



**Police warn, caution Binwell over 'illegal meeting'**

*By Daniel Chansa*  
POLICE on the Copperbelt have warned and cautioned former Kitwe District Commissioner Binwell Mpundu for allegedly holding an "illegal meeting".  
*Story page 4*

**Jay Jay, others deny assaulting a police officer**

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others have denied assaulting a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.  
The five pleaded not guilty to the charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal in the Lusaka High Court, Monday.  
*Story page 3*

# PF WORSE THAN COLONIALISM

## Lungu does not tolerate opposing views - Mpundu

*By Natasha Sakala*  
FORMER Archbishop of Lusaka Telesphore Mpundu says President Edgar Lungu's leadership is worse than the former British colonial masters because he exhibits no tolerance for opposing voices as required in Zambia's Republican Constitution.  
In an interview, Bishop Mpundu complained that President Lungu's government had rapidly degenerated into a brutal dictatorship, which was worse than the former British autocracy which existed before Zambia's independence.  
He wondered why citizens had to be threatened with arrest whenever they rebuked President Lungu, citing arbitrary arrests of prominent civil rights activists who condemned the PF's rampant abuse of the Public Order Act. "56 years down the line,

we still have that Public Order Act, this is very retrogressive, we are not supposed to be having things like that. This

is a free Zambia, our leaders of this world, they are worse today, the Chagwa Lungu's than..."  
*Story page 10*

## Lusaka Police arrest UPND avengers, downplay PF attack

*By Ulande Nkomesha*  
ZAMBIA Police spokesperson Esther Katongo says police have arrested suspected UPND cadres who were caught on the scene trying to damage a PF office in Chelstone, Saturday.  
But Katongo says the police have failed to arrest any PF cadres who attacked a UPND constituency office. Meanwhile, UPND secretary general Stephen

Kampwelyomba grounds. So, after the rally itself some of the rally was peaceful until the..."  
*Story page 4*

## Mob kills man accused of stealing from Eden University students

*By Ulande Nkomesha*  
ONE man has been killed by a mob after it was alleged that he stole some items valued at K3,250 from Eden University students at a boarding house.  
In a statement, Monday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo said Chisanga Mwila, 32, was killed around 04:50 hours, Monday morning.  
*Story page 10*

## Don't mistake noise making for aggressive opposition - HH

*Story page 5*

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# FIKAPWA!

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**By Natasha Sakala**  
ECONOMIST Professor Oliver Saasa says the presentation by Minister of Finance Dr Bwalya Ng'andu before the creditors fell short of the needed clarity and detail to give sufficient comfort to the Eurobond holders, hence their rejection of the request to defer repayments.

In an interview, Prof Saasa, the CEO of Premier Consult, regretted the Eurobond holders' decision to turn down Zambia's request to suspend interest payments for six months but called on government to reflect on where they went wrong and urgently take corrective actions.

"With the benefit of hindsight, the President and his Executive require to reflect deeply as to where things could have been done differently, especially given the urgency of taking effective corrective actions in the light of the serious economic challenges that the country is facing," Prof Saasa said.

He advised the government to come up with a bankable document that could be guided by well spelt-out fiscal consolidation interventions and should be on the table before serious negotiations with external actors could yield anticipated results.

"While Dr Bwalya Ng'andu presented a fairly good case regarding the fiscal stress the country faces, thus, justifying why the half-year suspension of interest payment could bring the needed relief, the Government also needed

## Ng'andu's presentation fell short of clarity, detail to comfort creditors – Saasa

to have anticipated more shrewdly what could have been the basis of a possible rejection of its proposal. A clear and comprehensive Economic Recovery Programme that is guided by well spelt-out fiscal consolidation interventions is key and should be on the table before serious negotiations with external actors could yield anticipated results. Before approaching bondholders and, indeed, the IMF, Government must, therefore, come up with a bankable Document with clear strategy on what it intends to do; by who; within what timeframe; and the indicative resource envelope well spelt out. The objectives of such a rallying Programme must be clearly spelt out with the required fiscal reform measures made known. The role of the private sector as the engine of economic recovery has to also come out clearly, including what the Government sees as the required stimulus packages to enable the economic players survive during the post-COVID period," Prof Saasa noted.

"Government ought to realise that creditors and multilateral institutions that the country hopes to bring to the roundtable to discuss its fiscal and monetary challenges (which include the IMF) and expect less of

what the Government plans to do and more of what it is actually doing or has done at a number of critical levels... Unfortunately, the document that the Minister of Finance presented to the Bondholders, while it fully acknowledged the value of doing this, fell short of the needed clarity and detail, which could give sufficient comfort to creditors. That is precisely what they have also said and Government needs to take heed."

He advised that attributing the current economic challenges entirely to the COVID-19 pandemic would be unhelpful as was likely to disregard some of the important internal systemic issues that required attention towards correcting the situation.

"The most important first step the Government ought to take is to diagnose accurately the causes of the challenges that need urgent attention before fuller engagement with bondholders or with any other creditors. At this level, any attempt to attribute the economic challenges the country currently faces almost exclusively to the COVID-19 pandemic is not helpful because, with such posture, the Government is likely to disregard some of the important internal systemic issues that require attention towards correcting

the situation. To accurately diagnose all the causes of the debt problem, both COVID and non-COVID, external and internal, it is essential to be comprehensive so as to identify fully all the required remedies. We should all agree that COVID-19 has had a debilitating effect on the country's economic fortunes since early this year and, granted, well thought-out responses around this challenge are important going forward," Prof Saasa said.

"The pandemic has caused serious stress on both economic growth prospects and the health status of the nation. The country's challenge at this level has been exacerbated by the limited external response, itself a development that requires deep introspection in the light of the reality that many other countries in Africa with similar challenges have received a disproportionate share from the global bilateral and multilateral responses."

He added that the extent to which Government was seen to be addressing Zambia's crippling external vulnerabilities was of paramount importance prior to effective engagement with the external actors.

Prof Saasa further argued that under the circumstances, it was difficult for the IMF and bondholders to believe

that government meant business and deserved to receive the moratorium on its repayments.

"One would understand why the IMF and bondholders are seemingly reluctant to believe that, indeed, the Government now means business and, hence, the country deserves to receive the moratorium on its repayments. And a clearly articulated and effective implementation of upfront actions, we all ought to agree, is essential to secure the needed confidence from Zambia's external lenders prior to the commencement of meaningful dialogue around addressing the economic challenges the country is facing. It is for this reason that bondholders are not convinced when the Minister put it in his submission to them, that 'Zambia intends to use the debt standstill period to devise a credible debt strategy and conduct consultations with creditors,'" he said.

"To me, it seems to be a chicken-and-egg thing: Do you first get a payment reprieve before you develop a bankable debt strategy or its development or existence should be a precursor to convincing the external actors that you are serious about taking corrective actions? This is important for several reasons, one of which being

the reality that, irrespective of how much a sovereign is desperate, external lenders are traditionally reluctant to lend to a country, let alone restructuring the debt owed, whose public debt is considered considerably unsustainable unless a well-argued strong assurance is made and demonstrated that the Government is both willing and able to engage in a strategy that would restore debt sustainability. The key word here is demonstration..."

He, however, noted that government has embarked on good interventions such as the issuance of the K8 billion COVID-19 bond that is targeting the stimulation of economic activity and should be made part of a clearly articulated and comprehensive Action Plan that addressed the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 recovery.

"Government has embarked on fairly good interventions that are worth of note by its creditors, which have included the issuance of an K8 billion (about US\$394 million) COVID-19 bond that is targeting the stimulation of economic activity and supporting livelihood; and the K10 billion (about US\$493 million) that targets a medium-term refinancing facility by Bank of Zambia. These positive efforts should, however, not be free-standing but made part and parcel of a clearly articulated and integral part of a well-conceived and comprehensive Action Plan that addresses the COVID and post-COVID recovery," said Prof Saasa.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

TWO witnesses from the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) have testified in a matter in which NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili, his son Mwamba, Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services and others are facing 39 charges of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime and uttering a false document, among others.

One of the State witnesses, Obert Kangwa, a ZRA assistant director, Northern Province,

# Two ZRA officers testify in Kambwili's Mwamona case

testified before Lusaka Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile that in June, 2017, he received three officers from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at his office who wanted

to verify with ZRA whether a copy of tax clearance certificate in the name of Mwamona Engineering Technical Services Limited was issued by ZRA.

He said to help with the

verification, he conducted a search in books containing tax collectors' record transactions and issuance of clearing certificates, but no records were found.

"So, we particularly went for the exercise book that covered that date, which was appearing on the certificate, which was March, 2014. We went through starting from March 1 up to the last day. After looking through, we could not find any name of Mwamona and we decided to check up to the last month of that year, but we did not find the name," Kangwa narrated.

He said after failing to find the name, they checked with the advice centre with the aim of finding any document that related to the issuance of the certificate in question.

Kangwa said that after the search, they did not find any document and decided to check with the registry where tax payers' files were kept.

"Therefore, I decided to take the three ACC officers to the registry where we found

Mr Clement Chabala, who was at the time acting registry supervisor and handed the officers to him and that's where my role ended," he said.

But asked in cross-examination by defence lawyer Keith Mweemba whether the Authority had received any complaints in line with tax clearance and Mwamona Engineering, Kangwa said he was not aware of any complaints.

He further admitted not having presented any evidence in court proving that Mwamona was not compliant.

And a director from ZRA, Miriam Sabi, also explained the procedure in obtaining tax clearance.

She said in April, 2017, her supervisor referred officers from the ACC to her office for purposes of providing them with information relating to tax clearance.

Sabi said she referred the officers to the manual that was in place, which contained an extract on what the registration provided with regard to conditions under which the tax clearance could be issued.

She testified that the tax clearance certificate was used to ensure that tax payers complied with issues of tax payment on time or within the agreed period with the ZRA Commissioner-General.

Sabi said the conditions were, among others, that tax payers must be registered for eligible tax types, they should file their respective returns under the tax types they were registered for and how liabilities were created against them when they defaulted on paying tax.

In cross-examination, Sabi agreed that she did not say anything relating to Mwamona during her testimony.

She said her role was to explain the procedure in obtaining tax clearance.

Trial continues.

In this matter, Kambwili, his son Mwamba, Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services, Lukwesa Musonda Brano and Mulenga Makasa Kapilima are charged with one count of making a document without authority, one count of uttering a false document; two counts of obtaining pecuniary advantage by false pretences and 35 counts of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

It is alleged in one of the counts that Mwamona Engineering and Kambwili on dates unknown, but between August 1, 2014, and September 30, 2016, in Lusaka, whilst acting together by means of false pretence, dishonestly obtained US \$105,220.07 from China Henan International Corporation Group Limited, purporting that Mwamona, a company which was subcontracted, was executing the works on Luwingu-Mansa road when in fact not.

Kambwili and Mwamona are also alleged to have presented a false ZRA Tax Clearance Certificate to Zesco purporting that it was genuinely issued, resulting in the award of a contract of K8 million for the construction of houses and toilets under the Lunzua Hydro Power project, thereby, obtaining pecuniary advantage of a contract sum of K1,652,482.81.

## K5.7bn allocation to FISP insufficient for farmers

By Natasha Sakala

THE Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) says the K5.7 billion allocation to the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) will still be insufficient to incentivise farmers and elevate them to commercial-level.

And the Union has called on the government to re-incentivise FISP for it to be more effective in weaning farmers as they graduated or become more food secure.

ZNFU media and public relations manager Calvin Kaleyli said the K5.7 billion allocation towards FISP in the 2021 budget was insufficient to graduate smallholder farmers to commercial-level because they still required the creation of small-scale agricultural development funds and consistent policy measures to increase production and value addition activities.

According to the 2021 national budget, the sector's key programme - FISP - was allocated K5.7 billion, a substantial increase from this year's budgeted amount of only K1.1 billion, accounting for the second largest portion under economic affairs.

"This measure alone is not sufficient to graduate a smallholder farmer to commercial farming-level. Remember, the FISP is just a programme that supports household food security. What will be needed to support the graduation of smallholder farmers to commercial farmers are: small-scale agricultural development funds; consistent policy measures and pronouncements, development of export markets, and protection of the domestic markets. These measures if put in place will result in increased production and value addition activities. Farming must be treated as a business," Kaleyli stated in

response to a press query.

He stated that the agriculture sector remained poorly incentivised despite much hype surrounding its potential as an economic game-changer.

During his 2021 national budget address, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu said the agriculture sector had received a lot of incentives despite it always "crying out for more," adding that government would like to see more paid back in return for what they were giving through FISP.

"To the contrary, the agriculture sector is a very costly sector to be involved in and the burden is mostly skewed towards government regulation and bureaucracy. Our submission has always been to harmonise some of these commitments farmers face in a form of a social tax. At the last assessment, we counted that a farmer faces or interacts with 24 forms of levies, taxes or licensing fees from authorities and regulators. As regards incentives, we have recommended on more than one occasion the type of incentives the sector requires to make meaningful growth and contribution to national development, we have developed a matrix of the right and targeted incentives, which we have submitted to government for consideration, so we reject the notion that we are the most incentivised," Kaleyli stated.

But he observed that transitioning to 100 per cent e-voucher FISP was a welcome move that would make it easier to remove beneficiaries who served the stipulated time on the programme.

"The programme needs to be re-incentivised if it is to be more effective in weaning farmers as they graduate or become more food secure.

Transitioning to 100 per cent e-voucher FISP is a welcome move as it is a transparent programme and it will be easier to remove those beneficiaries who serve the stipulated time on the programme," stated Kaleyli.

"FISP by design is not intended to be a commercial undertaking, but rather a programme to promote household food security. We, thus, believe that the e-voucher FISP gives beneficiaries some leverage in terms of enterprise

### - ZNFU

choices to undertake on a household as it does not restrict the beneficiary to maize, which is good because this promotes diversification and enhances household food security as a household with informed choice is able to choose which enterprises to pursue, which will give the household maximum utility. The old FISP does not offer this."

## Manage debt carefully to revive growth, ZACCI urges govt

By Stuart Lisulo

GOVERNMENT must strictly manage its debt contraction policy to ensure the 2021 national budget delivers on its intended objectives of ensuring Zambia's economic recovery plan is achieved, says the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI).

Commenting on the 2021 national budget debt servicing allocation and its impact on Zambia's economic recovery prospects, ZACCI president Dr Chabuka Kawesha said there was need for government to manage its debt contraction policy to ensure next year's budget helped Zambia attain full economic recovery.

Data from the 2021 budget shows that K27 billion will be due to be spent servicing Zambia's external debt alone, up from this year's K21.1 billion allocation, representing 23 per cent of the total budget amount.

Domestic debt servicing has equally increased to K18.3 billion next year, up from

K12.6 billion allocated in this year's budget.

Next year's K119.6 billion budget represents an increase from this year's K106 billion, and is intended to be partly financed by domestic borrowing amounting to K17.4 billion and K34.2 billion emanating from external resources, representing 14.5 and 28.6 per cent of the total budget, respectively.

"Debt servicing has got its silver lining so to say in that the category or status in which we are with regard to both external and local debt has an impact on investor confidence. So, it's an area that we want managed as quickly as possible. The private sector, of course, will not just lean back and allow all resources to be channelled into debt servicing; we want them to be channelled, even as incentives into the private sector. But we understand the phase we are in, and the indication that the budget is output-based is one comfort area in that there are parameters and benchmarks to what can be done within the K119.6 billion budget," Dr Kawesha said in an interview.

Asked if the increased exemption threshold for Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) to K4,000 from current K3,300 per month would spur local economic growth, he expressed optimism in view of projected higher disposable incomes.

"Yes, it will increase individual spend for those in employment, but we need to control the fast increase in prices of goods and services within our market then we are going to see a true realisation of that intention," he replied.

Meanwhile, Dr Kawesha called for strong

implementation of policy and regulatory reforms to ensure the private sector took a leading role in various sectors of the economy to revive growth.

"The major element was the issue of policy and regulatory reforms. It is our hope that as government undertakes this objective of policy and regulatory reform, the ultimate output of this would be full liberalisation. We should not limit our desire to fully liberalise across sectors, whether it's agriculture, energy, health and all that so that we allow the private sector to take a lead in there," said Dr Kawesha.

"Similarly, even as we speak to sectors, like the road sector, we've got the tolling policy, which has been implemented...allow the private sector to start building these roads; ease the access of the private sector into the economic zones. We believe the US \$100,000 (investment requirement amount) is still on the high side and for locals, it should have basically been scrapped off so that it works as a real incentive, not as a short-gap measure, and allow locals to use that capital as part of their manufacturing or food processing set-ups. So, yes, the (2021) budget has opened up a lot of areas; we know it's a recovery budget; we know the harsh season that we are in that has been ignited by COVID-19. So, let's ensure that whatever objectives the (Finance) Minister has set in there, the implementation to achieve industrialisation, to achieve growth, see more investors in the energy, petroleum, tourism sectors, are implemented."

## Jay Jay, others deny assaulting a police officer

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others have denied assaulting a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.

The five pleaded not guilty to the charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal in the Lusaka High Court, Monday.

In this matter, Banda, 35, a businessman of Petauke, Eastern Province, is jointly charged with John Lungu, 26, a general worker of Garden House, Lusaka; Maxwell Pito, 20, a peasant farmer of Lusaka West; Moses Silyonde, 27, unemployed of Kanyama and Lyford Phiri, 21, unemployed, of an unknown

residential address.

It is alleged that on July 6, 2020 in Lusaka, the five, jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown and with intent to steal, assaulted Allan Mbahwe.

When the matter came up for plea before High Court Judge Timothy Katankwa, Monday, the five accused persons said they understood the charge after it was read to them, but pleaded not guilty.

The matter comes up on October 12, this year for commencement of trial.

# Stakeholders demand removal of mines' double-taxation

**By Natasha Sakala**  
STAKEHOLDERS have reiterated calls that government removes the non-deductibility of Mineral Royalty Tax (MRT) payments, which result in double-taxation on mining companies to help encourage investment in the sector and revive Zambia's economic growth.

And economist Professor Oliver Saasa says government's decision not to remove the non-deductibility of MRT in the 2021 national budget would delay Zambia's economic recovery given the huge investments mining companies will defer.

Speaking during the Centre for Trade Policy Development (CTPD) 2021 national budget analysis, Zambia Chamber of Mines chief executive officer Sokwani Chilembo warned that government's resistance not to remove the non-deductibility of MRT payments, resulting in double-taxation on mining companies, would stagnate Zambia's economic growth because mining investments would vanish to other more tax-friendly jurisdictions.

So far, Glencore Plc, Mopani's parent company, has signaled their intention to divest away from Zambia, while FQM's Kansanshi has delayed its US \$1 billion Sulphide Expansion and Life of Mine Extension project.

"If the government can move quickly to carry this out, then we have a chance of still being in that Top 10 (of global copper producers) and of still being a relevant copper jurisdiction and of restoring ourselves to the kind of growth that can then percolate. And the MRT is not just for the apex miners; remember, gold, because of its very nature as a medium of exchange, means that if you do

not have a competitive regime in-country, gold will move and manifest where the regime is favourable. Your production will remain underground; you cannot do gold (mining) with a double-taxation on mineral royalties, and to diversify, you need capital, capital will not flow where there is double-taxation," Chilembo told stakeholders at the Sarovar Hotel in Lusaka, Friday evening.

"The double-taxation amount is inconsequential compared to the benefits of the growth that we are talking about because it links into infrastructure. But if mining is not growing, you have a much harder time securing finance for the same. And when you add that opportunity to the mining opportunity we've just talked about, you are talking about 20 per cent of GDP. It's been three years of talking about these things, now is time for us to begin to act because this a diminishing opportunity. If we don't, then, our future we'll be nowhere near in the top 10 copper producers of the next 15 years!"

He explained that mining companies still remained the biggest sources of contributors to Zambia's economic growth.

"...And even though it's a very qualitative measure, it actually very vividly demonstrates a risk of declining fortunes if we do not stimulate growth now. And we don't have to do so from domestic resources; if we provide this stimulus, the (mining) industry can go out, mobilise these funds at commercial rates because they will be affordable and we can get this economy growing in two ways: 1. Presently, the organic growth of the industry is very weak, we are low single-digit, which cannot translate to anything close to the contribution to GDP growth that we require to swing positive to 1.8 (per cent) from the -4.4 (per cent) where we are now," Chilembo said.

"You give the MRT, the industry has an incentive

to probably double that to a per cent. If the industry is drawing down on the 10 per cent of GDP in investment commitment at a rate of probably two per cent a year, you have a capital formation opportunity to augment that growth! You can get half-way there with mining; this is the detail, which is required to gain the confidence of the international community to enable our country get a lifeline and path back to growth out of this COVID-19 scenario."

And Prof Saasa, the Premier Consult chief executive officer, bemoaned government's decision not to remove the non-deductibility of MRT in next year's budget as it would delay the country's economic recovery given the huge investments mining companies will defer.

"There are many challenges where government has chosen to remain deafeningly silent; the major driver of our foreign exchange: the mining sector. I realise that the Hon. (Finance) Minister remained very silent. The removal of the tax on (copper) concentrates, five per cent, you will recall that that was removed last year, suspended, it's just a confirmation that we are continuing. But the major drivers of investment and the encouragement in terms of hospitality of the environment to invest speaks to areas within the mining sector that government is still silent on, one of them is the issue of the non-deductibility of the (Mineral) Royalty," Prof Saasa said.

"So, if there's a message that I can send to the Hon. Minister of Finance looking into the prospects for the future of Zambia in terms of growth, Hon. Minister, please! The mining sector accounts for 70-80 per cent of our export receipts. Please, Hon. Minister, not only should we have a hospitable fiscal regime within the mining sector, but where there are problems within the mining sector, please, let's move to find corrective action like

yesterday!"

He cited the challenges being faced at troubled mining giants Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) and Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) as a major threat to the country's economy.

"What's happening with Mopani, at KCM, without taking sides, there are definitely legitimate positions by government, but I have also heard legitimate positions from the other side. What is important is to allow yourself to go through dialogue, find the solution because we are playing around with a sector that is so strategic, not only

in terms of export earnings, but as an employer. But also, what happens there, especially in terms of export receipts, foreign exchange... has a ripple effect across the board in terms of foreign exchange and the value of the kwacha relative to the other convertible currencies. We allow the situation to deteriorate within the mining sector for far too long, the ripple effect will be too ghastly to contemplate!" he cautioned.

Meanwhile, Prof Saasa also urged government to address Zambia's huge debt stock, which had hit around US \$18.5 billion, as a means to expedite economic recovery.

"The debt challenge is the 'elephant in the room.' The issue that the debt challenge

brings is fundamental to the extent that if we don't manage it, we'll remain unable to be able to mobilise the sort of resources, whether Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or just development resources from the likes of the IMF, World Bank...and I can tell you, even bilaterals will be reluctant to move forward and support us if, in terms of the fiscal management and the challenges, do not give the level of comfort those partners want to see for them to come in. Let's have a clear action plan, especially with respect to debt management," advised Prof Saasa.

Earlier, during a presentation, CTPD senior researcher for public finance Dr Gabriel Pollen called for macroeconomic stability to foster economic recovery and return Zambia back on a path of debt sustainability.

## Zambia records 37 new COVID-19 cases, 1 BID

**By Natasha Sakala**

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that the country, over the weekend, recorded a low COVID-19 positivity rate of 2.8 percent.

And Zambia National Public Health Institute director Professor Victor Mukonka has called on members of the public to support community officers who will be on the ground to conduct the CIRO prevalence survey which has just been launched.

Speaking during the Monday COVID-19 briefing, Dr Chilufya said the country recorded 37 new positive cases out of a total of 1,772 tests done and one BID in the last 24 hours.

"We have recorded 37 new positive cases out of a total of 1,772 tests done in the last 24 hours. The cumulative number of cases is now 15,089 and we have also recorded one brought in dead case in Lusaka. The cases that have been picked have been mainly from Lusaka, Solwezi and Kalumbila. If we look at the number of deaths now, 112 deaths due to COVID-19 and 221 COVID-19 associated deaths and one death that is pending classification. Further, we have discharged 119 patients from our various facilities and therefore the total number of patients that we have discharged now has reached 14,306. In our facilities, we continue seeing less and less admissions and so in total, countrywide we have 20 patients who are admitted to our various COVID-19 facilities and out of these six are on oxygen," he said.

He said the country had continued to record low positivity.

"We continue to see a downward trend in the cases of COVID-19 with positivity

reducing and we did note during the weekend that we recorded low positivity as low as 2.8 percent," he said.

He noted that an increase in the number of applications for gatherings and emphasised the need for health guidelines to be followed to the letter.

"We would like to focus on the public gatherings that we have been getting so many applications to approve. We want to give a blanket statement that in the words of His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, gatherings will be allowed in adherence to the measures that have been outlined in Statutory Instruments 21/22 and 61. Therefore it is important that we work closely with authorities to ensure that as gatherings happen there is no transmission taking place," said Dr Chilufya.

He said 19,000 people would be randomly selected across the country to conduct the prevalence survey and two tests; blood tests and collection of nasal swabs, would be done.

And Prof Mukonka said the survey, which will be conducted countrywide, is important as will inform the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country

"The prevalence survey is a very important exercise we will be doing. Basically it is going to inform us in terms of the magnitude of the disease, the burden of the disease in the country. So it will be very useful information in terms of who is affected, what age group, the sex also it will show in terms of the geographical distribution. And we need this information because it will guide us in terms of the targeted interventions," said Prof Mukonka.

## Police warn, caution Binwell over 'illegal meeting'

**By Daniel Chansa**

POLICE on the Copperbelt have warned and cautioned former Kitwe District Commissioner Binwell Mpundu for allegedly holding an "illegal meeting".

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga has confirmed this in an interview.

She said the alleged meeting was held at Luyando community in Mindolo.

"Yes, I can confirm that police in Kitwe summoned Binwell Mpundu. He was summoned with three others. This is contrary to the public order act on public gatherings. So he has been warned and cautioned," said Katanga.

On Sunday, Mpundu, suspended Kitwe Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe and Kalulushi Mayor Rashida Mulenga revealed their intentions to contest parliamentary seats.

## Police arrest UPND avengers, downplay PF attack

**By Ulande Nkomesha**

ZAMBIA Police spokesperson Esther Katongo says police have arrested suspected UPND cadres who were caught on the scene trying to damage a PF office in Chelstone, Saturday.

But Katongo says the police have failed to arrest any PF cadres who attacked a UPND constituency office.

Meanwhile, UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says he is yet to receive any report of any cadre who has been arrested following the attacks.

In an interview, Katongo explained that police had failed to arrest any PF cadres because they were not at the scene of the crime at the time the police arrived.

"I am still waiting for details, but the brief which I have is that on Saturday, there was a rally for the Patriotic Front somewhere at Kampwelyomba grounds. So, the rally was peaceful until after the

rally itself some of the thugs believed to be the cadres, went and damaged the office of UPND, which is just along the road there. So, by the time the officers were getting to the ground, those people had already run away. Then, in retaliation, the UPND also organised and went to the office of the PF where they also went and damaged some windows," said Katongo.

"So, at the time they were there, the officers managed to apprehend some of them. So, it is a matter where we are investigating both sides. So, for UPND, those people were found on the scene; for the PF, officers found that those who had caused damage were not there. So, in whatever matter that you have been provoked, you don't need to take a route of committing a crime, so it is a crime to damage other properties. That is the information I have."

Meanwhile, Katuka said that he had

not received any report of an arrest of a UPND member.

He, however, said it was disappointing that Katongo was trying to blame the UPND for the fracas when the PF were the aggressors.

"I have not received any report of any UPND cadre that was arrested on Saturday. I am not aware of any UPND member being arrested. You know, Esther always wants to show that UPND is in the wrong. You can see from that story that she wants to imply that the UPND are the ones who attacked based on what Paul Moonga was saying. Paul Moonga yesterday said, 'UPND attacked the PF first so the PF were retaliating,' that is exactly what she is implying now. Those people had a rally, we didn't have any function in that area and there was no way we could have assembled in that area because we had no business in that area.

They had business that is why they were in numbers and when they were coming back from the rally, they stopped their minibus at the office there and went to damage people's vehicles, which were in the nearby vicinity and those vehicles did not belong to UPND or UPND members," said Katuka.

"They also damaged that borehole, I don't see how they could say, 'UPND cadres were arrested for damaging PF property.' There could be a few citizens who could have reacted in such a manner, I believe citizens were angered by the action of the PF because it was deriving them of a service, which they so much treasure. So, they could have been a few who could have reacted, but there is no way that you could consider those to be UPND. If they arrested any, they must be local citizens around there. Esther Katongo is always defending the PF!"

By Natasha Sakala

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says while he is not afraid of intimidation, he opts to shy away from going out often in order to maintain peace in the country.

And Hichilema has insisted that the 2021 budget is a disaster because it allocated less amounts of money to investment, thereby discouraging economic growth.

Speaking when he featured on Muvi TVs Assignment programme, Hichilema lamented that there was no democratic space for opposition leaders in the country.

"Firstly, we have not confined ourselves, otherwise we wouldn't have been in Kamanga where there was a lot shooting yesterday (Saturday), we are not afraid. That's the first issue, secondly, if we were confined, we wouldn't have been in Lukashya...There is no democratic space for opposition leaders. Look what they are doing to Chishimba Kambwili, he is always in court, every time I step out, a country that is supposed to be democracy, when I am exercising my freedom of movement, if I want to hold a rally tomorrow, yesterday and today, [I] had rallies, but if I want to have a rally in Chainda the police will come there, the PF thugs will come with guns, you are aware of it. Now what should I do? Do people expect me to carry guns as well, my members

# Don't mistake noise making for aggressive

# opposition – HH

to carry guns and citizens to kill each other?" Hichilema asked.

"I am not afraid, God gave me certain things but not fear, he didn't give us fear. Tell those that think HH is afraid they must think again, they have got it wrong we are never afraid. There is no fear in HH, what is there is we need a democratic state that will allow citizens to exercise their human rights, liberties and freedoms. No fear at all. People are angry out there, you will see people's anger very soon and those that are brutalising people will not be able to contain it because people have no food because UPND is giving them an alternative for food, giving an alternative for jobs, there are no jobs."

Hichilema said if he wasn't an effective opposition leader, he wouldn't have been jailed 15 times.

"You can debate what the meaning of aggressive is. Is noise making interpreted to being aggressive? You mean citizens want us to start street fights, is that aggressive? Maybe that is what citizens believe is aggressive because if we were not aggressive, we wouldn't have gone to jail 15 times. We have been jailed 15 times. It shows you that we have put the government under pressure because a government which calls itself

democratic cannot arrest opposition leaders 15 times, in my case, it cannot arrest Mucheleka, Mubanga, Ngwira and others in Lukashya for having committee no crime. Our members were campaigning just recently in Lukashya and they were arrested for basically putting up a competitive environment to campaign there. A party that is not threatened by the opposition would not execute arrests like that, it would not be that cruel. Look what they did yesterday, they went into Kamanga and destroyed a borehole and the infrastructure there which HH, myself, assisted by answering the call of the people of Kamanga who had no water," he lamented.

And Hichilema said the economy was expected to further decline next year because very little money had been allocated to growth stimulation.

"The second problem in the budget you have is that you have a budget that is reducing allocation to essential sectors of the economy. The economy which is going to decline by four percent this year, it will be worse next year because under the allocation of the expenditure side of the budget, very little money has been allocated to the economy. The economy

where; agriculture, industry,

manufacturing, tourism even in mining...Now, you have a situation where you are going to have less amounts of money available to invest in the economy, how can this budget direct growth in the economy? It can't. So this is a wrong budget, it's not even something to call a budget, this is a disaster and that's what we have been saying all along," he said.

"So, why is there no money allocated to the economy, it's because the money is being lost to two items only. And what are these two items; on debt service, nkongole, to pay for kaloba, now we are suffering the pain but we are not the ones who borrowed. It's not the government who borrowed, it's just a small clique of the PF that's why there must be change, they must go and rest, baononga vambili (they have destroyed a lot of things)," he said.

He wondered why a huge part of the 2021 budget was being financed from borrowed funds when no one would lend government money because it was already defaulting on current loans.

"Where will the PF borrow money from? They can't borrow money from anywhere because they are failing to pay the kaloba, nkongole they borrowed. No one will lend PF money,

there is no capacity. In the finance world, we call it, there is no head room for PF to borrow money from anywhere because they are already defaulting on the loans that they have. So when you default and the credit agencies rate you downwards, it means your economy is junk economy," he said.

He said the economy was in the current state because PF did not listen to viable alternatives which were offered by UPND.

"If they had taken our proposals into account, the economy wouldn't have collapsed the way it is. If they had taken our suggestions, our policy options, which is what a true opposition does, today you would have people in employment, especially the youth and women but they are not in employment because there was no uptake of our policies. The party in office did not listen to viable alternatives from people like ourselves. We have the understanding of the economy and if they had taken our suggestions, the kwacha wouldn't have collapsed. If they had taken our suggestions, today you would have had food prices that are affordable to people," Hichilema added.

Meanwhile, Hichilema said that Zambia's debt stock was more than US\$20 billion given the undisclosed pipeline debt the country has.

"Dr Bwalya Ng'andu, who I know very well, he has now told you the story which was hidden by PF. Before he became finance Minister, the finance Minister who were there, were cheating the people of Zambia that the debt was only US\$11.5 billion have you forgotten. These are not my figures, these are PF figures. All of a sudden, Bwalya now is telling us the truth that it is US\$18 billion point something, close to US\$19 billion. Let me tell you that there is still debt which is not disclosed, there is pipeline debts, there is debt which is not yet recorded. When add all of these, let me say today mark my words, the true debt position that Zambia has is more than US\$20 billion, it's not 18 billion. Remember, I am an economic philosopher and I have been proven to be right, I am right on this one. So it means that Bwalya Ng'andu has done what the other finance ministers could not do, to tell the Zambian people the truth that we are in a crisis, the economy is collapsed," said Hichilema.



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**Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama**

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

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# How Boards should think during business crisis

**I**N PAST two weeks, I have trained four different boards covering four sectors: education, finance, transport, and manufacturing. What is clear, and without exception, is that many organisations are going through significant stress arising from the threat of COVID-19. This risk was never modelled by many businesses when formulating strategic plans and annual budgets.

The impact of COVID 19 on businesses is evident: a huge drop in Price/earnings ratios, compromised return on investment, drop in gross profit margins, threatened market share as competitors with better muscle curve in; and there are unprecedented levels of customer dissatisfaction about the quality of services offered given that staff now work remotely.

I have also spent past three months helping businesses with turnaround strategies. This has not been an easy call because turnaround strategies induced by an epidemic whose lead time is uncertain can be challenging. Where do you start from?

For most boards, the approach has been business surgery. The seemingly easier path is business restructuring by cutting out people, non-productive products, and services. One of the executive directors of a company told me, 'We instructed management to quickly fire staff and cut down the payroll. We believe the dead wood must go first because the challenges before us are insurmountable unless we make the hard call. It is hard to throw people on the street under the circumstances, but we have to save the business.'

It seemed to have been an easy decision but not where labour laws are tough on redundancies. Many businesses have found themselves in a Catch 22 situation; unable to timely respond to changes in the operating environment on account of stiff labour laws. This is tougher for state owned enterprises that have had no provisions or reserves for this strategic option and shareholders are equally in financial dire straits. If anything, businesses that already had underlying financial stress are not expected to easily find amicable solutions during the kind of crisis we are facing. It requires a little bit more tact and hands on leadership from the Board to help management navigate through the problems.

Other boards have instituted fast track policies to cut down on debtor days, managing for cash, appointment of debt collecting agencies, negotiating with suppliers to lengthen credit lead times while meeting bankers for debt

moratorium. There are other never imagined strategies by some entities and these include selling of the business, finding equity partners and voluntary liquidation. The latter is some form of suicide in which a decision to avoid medical costs from escalating is promptly made. When it comes to that, it means the board may have run out of feasible options to keep the business afloat. I personally believe an entrepreneurial board should arise during a business crisis and demonstrate its acumen by keeping the business not only afloat but helping it make more money than before.

On one of the boards I am independent director, we have shifted our focus from providing the oversight function and merely evaluating the strategy to piloting the plane. How far the board should go in performing the executive function of the business is a strong area of debate among governance experts. However, it is generally agreed when the business is going through an unprecedented business turbulence, the board can start hand holding management. This is, however, conditional to the board possessing the necessary expertise and competence to play the executive function.

In my situation, we suspended sitting allowances for a while to enable us dedicate as much time as possible tweaking the strategies for the business. For the first time as a board, we took time to understand the customer and what that customer was experiencing during the COVID 19 period. We decided to be an efficient and effective solution to the problems of the customer.

We also began to coordinate ourselves as board members according to our areas of competence. We diligently worked with management teams, providing the necessary performance-based coaching. We were at the same time cautious of the danger of micromanaging the institution, so, we knew when to pull off our hands. Our desire was to drive management and employee commitment during this time, helping them to follow the plan, ensuring they did not only do things right but did the right things as per mandate.

It was through the handholding process we were able to clearly identify the internal and external strategic risks that we faced. We called for a review of the strategy to ensure it was aligned to the kind of change in the operating environment. It is at this point you value the

diversity among board members. When you are facing the problem alone, you would never think a solution is possible. When you bring different personalities together, all exposed uniquely to the bigger world and possessing different levels of experience, ideas pop up from one person to another.

Each time one says something, there is value addition to the solution. At the end of it all, the solution would have been found without any person being identified as the originator. It is for this reason I consider boards as a kind of factory where solutions facing a business during a crisis are manufactured. In helping the business experience that turnaround during a crisis and manage change, there is unique thinking that is required.

## FOCUS ON CHANGING INFORMATION

One of the things board members bring to the table is external information that they may be privy to. It is assumed board members are alive to issues and have their antenna on important information that can either positively or negatively affect the business. When we go through a common-to-all crisis such as the one we are facing, there is a lot of information being peddled on various platforms about the industry at large, markets, customers and expected new risks. It is, therefore, advised that board members ought to think in terms of harvesting valuable information that can change the course of business. Information is always changing and can have strategic importance to the business. Be an alert and opportunistic board.

## REGULAR UPDATES

Last week, I received an email from our Board Chair at Bridges Limited, Mrs. Chitembo Kawimbe-Chunga asking for a review meeting with me. It read in part and happy to share part of the content, 'Dear Director, I pray you are doing well with the team and the recovery process is moving steadily with hope of great success. I was thinking we touch base on the following:- Progress on key deliverables as agreed in last meeting and subsequent correspondences via email; Emerging issues; Recovery process and strategy to avoid recess; Planning for next Board meeting...'

I am very sure this is the kind of conversation taking place at different levels in most organizations at the moment. Board members will not leave it to the next board meeting for an update. They must be present on regular basis because it is not business as usual.

In other words, the oversight function of the boards has elevated and been heightened during the pandemic period. As articulated by Melvin King on best practices when facing strategic issues, there should be 'face-to-face meetings to interpret data and information generated by the control system.' It is only then you can debate the strategic issues and implement new action plans.

‘When you are facing the problem alone, you would never think a solution is possible. When you bring different personalities together, all exposed uniquely to the bigger world and possessing different levels of experience, ideas pop up from one person to another’.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Trade and Labour Matters has disagreed with the Ministry of Finance's proposal to remove the power to make an inquiry into Bank of Zambia decisions from the court to a tribunal.

The committee, which is chaired by Liuwa UPND member of parliament Situmbeko Musokotwane, said it disagreed with the proposal because it would make the process vulnerable to political influence since the Minister of Finance, who establishes the tribunal, is a political appointee.

Speaking when he presented the Banking and Financial Services Amendment Bill N0.7 of 2020 for second reading in parliament, Friday, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu said the proposed amendment to the Bill sought to redefine the meaning of insolvency to differentiate it from under capitalization.

"Mr Speaker, the proposed amendment to the Banking and Financial Services Act amend to enhance stability and resilient of the financial system and provide additional security and safety for the users of financial services. The House may note that the proposed amendment to the Banking and Financial Services Act N0.7 of 2020 aims to address the following

# Parley committee opposes MoF's proposal to stop court from challenging unfair BoZ decisions

main areas: (a) to redefine the meaning of insolvency to differentiate it from under capitalization. The definition of insolvency has been redefined to give clarity on what insolvency means by providing for insolvency to mean 'a situation where financial service provider is unable to pay debts and has assets that are insufficient to meet liabilities when they fall due.' These amendments will redefine the current Act that ties insolvency to under capitalization," Dr Ng'andu said.

Dr Ng'andu said the Bill also sought to make sanctions against unlicensed financial entities and to further remove a clause which prescribes the number of operating hours for the banks.

"The second feature of the Bill Mr Speaker will be to make sanctions against unlicensed entities more stringent and repayment of funds collected by unlicensed persons. The proposed inclusion is critical to the bank to effectively deal with consumer protection in instances where unlicensed persons take in deposits. The third important feature proposing the amendment Mr



Reuters

Speaker is to remove the clause that includes prescription of operating hours for the bank for the purpose of inspecting registers. The amendment is to provide clarity on timing and form for accessing registers of banks," said Dr Ng'andu.

"Lastly Mr Speaker, the amendments improves provision relating to the supervisory actions by the banks over regulated entities. Mr Speaker, this particular amendment does not specifically provide for supervision of financial

institutions on the prevention and combating of money laundering and financing of terrorism or proliferation of any other offences. So, the amendment that is being proposed will provide for authority over a financial service provider where the bank considers that it is necessary to provide supervision for the purposes of prevention and combating of money laundering."

But the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Trade and Labor Matters which

was tasked to scrutinize the Banking and Financial Services Amendment Bill N0.7 of 2020 disagreed with some of the proposals.

"The key issues that were prominent in the committee's interaction with stakeholders. The matters that was of concern to most stakeholders relates to Clause 10 on the amendment of Section 75 of the Principle Act. The committee contends that removing the power to make an inquiry into the decision of the bank (Bank of Zambia) from the court to a tribunal makes the process amendable to political influence since the responsibility to establish the tribunal lies with the minister who is a political appointee. In addition, the committee regrets that the clause is silent on how an aggrieved financial institution can seek redress in an event that the minister declines the request to establish a tribunal. In this regard, the committee strongly recommends that in order to eliminate political influence, and not to disadvantage the aggrieved financial service provider, the process of setting

up a tribunal and/or the determination of whether the course of action undertaken by the bank is justified should be a preserve of the court and the aggrieved party must be able to apply to the court to set up a tribunal. This should be explicitly stated in this clause," Musokotwane said.

Musokotwane said the committee also noted that the Bill did not provide for the reversal of certain decisions made by the Bank of Zambia in events where the bank acted contrary to the law.

"Mr Speaker, another matter of interest relates to Clause 15 (1) which provides for compensation to be paid by the Bank of Zambia to an aggrieved financial service provider where the tribunal establishes that the bank acted contrary to the law. The committee notes with extreme concern that the bill has not provided for the reversal of such a decision. In this regard, the committee recommends that where it clearly established that the decision of the Bank of Zambia was contrary to the law, the bill must explicitly provide for the reversal of the decision of the Bank of Zambia," said Musokotwane.

"In Clause 12 (1) Mr Speaker, the committee observed that the bill includes executive employees and senior management from the priority list and is silent on how payments to these individuals should be handled. In this vein, the committee strongly recommends that the Bill should be amended so as to explicitly state whether the executive employees and senior management shall be paid after all other expenses and claims have been taken care of or they shall be completely be excluded from the line of payments. The committee has made various recommendations in this report and I urge the executive to positively consider these recommendations in order to improve this piece of legislation."

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**Y**ESTERDAY Police acted swiftly to arrest opposition UPND supporters who retaliated against an attack from the ruling Patriotic Front. According to spokesperson, Esther Mwaata Katongo, police have failed to arrest the PF cadres who provoked their opposition rivals, because they were not found on the scene.

“There was a rally for the Patriotic Front somewhere at Kampwelyomba grounds. So, the rally was peaceful until after the rally itself, some of the thugs believed to be the cadres, went and damaged the office of UPND, which is just along the road there. So, by the time the officers were getting to the ground, those people had already run away. Then, in retaliation, the UPND also organised and went to the office of the PF where they also went and damaged some windows. So, at the time they were there, the officers managed to apprehend some of them. So, it is a matter where we are investigating both sides. So, for UPND, those people were found on the scene; for the PF, officers found that those who had caused damage were not there. So, in whatever matter that you have been provoked, you don't need to take a route of committing a crime, so it is a crime to damage other properties,” said Katongo.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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# Clearly, PF cadres are above the law

In our view, there is no need for the police to even lie that they are investigating both political parties because the truth which is staring on their faces is speaking to the contrary. It does not surprise us at all to see that the police have swiftly gone for the victims, leaving the aggressors. This is typical of how police enforce the law in Zambia today. Those in government pretend like they leave the police to operate autonomously, but in reality, they are constantly on phone; telling the police whom to arrest and whom to detain.

We recall that in May 2019, President Edgar Lungu said he was extremely puzzled to see police inaction against crimes committed by PF cadres. This statement came following two violent incidences that

occurred regarding suspected PF cadres storming Power FM in Kabwe and Radio Maria in Chipata. But everyone knows that the call for police to act professionally is a cosmetic one. Those police officers who attempt to apply the law fairly and squarely are punished severely.

Just to remind our readers of what happened in Sesheke during a by-election campaign where Senior Superintendent Shaapa Wakunguma and his three other colleagues were fired on claims that they behaved unprofessionally. The four Sesheke police officers, who were fired in the name of the President, are now languishing on the streets because they dared tough the PF.

We are not

speculating. It is a recorded fact that the Secretary General of the Patriotic Front directed the Inspector General of Police to sort out officers who were brutal to the unruly PF cadres during that by-election. Mr Mwila accused the police of beating PF cadres like common criminals, which in his view was unprofessional. That's all it took to throw out officer Wakunguma, second Officer Commanding Fleming, Assistant Superintendent Lengwe Borniface, and Constable Mukela Fridric.

This regime has been firing police officers who are merely accused of using the element of force on PF cadres. What that implies is that police are only expected to sort out UPND, NDC and other opposition cadres, but must never touch PF cadres. Police

are now programmed in their heads. When they see opposition they charge, when they see PF they run. This is what happens when police officers are punished for applying the public order act fairly.

When Mr Lungu, acting through the Police Service Commission, fired Senior Superintendent Wakunguma and his group, the entire Police Command was frozen with fear! We even recall what Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said on radio following the dismissal of Wakunguma.

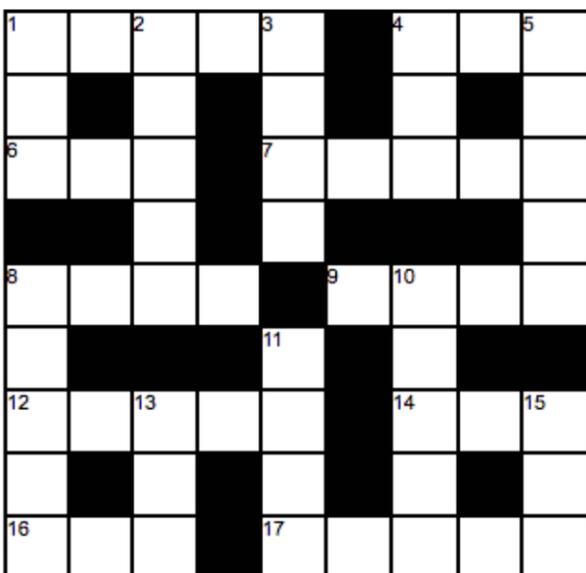
KATONGO: “No one would want to see a police officer being fired, because what happens to my fellow officer today, may happen to me tomorrow. So, we live as a family, and when one

goes like that, we really feel bad. And speaking in my personal capacity as Esther Katongo, two of the four officers who were retired, are my personal friends whom I have worked with closely and I feel bad! I will talk about Shaapa Wakunguma, I will talk about Chilongo, those are officers that we have been interacting with very well and to see that they have been retired is not something that has made us happy, even as a service we are not happy that our friends have been retired like that.”

True to that fear which the police explained, we saw how PF cadres went to beat up police officers right in their offices at Lusaka Central Police, and there was no one who was able to stop the cadres or to arrest them, everyone went into hiding. But if it was the UPND who made that attack on the police, the news story emanating from the incident would have had a death toll attached to it.

So, the police should not waste time defending their decision to only arrest UPND cadres from the Kamanga incident, and leaving the aggressors. We now know the drill. This is how things work in Zambia today. PF cadres are free to do anything because they are above the law. If they decide to beat members of the opposition, they can do so without anyone saying mfwee mfwee!

## Crossword puzzle No 705



*“To Gain Knowledge One Has To Study Or Hear, But To Gain Wisdom One Has To Observe”*  
- Venugopal Acharya

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outdo</li> <li>4. Aardvark snack</li> <li>6. Custodian's tool</li> <li>7. Regarding</li> <li>8. A bit extra</li> <li>9. Left after cut heals</li> <li>12. Cross the goal line</li> <li>14. Family's animal</li> <li>16. Portable bed</li> <li>17. Position detector</li> </ol> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type of cat</li> <li>2. Bunk option</li> <li>3. DVD remote button</li> <li>4. Much ___ About Nothing</li> <li>5. Private instructor</li> <li>8. Songs for example</li> <li>10. Like many superheroes</li> <li>11. Doe or fawn</li> <li>13. Not in</li> <li>15. Sticky black substance</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## Crossword puzzle No 704



# Readers' Feedback

**ND!**

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

Editor,

"No! No! Don't warn them of what is coming to them! Let them be lulled into thinking they have all of us by our throats or stomachs! Their heartlessness may lead them to do the unthinkable once forewarned which will be our collective loss as Zambians. Basiyeni puleeze. Ise tuyembekeze quietly!" - Judith Musonda Adeodata Mulenga

"And come 18 October, the hypocrites will be singing loud and talk about reconciliation. And also the hired bishops, pastors and everyone else will saying Zambia is a Christian nation. Sad and that day will surely come people will be out of power". - Alfred Jere

"His is in police cells for allegedly robbing the ECZ. And yet in the same town during the same period, there was a video of a PF cadre smashing a car belonging to opposition UPND and in full view of a law enforcement officer. We can only guess where that culprit is!" - Edward Mapulanga

"Tragedy is that our leaders don't seem to realise that political power doesn't last forever". - Evans Musunsa

"Unfortunately ECL and his ministers don't know that tables turn. They think no matter what it can never happen to them, there are in their own world but surely as News Diggers put it time will come for them no matter how long!" - Zack Don

## 'Luo used to treat UNZA lecturers like livestock!'

Dear editor,

"And the way she treated ama lecturers union and students awe sure, am afraid to think of who is better between the the people and livestock". - Innocent Mufalo

with him to State House. Now they are advising those they expect votes from to Keep Livestock like their children". - Christopher Kalima

First they teased Hakainde Hichilema that he will bring cattle

"The professor who treated students like livestock!" - Richard

Waga  
"You should have treated students like your own children now you treated them like livestock. By the way did you come to mourn mafish?" - Victor Malama



## 'KCM can never be probed'

Editor,

"Probe the KCM Saga: the case is more important than what we witnessed yesterday. We are simply a joke... We need to be scrutinizing well these leaders we choose. Especially mental capacity". - Kelvin Bowa

"They can't probe KCM, their focus is for them to win elections at all cost, the economy is in shambles instead of coming up with an indaba for the economy, all we think is our politics political opponents, lets be serious as a country, otherwise the dollar will reach K30 by june next year". - Harry Lungwalo

"KCM is being raped in daylight by the man Mr Lungu appointed as the liquidator, but the president is busy focusing on issues that are dead on arrival, issues that happened more than two decades ago its really sad". - Max Newman

"I'm just saying, what if a probe will be instituted on all that are in government today by the next president (hypothetically speaking) what will they all be saying then? They say Karma is a ....., do unto others as you would have them do unto you". - Samuel Bellington

"Toothless TIZ, of so many wrongs going on in Zambia, this TIZ can't even get a police notice to conduct a peaceful protest. Corruption is high, citizens

rights are being trumped on and this TIZ and other organizations are silent. shame on them!" - Chanda Pochoko

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

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

 Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

## "Which law empowers ECZ to 'bite' any politician?!"

Editor,

"Which law empowers ECZ to 'bite' any politician for sharing their opinions? PF has been creating an atmosphere that makes people suspicious about ECZ. And ECZ themselves have contributed to this by being arrogant with almost everything about 2021 elections". - Lassie Kakuta

"You can take Kampyongo out of Katondo but you can't take Katondo out of Kamyongo. The man has been making threats throughout his political career, it seem he is only in survival mode!" - Richard Waga

"The failure of the ECZ to deliver continuous voter registration as stipulated in

the Constitution has occurred under Kampyongo's watch. So instead of issuing empty threats, he should admit this error and resign. There is a serious looming failure of Zambia's democratic journey because it is impossible to create a new 9 million strong voter's register in 30 days". - Daniel Maswahu

"The ECZ under Mr Chulu must go. What are these people talking about? They induced the rot at the Electoral body and they have benefited from it. Let the people demand a new ECZ independent of executive manipulation. Chulu and his ECZ must go. Maintain our register. Dead voters can NEVER be a good reason for doing away with the current register!" - Kanyata Mubita

"When a new government comes in power they should make sure they put people in positions according to their credentials and must understand what their job entails not just awarding people with ministerial posts for being party die hard supporters cos am tired of hearing threats and intimidation each time Kampyongo speaks!" - Mutinta Mulonda

By Sipilisiwe Ncube  
TRANSPORT and Communications Minister Mutotwe Kafwaya says the major reason why the speed cameras contract was cancelled is because it was signed by the RTSA chief executive officer when it should have been done by the Minister of Finance.

And Kafwaya says the depositing of speed camera fines into an unapproved bank account is not important as it was an insignificant component of the entire process.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Kafwaya admitted that it was wrong to use an unapproved account for depositing fines.

"It's a number of issues. I think firstly, the contract was signed by RTSA with IMS. You might want to know that. And then there were financing issues. And then the RTSA chief executive officer is not the Minister of Finance because you know that legally, the only person who can commit a country to financing is a Minister of Finance. This is why the concession was transferred to the Ministry of Finance. But as a ministry, it was our strong recommendation that we just cancel it and begin afresh and be able to come up with a comprehensive system that is going to be more beneficial to the Zambian people," Kafwaya said.

Kafwaya said there were no scandals in the contract between the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) and Intelligence Mobility Solutions (IMS) except that it was not

# Speed camera contract was canceled because it was illegally signed by RTSA CEO – Kafwaya

properly seated with the agency.

"It wasn't abandoned in a scandalous manner. We recommended the cancellation of the project in a normal manner. There were no scandals. The project was just not properly seated. We need to make it more comprehensive. It has to be a better project that is going to respond to the issues that we face in the sector. And this is why we recommended to the PPP council to consider canceling it. There are many ways in which you can improve a system. At times, you can build on what is existing and at other times, you can bring down what is existing and start a new process altogether. And in our wisdom, for this particular issue, we determined that starting anew may be better," Kafwaya said.

"Assessing a project doesn't end with its implementation. You continually assess it. At conceptualization, it's assessed, at implementation, it's also assessed and you continually look for opportunities to improve a project. So, for us, we are not going to say that because this project is already in implementation therefore, it can't be assessed. We have to find opportunities to improve our economic and social environment. And in this case, we found that we may

have to just recommend for a cancellation."

He said depositing of fines in a private account was not a significant component of the project.

"[The aspect of monies going in a private account] is not important because this is a very insignificant component of the entire process. And that money which went to a wrong account, the account was wrong in the sense that it was not approved by Ministry of Finance. But if Ministry of Finance had approved that, there was going to be nothing wrong with that. It's just that the Treasury had not approved that account. But the account actually helped people because people who were paying by card could only pay through that account and that account was not approved by Ministry of Finance. And from where I am sitting, that reconciliation has been done and I think the Ministry of Finance is happy that all the money has gone to finance. You see, lack of approval is a problem. And that was the only problem. [It's] not that the money was stolen. The money wasn't stolen. It just went to an account which was not approved by the Treasury. So, yes, it was wrong to use an account which was not approved," Kafwaya said.

Asked why the PF

government was diverting people's attention to the privatization inquiry, Kafwaya said just like the speed cameras project was revised, even the privatization was not an exception.

"We recommended the cancellation of the IMS contract and we can recommend for a stop on anything that is existing now or the assessment of something that existed long before us or even in our time. So, there is no way you can say 'this we shouldn't do and this you should do' because everything that is important to the Zambian people has got to be done. And let me be clear, the commission of inquiry is not happening in my sector, it is happening in the mining sector, tourism sector and other sectors. But it's something that I fully endorse because why should one story keep on haunting us? The story should be assessed," Kafwaya said.

Asked about his views on allegations about the PF being corrupt, Kafwaya challenged those making such allegations to substantiate their claims.

"I am concerned because it's creating a perception about me. But the good part is that if I were corrupt, people could have already said 'this minister is corrupt because he engaged in this particular illegality and that particular illegality'. If PF members were corrupt as it is being projected, people could have already come up and said 'you are corrupt because of the 48 houses, you are corrupt because of the fire tender.' But those fire tenders are sitting in a ministry and the ministry is an institution for the Zambian people including those alleging corruption. Why have you failed to go and get a tender document? Why have you failed to go and get the analysis so that you can be able to come back to the people and say 'in fact, these tender documents are saying this and what that minister said is contrary to the provisions of the law?'" Kafwaya asked.

"Why are you failing to do that? The reason you are failing to do that is because you have no capacity for analysis. The only thing you can do is to make the noise. You don't gain confidence by alleging corruption which you can't substantiate, you

don't gain confidence by insulting chiefs or threatening to dethrone chiefs, you don't gain confidence by insulting people on a [campaign] rally in Lukashya, and you don't gain confidence by doing all these things, confidence will come the people about your ability by demonstrating that you have a clear economic and social ground and you have created a programme based on that ground."

And Kafwaya said everything about the Zambia Airlines is done and all remaining is for the Industrial Development Corporation

(IDC) and the Ethiopian Airlines to decide when to start operating.

"For us as government, we have done everything that needs to be done, we have issued the ALC Air Operator's license and it is sitting with the Airline itself. We have also gone ahead and ratified the Cape Town convention and deposited it in Italy where it ought to be deposited. So, we are done with that business. It is now left with IDC and Ethiopian Airlines to determine when they begin to tender the service to the Zambian people and others," said Kafwaya.

## ZCCM-IH's profits soar to K438.9m

By Stuart Lisulo

ZCCM-IH has posted huge after tax profits of K438.9 million during its financial half-year ending June 30, 2020, triggered by increased income derived from exchange rate gains from the group's foreign-denominated assets.

And ZCCM-IH says copper prices are expected to steadily increase on the back of solid recovery in Chinese demand for the red metal.

According to an unaudited statement for the financial half-year ending June 30, 2020, ZCCM-IH Group posted an increased profit of nearly K439 million, compared to K128.4 million by September 30, 2019, mainly boosted by higher income emanating from exchange rate gains.

"The Group reported a profit for the period of ZMW438.9 million (September 2019: ZMW128 million), mainly due to the following: Increase in net finance income from ZMW138.7 million recorded in September, 2019, to ZMW327.3 million recorded in June, 2020. The increase in finance income is due to exchange gains recorded on foreign denominated assets arising from the depreciation of the Zambian kwacha from an average of ZMW13.9 per US Dollar as at 30 September, 2019,

to ZMW17.2 per US Dollar as at 30 June, 2020; increase in the Group's share of profit in associate companies from ZMW154.8 million recorded in September, 2019, to ZMW354.7 million in June, 2020. This is mainly due to the increase in the profitability of some investee companies in the mining sector, such as Maamba Collieries Limited and Kansanshi Mining Plc," ZCCM-IH stated in results released, Monday.

The exchange rate gains also boosted the group's total asset portfolio, which substantially increased to over K20.2 billion from K14.5 billion last September.

"Group total assets increased by 40 per cent to ZMW 20,262 million in June, 2020, from ZMW14, 519 million in September 2019. This is mainly attributed to increase in values of investments in associates as a result of improved performance of Kansanshi Mining Plc, Maamba Collieries Limited and exchange gains arising from translation of US dollar denominated investments," it stated.

And ZCCM-IH stated that copper prices were expected to steadily increase on the back of solid recovery in Chinese demand for copper.

Prices of the red metal peaked at around US \$6,837 per metric tonne during the third quarter of this year, but dropped to around US \$6,409 per tonne going into the final quarter.

"Copper prices are expected to increase steadily on the back of solid recovery in demand from China, the largest Copper consumer. In addition, low copper inventories in exchange warehouses, disrupted ore supplies from the top producing region in South America due to the COVID-19 pandemic and US dollar strengthening are contributing to the bullish outlook for copper," stated ZCCM-IH.

## Mob kills man accused of stealing from Eden University students

By Ulande Nkomesha

ONE man has been killed by a mob after it was alleged that he stole some items valued at K3,250 from Eden University students at a boarding house.

In a statement, Monday, police spokesperson Esther Katongo said Chisanga Mwila, 32, was killed around 04:50 hours, Monday morning.

Katongo said police had since launched investigations into the matter, adding that it was illegal for members of the public to take the law in their own hands to execute mob justice.

"One male adult suspected to have stolen items from students at Lusaka's Eden University has been murdered by a mob, which descended on him. The deceased has been identified as Chisanga Mwila aged, 32. This occurred on 5th October, 2020, around 04:50 hours along Twikatane Road where the deceased is reported to have jumped into the wall fence of a boarding house in Twikatane, occupied by eight students

from Eden University, and stole an Acer laptop, Techno phone and an Infinix phone, all valued at K3,250, property of the students," stated Katongo.

"The alert students caught up with the deceased as he attempted to flee over the wall fence, while calling for help and this attracted other members of the community who descended on the suspect. The relatives of the deceased person who stayed nearby rushed the suspect to Matero Level One Hospital where he was confirmed dead. He sustained multiple deep cuts on the body. Police visited the scene where blood-stained sticks, planks and stones were found and collected. The body has since been taken to UTH mortuary for postmortem, while the alleged stolen items were recovered. An inquiry file has been opened. We appeal to the members of the public to always surrender suspects to police as opposed to murdering them. All those that would be found wanting for murder will be dealt with accordingly."

## Lungu's govt worse than colonialism – Mpundu

By Natasha Sakala

FORMER Archbishop of Lusaka Telesphore Mpundu says President Edgar Lungu's leadership is worse than the former British colonial masters because he exhibits no tolerance for opposing voices as required in Zambia's Republican Constitution.

In an interview, Bishop Mpundu complained that President Lungu's government had rapidly degenerated into a brutal dictatorship, which was worse than the former British autocracy which existed before Zambia's independence.

He wondered why citizens had to be threatened with arrest whenever they rebuked President Lungu, citing

arbitrary arrests of prominent civil rights activists who condemned the PF's rampant abuse of the Public Order Act.

"56 years down the line, we still have that Public Order Act, this is very retrogressive, we are not supposed to be having things like that. This is a free Zambia, our leaders today, the Chagwa Lungu's of this world, they are worse than the British, it's wrong! We thought now we have a free Zambia where people can speak, young people want to speak to their President, arrest them; someone is singing, he is an artist, complaining, they should listen. Presidents and any leader should listen to everybody, not catch him. Several times Pilato is in prison and we have tried several

times to rescue him, nothing. This is a dictatorial government, we deserve better," Archbishop Mpundu said.

He further lamented that government was using divide and rule tactics against the Church and using it to their advantage ahead of next year's polls.

"The government wants to divide, this is a policy of divide and rule, divide et impera. Even within one particular church, they divide leaders and those who are being led, they are fighting, that poses the advantage on the government, they are very happy about it. Divide and rule. [president] Chiluba brought brown envelopes, now they are brown and white and whatever

from the highest [office]. When you are given food by someone, don't spit because as soon you open your mouth, they will say, 'hey you, who gave you the food, who are you?' So, government did it, they have divided leaders among themselves. Remember, when the Ministry of Religious Affairs came, who were fighting to become either permanent secretary or minister, among the churches? And we said, 'this is a useless Ministry!' There is nothing new we are going to do there. We have been working with the government for many years, we didn't need this Ministry. If you want to create jobs for your people, do so, but not ministries," said Archbishop Mpundu.

# Covid-19 cost Barca more than €200m

BARCELONA have announced losses of €97 million (£88m/\$114m) for the 2019-20 economic year and blamed the coronavirus pandemic for a €203m (£184m/\$239m) decrease in revenue.

The Catalan club finished the year with revenue of €855m (£775m/\$1bn), which they said could have been a

record-breaking €1 billion (£950m/\$1.25bn) were it not for the Covid-19 outbreak.

Barca decreased their expenses by €74m (£67m/\$87m) but still suffered

significant losses, although the extension of the season beyond June 30 meant profit and loss items from the end of the season were transferred to the 2020-21 financial year.

There would have been a profit rather than a loss of €97m had it not been for the pandemic, according to the club.

clubs in Europe and with such extensive diversification of its income, is one of the most affected.

"The club suffered financially from the consequences of games being played behind closed doors, as well as the total cancellation of the basketball Euroleague, and hence there was a considerable loss of income.

A club statement read: "FC Barcelona has not been immune to the outbreak of Covid-19, but its consequences have had a massive effect on the entire sports industry.

"There has been widespread loss of revenue among all clubs in all the major leagues due to the restrictions that had to be applied to curb the spread of the disease, including competitions first being suspended and then resuming but with matches being played behind closed doors.

"The ECA [the European Club Association] has estimated the overall loss at around €4bn (£3.6bn/\$4.7bn) and Barca, as one of the largest

"The lack of tourists and visitors to the city of Barcelona due to the reductions and limitations applied to international tourism also meant far fewer visitors to Barca's premises, meaning major losses in terms of such areas as visitors to the Camp Nou Experience and the sale of products in official stores."

Barca are provisionally estimating €791m (£717m/\$932m) in revenue for the 2020-21 financial year. **GOAL.COM**

## Hockey ace Simpanze in 100% scholarship

**By Ngosa Chalwe**  
UPCOMING Hockey ace Joseph Simpanze has been given a scholarship to complete his secondary education following an agreement between the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) and Christopher

Katongo Foundation (CKF). In a statement availed to Goal Diggers by OYDC communications officer Noah Silimba yesterday, Simpanze has been awarded a 100 percent scholarship to complete his school.

The statement read that OYDC and CKF had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide educational and social services through sport in pursuit of social change among young people.

OYDC chief executive officer Fredrick Chitangala said during the signing ceremony that the Centre would assist CKF with sport and other services needed to achieve a shared vision of improving sport in the country on mutually agreed terms.

"Our aim is to collaborate with organisations like Christopher Katongo Foundation to achieve our goals of empowering young people through different activities the OYDC conducts. We are

happy to partner with CKF and this partnership will see the revamping of some of our programmes aimed at promoting literacy and encouraging the engaged athletes to get into formal schools" Chitangala said.

And CKF Executive Director Emmanuel Kunda said his organisation remained resolute to work with the OYDC, adding that the foundation wanted to see more young people empowered and subsequently excel in life.

He said to kickstart the partnership with OYDC, CKF had picked Simpanze, to be awarded a 100 percent scholarship to complete his secondary education.

"We are happy to partner with OYDC in supporting young, talented people not only through sport but also support to get them back in formal school. Our first person to support is Joseph whom we have given 100 percent scholarship to get back to school. We hope this will inspire others," said Kunda.

## Red Arrows beat Kalingalinga in Elite Chess league

**By Ngosa Chalwe**

ZAMBIA Air Force (ZAF) sponsored side Red Arrows continued with their unmatched start to the Michael Thole Elite Chess league after they beat Kalingalinga A 6 - 0 in Week three.

The league, which is running under the auspices of the Lusaka Province Chess Association (LPCA), entered week three with a number of interesting results posted.

Arrows opened with a 6 - 0 mauling of Kalingalinga A before Green Eagles recorded a narrow win over Lusaka Knights to a score line of 3.5 - 2.5.

In another match, Napsa A silenced LIYOCA after a 4.5 - 1.5 victory while Project Chess Zambia (PCZ) main recorded a similar result against Naspa B.

In the battle of two service teams, Green Buffaloes lost to Nkwazi via a 4 - 2 win before Nkwazi played out to another win against PCZ after recording a 5 - 1 victory in a rescheduled Round Two win.



## FM TRAVELLERS /MAGODI LODGE LTD

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

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Story page 11

## Malawi arrive for friendly

By Ngosa Chalwe

ZAMBIA'S opponents in this week's international friendly match, Malawi, have arrived in the country with their coach Meke Mwase, targeting a competitive showing against Chipolopolo.

Zambia is set to take on Malawi at Heroes Stadium tomorrow as both teams prepare for their Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Botswana and Burkina Faso respectively.

Mwase said in an interview upon his arrival yesterday that his team was aiming for a good game despite the encounter being an exhibition match.

"We are looking forward to a good friendly game, we always learn something when we play Zambia. We wish to have a very good game against Zambia. We are playing the group stage in AfCON, we are playing against Burkina Faso so we thought playing Zambia will give us good preparation," Mwase said.

He said his team enjoyed playing against Zambia.

"We are here to learn something but also to fight as well. Our approach is to see how are we going to fair against Burkina Faso," said Mwase.

# When is voter registration starting?



### ✓ Online Pre-registration

Online Pre-registration will start on Monday 21st September, 2020 to Friday 6th November, 2020. Visit the website: [www.ovr.elections.org.zm](http://www.ovr.elections.org.zm) to commence your application.

### ✓ Mobile Voter Registration

The Mobile Voter Registration will be conducted from 07.00 hrs to 18:00 hrs every day at various registration centers in all the districts. The exercise will run from October 28th to November 30th, 2020.



#VotingSquad