reforms in Zambia have been under

discussion for many years and President Levy Mwanawasa, appointed an Electoral Reforms Technical Committee(ERTC), headed by Lusaka lawyer Mrs Mwangala Zaloumis, which comprised among others, President Edgar Lungu and Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini. The committee went round the country to listen to what the Zambian people wanted to see by way of reforms to our electoral process. The committee made a number of critically important recommendations to our electoral system, which if implemented, would have given confidence to the citizens of Zambia in the Electoral process, which is sadly currently absent," he said.

"Many of the recommendations in the ERTC report, have been adopted and implemented by a number of countries in Africa, including Nigeria where I found the report, in the office of Chairman

Locals need to benefit from mine resources – CCZ

of the Electoral Commission, when I was co-leader of the Election Observer Mission of the National Democratic Institute of the United States of America a few years ago. This is an important matter which must be discussed in a non-partisan manner. This is more important than Bill 10, which still requires more serious consultations among stakeholders, with a view to reaching a consensus, which is presently absent. Citizens should pay attention to this process and make sure that they pay back those MPs who vote for this Bill 10, by not voting for them in the name of accountability."

He lamented that a lot of electoral issues had remained

unresolved since the last election.

"12th August, 2021 is eleven months away and this money will play a major role in the forthcoming elections. Many electoral issues remain unresolved, such as issuance of National Registration Cards, Voter Registration, levelling the campaign playing field for ALL participants, transparent tallying of votes, equal access to the state media, among others. To our political leaders who have ears to hear, I have this to say; please meet and seriously discuss the issues affecting our country. The country is more important than you. You are servants of the people and not their masters. Don't let power or

the quest for it, blind you to the realities our country is currently facing. Public service is not about self. It is about serving the people who elected you to make their lives better. This is what the struggle for independence was all about," Mwaanga said.

"There is a ramadan of discontent out there and it would appear that there is also a serious disconnect between the ruling clique and the people. Money is not everything and UNIP learnt the hard way in 1991, when with all the money they spent and control they exercised on the state media, they lost elections lamentably to the MMD. Later, the MMD in 2011, learnt a similar lesson, when they lost to the

PF – after running the best funded election campaign in the history of the MMD. This underlines the fact that Power is never permanent and change of governments must and will take place from time to time. This is healthy for our nascent democracy."

He said national problems must be treated as non-partisan and must draw on the institutional knowledge, expertise and experience of its citizens.

"Every country goes through ups and downs at one time or another in its history. The important thing is to ensure that the ups heavily outnumber the downs. During the period of downs, one of the most important things is how mature governments handle the downs. They adopt inclusive consultations in search of possible solutions. They don't simply bury their heads in the sand and hope for divine intervention from above. Great nations usually involve their citizens in search of solutions in times of crisis, regardless of their political affiliations. National problems must be treated as non-partisan and must draw on the institutional knowledge, expertise and experience of its citizens," stated Mwaanga.

"I can feel a strong headwind coming our way. It is an uncomfortable truth that our economy had begun to perform poorly even before the COVID 19 pandemic unexpectedly ravaged our world, with devastating human and economic consequences. Economies of all countries in the world have had their growth forecasts considerably downgraded. Even in this season of the Coronavirus pandemic, countries which are better managed, will fare a lot better and move faster towards recovery."

Kambwili recovered from COVID-19, court hears

By Zondiwe Mbewe

TWO Health Practitioners have told the Lusaka Magistrate's Court that COVID-19 results for NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili were negative on September 4, this year, after re-testing him.

Copperbelt Provincial Health director Robert Zulu told the Court that Kambwili's latest results came out negative on September 4, this year, but were only communicated to him by a clinician on Monday.

This is a matter in which Kambwili is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer in relation to the registration of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services.

On September 1, this year, Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba cancelled the bench warrant he issued against Kambwili on August 25, for missing court on condition that the accused person presents him with his COVID-19 test results on September 4, this week, after he was re-tested.

But on September 4, one of Kambwili's defence lawyers, Musa Mwenye, State Counsel, informed Magistrate Simusamba that Kambwili was subjected to a COVID-19 retest on Wednesday that week following the Court's order, but that the results were not yet ready.

He told the Court that the doctor who attended to him at Roan Antelope General Hospital said the results would only be ready within two weeks.

But Magistrate Simusamba wondered why results would take so long to be released when others were issued in two days.

He then ordered that the acting medical superintendent at Roan Antelope General Hospital, together with the officer-in-charge of handling COVID-19-related matters on the Copperbelt, appear before him yesterday to explain Kambwili's COVID-19 test result.

Magistrate Simusamba wanted the officers to appear and explain to him how the issue of testing for COVID-19 was done, especially relating to Kambwili.

And when the matter came up before him yesterday, deputy chief State Advocate Margaret Chitundu informed the Court that the two medical personnel who were summoned were before court.

Once in the witness stand, Roan Antelope General Hospital acting medical superintendent Chimese Mwansa confirmed to the Court that Kambwili was attended to at the medical facility twice.

She said the first time Kambwili went to the hospital was on August 9, this year, where he complained of difficulties in breathing, high blood pressure, among others.

Mwansa said because of the difficulties in breathing, Kambwili was swabbed and the

results came out positive for COVID-19 on August 16, this year.

She, however, said a re-test done on Kambwili on September 1, came out negative on September 4, adding that she communicated the results to Kambwili on Monday.

"I got the results over the weekend and I communicated (to Kambwili) yesterday (Monday) towards lunch-hour," Mwansa said.

Asked if she had evidence to show that a swab was conducted on Kambwili on August 9, whose results came out positive, Mwansa said the results were on an Excel Sheet, which was on soft copy.

Meanwhile, Zulu informed the Court that a COVID-19 test

was conducted on Kambwili and the latest results indicated that the former Roan PF lawmaker was negative.

He added that the latest results came out on September 4, 2020, and they were negative.

When the defence asked whether Kambwili was informed about the results, Zulu said yes.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Simusamba has also subpoenaed Tropical Diseases Research Centre director Gershom Chongwe to appear before him and present Kambwili's initial positive laboratory results of COVID-19 for August 16.

He also adjourned the matter to September 15, this year.

Court remands 2 Marshlands Consortium directors for skipping sessions

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Magistrate Alice Walusiku has ordered that two Marshlands Consortium Limited directors, Tobias Milambo and Richard Lubemba, will remain in custody until September 22, this year, when the case comes up for hearing of the State's response to their bail application.

This is in a matter in which three Marshlands Consortium Limited directors are facing 15 counts of forgery, obtaining money by false pretenses and uttering false documents, among them, Ultimate Insurance Company Limited shareholder resolutions.

The accused persons in this matter are: Tobias Milambo, 48, Nachi Musonda, 33 and Richard Lubemba, 31 of Chalala.

Last week, Magistrate Walusiku issued a bench warrant against Milambo and Lubemba who were not before court.

Defence team led by Nchima Nchito had informed the Court that Musonda was in direct contact with a COVID-19 patient and was put on 14-day quarantine by a doctor.

The defence also produced a report indicating that Musonda was tested for COVID-19 on August 31, this year.

They also told the Court that the two other accused persons could also have been in contact with a COVID-19 patient.

But in her ruling, Magistrate Walusiku ordered that the medical personnel who attended to Musonda should appear before her to confirm if he was attended

to.

She further ordered that the other accused persons, Milambo and Lubemba, who were not before court be brought under warrant.

But when the matter came up yesterday, State prosecutor Noah Mwanza said the doctor from Levy Mwanawasa Hospital who was supposed to appear in court in relation to Musonda's health status was not available.

He said the doctor informed him that he was attending to an emergency in the operation theatre and further added that the warrants against Milambo and Lubemba had been executed.

Mwanza then applied that the case be adjourned to October 6.

At this point, defence lawyer Chisuwu Hamwela applied for cancellation of the bench warrant against Lubemba and Milambo, saying the two accused persons did not abscond court on purpose, but that at the time the warrant was issued, they were in the court's car park on account that they had been in close proximity to someone exposed to COVID-19.

He added that the accused persons had a duty to ensure that they did not expose the public to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Mr Nachi Musonda was exposed to COVID-19 patient and produced medical documents. He, in-turn, came into contact with the two accused persons (Lubemba and Milambo)," Hamwela said.

He said the accused persons were advised to stay in the car park by the defence, while it came to seek the Court's guidance over their welfare.

Hamwela further said the accused's absence was not meant to disrespect the Court and further prayed that the warrants be cancelled.

However, Mwanza objected to the application, arguing that the defence could not claim that the accused persons were in the car park without adducing proof to that effect.

And in the ruling, Magistrate Walusiku said at the last sitting, the accused were said to have been in the car park, but no document was produced to show that they were in contact with a COVID-19 patient.

She denied the defence's application to cancel the bench warrant against the accused persons and ordered that they be remanded in custody until conclusion of the matter.

At this point, the defence applied for bail.

However, the State applied for an adjournment, saying it needed time to bring witnesses to aid its response.

Mwanza applied that the State responds to the application on October 6, the present date.

However, in her ruling, Magistrate Walusiku granted an adjournment to September 22, this year, on the bail application.

By Zondiwe Mbeve

THE Livingstone Magistrates' Court has acquitted Alliance for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti and her programmes manager Bornwell Mwewa who were accused of assaulting police officers.

The two were appearing before the Livingstone Magistrates' Court on charges of disorderly conduct at a police station and assaulting a police officer.

Miti and Mwewa were alleged to have assaulted Woman Constable Fredah Simasho and detective Inspector Ephraim Silwamba on December 22, 2019 when they went to visit Fumba Chama popularly known as Pilato at the Livingstone Central Police Station after he was arrested on allegations of unlawful assembly.

Meanwhile, ACA has welcomed Miti and Mwewa's acquittal and has further called on the State to immediately stop the persecution of civic actors who were doing their routine accountability work.

This is according to a statement issued by ACA Information and Advocacy Officer Jimmy Maliseni yesterday.

"ACA welcomes the acquittal of our Executive Director Laura Miti and Programmes Manager Bornwell Mwewa. The two were appearing before the Livingstone Magistrate Court charged with disorderly conduct at a police station and assaulting a police officer. The court has found both accused persons not guilty on all counts. Miti and Mwewa were detained on December 21, 2019 at the Livingstone Central Police station for the mere fact of checking on activist Chama Fumba alias Pilato who had earlier in the day been detained for conducting a workshop with fellow young people in Livingstone. This was a workshop administered by the ACA in support of Pilato's Be Heard project which aimed at empowering young Zambians to engage with governance and accountability form an informed position," he stated

"The court was very clear in acquitting the two, that the prosecution had failed to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt. It was further stated by the

State must stop persecuting civil actors – ACA

court that, prosecution witnesses contradicted each other's testimonies so fundamentally that their version of events was difficult to believe."

Maliseni stated that the continued harassment of civic actors only served to further diminish the now poor record of democratic practice as a country.

"For the ACA, this decision illustrates the continued shrinking of civic space in Zambia in which government continually makes it difficult for CSO actors and citizens to exercise their fundamental right to be heard and to assemble. The continued harassment of civic actors only

serves to further diminish our now poor record of democratic practice as a country. Zambia was until the sustained abuse of police and court processes by the current government known for upholding basic human rights. The ACA calls on the state to immediately stop the persecution of civic actors doing their routine accountability

work," he stated.

Maliseni further stated that the harassment of innocent citizens comes at a great cost not only to the abused individuals but the state itself.

"This harassment of innocent citizens comes at a great cost not only to the abused individuals but the state itself. Having begun

in December of 2019, this matter has been processed at great costs to the two individuals, the state, and our organization. Further, given the many pressing issues the country is facing, those wielding state power must preoccupy themselves with ensuring accountable management of public resources instead of

persecuting people calling for accountable management of our resources," stated Maliseni.

"The ACA wishes to thank the defense team for ably representing our staff. We also sincerely thank fellow civic actors, local and international partners, and citizens for their continued support. The unwavering support in the face of clear and present danger is most appreciated by the ACA."



TIZ tips ACC to take interest in huge donations by PF officials

By Julia Malunga

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should take interest in the hefty donations being made by government officials.

On Sunday, Patriotic Front Copperbelt Mobilization Committee chairperson Bowman Lusambo donated K70, 000 and K50,000 cash to Roan and Mpatamato marketeers in Luanshya respectively.

Commenting on the donations in an interview, TIZ executive director Maurice Nyambe called on the government to give the ACC the freedom and space to conduct investigations.

"It is a big concern to us when you look at the period we are in. In some circles, that can actually be political corruption because what is the purpose of giving those donations? Yes, people say 'it is helping to recover from COVID-19' but I think it raises a lot of questions. Even the source of the money, yes you can say someone has been in business for a long time but I think if you are going to ask the same questions that are being asked, for example that somebody like

Hakaide Hichilema needs to show us his source of his wealth, then the same questions can be asked to senior government officials who are going round dishing out money. I think the ACC should take interest in some of these things," Nyambe said.

"There is no doubt that ACC has lost trust in the eyes of many in the public. In fact, many think that the ACC has no credibility at all. But our belief is that institutions such as ACC are still a very important part of our governance system and very important in the corruption fight. So ours is really to do everything, to do our best to encourage such organisations. But also to keep calling on government to give such entities the freedom, space and leeway to be independent so that they do their work because that is the only way it is going to help us to move forward as a country."

He insisted that a lifestyle audit be conducted on senior government officials to ascertain their sources of wealth.

"Beyond that, we have been calling for lifestyle audits on these government officials and for us, this shows the need for the audit to be conducted. Because if somebody is so wealthy that they are able to dish out money like that, then it raises a lot of

questions. If you look at the salaries of government officials, they are not so high but to enable somebody to build that kind of wealth in a short period of time is a matter of concern to us. The lifestyle audit will help us put to rest some of these questions that people are starting to ask," said Nyambe.

Several ministers have in the recent past been donating huge sums of cash to their constituents as gifts.

Last month, Nkana PF member of parliament Alexander Chiteme donated K50,000 cash to freedom fighters in his constituency.

Apart from Chiteme's K50,000 to the freedom fighters in his constituency, Kwacha PF member of parliament Joseph Malanji donated K140,000 on the same day to St. Peter's Parish in Ipusukilo Compound in Kitwe for the construction and completion of various infrastructure at the Church.

Malanji, who is also Foreign Affairs Minister, equally handed over a brand new luxury Rosa Bus to traders under the National Traders and Marketeers Association of Zambia (NATMAZ) in the same area.

In June this year, Lusambo also splashed out K400,000 to taxi drivers in Kabushi constituency, among other donations, despite not having any known source of income prior to being elected area member of parliament in 2016.

Some members of the public have, however, repeatedly questioned where government officials had found such huge sums of cash they are giving away.

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Lack of action on Auditor General's Reports chasing away donor aid

WHILE we are still debating about whether the country needs the office of the Procurement General or not, we would like to draw the attention of our readers to an oversight institution that has been diligently performing its duty, but in futility. We are referring to the Office of the Auditor General. No one cares about the revelations that this critical governance institution makes every year. Unless the mindset of our leaders change, the work of the Auditor General risks becoming useless, a waste of public and donor funds, an exercise in futility.

In July, 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released its findings from the audit exercise into (i) How parastatal bodies have been utilising public funds (ii) how the country has performed in its preparedness for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation (iii) How special education in primary schools in Zambia is being provided and (iv) How water and sanitation companies have been conducting their operations.

We have written over 20 scandals

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just from these latest reports as a newspaper, highlighting impropriety, mismanagement of resources, outright embezzlement, breach of contract, non-adherence to statutory obligations and fraudulent transactions in some cases. But like the audit reports from last year and the year before that, these latest revelations have yielded nothing. They have been released to a society that doesn't care at all.

In these reports, which are released every year, glaring irregularities are highlighted in the various government ministries, provincial administrations and foreign missions, among other public institutions. What is surprising is that the irregularities are the same and at times even the controlling officers behind them are the same. But nothing

is being done to bring culprits to book.

The reports from the Auditor General, almost always highlight unvouched expenditure – missing payment vouchers, unsupported or inadequately supported payments and unacquitted payments, etc. This trend of irregularities is not new and one cannot help but wonder why these reports are never taken seriously, why there is no corrective action by those in power and those in our politics.

Why are we just sitting with our hands folded while public money is being abused with impunity in this manner, while the nation is being robbed in broad daylight by public servants and unscrupulous politicians? There is need for serious follow-ups on these irregularities to ensure

that the culprits are brought to book, and are made to account for their theft and abuses.

We have always emphasised the need for the government to account to the taxpayers over its management of public funds. Public funds should at all times be properly raised, protected from loss and spent with maximum efficiency, effectiveness and orderliness. Political leaders need to understand that the role and value of audits in the public sector go beyond merely expressing an opinion on financial statements.

There is a need for our government leaders to stop this misappropriation, misuse and misapplication of public funds. It is meaningless to have the reports presented and queries raised by the Parliamentary Public

Accounts Committee (PAC) every year about the irregularities if no corrective action is taken.

It will not help to have controlling officers appear before PAC and fail to give satisfactory answers on the spending patterns in their ministries, on unretired imprest, or unvouched expenditure and holding them accountable for not taking any corrective action.

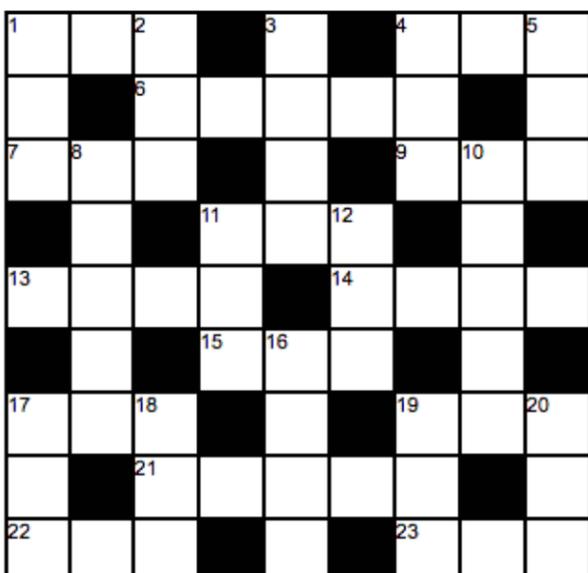
Presentation of audit reports should not be a mere academic exercise or ritual that is performed annually; it should serve a specific, useful purpose. We should, as a nation, be able to say we have made progress looking at the number of audits that have been done over the years.

How do we expect to get aid to

fight poverty when we cannot control corruption in our midst, corruption among the implementers of the country's development policies? How do the political leaders expect our people to trust them when they are stealing their money in broad daylight and without any restraint? How do they expect our people to believe that they are serious with the fight against corruption when they are not taking any measures to stop the corrupt practices in government ministries under their control?

These are some of the questions that need serious reflection by the leadership of this country. We will not develop as a country and lift many people from the current quagmire of poverty if we do not check the way we are spending public funds, which are meant to improve people's lives. Most importantly, we will chase away the few remaining donors who are concerned about our financial status as a country and would like to assist. No donor country out there can be happy to pour in resources in a so-called poor country when those resources end up in the hands of the rich political elites.

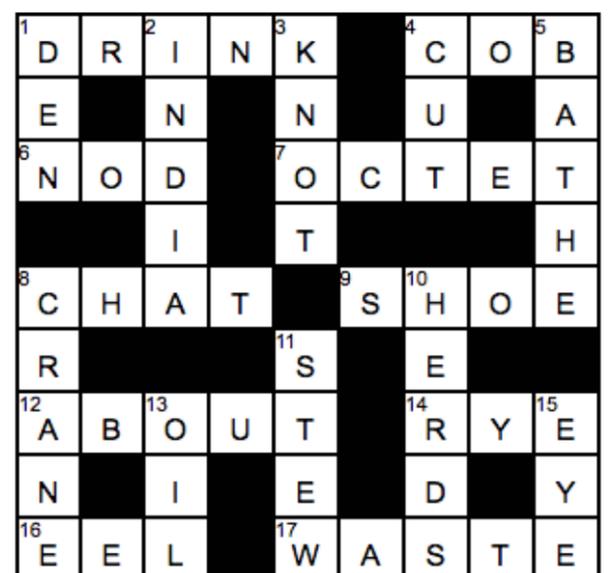
Crossword puzzle No 686



“Every now and then a man’s mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation, and never shrinks back to its former dimensions.”
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fake hair 4. Not in 6. Not just once 7. Spongy ground 9. Indefinitely long time 11. Blubber 13. Way off yonder 14. Time to beware 15. Be in the red 17. Swimsuit top 19. Letter add-ons, for short 21. South Asian country 22. Military conflict 23. Part of UCLA | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Made by a spider 2. Practical joke 3. Story spanning generations 4. Single number 5. Malleable metal 8. Buyer’s proposal 10. Cream-filled cookies 11. Bushy hairdo 12. Worn around the neck 16. Stand in shallow water 17. Stern’s opposite 18. What we breathe 19. Chum 20. Bro’s counterpart |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 685



Readers' Feedback

DIGGERS' OPINION: What does Madam Nawakwi stand for?

Editor,

"Nawakwi has become a liability to Zambian politics. Listen to the way she responds when asked about PF's misrule; she is defending them in every way. No wonder it's highly believed she is eyeing to be Edgar Lungu's running mate". - Rhodes Chipengu

"Nothing in particular,

she belongs to the archives as the most incompetent former finance minister of Zambia". - Danny Chitalu Chilufya

"Ba Nawakwi is working for PF now, its a known fact. It is obvious that she is being used for a price. Zambian politics lack integrity and its unfortunate that the old,

recycled and expired politicians are the ones killing this political integrity. We need a new crop of leaders, forget about this woman please she has run her race and she needs to retire". - Edah Katongo Chanda

"She is now a member of ba MUBWAZ (Mushanina Bwali Association of Zambia) hence no shame and no plans". - Brown Gift Chomba

"Apart from personal aggrandizement she stands for absolutely nothing!" - Harri Sons Oko

"Bringing confusion in the political arena". -

stand for?

Martin Mbenga

"No direction, Antonio Mwanza come and get your mother, she is lost..." - Andree Kahande

"Seasonal politicians see and use politics and political Parties as vehicles to raise personal income from gullible and unsuspecting donors and supporters. That is why they hibernate for years and reappear in the penultimate year towards elections. So what does one make of such politicians? Of course they are only self serving". - Kanyata Mubita

'Lungu can never apologise for messing up economy'

Editor,

"Lungu can't do that the blame with be on the Corona virus, climate change and HH". - Mathews W Ks

"Waste of time, how many times has he addressed the same parley without tangible results". - Okwonkwo Ahmadinejad Mwanawina

"No need for an apology, it will not make any difference. Its hamba!!" - Ba Shaka

"Instead, he is going to blame covid 19, climate change and HH". - Bashi Tumi

"Very true....the dude is acting like the economy just collapsed on its own and nature contributed towards its downfall. It is him who has messed our economy because of his incompetence and carelessness". - Chris Rock

"In the apology he should cry and shed tears for us to be convinced". - Preston Kasempa

'Wynter wrong person to be talking about accountability'

Dear editor,

"A guy who went with cadres at ACC to avoid being accountable today he is preaching accountability. I don't take such people serious who only talks but cannot be tied to their words. We are equally to blame as Zambians. is this the person who can be lecturing us on being accountable?!" - Kaposoli Chanda

"And it's this same man who said, "there's no morality in Politics" live on Muvi TV!" - Aggrey LC Mulenda

"Abanabo kuwayawaya fye if it was about holding leaders accountable then ECL wouldn't be president for swindling a widow and then having his license suspended from practicing law". - Mutinta Mulonda

"And everyone Who doesn't make sense politically should also quit politics!" - Duncan Mwila Jr.

"Some of these guys are just frustrated for not been recognized by citizens". - Kavukania Jonathan

"I fail to respect this man because I still remember him at the freedom statue

telling his pf cadres that if anybody challenges you "fipaya", that's the day I knew that Chanda Chimba was right about that parte, alas Seerl put Do as I Say in that Dununa Reverse song and here we are 0 \$1 = K20 and army officers saluting cadres. Tutwa Ngulube will be remembered same way as the one that instructed police to 'break their bones'". - Mercy Mwanza

Bowman's donation of K120,000 to Luanshya marketeers

Editor,

"Whats his Source of funding? and how much is his mouthly earning? may the relevant institution if they exist establish on behalf of the Zambian people". - Nephani Kamwandi

"The only problem with our own Zambian Bill Gates is that he always donates without Zambians knowing his source of funds". - Albert Kalunga

"People need permanent solutions, sort out the economy for citizens to enjoy low mealie meal prices as well goods and services. ' politicians need to learn that a stable economy is key to pleasing a nation and staying long in office". - Walter Syamujaye

"That's why we need a Lifestyle Audit for public servants. No wonder he thinks K2m is nothing!!!" - Maiko Zulu

"We appreciate Bowman's donations, but where is he getting this kind of money???? - Chola Mungoma

"This man has poor timing zoonaa.. When his friends are busy shaking and shivering in fear of being audited that's when the dummy unlocks some of his trunks full of stolen money dishes it out??? These are the people who always run to the direction where the sound of the gun is coming from instead of going the opposite". - Mulemwa Kabila

"Well the die hard MMD cadre is absolutely ignorant and abusing taxpayers money. You supposed to find long lasting solutions to problems citizens are going through not bribe them with smaller amounts of money! No wonder PF has failed!!!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Stolen money...can we do lifestyle audits on these PF chaps please ! It's too much now!!!" - WeGather



By Julia Malunga

VETERAN politician Vernon Johnson Mwaanga says it is shocking that while the economy is in the intensive care unit, government officials are arrogantly exhibiting scandalous opulence, which is way above their salaries and allowances.

And Mwaanga has urged Zambians not to vote for any member of parliament who supports Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 Of 2019.

In a statement titled "I can feel the headwind coming our way", Tuesday, Mwaanga said it is worrying that politicians were attacking each other using hate speech instead of fixing the economy which had reached alarming proportions.

"Our economy is in the intensive care unit. The kwacha-dollar exchange rate has reached alarming proportions, national debt continues to rise to unsustainable levels, inflation remains high, food and public transport costs for workers have become prohibitive particularly for ordinary citizens, our public health facilities are on their knees, a number of businesses are either closed or operating at greatly reduced capacities. Many workers are out of employment and struggling to put food on the table for their families. The astronomical increases in the cost of Zesco power have not helped matters either. In contrast, our political leaders are busy attacking each other using vitriolic language and engaging in pantomime politics. They don't seem to know or understand the immense value of political dialogue, which has served our country well in the past. Political dialogue has now become more difficult than it was during the one party system," Mwaanga stated.

"The abusive language, the insults, the ethnic outbursts and the hate speeches I am hearing from some of our exuberant politicians worries me to no end. This is not who we are as Zambians. Disagreement amongst ourselves is normal and expected, but we can disagree in a very civil matter, without being disagreeable. Opponents in politics should not regard themselves as enemies. This is what modern politics require in a democracy."

Mwaanga questioned the source of wealth of government officials who were making generous donations amid an economic crisis.

"In the midst of all the hardships people are going through, the ruling clique continue

There's a headwind coming, economy in ICU-VJ

to arrogantly exhibit scandalous opulence, which is way above their salaries and allowances, which are in the public domain. Some of them have built or bought houses, blocks of flats, farms etc, using unexplained and suspicious sources of funds. They make generous pledges and donations to different party organs, social clubs, Parliamentary Constituency by election fundraising functions. The unanswered question is where is this money coming from?" Mwaanga questioned.

And Mwaanga said citizens should not vote for members of parliament who support Bill 10.

"Electoral reforms in Zambia have been under discussion for many years and President Levy Mwanawasa, appointed an Electoral Reforms Technical Committee(ERTC), headed by Lusaka lawyer Mrs Mwangala Zaloumis, which comprised among others, President Edgar Lungu and Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini. The committee went round the country to listen to what the Zambian people wanted to see by way of reforms to our electoral process. The committee made a number of critically important recommendations to our electoral system, which if implemented, would have given confidence to the citizens of Zambia in the Electoral process, which is sadly currently absent," he said.

"Many of the recommendations in the ERTC report, have been adopted and implemented by a number of countries in Africa, including Nigeria where I found the report, in the office of Chairman of the Electoral Commission, when I was co-leader of the Election Observer Mission of the National Democratic Institute of the United States of America a few years ago. This is an important matter which must be discussed in a non-partisan manner. This is more important than Bill 10, which still requires more serious consultations among stakeholders, with a view to reaching a consensus, which is presently absent. Citizens should pay attention to this process and make sure that they pay back those MPs who vote for this Bill 10, by not voting for them in the name of accountability."

He lamented that a lot of electoral issues had remained unresolved since the last election.

"12th August, 2021 is eleven months away and this money will

play a major role in the forthcoming elections. Many electoral issues remain unresolved, such as issuance of National Registration Cards, Voter Registration, levelling the campaign playing field for ALL participants, transparent tallying of votes, equal access to the state media, among others. To our political leaders who have ears to hear, I have this to say; please meet and seriously discuss the issues affecting our country. The country is more important than you. You are servants of the people and not their masters. Don't let power or the quest for it, blind you to the realities our country is currently facing. Public service is not about self. It is about serving the people who elected you to make their lives

better. This is what the struggle for independence was all about," Mwaanga said.

"There is a ramadan of discontent out there and it would appear that there is also a serious disconnect between the ruling clique and the people. Money is not everything and UNIP learnt the hard way in 1991, when with all the money they spent and control they exercised on the state media, they lost elections lamentably to the MMD. Later, the MMD in 2011, learnt a similar lesson, when they lost to the PF - after running the best funded election campaign in the history of the MMD. This underlines the fact that Power is never permanent and change of governments must and will take

place from time to time. This is healthy for our nascent democracy."

He said national problems must be treated as non-partisan and must draw on the institutional knowledge, expertise and experience of its citizens.

"Every country goes through ups and downs at one time or another in its history. The important thing is to ensure that the ups heavily outnumber the downs. During the period of downs, one of the most important things is how mature governments handle the downs. They adopt inclusive consultations in search of possible solutions. They don't simply bury their heads in the sand and hope for divine intervention from above. Great nations usually involve

their citizens in search of solutions in times of crisis, regardless of their political affiliations. National problems must be treated as non-partisan and must draw on the institutional knowledge, expertise and experience of its citizens," stated Mwaanga.

"I can feel a strong headwind coming our way. It is an uncomfortable truth that our economy had begun to perform poorly even before the COVID 19 pandemic unexpectedly ravaged our world, with devastating human and economic consequences. Economies of all countries in the world have had their growth forecasts considerably downgraded. Even in this season of the Coronavirus pandemic, countries which are better managed, will fare a lot better and move faster towards recovery."

By Ulande Nkomesha

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the country has recorded 116 COVID-19 cases out of 997 tests done in the last 24 hours as related deaths reach 297.

And Ministry of Health director of Infectious Diseases Professor Lloyd Mulenga says a prevalence study done by the Ministry indicates that the country may have more COVID-19 cases than those recorded.

Speaking during the routine COVID-19 updates, Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said the country further recorded two more COVID-19 associated deaths, taking the number to 297.

"In the last 24 hours, we conducted a total of 997 tests and got 116 new cases. These new cases were identified through health facility screening, that is for known contacts, even just routine screening and mortality surveillance in our mortuaries. Districts that recorded cases include Lusaka, Kitwe, Chinsali, Solwezi, Kabwe, Mufulira, Mansa, Kalalulushi, Mpika, Mpongwe, Ndola and Chingola. We had one brought in dead case from Kabwe. Unfortunately, we lost a 77-year-old patient with underlying Alzheimer's disease and hypertension and he presented with COVID-19 Pneumonia and succumbed despite the efforts that our team put in. That raises our COVID-19 related deaths in the last 24 hours by two because of the BID that I did speak about," Dr Chilufya said.

"We have 46 patients admitted to our various COVID facilities in the country; 30 at Levy, 16 are on oxygen and 11 are on ICU requiring

We may have more COVID-19 cases than what's being recorded - MOH

critical care. If we look at those outside Lusaka, we have 15, with five on oxygen. On the Copperbelt, five and two in Northern and North Western and three in Muchinga and Southern. We continue to discharge patients from various facilities from community isolation facilities, so a total of 29 patients have been discharged. So our total now stands at 12,952 cases, out of the 125,070 tests conducted so far. Recoveries stand at 11,787 with 297 deaths."

He said the Ministry had conducted prevalence research to understand the epidemiology and the extent of COVID-19 in six selected districts.

"We have been conducting relevant research; among areas of research include understanding the epidemiology which is, who is affected, where and when. The prevalence studies surveys SARS COV2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in selected districts to understand the extent of the disease and who has been affected in terms of age, sex, residence and other parameters. The studies that took place from 2nd to 31st July included surveys among the community household, out-patient department and health workers," said Dr Chilufya.

"These surveys were conducted in Kabwe, Livingstone, Lusaka, Nakonde, Ndola, Solwezi districts. These districts are home to one quarter of the population in Zambia. Nearly 7,000 participants were tested

with PCR for acute current infection and serology for past recovered infection. All ages could participate and we had approximately 60 percent female and one quarter were less than 20 years old and 15 percent were more than 50 years old."

And Professor Mulenga said the findings of the study indicated that health workers were actually getting infections from the community as opposed to health facilities.

"We did the study from 2nd July to 31st July when we had a peak in the number of infections. So we did it at the right time for us to have an understanding of the current infections which we were having but also to have an understanding of the exposure which had happened. We saw that there was low prevalence before July. The measures that were put in place by the government did delay the peak and again, this showed us that many, many Zambians are susceptible to SARS2 COV infection because the majority of Zambians might not have been infected," Prof Mulenga said.

"Nakonde gave us an insight that prior infection which had happened was consistently revealed in this study, where we saw that the exposure was higher but acute infections were low in Nakonde at the time of the study. The healthcare workers, the prevalence is the same as in the general population, indicating to us that health care workers are getting infections from the community as opposed to getting

infections from the facilities."

He said the prevalence study had indicated that the country could have more numbers of COVID-19 cases than what was being recorded.

"Many more infections are occurring than reported. What the Ministry gives or highlights and ZNPH is what has been done, the tests that have been reported so far. It does not indicate the active infections which are going on. So, it is just a snapshot, meaning that there are more infections out there," said Prof Mulenga.

"What we can comment on and confidently extrapolate over is to the districts because our sampling was based on the numeration areas in those districts. The infections that are reported, the 12,000 which have been reported, is what has been tested, those that have been tested and how many people have come out positive."

Meanwhile, Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) director Professor Victor Mukonka said the study indicated at the time that about 10 per cent of the population in the sampled districts was infected.

"Summarizing what he (Prof Mulenga) has said basically is, what is the extent of the infection in the country through that sample at that time? You can see that at that time, we were running at about 10 per cent of our population being infected. Secondly, who is being infected? Again, we can see that we have more men who have been infected and again, that age band as we go old. It is a very good foundation in terms of putting key interventions for the public..." said Prof Mukonka.

"Now that sample is representative and that gives you exactly what is happening in the community. So at that time, we were running close to 10 percent in those selected populations in terms of the infection. That is why it is important that the surveys are done regularly because then, they would be informing us as the situation is evolving. We have some index of suspicion through the routine tests we do; for example, when we just began during the outbreak, we were just around three percent and we saw it increase to seven, 10 until we were running to about 25 percent of the samples we tested. So, it is a very good indication which tells you also if your interventions are working in terms of reducing the infection."A

Privatization debate not a PF baby – Sunday

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PATRIOTIC Front (PF) media director Sunday Chanda says the ruling party has nothing to do with the debate around privatization as it is an issue between UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his FDD counterpart Edith Nawakwi.

And Chanda says PF identifies with the suffering of the masses, given the escalating cost of living and doing business.

Meanwhile, Chanda has appealed to his party members in Lukashya and Mwanabombwe to exercise maximum restraint when provoked by competitors.

Speaking when he featured on 5FM's The Burning Issue, Tuesday, Chanda said it was not true that the PF was trying to use the privatization debate in order to shift people's attention from the current problems the country was facing.

"For starters, the privatization debate is not a PF baby. It is a matter between comrade Hakainde Hichilema and comrade Edith Nawakwi and comrade Sean Tembo and others. It's a debate among

the stakeholders and the citizens. We have nothing to do with it. The allegation that we are diverting [people's attention from national issues that government is supposed to focus on] is no true. There is no diversion whatsoever. And the allegation that we want to kill anyone is not true. Let me officially divorce the Patriotic Front from this privatization debate. It's not our baby," Chanda said.

And Chanda said PF was concerned about the high cost of doing business as well as the high cost of living among the people.

"The Patriotic Front is concerned about the high cost of living. It is concerned about the high cost of doing business, it is concerned about the young farmers because food security is key if we were to attain our aspirations as pronounced in the 2016 to 2021 election manifesto. We feel their pain and we identify their pain. So, there is no pretense whatsoever, we feel the pain of Zambian people. And in feeling this pain, we are not just seated

and folding arms. We are not trying to run away from the fact that the depreciation of the Zambian kwacha is having a negative bearing on the livelihoods of our people. We have not sat back and pretend COVID-19 is not real and is not affecting our people negatively. And even as we are dealing with the harsh realities of this pandemic, government has been very proactive," Chanda said.

Meanwhile, Chanda urged his party members to refrain from violence at all times even when they are provoked.

"As we talk to the people, we tell them about the things that we will do for them. As a party that is in power, we have a duty to ensure that we exercise maximum restraint and ensure that at all times, we make the work of the police easier. And that at all times, you must refrain from violence. The president has condemned any sort of violence, the party does not tolerate any form of violence. And I wish the repeat the secretary general's statement about two to three weeks ago that the party will

not shield anyone who conducts violence in the name of the party. The Patriotic Front is not one that will stand and justify violence like some of our colleagues do. We are not going to call violence as self defence. Violence will not be condoned in the Patriotic Front," said Chanda.

"And our message is very clear to our members of the party that even under extreme provocation, restrain yourselves from engaging in violence acts. We want to win these by-elections legitimately and we want our people to express their free will as they go to cast their votes because that has always been the way that we have won elections. The people of Lukashya and Mwanabombwe are looking for development and nothing else. If there is any conversation that they would want to hear is the conversation around development. They want schools, they want hospitals, electricity, farming inputs delivered on time, they want improved telecommunication, and improved feeder roads."

Greenwood issues apology after being sent home from England camp

MASON Greenwood has issued an apology saying his actions while on international duty in Iceland, which led to him being dropped from the England squad, were "irresponsible".

The Manchester United attacker was sent home from England duty on Monday after reports in Iceland claimed he and Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden had met up with local

girls in the team hotel and consequently broken strict Covid-19 rules.

The pair were both fined £1,360 for the breach of pandemic rules and both were criticised by England

manager Gareth Southgate and their respective clubs.

United wrote in a statement: "Manchester United are liaising with the Football Association and are disappointed with the actions of Mason Greenwood over this situation."

Greenwood flew back to Manchester on Monday after being dropped from the England squad for their game against Denmark and it is understood a decision will be made in due course as to when he can resume training with his club.

Iceland is on the United Kingdom's travel corridor list which means there is no government legislation which would require the teenager to isolate.

Foden took to his social media channels on Monday to apologise for his actions but Greenwood deleted his



Twitter account after the incident and instead issued an apology via the club website on Tuesday morning.

He said: "Having now had the chance to reflect on what's happened, I can only apologise to everyone for the embarrassment I have caused."

"It was irresponsible of me to break the Covid-19 protocols which are in place to protect players, staff and the public. In particular, I want to apologise to Gareth Southgate, for letting him down, when he had shown great trust in me."

"Playing for England was one of the proudest moments in my life and I only have

myself to blame for this huge mistake. I promise my family, the fans, Manchester United and England that this is a lesson I will learn from."

It was Greenwood's first call-up to the men's senior side having represented England previously at youth level and he came off the bench in the second half of their 1-0 win against Iceland on Saturday to make his senior debut.

Southgate confirmed the two players had not been in contact with anyone else from the squad after meeting with the girls which meant the game against Denmark was not put in jeopardy. **GOAL.COM**

Zanaco signs 3 young stars

By Abraham Kalito

WITH the transfer window still open until late next month, super league clubs have started spreading big to bring new talent and reinforce squads.

Zanaco FC has joined the race to sign quality players ahead of the season's reopening next month.

The club has announced the acquisition of three players whilst promotion two from the academy to the senior team.

"Zanaco Football Club is delighted to announce the signing of three youth midfielders. Ex-Zambia Under-20 international Albert Kangwanda, 21, has penned a one-year deal from Kafue Celtic

while 20-year-old Abraham Siankombo from Police College has penned a three-year contract. Another former Young Chipolopolo midfielder Obino Chisala has also penned a three-year deal from Happy Hearts. Kangwanda said he is excited to be part of one of Zambia's biggest club," a statement by club public relations officer Martha Tembo read.

"Meanwhile, striker's George Nyimbili and Mike Zozi have graduated from Young Zanaco to the senior team. Nyimbili and Zozi, both 21, have signed 3-year contracts. Zanaco Football Club General Manager Marlon Kananda says the club will continue investing in young players."

Kampamba ditches Nkana



By Ngosa Chalwe

BARELY a month after winning the league title with Nkana, Chipolopolo midfielder Kelvin Mubanga Kampamba has ditched the Kitwe giants for Zesco United whom he has described as a big team.

Zesco yesterday announced Kampamba as their new acquisition after agreeing on personal terms with the eight-time league champions.

Despite claiming it is not an easy decision to leave Nkana, Kampamba said his main aim will be to help Zesco wrestle the title from Nkana next season.

"It's not an easy thing to move from Nkana to Zesco United but I know that I am joining a big football club. It is unfortunate that we are not going to represent Zambia in the CAF Competitions. I am here to help the team reclaim the title and qualify for CAF competitions. I am very excited to join Zesco United because this is a team that I have admired for some time," Kampamba said.

The former Power Dynamos and Kitwe United player has signed a two-year pre-contract agreement subject to be finalised after a medical test.

Zesco technical chairman, Peter Mutale, told the club's website that Kampamba will join the Ndola side in January 2021 seeing off the remaining four months of his current deal with Nkana.

"Kampamba has signed a pre-contract agreement with ZESCO United after agreeing personal terms with the club. Kampamba's contract with us will come into effect on 1st January 2021 after seeing off the remaining four months of his contract with Nkana Football Club," Mutale said. "Kelvin will bring a new dimension in the midfield, especially creativity. A combination of Ching'andu, Tafadzwa, Kamusoko and now Kampamba will be a lethal attacking system for the club."

Having missed out on qualification to the CAF inter-club competitions, Zesco are determined to return to the league of African Football elites next

season.

"Our aim is to sign quality players because it's only quality that will bring success to the club. We have brought in these players to send a big statement of intent to return in CAF and to reclaim the league title," added Mutale.

Meanwhile, Napsa Stars have bolstered their attacking options after signing Kenyan striker Timothy Otieno on a three-year deal.

Napsa board chairman Greg Nsofu said in a statement released by club media officer Gwen Chipasula that the club is delighted to have signed the former KPL star.

"We are excited to have Timothy here, we concluded everything yesterday and his International Transfer Certificate (ITC) came in. I'm happy to disclose that he is officially a Napsa Stars FC player and we trust that he is a good addition, especially with the tasks ahead of us," Nsofu said.

Otieno joins Napsa at the back of an impressive season in Kenya where he bagged the golden boot with 14 goals.

Chitundu urges Chipolopolo trio at Orlando Pirates to fight for places

By Ngosa Chalwe

FIFA player agent Chiti Chitundu has urged the Chipolopolo trio of Justin Shonga, Augustine Mulenga and Austin Muwowo to fight for their positions at their South African club side Orlando Pirates.

The trio have struggled to make the grade in the team after the appointment of German trainer Josef Zinnbauer last year to replace South African Rhulani Mukwena.

Shonga missed the return of the Premier Soccer League (PSL) after he was handed a suspension for breaking team protocols that were put in place to avert the spread of COVID-19.

Mulenga, on the other hand, has been fizzled out of the Pirates team, having only managed 12 games this season while Muwowo has struggled to break into the team since his switch from Forest Rangers.

Chitundu said in an interview yesterday that the situation faced by the trio was sad but said they needed to up their game and ensure that they reclaimed their places in the team next season.

He also said the players needed to work on their discipline.

"My advice is simple; let them find the right friends and the right area to stay...it is all about discipline. Top clubs don't compromise on that. For me, it has nothing to do with the team. It is the player's attitude towards work," Chitundu said.

Asked if he would advise the players to change the club, he said changing the club would not improve their situation.

"It is not about changing the club, it is about the players changing their mentality. They must stick around and prove their worth next season," said Chitundu.

Arsenal star Bellerin becomes second-largest shareholder of League 2 side Forest Green Rovers

ARSENAL defender Hector Bellerin has become the second-largest shareholder of League Two outfit Forest Green Rovers.

The Spaniard, who has a passion for conservation and climate change, has bought into the philosophies embraced by a fourth tier outfit.

Forest Green Rovers became a fully vegan side in 2015 and the world's first carbon-neutral sports club in 2017.

Bellerin, who pledged to plant 3,000 trees for every victory Arsenal secured after 'Project Restart' in mid-June, shares the vision of a Gloucestershire-based team that he has now invested in.

The Gunners full-back told The Green Army's official website: "I was really excited when I first discovered the opportunity to get involved at Forest Green Rovers - and the brilliant work the club is already doing.

"It's important that I invest

in things I am passionate about - and I'm excited to help push football into having a sustainable future.

"Forest Green Rovers prove to clubs who say 'they don't have resources to be sustainable' - that it is possible.

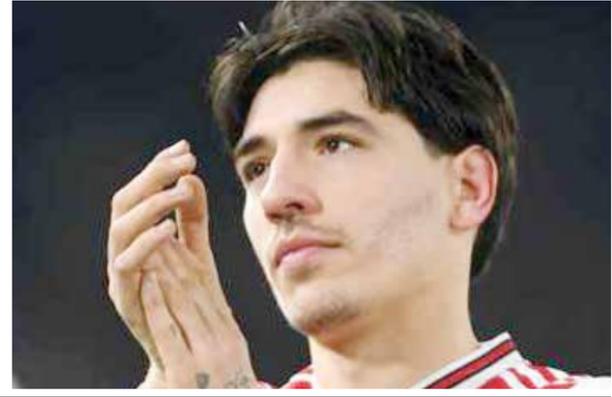
"With the new stadium, being carbon neutral and vegan, the club is doing some mind-blowing work.

"People have a universal love of football, so there's no better industry to promote sustainability - and what we can do as football supporters to be more environmentally conscious.

"I became a vegan around three years ago and at first, I just wanted to try it and detox my body. Initially, I thought I'd eat meat as a 'treat' - but, being vegan just worked for

me. After a month of being vegan, I felt stronger - and I didn't struggle with ankle injuries anymore. I began to feel more energetic on the pitch - and I began to notice a real difference."

Club chairman Dale Vince added: "I like Hector's approach, his personal journey and the things he's trying to do - they make sense. **GOAL.COM**



KAMPAMBWA DITCHES NKANA

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TUNE INTO MUSIC.
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