



# WHO refutes claim that toxic drugs came from its accredited manufacturers HOW HONEYBEE LIED TO WIN \$17M

By Sipilisiwe Ncube and Julia Malunga

A FRESH investigation into the supply of toxic drugs by HoneyBee Pharmacy has revealed

that the firm actually submitted falsified financial statements to the Ministry of Health in order to win the US\$17 million Health Centre Kits tender.

And the World Health Organisation (WHO) says it does not accredit any pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, contrary to claims by HoneyBee

Pharmacy that the substandard drugs it supplied to the Ministry

of Health in Zambia were sourced from manufacturers accredited

by the global health institution.

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President Lungu greets his Malawian counterpart, Dr Lazarus Chakwera, on his visit to State House yesterday. Story page 2

## Chagwa, Chakwera cement ties

## ECZ registers 16,000 voters in a day

Story page 10

## Artists' case against ECZ fails to take off

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE matter in which Musicians Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu and Brian Bwembya and others have dragged the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to the Lusaka High Court could not take off yesterday as Judge-in-charge Gertrude Chawatama is reportedly in quarantine after being exposed to COVID-19.

The matter has been adjourned to a date to be advised.

In this matter, Pilato, Zulu,

Bwembya and two others have applied for leave in the Lusaka High Court to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the decision of the

Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers...

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## There'll be no more load shedding beyond March 2021 - Nkhuwa

By Ulande Nkomesha  
ENERGY Minister Mathews

Nkhuwa says load shedding is now expected to come to an end in March, 2021, following the completion of Kafue Gorge Lowerhydro Power Station.

During his address to Parliament, President Edgar Lungu assured the nation that load shedding would be a thing of the past by December, 2020, once the Kafue Gorge Lower power station was completed as it would produce 750 megawatts.

And in June, Nkhuwa also promised that load shedding would be mitigated...

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## CK reports Simusamba to JCC again

Story page 10





Shakumbila sues Cupriferous Resources for defamation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SENIOR Chief Shakumbila of the Sala people of Mumbwa District has dragged Cupriferous Resources Limited and its chief executive officer Katambi Bulawayo to the Lusaka High Court for allegedly defaming him.

Senior Chief Shakumbila (Chikumbe Chibamba) is seeking damages for libel after Bulawayo allegedly wrote a letter accusing him of receiving US \$20,000 and K100,000 from his company as a facilitation fee.

He is also seeking aggravated and exemplary damages, an order directing Bulawayo to retract the allegedly defamatory words, as well as costs.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, recently, senior chief Shakumbila (Chikumbe Chibamba) stated that on August 24, this year, Bulawayo, acting with the authority of Cupriferous Resources Limited, wrote and published or caused to be published defamatory words against him.

He added that the said defamatory words were that, “We observe with concern that after you received US \$20,000 and K100,000 from our company as facilitation fee payable to His Royal Highness Senior Chief Shakumbila acting as his representative...We, therefore, write to seek confirmation if the said funds were in fact transmitted to His Royal Highness Senior Chief Shakumbila.”

Senior chief Shakumbila stated that the letter was addressed to one Thomas Mushibwe and copied

to third parties without the defendants confirming its veracity and without any proof.

He further stated that the statement was copied to third parties, including ZCCM-IH chief executive officer, Mumbwa District Commissioner, the District Intelligence officer, among others.

The traditional leader stated that as a result, he had suffered contempt, ridicule and embarrassment in the eyes of the third parties copied to.

He stated that in their natural and ordinary meaning, the said words were understood to mean that he had a prior or has an agreement with the defendants upon which they would pay him [Chief Shakumbila] the said sums of money in exchange for his cooperation with the said company in respect of Cupriferous Resources Limited joint venture with Volt Resources of Australia.

Senior chief Shakumbila stated that the statement was also understood to mean that he is in the habit of selling favours in exchange for money, that he engaged Mushibwe as his representative to collect the said money for the purposes of facilitating quiet enjoyment of Cupriferous Resources Limited’s purported project.

He added that he was not even privy to Cupriferous Resources Limited’s purported project and had never consented to it.

The traditional leader added that the words directly damage his reputation as the slanderous words issued by the defendants were now in public domain.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube  
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has promised to always support and consult his Malawian counterpart Lazarus Chakwera.

And President Chakwera has expressed his gratitude over Zambia’s support to his country during times of crises.

Speaking when President Chakwera visited State House, Tuesday, President Lungu said Zambians and Malawians are one and must work together to fight problems confronting their two nations.

“I will support you and consult you,” President Lungu assured President Chakwera.

He also congratulated his Malawian counterpart for his victory in the presidential elections.

“I would have loved to come to witness your inauguration but it was not possible at the time,” President Lungu said.

“I am confident that Your Excellency would promote the advancement and furtherance of democratic principles, fundamental freedoms, and good governance for the consolidation of democracy in Malawi and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.”

In response, President Chakwera thanked President Lungu for delegating Minister of Defence Davies Chama to his inauguration.

The Malawian leader then invited President Lungu to Malawi for a state visit saying the conversation should continue.

President Chakwera agreed with President Lungu that it was time the two Governments supported the private sector to grow as this will grow the countries economies instead of heavily depending on multilateral aid.

“Mr President I still remember I called this lady because of what she (Dambisa Moyo) wrote about Dead Aid. Sometimes you read and re-read these things and know that we just can’t live by maintenance and we can’t have financial institutions almost telling us to always be where we are supposed to be. We need a break where we can truly rise. So, I am looking forward to working with you and the people of this nation despite the problems we face now,

Chagwa, Chakwera cement ties

of course we have COVID-19. But Zambia has always been our friend even when we had disasters in our country, for example, the cyclones we had. You helped us and so forth. So, I am grateful for the support,” President Chakwera said.

The Malawian leader said President Lungu had shown leadership in the way Zambia had managed the COVID-19 pandemic especially that the country was not under lockdown like other countries.

President Lungu responded that the world was in “unchartered waters and all we can do is pray and pray and pray that God Almighty sees as through the pandemic.”

President Lungu said there is a silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic citing opportunities created for the local farmers to sell their produce without competition from outside.

The President acknowledged the strong economic ties that actively exist within the framework of the Zambia/Malawi Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation (JPC).

Meanwhile, President Chakwera appealed to Zambia to help his country secure a seat on the Human Rights Council in the upcoming New York elections.

“Your leadership has been greatly appreciated. Our people know who to live together and we need our permanent commissions to collaborate. We need to sensitize our people on every level, on security, on intelligence, in terms of education, trade, and so forth. We see that we are so interrelated. We are almost like Siamese twins. And when we had a history of electricity blackouts in our country, you came to our aid. And we would also want to support positions that are mutually beneficial to our nation particularly when it comes to membership in COMESA and SADC, and then the United Nations via the African Union. We would love to solicit your support because our desire is to have a seat on the human rights council during the upcoming elections in New York. So, if you could help us, you know, next time we could help you also as we have done in the past. We always support our

neighbors,” President Chakwera said.

President Chakwera also congratulated the ruling PF for winning the Lukashya and Mwansabombwe parliamentary by-elections.

“I know that last week, the ruling Patriotic Front won by-elections in Lukashya and in Mwansabombwe on 17th September 2020. So, congratulations. I want to underscore our need for peaceful coexistence that we have been and to continue to share relations because we cannot undo history. We are the same people and it’s important for us to see how our people can also prosper knowing that we share similar aspirations. What troubles one, troubles the other. In our region, we want economic prosperity, we want industrialization, and we want our livelihoods changed. It’s going to be exponential growth because when we look at the trajectories and if we want to grow incrementally, it’s going to take hundreds of years. So, we need something that really causes us to expand in a way that our people can sense the difference and say ‘hey, this is now real,’ said President Chakwera.

“Our relationship has been anchored on common history and our attachment to rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, good political and economic governance, transparency and accountability. All of these things sometimes we talk about is to create a space for everyone to prosper and of course Zambia has more tribal groups than Malawi but most of the tribal groups found in Zambia are also found in Malawi. So, we share languages, we share cultural festivals. So, we would like to see how we would enhance these relationships and economic levels as well as SADC and COMESA and so forth. I am grateful because I have learned a little bit that I have been a leader when you led as chairperson of the SADC organ on Politics, Defense and Security. We would like to learn more on how our people can share strengths. Our region needs to be secure. We have peace and security in the DRC, we have peace and security close to us.”

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**By Ulande Nkomesha**  
ENERGY Minister Mathews Nkhuwa says load shedding is now expected to come to an end in March, 2021, following the completion of Kafue Gorge Lowerhydro Power Station.

During his address to Parliament, President Edgar Lungu assured the nation that load shedding would be a thing of the past by December, 2020, once the Kafue Gorge Lower power station was completed as it would produce 750 megawatts.

And in June, Nkhuwa also promised that load shedding would be mitigated by end of December, 2020, mainly as a result of increased water levels at the Kariba Dam.

He further said that the Kafue Gorge was also expected to start generating electricity by August, this year, which was expected to significantly reduce load shedding hours across the country by the end of this year.

But speaking during a media briefing in Lusaka, Tuesday, Nkhuwa announced that Zambia still faced a power deficit of 810 megawatts with an average generation of only 1,846 megawatts, and that load shedding would only completely be phased out by next March.

“I wish to take this opportunity to inform and address the nation on the electricity situation in Zambia. Currently, we are averaging generation of about 1,846 megawatts, which is 1,413 megawatts from Zesco and 420 megawatts from Independent Power Producers or IPPS. At Kariba North Bank power station, the dam level fell from previous level 480.33 meters

# There’ll be no more load shedding beyond March 2021 – Nkhuwa

to 480.20 metres, representing 33.2 per cent of the usable storage,” Nkhuwa said.

“The power deficit has remained at 810 megawatts and, therefore, load shedding for up to 10 hours is scheduled for different customer categories under the distribution. However, energy load shedded is being applied during the peak period to maintain a balance between the available generation to the demand hand system process.”

Nkhuwa said about 150 megawatts was expected to come on-stream next month from Kafue Gorge Power station, while another 150 megawatts was expected by Christmas, adding that the remaining 450 megawatts was expected to be injected by next March to narrow the huge power deficit.

He said that government had established a number of activities to mitigate the power deficit in the country.

“To mitigate the power deficit, there are a number of activities that are currently being implemented by Zesco taking into consideration the Electricity Act of 2019, and the National Energy Policy of 2019, that will entail a mix with some projects under implementation. Notable among projects being implemented include: construction of 750 megawatts Kafue Gorge Lower Power Station, this station started being constructed way back in 2016. As you can see, it is now four years and we are going into the fifth year before we can see the fruits of the power station. It doesn’t take one day to build a power station, it takes long, like five years,” Nkhuwa said.

“So, government has been working and very soon you will see the completion of these power generations.

We expect the first of 150 megawatts come into play by end of October, this year, and the next 150 megawatts making it 300 by end of December and the remaining 450 megawatts will be completed by March, 2021. Going beyond March, we don’t expect any load shedding beyond March, 2021. The construction of 15 megawatts Luwashi sub-station currently under defect liability period is

expected to be brought back into service on Friday, this week, which is September 25th 2020. The construction of the 2,400 megawatts Batoka Power Station in collaboration with Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company of Zimbabwe. Under this project, Zesco will manage about 1,200 megawatts, while Zimbabwe will manage about 1,200 megawatts as well. So, it

is a 50/50 situation.”

And Nkhuwa announced that Zesco had partnered with PowerChina for the development of 600 megawatts of viable renewable energy plants in various parts of the country. “Zesco has partnered with PowerChina for the development of 600 megawatts of viable renewable energy plants in various parts of the

country, namely: Kariba 200 megawatts; Kafue Gorge Lower, 200 megawatts; Chishimba, 200 megawatts. Furthermore, Zesco has participated in studies to establish renewable energy, both solar and wind that can be integrated into the interconnected power systems taking into consideration the highly variable theoretical contributions. These studies are currently going on. Lastly, as you may be aware, electricity is key in facilitating activities of all sectors of the economy, the government will further continue to promote and implement measures aimed at improving electricity generation,” said Nkhuwa.

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**

THE matter in which Musicians Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu and Brian Bwembya and others have dragged the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to the Lusaka High Court could not take off yesterday as Judge-in-charge Gertrude Chawatama is reportedly in quarantine after being exposed to COVID-19.

The matter has been adjourned to a date to be advised.

In this matter, Pilato, Zulu, Bwembya and two others have applied for leave in the Lusaka High Court to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the decision of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers for verification under a new register for the 2021 general elections.

In their notice for leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings filed in the principal registry, Pilato, Maiko, Bwembya, aka B Flow and two youths – Nawa Sitali and Muleta Kapatiso – on behalf of the people, have argued that the decision by ECZ which required currently validly registered voters in terms of the law to participate in a process that amounts to re-registration of voters in a period of one month is illegal.

Pilato and others who are represented by lawyers Nchito and Nchito and Mwenye and Mwitwa Advocates have further argued that

## Artists’ case against ECZ fails to take off as judge is in quarantine

ECZ’s decision amounted to deregistering voters without notice and following laid down procedure, which was contrary to the law.

The applicants are now seeking an order quashing ECZ’s decision for being irrational, procedurally improper and illegal and an order, compelling ECZ to re-take its decision and act within the powers vested in them by the law.

Expressing displeasure about the failure of the case to take off in a Facebook post, Pilato suggested that another judge takes up the matter.

“The case did not take off today because Judge Chawatama is reportedly in quarantine. Some how this excuse for them is credible as they continue to assume that we are young and user friendly. The case was taken to the court and not to an individual judge. Therefore it is lame and insulting to say because a single judge is in quarantine then judicial processes must be stopped and wait for that particular judge to come back. The judge has not gone on vacation, she is in COVID19 quarantine and what assurance do we have that she will come back strong and fit next week? If she is not well the wheels of justice must continue. The

High Court of Zambia has a number of very competent judges who can preside over these cases,” stated Pilato.

“Judge Chawatama and judge Chitabo are not the only judges at High Court. We cannot reduce the power of the court to the physical fitness of two individuals. It is our considered view that if judge Chawatama is indeed in quarantine, she should be patriotic enough to hand over the files to another judge and allow the process to start. To the people of Zambia, I would like to remind you that every regime that has existed and committed crimes against

humanity, did so with the support of some people who benefited from it. The racist Apartheid regime in South Africa killed black people and committed all the crimes with support from a few churches, a few Civil Society Organisations and a few individuals. Hitler in Germany committed the crimes against humanity with the support of from some people and institutions. Today we are here and of course those that are benefiting from the collapse of this country will stand to defend the collapse. Some are doing so out of ignorance while others with the full knowledge, watch them.”


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By Sipilisiwe Ncube and Julia Malunga

A FRESH investigation into the supply of toxic drugs by HoneyBee Pharmacy has revealed that the firm actually submitted falsified financial statements to the Ministry of Health in order to win the US\$17 million Health Centre Kits tender.

And the World Health Organisation (WHO) says it does not accredit any pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, contrary to claims by HoneyBee Pharmacy that the substandard drugs it supplied to the Ministry of Health in Zambia were sourced from manufacturers accredited by the global health institution.

Sources close to the investigation told News Diggers that apart from failing ZAMRA inspection, HoneyBee Pharmacy

# HoneyBee used fake financial statements to win \$17m drug supply tender, reveals investigation

also submitted fake statements of account to the procurement committee, and the contract was awarded based on false information regarding the firm's capacity to deliver specified goods in the bid.

According to bid documents seen by News Diggers, HoneyBee submitted financial statements purporting to have been audited by a company called I.Dore, to the effect that the Pharmacy had the financial capacity to execute the procurement of 22,500 Health Centre Kits within a delivery period of eight to 12 weeks.

“In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of HoneyBee Pharmacy as at 31 December 2017, and of its performance and cashflows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting standards and the requirements of the Zambian Companies Act,” read the HoneyBee audit report, purportedly prepared by I.Dore company.

“...misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they

could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decision of users taken on the basis of these statements.”

But sources revealed that the audit firm distanced itself from HoneyBee when the audit report was brought under scrutiny.

“The only challenge we have here is that there is no green light yet to make arrests and prosecute this case, but we have the file. It's a straightforward case of corruption and money laundering. For example, you are aware that HoneyBee failed ZAMRA inspection, but they were still given a licence illegally because they needed that licence to win the tender. Apart from that, they also provided an audit report from that company, I.Dore. As you could see from the bid, the financial statements submitted even had signatures, but when I.Dore was queried, they denied ever auditing HoneyBee. That's the report we have, I.Dore distanced itself from the HoneyBee audit report, meaning this also becomes a case of investigation for ZICA, you might wish to ask them what they know about this,” the sources said.

“But you might also be looking at a possibility that there was collusion between HoneyBee and I.Dore because there is a trail of misinformation on the file. HoneyBee also claimed that they supplied drugs to Malawi and the South African government, but that has also been established as false. We have all that detail on file, what is remaining is sanction for us to move in. But like I said there is no push on this case at this stage, we don't know...”

But when contacted Tuesday, I.Dore proprietor Ismail Dore said HoneyBee was his client and their dealings were confidential.

“Honey Bee is our client, I will not discuss issues about our client on the phone or with the media. We prioritise privacy. Just like a doctor who keeps a patient's health private, I cannot

just discuss issues about my client,” Ismail Dore said.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation has distanced itself from the HoneyBee claim that they supplied drugs sourced from WHO accredited manufacturers.

Early this month, HoneyBee Pharmacy manager Zackiri Motala told News Diggers! that it collected all its medicines which it supplies to the Ministry of Health from WHO-accredited pharmaceutical manufacturers, when he was asked to explain the supply of toxic Paracetamol.

“All our medicine has been collected from WHO CNP accredited. If you know the system of pharmaceuticals, there is nothing like sub-standard. If there is anything sub-standard, there is a regulatory body. So, all these are governed by WHO. If there is any drug, which has probably discoloured or anything that is not fit for consumption, the regulatory body is contacted and then that medicine is recalled from the public. And it goes back to the manufacturer. So, before you even think of writing a screaming headline or before you even think of victimising us, because you have victimised us a lot, this is a chain. Us, we are the suppliers, and we go to the manufacturers. And the manufacturer has to have a WHO certification. And we only get drugs from WHO-certified manufacturers so that we don't get anything from street vendors. So, when we get from WHO-certified manufacturers, we are also protected, and even the people of Zambia are going to be protected, and even the Ministry (of Health) is going to be protected,” Motala had said.

But in response to a press query, the WHO press office, through its media relations officer Hedinn Halldorsson, stated that the organisation did not accredit pharmaceutical companies.

“WHO does not accredit pharmaceutical companies.

Through the WHO Prequalification programme, WHO facilitates access to safe and quality medical products: specific products may, therefore, be ‘pre-qualified’ upon having reached certain strict criteria. Pharmaceutical companies, which manufacture these products are not accredited by WHO, only designated products are. WHO proposes a range of solutions to ensure access to safe, effective, quality- and affordable medical products. For example, the manufacturing process of products that are referenced as pre-qualified would have been assessed and inspected by specialised staff. In other instances, WHO and international partners may set up procurement mechanisms whereby the purchase of essential medicines is streamlined for governments,” Halldorsson stated.

Halldorsson added that regulatory and judicial responses to sub-standard and falsified medical products varied by country and were subject to national sovereignty.

“Should any stakeholder wish to obtain a list or references of products, which have been validated by the WHO Pre-qualification programme, a full list of these is available on the WHO website. Regulatory and judicial responses to sub-standard and falsified medical products vary by country and are subject to national sovereignty. WHO does provide extensive support to member states in this area. If faulty products are supplied, this should be flagged as soon as possible to the supplier and the competent national regulatory authority. If you suspect that you are dealing with a sub-standard and/or falsified medical product, or are aware of harm caused by such a product, please alert your national authorities. You may also inform WHO by writing to [rapidalert@who.int](mailto:rapidalert@who.int),” stated Halldorsson.

## Malupenga cherishes Lungu's leniency, salutes *Diggers'* apology

By Ulande Nkomesha  
MINISTRY of Information and Broadcasting Permanent Secretary Amos Malupenga says President Edgar Lungu values media freedom.

And Malupenga says News Diggers newspaper has shown professionalism by apologizing for misquoting President Lungu.

Speaking during the launch of Millennium Television station, Monday, Malupenga thanked President Lungu for his magnanimity in handling media issues.

“We are aware of what happened in the last few days where News Diggers misquoted the President, we want to give the opportunity to thank the President for his magnanimity in the way he responded to the whole matter. So we thank the President for his magnanimity and it shows that there is enough room for the media and government. People are saying that we don't have room for press freedom yet we even have room to make mistakes as long as we can correct them. So I want to thank the President for his magnanimity and the parental manner in which he responded because we know the gravity of that matter, it could have been different, he approached the whole issue maturely and more importantly we recognize the courage of News Diggers,” Malupenga said.

Malupenga thanked News Diggers for apologizing, saying it showed professionalism in their operations.

“In the same vein we also want to thank News Diggers for their courage to apologize and correct the record. Generally, myself I know how difficult it is to make an apology or a correction for a newspaper. So it took a lot of courage for News Diggers to do what they did. That we have to thank them and it shows professionalism. It shows that your desire is always to report correctly, each time you get your facts wrong you will be quick to

apologize. So for that reason, we also want to thank the News Diggers for showing that mark of professionalism. For you to apologize and set the record straight that is professional and it must be recommended,” Malupenga said.

“We want to thank News Diggers for their courage to go apologize like that, it shows courage on the newspaper. It also speaks to the professionalism of that paper. If you are not professional you may try to ignore. As a government we recognize the efforts that News Diggers put in to apologize because it speaks about their commitment to professionalism and to remain loyal to ethical and professional journalism. When you have reported the truth when someone complains, if what you reported is correct, you have no

reason to apologize because what you reported is the truth. Someone can even decide to sue and you will go to court knowing that you have the truth to defend you.”

Malupenga urged reporters to report accurately and factually.

“You are, therefore, advised that as you send your reporters on various assignments, your reporters must pay particular attention to the sources so that they understand clearly what they are saying and report accurately especially if your source happens to speak in local language which you may not be very familiar with. Please remember that there is no room for negligent errors in the media and journalists are advised to exercise the highest level of accuracy at all times,” said Malupenga.

By Natasha Sakala  
ZAMBIA'S 2021 national budget will lack credibility if government does not realign domestic growth to local entities as outlined in this year's budget, says economic analyst Trevor Hambayi.

Meanwhile, PFM-G Consult senior economist Bright Chizonde has urged the government to reduce the total allocation for the forthcoming 2021 national budget following reduced revenue prospects to make its implementation more realistic.

In an interview, Hambayi said the country should first realign its economic approach for the much-needed growth, which had not been achieved.

“I do not see how this budget is going to have any credibility if we have not realigned our economic approach because of the challenges that we have and it is very difficult because the key aspect, which was already mentioned in the 2020 budget, was the issue of having to realign domestic growth of local entities to spur

economic growth. But it was obviously not achieved and that is the first thing that we need to achieve: that we need to have growth from the local economy because that is where the resources of government are going to come from for them to be able to deal with the challenges that the country is facing,” Hambayi said.

“So, I would have thought that in terms of our budget, it should have been a direct reflection of what our economic strategy is, it would have meant that we would have needed to have a national indaba to redesign our economic strategy, look at what our resources are, look at what our priorities are and then determine how we want to approach this where we realign our capacity to be able to manage our debt and that is what should have been speaking to our budget.”

He added that the country needed to reduce its budget expenditure.

“You know, our approach to the budget was very clear before COVID-19 and

## 2021 budget should prioritise domestic growth - Hambayi

that was the fact that we needed to reduce our budget expenditure, which was in line with the strategy that we have been talking about in the last three years, which were around fiscal consolidation and austerity measures, which basically meant that we needed to reduce our expenses because we were spending more money than we are making. So, the additional challenge that we have, now, is obviously with COVID-19, but also, we seem to have gotten to a point where our debt situation has become a national issue, rather than just a small component of our budget,” said Hambayi.

And Chizonde, in a statement, observed that Zambia needed a realistic and implementable budget as opposed to mere economic

rhetoric.

“The temptation to print excess money should also be avoided since this would worsen the economic situation. Though approaching elections, it will not be possible for policymakers to deliver on all their pending promises. It would be prudent, therefore, to reduce the total budget allocation since revenue prospects have been greatly affected. Zambia needs a realistic and implementable budget and not one which is full of economic rhetoric,” Chizonde advised.

“Zambia has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as indicated by reduced economic growth prospects and reduced revenue collection.”

He also stressed that it would be counterproductive

for government to increase taxes as this would not stimulate the much-needed economic growth.

“Government should commit to improving economic growth, restoring debt sustainability, increasing international reserves and reducing the fiscal deficit. In doing so, government will have to compromise on its domestic resource mobilisation target. It would be counterproductive to increase taxes as this would not stimulate growth and may not be politically popular. In financing the 2021 budget, government should, therefore, develop modalities for increased access to external support and increase the fiscal space through debt rescheduling,” stated Chizonde.

Continues on P10



# I'm ready to be investigated for being a board member of ZPA - Bishop Mambo

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
BISHOP John Mambo says if President Edgar Lungu goes ahead to constitute a commission of inquiry into the privatization process, he, as a former board member of the Zambia Privatization Agency (ZPA), is ready to also be investigated.  
And Bishop Mambo says there is a need to set a proper political level playing field before the next general

election.  
In an interview, Bishop Mambo, who is Chikondi Foundation executive director, however said constituting a commission of inquiry would be a waste of public resources because all the records were there.  
“This issue where the government is insisting that they need a commission of inquiry into privatization of companies which was done

30 years ago, it is totally unacceptable that those entrusted by citizens to look after the welfare of the nation have now abandoned this noble calling. Choosing to prosecute and humiliate fellow citizens for holding divergent views. The people of Zambia cannot and will never be fooled by our leaders who claim to be pursuing the privatization matter in the national interest. To me, there is no national

interest, whatever, in the current calls for investigation in the privatization process which happened some 30 years ago. Probably, some colleagues might want to hear that I served in the Zambia Privatization Agency towards the end. I was a member, and it is sad that Zambians will easily change positions,” Bishop Mambo said.  
He said previous commissions of inquiry

had proved to be academic exercises as no action had been taken even on any of their recommendations.  
“So, do we have that money for a commission of inquiry? We have had so many commissions of inquiry. This is another academic exercise because we are going to appoint our good friends into that commission of inquiry and they will draw allowances and so on but will come

up with nothing. Not long ago, we had a commission of inquiry into the voting pattern and they came up with recommendations and people are still roaming in the streets. Currently, the country is bleeding...I was a member of the Zambia Privatization Agency ratified by parliament. They can check the records. So, let them take me to court also if they want,” Bishop Mambo said.



“If you remember that time, the MMD Government was in power and among those that were calling for this inquiry were in government. Do we have money to waste on something which is very straight forward? We have people who chaired the ZPA board and some of them were permanent secretaries. For example, Honourable Musokotwane was PS for Finance. We had people like Abel Mkandawire who was at one time chairman and the director then Chipwende is still alive. And there are a number of us. Of course, I was towards the end as a member, but ratified by parliament. I remember the question that I was asked by the select committee to say ‘you Mambo, if you are appointed into ZPA, what value are you going to add?’ and I said there will be one thing, ‘if I see that the process is not clean, which as far as I am concerned was, I will publicly denounce it and resign.’ Now, why don’t you ask how Zambia Commercial Bank given to private hands because it was among the process? You are merely looking at certain companies because it is connected to the name. Let us look at the entire process.”

He urged the government to prioritize issues that were affecting the nation, adding that there was a need to set a political level playing field before next year’s general election.

“Let’s put the first things first as a priority. The country is bleeding and in terms of leveling the field, there is a problem. We need to address all these things before the coming of elections next year and remove the current dictatorial tendency. We are a democracy but things are not right. It is annoying to see people discussing things that they don’t know. The ministers of MMD are there. Those who were members of the ZPA are there and I was one of them. This thing must not bring about money being wasted and so on because records are there. Let them ask us and we shall tell them. Let’s talk about issues of bread and butter. The economy, the schools have opened and many people have not managed because they don’t have money to take their children to school,” Bishop Mambo said.


He further said the church had failed to counsel political leaders.

Continues on page 7




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[www.ovr.elections.org.zm](http://www.ovr.elections.org.zm)

**18 yrs +**





Are you are 18 years and above or will you be 18 years on / or before the 9th of May, 2021?

**Zambian**

Are you are a Zambian citizen?

**Green NRC**

Are you in possession of a green NRC? If you answered "yes," then you are eligible to register to vote.



## #VotingSquad



# Don't allow foreign employers to abuse you in the name of protecting jobs, labour PS urges workers

**By Natasha Sakala**

MINISTRY of Labour permanent secretary Chanda Kaziya has urged Zambian workers not to allow foreign companies to abuse them in the name of protecting jobs.

And the permanent secretary has advised workers to always report employers flouting labour laws so that appropriate action is taken as opposed to “going to the police when you are sick”.

Kaziya on Sunday visited Sinoma Cement Plant in Lusaka where he freed over 700 workers who were being quarantined against their will at the premises for fear of spreading COVID-19.

In an interview, Kaziya wondered why Zambians allow foreign multinationals to abuse them for fear of losing jobs.

“You know, an abusive employment relationship is not a protected employment relationship. Any time, it can end. And some of the employers that you see, especially these multinationals that are coming to the country, they simply say ‘oh, these people are the enemies of themselves because they don’t trust themselves, they trust us’. Literally, they are untouchable because of the way we have perceived them. Now if you just go across, Zimbabwe, you go to Nigeria, ask them, you would not misbehave. How come someone has the leverage to misbehave here? In Nigeria and elsewhere, the workers will take you on to say ‘this is wrong and we are not going to accept this’. Now here, someone will simply say there are so many job seekers

and then people get scared,” Kaziya said.

“So those are some of the challenges that we have and the employers have done extremely good at confusing the employees whereby the employees don’t see the employers as a problem, they start seeing where help is to be the problem. So the flip side of people not having to come to where the support base is, is what is causing this and this you can see it through the eroding of the confidence in our own systems and anyone who wants to abuse a worker. The only thing he has to do is to erode that confidence in your own system and think that their system is what works because a person will say I am corrupted as permanent secretary because I know them and would even actually

show the card but does it mean so? And the person will take it because he knows PS, therefore the PS is corrupt without having one minute with the PS to understand to say ‘I am going through such an experience?’ What are you doing about it?”

He noted that the ministry should stop being looked at as corrupt when they side with the law because the ministry was not an activist but an arbitrator.

“The Ministry of Labour is not an activist ministry; that is the role of the trade union. We are arbitrators, which means we have to look at what the law provides. Now, at times, an employee would come with a complaint; for instance, let me take it that he signed for a contract which at the time was giving them two days as



Ministry of Labour permanent secretary Chanda Kaziya

annual leave per month, then there are changes to say that it is now two and half and in that law, there is a transition period of one year before you can now start implementing the two and half, then an employee comes before that two years and says ‘here is what the law says that I must get two and half [days]’. Then we tell him to says ‘no, you are not getting two and half until the transition period has ended’. So the employer is right to give you two days. Then the employee moves out of the ministry and is aggrieved and says ‘you are compromised and you have been bought by the employer’. Why didn’t you just enforce the law the way it is?” Kaziya wondered.

And Kaziya said the ministry could not act on what had not been reported or discovered through inspections.

“As Ministry of Labour,

we can only deal with the matters that come through inspections, the matters that are brought to our attention. If you are sick, and you go to the police station, what happens? Nothing, there is nothing the police officer will do about it other than to tell you to say ‘go to the hospital’. So that is what we tell them. When you have an issue, come to the Ministry of Labour, don’t go elsewhere, it will not help. You find someone goes to the councillor when he has a labour problem, the councillor will not do anything about it other than to just say, let me report to the Ministry of Labour. Now, we waste time and efficiency through that system. So it is very important that as general citizenry and as the youths, let’s change the narrative, let’s pick out these rules, let’s read them, let’s challenge the employers,” said Kaziya.

## Commission of inquiry into privatisation an academic exercise - Bishop Mambo

**From page 6**

“And the church is very disappointing because most of these ministers are members of these churches. Do they counsel them? Is it because of the brown envelope? No, I would rather drink my black coffee without sugar than being corrupt in the name of money. We are in a democracy today and you shouldn’t be seen standing with UPND or MMD or PF. So, how am I going to know them? In the church, I should be open to all of you, in the village, I should receive everybody regardless of party and all that. But in Zambia, you must always associate with the ruling party. There is no democracy in such,” Bishop Mambo added.

And the Bishop said Zambia’s economy was hurting and urged the government to address the needs of the people first.

“The sad part is that we are not looking at the way the economy is failing today. Today, the dollar is trading at K20 and the economy is really hurting. And people can’t afford to go into a by-election and on the last day of the election, you get the DMMU to go and distribute mealie meal into that area. That is sad. And if we are going like this in 2021, we are not going to see the change that we are crying for,” said Bishop Mambo.

“Now, in Zambia, it has become a sin to become rich... The same people who are calling for others to be probed, for fear of

them losing power, they are forcing Bill 10 on people so that they can remain in power. The same people are resisting the calls for a lifestyle audit which one of my brothers, former attorney general Musa Mwenye, has said ‘start with me’. But they are refusing. The same President Edgar Lungu cannot account for a number of things,” said Bishop Mambo. “We have never asked ourselves as to who benefitted from the Zambia Malawi maize scandal. How was US \$17 million worth of a contract awarded to a company (HoneyBee) which was not eligible? So, we need to move this country forward and we can move it together. Where we have reached now, whether in opposition or in government, we need to work together.”



OVER the weekend, United Party for National Development (UPND) chairperson for elections Honourable Gary Nkombo made a rare admission, stating that the biggest opposition party needed to make internal adjustments, instead of always blaming the Patriotic Front government for its loss of elections. This statement attracted a lot of praise from people who share the same view.

Unfortunately, the admission came without any accompanying confession regarding where things were going wrong. The party official simply said: "We take note of the results and I think the fairest thing to say is that even as we cast some blame on the system and the players, we also would like to say that maybe from our own end there is a lot of buttoning up to be done."

Honourable Nkombo must be commended for facing reality and making an admission that the party has internal challenges. The Mazabuka member of parliament is also on point to say that the party cannot go on apportioning blame on the system. Indeed, the UPND needs to introspect and realise that they are still far from catching the elusive

# UPND can lose again to PF, and here is why

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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key to government. This realization is what they need if they are to apply the right efforts in the right areas of political mobilization.

One of the biggest challenged that UPND has is that they arrive before they reach. It is our considered view that the party listens too much to its own propaganda. In many cases when the country is heading towards elections, people in UPND begin to behave like they have already won the elections. Some already start picturing themselves in government positions. They just look at the number of people who attend their rallies or the thousands of comments they get from followers on social media, and they conclude that they are winning, no matter what comes. In the end, when the results are announced, they

reflect the opposite of what they were so sure about. In the end, the rigging excuses take centre stage.

It is not an issue of debate, the UPND is a very popular party. But it is also among the least in terms of strategy. The party lacks a think tank that can examine the winning strategy or the Patriotic Front and begin to work towards countering that. If they believe that they have been winning and their votes are always stollen, what have they done about that for the past 20 years? What measures have they put in place to protection their claimed victory? How is the PF winning elections in the face of so many scandals and poverty among the people. What are they telling the voters, what are they giving them? What is the PF campaign strategy?

Where do they apply their efforts. These are the questions that UPND must be asking and answering.

When we look at the UPND, we also find that many party activities are centered on the party president. We don't know whether this is by decree that no one should move unless the president sanctions or it's the laziness of some members who wait for handouts from their rich leader before they can go flat out to mobilise. Today we are winding up September and in just over 10 months, elections will be on the doorstep, yet some top UPND officials and some MPs are just sitting ndwii, waiting to miraculously win so that they can be appointed to those government jobs they have been dreaming about.

Let's look at

the UPND media strategy. Apart from the HH pages and the Zambianwatchdog, which other publicity and mobilization platform does the UPND have? Which social media pages can they point at as the party aligned platforms for campaign? Nothing, as far as we know. In the absence of the Watchdog, the UPND would have no aggressing platform to counter the PF propaganda. Meanwhile, their rivals are firing on all cylinders, if the topic is privatisation, everyone takes a bite at the targeted subject.

What about in Parliament? On paper the UPND has over 50 members of parliament, but in reality they are about five. Those five are the only ones who are able to engage and debate. They are the

only voices people hear all the time, raising points of order while the rest wait for the routine order paper questions so that they can stand, ask and go back to sleep.

Meanwhile, their rivals on the right have over 40 ministers ready to battle, before you even count confident noisemakers like Tutwa Ngulube who are never tired to defend, defend and defend, no matter the magnitude of the scandal.

Our conclusion is that the UPND doesn't just need to button up, it needs a new set of clothes in some technical areas. They need to change the way they look at elections and what to expect from the process and the voters. The PF is a bit too advanced in its crookedness.

To start with, the PF will never level the playing field. They will never allow the opposition, and the UPND in particular, to stand a fair chance of winning the elections. They will do whatever it takes, no matter how many laws they break, to stop one Hakainde Hichilema from going to State House.

This means the UPND stands little chance of forming government without breaking laws themselves. So, katwishi mayo. Fili uko tuleya.

## Crossword puzzle No 696

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

*“It’s so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone.”*  
- John Steinbeck

Across

1. Seek damages  
4. Observe  
6. Brief  
7. Summit  
9. "I kid \_\_\_\_ not"  
11. Boxer: Muhammad \_\_\_\_  
13. Computer operator  
14. Object of worship  
15. Forensic crime show  
17. Not dry  
19. Commotion  
21. Academy award  
22. Right away  
23. Bumped into

Down

1. Have a seat  
2. Extra Sensory Perception  
3. Hammer or wrench  
4. Pig home  
5. Large flightless bird  
8. Magazine edition  
10. Egg-shaped  
11. Part of a circle  
12. Roman 3  
16. Faction  
17. Triumph over  
18. Garage service  
19. Upper limb  
20. Not in

## Crossword puzzle No 695

|    |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | S | W | I | P | 3  | E |   | 4  | B  | U | 5  | N |
|    | I |   | R |   |    | A |   | O  |    |   |    | A |
| 6  | S | C | I |   | 7  | S | P | O  | O  | K |    |   |
|    |   |   | S |   |    | Y |   |    |    |   |    | E |
| 8  | A | C | H | Y |    |   | 9 | F  | 10 | O | O  | D |
|    | F |   |   |   | 11 | S |   |    | N  |   |    |   |
| 12 | T | H | R | E | E  |   |   | 14 | I  | N | 15 | N |
|    | E |   | A |   | E  |   |   | O  |    |   |    | E |
| 16 | R | I | M |   | 17 | D | O | N  | U  | T |    |   |



# Readers' Feedback

## ND! OPINION: Lumumba is right, there's a lot Lungu can do after leaving office

Editor,

"He fears prosecution but why. This was the same with Mugabe. Hence no one prosecuted him, he died his on death as a free man. The more he clings to power, the more blunders he is going to make. The name will be tarnished beyond the power of Jik. Let him sit down while his stooges are clapping for him as for me there is nothing to clap for. The only thing I can clap him is for him to step down at the end of his tenure". -

Samuel Sinda Nyirongo

"Pro Lumumba always means well for Africa". - Numwa Namuchana

"Where for example did PF Secretary General Davis Mwila and his Deputy Mumbi Phiri get the notion that if they lost the 2021 elections Zambian Prisons will be full of "their people"? President Lungu must have told them that himself. In his usual fashion he

must have told them "Inga tamwaposeko amano ifi fungo fikesula fye abantu besu naifwe abene". I will not be arrested alone. Valden Findlay and his crooked friends are also saying they cannot let their special privileges slip easily away. Both groups know what happens to those who were corrupt when they lose power". - Christopher Kalima

"The more he wants to hang on to power the more blunders he's likely to make and the greater the fear of losing power. Lest people forget there was blunder before, during and after his last inuguration". - Asa Amisi

"He will be producing cabbages which he will be bringing to sell at Chilenje in the orange uniform!" - Che Guavara



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published. Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

## Mwila's nullification of Bowman's mobilisation committee

Editor,

"Bowman Lusambo is the PF vice president,so how does SG over rule his decision yet it came from the president himself with full blessings? You mean to tell us Bowman acted on himself without the boss saying yes?" - Holyfield Bashi-Tasheni Mumba

"Uko bayamba kuziponona beka beka manje. Secretary general vs bootlicker (The original vice president)". - Amos Manchester Zuze

"Hon. Bowman Chilosha Lusambo is too overzealous. He thinks PF is the same as the MMD when he was youth diehard youth". - Mukungu Victor

Dear editor,

"Indeed he must. He's already been twice elected (albeit contentiously) and twice been sworn in. No third term". - David M Mwanangombe

"Very true, he must go. Especially him he must definitely go!!! Look at how he has gone out of this world's crazy norms for Bill 10. No normal decent leader can spend so much money on a document that seems to be unfavored by many". - Mary Taguma Bilsborough

"Much respect for you archbishop, you are a consistent man". - Jabulani Phiri Jr.

"Bringing a corpse to parliament in the name of BILL 10 is disrespectful". - Preston Kasempa

"When the wise men speak bow your head and listen..." - Cedric

## 'Telesphore's right, Lungu must go!'

"True let him go, some of As have even joined politics because of him". - Mpeza N Nyendwa

## 'Tutwa, if PF can win without Bill 10 why are you still attempting to proceed with it?'

Editor,

"Ooh okay! So this is an acknowledgement that the unpopular Bill is actually Aiding some clique of our society to Perpetuate their stay in power?" - Richard Mhango

"Tutwa is telling us something here. 'With or without Bill 10 PF can continue in power after 2021'". - Mwamba Edgar Swizz

"Then if they can win without bill 10 why are they still attempting to proceed with it?!" - David M Mwanangombe

"If this Bill 10 is for our benefit then let us just suffer, we have rejected it. If people have refused development in there area because of suspicion then don't force them leave because one day they will come back to their sense and that is when you can tell them to say you have seen now, you rejected this and you are now appealing to the government to help you. So this is a sign that this Bill 10 is for the PF scam to hold on to power!" - Thê Tücksōñ

"So bill 10 ten is also a formula for remaining in power?!" - Patrick Kasongo

"I wished our leaders could debate the merits and demerits of the Bill on the floor of the House so that the general populace can arrive at an informed position. Walking out is like a lawyer failing to argue a case in court and opting to make wild allegations against the judge from an anthill". - Mark Tupa

"The real "Elephant in the Room" is the Mounting Debt and the Euro-Bond that is due in 2022. The crooks and criminals who helped Mr Edgar C Lungu to ascend to the office of President feel 6 years is too short for them to Steal for their "Future". They can see those who helped late Michael C Sata to the office of President like Fred Mmembe languishing after losing their businesses to the new crooks like Valden Findley, Kaiser Zulu and many others. Tutwa Ngulube is Not speaking for President Edgar C Lungu but for these crooks who have Captured President Lungu and the State Institutions. If President Lungu is seen to be a liability, they can pick a person like Tutwa Ngulube to protect their selfish interests. This is Tutwa Ngulube's motivation. Tutwa Ngulube does not care about the poverty stricken PF members or leadership including President Lungu I am sure who he must be holding in contempt for his ineptitude and incompetence. President Lungu has run out of options. In the coming months the Mounting Debt will take its toll on the population. It cannot be intimidated by party cadres. It knows no Police Riot Vehicles. Its voice is the Stomach. It does not need an interpreter to be understood. Then and only then will Tutwa Ngulube and his sponsors understand the reason why Dr Kenneth Kaunda cut short his term of office in 1990". - Christopher Kalima





*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

NATIONAL Democratic Congress leader Chishimba Kambwili has once again dragged magistrate David Simusamba to the Judicial Complaints Commission, insisting that he is corrupt and hell bent on jailing him on flimsy allegations because he refused to give him a bribe.

On Monday, Magistrate Simusamba abruptly closed a case in which Kambwili is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer and set October 12, this year, as date of judgement.

This was after Kambwili’s lawyers failed to show up as they were before higher courts.

But in a letter to the JCC dated September 22, Kambwili lamented that the manner in which magistrate Simusamba closed his case was unfair.

“As I have repeatedly complained in the past, the prosecution in this matter took three (3) years to call a total of 11 witnesses. I have been forced in the meantime to call a total number of 7 witnesses within a space of six (6) months, a period which was characterized by delays due to Covid-19 including my contraction of the said virus. However, the said six (6) months while I was placed on my defence was again consistently characterized by threats of issuance of bench warrants against me and complete imposition of dates of hearing even when my lawyers have been unavailable and even when I have been

# CK reports Simusamba to JCC again

required by law to appear before other courts. This I have repeatedly complained about including to the Chief Justice of the Republic of Zambia. I have not to date received any response from any institution regarding my complaints against Honourable Simusamba with the exception of a press statement issued by the Anti-Corruption Commission confirming that they are investigating Hon Simusamba,” Kambwili stated.

“On the 21st of September 2020, I again appeared before the said Honourable Simusamba for my continued defence where I was to have a number of witnesses continue to testify in my defence. I appeared on the said date with Ms. Jacqueline Lungu of Messrs CL Mundia and Company as my lead defence counsel Mr. Musa Mwenye S.C was unavailable due to a sudden and urgent Court hearing date which was issued by the Court of Appeal after my last hearing before Hon Simusamba to hear a renewed application for Judicial Review in a matter where I have sort legal redress in so far as Hon Simusamba’s continued presiding over my case when I have reported him to relevant authorities for corruption and that I have sued him for defamation of character. In turn, my other lawyer Keith Mweemba had been excused from attending court on the 21st of September 2020 by

the very same Magistrate as he was appearing before the Chipata Magistrate court before Hon J. Bwalya in a matter she was concluding having been transferred to Lusaka. My other lawyer Mr. Gilbert Phiri has in turn been out of the Zambian jurisdiction for the past 2 months and Mr. Mundia who equally acts for me was appearing before Hon Justice Mwila Chitabo S.C in the matter of Getrude Imenda v ECZ and the Attorney General, a matter of very serious national importance involving disputed online voter registration, a case so serious that the court had to set aside all other cases for the day to hear the said case.”

He said despite making arrangements for a lawyer from CL Mundia and Company to explain the whereabouts of his lawyers, magistrate Simusamba went ahead to abruptly close the case, in violation of his rights.

“Against this background, I still managed to make arrangements for a lawyer with Mr. Mundia who was gracious to assign Ms Lungu, from Messrs CL Mundia and Company to seek a brief adjournment to allow my lawyers to attend to my continued defence with my witnesses. To my dismay, Honourable Simusamba not only refused to grant the said adjournment despite there being no opposition from the State but instead went on to even close my Defence in readiness for judgment. Hon Simusamba did not even have the decency to direct Ms. Lungu to proceed with my witnesses for the day. Hon Simusamba even went on to give me seven days (7) within which to make my final submissions and that he would deliver judgment on the 12th of October 2020. I must state that this conduct like I have complained in the past is not new except that on this occasion, Hon Simusamba has decided to blatantly violate my rights to fair trial including my entitlement to the same facilities the state has had when it took its time of three (3) years to conclude its case. On the 24th of June 2020 for instance, despite producing a notice of hearing on oath that I was required to appear before Judge C. Zulu as a witness in a matter on the fast track, as ably constituted by the chief Justice, which case the Judge had

travelled for to the Copperbelt, Hon Simusamba still refused to allow me to travel to the Copperbelt and as usual under the threat of bench warrants which he has subjected me to over the past four (4) years now. I was forced under the circumstances to miss that hearing in total violation of my rights as litigant in that matter,” Kambwili wrote.

He asked the JCC to intervene and stop magistrate Simusamba from issuing a premature judgement.

“My writing to you is to seek your urgent intervention in this matter as Hon Simusamba has made it very clear he intends to proceed to deliver judgment in this matter. This is against the backdrop that he has deliberately expedited my defence in order to imprison me after I rejected his advances to pay him the sum of ZMW 360,000.00 in order for him to acquit me. I am very aware having done my research that my case is the only case he is currently sitting for and that he does not even bother to sit and hear other cases involving other litigants some of which have been appearing before him for the past two (2) years without witnesses being heard even at prosecution stage. This conduct further compounds my findings and position that Hon Simusamba is so biased against me and so corrupt that he is hell bent on imprisoning me on flimsy grounds and in total violation of my right to a fair trial before an impartial Magistrate. One only wonders why my case is so special to him,” wrote Kambwili.

“My expectation is that my complaint will be heard and that this unfortunate episode will be put to its logical conclusion once and for all as my complaints have gone unattended to despite me complaining about Hon Simusamba before different establishments in the past including your esteemed office. It is my hope that the commission acts accordingly to avert a situation where the public continues to believe that Hon Simusamba is above the law and can act with impunity as he so often does. Find attached all relevant correspondence and documents for your ease of reference.”

# ECZ registers 16,000 voters in a day

*By Ulande Nkomesha*

ELECTORAL Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chief elections officer Patrick Nshindano says the commission has registered 16,000 voters through the Pre-registration online platform since its launch on Monday.

Speaking during a briefing, Tuesday, Nshindano said the commission observed that the Pre-Registration was already a success in the few hours it was launched and that the commission was hopeful that it would reach its intended target.

“The pre registration so far has been very successful for the few hours that we have observed. In just a few hours we had over 16 000 registrations, we hope that this trend will continue. We will be able to observe in the next 24 hours. If that goes well, we should be able to capture the targets that we are targeting as a commission. It will also make it very easy for one who is registering because your details would be already been uploaded and when you come through, basically on the part of the commission we are just verifying that yes this is the individual, we capture your biometrics and then we issue you with a card,” Nshindano said.

“As we stated, the pre online registration exercise is meant to facilitate for quick registration and to mitigate the risks in terms of time, contact of COVID and also to be able to keep up with best practices not only in the region but in the world. We hope that stakeholders, especially political parties, can be able to support us as we embark on this journey.”

He said voter’s who would use the pre online registration would have to wait for the mobile registration of voters which is expected to commence on the 28th of October to get their voter’s cards.

“The Pre online will run for 46 days, so from yesterday which was the 21st, right up to 6th of November. It is important to note that those that will register before the mobile registration will have to wait until the mobile registration commences for you to pick up your card because that is when we will be able to deploy physical staff that will be issuing the card. When you register today, you get a prompt that will tell you that you will be contacted by via text to be able to direct you to the designated registration centers where you will be able to pick up your card. It is very simple please do take advantage of this,” he said.

“So the mobile issuance of the card will start on the 28th of October to 30th November. So those dates please keep in mind and we ensure that we register. Please note that as a commission we are set to ensure that the process is concluded in a stipulated period of time. Don’t wait to say the commission will always extend please ensure that is done because of the constitution timeline which we are dealing with.”

Nshindano stressed that every voter was required to register because the commission would be issuing new voters cards with biometric features.

“So the pre online is now active, one can register online. It must be noted that this is not an end to end process. What it entails is that you will be able to provide your details in advance such as your names, copies of your NRCs thereafter you still be required to present yourself before a registration officer to be able to capture your biometric details and then be issued with a new voter’s card. One of the issues that has been misunderstood and I need to clarify this is that yes there will be a new voter’s card that will be issued. The current voter’s card will not be used,” said Nshindano.

“There have been a lot of aspects raised, questioning why we are unable to maintain the old register as it were? It is very simple I did allude to the fact that the commission did undertake delimitation in 2019 which of course has been concluded this year in terms of putting in place new boundaries. With delimitation, it renders existing electoral boundaries null and void; because you will find certain polling station names have changed, you will find polling districts have changed, certain wards will also change. If Parliament enacts the delimitation of constituencies, that will also change. So there is nowhere you can have a register with different parameters as to what is existing on the ground.”

## 2021 budget should prioritise domestic growth - Hambayi

*From P5*

“The budget is, therefore, expected to propose policy interventions aimed at stimulating growth and mitigating the effects of the pandemic. Government is also expected to remedy the depreciation of the kwacha and rising inflation, finance the country’s efforts to combat COVID-19 and restore debt sustainability, while preparing for the 2021 general election. It is without doubt that there will be need for increased policy trade-offs in the formulation and implementation of the budget.”

Although this year’s K106 billion national budget was government’s highest-ever proposed expenditure, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ngandu presented a K15.01 billion supplementary budget to tackle Zambia’s huge public debt service repayments, among other government functions, in July.

Dr Ngandu is expected to deliver the highly-anticipated 2021 budget this Friday on the back of a huge budget deficit, mainly induced by severely reduced government revenues, high debt servicing and a devastated economy in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

# Police spokesperson testifies in Lukuku’s anti-China protest case

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

ZAMBIA Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo has testified as a second defence witness in a matter in which Republican Progressive Party (RPP) leader James Lukuku is charged with expressing hatred or contempt against Chinese nationals due to their race.

Katongo narrated to the Court that on September 5, 2018, she received queries from the media over the arrest of Lukuku, which she confirmed after finding out from police officers who were on the ground.

In this matter, Lukuku is alleged to have uttered words and published writings, expressing and showing hatred for Chinese nationals because of their race and place of origin when he allegedly issued a statement where he called for people to protest against the Chinese influence in Zambia.

In February this year, Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale found Lukuku

with a case to answer in the charge of expressing or showing ridicule or contempt for persons because of race.

He, however, acquitted him in the other count of uttering seditious speech.

When the matter came up for continued defence, Tuesday, Lukuku’s lawyer Mulambo Haimbe informed the Court that the defence was ready to proceed with one witness.

He added that the witness was compelled to come and testify in the matter after being issued with witness summons.

Once in the witness stand, the police spokesperson said on September 5, 2018, she was working in her office when she received phone calls from some media houses who queried over Lukuku’s arrest.

“I wouldn’t recall [the names of the media houses], but there were a few of them asking about the arrest of RPP president James Lukuku,” Katongo said.

She said as per standard practice, she

called officers on the ground to find out what had transpired.

Katongo said she was informed that Lukuku had staged a lone protest and that police had arrested and taken him to Woodlands Police Station.

“That is the information, which I gave to the media, which they were asking about. I was told that he was charged with conduct likely to cause breach of peace,” she said.

Katongo, who confirmed that Lukuku was arrested and detained, however, said she wouldn’t recall where the accused was apprehended from, but that it was somewhere in Woodlands area.

In cross-examination, State prosecutor Stuyvesant Malambo said that he had no questions for the defence witness.

After Katongo finished with her testimony, defence lawyer, Haimbe, said he had attempted to secure the attendance of another defence witness, journalist

Alexander Musokotwane, but that his phone went unanswered.

He asked the court to give Musokotwane a benefit of doubt so that he could testify at the next sitting.

The matter comes up on December 2, 2020, for continued defence.

In his defence, Lukuku had denied publishing racial statements against Chinese nationals, saying he had no hatred for humanity whatsoever.

He told the Court that in 2018, there was a lot of information circulating relating to dealings between the Zambian government and China where there was a general feeling that a lot of parastatal companies were being mortgaged for the benefit of Chinese companies.

Lukuku said that the parastatal companies, which were allegedly listed to be mortgaged, included ZNBC, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) and Zesco.

“As a political leader, I took

responsibility of speaking for my country and speaking as a voice of the voiceless,” he said.

Lukuku said on September 5, 2018, he undertook a lone protest against China as a Republic and not against Chinese people.

He said during his lone protest, he carried a placard written “China equals Hitler” and started moving from Kabulonga and ended up close to the Hilltop Hospital in Ibex Hill.

Lukuku, however, said he was later intercepted by police, who asked him to accompany them to Woodlands Police Station, saying his activity was likely to disturb public peace.

He narrated that while at Woodlands Police Station, he was detained for about six hours before being released after paying admission of guilt fee.

Lukuku said in November, 2018, he was again arrested and charged in relation to publishing racial statements against Chinese.





## Suarez accused of cheating in Italian passport storm

LUIS Suarez is facing accusations of agreeing topics in an Italian citizenship exam before taking the test, with authorities investigating events which occurred during Juventus’ pursuit of the Barcelona striker.

The Bianconeri were quick to move to the front of a transfer queue once Ronald Koeman made it clear that the experienced Uruguayan frontman no longer figured in his plans at Camp Nou.

A switch to Serie A appeared to suit all parties, with Suarez eager to remain at the very highest level as he prepares to open a new chapter in his career at the age of 33.

Juve explored the option of getting the South American an Italian passport, as he is married to a citizen of the country, meaning that he would not take up a non-EU spot in their squad.

Suarez travelled to Perugia to take the relevant tests, with the ‘B1’ assessment passed.

The Prosecutor’s Office of Perugia and the Guardia di Finanza are, however, now investigating alleged irregularities in that process.

Part of their remit is to look into crimes of “secrets and false ideology in public documents”.

Suarez is accused of agreeing topics ahead of his exam, allowing the result to be predetermined.

A statement from the relevant authorities read: “During the investigations, irregularities emerged in the exam taken by Luis Suarez to obtain the Italian citizenship. **GOAL**

# Kayonde to face Mwali

*By Ngosa Chalwe*

AFTER seeing off Fide Master (FM) Prince Mulenga in an Elite Cage match last week, International Master (IM) Andrew Kayonde faces another hurdle next month when he takes on former Botswana Open Champion IM Chitumbo Mwali.

Following the partial return of sports activities amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, chess players have been actively engaging each other in contests after months of inactivity.

On Saturday, Kayonde earned the bragging rights when he defeated former Copperbelt Closed Chess Championship winner Mulenga in a close encounter that ended 14 – 12.

However, his honeymoon may have to come to an end soon as he has one week to prepare to take on fellow International Master Mwali in a match pegged at K1, 400.

The highly anticipated contest to be staged at the Russian Centre in Lusaka would be played in 16 rounds under three minutes plus two seconds increment time control.

The first six rounds would attract one point for a win while the last 10 games would attract two points per victory.

The winner of this match would take on IM Kelvin Chumfwa.

Other players waiting in line are International Masters Gillian Bwalya and Richmond Phiri and FM Douglas Munenga.

The game would be preceded by a curtain raiser match between Timothy Kabwe and FM Chola Musonda, who would be fighting for the prize money of K250.

## IMC sign agreement to acquire Goal

INTEGRATED Media Company (IMC) have signed an agreement with DAZN Group to acquire a majority stake in Goal, the world’s largest football website.

Goal will enrich its coverage of the world’s top sport and additionally create digital opportunities enhancing the fan experience, advertiser proposition, and overall popularity of the game, particularly in growth markets.

“There are four billion soccer fans on earth. Their passion transcends borders and limits though the media serving them does not,” Ori Winitzer, managing director of IMC, said.

“Goal has long been an

innately global platform for the soccer fan, with a strong journalistic tradition and a brand that’s synonymous with the sport. We see a significant opportunity to expand the platform’s reach and engagement through new content verticals, products, and experiences.

“We’re excited to partner with DAZN to serve all constituents in the soccer world.”

## U-15 arrive in Croatia for invitational tourney

*By Abraham Kalito*

The U-15 National soccer team has arrived in Croatia ahead of the Vlatko Markovic invitation tournament scheduled to run from 23-27 September this year.

The team had camped in Cairo, Egypt for three days

but left that country for the final destination, Croatia, yesterday.

The 23-man squad is in group B, and will clash against Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Romania.

The U-15 squad was selected via the countrywide national selection process that lasted close to a month.

National team coach Chisi Mbwe is hopeful that he is shaping up future footballers who would represent the country at senior level.

In an interview prior to departure for Croatia, Mbwe said the tournament was a great motivation for the lads as they take up the mantle to be Zambia’s future Chipolopolo boys.

“The tournament is a great motivation for these young kids and again for Zambia to be competing at these early stages in such age groups. It was a good outing though the much-anticipated match [against Zamalek] did not take place, reason being our opponents did not take the COVID-19 clearance for the match,” said Mbewe.

“Nonetheless, we went into training. We had two days training with the boys, the boys are in high spirits and are looking forward to the tournament. There has been so much team work with the boys and they are getting to know each other very well, and there are only a few areas where we need to work on which I feel the boys have already responded so well. First game is against Macedonia and this is the game the players have been looking forward to. I feel this is the game where we need to be cautious from the first whistle and be able to study our opponents since it’s the first match.”

The Vlatko Markovic tournament is aimed at shaping up the junior teams so that they mature into the senior squads and transition easily.

DAZN Group will retain a significant minority share and will have a seat on the board of the new venture.

Commenting on the sale, acting CEO of DAZN Group James Rushton said: “We are thrilled to partner with IMC as we enter our next chapter of growth.

“As we saw with Goal’s Lionel Messi exclusive, our football portals business features the top digital football destinations in the world. The investment from IMC will enable it to reach new heights, whilst allowing DAZN to focus its energy and resources on further strengthening our sports destination platform.”

Goal hit a total of around 150 million unique visitors in August 2020 and offers news, live scores, video and editorial content in 19 languages.

It will seek to expand breadth and depth with the benefit of new capital, with a digital-native approach, combining global reach and local presence, aiming to suit the needs of all football supporters. **GOAL**

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## Kola to lead Zanaco

*By Abraham Kalito*

ZANACO FC head coach Chris Kaunda has revealed that striker Roger Kola will lead the team during the 2020/21 season scheduled to start later next month.

Kaunda made the announcement in Livingstone where the team is camping for the pre-season training.

Zanaco media team stated that Kaunda had decided to hand Kola the arm

band permanently as the club had not done so since the transitional league ended.

“Sensational Zanaco coach Chris Kaunda has named Roger Kola as the man to lead the Bankers in the 2020/21 soccer season. Kaunda made the announcement during the team’s meeting at the team’s hotel in Livingstone on Sunday afternoon. Kola has led the Bankers since the arrival of Coach Kaunda who

has now made his decision to officially hand him the armband permanently. During the transition league and the first half of the 2019/20 season, Zanaco FC technical bench rotated the armband between a few players, apparently to encourage more leaders in the squad to develop. Kola will be assisted by Ziyo Tembo, Racha Kola and Kevin Owusu in that order,” stated Zanaco.





## Kayonde to face Mwali

**By Ngosa Chalwe**  
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# ZESCO SACKS LWANDAMINA

**By Ngosa Chalwe**  
EIGHT time Super Division Champions Zesco United have fired coach George Lwandamina, barely a month before next season. In a Statement availed to Goal Diggers by club media officer Desmond Katongo, Lwandamina and the club have mutually

agreed to separate with immediate effect. Club Chief Executive Officer(CEO), Richard Mulenga has thanked Lwandamina for the services rendered to the club. "ZESCO United Football Club management would like to thank coach George

Lwandamina for his services in the last three seasons which resulted in the team winning two league titles and one Absa cup trophy," Mulenga said. Mulenga has further disclosed that the club will soon be announcing a new full-time head coach ahead of the 2020/2021 FAZ/MTN Super League

season. "The club will immediately begin the recruitment process for a new full-time head coach," he said. Lwandamina has been at Zesco since 2018 when he re-joined from Tanzanian side Yanga.

he said. Lwandamina has been at Zesco since 2018 when he re-joined from Tanzanian side Yanga.

**IMC sign agreement to acquire Goal.com**  
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## FM TRAVELLERS /MAGODI LODGE LTD

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

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

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