



# NO! Bondholders reject Zambia's plea for delayed payment

*By Julia Malunga*  
THE Zambia External Bondholder Committee says its members are unable to accept the Zambian government's request to suspend Eurobond interest repayments, owing to lack of debt transparency among other things. And the Committee says the 2021 national budget moves Zambia further away from a path of debt sustainability, as long-standing fiscal imbalances have still not been addressed.

In a statement jointly-issued by Newstate Partners LLP managing partner Spencer Jones and Rafel Molina, Wednesday, the duo disclosed that the Committee's members were unable to provide a "positive response" to the Zambian government's Consent Solicitation request to suspend Eurobond interest debt repayments given the absence of clarity on a number of issues. *Story page 10*

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## ECZ puts off political party meeting citing court cases

*By Julia Malunga*  
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) yesterday postponed a meeting with political parties saying the issues which were supposed to be discussed are before the courts. *Story page 10*

## Muchekela, others in high spirits - lawyer

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Muchekela and three others have appeared before the Kasama Magistrates' Court in a matter they are accused of aggravated robbery, among others. *Story page 10*

## Treat livestock like your own children, Luo tells mothers

*Story page 3*

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# FIKAPWA!

#BallyWillFiXIt



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

FORMER finance minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane says Zambia currently has no capacity to repay the three Eurobonds worth US \$3 billion, hence government's request for a six-month suspension on interest payments.

And Musokotwane says Zambia's economic recovery will not succeed as long as foreign commercial debt remains unpaid.

Speaking when he featured on "Let the People Talk" on Radio Phoenix, Tuesday, Musokotwane said Zambia lacked the financial capacity to repay all the Eurobonds.

"The first one of those Eurobonds matures in 2022, but we still pay interest on them. On top of that, there are other loans other than the Eurobonds. We owe some foreign commercial banks money, we owe Exim Bank of China, we owe so many entities money. The impact is there. Clearly, there is no capacity to pay those. Already, now, we are failing to pay the interest, hence that letter that our Minister of Finance wrote to say, 'can you give us space of six months so that between October and March, next year, we don't pay anything, because there is no money to pay. I don't see the capacity to pay back, even after that requested time. Neither do my colleagues in government see that capacity. Now, it is an issue of seeing what can be done. This debt problem is crushing everybody! Now, we are not able to fund schools, hospitals, we are not able to hire teachers. There are 40,000 qualified teachers out there waiting to be hired, but there is no money to hire them. And the spaces are there. There

## Zambia lacks capacity to repay Eurobonds – Musokotwane

are so many schools without teachers," Musokotwane said.

He said the 2021 budget equally failed to address the country's main economic problems.

"My colleagues in government want to project that the main problem to this economy is COVID-19, but we are saying no. It is not. That is only part of the problem. But the core thrust of the problems is on the debt issue. We have a problem of the exchange rate going wild; we have a problem of the mining sector, we have so many businesses that have been bankrupted by the government because government collected goods and services and it is unable to pay. Unfortunately, the budget for 2021 does not address these issues. One would have expected that this budget was going to address the problem of borrowing, how we can restructure the debt or how we can rearrange it so that we give relief to our people," Musokotwane said.

Musokotwane, the UPND chairman for finance and economic affairs, said that as long as foreign exchange was used to service the Eurobond repayment, Zambia's economic crisis would persist.

"As long as we continue on this path where forex comes in and it goes out to pay Eurobonds to China, India etc, the problems will continue. So, the debt issue must be tackled as a prerequisite for what the President (Edgar Lungu) and the (Finance) Minister (Dr Bwalya Ngandu) talked about

for the economic recovery plan. The economic recovery will not succeed as long as this issue of debt is on our books. And the level of borrowing is so high. About 43 per cent of this budget is borrowed money. So, the 2021 budget proposes the opposite of what we are expecting," he added.

Musokotwane further said servicing the debt had become a massive drain on the international gross reserves.

"The kwacha now is K20 to a dollar. Why is it moving like this? It is not because of COVID-19. COVID has just contributed a smaller section of this. The major driver of this is the servicing of the debt. This year, the amount of money we are supposed to be paying outside to the people we owe is US \$1.5 billion. And our reserves had about US \$1.5 billion. So, the amount of money we have been paying to service this debt has become too huge! So, money comes in, but it immediately goes out to go and service the debt. I think the statement by the Bank of Zambia a few days ago clearly stated that servicing of foreign debt is the biggest core on the national foreign exchange reserves. So, if we are paying so many dollars out, what happens to the exchange rate? It has to go up. But now the critical issue is that what does this exchange rate do to industries? So many people have lost jobs and companies are closing because they can't operate at K20 to a dollar. So, the exchange rate is a direct consequence of the

borrowing that took place," he observed.

Meanwhile, Musokotwane, who is also Liuwa UPND member of parliament, said government's failure to repay VAT refunds to the mining sector had denied the much-needed investment in the sector.

"We knew very well that when time came to pay back these loans, we would have to feel poorer. This debt has also affected the very growth of the economy itself. As we pay the debt, the very growth or

expansion of the economy has been negatively affected. Our mining industry is struggling today! The projections that we had way back about 2010-2011, by this time we should have been producing 2 million tonnes of copper, which is our main export commodity. But it is stuck! It is still about 700,000 to 800,000 tonnes. Why? Because as the government was borrowing and now paying back, they are desperate for cash! And where can we find that cash to pay back these loans? Arising from that,

one of the measures they took was not to give VAT refunds to the mining sector. The mines paid VAT like anybody else who is in production, but government now withheld that money from the mining sector. By withholding that money, the investment that was supposed to go into mining has not taken place. As a result, our main mining industry is not expanding and in many instances has shrunk. It has denied the most necessary capital needed for mines to operate their enterprises in the manner they should be operating," said Musokotwane.

## DEC nabs Kitwe woman for cocaine trafficking

By Natasha Sakala

THE Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) has arrested a 30-year-old Kitwe-based businesswoman for trafficking in cocaine and three of her family members for attempting to bribe a DEC officer with K10,000 cash.

In a statement, Wednesday, DEC public relations officer Theresa Katongo disclosed that the suspect, Lizzy Chuba Chileshe, was nabbed for trafficking in over seven kilogrammes of cocaine.

"The DEC in Chililabombwe, Copperbelt Province has arrested a 30-year-old businesswoman for trafficking in cocaine and three of her family members for attempting to bribe a DEC officer. Lizzy Chuba Chileshe, 30, of House No. 2880, Chimwemwe Township in Kitwe, has been arrested for trafficking in 7.55 grammes of cocaine. The suspect has been on the DEC dragnet for a long time. The Commission has further arrested three of her family members namely, Moses Chuba Chileshe, 40, Danny Chuba Chileshe, 28, and Brian Mwansa, 42, for attempting to bribe a DEC officer with K10,000 in order to have their sister released. The case involving the trio has since been handed over to the Anti-Corruption Commission for further investigations and possible prosecution," Katongo

disclosed.

She further stated that the Commission had arrested five other persons for impersonation of DEC, Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) and Zambia Information and Communication Technology (ZICTA) officers.

"Meanwhile, the Commission in Lusaka Province arrested five separate other persons for impersonation of DEC, Zambia Revenue Authority and Zambia Information and Communication Technology officers. The suspects have been identified as Donald Chimase, 26, Lyson Ngoma, 25, Kalata Chanda, 26, Nicholas Mwansa, 25, and 26 year-old Jimmy Ashly Sichimba," the statement read.

She narrated that the five were nabbed from Carousel Shopping Mall where they had gone to demand for K30,000 cash from a Chinese national and proprietor of a named shop by purporting that they were officers from DEC, ZRA and ZICTA.

"Initially, the suspects had extorted K30,000 from the same shop owner and had taken with them two laptops, a CCTV server and control unit. Members of the public are requested to always demand for an identification card whenever they are approached by any person purporting to be a law enforcement officer," advised Katongo.

By Julia Malunga

CHIRUNDU UPND member of parliament Douglas Syakalima says the people of Zambia are tired of the ruling Patriotic Front.

Last week, Patriotic Front media director Sunday Chanda said there was wind of change blowing in UPND strongholds, which would lead to the re-election and consolidation of PF after the 2021 general elections.

However, in an interview, Syakalima said the ruling party would get a rude shock of their life.

"We can also claim that we are doing fine in their strongholds even if we lost

# PF will get a shock of their life in 2021 – Syakalima

in Mwanabombwe and Lukashya. This is how the ruling party behaves towards an election, they want to show off that they are winning. They will get a rude shock of their lives. Zambians are hurting, they read through the PF's manoeuvres. They must come to terms with reality, the PF is gone. Where is the PF getting the hope that they would win a general election? When God's providence is with the people, no matter what you do, you will fail," he said.

"You think people are happy with the amount of corruption? In fact, I call on Zambians to brace themselves for harder times where we are going. Look at the budget, it is empty! These are a bunch of thieves who should not be allowed back in government. We are tired of them, Zambians are tired of them, and corruption has hit the highest levels in this land. How can you pride yourself when your currency is rated as the second worst performing

currency in the world? Why can't they be ashamed? Even them, thinking that they still want to lead a country, you start to ask if they are normal. They are living in their own stupid imaginations. They think Zambians are happy with a rundown economy?"

Syakalima charged that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) was aiding the ruling Patriotic Front to win next year's general elections.

"The way ECZ is behaving, you can see that they want

to aid the PF to win the elections. How can a normal institution like ECZ think of de-registering everybody and starting afresh? Electoral commissions in Africa have caused wars because of being manipulative. [ECZ chief electoral officer Patrick] Nshindano is a young man and I am quite sure he has a pretty young family, so where does he want to take his family if there is chaos out of the way they are dealing with the election? [Justice Esau] Chulu, as the chairman of the Commission, has got a family, he has grandchildren, so where does he want them to go if there is chaos in this country?" wondered Syakalima.

Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's the Hot seat radio programme last week, Chanda said there was a wind of change blowing in favour of PF in UPND strongholds.

"Clearly, you can see the trend that UPND strongholds are giving up. And if at all there is a wind of change happening, it is a wind of change that is turning former red provinces to green. North-Western Province is one of them, Copperbelt rural is one of them and there is no other way unless our colleagues wish to live in denial. Clearly, there is no other way to explain why UPND is losing in Western Province, in North-Western Province, clearly, there is something that is wrong," said Chanda.

"And I am glad that my elder brother, Gary (Nkombo) did not really go deeper... there are serious problems in the UPND! There is a sense of fatigue in the UPND. The UPND membership is fatigued and they are looking for development. What they have seen coming from President Edgar Lungu is the heart of a leader interested in taking development to all parts of the country without leaving anyone behind. The wind of change is the wind of change sweeping former UPND strongholds. The PF is still a very popular party on the ground."



## Govt releases K16m to contain locust outbreak

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

AGRICULTURE Minister Michael Katambo says the country has been hit by an African Migratory Locust outbreak in Central, Southern, and Western Provinces.

And Katambo says the government is concerned about this outbreak as it has great potential to disrupt the 2020/2021 agricultural season thereby affecting household and national food security.

Speaking when he rendered a ministerial statement to Parliament, Tuesday, Katambo also said the Ministry of Finance had released K16 million for his ministry to control the spread of the Locusts.

"I wish to inform the House and the nation at large that the country has recorded an outbreak of the African Migratory Locust. These Locusts have been reported in parts of Central, Southern, and Western Provinces. To date, the following districts have reported cases of the African Migratory Locust; Kazungula, Sesheke, Mwanandi, Nalolo, Mongu, Kalabo, Shibuyunji, and Mumwa," Katambo said.

Katambo said the first reports of the Locusts outbreak was recorded in March in Kazungula District of Southern Province.

"You may wish to know that the African Migratory Locust is one of the four Locust species that are of economic importance in East, Central, and Southern Africa. The other Locust species are red Locust, brown Locust, and Desert Locust. This is not the first time the country has experienced an outbreak of the African Migratory Locust. The last outbreak was in the 2016/2017 agricultural season when an outbreak was reported in the Kafue flats. Quick action by the government prevented the spread of the Locust and damage to the crops. Coming to the current outbreak, the first reports of the Locust in Zambia were received in March, 2020 from Kazungula District in Southern Province. Immediately, the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa carried out ground and aerial surveys in Kazungula District and confirmed the outbreak of African Migratory Locust," Katambo said.

He said Locusts posed a

great threat to national food security as they destroyed crops.

"A total of 22,000 hectares in the Simahala, Kasaya, and Subilo plains along the Zambezi River were surveyed during this exercise and the pest was controlled. This action prevented the rapid spread of the Locusts. By end of March, 2020, we had controlled the outbreak of the Locust. The outbreak of the current African Migratory Locusts is of great concern to the government as it has the potential to greatly disrupt the 2020/2021 agricultural season that is due to start next month and thereby affect household and national food security. It is for this reason that the government has responded swiftly to this threat by undertaking surveillance and spraying in the affected districts. The spraying and surveillance are being undertaken simultaneously to ensure that the Locusts are controlled before the start of the year's agricultural season," Katambo said.

"Mr Speaker, currently, the winter crop in parts of Western Province is under threat and this will spread to people's homesteads in the plain. It is worth noting that farmers in Western Province plant their maize in the dambos by mid-October and rice is about to be planted in the plains. Given the current Locust outbreak, farmers are now reluctant to plant their crops and this may have a negative impact on food security. In view of this state of affairs, we would like to assure the nation that government is equal to the task and has moved in to conduct ground and aerial spraying in collaboration with the International Red Locust Organization which has the mandate to control migratory pests."

He said his ministry, working with the DMMU and the Zambia Air Force, was scheduled to undertake a spraying exercise at the affected areas, beginning with Sesheke.

"The chemicals and the helicopter for aerial spraying are already in place. Spraying will be done at the same time as surveillance and mapping to determine the extent of the African Migratory pests infestation. Spraying will start with hot pots or areas with high density population

of swarms of Locusts while ground spraying will be done in areas where the Locusts are at nymph stage near the homesteads and water bodies. This is to ensure safety of the Households in these areas and to preserve contamination of the water bodies," Katambo said.

"The spraying exercise will begin with Sesheke District which has been identified as a hot spot. So far, 29,500 hectares have been surveyed in readiness for spraying. The spraying exercise of the surveyed area is expected to begin today (29th September, 2020) or tomorrow. In preparation for the spraying exercise, government is carrying robust sensitization campaigns in the communities where spraying will be done. For the whole exercise to be successful, it will be done in a multi-sectorial manner

implying that the Ministry of Agriculture will be supported by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) under the Office of the Vice President, Zambia Air Force and other relevant government ministries and agencies as well as cooperating partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)."

And Katambo said a total of K16 million had so far been released for containing the spread.

"So far the Ministry of Finance has for far released K10 million for the Ministry of Agriculture and K4 million for the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit to support the activity budget for the these Locusts. The total budget is K16 million and so far these are the funds that have been released by the treasury in order for us to contain it," said Katambo.

## Treat your livestock like your own children, Luo tells Sinda mothers

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

MINISTER of Livestock and Fisheries Pro Nkandu Luo has urged people to take care of Livestock the way they care for their children.

Addressing about 146 women clubs in Sinda, Monday, Prof Luo Livestock like humans, livestock had feelings and it is important for people to show love to their animals.

"Animals are like human beings. They get tired, they get sick, they feel hungry and they desire to be given good food not you yoke a cow from morning to afternoon that is why you find when you taste its, meat its hard. Let's look after animals like your own children. When your children eat well, let livestock eat well too," Prof Luo said.

She challenged youths to get involved in cooperatives instead of abusing their energies on beer intake, dagga smoking and early marriages.

She said her Ministry wanted to see to it that most clubs consist 50% women, 30% youths and 20% others like men but that the focus is more on women.

"This program is more on women and youths and when we say youths, we mean boys and girls. It is stated that when you educate a woman, you have educated the whole nation because women are hard working and are able to follow advise and guidelines better. We also involve the youths because we see a lot of youths abusing their energies through beer drinking, dagga smoking and early marriages. That is why what I have brought to you, its mind set change, we want to boost your nutrition and mindset," Prof Luo said.

She advised men on the programme

to see their female folk as their sisters as a way of avoid pregnancies within clubs, saying she wouldn't be happy to hear such stories.

"I don't want pregnancies in this programme. Don't create marriages but work together by seeing girls as your sisters and not girlfriends," said Prof Luo.

And her royal Highness chieftainess Nyanje expressed happiness with the programme, but observed that a lot of women clubs were so committed and hard working but lacked external support.

Meanwhile, Kapoche PF member of parliament Dr Charles Banda saluted the programme saying it would help improve the living standards of the beneficiaries.

"We need to keep our people busy and such programmes needs to be encouraged and supported. We want to better the lives of the people and it's not true that we can better the lives of the people through handouts, fill their pockets everyday but we need to give them tools so that they can build up. This is such a good initiative the Ministry has undertaken," Dr Banda said.

And Sinda independent member of Parliament Masauso Tembo said people of Sinda were behind the leadership of President Edgar Lungu because it has respected them by removing them from poverty to richness.

"As Sinda MP, I am very happy for what you have done to people of Sinda. PF government does not segregate so when you get back, tell the Head of State Dr Edgar Lungu that people of Sinda are behind your leadership. You have respected us with what you have given us.

You have left us rich" Tembo said before singing a song in which he vowed to vote for President Lungu because he is a "child of his home".

"Ine vote nilinayo sunga! Ine vote nilinayo nasungila Chagwa Lungu mwana wanga wapakhomo vote," sung Tembo.

Meanwhile, the Minister bounced when she paid a courtesy call on her Royal Highness chieftainess Nyanje's palace as protocol officers didn't notify her that the traditional leader was not at the palace.

When Prof Luo was going to Nyanje, chieftainess Nyanje was on her way to Chipata and only returned after being notified, a situation which saddened the minister as she had travelled 21 kilometres in vain, delaying other programmes.

"What is this that that you made us go on that far when the traditional leader is not there? I am not suppose to meet her from here, I was suppose to meet her at her palace, that's respect. You mean you didn't communicate with her surely! This is not OK" a visibly annoyed Prof Luo told protocol officer.

She later met the traditional leader at the district commissioner's office where chieftainess Nyanje expressed sadness that she wasn't told of the minister visit.

"They are liars, they didn't inform me that you were coming. Why didn't you notify me on your own? What they have done is not good because I would have prepared something for you if I knew that my friend was coming," said Chieftainess Nyanje.



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By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) says workers are still overburdened with taxes despite the increase in the Pay As You Earn tax threshold from K3,300 to K4,000.

In an interview, union deputy secretary general Elastone Njovu said although the decision to increase the threshold was positive, workers above the threshold still faced the huge tax burden of 25 percent to 35 percent.

"Basically, we are very positive about it ourselves because this is what we have been doing year in year out when the government extends invitations to ZCTU to submit

## Workers still overburdened despite increase in PAYE threshold, laments ZCTU

their input into the budget. Every year, the burden of workers has been on the massive tax that will pay. I say massive tax because the top band is that tax regime of Pay As You Earn is 37.5 percent and then the lowest band is 25 percent meaning that if you are earning K3,300 in the current regime as an employee, then you don't pay anything we welcomed that last year. While appreciating they are revising the minimum tax threshold of Pay As You Earn from K3,300

to K4,000 if you look at other tax bands, there they remain the same," Njovu lamented.

"For example they are saying if you earn K3,300 then you don't pay any tax, if you earn anything above K4,000 then you pay 25 percent tax Pay As You Earn. If you earn above K6,000 you pay 35 percent going upwards. We feel that while we welcome the revision of the tax threshold from K3,300 to K4,000 for minimum wage earners our grievances still remain."

He added that the failure to reduce PAYE percentage on those obliged to pay was still overburdening workers taking into consideration the continued rise of inflation.

"It is like they have done nothing for the majority of workers in the country, because honestly it doesn't show justice to charge someone 25 percent if he is earning K4,000 and above, when you take into consideration other factors like the rising inflation which

is now a two digit figure and on a day to day basis we feel the cost of living going up, the cost of fuel for example just triggers a rise in the cost of everything. So for us as labour leaders, our primary concern is food on the table and the issue of rent is primary as well. Issues of shelter and bread and butter are primary. Take the case of someone who is earning K4,200, already their tax is 25 percent," he said.

Njovu said government needed to stick to its campaign promises of lower taxes and more money into people's pockets.

"This is why we have been saying, government needs to stick to its words particularly

the platform of our current government, the Patriotic Front was lower taxes and more money in your pockets and that philosophy was supported by every well meaning Zambian. Meaning that if the Patriotic Front just for once had to do a revision of what they said in 2011, they will find that they are failing the workers and the people of this country in the area of more money in your pockets. It will be gratifying that even as the budget is being debated after Dr Bwalya Ng'andu presented it, the government will listen to us. This is a serious matter which also borders on politics as we heard towards the 2021 elections because that is the way governments are formed. Basically, it is the politics, if people are happy with your politics, you will carry the day," said Njovu.

"The people are complaining, they are hungry and remember there is a saying a hungry man is an angry man, a hungry woman is an angry woman. So I think the government needs to review this proposal, we are taking it as a proposal so it gives us the platform to be able to argue out our case, to be able to accept certain things or reject certain things. So, we accept the revision of the minimum tax threshold but over and above all we are still complaining as workers that the tax bands of 25 percent and 35 percent that is too much, it is killing me personally and it is killing every Zambian working in this country."

## 28 died from Crocodile attacks between 2016 and 2019 – Chitotela

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

TOURISM and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela says 28 people died while 25 others sustained injuries and were permanently disabled after being attacked by crocodiles between 2016 and 2019.

And Chitotela says government has observed that some people who smoke cannabis get the wrong idea that they cannot be attacked when they go to crocodile infested areas.

Responding to a written question from Sioma Independent member of parliament Mbololwa Subulwa, who wanted to know how many people had died as a result of Crocodile attacks, Chitotela said 28.

"I wish to inform the House that the population of Crocodiles in Sioma parliamentary Constituency is estimated to be around 370 as of July 2020. Mr Speaker, a total number of 53 people were attacked by Crocodiles

during the period 2016 to 2019 as follows: In 2016, nine people were attacked; 2017, nine people were attacked; 2018, 10 people were attacked; and 2019, 25 people were attacked. Mr Speaker, I regret to inform the August House that 28 people died as a result of being attacked by Crocodiles and 25 people were injured and permanently disabled during the period 2016 to 2019," Chitotela said on Tuesday.

And Chitotela said some people had been deliberately playing in areas where Crocodiles are found.

"I visited Luangwa National Parks Mr Speaker and I was so shocked when we went to do the tour in Chifunda area in Chama District. I found human beings Mr Speaker going into Luangwa River and Crocodiles are playing there and people are busy fishing with a lot of water. I developed interest and consulted and asked them and said 'but why should you risk to this level?'"

and people Mr Speaker [gave very strange answers. And when somebody is one "chamba and charm" they think the Crocodile cannot attack them. So, we need to continuously educate our people," he said.

Meanwhile, Chitotela said in order to protect the lives of people living around the water bodies, government through his ministry, was conducting continuous awareness meetings on the dangers of certain activities among other measures.

"To prevent further attacks and loss of life in the same vein, we wish to continue sensitizing and conducting awareness meetings with the people staying across the Crocodile infested water bodies; drilling of boreholes in the affected areas to reduce dependence on river water by the members of the community. So far, 10 boreholes have been drilled and plans are underway to drill another 10 boreholes. Erection

of Crocodile fences has commenced in some areas where Crocodile attacks have been recorded. A total of eight fences have been erected so far and plans are underway to erect ten more," said Chitotela.

"However Mr Speaker I must state that we have observed with concern in some areas that the fences are being removed by the people and the community and they are using them as fences and cages for chickens. We continue engaging with the partners so that we can help to mitigate the human-animal conflict and also consideration of procurement of banana boats so that our children who are crossing from the island to main land specifically for educational purposes can use. And another measure Mr Speaker is engagement of the Ministry of General Education to ensure that schools that are in the island are upgraded to day Secondary schools."

By Stuart Lisulo

KONKOLA Copper Mines Plc (KCM) now owes Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) an outstanding US \$150 million electricity bill, up from around US \$144 million at the end of June, 2020.

And CEC managing director Owen Silavwe says CEC is currently doing “reasonably well” because in spite of the ongoing challenges it continues to face with KCM and Zesco Limited, prospects for growth remain strong.

Meanwhile, CEC chief financial officer Mutale Mukuka announced that the Kitwe-based power utility is progressing well with its market consolidation and further expansion into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), leading to a 25 per cent sales volume increase last year.

Addressing questions from CEC shareholders during the company’s inaugural virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) live from their Kitwe offices, Wednesday, Silavwe disclosed that KCM now owed the power utility US \$150 million in unpaid electricity bills, a situation that remained problematic for the company’s operational performance this year.

CEC posted a loss of nearly US \$32.5 million for its half-year period ending June 30, 2020, mainly triggered by KCM’s failure to settle its outstanding debt owed to the former.

Since the lapse of its Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with the mine in May, KCM, under provisional liquidation, has insisted to receive electricity directly from Zesco under a separate Agreement, but paying a lower tariff.

“First of all, between CEC and KCM, really, there should be no conflict because CEC supplied power to KCM, and KCM owes CEC money. However, as a company, we can’t determine how KCM behaves, and what is important for us is that we supplied power based on a contractually binding document, which was

the PSA. And based on the obligations of the parties, KCM owes CEC money. So, what one would expect in a decent society is that KCM should own up and, if they have challenges, they would come through and explain what the challenges are and how they would want CEC to help them. That’s not what has happened, unfortunately. Therefore, as a company, we find ourselves in a situation where we have to find means and ways of getting that matter resolved because, remember, we are talking about US \$145 million, which has now escalated to US \$150 million and the vast majority of that money actually belongs to Zesco,” Silavwe disclosed.

“So, ideally, we should be sitting on the same side with Zesco. However, as we all know, at the moment, government is really controlling KCM and there could be some compelling reasons why Zesco in this case would not be pushing KCM to pay for that money. So from our perspective, basically, we’re asking KCM to meet their obligations. I don’t see anything wrong with CEC doing what it’s doing.”

He also pointed out that Zesco should equally not be in any conflict with CEC and ought to work in harmony to iron out any challenges, which culminated in its Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA) lapsing on March 31, 2020.

“On the Zesco side, we had the BSA with Zesco, which lapsed on March 31, 2020. Again, there shouldn’t be any conflict between CEC and Zesco. If Zesco is not happy with the terms of that Agreement, it’s within their right to say, ‘they are not happy’ and then we all go as a negotiating party to try to renegotiate the terms in good faith. It’s not expected that Zesco, who we all understand has a dominant position, would

then try and use the dominant position to force terms on any party in the sector, not just CEC, even if it’s a residential customer, it’s not expected that they would force terms on that customer. That’s why there are safeguards in terms of how stakeholders in the sector are supposed to behave. So, from a CEC perspective, we think with everybody acting in good faith, we should be able to resolve these matters,” he said.

On the other hand, Silavwe said CEC was currently doing “reasonably well” in spite of the ongoing challenges it continued to face with KCM and Zesco as prospects for growth remained strong.

“Now, obviously, things have moved on; the agreements that we had with Zesco and KCM are behind us. The big question is: how is the business protected? And I think it’s important that we do explain that. At the moment, in my assessment, the business is doing reasonably well in the sense that we have put in arrangements that should protect the business position of CEC because the power that KCM is consuming today is coming from Zesco. And under that scenario, the structure that has generally been looked at involves Zesco paying for the transmission services that CEC is providing, and then, KCM paying for what is mostly understood to be sort of ‘last mile’ services that CEC is providing to them. The challenge that we have got is putting those agreements in place. However, suffice to say that the business position is well looked after at the moment, and I think that the priority in 2020 is to get those agreements put in place to make sure that we’ve got a legally binding position,” said

Silavwe.

Meanwhile, Mukuka told shareholders that CEC had established a base in the DRC, as the company sought to grow its market in that country.

“At the moment, the opportunity is still there – we have medium-term contracts with a number of customers in the DRC. We recently adopted a DRC Strategy; the MD mentioned in his presentation that we now have an office and the office is focused on marketing and account management, engaging with the customers there. So, the intention, really, is to see how we can continue to play a part in that market. The intention is to continue to grow in that market,” said Mukuka.

According to its 2019 Annual Report released ahead of the AGM, CEC’s total value contribution to the Zambian economy peaked at nearly US \$2 billion over a five-year



period ending December 31, 2019, with local suppliers having benefited the most, receiving over US \$1.1 billion between 2015 and 2019.

“Our value creation and contribution to the economy over the five years reviewed exceeds US \$1.9 billion, with the majority of this, at 72 per cent, contributed to suppliers and contractors, the Government of Zambia

at US \$193.0 million, our employees with whose skills we are able to deliver the services to our customers accounting for US \$102.0 million, our shareholders having received US \$108.0 million. US \$34.0 million has gone to our financial partners, and our contribution to the communities via social investments stands at US \$9.0 million,” read the report.

## Mopani to complete ex-gratia payments in 2 weeks

By Natasha Sakala

MOPANI Copper Mines Plc (MCM) has announced that it will make its third and final ex-gratia payment to former employees of mining contractors in the next two weeks.

Ex-gratia is a voluntary payment that was proposed by Mopani/Glencore in its discussions with government in April, 2020.

In a statement, Wednesday, MCM public relations manager Nerbert Mulenga announced that almost all eligibility verification had

been completed, with the programme almost coming to an end.

Following resumption of operations in May, 2020, Mopani Copper Mines stated that it would make ex-gratia payments to eligible former employees of mining contractors.

“Mopani Copper Mines Plc can confirm that almost all verifications have been completed and the exercise to pay ex-gratia payments to eligible former mining contractor employees is nearing the end. The third and

final payment will be made within the next two weeks. The proposal to pay ex gratia included eligibility criteria that have been communicated and have guided the process of verification,” Mulenga stated.

He, however, stated that only mining contractor employees that had not been recalled in May, 2020, were eligible.

“Only mining contractor employees that had not been recalled (in May, 2020) and who had worked continuously at Mopani during the first quarter of 2020 and were in service at the time of the contractor company’s contract termination were deemed eligible,” Mulenga stated.

He added that approximately 2,500 former contractor employees had been verified as eligible and have received their first and second instalments of the ex-gratia payments.

“To-date, approximately 2,500 former contractor employees have been verified as eligible and have received their first and second instalments of the ex-gratia payments. There may be some outliers in the ex-gratia verification exercise that will be reviewed for eligibility. However, we want to advise that the main exercise is nearing its end. The health and safety of all the people involved in this exercise is important to us and given the risks of transmission of COVID-19, we urge individuals not to congregate around our administration offices, but to submit their queries through their former employers in a safe and orderly manner,” stated Mulenga.

## Sunday challenges HH to offer alternative budget

By Ulande Nkomesha

PF media director Sunday Chanda says UPND president Hakainde Hichilema should stop criticizing the 2021 national budget and instead offer an alternative.

Commenting on Hichilema’s remarks that the 2021 budget was a true reflection of economic failure in an interview, Chanda said Hichilema should graduate from being a heavy critic to an opposition leader who provides solutions.

“For starters, it is not a secret that COVID-19 has impacted negatively on our world economy. If there is anything we would require from Mr Hichilema is for him to graduate from his speciality as the country’s number one chair critic, to become what Anderson Mazoka became as leader of the UPND. We are asking Mr Hichilema to unveil an alternative budget to the nation in the same way his predecessor the late Anderson Mazoka did under Levy Patrick Mwanawasa,” Chanda said.

“We are asking him to graduate from being the country’s number one

chair critic to become what Anderson Mazoka became. We are calling Hichilema and the UPND to provide the nation with an alternative budget. This has been done before and we are not asking for too much, we are asking for something that has been done before by the UPND but of course under a different leadership that had capacity as opposed to the current UPND whose capacity we want to put to test. So can they unveil the Zambian people with an alternative budget?”

He said in his alternative budget, Hichilema should indicate how he would avoid expenditure and grow the country’s economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We want Mr Hichilema’s budget to show how differently he was going to handle the economy under COVID-19. We would want Mr Hichilema to clearly tell the Zambian people and show through his alternative budget how his budget is going to look like under his leadership and UPND with revenue bases shrinking, including Zambia, because we know when this happens, this affects the country to

among other things provide services for citizens to as well meeting certain obligations as when the fall due. Let Mr Hichilema, through the alternative budget, tell us how he is going to build economic resilience because that is what other countries are focusing on and that is what the PF budget is focusing on,” he said.

“So we will be interested to know how Mr Hichilema will deal with rising expenditure under COVID-19. Where is his priority going to be? Was he going to prioritize what we are prioritizing such as dismantling arrears and ensuring that the allocation towards FISP is increased? Where is his priority going to be? How is Mr Hichilema going to slow down inflation and reduce budget deficit? We don’t understand why Mr Hichilema has issues when the 2021 budget is a pro poor budget; when you give some form of relief to the workers who are already having a hard time. Mr Hichilema can do better. For instance, he can come out and say to the Zambian people that this is my alternative economic recovery program under COVID-19.”

Chanda said Zambia lacked credible opposition parties which was not good for democracy as the PF had no competition.

“I can tell you that the current state of the opposition UPND, the form in which they are right now is bad for our democracy because it doesn’t provide the Patriotic Front with serious competition. Serious competition politically is good for democracy it also just goes to gauge the Patriotic Front to work even harder and apply itself even more. Unfortunately there is no competition to write home about from the opposition UPND, NDC and the Alliance as they want to call it,” said Chanda.

“This is very bad for our democracy, it is terrible for democracy! Even in the unlikely event that UPND forms government there will be a disaster! Anyone without any form of malice can tell that UPND is not ready to form government. The only time the UPND was ready to form government was under the late Anderson Mazoka, not the UPND of today because they don’t know where to start from.”

# ECL's SONA Advances a Mindset of Development But

ON 11th September, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu delivered a State of Nation Address (SONA) to parliament detailing his government's internal logic and a possible future direction. This article argues that whilst Mr Lungu's SONA embodies a mindset of national development, the speech failed to outline how this could possibly be entrenched in the state bureaucratic structure he oversees. And that the difficult task facing those in government is how they will translate this mindset as outlined in the speech across different levels of government. Without a strong effort to translate this high-level internal logic across different institutions of government, the speech risks being another hollow document. One way to address this is to assemble progressive minds confident of speaking publicly with reason the President's language and in a manner ordinary Zambians can understand. So far, these minds are missing in the PF government and if at all they exist then they might have not sufficiently assisted the President to translate his vision across the different state structures and to ordinary Zambia.

President Edgar Lungu's 69 paged SONA speech starts with a consideration of what a resilient nation can do during tough times. The President right thinks that "[the country] aligns itself to new ways if sustainability by understanding the changing environment, adapting methods of survival and putting in place action plans that make us overcome any challenges and forge ahead." The speech refers to contemporary issues such as climate change and COVID-19 as hampering development efforts. Within this frame, the speech points to the need for endurance, innovation and entrepreneurship across all sectors such as agriculture and private sector expansion. There is evidence that different organisations have adjusted their way of doing business to fit prevailing circumstances, e.g. holding virtual meetings to save resources (maybe covid 19 as well). At a personal level, President Edgar Lungu made a clarion call: "it does not matter what you are, who you are or where you come from; with sheer determination and adaptation, you can survive the many storms." In building on the theme "Dedication, Resilience and Innovation: Pursuing Economic Recovery for the Zambia we want," the President reminded that "our mindset should, therefore, be attuned to building a Zambia that is resilient to shocks." He continues to add: "Our country needs the dedication of all of us to overcome the setbacks we

have encountered in the recent past." The President called for the dedication of our farmers, our factory and shopworkers, including those in construction, mining, finance and the larger service industry. He called for dedication of our market stall owners as well as customers to keep our markets safe, clean and conducive for business. On the economy, the speech raises the need "to do more in diversification, value addition, expanding our export base." There is a mention of the need to address rural-urban inequalities and enhance human development (education skills development, access to clean water and health services); and most importantly conducive governance environment for a diversified economy and inclusive economy.

I call this a mindset of development in that society must adjust and adapt to changing circumstances. However, Edgar Lungu's SONA failed to clearly outline how this mindset will be built across the bureaucratic structure now overwhelmed with accusation of corruption – a word mentioned only 4 times across 69 pages. He reported expansion of integrity committees from 48 in 2016 to 94 but failed to explain what these have achieved so far. A reader is left with a feeling that these committees are non-functional given the President's plea: "I direct all controlling officers in government ministries, provinces and spending agencies to ensure that the integrity committees in their institutions are operational, supported and effective." The word governance is mentioned only 3 times but fails to acknowledge the fact that his regime has with impunity constrained the political space under his own watch and maybe with his blessings. Transparency and accountability are mentioned once and are weakly linked to integrity

committees. Locating Edgar Lungu's speech in the broader context of tenets of good governance exposes a President disinterested in changing the political climate which can be ignored at our own peril. For example, rule of law got 0 mentions; responsiveness (zero mentions); equity and inclusiveness (zero mentions); transparency and accountability (1 mention); improved governance (zero mention).

Interesting, in a somewhat highlight of a man not ready to leave office, a full section was awarded to the so called "The 2021 General Elections" and the word Election was mentioned a hefty 12 times. Recent developments have shown steady public expenditure on upgrading the police arguably in preparation for the general elections next year. We know COVID-19 has been deployed by the PF

to place a lid on the activities of Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and on the opposition in Zambia such as the UPND. All the opposition parties seem locked up and cannot get on state television. As former President to the USA Barack Obama noted, democracy depends on strong institutions; checks and balances; freedom of speech; freedom of expression and a free press (which got 0 mentions); the right to protest and petition the government and an independent judiciary and everybody having to follow the law. The PF has so far made nonsense of these principles, especially when you look at the embarrassing behaviour of cadres. We say this not because we hold any political position but because just like the President, we care about the Zambia we want. Social commentators have criticised Mr Lungu that, so far, the only project President Edgar Lungu seems to have handled very well is that one related to consolidation of power and around 2021 election. His recent SONA exposes and confirms this internal logic.

I reiterate that whilst Mr Lungu's SONA embodies a mindset of national development, the speech failed to outline how this could possibly be entrenched in the state bureaucratic structure he oversees. And that the difficult task facing those in government is how they will translate this mindset as outlined in the speech across different levels of government. Without a strong effort to translate this high-level internal logic across different institutions of government, the speech risks being another hollow document. One way to address this is to assemble progressive minds confident of speaking publicly with reason the President's language and in a manner ordinary Zambians can understand. So far, these minds are missing in the PF government and if at all they exist then they might have not sufficiently assisted the President to translate his vision across the different state structures and to ordinary Zambia. Thus, the silence of his ministers on the PF project and the vision of their party leader sends a message the President might be a lone voice in the wilderness. Yet, a focus on the 2021 General Elections will fortunately or unfortunately blind the regime even further to the call for building a bureaucratic structure around the development mindset as espoused in the President's SONA.

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**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
**KANTANSHI** Independent member of parliament Anthony Mumba says the current projected output for the mining sector will not be good enough to support the revenues that government needs to deal with its debt stock and the country's economic growth.

And Mumba says the government is under extreme pressure to bring the economy back on track.

Meanwhile, Kasenengwa PF member of parliament Sensio Banda says the 2021 budget is testimony of government's strong desire to revive the economy on a stable and sustainable growth trajectory.

Debating the Supply Motion in parliament, Tuesday, Mumba also urged the government to be consistent on issues concerning the mining sector.

"I also want to urge the government to be consistent in the mining sector which is the major provider of our finances in terms of exchange rate and revenues for the government. I think there is need for us at US \$7, 000 per ton, to take advantage of what's happening. Currently, we have seen that even the output being projected for mining is not going to be good enough to support the

# Govt under pressure to bring economy back on track, says Mumba

revenues that the government needs to deal with the issues of debt and issues of opportunities for Zambian people or indeed to encourage growth at a faster rate," Mumba said.

He added that the defaulting of suppliers and contractors to pay back bank loans was not their fault because government paid them late.

"Again the minister did raise the issue of the default ration in the banks. I think that the government also needs to go further because it's not the suppliers and contractors' fault that they are defaulting their loans but it's also the very fact that they are not paid on time. So, the credit reference bureau should also be considered for discussions," Mumba said. "The minister also talked about the [K]5.7 billion that is going to be spent on FISP. We have seen the consistency of the Patriotic Front in terms of providing for farmers but what we haven't seen is this investment going back into some sort of providing revenue line for

future FISP programmes and as a result the government keeps on dipping into its treasury. So, I hope that the Ministry of Agriculture, all these bumper harvests that we have had can add up to something in terms of revenue stream being created separately."

He said looking at the current economic situation, it was undoubtedly clear that the government was under a lot of pressure.

"We are like in a recession, this is something that happened to us in 2009 but this sort of a recession that we have now, where we are growing at negative four per cent, obviously provides a huge challenge to government in terms of creating jobs, in terms of companies being able to pay their fair share of taxes on time and as well as the agitations that come with opportunities being lost in the people. So, the government is undoubtedly under a lot of pressure. But some of the issues that were highlighted in the budget do provide some sense of platform for Zambians to continue to support the government that is in office, the Patriotic Front

(PF), in as far as opportunities are concerned," Mumba said.

He said it was regrettable that government had neglected to pay suppliers of goods and services and focused its attention on infrastructure development.

"Let me quickly talk about the dismantling of domestic debt. I think that the government has been consistent but not consistent enough. I think that the concentration has been more under infrastructure and leaving out those who supplied goods and services to the government. And the Ministry of Finance, through the spending agencies and ministries, are going to prioritize the people that have supplied the goods and services as much as we have seen the government concentrating on road contracts. And even when you talk about road contracts, we have seen again that there has been a dismal effect in as far as having money in the economy was concerned because you find that it's the same people that are being paid. I hope that the government and spending agencies will improve on that," Mumba said.

And Mumba said the government could talk to pensioners and persuade them to buy Treasury Bills to avoid paying the K1 billion allocated to them in the 2021 budget.

"Let me also speak about the liquidity issue around the Treasury Bills and Bonds, which mostly has been some form of major income for banks. If the government can also consider making it simpler for Zambians to buy these Treasury Bills, it will go a long way in helping the government's liquidity position. For example, K1 billion has been allocated to pay pensioners. If pensioners are able to be spoken to, it will mean that the government does not need to pay that K1 billion," said Mumba. "A pensioner will be able to buy a Treasury Bill, which will mature maybe after a year or two. Government can enter into an agreement with individual pensioners and individual members of parliament who would want to invest such money at a better rate."

Meanwhile, Banda described the 2021 national budget as responsive, balanced, and practical.

"Mr Speaker, Indeed, the minister's budget is a testimony to the government's strong desire to revive the economy on a stable and sustainable growth trajectory.

I cannot overemphasize that this budget is responsive, balanced, and practical. I am aware of other progressive thematic interventions proposed in the budget but due to time constraints, allow me to highlight some proposed interventions aimed at stimulating growth in some sectors. I note specifically the government's plan to migrate the beneficiaries of the Farmer Input Support Programme to the cost effective e-voucher system. This will ease access to agricultural inputs, and trigger substantial yields. Further, Zambia must be elated by the proposal to zero rate value added tax on the importation of tractors, and suspension of import duty on refrigerated trucks. Both proposals have great potential to increase the country's food security by enhancing productivity," said Banda.

"Mr Speaker, no sector can thrive without electricity. The determination to complete the construction of hydro-electric power plants such as Kafue Gorge Lower power station is profound and commendable. The completion of this project will significantly counter the current power deficits and enhance production across all sectors. Sir, allow me to recognise the government's deliberate intervention to raise the threshold for PAYE to K4, 000 from K3, 300. This is a demonstration of PF government's pro-poor policy of putting more money in people's pockets and thereby improving the living condition of ordinary Zambians."

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BOOKING FOR NOVEMBER, 2020

# A day will come when, Mucheleka will be in power, Kampyongo in the cells

IT IS disheartening to see that a senior leader of the biggest opposition in the country has been spending nights in remand prison, and those in power are living their lives normally and sleeping comfortably. What is happening to UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and other opposition officials is something that is not expected in a functioning democracy. The situation of Mucheleka and others cannot go without comment.

Solidarity is one of the first rules of normal human existence. It is what makes us human, to feel pain and sadness when the other person is suffering. And when that quality is lacking, it can safely be said that we are becoming animals. But even animals fight for one another's freedom. When one of them is attacked, the rest make efforts to try and save their species. So, when we humans fail to show that kind of love and solidarity for one another, then we are being less than animals.

The situation that Mucheleka and others find themselves in is one that should present shame to all of us as a collective.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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What kind of people are we? How can someone go to sleep at night knowing that an innocent man is being harassed, simply because he belongs to a different political party?

There are a number of people that need to answer for what is happening in the country right now and the first one is the President. Can President Edgar Lungu tell us what is happening to Mucheleka? One quality that a leader must have in order to be able to lead a nation successfully is compassion. A good leader must be able to put himself in the shoes of those that are suffering. In this situation, we expect President Lungu to put himself in Mucheleka's shoes because Mucheleka is a human being like him. He is a father like him, a husband to someone.

The President must ask himself, 'how is Mucheleka's wife feeling that her husband is in prison for simply being a politician?' 'How are his children feeling having a father who can't spend a night with them in the house because he has opposing views to those who are in government?' Mucheleka is citizen who has a right to participate in the politics of our country.

The persecution that Mucheleka is being exposed to should not be justified in the name of politics. Incarceration is one of the most painful punishments that society gives to those who break the law. It should not be used as a tool to punish political opponents or to gain political advantage. This is what the President of Zambia and his people are doing to Mucheleka.

There are those who may ask us to

say, 'why are you bringing the President in a matter that has nothing to do with him?' People who think like that are politically naïve. This issue has everything to do with the President. We say this because none of this would be happening if the President did not approve of it. Mucheleka would not be in prison if the President did not agree that he should be there. That is the system that President Lungu is running.

In Zambia today, there is one law for PF cadres and another law for everybody else. In President Lungu's Zambia, not even a police station is safe. Cadres are free to break private property in full view of police officers, and when one officer dares to stop such conduct, cadres follow the police to beat them up, right at the police station. And those who hold political power

don't see anything wrong with that. This is why today, a PF thug called Jay Jay Banda is walking the streets as a free man after staging an armed robbery at Lusaka Central Police, but Mucheleka is in prison for doing nothing!

This is what gives us the confidence to say that what Mucheleka is facing has the blessing of President Lungu. There is no crime that Mucheleka has committed that requires him to be held in custody. In fact, as far as we are concerned, Mucheleka is simply being punished as a part of political gain.

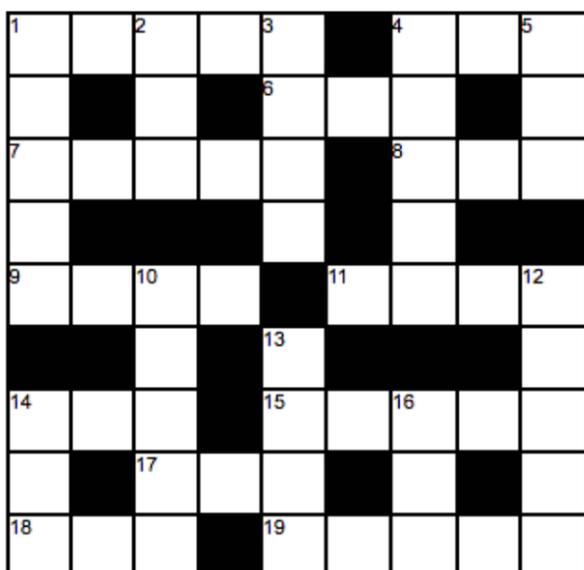
Now, we know that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. But surely, there must still be that small voice among some people in PF who are able to say that, 'Mr President, stop it.' This is how a proper governance system is

supposed to operate. You cannot have a government where the President, his ministers and advisors are all so emotionally charged that they cannot apply reason to such things.

We wish to end with a reminder to those that are in power today, especially those who are in charge of the police. We know that a lot of these political cases are driven from the Ministry of Home Affairs. We appeal to our brother, the Home Affairs Minister, Honourable Kampyongo, to find it within himself to stop this mistreatment of his fellow citizens.

We understand that power is sweet and those who are enjoying power tend to forget that nothing lasts forever. Mucheleka may be in the opposition and suffering the wrath of the government of the day, but things change. We ask our brother Kampyongo to do to others what he would want them to do to him. A day will come when Mucheleka will be in power and Mr Kampyongo will be in police cells. If he would like to be dealt with the way he is dealing with Mucheleka, then that's fine. We will be here to remind him.

## Crossword puzzle No 702



*"It is easier for one to take risks and to chase his dreams with a mindset that he has nothing to lose. In this lies the immense passion, the great advantage of avoiding a materialistic, pleasure-filled way of life." - Criss Jami*

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|--|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Display item</li> <li>4. Prefix meaning 3</li> <li>6. Belonging to us</li> <li>7. Diminished</li> <li>8. Writing liquid</li> <li>9. Awestruck</li> <li>11. Garden paradise</li> <li>14. Rotten</li> <li>15. Navigation aid</li> <li>17. Make do</li> <li>18. Weapon</li> <li>19. Perturb</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Criminal group</li> <li>2. Father</li> <li>3. Miner's find</li> <li>4. ___ and true</li> <li>5. Make angry</li> <li>10. Days of yore</li> <li>12. Dweebish</li> <li>13. Neighborhood</li> <li>14. ___ Bang Theory</li> <li>16. Commotion</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Crossword puzzle No 701



# Readers' Feedback

## ND! OPINION:

### A reckless Attorney General is a drain on the Treasury

Editor,

"Thank you Diggers. The troubling thing is that there are still citizens who think that PF government has a conscience. I hear Zambians say things like "we appeal to president to fire chansonso or institute an inquiry". This is not how things are designed to work currently. People are appointed not to serve Zambians but to tow the line and serve the master. To appeal to the master and expect action is like taking a reed basket to a river to draw water and walk a distance to give a thirst man a drink. That's insanity of the first order". - Evans Kaimoyo

"I have never mentioned the one I blame, but it is obvious who I mean. It is Mr Top Of His Class. Number one crook; perverter of justice". - Victor Chansa

"You couldn't be more right News Diggers.... Not only on this issue but a plethora of them. He is a bad liability really". - Collins Munthali

"This man is just there to get his salary and benefits at the end of the day he has got no interest in the affairs of the nation". - Thabo Max

"Again this is not what we expect the head of state would take interest in. Otherwise, this could have been dealt with already by now. It's okay". - Lwendo Ka

### 'Chilangwa's lack of reasoning on PF going on right trajectory dangerous!'

Editor,

"Eeh! The international rating Agencies are rating you at C+ and you are saying we going in the right trajectory? Sir, say despite the challenges I HON Minister of Luapula Province I am going in the right trajectory. Simple as that!" - Herbert Es

"Even a blind moose can see, I can see you have no lenses, better acquire them they might assist you to perceive things correctly. Other wise your insinuations are beyond comprehension. Not in this era maybe after reincarnation". - Harvey Banda

"Mr Nickson Chilangwa you just have to be in our shoes, us the majority Zambians, to appreciate the fact that on the contrary, PF is actually on the wrong trajectory. And it has been since 2011, the more money in our pockets is an illusion, job creation only exists on paper and not in reality, poverty has skyrocketed, above all, the economy has collapsed, it has kissed the ground!" - Grace Shankaya

"Trajectory to where? This lack of reasoning is dangerous. Arrogant ignoramus reign in this republic dipped in political sauce!" - Joel Saniko Moonga

"Truly on the right trajectory of being voted out!!!" - Jay Jnr Micheal

### PF's huge defence budget allocation for 2021

Dear editor,

"Misplaced allocation, this Country needs help". - Trevor Mwamba Musonda

"No third term, this is where the problem is and confusion is coming from there!" - Phillimon Mfula

"That's what happens in a dictatorship. More funding to defense and

other law enforcement agencies. It will backfire against them". - Diana Kaumba

"They know that winning 2021 elections is a journey looking impossible for them. So they want to apply Mugabe or Museveni way that is beat the hell of would be voters and opposition. They want to shrink they

### for 2021

space of democracy so that the opposition so that they can't campaign. This game we have seen it and it's Evil. The good news is that all institution of governance which will fully participate in this Evil scheme will be prosecuted after change of government". - Andrew Tayengwa



### 'HH should provide solutions, not just rubbish the budget'

Editor,

"Let's wait for their turn and see how they will do it, even PF used to rubbish everything MMD was doing, but when it was their turn, look at what we are in, it's easier to criticize from the terraces, but when it's your turn to play u feel the bumpy pitch". - Chali Pride Zimba

"From his analysis of the budget. I can confidently say that this man is not an economic/financial analyst at all. An economic analyst not only points out areas of weakness but also provides tangible/workable solutions". - Jack Jayda Bwaaza

"In Zambia, ever since I started following politics,

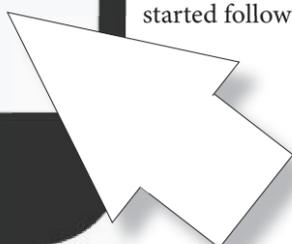
there has never been a good budget which the opposition has agreed to. Kwaliba muchalo cha so sure?!" - Mo Ze

"UPND and all genuine and principled opposition parties are too sleepy, naive and funny, even in sports competitors study each other and address the weaknesses and strengths. How UPND and all genuine and principled opposition parties were caught unawares concerning the unauthorized man in the computer room, missing/ unsigned forms, violence during vote tallying etc shows that they don't understand who and what they are fighting against. This and other unqualitative things just proves that UPND and all genuine and principled opposition parties don't know and understand what they are up against and they are not equal to the task peacefully and legally. UPND and all genuine and principled opposition parties need to pull up their socks peacefully and legally instead of only relying on pictures and videos of large crowds, press statements, Facebook posts, slogans, complaints and jokes". - Mwenya Kay

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



By Julia Malunga

THE Zambia External Bondholder Committee says its members are unable to accept the Zambian government's request to suspend Eurobond interest repayments, owing to lack of debt transparency among other things.

And the Committee says the 2021 national budget moves Zambia further away from a path of debt sustainability, as long-standing fiscal imbalances have still not been addressed.

In a statement jointly-issued by Newstate Partners LLP managing partner Spencer Jones and Rafel Molina, Wednesday, the duo disclosed that the Committee's members were unable to provide a "positive response to the Zambian government's Consent Solicitation request to suspend Eurobond interest debt repayments given the absence of clarity on a number of issues.

Last Tuesday, Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba announced that the Ministry of Finance had placed a request to bondholders of the US \$3

## Bond holders reject Zambia's plea for delayed debt repayment

billion worth of Eurobonds to freeze interest payments for a six-month period in view of government's tight fiscal constraints and challenging macroeconomic environment.

"The Zambia External Bondholder Committee notes the launch of a Consent Solicitation request on 22 September 2020, through which Zambia seeks to defer interest payments falling due under the country's US \$3 billion of outstanding Eurodollar bonds until April, 2021, and confirms that its members participated on a public investor call convened by Zambia and its advisors on 29 September, 2020. While the Committee stands ready to engage constructively and proactively on finding ways to support Zambia, its members are unable to provide a positive response to the Consent Solicitation request at this time given the absence of clarity on a number of issues as further described herein," the statement disclosed.

The Committee also revealed that the Zambian government and its advisors failed to engage with the Committee on any basis.

"The Committee was formed in late June, 2020, in response to the announcement by Zambia that it had appointed financial advisors to assist in a liability management exercise of the country's external debt and to engage with Zambia and its advisors with regard to how bondholders can support a restoration of macro-economic and debt sustainability. At its formation, the Committee noted that it believed that any future interactions with Zambia should be conducted in a manner consistent with the G20-endorsed Principles for Stable Capital Flows and Fair Debt Restructuring," they stated.

"These include transparency and timely flow of information, open dialogue, good faith actions and fair treatment among creditor classes. Since the Committee formation three

months ago, and prior to the announcement of the Consent Solicitation request on 22 September 2020, the Zambian authorities and their advisors did not engage with the Committee on any basis. Committee members are ready to consider engaging with Zambia as part of a liability management exercise, which may include the provision of near-term debt relief, but such an exercise should be designed in a way that provides a durable benefit to all stakeholders. This requires articulating a credible policy trajectory that transcends Zambia's current economic and political cycles, rather than simply deferring a series of financial commitments to a later date, and should come as part of a process that includes full debt transparency; clarity on the government's medium-term policy framework needed to restore fiscal sustainability, preferably with the support of an IMF programme; and transparency on how the

authorities intend to deal with other creditors to ensure inter-creditor equity."

And the Committee stated that next year's proposed national budget moved Zambia further away from a path to debt sustainability, as long-standing fiscal imbalances had still not been addressed.

"The 2021 budget, presented to parliament last Friday (September 25), moves the country further away from a path to debt sustainability, as long-standing fiscal imbalances are not being addressed. The Committee is also concerned at the continued pace of external debt accumulation, with the investor call of 29 September

confirming that almost US \$900 million of project loans were disbursed in the first eight months of 2020, adding unnecessary further debt and debt service costs," stated Molina and Jones.

The Committee consists of 14 international financial institutions based in the US and Europe and in aggregate holds approximately 40 per cent of the total amount of Zambia's outstanding Eurobonds, including at least 25 per cent in each of its three outstanding Eurobonds.

It remains in close contact with other holders representing an additional 30 per cent of Zambia's outstanding Eurobonds.

The Committee has appointed Newstate Partners LLP as its financial advisors

## ECZ postpones meeting with political parties citing court cases

By Julia Malunga

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) yesterday postponed a meeting with political parties saying the issues which were supposed to be discussed are before the courts.

But National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili says if the Commission cannot hold a meeting in fear of being cited for contempt, then they should also stop the online registration process because it is equally subjudice.

In a statement, Wednesday, ECZ acting public relations manager Sylvia Bwalya said the Commission would advise stakeholders on further engagements after the court cases have been disposed of.

"The Commission regrets to announce the postponement of the meeting which was scheduled to be held today, 30th September 2020 at 14:00hrs, with all political parties at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

This is on account of the fact that the issues which should have been discussed during the meeting are actively before the courts of law, and that any such discussion would be subjudice. The following are the cases in court; Chapter One Foundation Limited versus the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Attorney General in the Constitutional Court, Getrude Imenda (suing in her capacity as Deputy Secretary General of the United Party for National Development (UPND) versus the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Attorney General in the High Court of Zambia. The Commission apologises for the inconvenience caused as a result of this postponement," stated Bwalya.

"The Commission will advise stakeholders and the general public on further engagements after the court cases have been disposed of. The Commission remains committed to engaging all stakeholders regarding the upcoming 2021 General Elections. Once again the Commission apologises for the inconvenience caused by the postponement."

But at a press briefing, Wednesday, Kambwili wondered if issues were only subjudice if

they affected the opposition.

"Today is a sad day, an extremely sad day in the preparations of the 2021 general elections. Yesterday ECZ communicated to all political parties that they were going to meet stakeholders so that we can discuss the issue of online voter registration and the issue of doing away with the old register. All of us political parties were ready. I received a number of calls from fellow presidents and secretary generals encouraging all of us to attend today's meeting. Unfortunately, ECZ has communicated to all of us in the last 30 minutes that the meeting has been cancelled and the reason they have given is that this matter cannot be discussed because there is a court case going on in which UPND and some NGOs have gone to challenge ECZ over these same issues of online voter registration and of course the doing away with the old register. Should it only be subjudice when it favors the opposition?" Kambwili asked.

"When it favors ECZ or it favors the ruling government it is not subjudice. When there was an issue of Bill 10, the UPND did allude to the fact that we cannot continue considering Bill 10 because there is a matter in court.

The PF through its lawyers and parliament refused totally and went ahead and considered Bill 10 despite the fact that the matter was in court and it was tantamount to subjudice. Why should it be good for them to go ahead and continue the voter registration which is the bone of contention and refuse to meet the stakeholders on the pretext that it is subjudice?"

He said ECZ missed an opportunity to resolve some issues surrounding voter pre-registration.

"I don't know where this country is going. Today could have been an opportunity for all of us to be heard and obviously resolve the issues surrounding the online voter registration and indeed the doing away with the old register. But somebody somewhere has engineered that this meeting should not go ahead. But I think what they are trying to do is to play hide and seek so that they can force those who have gone to court to withdraw the cases and at the end of it all, they don't resolve the issues. This is not good for Zambia," he argued.

Kambwili insisted that registering nine million people in a month was impossible.

"This register was registered in about three elections and

yet you want to squeeze it to be registered in 30 days. You cannot capture 9 million people in 30 days! It is practically impossible. And the law is very clear, it says 'there should be continuous voter registration' Why do you want to bring your own laws and cancel the register? We have missed an opportunity to sit round the table and discuss as Zambians. My appeal to ECZ is that it is not too late; can you call for this meeting tomorrow (today). This meeting should have not only been confined to political parties, even civil society should be invited, even the church," Kambwili said.

He urged President Lungu to advise ECZ against discarding the old voters' register.

"Please Mr (Esau) Chulu, my dear brother (Patrick) Nshindano respect the views of the Zambian people. For once do the right thing! Surely you want to go down in history as the people who set Zambia on fire. Issues of elections are very sensitive. I am glad that President Edgar Lungu came out openly saying that he does not support the doing away with the old register, we welcome that. But you can go further than that by engaging ECZ to tell them to announce that the old register will still be valid," said Kambwili.

## Muchekela, others in strong spirits – lawyer

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Muchekela and three others have appeared before the Kasama Magistrates' Court in a matter they are accused of aggravated robbery, among others.

The matter could, however, not be mentioned as the presiding magistrate was out of jurisdiction.

Muchekela and others are still in custody as the charge of aggravated robbery is non-bailable and is triable in the High Court.

One of the lawyers representing the accused persons, Mulambo Haimbe, said Muchekela and his co-accused were in strong spirits.

The accused persons will be committed to the High Court once the committal certificate from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is ready.

The matter comes up again in the Kasama Magistrates' Court on October 13, 2020 for mention and possible instructions from the DPP.

Party members were also at court to give solidarity to the accused persons.

Police in Northern Province arrested Muchekela and two others and charged them with aggravated robbery on September 14, 2020.

Confirming the development in an interview, Northern Province Police Commissioner Richard Mweene disclosed that the trio allegedly attacked a mobile NRC registration office, stole a printer and genset, among other items.

"On 13th September, 2020, at 13:00, some UPND cadres attacked and robbed a mobile NRC registration office of one printer, a genset, laminating machine, an adapter, blank NRC cards, processed NRC cards, carbon paper and a camera. In addition, they maliciously damaged three type writers and a kiosk. Thereafter, they fired two gunshots in the air and threatened people with machetes. This occurred at Chitamba village in Kasama. In connection with the matter, we have detained three people, namely, Patrick Muchekela, aged 55 of Luwingu, Elias Mubanga, aged 53, and Samuel Ngwira, aged 42. We have charged them with offences of aggravated robbery and malicious damage to property and will appear in court soon. Their offences are non-bailable," said Mweene.

## PF has turned KCM into a financial scam – Andyford

By Ulande Nkomesha

People's Alliance for Change president Andyford Banda says Konkola Copper Mines provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu should be removed from his position because he is destroying the mine.

A scandal has emerged at KCM in which the mining giant paid US\$1.6 million (about K32 million) to a company allegedly bought by the liquidator, Lungu, through his relative Dingiswayo Ndhlovu, for the supply of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO).

On Tuesday, Lungu said 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, was a fabrication that bordered on mischief.

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

the News Diggers.

On Wednesday, however, News Diggers published excerpts from court proceeding in Kabwe where a Copperbelt based businessman, Joseph Chilinda, told the Kabwe High Court that Lungu bought his company, Cashfin Zambia Ltd, for US\$500,000 and promised to pay US\$490,000 of the total cost 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.

Commenting on these revelations in an interview, Banda said Lungu and PF had destroyed KCM.

"Milingo must be removed because he has failed to find an alternative investor to take over the mine. There has been a lot of scandals involving KCM, this is not the only one I can assure you. So, it is long overdue. If Mr Edgar Lungu does not want to have KCM on top of his legacy and include KCM as part of his failures, I think it is high time he removes Milingo. These guys, the PF, are killing us in broad daylight, we need to be serious about taking our country back. Whatever is happening at KCM is not surprising. If KCM is being run by a liquidator that has been appointed by government and the government is fully in charge, what do you expect?" wondered Banda.

Banda said the PF had continued to benefit from KCM under Milingo.

"This PF government is a fully corrupt

government. We are not surprised this is just a tip of an iceberg, there are other people who are in the PF government who are benefiting from a lot of tenders. Milingo should not be the only one. KCM has just become a scam. This liquidation could be a way of wanting to finance the PF campaigns because some of this money is donated to the PF secretariat. The time that they were putting KCM on liquidation, he said an investor had already been found but up to today there is no investor," said Banda.

"These guys know that they are benefiting, they know that the moment an investor takes over, they will not be able to benefit. What is going to happen is that KCM is going to be a shell of a mine. KCM will be unable to run, there will be no investor who will be able to mine sooner or later because these people, Milingo and his team will have destroyed this mine completely and that is what they are doing right now."

# Monchi can't understand why Man Utd don't have sporting director



SEVILLA'S renowned sporting director Monchi cannot fathom why Manchester United do not have a similar role at Old Trafford, with executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward currently in charge of the club's transfer operations.

The Red Devils have faced criticism for their lack of movement in the summer market, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side having only signed Donny van de Beek from Ajax in what has been a quiet window for the club.

With the October 5 deadline fast approaching, the likes of Edinson Cavani, Ousmane Dembele, Alex Telles and Luka Jovic are being linked with a switch to Old Trafford, while Jadon Sancho remains the No.1 target despite Dortmund's

reluctance to sell.

It could be that no new additions are made prior to the transfer window closing, with the likes of Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City having all made notable signings as they look to improve their squads for the 2020-21 season.

Indeed, Jurgen Klopp's side have received widespread praise for their recruitment policy over the last few years, with sporting director Michael Edwards having played a significant role.

United had been looking to create a similar position at Old Trafford, with the likes of Erik Stoffelshaus, Paul Mitchell and Monchi himself having been linked with the Red Devils over the last two to three years.

And the Sevilla transfer chief can't understand why United have ultimately decided against making an appointment, insisting that the role is key in providing a link between the various strands of a football club.

"This is my opinion - all clubs should have this position," he told The Telegraph.

"What is the main function? To dedicate the time to everything that relates on a sports level. Where 60-70 per cent of the budget is allocated to the first team, if you don't have a specialist who deals with that, it is very difficult to understand.

"I do understand there are very successful clubs - Manchester United are probably

one of the top five in the world, but they do not have that specific position - but I think that clubs more and more are aware that they really need this position and also we are the connection between the technical staff, the squad, the board, we know the market, we get lots of information through the different scouts. **GOAL**

## Lumwana on good start to pre-season tour of Copperbelt

By Ngosa Chalwe

SUPER Division side Lumwana have started their Copperbelt pre-season tour on a high note after beating National Division One side Ndola United 1-0.

After playing to a goalless first half, the Patrick Phiri-coached side got their win through Prince Shalubala.

On Tuesday, Lumwana travelled to the Copperbelt for a ten-day training camp ahead of the Super Division next month.

The North-Western Province side is set to play matches against Nchanga Rangers, Kitwe United, Roan United, Gomes, and Kalewa FC.

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# Koeman opens door to Dembele exit

BARCELONA boss Ronald Koeman has issued a response to the rumours linking Ousmane Dembele with a move to Manchester United.

United are reportedly in talks to sign Dembele on a season-long loan and hope to finalise a deal before the transfer window shuts on October 5.

Koeman addressed the speculation over the Frenchman's future at a press conference on Wednesday, telling reporters: "The first thing to say is that it is up to the club and to the player.

"But he is with us and as we've seen in recent weeks I am counting on him...he has to wait to play but he is training well, getting fitter.

"I want to say that I am counting on him."

Borussia Dortmund star Jadon Sancho is believed to still be United's first-choice target as they hunt for a new right winger, but Dembele has apparently been identified as an alternative option amid an impasse in negotiations with the German club.

The Barca star became the club's record signing when he moved to Camp Nou from Dortmund for €105 million (£96m/\$123m) in the summer of 2017, but has so far failed to live up to his price tag.

The 23-year-old has been restricted to just 75 appearances in all competitions for the Blaugrana amid a string of injury issues, and has also faced disciplinary action relating to his attendance at training sessions, leading to questions over his commitment to the club's cause.

Dembele has, however, helped Barca win two La Liga titles and the Copa del Rey while recording 19 goals and 16 assists, and returned to competitive action during a 4-0 victory over Villarreal on Sunday.

Koeman will be hoping his side can build on a bright start to the new Liga season

with the addition of one or two extra players before the transfer deadline, with Ajax full-back Sergino Dest set to be first through the doors at Camp Nou.

The Dutch head coach confirmed the 19-year-old's impending arrival before talking up the qualities he will bring to Barca's squad and the importance of strong competition for places in defence.

"Dest's having a medical, he still has to sign a contract. He's a young full-back, it's about having young players for the club's future," he said. "He has to compete with the other full-backs we have.

"Despite his age, he's played a lot of games and he's played in Champions League. He's a very useful player."

Koeman went on to reveal that he would like to sign one more forward in the coming days, but insisted that out-of-favour striker Martin Braithwaite will be a part of his plans going forward, adding: "I would like to have two players per position.

"Leo [Messi] and [Antoine] Griezmann can play as 'nine', but they are not the same type of centre-forward as Martin. We are looking for one more." **GOAL**

# Saleti is Mutondo coach

By Ngosa Chalwe

REVIVED Kitwe side Mutondo Stars has appointed former Nkana trainer Zeddy Saleti as head coach.

Mutondo is a club that was recently revived by former Nkana president Everisto Kabila.

Mutondo existed in the 1980s but went under after the privatisation of the state owned mines.

However, Kabila revived the club this year in a bid to fill the void it had left when it was defunct.

Club chief executive officer Stanley Kaseko confirmed Saleti's appointment in a statement yesterday.

He said Saleti would lead the revival of the legendary side during the subsistence of his two-year contract.

"We have given him a two-year

contract; we believe he is the right man to lead the revival of this great club. He is a very experienced coach with a good success story. From the board and management of the club, we believe the coach will lead us to the next stage of the project," Kaseko said.

Saleti is a former Nkana, Lumwana Radiants and Nakambala Leopards coach.



# MUTONDO APPOINTS SAILETI HEAD COACH



## ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

ActionAid Zambia would like to announce that four organizations have been selected to receive funding.

### Selected Organizations Include:

1. Christian Churches Monitoring Group
2. Women and Law in Southern Africa
3. Zambia Community Based natural Resource Management Forum
4. Governance, Elections, Advocacy Research Services (GEARS)

If anyone has any objections against the above listed organizations, please contact ActionAid Zambia through [info.zambia@actionaid.org](mailto:info.zambia@actionaid.org). Or visit the ActionAid Zambia country office at 38G Kabulonga Road, Ibex Hill. Deadline for contact is 2nd of October 2020.

**ActionAid Zambia Management**

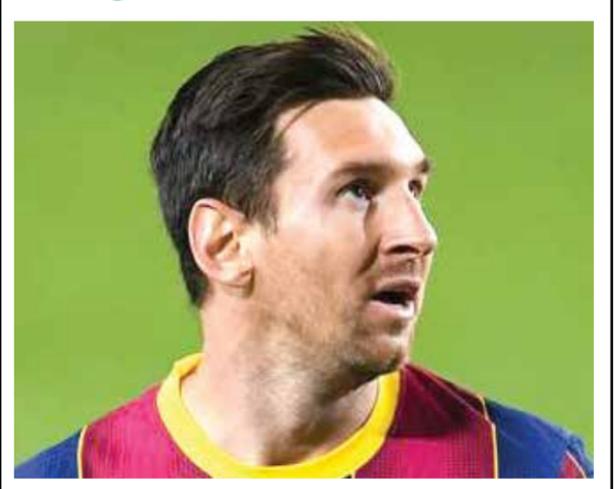
*By Ngosa Chalwe*

REVIVED Kitwe side Mutondo Stars has appointed former Nkana trainer Zeddy Saileti as head coach.

Mutondo is a club that was recently revived by former Nkana president Everisto Kabila.

Mutondo existed in the 1980s but went under after the privatisation of the state owned mines. *Story page 11*

## Everything I did was in Barca's best interests, says Messi



BARCELONA superstar Lionel Messi is keen to put his summer transfer stand-off with the club behind him, while assuring fans he never meant to cause the Blaugrana any harm.

Last month the Argentine told Barcelona of his intention to activate a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave on a free transfer.

Barcelona, though, hit back, saying that the window to activate the clause had closed because the request needed to be made in June, not in August, when the coronavirus-extended season eventually ended.

Rather than challenge Barcelona in court, Messi told Goal earlier this month that he would drop his request to leave and stay at the club for the 2020-21 season.

As his contract enters its final season, Messi's future is far from certain as his frustration with the Catalan outfit has reached an all-time high.

In an interview with Sport, however, Messi has told his club's fans that he did not mean to offend them during the dramatic showdown with the Blaugrana, saying he always had the club's best interests in mind. **GOAL**