



FINANCE Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu has revealed that Zambia's total indebtedness inclusive of contingent liabilities and debt owed by State-Owned Entities (SOEs) now stands at US \$18.5 billion with an average interest of 4.5 per cent.

## Zambia's indebtedness now at \$18.5 billion, reveals Ng'andu

Speaking during the investor call following the copper producers request to defer coupon payments on its dollar bonds for six months, Dr Ng'andu told bondholders that the country's debt position (GDP) was 104 per cent, breaching the Washington based lenders threshold of 35 per cent. **Story page 6**

# KCM LIQUIDATOR CITED IN COURT

**Lungu responds to Sishuwa's election rigging allegations**

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he respects the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and... **Story page 5**

## Milingo promised to pay me using KCM tender, Chilinda tells court

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
A Copperbelt based businessman Joseph Chilinda has told the Kabwe High Court that KCM liquidator, Milingo Lungu, bought his

company, Cashfin Zambia Ltd, for US\$500,000 and promised to pay through a procurement tender from Konkola Copper Mines.

This is a matter in which

four individuals have dragged Cashfin Zambia Limited owners, Chilinda and Convex Equity Limited, to the Kabwe High Court, seeking a declaration that businessmen

Jason Kombo and Dingiswayo Ndhlovu are the rightful shareholders of Cashfin Zambia Limited, following a purchase transaction.

**Story page 6**

## Court dismisses artists' case against ECZ

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
THE Lusaka High Court has

declined to grant Musicians Chama Fumba, popularly

known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu, Brian Bwembya and others

leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the Electoral Commission of Zambia's decision to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers for verification under a new register for the 2021 general elections.

High Court judge Gertrude Chawatama said in her... **Story page 7**

**PF abusing KCM as its milking cow - Kambwili**

**By Ulande Nkomesha**  
NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili says Konkola Copper Mines, under the leadership of Provisional Liquidator Milingo Lungu, has become a cash cow for the PF. **Story page 10**

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## Political parties recommended new voters' register - ECZ

**Story page 4**



# PF Puts Up Defense Over \$1 Million Fire Trucks

Paul Mwitwa | September 15, 2017



The...ing back  
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accusing the ruling party of...  
awarding the supply of the trucks to

## Fire Trucks Deal Above Board – Minister Mwale

Clement Malambo | September 19, 2017 | 13



Local government minister Vincent Mwale says the purchase of 42 fire trucks at \$1 million each was above board. The procurement has raised controversy in various circles prompting a ministerial statement delivered by Mwale today.

Mwale attempted to put to rest speculations that the acquisition of 42 fire tenders at a total cost of \$42 million was exorbitant.

He clarified that the cost was attached to quality specified by Zambian Fire experts as well as procurement officers.

Mwale explained that the procurement process was one that had no flaws and Grandview who won the bid were the lowest bidders that addressed the specific concerns raised by experts.

"Some bids were low but they were offering tanks made of plastic... its value for money we were looking s well as durability..." said Mwale.



# FIKAPWA!

#BallyWillFiXIt

By Natasha Sakala

THE Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see local authorities collecting base and withholding taxes on rental income on a commission basis.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Tuesday, ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda explained that the partnership would help the Authority reach the much-sought-after informal sector and widen the country's tax base.

"We are very confident that with this collaboration, we will be able to tax all Zambians. The ZRA has embarked on

## ZRA, local govt sign MoU to intensify tax collection from informal sector

a modernisation drive, which involves using platforms that simplify payment of tax by the informal sector. Some of our recent innovations include, but not limited to: introduction of payment of tax on phone; we are soon launching another application very soon, a platform on which taxes can be paid, but also payment of taxes using WhatsApp. These simplified ways of collecting tax are designed to ensure that the small-scale businesses and individuals find it easy to pay tax," Chanda said.

"For this particular Memorandum of Understanding, we have targeted two taxes: the base tax and withholding tax

on rental income. We believe that through your undoubted geographical spread around the country and with the Commission that we shall pay, which has now been enhanced in the budget, the councils will be able to help us collect base tax and withholding tax on rental income and we are also aware that you have a very robust database of marketeers and residents in your districts. So, through this partnership, we are very confident that we will expand our tax base. We are also confident that the Commission that the councils will receive from the Zambia Revenue Authority will enable them to deliver social services to their residents."

He said due to geographical challenges and limited human resources, the Authority had not been able to successfully tax the informal sector.

"As you may be aware, one of our major challenges, as the Zambia Revenue Authority, is collection of tax from the informal sector. This has actually been a major criticism of the Authority since it was established. Everyone, year in, year out, talks about expanding the tax base and we are also urged to ensure that every citizen contributes to the tax basket. But because of our limited geographical spread as the Zambia Revenue Authority and limited resources in terms

of human resource and offices around the country, we have not been able to successfully tax the informal sector," said Chanda, who added that local authorities will be getting 10 per cent of the gross collection made.

And Ministry of Local Government Permanent Secretary Ed Chomba hailed the agreement signing as the "new dawn in the revitalisation of decentralisation in the country."

"The signing of this MoU signifies a new dawn in the quest to revamp decentralisation. Decentralisation seems to be on its knees at the moment, but I think this is just one injection we needed to revamp and to revive

decentralisation. We believe at the Ministry and at the central government that if service delivery has got to be enhanced, it has got to be enhanced on a municipal level and this is what this is all about. Where a person, who is in Shang'ombo and somebody who is in Lundazi, they begin to start to understand two things: that government institutions are no longer working in silos, but rather they are coming together to enhance service delivery to them. Then, number two, the importance of tax itself, which we view in our understanding that our people are to be conscientise even more on the importance of tax," Bishop Chomba said.

He, however, cautioned that he would not take kindly to any abuse of the collected resources.

"I will emphasise to my friends and to my colleagues that I will not take kindly any abuse, any misapplication, any mishandling and whatsoever inappropriate handling of these funds that has been allowed for us to collect on behalf of ZRA, through the local authorities to be misused. Once that takes place, then I think I will be the first whistleblower to begin with based on the Financial Regulations Act of 2018, I will call the ACC! I am the controlling officer, I am appointed and I will do that. There will be nothing like covering anything. No money has got to go missing. The pudding in this MoU will be in its implementation," said Chomba.

Also present at the ceremony was acting Accountant General Amy Chenguluka, who signed on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.

## Milingo accuses *News Diggers* of malice, denies wrongdoing at KCM

By Zondiwe Mbewe

KONKOLA Copper Mines provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu says the report that he authorised a payment of US\$1.6 million to a company that is owned by his relative, for the supply of Heavy Fuel Oil, is a fabrication that borders on mischief.

In a statement issued by KCM Acting Public Relations Manager Victoria Kabwe, Tuesday, Milingo said he had noted a systematic and consistent fabrication of stories against the mining company by the News Diggers.

"The Provisional Liquidator (PL) of Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), Milingo Lungu, wishes to categorically refute a story published in the News Diggers newspaper of Monday, 28th September 2020

in which it alleged actions of impropriety by the PL at the company. The insinuation that the PL authorised payment of \$1.6 million to a company Cashfin in which a relative allegedly had interest to supply Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) to KCM is a total fabrication and borders on serious mischief. The article is full of innuendos intended to bring the PL's name into disrepute and discredit the ongoing liquidation process. The PL wishes to categorically deny that he is interested in Cashfin Limited, by himself or through any of his relatives. This fact can simply be verified by making a search at PACRA. In that regard, when the allegations first came to his attention, the Provisional Liquidator took the step to report the matter to

the Police so that the persons behind these allegations may be brought to book and as such the matter is the subject of an active Police investigation," read the statement in part.

"The apparent insinuation of wrongdoing in KCM is a well-calculated and desperate attempt to cast aspersions on the person and character of the Provisional Liquidator and create a picture of failure in the liquidation process, which is far from the truth. This is not the first time that such false allegations of impropriety have been made as can be proved from some of the headlines highlighted below:

1. On the 1st February 2020, News Diggers reported that the PL had transferred K100 million from KCM accounts to his law firm, when this was not true

2. On 11th July 2019, the News Diggers falsely reported that ZRA had paid KCM over K95m in tax refunds, to pay liquidator's legal fees
3. On the 19th October 2019, News Diggers reported that the Nchanga smelter had burnt down, when not
4. On the 23rd December 2019, News Diggers again reported a fabricated story that several miners were trapped underground and the KCM was experiencing major maintenance problems since the liquidation process commenced."

Milingo claimed that the intention of the newspaper was to create an impression that he was failing to manage the mine.

"The Provisional Liquidator has noted a systematic and consistent

fabrication of stories against the company by the News Diggers, whose intention is to create falsehoods that there is failure in the managing the company. The News Diggers has intentionally chosen to print falsehoods to shore up the image of Vedanta Resources, when the shambolic management of KCM under Vedanta is actually the reason the government placed the company in liquidation. The PL and KCM Management will not be distracted by these falsehoods and will ensure they together continue to work towards a positive outcome of the liquidation process. Therefore, the Provisional Liquidator demands an apology and complete retraction of the false story in the News Diggers," read the statement.



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By Natasha Sakala

THE Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) says it is unlikely that the 2021 budget will deliver on economic stimulation resilience, given government’s huge debt repayments amounting to a total of over K45 billion.

In a statement, Tuesday, JCTR executive director Fr Alex Muyebe lamented that government’s move to ensure it avoided default on debt repayments was being done at the expense of national development.

“Although efforts have been made by government to ensure that Zambia does not default on its obligations reflective through budget allocation towards debt and dismantling arrears,

## 2021 budget won’t stimulate economy – JCTR

it should be noted that this is taking place at the expense of key national development imperatives. In line with the budget theme, JCTR clearly notes that it is highly unlikely that the budget will be able to deliver on ensuring that economic stimulation and resilience is attained. It is important to admit that the high indebtedness, coupled with current economic and financial conditions, such as low national reserves, high inflation rates and volatility of the currency, will render the aspiration of stimulating the economy impossible,” Fr Muyebe stated.

“As alluded to by the Minister in the proposed 2021 budget, external public debt stock increased to US \$11.97 billion as at end-June, 2020, from US \$11.48 billion at the close of 2019, representing an increase of 4.3 per cent. Debt payments alone in the proposed budget will account for approximately 41 per cent of the K119 billion budget. This is higher than the combined allocation to key social sectors; health, education and social protection that are only allocated 23.6 per cent. A detailed look at the domestic stock also notes that government securities increased to K114.3 billion as at end of August, 2020,

from K80.2 billion as at end December, 2019, inclusive of the K8 billion COVID-19 Bond. Furthermore, when looking at the 2021 resource envelope, it is clearly proposed that 44.9 per cent will be financed through borrowing, both domestic and external. This is higher than the 2020 proposed financing envelope that stood at 32.2 per cent.”

He, however, applauded government’s move to restructure the national debt and called for deliberate efforts to tackle the debt problem as opposed to relying on debt forgiveness.

“Nevertheless, JCTR applauds government on strides made to cancel, restructure and refinance existing loans. It was noted by the Minister of Finance that US \$1.1 billion pipeline loans have been cancelled and US \$280.0 million has been saved from the re-scoping of projects. This is, indeed, one step in the right direction. The Centre implores the Ministry of Finance to provide consistent periodic updates with as far as any liability management strategy aimed at putting our public debt on a sustainable trajectory. JCTR reiterates that debt forgiveness or moratorium are not guaranteed and if given are not the Holy Grail to solving our debt problem. Therefore, deliberate efforts to tackle the challenge of debt head-on beyond reliance on ‘debt forgiveness’ must be made. Take, for example, suspension of debt service payments totalling US \$139.2 million expected under the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). This figure is equivalent to 0.6 per cent of GDP and 1.2 per cent of Zambia’s total external debt stock. The marginal impact of the DSSI on debt service requirements is explained by the structure of the financing of the country. Most of the public sector borrowing originates from multilateral and private sources. These creditors account for 73.3 per cent of external public debt,” stated Fr Muyebe.

“It cannot be overstated that high debt servicing has evidently compromised budget allocations to social sectors, such as education, health and social protection. Budget credibility does continue to be of concern for JCTR as budget execution has over the years been very poor in Zambia. Expenditure out turns have time and again been at variance with budget allocations. For instance, while a call in 2019 was made to narrow the fiscal deficit to 5.5 per cent of GDP, the outturn stood at 11.7 per cent. The result: cutting of social sector spending thereby compromising human

development outcomes. It, thus, remains imperative that debt sustainability is operationalised through our own commitment to do better for our nation and this must be reflected in all key national macroeconomic frameworks, especially the national budget.”

Next year’s budget reveals that K27 billion will be due to be spent servicing Zambia’s external debt alone, up from this year’s K21.1 billion allocation, representing 23 per cent of the total budget amount, while domestic debt servicing will equally jump to K18.3 billion next year, up from K12.6 billion allocated in this year’s budget.

## Court allows CEC to challenge Nkhuwa’s decision to declare its transmission lines as a common carrier

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Court of Appeal has granted the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) leave to commence judicial review proceedings in the Lusaka High Court against Energy Minister Matthew Nkhuwa’s decision to declare its transmission and distribution lines as a common carrier.

Court of Appeal judges Mubanga Kondolo, Flavia Chishimba and Judy Zulu-Mulongoti, ordered that the judicial review proceedings should be heard before another judge.

The court has however, declined to order a stay of execution of the decision made pending judicial review proceedings.

In June this year, Lusaka High Court Judge Mwape Bowa refused to grant CEC leave to commence judicial review proceedings to challenge the said decision by the Energy Minister.

CEC had applied for leave to commence judicial review proceedings in the Lusaka High Court against Nkhuwa’s decision to declare its transmission and distribution lines as a common carrier.

CEC which cited the Attorney General and the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) as respondents, was seeking a declaration that Nkhuwa’s decision to declare its transmission and distribution lines as common carrier was unlawful.

It also wanted to challenge the decision of the Energy Regulation Board of May 31, 2020 to direct it to charge wheeling tariff of US\$5,84/kw/ per month.

CEC further wanted an order to quash the said decisions and a further order to stop Nkhuwa from enforcing SI no.57 of 2020 as it was illegal.

But in his ruling, Judge Bowa denied CEC leave to commence judicial review proceedings against Nkhuwa’s decision and further said granting CEC an order to stay the minister’s decision would create two conflicting decisions by two High Court judges.

He however, said CEC was at liberty to renew its

application for leave before the Court of Appeal.

CEC then went to the Court of Appeal by way of renewal seeking leave of the court to commence judicial review proceedings which was declined by the High Court.

And in a judgement delivered by judge Chishimba on behalf of the two other Court of Appeal judges, Tuesday, the court said it was at this stage not concerned with the merits of the substantive hearing of the actual judicial review or its determination.

The court said it was merely concerned with whether CEC had demonstrated to the court that it had an arguable issue to be resolved at the full hearing.

Judge Chishimba said it was not in issue that CEC’s transmission and distribution lines were declared common carrier and ERB imposed a ‘temporal’ tariff before the parties could agree.

“The background to what transpired prior to the declaration of the applicant’s (CEC) lines is stated earlier on in our background facts in the judgement and needs not be rehashed save to state that KCM in liquidation owed and owes the applicant undisputed sum in excess of US\$144 million. A demand was made, followed by the applicant’s intention to discontinue further supply of the commodity,” she said.

The court referred to a media statement by CEC dated May 29, 2020 to the effect that it would from January 1, 2020, discontinue the supply of power to KCM in view of the outstanding debt of US\$132 million, which was as at May 31, 2020 projected to grow to US\$143 million.

“On May 29, 2020, SI No.57 of 2020 was issued by the Minister of Energy, the schedule therein stipulated that all transmission and distribution lines operated by CEC were declared common carrier. Prior to that, certain media statements were allegedly made or ascribed to the Minister of Energy warning the applicant not to disconnect supply to KCM,” judge Chishimba said.

She said the court was satisfied that CEC met the

threshold to be granted leave to commence judicial review proceedings.

Judge Chishimba said there appeared to be an arguable case fit for further investigation at a substantive hearing of the judicial review proceedings vis-a-vis whether the decisions assailed were legally or procedural effected, or made in bad faith and for improper motives.

“We hold the view that the material on record in respect of the renewed application discloses an arguable case fit for further investigation. We accordingly exercise our judicial discretion by granting leave to the applicant to commence judicial review proceedings in the court below. We however decline to order a stay of execution of the decision made pending judicial review proceedings,” she said.

“Having granted leave to commence judicial review proceedings, we accordingly order that the said proceedings be heard before another judge. Costs to the applicant to be taxed in default of agreement.”

## Political parties recommended new voters’ register – ECZ

By Julia Malunga

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says the introduction of the new voters’ register is a result of recommendations made by political parties, international observers and auditors in 2016.

And the Commission says the pre-online registration is not a requirement, but only an option for those who wish to quicken their registration process.

In an interview, ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano said the introduction of the new voters’ register was as a result of recommendations made by political parties, international observers and auditors back in 2016, which the Commission were now implementing.

He explained that the parameters on the ground had changed due to the delimitation of polling stations, polling districts, wards and constituencies, rendering the current electoral boundaries under the current register null and void.

“The new voters’ register is a result of recommendations made by political parties, international observers as well as the auditors of the register in 2016. All reports are available and were

shared with political parties at the time. It must be noted that political parties expressed concerns with the 2016 voter roll, alleging that there deceased persons and foreigners appearing on the register. In that regard, political parties and international observers, as well as auditors, recommended that a new voter registration be undertaken, noting that the lifespan of a voters’ roll should be not more than 10 years,” Nshindano said.

“Further to this, the parameters on the ground have changed due to the delimitation of polling stations, polling districts, wards and constituencies rendering the current electoral boundaries under the current register null and void and hence, all the details of registered voters have to be aligned to the new electoral boundaries, failure to which, one will be disenfranchised on polling day as the details on the voter’s card will not tally and their registered polling station might not even exist.”

And Nshindano said the online pre-registration exercise was aimed at expediting the process of voter registration.

“It must be noted that the online exercise is merely pre-registration,

aimed at quickening the process of voter registration. Voters will still be required to manually register as has always been the practice. It must also be noted that pre-registration is not a requirement, but only an option for those who wish to quicken their registration process. All those who wish to register manually and not partake in pre-registration are free to do so. Online registration is most cost effective, faster, easier, and more accessible to the younger voters, who ECZ is aiming at franchising. ECZ notes the high voter apathy among the youth in previous elections. Easier and quicker registration is aimed at combating this,” he explained.

Nshindano, however, said the Commission would endeavour to build consensus among all stakeholders regarding the upcoming 2021 general election.

“ECZ remains committed to fulfilling its mandate as enshrined in the Constitution by delivering free and credible elections. However, it must be noted that ECZ will endeavour to build consensus among stakeholders regarding upcoming elections, particularly with regard to new voter roll and online pre-registration,” said Nshindano.



*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he respects the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and that insinuations that he has directed the Commission to abandon the old voters’ register to disadvantage the opposition in the 2021 general election is not true.

And President Lungu says he is equally uncomfortable with some of the ECZ’s newly-introduced methods of voter registration, but has deliberately decided to restrain himself from commenting because his words may be misconstrued as interference.

This week, University of Zambia (UNZA) lecturer Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa highlighted how President Lungu devised a two-fold strategy that seeks to eliminate the possibility of removing him from power through the ballot in 2021.

“Election rigging in many of Africa’s democracies occurs through a range of strategies, such as ballot-box stuffing, electoral bribery, violence against political opponents and the emasculation of the independent media that usually serve as the main outlet for opposition parties denied coverage in state-run publications. Other tactics involve putting dead voters on the electoral register, creating irregularities to obstruct voters and, more recently, using fake news to sway the electoral outcome. These strategies have been used to varying success, but they are not as common as they once were. Their susceptibility to failure and the infectious willingness by the Judiciary to nullify fraudulently-won elections, as

# Lungu responds to Sishuwa’s election rigging allegations

recently happened in Kenya and Malawi, has prompted incumbent presidents elsewhere to devise more sophisticated and subtle ways of guaranteeing their stay in power. A clear example is Zambia’s President, Edgar Lungu. Ahead of the general election in August, 2021, he devised a two-fold strategy that would eliminate the possibility of removing him from power through the ballot,” Dr Sishuwa wrote in his article, published in News Diggers! Monday.

He stated that one of President Lungu’s strategies to rig elections was to force the Constitution Amendment process by including a clause for formation of a coalition government.

“The first mechanism Lungu created to shape the outcome of the 2021 presidential election is an amendment to the Constitution that enables the formation of a coalition government if none of the candidates get more than 50 per cent of the total valid votes cast. The Constitution currently allows a second ballot between the top two candidates. Lungu barely scraped a victory in the last general election in 2016, winning by 50.3 per cent. This time, he is not taking any chances. His governing Patriotic Front (PF) party has taken to Parliament a Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill Number 10 of 2019, which proposes another stage to Zambia’s election between the first vote and a potential run-off,” he stated.

“In this middle stage, if no presidential candidate has won more than 50 per cent in the first round, then the leading candidate, but no other candidate, could propose a coalition with a losing candidate of their choice, with the only requirement being that, ‘the combined votes of that presidential candidate and the preferred presidential candidate forming the coalition government meet the threshold of more than 50 per cent of the valid votes cast.’ It retains the existing constitutional provision on the run-off, but only if the presidential candidate with the highest number of votes fails to form a coalition government within the specified time period. This suggests Lungu is anticipating another close election where he may emerge with more votes than his rivals, but fall short of the required 50 per cent + 1 vote threshold. In this instance, just an extra two per cent or three per cent may be needed to form a winning majority. This will probably come from smaller, Lungu-friendly parties that are in opposition in name only. Their votes total may be tiny, but this amendment could turn them into kingmakers. The much-criticised Bill requires the support of two-thirds of the MPs to pass. If all MPs from the main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) manage to remain resilient to bribery, the Bill won’t be passed.”

Dr Sishuwa also charged that the other mechanism in which President Lungu was

devising to rig elections was to compel the ECZ to discard the old voters’ register and call for fresh registration.

“The second way Lungu is rigging the election is by abolishing the current voters’ register, numbering six million electors, and creating a new one favourable to his prospects. Senior figures in the PF said Lungu is afraid he will lose the 2021 poll if the voters’ roll used in the last general election is not discarded. His fears are not unfounded. He was first elected in the 2015 presidential by-election that followed Michael Sata’s untimely death in office. He was re-elected in the disputed 2016 polls, narrowly defeating Hakainde Hichilema, leader of the UPND, who polled 47.6 per cent of the total presidential votes cast. Lungu knows he is in trouble because ECZ data shows that voter turnout was, on average, higher in the regions won by his rival compared with those that voted for him,” charged Dr Sishuwa.

“Recognising the limited time that remains before the 2021 election — less than 10 months — the Commission pledged to allocate not more than 30 days to the voter registration exercise, starting on 28 October. By using the Commission this way, Lungu hopes to disenfranchise as many opposition supporters as possible. Three of the four provinces in which Hichilema

retains huge support, for instance, are in rural areas. Limited publicity about the Commission’s plans to abolish the existing register, the long distances to the nearest administrative centres, the onset of the rainy season (which starts in late October), and the limited time available to complete the exercise will undermine the capacity of voters in these areas to take part in the voter registration.”

But in a statement issued by his Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe President Lungu insisted he respected the ECZ’s independence and would not interfere with its operations.

“His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, has noted with concern insinuations from some quarters of society that he has directed the Electoral Commission of Zambia to abandon the current voters’ register and to introduce electronic voting in an effort to disadvantage the opposition in the 2021 election. The Electoral Commission of Zambia is an independent and autonomous electoral management body, empowered under Act No. 35 of 2016 ‘to make regulations providing for the registration of voters and for the manner of conducting elections,’ among other functions. Therefore, President Lungu would like to reaffirm his unwavering

commitment to ensuring the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia, or, indeed, any other constitutional body. The President would, therefore, not sanction any acts that would usurp the powers of the Electoral Commission of Zambia. Under his leadership, President Lungu has allowed and will continue to allow constitutional bodies like the ECZ to operate autonomously and independently,” Chipampe stated.

And the Head of State stated that it was absurd that some citizens thought that he was using the Commission to his advantage.

“President Lungu, therefore, finds it absurd that some citizens continue to claim that he is directing the Electoral Commission of Zambia to change voter registration methods to his and the ruling party’s advantage. President Lungu adds that even him and the ruling party are uncomfortable with some of the newly-introduced methods, but he is restrained to comment because his words may be seen as interference in the operations of the Electoral Commission of Zambia. More importantly, President Lungu does not want the electoral process to be marred in controversy and prays that the polls would be free and fair before, during and after voting,” stated Chipampe.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe  
A Copperbelt based businessman Joseph Chilinda has told the Kabwe High Court that KCM liquidator, Milingo Lungu, bought his company, Cashfin Zambia Ltd, for US\$500,000 and promised to pay through a procurement tender from Konkola Copper Mines.

This is a matter in which four individuals have dragged Cashfin Zambia Limited owners, Chilinda and Convex Equity Limited, to the Kabwe High Court, seeking a declaration that businessmen Jason Kombo and Dingiswayo Ndhlovu are the rightful shareholders of Cashfin Zambia Limited, following a purchase transaction.

But Chilinda has told the court that it is KCM liquidator, Milingo, who bought his company and not the people who have gone to court claiming ownership of Cashfin.

Two days ago, News Diggers reported a scandal at Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) in which the mining giant has paid US\$1.6 million (about K32 million) to a company allegedly bought by liquidator Milingo Lungu through his relative Dingiswayo Ndhlovu, for the supply of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO).

The newspaper also reported that PF cadres were up in arms fighting for the ownership of Cashfin, the company that has received the US\$1.6 million from KCM.

According to KCM sources close to the liquidator, Milingo approached Chilinda, a known PF cadre, asking to buy his company, which he allegedly used to syphon money for a purported consignment of HFO, that was not delivered.

The sources narrated that after buying the company through his relative (Ndlovu), Milingo processed a full payment of US\$1.6 million in one day, before his relative withdrew US\$1.1 million and paid it to unknown third parties.

But in a statement, published by the Daily Nation, one Laston Mumba, claiming to be the resident director of Cashfin, said neither Ndlovu nor Milingo was the beneficial owner of the company.

“As Cashfin Zambla Limited, we wish to reply and rebut the several inaccuracies and untruths in the [News Diggers] story. The story is unresearched, unverified, unethical and quite simply in bad taste. Cashfin Zambia Limited was awarded a contract to supply 2000 tonnes of Heavy Fuel Oil on merit after demonstrating that we had capacity to meet the order. We were awarded the contract at a time when there was a critical shortage of HFO on the market owing to the prolonged closure of Indeni Refinery. Indeed, the shortage is still persistent to date. The order was granted at a time of movement restrictions because of COVID-19 related

# Milingo promised to pay me using KCM tender – Chilinda tells court

lockdowns. In addition, most Zambian based transporters were unwilling to pick up the product because of fear of attack on their drivers. Despite these challenges we have successfully managed to discharge our obligations on the agreement. Neither Mr. Milingo Lungu nor Mr. Dingiswayo Ndhlovu are the beneficial owners of Cashfin Zambia Limited. The beneficial owner of Cashfin Zambia Limited is Jack Robert Kombo, a Zambian citizen resident in South Africa,” read the statement.

Meanwhile, according to the court records which were availed to News Diggers, Tuesday, Milingo’s relative, Ndlovu, is one of the petitioners who have sued Chilinda, claiming ownership of the company.

## THE CLAIM OF COMPANY OWNERSHIP

Kombo, Ndhlovu, Musonda, Mumba and Cashfin Zambia Limited as plaintiffs have sued Chilinda, Convex Equity Limited and Stanbic Zambia Limited as the defendants.

The plaintiffs are seeking an order to Chilinda and Convex Equity Limited to execute deeds of transfer of shares in Cashfin Zambia Limited to Kombo and Ndhlovu, and that in default, an order that the Registrar of the High Court executes share transfers in Cashfin in favour of Kombo and Ndhlovu.

They also want an injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with the operations of Cashfin Zambia in any manner whatsoever.

In their statement of claim, the plaintiffs stated that Kombo was the beneficial owner of 99 percent shares in Cashfin Zambia while Ndhlovu was the beneficial owner of 1 percent of the said company.

They added that Musonda was a businessman resident in Ndola and holding a power of attorney on behalf of Kombo.

The plaintiffs further stated that Chilinda was a former beneficial holder of 95 percent shares in Cashfin Zambia, while Convex Equity was the former beneficial holder of 5 percent shares in the company.

They stated that by an agreement made on June 1, 2020, between Chilinda and Convex Equity and Kombo and Ndlovu, the defendants agreed to sell and Kombo and Ndhlovu agreed to purchase 100 percent shares in Cashfin Zambia at a price of US\$10,000 to be paid in two equal instalments with the first due on agreement to sell and the final instalment due on completion.

“Pursuant to the agreement, Kombo acting through Musonda paid the

first instalment of US\$5,000 to Chilinda on June 1, 2020 and thereafter, the second instalment of US\$5,000 was paid on June 30, 2020 to an account belonging to Epitome Investment Limited,” read the claim.

The plaintiffs stated that in light of the above, Chilinda surrendered the original copies of the company’s certificate of incorporation, certificate of share capital and license to buy, distribute and export petroleum products.

They added that further to the said agreement, Chilinda was required to change signatories on Cashfin’s accounts pending the transfer formalities.

The plaintiffs stated that therefore, Chilinda signed a mandate for the second defendant to be the sole signatory on all Cashfin’s accounts held with Stanbic Zambia Limited.

They stated that upon full payment of the purchase price to Chilinda and becoming beneficial owners of Cashfin, the plaintiffs (the four individuals) secured an order to procure and supply 2000 tonnes of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) to KCM in Chingola at a total cost of US\$1,600,000.

The plaintiffs stated that the proceeds for the said procurement and supply of the oil were paid into Cashfin’s account held at the Ndola Branch of Stanbic Zambia Limited.

They stated that on August 4, 2020, Ndhlovu was

informed that his access to the said account was blocked by Stanbic on account that Chilinda had written to them asking to change signatories on the grounds that he was unaware on the whereabouts of Ndhlovu.

## CHILINDA’S DEFENCE

But in their defence, Chilinda and Convex Equity Limited denied having any transaction or dealings with Kombo and Ndhlovu relating to the sale of 100 percent shares in Cashfin Zambia Limited, adding that no agreement was ever discussed or negotiated and entered into between the said plaintiffs and the defendants.

Chilinda stated that he was and still is the beneficial owner of 95 percent shares in Cashfin whereas the remaining 5 percent belong to Convex Equity Limited.

“The subject defendants aver that they do not know the said plaintiffs and have never met them in respect of the alleged agreement or howsoever else,” read the defence.

Chilinda stated that the individual he discussed the sale of shares in Cashfin Zambia Limited with was Milingo Lungu who paid a deposit of USD10,000, leaving a balance of USD490,000, out of the USD500,000 consideration for his (Chilinda’s) 100 percent shares, being 95 percent shares in the said company.

“The individual the first defendant (Chilinda) discussed the sale of shares,

in Cashfin Zambia Limited, with is one Milingo Lungu and that the context of discussion and negotiation between them was as follows; the first defendant was going to sell his 100 percent shares in Cashfin Zambia Limited (being 95 percent shares) to the said Milingo Lungu at a total consideration of USD500,000. Milingo Lungu was going to pay a deposit payment of USD10,000. The balance payment of USD 490,000 was going to be paid in cash or Milingo Lungu was going to facilitate the registration of the first defendant’s other company (Epitome Investments Limited) as a supplier of goods and services with Konkola Copper Mines Plc (in liquidation),” read the defence.

Chilinda stated that upon registration, Milingo was going to facilitate the provision of business/orders by KCM to his (Chilinda’s) said company the balance consideration of USD490,000 by way of payment thereof.

He added that in default of the above provision of order/business, Milingo was going to pay the said balance in cash to him.

“The first Defendant was going to open a bank account in the names of the second defendant. The first defendant was going to sign a resolution appointing Milingo Lungu’s proxy as signatory to the account. A formal share sale agreement was going to be signed spelling out the full terms

and conditions of the sale,” read the defence.

“The first defendant avows that for the reasons above said he did not receive any payment from the first plaintiff (Kombo) (whom he did not have any dealings or contract with) by proxy or otherwise and avers that the payment he received from the third plaintiff (Musonda) was a payment by the said Milingo Lungu and the said payment was in consequence of various verbal (inter face and telephonic) discussions between the said Milingo Lungu and the first defendant.”

Chilinda admitted receiving the second payment of USD5,000 by way of deposit or transfer into the account of Epitome Investments Limited, but, however, added that the said payment was made by the said Milingo Lungu by himself or his proxy following WhatsApp communication with him.

He stated that it was the said Milingo Lungu’s condition for the payment of the deposit sum that the said documents should be held in his custody as security pending completion of the transaction.

Chilinda however, admitted that Ndhlovu was removed as signatory to the account for the reason that the said Milingo Lungu had failed, neglected or refused to complete the transaction as contemplated, discussed and negotiated between the two of them.

## Zambia’s total debt now at \$18.5 billion, reveals Ng’andu

Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu has revealed that Zambia’s total indebtedness inclusive of contingent liabilities and debt owed by State-Owned Entities (SOEs) now stands at US \$18.5billion with an average interest of 4.5 per cent.

Speaking during the investor call following the copper producers request to defer coupon payments on its dollar bonds for six months, Dr Ng’andu told bondholders that the country’s debt position to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 104 per cent, breaching the Washington based lenders threshold of 35 per cent.

“Zambia is spending half of government revenue collections to service interest on debt currently compared to a few years ago when only 20 per cent of revenues would be channeled towards interest obligations,”

Dr Ng’andu said.

According to Dr Ng’andu, it had become increasingly difficult to service the country’s debt.

Of the US \$18.5 billion, external debt owed by government directly now stood at US \$11.97 billion, while the remainder reflects obligations by SOEs and is also in contingent liabilities.

Dr Ng’andu advised investors that the pandemic period had necessitated the ask to defer interest payment so as to create fiscal space as this will allow survival in crisis time while hedging the country against interest penalties for delayed payments.

Zambia has written to key creditors of which some such as the Paris Club have provided the copper producer with reprieve from 01 May to 31 December 2020.



The steps to engage creditors and rescope debt have been fuelled by COVID effects on the fiscal side for Zambia, which did trigger various stimulus interventions at both monetary and fiscal level.

Zambia, however, is committed and confident that it will implement measures adequate enough between now and the proposed stand still date so as to get economic bailout assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“Debt stand still is required for us to work with the IMF. We are working within the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) rules to qualify for the upper credit crunch programme by the lender as we are in breach of the IMF benchmarks. We are strongly committed towards implementing reforms that will address fragility. We will aggressively pursue a systematic creditor and debt management strategy,” said Dr. Ng’andu.

Zambia has rescoped some of its infrastructure projects to ensure that only those which were as critical as the 750MW Kafue Gorge Lower hydropower project for energy generation and those of social importance were prioritized.

A total of US \$1.4 billion worth of potential disbursements were cancelled while the Ministry of Finance targets another US \$1.8 billion next year. Source: The Business Telegraph



*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
THE Lusaka High Court has declined to grant Musicians Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, Maiko Zulu, Brian Bwembya and others leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the Electoral Commission of Zambia's decision to compel duly registered voters to present themselves before registration officers for verification under a new register for the 2021 general elections.

High Court judge Gertrude Chawatama said in her ruling that the reliefs which Pilato and the others were seeking are similar to those in another case where UPND deputy secretary general Gertrude Imenda has sued ECZ over its decision to commence online voter registration without authority of law and further, to give a 30 days cut-off time for the voter registration.

She said allowing the proceedings to continue might lead to conflicting decisions by herself and High Court judge Mwila Chitabo who is presiding over the UPND matter, a situation that would bring the integrity of the court into disrepute.

But one of the applicants, Muleta Kapatiso who spoke on behalf of Pilato and the others said the Court's ruling came to them with shock, but added that they would continue to pursue other avenues to ensure that come 2021, their voter's

# Court dismisses artists' case against ECZ

cards can still used to vote and that no registered voter would be deregistered without following the law.

In this matter, Pilato, Maiko, Bwembya aka B Flow and two youths – Nawa Sitali and Kapatiso – on behalf of the people, were 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.

They further wanted if leave was granted, hearing of the Judicial Review application should be expedited and that it should operate as a stay of ECZ's decision which requires already registered voters to present themselves before a registration officer again or be precluded or prevented from voting in the 2021 general elections.

The applicants had 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 was illegal.

They have further argued that ECZ's decision amounted to deregistering voters without notice and following laid down procedure, which was contrary



to the law.

However, when the matter came up for hearing of the application for leave to apply for judicial review yesterday before judge Chawatama, ECZ through its counsel Bob Musenga informed the court that there was a similar matter before judge Chitabo.

He argued that the court in question has equal jurisdiction with this court and that they were aware that courts frown upon different courts having similar matters as it had the potential of causing embarrassment to the judicial system.

But in response one of the applicants' lawyers Mutembo Nchito contended that ECZ was raising the issue prematurely as this was an application for leave for judicial review.

He submitted that his clients were registered voters who were complaining about the acts by ECZ which according to them would have the effect of de-registering them as voters thus disenfranchising them.

"The other case that has been referred to which is before Justice Chitabo is brought by a political party in furtherance of their political gains. The political party is complaining about a level playing field for their political activities. In this case, our client's complaint is sacrosanct. It is that the decisions ECZ is taking have unlawful effect of disenfranchising them," Nchito said.

He said in the UPND case, leave had been granted and hearing commenced,

adding that even if there were similarities in the two matters, the point was that there was no res judicata in judicial review as every aggrieved person was entitled to seek redress.

But in her ruling delivered in the afternoon, judge Chawatama said the decision which would be made in the matter before judge Chitabo though brought by UPND would resolve the issues before her in this matter, as the reliefs sought in that case will have an effect on all the citizens including the applicants herein.

She therefore declined to grant the applicants leave to apply for judicial review.

"This court enjoys wide discretion to make any order in order to do justice. It is in the interest of justice that an order to stop these proceedings at this point as allowing these proceedings to proceed might lead to conflicting decisions

by my learned brother Justice Chitabo and myself, a situation that would bring the integrity of this court into disrepute," judge Chawatama said.

"As I have stated earlier, this decision is also determinant on the issue of leave to grant judicial review. Leave for the application for judicial review is equally declined for the reasons stated in the preliminary application. Considering the nature of this application, each party will bear its own costs."

She granted leave to appeal against the ruling.

However, speaking shortly after the ruling was delivered, Kapatiso said the Court's ruling came to them with shock.

"It comes to us with shock because in our view this amounts to telling us that until one case which is being handled by judge Chitabo is heard and finalized, no other citizen, will raise anything on similar grounds," he said.

Kapatiso said they would not be forced to join the UPND case because the reliefs they were seeking and the route that they took by way of judicial review were different.

He said they would continue to pursue other avenues to make sure that come 2021, their voters cards can still used to vote and that no registered voter would be deregistered without following the law, as provided for under the electoral process act.

"And that there is going to be free, fair and credible elections anchored on the law and the Constitution," said Kapatiso.


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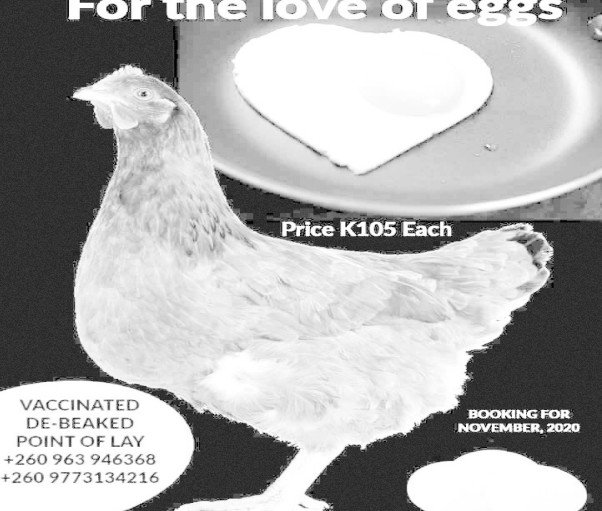


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BOOKING FOR NOVEMBER, 2020



# Discarding voters' register doesn't help ECZ allay rigging perception

THERE is a widely-held belief that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the PF government have repeatedly interfered with the electoral process to advantage the party in power.

This is not a belief that should be ignored and dismissed as baseless because, even if one could say it is baseless, it is a belief that our people hold firmly. This means that their reaction to elections may be informed by this belief, which could result in undesirable consequences.

The post-election violence that we have observed in other countries is not always a result of proven wrongs done by the electoral commission. We say this because in the period after the election and the time when violence and mayhem breaks out, there is normally no one able to conclusively prove what has gone wrong.

This means that the people who react, and usually do so spontaneously, react on the basis of the perception that they have of the electoral process that has produced the results that they are not happy

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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with. Managing perceptions before the elections, therefore, becomes critical to achieving an election that can be regarded as free and fair and representative of the will of the people. How, then, should perceptions be managed? First, it is important to have an electoral commission that is representative of all stakeholders in such a way that it is not seen as the election wing of the party in power. Clearly, this is a weakness that our Electoral Commission suffers from.

Many things have been said about newly-appointed Chief Electoral Officer Patrick Nshindano - fair and unfair. But we ought to remember that we are talking about perceptions here and their potential effect on the acceptability

of the outcome of an election. We, therefore, need to pay attention to whatever is said, fair or unfair. Paying attention to what is said means that we give ourselves the opportunity to address the concerns of the public at large in such a way that they feel represented by the Electoral Commission of Zambia.

It does not, for instance, do our Electoral Commission any good when they ignore or throw out the concerns raised by members of the public. The electorate is complaining and protesting the decision to invalidate the old voters' register. People are tying this move to a conspiracy theory that the Commission wants to help the ruling party in suppressing the number of eligible voters in the opposition UPND strongholds. This allegation and

the perception that the Commission is under the control of the Patriotic Front leaves the ECZ fundamentally crippled in its duty to engender confidence in its ability to run free and fair elections.

This perception of rigging requires the utmost humility on the part of the Electoral Commission of Zambia if it is going to surmount this negativity from the people it is supposed to serve. In other words, the Electoral Commission of Zambia needs to reach out more and be more accommodating, particularly to the opposition, if it is going to increase the perception of its own independence and ability to run a free and fair election.

This is the position in which the Electoral Commission of Zambia finds itself. As we said in the beginning,

in the matter of relating to the public, managing perception is as important as delivering the service that the people need. So far, the Electoral Commission of Zambia and their reactions to legitimate and very serious concerns raised regarding the voters' register have done nothing to improve their standing.

Like we stated in the past, at the pace we are going where stakeholders are not even agreed over the voters' register, we can as well be assured that the ECZ is destined to produce another disputed election in 2021. This is made worse by the fact that the Commission has a very casual approach when attending to electoral malpractice. During the Chilubi parliamentary by-election, the Commission even said it could not do anything because

no one made a formal complaint regarding what happened in that constituency.

But it does not help for ECZ to sit around waiting for people to lodge official complaints on malpractice, which they can see with their naked eyes! In our view, you don't solve problems by being reactive, you have to be proactive. It's as simple as that. Elections in Zambia have usually been a disputed affair with allegations of rigging, vote-buying and other malpractices always coming up. This must give the ECZ a headache over how to build confidence in the people.

Looking at the violence that occurred during the 2016 elections and its aftermath, we thought ECZ would work towards ensuring more discipline and transparency in the electoral processes so that at the end of the day, when winners are announced, the losers do not accuse the Commission of favouring preferred candidates.

But alas, the Commission seems to have no such agenda!

## Crossword puzzle No 701

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

*“We live solely in our minds. If things are ugly there, things are ugly every where.”*  
- Garry Fitchett

Across

1. Discover  
3. It forms over a cut  
6. Patsy  
9. Exchange  
11. Long-tailed rodent  
12. Mark from a cut  
13. Summit  
14. Paddle  
15. Look closely  
17. Carry  
20. Stadium level  
21. Burn slightly

Down

1. In thing  
2. Small bite  
4. Female whale  
5. Hit on the head  
7. Cry of surrender  
8. Screw up  
9. Get going  
10. Avoid  
15. Light caress  
16. Barely manage  
18. In debt  
19. It's used to hear

## Crossword puzzle No 700

1	B	O	2	A		3	N		4	P	A	5	R
			6	G	O	O	S	E					
7	A	8	P	E			S		9	N	10	U	T
					11	T	E	12	E				
13	D	I	V	E				14	R	U	D	E	
					15	D	O	A					
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			21	E	E	R	I	E					
22	G	A	S				E		23	P	U	N	



# Readers' Feedback

## ND! OPINION: Finally, PF agrees that ConCourt did not declare Lungu eligible

Editor,

“To both cases it’s good both have come to realise that. PF needs a reset button otherwise they will be caught off guard. As for UPND leadership it needs a serious retrospect and shuffle things up”. - Josh Godwin Musuku

“The question we should be asking for now is whether adada will compromise and leave the stewardship to another person!” - Ian Malekhanie

“They will keep contradicting themselves!Abuche!” - Likando Mufalali

“Makebi Zulu, Tutwa and other PF lawyers lied to six points and Nsunko ambassador Mumbi. I know that even addada deep down his heart knows that he doesn’t qualify that’s why he wants to try his lack with Bill 10”. - Che Guavara

“But Makebi Zulu of the same PF under Mundubile has contradicted his boss’s view”. - Bravol BM Mulez

Dear editor,

“It will be STUPID to insinuate that PF is gaining ground in UPND strongholds when clearly your distant cousins (ECZ and NRC issuing office) are trying everything at their disposal to disadvantage the opposition. Why are you not issuing NRCs in the opposition strongholds the way you did in EASTERN, LUAPULA, NORTHERN and MUCHINGA? Why have you made

## ‘Sunday knows that PF is abusing ECZ to stifle opposition’

voter registration so complicated that even those of us in urban areas are having challenges?” - Edward Mapulanga

“Your party has brought nothing but huge sufferings amongst poor unsuspecting Zambians. Evil doers!” - Davies Tembo

“PF is so arrogant it can’t recognise the abnormality in them buying votes in their your own strongholds!” - Richard Waga

“With the help of ECZ yes I agree with him. Few will register to vote in 2021 elections”. - Mungalu Toddy



## Bowman's fake monetary pledges

Editor,

“This man is just a political nuisance. He uses money to win people’s support. Everywhere he goes”. - Josh Godwin Musuku

“He has pleaged in almost every church in Kabushi constituency but upto now no church has received anything from him”. - Wilson Ng’uni

“A serious government can not entrust some individuals to be in leadership”. - Emmanuel Fulawulu

“He will deliver, he’s waiting for a ka payment”. - Pape Mhone

“Arrogance at it’s peak”. - Keith Moono

“Confusion!” - Asa Amisi

Leadership. Amid an artificially created Leadership Vacuum, Zambia is witnessing Whimsical, Knobkerrie and Transactional Leadership that are not ideal for progress, in modern times. The Ball is in the PF Administration Court”. - Simeo Musonda

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

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## ‘Musokotwane right on debt suspension being an admission of bankruptcy’

Editor,

bankcracy”. - Levy Ngwenya

“You left a robust economy, the heft spenders took over, spent everything in the name of unpriotised alarming massive infrastructure. PF further, went for national reserves after accruing unsustainable debts Eurobonds. Today they are crying for debt suspension, an admission of

“What we must be asking the Minister of Finance Dr Bwalya Ng’andu is that “HOW was the first \$750 million Euro-Bond disbursed?” Dr Ng’andu was part of the delegation that “Clinched” the deal. “How did they expect to payback?” Mr Alexander Bwalya Chikwanda is still also alive. So is Mr Miles Sampa who was not only Finance D/Minister but part of the signing team. WHY is it easier for the PF and its surrogates to debate the over 20 Years old Privatisation and NOT the current Euro-Bond DEFAULT and the other \$2.5 Billion pending Euro-Bonds in 2024?” - Christopher Kalima

“Bowman Lusambo is unfit for Public Office. He seriously lacks basic Leadership Qualities and Sound Academic Standing. When Bowman was appointed as Minister for Lusaka, Lungu hinted that he didn’t know Bowman and he had just heard that Bowman is a Boxer. Who recommended and who is the Appointing Authority? Bowman needs to undergo a tailored Character Analysis, Leadership and Diplomacy Training, and a Personality Development and Improvement, as well as Possible Image Projection. These Training Programs are available locally,in Zambia. Otherwise, in the absence of the empowerment, Bowman is trying to do his best, under the circumstances. The PF Administration is being unfair to Bowman by giving him a job without equipping him with prerequisite training and education. To avoid recurrence of this situation, PF Administration should consider establishing a National Leadership and Management Institute or Academy. This Institution would cater for Youths, Women, Politicians, Government workers and Professionals. Since independence, Zambians, especially Politicians and Government Officials, have not been afforded a chance to acquire requisite Leadership Qualities. NIPA has tried to produce Administrators. We should focus on producing effective and efficient Leaders with sound understanding and application of Functional and Transformational







# Micho hints at clubs' resistance to release players

**By Ngosa Chalwe**  
CHIPOLOPOLO coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević is facing a club versus country contest after he revealed that some clubs are reluctant to release players ahead of next month's international friendlies.

Zambia has lined up international friendlies against Malawi, South Africa and Kenya as Micho prepares to take charge of Chipolopolo in competitive games for the first time in November.

Zambia has a busy schedule as they have to juggle preparing for the back to back Africa Cup of Nations (AfCON) qualifiers against Botswana in November and the African Nations Championships in January next year.

Micho said in an interview yesterday that he may have to fall on his Plan B should some clubs not release the players he has requested for.

He said he would not name the players summoned until the club confirmed their availability.

"We cannot give the names of the international players called because we are having certain problems because some of the clubs are claiming FIFA this and Covid-19. So if we

give you the names and those names are later not coming, you will say that we are not telling the truth," Micho said.

"In order to tell the truth we shall first ensure in proper communication,

the way we have done, stipulated in the FIFA rules two weeks before coming in we have sent invitation letters to the clubs they cannot claim that we are late we have respected all what is stipulated however

we are at the mercy of the clubs Whether they will release the players or not releasing them will be well, not releasing them will require a backup plan."

The Serbian said he was not short of options as he

had a number of players for each position.

He also said he wanted Zambia to play good football as expected from fans.

"Zambians, we want to play good football and

good football. We need to be very organised, believing...in the talent of the Zambian players, we are looking forward to bring the players to their best possible shape," said Micho.

## City boosts chances to play in Eden Division One

**By Abraham Kalito**  
CITY of Lusaka has boosted its chances of qualifying to play in the Eden University

national division one league next season after the team won its first match against Malola Police FC.

Speaking following the win, City of Lusaka coach George Kapembwa said the changes made aided the team to come with a positive result.

"It's a good start for us, especially that both games were played yesterday (Monday) and there were wins so that we are at par with the other team. If you

look at yesterday's (Monday) line-up and today's (Tuesday) line-up, we made about two changes, three changes actually and we thought that is what was going to work for us and fortunately it has as you can see, one of the substitutes was on the scoresheet which was very positive for us. We should

be worried for now (with the injuries) there is a better person. If you saw the person the skipper played with last time, it's a different person so we have replacements," said Kapembwa.

Ten teams a competing for a place in the national division one league.

## Arsenal's Arteta eyes signings

MIKEL Arteta has his "eye on a few more players", says Lee Dixon, with the former Arsenal defender hoping that a deal can be done for a performer of Houssem Aouar's ilk as added creativity is going to be "key" for the Gunners.

A raid on Lyon for highly-rated playmaker Aouar has been mooted for some time now and formal offers have been tabled, but the Ligue 1 outfit are yet to see a hefty asking price met.

Arsenal are refusing to give up on a top target, with Atletico

Madrid midfielder Thomas Partey another of those in their sights, and Dixon believes deals will be done before the October 5 deadline.

The Gunners great told talkSPORT of Arteta's efforts to reinforce his ranks: "I think he's got his eye on a few more players. If he can get them over the line in the next week or so...

"I think a creative midfield player is key. When [Dani] Ceballos came on [against Liverpool] you could see the difference in that creative side of things. **GOAL**

## Liverpool's Thiago Alcantara tests positive for Covid-19



NEW Liverpool signing Thiago Alcantara has tested positive for coronavirus, the club confirmed on Tuesday.

The Spain international, who joined from Bayern Munich in September, made his debut off the bench against Chelsea as the Reds recorded a 2-0 victory in the first match of their Premier League defence.

He was then forced to sit out Monday's victory over Arsenal, and will now be isolated from the rest of his team-mates while he recovers from the virus.

"Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara has tested positive for Covid-19 and is currently self-isolating according to the necessary guidelines.

"The 29-year-old, who missed Monday's match against Arsenal, has exhibited minor symptoms of the virus but is in good health and is getting better.

"The club has, and will continue to follow, all protocols relating to Covid-19 and Thiago will

remain in self-isolation for the required period of time.

LFC first-team doctor, Dr Jim Moxon, said:

"It is the choice of each individual whether they reveal publicly the outcome of a Covid-19 test. **GOAL**

## Man Utd close in on Dembele move

BARCA must sell the Frenchman to make room for Memphis Depay


Manchester United are closing in on a deal for Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele, reports AS.

Ronald Koeman wants to bring Memphis Depay to Camp Nou from Lyon, but the club must sell first before they can add the Dutch star.

The Blaugrana are prepared to accept an offer between €50 million and €60m (£46m-£55m/\$59m-\$70m) for the 23-year-old. **GOAL**



ZAMBIA - MALAWI



TRAVEL WITH US DAILY TO:

Lusaka - Chipata - Lilongwe

1st Bus 05:00hrs  
2nd Bus 06:00hrs  
4th Bus 10:00hrs  
5th Bus 13:00hrs  
Boarding Time: 30mins before departure time

Lilongwe - Chipata - Lusaka

1st Bus 05:00hrs  
2nd Bus 06:00hrs  
3rd Bus 08:00hrs  
4th Bus 10:00hrs

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Lusaka courier: 0971248200 / Chipata courier: 0960248206  
Suggestions, comments and complaints: 0977794043 / 0977310202

E.mail: kobs@iconnect.zm / kobsinvestments@yahoo.com / kobsquick@iconnect.zm



# Kashala tips U-15

**By Abraham Kalito**  
FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala has reminded the Under 15 Junior Chipolopolo soccer team the importance of humility following their outing to Croatia where they were invited to participate in the 'Vlatko Markovic' tournament.

In his welcoming remarks after the team's arrival from that country, Kashala advised the boys to be level-headed after experiencing life outside Zambia.

He urged the players to keep on improving their skills.

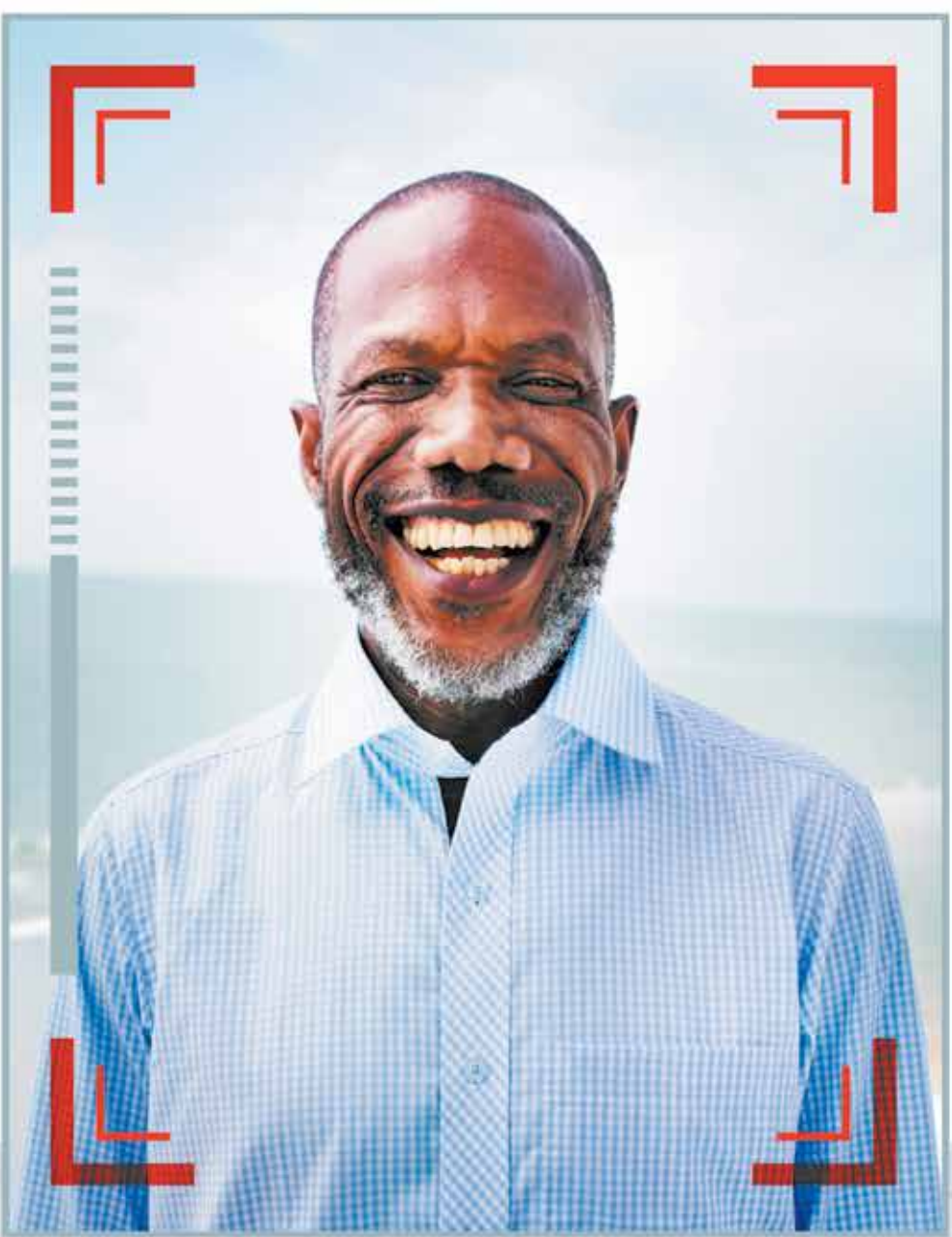
The Under 15 team cut short their tour after after two players tested positive to COVID-19.

"You are back with a lot of pride, but we are happy that you performed in the manner you did, except that our outing was cut short. We would have loved you to go up to the end to see where we could have stood on the log. But I think this is something that works for us as young Chipolopolo. I think all of us have learnt something and it acts as a motivator to the team. You are the upcoming Chipolopolo guys so you should work hard because already, we have an invitation for next year. So, as you get back home, don't grow big headed," said Kashala.

Meanwhile, national team coach Chisi Mbewe said the quality of players in the junior squad was testament that Zambia's future in soccer was bright.

"They have performed, regardless of the situation that we are passing through. They showed character in the first game, second game until the games were cancelled. Otherwise, I can assure you that you have future players, the future Mwepus, the future Daka's. The most important thing is the work that we continue. They need to be disciplined going forward," said Mbewe.

# Is online pre-registration final?



## ✓ Biometrics Capture

Online Pre-registration will start on 21st September to 6th November, 2020. Visit the website: [www.ovr.elections.org.zm](http://www.ovr.elections.org.zm) to lodge your application. Note that pre-registration is not final, applicants will have to visit a registration center to have their biometrics captured in order to complete registration.



#VotingSquad