



SADC election monitoring body objects to new voters' register

UPND/NDC youths vow to proceed with protest

By Julia Malunga
THE board and partners of SADC Good Governance and Elections Monitoring (SGGEM) have written to Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano, demanding that the 2016 voters' register must be updated instead of deleting it in preference for a new register.

SGGEM is an organisation of Mainly Zambians and South Africans centred on enhancing good governance, effective independent election monitoring, advocating social justice as well as voter education in the SADC region in pursuance

ECZ UNDER PRESSURE

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board was copied to the Minister of Home Affairs, United Nations

Resident Administrator Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio, UNDP Administrator

(New York) Achim Steiner, Commonwealth Secretary...

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By Natasha Sakala
UPND and NDC youths have vowed to continue with their planned nationwide peaceful protests despite refusal by police to grant them a permit.

Speaking during a joint press briefing at the UPND secretariat, Wednesday, UPND national youth chairperson in charge of politics Gilbert Liswaniso charged that the PF government was full of junkies and the country was being led by criminals.

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Lusaka builder in court for defiling 4 girls in one day

Musukwa defends Milingo: KCM Liquidator acting within the Law

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MINES Minister Richard Musukwa says KCM provisional liquidator

Milingo Lungu's activities at the mining company is consistent with, and within the provisions of the law.

And Musukwa has reiterated that there are a number of investors lined up and interested to partner with ZCCM-IH to operate KCM once the ongoing arbitration processes have been exhausted.

Musukwa said this in

Parliament, Tuesday, when he responded to a written question from Nchanga PF member of parliament Chilombo Chali, who wanted to know what the status of KCM's provisional liquidation process as of July, 2020; whether there

was any arbitration process between Vedanta Resources and ZCCM-IH going on in South Africa, and what effects the outcome of the arbitration process would have in the liquidation process in the Zambian courts of law.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe
A BUILDER of Lusaka's Chamba Valley has been dragged to court for allegedly defiling four girls on the same day.

Joseph Winga, 35, is facing four charges of defilement of a child.

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Mwila told me to establish myself in Kamfinsa - Kang'ombe

By Julia Malunga
SUSPENDED Kitwe Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe says Patriotic Front secretary general Davies Mwila guided him to start establishing himself so that he can stand in Kamfinsa constituency next year.

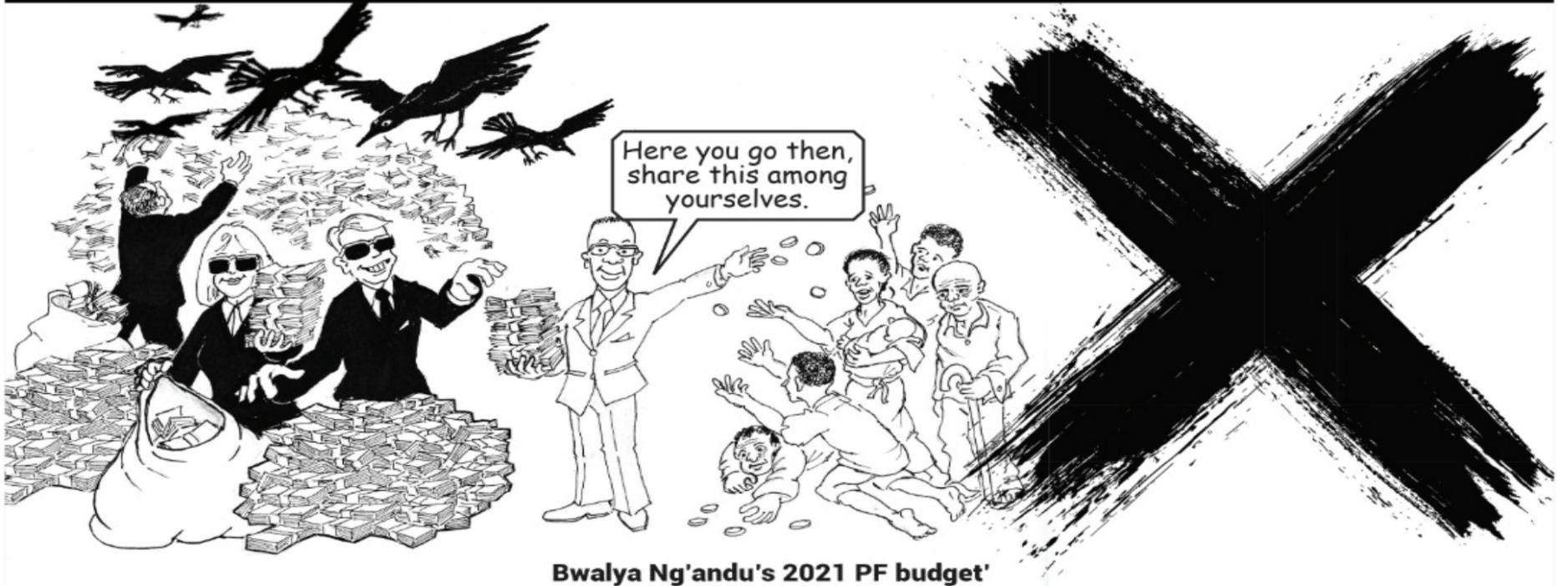
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Scramble for military jobs exposes PF's failure to create employment - Mufalali

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Bwalya Ng'andu's 2021 PF budget'

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By Ulande Nkomesha
ECONOMIST Trevor Hambayi says the kwacha will depreciate further due to government's excessive debt servicing requirements next year, which will accelerate its slide against major currency convertibles.

In an interview, Hambayi observed that the kwacha would likely continue depreciating against major currency convertibles because of government's need to service huge debt repayments, which would sustain pressure on the local currency.

He observed that a debt repayment plan was missing in the 2021 national budget, which ought to have made clear how government would address debt servicing, while keeping a lid on the widening fiscal deficit.

"Going forward, where we are is what we see from our (2021) budget that currently, we have a budget deficit of 11.4 per cent. If you look at the budget, there is nowhere we have put anything that speaks to reducing our debt position or even creating a debt repayment strategy that speaks to us having to reduce our debts. So, all the fundamentals that speak to having to hold the exchange rate now have all been breached and going forward towards the end of the year, what you will see is that the kwacha will continue to depreciate because we have nothing that supports the strengthening of the kwacha; whether we are talking about increasing our export earnings or reducing our budget deficit or, indeed, strengthening our foreign exchange reserves," Hambayi said. "We also do not see where the growth in the economy is going to come from, that is going to speak to holding the exchange rate. So, what we generally expect is that any increase in pressure on the exchange rate in terms of going towards the end of the year, if the economy starts to pick

Expert warns of further kwacha fall owing to govt's huge debt servicing

up, this will put pressure on the exchange rate and it will continue to depreciate. The kwacha will continue to depreciate and the exchange rate will rise. This is because all the fundamentals, really, are speaking to the negative; there is nothing that is positive that can speak to having to contain the depreciation."

He added that the request for

the deferment of the Eurobond interest debt repayments had also played a part in the kwacha's depreciation.

"The depreciation of the kwacha is on both accounts. But the initial one around the bondholders had come immediately the country made a request to the bondholders. You saw a very sharp decline in

the exchange rate at that time (post-September 22) because what it really meant was that the government was putting itself in a position of accepting the fact they are unable make the payments for the long liability, which in actual terms is a default and you saw that reaction in terms of the exchange rate," Hambayi observed.

He explained that

the bondholders rejected government's request to postpone repayments because Zambia had no financial backing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"In terms of the rejection of the bondholders to the postponement of the deferment of the interest payments of the Eurobond, from the outside,

this was expected. The basic underlying factor as to why it was going to be a very difficult proposal, is in two accounts. The first account is that the bondholders, the first question they would have asked the country in terms of that proposal that will give them was: 'where will we find the resources to pay them in six months' time if we postponed this?' From our proposal, we did not seem to have given the bondholders an indication that what would change in our fiscal space to put us in position to be able to make the payment in six months," Hambayi observed.

"The second aspect in terms of having to do this is that it was never going to happen without IMF support, in as much as having to go to the bondholders, the bondholders would have needed some form of comfort and that comfort would have only come from the IMF. If we had agreed on some form of a package with the IMF, the IMF would have agreed to say, 'look, we will support you in balancing the payments, but what you need in the next six months are the following things...' and at the end of that six months, the IMF will support you in making payments for these loan liabilities."

According to the 2021 budget, 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 equally increased to K18.3 billion next year, up from K12.6 billion allocated in this year's budget.

The K119.6 billion budget is expected 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.

Dawson Kafwaya rejoins UPND

By Natasha Sakala
FORMER North-Western Province minister Dawson Kafwaya has returned to the UPND after resigning from the ruling party earlier this year.

Kafwaya, who is also former Solwezi Central UPND member of parliament, says he was enticed to join the PF shortly after being elected in 2014 but was disappointed because most of the promises that were made were not fulfilled by the President.

"I know very well that in 2014, the people of Solwezi central gave me the mandate to be the member of parliament for Solwezi central and after I won the elections, I received a lot of enticements from the PF government. Before President Sata could even die, I was invited so they can appoint me as minister but I refused for that time. In 2015 after winning the elections, the PF invited me through Honorable Chikwanda so that I can serve as provincial minister for North-Western Province. Sometimes the decisions we make, we rush into making decisions but what

is important in life is to know that when you make a mistake, you have to correct it one day. I know that I came here, it was a very difficult situation that I disappointed the people of Solwezi Central because I only served for less than five months and then accepted to be provincial minister. Unfortunately, all the promises which we discussed with the President, if we look at them they haven't been fulfilled," he said during a press briefing announcing his decision.

He however apologised to the people of Solwezi Central and the UPND

"Mr provincial chairman, may I take this opportunity to apologise to the president of our party but I am back in the party to serve the party as a servant of the party. I have consulted a lot of people, I have consulted my family members, I know that some of the family members even hated me because of the decision which I made," he said.

He added that there were more people who were with him but would not come out

in the open because they were benefitting something from the PF government.

"You know, the PF government is giving a lot of money to the people and some people don't want to come out in the open because they are also benefitting something from the PF. So What we can do for now, let us allow them to continue benefitting whatever they are benefitting from the PF but they know what they are going to do on the 12th of August 2021. So members of the party, you have to be free with us who have come back to the party, we belong to UPND and we are members of UPND, we are going to work together," he said.

Kafwaya urged the party to be aggressive as fear is what had cost them elections in the past.

"My encouragement to each and every one on politics is that it is brutal, sometimes we have feared and that's the reason we have lost elections. As I am talking now, our colleagues the PF are campaigning day and night, they are giving money,

they are giving what, they are campaigning but you see, when you are in opposition they will continue intimidating you to an whereby they will even tell you, no we will come and arrest you, they can come here to disturb the meeting. But remember that when you want to get something from a running chicken, you have to be aggressive. We know the tactics of the PF, we have served in PF government, we know how they rig the elections and it's a privilege that we work together to ensure that the elections are done in a fair and free manner in 2021," said Kafwaya.

Speaking as he received them, UPND North-western provincial chairman retired Col Grandson Katambi urged the party members to embrace the new members and avoid having a negative perception towards them because no single individual owns the party hence the need for them to work together.

Katambi further praised Kafwaya for not dividing the party or insulting it after he left to join the PF.

Lusaka builder in court for defiling 4 girls in one day

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A BUILDER of Lusaka's Chamba Valley has been dragged to court for allegedly defiling four girls on the same day.

Joseph Winga, 35, is facing four charges of defilement of a child.

In count one, it is alleged that on July 3, 2020, Winga defiled a 13-year-old girl.

In count two, it is alleged that on the same date, Winga defiled another girl aged 13.

In count three, it is alleged that Winga, on the same date, defiled a 10-year-old girl.

And in count four, it is

alleged that on the same date, Winga defiled a girl aged nine.

When the matter came up, Wednesday, Lusaka Principal Resident Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile allocated the case to magistrate Faides Hamaundu.

However, when the matter was called before magistrate Hamaundu, Winga was not in court.

Allegations in this matter are that on the material day, the children were taken to Winga's

house by a woman from the neighborhood who jokingly said that the four children were Winga's wives.

It is further alleged that Winga got the children into his house where he allegedly defiled

them while the door to the house was locked and released them afterwards.

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A ZAMBIA Air Force officer accused of abusing and torturing her 11-year-old niece has denied the allegations before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court, claiming that the victim burnt herself after dropping a bucket of hot water.

This is a matter in which Mildred Luwaile of ZAF Twin Palm is charged with assault on a child.

Particulars of the offence are that on March 25, 2019 in Lusaka, Luwaile assaulted a child under the age of 16, thereby occasionally her actual bodily harm.

She was found with a case to answer and placed on her defence.

Opening her defence before magistrate Nthandose Chabala, Wednesday, Luwaile testified that her sister had requested that she starts keeping the victim so that she could complete school in the city.

She said this is because her husband wanted to marry the victim off when she reached Grade eight.

Luwaile said the victim started living with her in 2017 when she was 10 years up to April 2019.

She added that her son was four months old at that time.

Luwaile described the relationship she had with the victim as that of a 'mother and daughter' and that like any other parent, she would

ZAF officer denies torturing niece, claims the victim burnt herself with hot water

discipline her.

"She was a cheerful girl, shy and she did not speak much. Our relationship was that of mother and daughter. Like any other parent, I would discipline her by talking to her and I remember spanking her twice," Luwaile said.

When her lawyer Billingtone Mosha, who was leading her during her evidence in chief, asked her whether it was true that she deliberately burnt the victim with hot water, the accused

refused.

Asked what caused the burns, Luwaile told the court that the victim burnt herself after dropping a bucket of hot water.

"In April 2019, on a particular day, I knocked off from work around 18:00 hours and sat in the dining room with my husband when I heard a bang in the kitchen like something had fallen," she said.

Luwaile said she heard her son crying, adding that when

she rushed to the kitchen, she found that the victim had dropped a bucket of hot water.

She said she grabbed her son after she saw him standing in hot water on the floor and removed his socks.

Luwaile denied burning the victim, saying she burnt herself.

She said after she saw that water was dripping from the victim, she told her to go upstairs and change her clothes while she dipped her son in cold water and later

rubbed butter on his feet.

"I gave my son to his father and went upstairs to check on (the victim) if she had changed her clothes. I found her in the bathroom changing and asked her to show me where it was hurting, she showed me her knee. I got cold water and poured it on her knee, got Colgate and rubbed on the knee. The following day, I noticed some bruises," Luwaile said.

"It is not true that I poured hot water on her, she was lying. It is possible for a child to lie when they are scared of something. She had a tendency of twisting and fabricating stories."

She said she was at work when the girl ran away from home.

"I was at work when she ran away. When I got home, I found my cousin who said she wanted to get hold of me as the girl had gone missing. She said maybe she ran away because of what was found in the garage as the maid said she had found a sack containing baby clothes, diapers with faeces and cutlery," Luwaile said.

In cross examination, State Advocate Bob Mwewa asked the accused if she took the victim to the hospital in relation to the injury that the girl suffered on her knee, but Luwaile said she did not.

Asked if it was not true that the child ran away from her abuse, Luwaile said "I don't know".

She, however, agreed that as a guardian to the victim, she was responsible for her wellbeing.

The matter comes up on October 29, 2020 for continued defence.

Last year, the 11-year-old girl narrated to the court that her aunt tortured her by heating spoons and knives and pressing them on her skin after accusing her of having stolen a slice of bread.

The juvenile told the court that she tried to explain to Luwaile that she did consume the bread as it was eaten by her cousin who was left under her care.

She said Luwaile perpetually abused and inflicted pain on her body by heating a knife on the stove and when it got hot, she would tie her hands behind and burn her with the hot object.

The victim said Luwaile once poured hot water on her as revenge for burning her child accidentally.

She further said the accused forced her to be spending nights in the garage, claiming that she used to bed wet.

Artist empowerment fund a scheme to silence musicians before 2021 – Maiko

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MUSICIAN Maiko Zulu says the K30 million musicians' empowerment fund was a direct reaction to the bush protests and is nothing other than a PF scheme to silence musicians ahead of the 2021 general election.

But Zulu says there are still a number of musicians who have independent minds and have refused to be bought, revealing that some corrupt elements had so far tried to offer him 60 acres of land as a way of silencing him.

"For me, it's not surprising that the empowerment fund is suddenly coming out of the closet. I think the current government has been in office for quite some time and we have not seen any empowerment to artists. You can already see that this was a direct reaction from the 'bush protests' that we had and it's also a way of silencing the voice of musicians, especially as we head towards the 2021 general election. If you have noticed, since the announcement of the empowerment funds, a lot of artists are in the closet. They fear to talk because they fear that they may be denied the empowerment fund. So, the strategy seems to be working for the government in power," Zulu said in an interview.

He said that musicians have over the past been neglected in terms of empowerment projects and wondered why the PF suddenly rolled out the controversial empowerment fund just before next year's polls.

"But I want to say that we have a number of musicians, who are still standing up on behalf of the people. And it's very difficult to buy independent minds. The young people in the country have been the least in government's programmes. We had predicted that come 2020 to 2021, you will see a lot of youth empowerment funds. Already, we have seen the aqua culture funds, and the artists fund itself. But when you look at history, again, we had the youth empowerment fund where a certain sector for young people were given buses, but where are they now? So, these are stories that we have seen before and we know that after people are voted into power, then the issues of the young people and the artists will die a natural death," he said.

He, however, urged fellow artists to

continue being relevant and voice their views out on matters of public interest.

"Even just before the empowerment funds, I know for a fact that the National Arts Council personnel were not getting paid for some time and suddenly after the bush protest, there was K30 million being dangled in front of the artists! My message to the artists is that, they need to continue being relevant, especially in matters that are in public interest because artists are supposed to be the voice of the voiceless and the voice of the marginalised. And it's a social responsibility, they are indebted to bring certain issues to light that the ordinary citizens may not have the privilege to bring out," Zulu said.

He disclosed that corrupt elements had tried to offer him land to buy his silence.

"It's very challenging. I will tell you that I personally have had offers of land from some people just for me to lay back in terms of advocating for human rights work and so on. And these are offers that we know do not have the good will. We have rejected these offers. My wife, too, has that offer; my daughter has that offer as well. We were promised 20 acres of land each and so on. And I have told the people that have come to offer us this land that it's very difficult for a person like me to accept such an offer at this time and to accept an offer that is directing me to some extent to be mute in terms of national issues. I don't think it's fair. And I have told them that I think there are more underprivileged people who may need that land more than I do. I have a piece of land, which I have not developed up to now, and I think it will be unfair for me to jump into another piece of land instead of somebody who is more privileged. And issues of land, really, people need to understand that you can apply for land as a citizen from the Ministry of Lands and you can be given land. So, land should not be used as a means to silence people," he revealed.

He stressed that he still valued his integrity more than wealth.

"I know that a number of people have applied for these empowerment schemes and I have no problem with that. But for me and for the group that I am working with, we value integrity more than wealth. And that is why we



have gone out of our way to offer our service to the public and to bring out issues just like the way we have gone to court over the ECZ issue. That is our approach. It will be very difficult for some of us to be bought. You know, we can be sold, but we cannot be bought," Zulu added.

Zulu further said his main drive in his advocacy work was to see equality among citizens and to build strength and trust in institutions of governance.

"For me, the main driver is the desire to see equality in a country that was once a beacon of democracy. My desire is to see our institutions being strengthened and trusted. Today, it's very difficult to trust the police, for example, because they are dented. A cadre can go and order the police commander. So, institutions need to be strengthened, our democracy needs to be strengthened. Our country is only a democracy on paper when in actual fact institutions are being used to exploit people, to deny certain people their rights, and to trample upon people that are perceived to be opposing the establishment. When I see a number of

university graduates languishing in the streets without jobs, then it reminds me of what some politicians have been telling us that, 'we are going to give people jobs,' 'we are going to give people opportunities, less taxes, more money in their pockets' and this is the opposite of what is happening," said Zulu.

"Right now, our country has been ransomed to foreigners. The major industries, for example, the means of production do not belong to Zambians, and for me, that is a problem. If our mines do not belong to us, if the copper that is being produced there does not benefit a boy in Wusakile or Kamitondo, then why should we even have the mines open? Shut the mines because they are benefiting foreigners. The prime investments in the tourism sector do not belong to Zambians. All those nice lodges you see in Livingstone belong to foreigners. When you look at forestry, for example, is not for us. We are merely Zambians just by NRC. There is nothing that we can talk about to say, 'I own this as a Zambian.' So, people want answers."

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By Natasha Sakala

UPND and NDC youths have vowed to continue with their planned nationwide peaceful protests despite refusal by police to grant them a permit.

Speaking during a joint press briefing at the UPND secretariat, Wednesday, UPND national youth chairperson in charge of politics Gilbert Liswaniso charged that the PF government was full of junkies and the country was being led by criminals.

"Government yaba Edgar Chagwa Lungu niyama junky, muziba junky ka (President Edgar Lungu's government is full of junkies, you know junkies? Most of them are junk. Casino ndiye nchito yabo (gambling at Casinos is their job)...we should understand that we are being led by criminals and when I mean they are junkies I mean just that," Liswaniso said.

He said they could never appeal to Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo because he is a cadre and leader of violence.

"Lelo mukamba kuti tichite appeal, kuli aKampyongo, nichite appeal kuli boss wa violence? Nichite appeal kuli cadre because Kamyongo was cited in the commission of inquiry. So why nichite appeal kuli cadre munzanga, we have no time for that (today you are saying we appeal to Kampyongo, I should appeal to the boss of violence? I should appeal to a cadre, why should I appeal to my fellow cadre, I have no time for that)," Liswaniso said.

He further called on youths to turn up in large numbers demonstrate against ECZ chairperson Esau Chulu who he said was the source of suffering for Zambian youths.

"So nikumpepani (I am begging you) as ma youths across the country, tomorrow lets demonstrate. What we are demonstrating for, sitifuna (we don't want) Chulu, olo Chulu

UPND/NDC youths vow to proceed with protest

amwalile lelo nizaka tundila pa manda pake, mumuuzo (even if Chulu were to die today, I will go and urinate on his grave, you should tell him). This man is an evil man. This country today is divided because of the useless man," said Liswaniso.

He added that the youths are going to demonstrate so that they can test the new police vehicles, adding that they are not afraid of arrest as they would still be able to vote even when incarcerated.

He called on Chulu and ECZ CEO Patrick Nshindano to resign from the Electoral Commission of Zambia because they were causing confusion in the country.

Earlier, NDC national youth chairperson Charles Kabwita said he was very disappointed with police deputy inspector general Bonny Kapeso because despite

engagements, they still refused to grant them the permit to protest and hold a rally.

"We have been engaging the Lusaka Police command since last week and nothing tangible has come out of that and I am extremely disappointed with our elder brother, our father, our dear friend Mr Kapeso because when we went to his office, the impression he gave us was that he was going to grant the permit for the protest and the rally. Elo bamona ati kwashala two minutes to go elo balanda ukwebwa ati rally teti mukwate (at the final minute, this is when they are telling us that we will not be able to hold the rally)," he lamented.

He said the youths didn't want the current leadership at the helm of the ECZ.

"We say no to online voter registration, we say no to Esau Chulu, we say no to

Patrick Nshindano, we say no kuli bamayo ba foreigner bafumine ku Malawi, tatulemi fwayamayo, mulei patikisha fye ukuba uko, tatulemi fwaya, mukaleta confusion (we say no to that woman from Malawi, we don't want you madam, you are just forcing yourself to be there, we don't want you, you will cause confusion)," Kabwita said.

He charged that the ECZ is insisting on a new voters roll because they wanted to make money off the printing of cards despite people still having voters cards in good condition.

"There is nothing wrong with the 2016 register, why waste money making new voters cards when the current ones are okay?" asked Kabwita.

He dared Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja to prepare his people as the youth also prepare themselves for the protest today.

And when contacted for a comment, Kapeso directed this reporter to the IG but Kanganja was unreachable by press time.

SADC elections monitoring body objects to new voters' register

By Julia Malunga

THE board and partners of SADC Good Governance and Elections Monitoring (SGGEM) have written to Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano, demanding that the 2016 voters' register must be updated instead of deleting it in preference for a new register.

SGGEM is an organisation of Mainly Zambians and South Africans centred on enhancing good governance, effective independent election monitoring, advocating social justice as well as voter education in the SADC region in pursuance of the ideals of Agenda 2063.

The letter which was signed by the board was copied to the Minister of Home Affairs, United Nations Resident Administrator Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio, UNDP Administrator (New York) Achim Steiner, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Janet Scotland, African Union Secretary General Mr Moussa Faki, European Union Resident Director / Secretary General and Amnesty International among other institutions. Other institutions copied were Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Germany, United States, Britain, Canada, Norway, Sweden and Denmark among other missions.

The board stated that the Electoral Commission did not consult stakeholders in Zambia, saying failure to do so may be disastrous to democracy and a recipe for anarchy in the country.

"We call on ECZ to stick to the current voters' register and instead only update it accordingly instead of deleting it. Besides, stakeholders were never consulted before ECZ arrived at this decision. Ignoring the importance of stakeholders' input in this exercise may be disastrous to democracy and a recipe for anarchy in the country. We wish to further remind you that deliberate disenfranchising of eligible voters does not only undermine democracy but also goes against the Constitution of Zambia and the international agreements to which Zambia has committed to uphold," read the letter.

"We call on the Electoral Commission of Zambia to urgently adhere to these principles with immediate effect as Zambia's future and that of her citizens depends on it. In support of Zambia's democratic principles. SSGEM wishes to bring to your attention with great concern the method the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has adopted to use to register voters in preparation for the general elections to be held next year. As an independent election monitoring body, SSGEM has been observing what is unfolding with tremendous concern."

The board stated that ECZ only needed to identify those that were deceased so that they could be removed from the register.

"SGGEM has observed that the population of Zambia has over a period of time grown to an estimated 17 million people and that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has targeted to have 9 million registered voters out of that number.

Story Continues on P10

UK's Minister for Africa dates Zambia

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UNITED Kingdom (UK)'s Minister for Africa James Duddridge is expected to visit Zambia on a two day working visit from 8th to 9th October, 2020.

According to a statement issued by the British Embassy in Zambia, Wednesday, Duddridge said his visit would give him an opportunity to strengthen trade links between the two countries.

"I am very much looking forward to my first visit to Zambia as an FCDO Minister, a country I know well from my previous visits. This visit provides an opportunity to strengthen trade links between the UK and Zambia and highlight where we can work together now and in the future. Zambia has an important role to play in SADC and the southern Africa region and I will be discussing a range of important regional and international trade and security issues with members of the Government and other key stakeholders," said Duddridge.

He also said the trip would highlight future investment opportunities for British businesses and the fight against COVID-19.

And British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley said the minister's visit would be the first official trip abroad since the creation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

"I am delighted to welcome the UK Minister for Africa to Zambia on his first official visit as a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Minister. The fact that, together with Malawi, this will be Minister's first official trip abroad since the creation of the FCDO highlights the importance of the UK-Zambia shared partnership and cooperation in many areas. The UK will continue to support economic growth and regional trade integration as a mechanism to help alleviate poverty and improving the living standards of the most disadvantaged communities, a core part of UK's work in Zambia," said Woolley.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND national youth chairperson Likando Mufalali says the Ministry of Defence should be transparent in selecting recruits during the ongoing defence recruitment. And Mufalali says overwhelming numbers of youths applying for this recruitment is a sign of the PF government's failure to provide much-needed jobs promised to citizens.

In an interview, Mufalali charged that the PF would likely mount pressure on the Ministry of Defence to make it select its own members who were not qualified or suitable for the positions.

"As regards to whether the process will be open or transparent, I think it's an issue

Scramble for military jobs exposes PF's failure to create employment – Mufalali

that needs to be scrutinised. Given the corruption that we have seen in the PF government, we see them putting pressure on the military to pick their people who don't

even meet the requirements. So, the pressure that they will mount on these three defense wings will be unprecedented because they want to push their own people. We are dealing

with people that have no shame in what they are doing. So, the whole recruitment is for the

benefit of the PF," Mufalali argued. And he observed

that the huge numbers of youths applying for the Defence recruitment was a glaring indication of the PF government's failure to provide jobs.

"The PF government has failed to create the 500,000 jobs that they had promised. And ahead of us is an election year, and already, we have a budget deficit. And based on that, I wouldn't have recommended for this recruitment when we are going through difficult times like these. And because of the election year ahead, this recruitment is highly questionable. And some of us are receiving it with a pinch of salt. We are skeptical in the way the recruitment will take place. This is actually putting pressure on the Defense Ministry because there are thousands and thousands of young people that are looking for jobs in the defense force. There will be too much pressure for them to handle!" said Mufalali.

"This is a serious indictment on the PF government because they have failed to create the jobs that they promised people. The pronouncements have been made several times from their first term of office. We have so many graduates from the University of Zambia that want to find themselves in the Defence force. And it's very unfortunate that we want to put pressure on these few departments under this Ministry because they won't manage to pick everyone."

Defence Minister Davies Chama, however, promised that the ongoing military recruitment exercise will be above board and based on merit.

Govt forcibly takes over Horizon School

By Ulande Nkomesha
GOVERNMENT has forcibly taken over Horizon School situated in Lusaka's Kabulonga area.

In an interview Horizon School board chairperson Leslie Mbula confirmed this

incident and said police officers had forcefully taken over the school and that government had appointed a new chairman and had installed a new principle.

Mbula said it was disheartening that government had taken this stance when the

matter was still in court.

Last year in December, Horizon School sued the State over the compulsory acquisition of stand number K A B U L - N 6 9 5 6 5 / 1 9 6 Kabulonga.

The school charged that

government had not disclosed its public interest over the decision to acquire the premises.

"The police have come forcefully to our school to take over. The chairman went there and he was not allowed entry and he was forced out. The Principle was detained in his room from 10:00 hours to 14:00 hours and he was threatened with arrest and deportation if he tried to phone anybody. The chairman was also told off. Right now they are on the premises with their guns. The matter is in court and the law is very clear about compulsory acquisition, they must be compensation. They have done nothing like that. In other words, it is illegal and please find time to go there with a camera if you can and interview them, they will be very rude to you," said Mbula.

"They have appointed a new chairman, our lawyer is Chifumu Banda, we spoke to him and he said the matter is in court, they should not have done that, he is pursuing the matter. This is extremely sad. Before the move away from there please go there and see. They have removed the principle from there and they have installed their own principle. They have appointed a chairperson and this school is not an individual's school, it is a company and is registered under the companies act and not by the registrar of societies. So help us in bringing about democracy. You are the only ones we can look to."

Milingo acting within the law – Musukwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MINES Minister Richard Musukwa says KCM provisional liquidator Milingo Lungu's activities at the mining company is consistent with, and within the provisions of the law.

And Musukwa has reiterated that there are a number of investors lined up and interested to partner with ZCCM-IH to operate KCM once the ongoing arbitration processes have been exhausted.

Musukwa said this in Parliament, Tuesday, when he responded to a written question from Nchanga PF member of parliament Chilombo Chali, who wanted to know what the status of KCM's provisional liquidation process as of July, 2020; whether there was any arbitration process between Vedanta Resources and ZCCM-IH going on in South Africa, and what effects the outcome of the arbitration process would have in the liquidation process in the Zambian courts of law.

"Government will be coming up with a comprehensive statement over the liquidation of KCM at an appropriate time [and] at the instance of the Speaker's (Dr Patrick Matibini) authority. As for now, in August, 2019, Vedanta appealed against the High Court's decision to dismiss the application to stay the winding-up proceedings and refer the matter to arbitration. Consequently, the procedures were stayed, pending determination of the appeal. ZCCM-IH Investment Holdings also appealed against the court's decision to stay the proceedings. As at August, 2020, the said appeal was heard and we await the decisions of the court of appeal. The arbitration process between Vedanta Resources and ZCCM-IH commenced in July, 2019, and is still ongoing in the South African courts. The parties agreed on the sole arbitrator to hear and determine the proceedings. The outcome of this matter is dependent on the court and, therefore, we are not able to indicate the effects, if any, before the courts make a decision. As the liquidation process is a court-driven matter, only the court can determine the dates of when it will be concluded," Musukwa

responded.

Asked by Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu on what Milingo was doing at KCM if he did not sell the assets to pay off the debt, Musukwa maintained that he is acting within the law.

"What the current liquidator is doing at KCM is consistent with the provisions of the law. As you know, the liquidation is at the instance of the minority shareholder, who expressed misgivings about how the large shareholder was handling and managing the company. So, currently, what is going on is that as we wait for these court processes to be expedited and concluded, the operations at KCM is going on and the liquidator is managing through paying off debts, both to old and current suppliers and contractors, and the operation is being sustained," Musukwa responded.

And Serenje MMD member of parliament Maxwell Kabanda asked

Musukwa about what exit strategy he had put in place to compensate KCM workers that were likely to be affected in the event that the court ruled against government.

But in his response, Musukwa said government remained confident that it had a solid case against Vedanta.

"Mr Speaker, we started the liquidation process because we were very confident that we have a solid case against Vedanta. And we were very confident that following the rules of natural justice, the people of Zambia and the workers of Nchanga, Konkola, Nampundwe and Kitwe have a better case in this regard. And in an event that this matter does not go in their favour, the Government of the Republic of Zambia reserves the rights in terms of appeal processes using the court process because as you know, we are a government of laws and we will ensure that we fight this process anchored on the strength of the law. And

we are confident that we have a better case to succeed in a court of law," he replied.

Meanwhile, Musukwa reiterated that there were a number of investors lined up and interested to partner with ZCCM-IH to operate KCM.

"We are optimistic, as government, that we will win this case. And once this case is quickly concluded, we will ensure that we deal with the issues relating to the welfare of the workers. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, has guided that among our priorities is to ensure that we safeguard the welfare of the workers and serve for this process. We have a number of investors who are lined up and interested to partner with ZCCM-IH and run and operate this mine. Government is not in the business of running the mine. We would like to concentrate on the policy direction and do politics, while business entities do running of the operations," said Musukwa.

Mwila told me to establish myself in Kamfinsa – Kang'ombe

By Julia Malunga
SUSPENDED Kitwe Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe says Patriotic Front secretary general Davies Mwila guided him to start establishing himself so that he can stand in Kamfinsa constituency next year.

And former Kitwe District Commissioner Binwell Mpundu says he is not moved by his suspension from the ruling party and has vowed to continue mobilising for President Edgar Lungu even behind prison walls.

Yesterday, the Patriotic Front on the Copperbelt suspended Kang'ombe and Mpundu from the ruling party for alleged continued campaigns in Kamfinsa constituency and Nkana constituency respectively.

In a letter dated October 6, 2020, PF Kitwe District Chairman Everisto Chilufya stated that Kang'ombe was also charged with insubordination for holding a press briefing while Vice-President Inonge Wina was in Kitwe.

"It has come to my attention that you have continued campaigning in Kamfinsa constituency disregarding the directive from the Central Committee memo dated November 20, 2020, which prohibited party officials from campaigning in constituencies where we have PF MPs and Independent MPs, who we work with in Parliament. This has been going on for some time despite many

counsel given to you to abide by the Central Committee's directives," stated Chilufya.

"Furthermore, you held a press briefing on Sunday, knowing full well that the Republican Vice-President of our party and the Secretary General were in Kitwe on official duties. That was an act of insubordination and lack of respect on your part. Arising from the above, you are, therefore, suspended from the party and from all party activities with immediate effect until further notice in line with our party constitution."

But in an interview, Kang'ombe revealed that it was Mwila who advised him to establish himself in Kamfinsa constituency.

"I want to clarify that Her Honour, the Vice-President of Zambia, left for Lusaka at 09:00 through Kalulushi Airport. I was there to see her off and she left at exactly 09:15. In our charge letter, there is reference to a press briefing, the briefing took place at 11:00, meaning we already had the Vice-President out of the province and she was attending to other assignments in Lusaka so that press conference did not take place with the Vice-President in the city of Kitwe. That item is not correct. The reference to an allegation that we issued a press briefing with the secretary general present, again, the party should beware that that press

conference we called, we had clearance so there is no insubordination of any sort in that particular activity we undertook on Sunday," said Kang'ombe.

"There is an allegation that I am campaigning in Kamfinsa. I want to indicate that those of you who are familiar with my political journey, in 2016, I was supposed to contest as member of parliament for Kwacha constituency now because we received a new member of the party in the name of Joe Malanji, the party advised me to stand as Mayor of Kitwe. Now, along the way, the Minister of Foreign Affairs kept complaining that I want to become MP for Kwacha. And the secretary general of the party, Davies Mwila guided that, 'start establishing yourself in Kamfinsa.' That is a fact! So, I have not been campaigning in Kamfinsa as alleged by the district chairman. I have been basically working as mayor in five constituencies. Now, the fact that everyone in PF knows that in Kamfinsa, that is where I was told to 'go and establish myself'. So, I don't understand how I can be charged on those three particular issues. I am not moved [by the suspension]! I am getting used."

Meanwhile, Mpundu, also received a similar letter of suspension, charging that he had been campaigning in Nkana constituency.

Mpundu also sought police's

permission to appear before them on Monday.

In a Facebook post, Mpundu thanked people for their support and said he was not moved by what had just happened.

"I wish to sincerely thank all you colleagues friends and family for the moral and spiritual support in these trying moments. I therefore wish to report that my lawyers have not been available for us to avail ourselves before the police as per the police summons and so my lawyers have since written to the police to indicate that we will be available on Monday at 11.30hrs," wrote Mpundu.

"In the meantime I have since received a letter of suspension from the PF written by the Kitwe District PF Chairman as attached. I still want to insist that this is simply a political process meant to take my eyes off the ball but I wish to assure you all that am not moved, I remain resolute in my quest to help mobilize for president Edgar Chagwa Lungu for 2021 and I will continue to support the party even behind prison walls."

On Tuesday, Police issued a call out to Mpundu to report to Kitwe Central Police Headquarters for questioning.

This came barely 24 hours after Mpundu was warned and cautioned at Mindolo Police station for allegedly having an illegal meeting.

DEFAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT: IS IT REASONABLY NECESSARY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY?

By Joseph Chirwa

INTRODUCTION

THIS article was motivated by three events closely related to my heart. First was the arrest of the controversial and highly talented Zambian musician 'Pilato' for a satirical song many believed was aimed and directed at His Excellency the President. Second, was the arrest of Sean Tembo, a firebrand young Zambian politician who is leader of little is known "Patriots for Economic Progress" party. Third, my student presented a compelling proposal on whether or not defamation of the president as an offence was ideal for a democracy like Zambia. Thus, my faculties were aroused to address this subject of which many scholars in Zambia have written about.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS OF THE LAW OF DEFAMATION

a. The Constitution of Zambia

Many commentators assert that the law of defamation flies in the teeth of the freedom of expression as espoused under Article 20 of the Constitution of Zambia, Chapter 1 of the Laws of Zambia as amended by Act No. 18 of 1996. For avoidance of doubt, Article 20 provides that:

(1) Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, that is to say, freedom to hold opinions without interference, freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to impart and communicate ideas and information without interference, whether the communication be to the public generally or to any person or class of persons, and freedom from interference with his correspondence.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution no law shall make any provision that derogates from freedom of the press.

(3) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this Article to the extent that it is shown that the law in question makes provision -

(a) that is reasonably required in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or

(b) that is reasonably required for the purpose of protecting the reputations, rights and freedoms of other persons or the private lives of persons concerned in legal proceedings, preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, maintaining the authority and independence of the courts, regulating educational institutions in the interests of persons receiving instruction therein, or the registration of, or regulating the technical administration or the technical operation of, newspapers and other publications, telephony, telegraphy, posts, wireless broadcasting or television; or

(c) that imposes restrictions on public officers; and except so far as that provision or, the thing done under the authority thereof as the case may be, is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

The catch is under Article 20 (3) in that it has permitted the restriction of the enjoyment of this freedom. However, another catch is that these restrictions must be "shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society." The question is, are the laws on defamation of the President reasonably justifiable in a democratic society? Is the law archaic in that it also extends defamation of foreign princes, potentates, ambassadors and other foreign dignitaries who do not enjoy similar protection in their home countries?

b. The Penal Code

Defamation of the President is provided for under section 69 of the Penal Code Act, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. Under that provision, it is an offence attracting a sentence of imprisonment of not exceeding three years for any person found guilty of that offence. It is an offence for any person who, with intent to bring the President into hatred, ridicule or contempt, publishes any defamatory or insulting matter, whether by writing, print, word of mouth or in any other manner. Therefore, intention is cardinal in proving this offence. Section 71 has extended this protection to foreign princes, potentates, ambassadors and other foreign dignitaries who may not be defamed without justification or excuse with intent to disturb peace and friendship between Zambia and the country to which such prince, potentate, ambassador or dignitary belongs.

ARE SECTIONS 69 AND 71 CONSTITUTIONAL?

It is trite law that Zambia is a constitutional democracy that prides on the supremacy of the constitution. By Article 1 of the Constitution of Zambia, Chapter 1 of the Laws of Zambia as amended by Act No.2 of 2016 provides that the Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Zambia and any other written law, customary law and customary practice that is inconsistent with its provisions is void to the extent of the inconsistency and any act or omission that contravenes the Constitution is illegal. Therefore, the question is, are sections 69 and 71 in contravention with the Constitution in as far as Articles 20 and 23 are concerned?

Solace is had to the case of *The People v Bright Mwape Fred M'membe* (HPR/36/94; (1995) S.J.) in which the question as to whether section 69 of the Penal Code was in conflict with Articles 20 and 23 of the Constitution. The brief facts are that the appellants, who were journalists in an independent weekly newspaper, were charged with criminal defamation against the President arising from an article referring to the President in a derogatory term. The appellants did not plead to the charge but raised a preliminary issue as to the constitutionality of Section 69 of the Penal Code Act, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. The case was referred to the High Court by the Resident Magistrate Lusaka pursuant to Article 28 (2) (a) the Constitution for the High Court to rule on the Constitutionality of Section 69 of the Penal Code which creates the offence of defamation of the President. John Sangwa, SC who represented the accused, while conceding that freedom of expression is not absolute also submitted that Section 69 is not reasonably justifiably in a democratic state.

Chitengi, J reading the judgement of the court weighed in as follows:

It cannot be denied that freedom of expression, press and criticism of the government and public officials including the President himself is very essential in a democratic society. Indeed the Zambian Constitution underscores the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of the press by enshrining it in Article 20 of the Constitution. And the provisions in the Penal Code which limit freedom of expression and freedom of the press appear to me to admit of criticism. Section 69 does not anywhere say that nobody will speak or publish anything of the President. The sections dealing with sedition and criminal libel also admit of criticism. And the provisions in the Defamation Act Cap 70 of the Laws of Zambia provide immunity against libel suits in certain circumstances. The crisp issue is therefore what kind of criticism is allowed. Mr. Kinariwala submits that criticism must be acceptable criticism. On the other hand Mr. Sangwa's position appears to be that any type of criticism should be allowed and any law which restricts such kind of criticism is unjustifiable in a democratic state.

He went on to state that:

I have carefully read and considered all the authorities cited to me and those I have come across in my own research but I have not been able to find any authority in Zambia or other jurisdictions including those with jurisdictions similar to ours and International Courts for the proposition that in a democratic state one can criticize the head of state or the government in any manner however, scurrilous, malicious and destructive of the President or Government Institutions as Mr. Sangwa's submissions taken to their logical conclusions would suggest.

In reaching his conclusion, the His Lordship concluded that Section 69 does not deprive any citizen the right to legitimately criticize the President or the Government nor is it in conflict with Articles 20 or 23 of the Constitution of Zambia. That said, as the law stands now, defamation of the President related laws are not in conflict with the Constitution.

DEFAMATION AS A RELIC OF COLONIAL TOTALITARIANISM versus RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENCY

The debate as to whether defamation of the President is a colonial relic are misplaced and propelled by the failure to adequately read the law. It must be noted that the two sections in question, that is sections 69 and 71, were introduced in our statute books by Amendment Act No. 6 of 1965 and Statutory Instrument No. 63 of 1964 when Zambia was a multi-party democratic state. These laws were neither made before 1964 to make the "colonial" nor where they made after 1973 to make them "dictatorial" after

the introduction of the One-Party State but in the infancy of Zambia's independence and they have survived 56 years later.

Justice Chitengi opine in obiter dicta that:

It cannot be denied that freedom of expression, press and criticism of the government and public officials including the President himself is very essential in a democratic society. Indeed the Zambian Constitution underscores the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of the press by enshrining it in Article 20 of the Constitution. And the provisions in the Penal Code which limit freedom of expression and freedom of the press appear to me to admit of criticism. Section 69 does not anywhere say that nobody will speak or publish anything of the President. The sections dealing with sedition and criminal libel also admit of criticism. And the provisions in the Defamation Act Cap 70 of the Laws of Zambia provide immunity against libel suits in certain circumstances. The crisp issue is therefore what kind of criticism is allowed. [Underline for emphasis]

Proponents of the laws suggest that they exist to enhance respect for the office of the President and the presidency and especially that the laws bar the President from commencing either civil or criminal proceedings against persons who might defame him. Opponents have long suggested, as the defence in the above case submitted, that the President does not require protection under our constitutional set up where the President is a leader of a political party with an interest to serve and not above politics and therefore criticism of him of the worst kind is indispensable because it is an occupational hazard for anybody who takes up the office of the President. To accord a President special protection that the President can defame a citizen and not expect a citizen to do the same is discriminatory and illogical. Can the President be allowed to defame people knowing very well that he or she is protected under Article 98 from any form of proceeding and not expect citizens to reciprocate?

NEED FOR REFORMS?

I am an avid supporter of the respect for the Presidency and removing such laws may drown that office into chaos as every Jim and Jack may defame the President at will. If lessons are to be learnt, the situation in the United States and South Africa where the President can be defamed insulted at will, Zambia needs a pragmatic approach to balance the interests of the people to exercise free speech and criticize the President and the President's rights to be protected from unwarranted and malicious attacks. In my earnest view, the law needs reform but to what extent I have no clue. All I know is that respect for the President is cardinal in a democratic and civilized society. But can the President be also tamed to avoid him or her defaming others? Should citizens be allowed to reply when defamed by the President in a proportional manner?



The author, Joseph Chirwa is a lecturer and researcher of law at the University of Lusaka where he currently teaches Administrative Law. The views in this article are his and do not in any way represent those of his employer and/or professional bodies to which he belongs

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu will be wasting time by attempting to constitute a commission of inquiry into the privatisation process because it remains a non-issue among Zambians, says Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba.

And Kalaba says the PF should just get in the battleground and campaign ahead of the 2021 elections instead of using ill methods to disqualify others from contesting the coming general elections.

Last week, President Edgar Lungu said it was only a matter of time before he constituted a commission of inquiry into the controversial privatisation process after students petitioned him at State House to do so.

In an interview, Kalaba, however, said President Lungu was wasting time by attempting to constitute a commission of inquiry into the privatisation process because it remained a non-issue as most Zambians were not concerned about it in view of the escalating cost of living that government had failed to address.

"The President is wasting our time. People want mealie meal prices to go down. Electricity tariffs are high; when you buy K100 worth of units, they finish before you know it. Those are the problems that people want to be sorted out. Why

Privatisation being used to knock others out of 2021 race – Kalaba

isn't he talking about opening Mulungushi Textiles, which has been abandoned? Why isn't he talking about paying retirees? Why isn't he taking interest in Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia, which is not performing to full capacity? What kind of leadership is this? We are in politics, let us go and meet in the battleground. We don't want ill methods of trying to disqualify others for no apparent reason. Let us all mobilise ourselves and talk to the people. If you have worked, why do you want to use ill methods anyway? So, if there is an issue of privatisation, it is in court, let the court deal with it and then we will know," said Kalaba.

"We don't condone illegality, we don't condone criminality, but I think the person who wants to push the agenda is ill-suited to push this agenda. Yes, something might have gone wrong in the privatisation, something might have not been done right. But is the person pushing it the right reason? You have to come to equity with clean hands. Yes, even now, people have died as a result of buying a jet, instead of getting that money to pay retirees. Even then, people might have died but it is a process that can be looked at. But right now, what is so urgent is that we should have the

electoral process put right. We need to ensure that this sham of voter's registration is dealt with."

Speaking when he received a petition from students at State House, President Lungu announced that he would soon constitute a commission of inquiry to delve into the privatisation process, adding that the matter needed to be put to rest and that those found wanting would be answerable to the law.

"This matter has been on people's minds and discussions have been held in various places. I have also had people pushing me on the subject matter. But like I said, the will of the people reigns supreme. Section 2 of the Inquiries Act allows me to set up a commission of inquiry and I am not obliged to consult anybody. But having heard the voices... across the country, north, east, south and west, throughout the country, I will take time to reflect on this matter. And I will make a few consultations. What you have given me is a petition of signatures without giving terms of reference so I will have to sit with those who are versed with the matter of privatisation, historically, and those who are versed with the law to tell me what would be the terms of reference for the commission. Then, we move in accordance with what the law provides," said President Lungu.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme is a fraud and meant to keep beneficiaries in perpetual poverty because vulnerable people cannot survive on an increment of only K20 per month, says Dr Sketchily Sacika.

According to the 2021 national budget, the amount under the traditional SCT programme per household is expected to be increased to K110 from the current K90 per month, while the number of beneficiaries is projected to increase to 994,000 households next year from the current 700,000 households.

But in an interview, Dr Sacika described the K20 increment announced by Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu in his budget speech as "a big joke".

"The Minister of Finance announced in his budget speech that the government had decided to increase the Social Cash Transfer benefits to slightly over K100 per month. My view is that, in its present form, the Social Cash Transfer scheme is a big joke and a political fraud because it is not intended to address the poverty of the people, but to cheat or give the impression to Zambians that government is concerned about addressing the poverty of the people. The cash payments made under the scheme are laughable and ridiculous and are not intended to alleviate the poverty of the beneficiaries,

Social Cash Transfer scheme a fraud - Sacika



but to keep the beneficiaries in perpetual poverty," Dr Sacika said.

"No responsible government, in my view, can operate such a scheme; only a government of men and women who don't care or who does not know what they are doing can operate such a scheme. With the massive devaluation of the kwacha, how can K100, which is equivalent to US \$5 a month, satisfy the basic needs of anybody? It's impossible, it's laughable."

He further urged Zambians to reject the scheme in its current form and demand for an increase in the benefits paid.

"Zambians must reject the scheme in its present form and demand that the benefits paid under the scheme are raised to a level where they will satisfy the basic needs of the beneficiaries. Zambians must also demand that the administration of the scheme is depoliticised. We cannot have our taxpayers' money used to buy political support or to buy votes, this is unacceptable," Dr Sacika added.

"Any social security scheme, which doesn't address the basic needs of the beneficiaries is a useless and big fraud! Apart from the ridiculous and

laughable cash payments, the Social Cash Transfer scheme does not cover everybody who should be covered, it is done selectively and the payments under the scheme are not paid regularly. Sometimes, according to the Trends Report, the beneficiaries go for over a year without receiving their payment! The scheme has also been politicised at present, but next year it will be revised in order to bribe the people to vote for PF"

He also said the SCT scheme was an indictment on the PF government, which showed how unconcerned it was about the welfare of vulnerable Zambians.

"The character of any nation is judged by how its leaders treat the vulnerable members of society. The Social Cash Transfer scheme is an indictment on the PF government! It shows just how unconcerned the government is about the welfare of the people. I must repeat, the Social Cash Transfer scheme is not a favour the government is doing to the people of Zambia, it's not a favour at all; the scheme is an obligation the government has because the government is there for the benefit of the people and not for the benefit of the government," said Dr Sacika.

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So, what have we achieved from the \$5m paid to the debt consultant?

In May this year, Zambia issued a call for financial advisors to help the country in restructuring its debt and managing all loans maturing from 2021 and beyond. This was after a Cabinet decision made in December 2019 to engage financial advisors in Zambia's quest to strengthen liability management of the debt portfolio. Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba picked a French company called Lazard Freres to provide advisory services on how to handle the country's debt liabilities at a cost of US\$5 million (about K100 million).

Last week, we heard government announce that the country is not able to meet its obligations on Eurobond interest payment, and is asking bondholders to accept a six-month delay, a plea that has since been rejected on grounds that the Zambian government has not been transparent about its actual debt position.

"As part of action taken towards the

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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debt sustainability goal, Zambia is in the process of assessing the proposals received following our recently issued tender request for financial advisory services on asset and liability management of the country's debt portfolio. The call for tenders has since closed and the process of shortlisting and finally selecting a financial advisor will soon be completed," said Dr Bwalya Ng'andu in a statement.

When this decision to pay US\$5,000,000 to a debt consultant was made, we expressed concern that it was a waste of money. Our issue was that the Patriotic Front regime has had such an insatiable appetite for borrowing that they don't care about the

implications any more.

We warned that no debt consultant could help Zambia out of this situation because the government was not committed to debt sustainability. Our debt portfolio has been a moving target for years. When the Minister announces in the morning that the current external debt stock is US \$11.2 billion, by afternoon, that figure has gone up. There has not been any stop to borrowing and there has not been any slowing down in unprioritized spending. So, in our view, there was very little or nothing a debt consultant could do because the default on loans was inevitable.

We do not think that Zambia needed a middleman to tell

us how to manage the debt problem, the answer lies in the Cabinet of the Patriotic Front. We warned that the same problem that the IMF has with Zambia is the same problem that this debt consultant would face with Zambia because Zambia's debt is a moving target.

As we speak today, the government has made a commitment to pay US\$5 million to the debt consultant. So the question is, how has that helped us? What are we expecting to benefit from that? Like was stated, Zambia will end up owing, not only the creditors, but the same debt image-builder as well because the debt mountain we have created cannot be dismantled when more loans are being contracted. At the

pace we are going, our government will fail to pay the debt consult and it will look for another debt consultant to manage our debt with debt consultants.

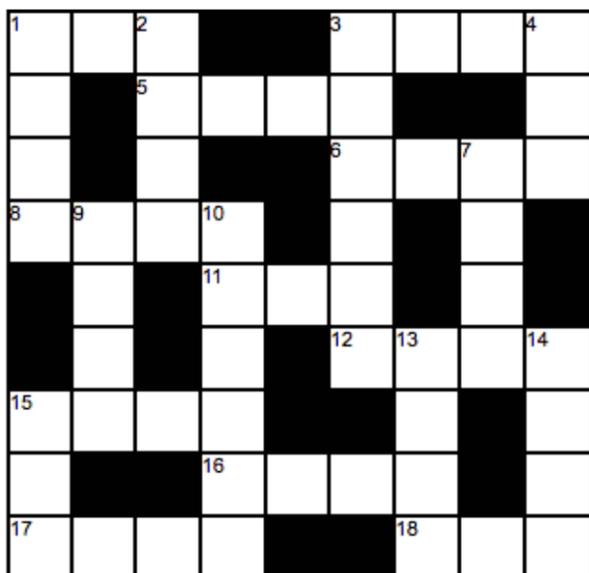
The PF debt problems start with the failure to be truthful about how much the country owes. First, the PF government has to show transparency and admit that it has been making mistakes with the endless borrowing which did not even get Parliament approval. Repenting means realizing that too much borrowing is bad, realizing that spending without a plan is wrong. Once they confess their mistakes and demonstrate through action that they have truly stopped the reckless spending, then they will make

progress towards debt sustainability.

Now, it is beyond any logical comprehension how this PF government operates. Its addiction to debt contraction and reckless spending is what has destroyed Zambia, nothing else. We simply have an irresponsible government in place which doesn't deserve to be in charge of public resources.

These years that we are complaining about, where total national debt has moved to US\$18.5 billion, have not been campaign years. One can only imagine how much more debt the government will accrue to meet its financial obligations ahead of the 2021 elections. Already, when you look at the budget for 2021, this government is planning to finance about 40 per cent of the budget heads on borrowed money. Which foolish organisation is going to accept to lend money to such a reckless government?

Crossword puzzle No 707



"Plants are more courageous than almost all human beings: an orange tree would rather die than produce lemons, whereas instead of dying the average person would rather be someone they are not."
- Mokokoma Mokhonoana

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More than chubby 3. Shoe filler 5. Army no-show 6. Telltale sign 8. Dance movement 11. Dazzle 12. Mantas 15. Elm or oak 16. Between shoulders and head 17. Camper's shelter 18. It rises and sets | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needless concern 2. Not wild 3. Rose or lily 4. Sardine container 7. Not difficult 9. Split apart 10. Mom or Pop 13. Poses questions 14. Largest organ 15. Preschooler |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Crossword puzzle No 706



Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: The scramble for military recruitment

Editor,

"As long as human beings are involved, corruption will be the order of the day, 99.9% of those letters will not even be opened, less than 1% of those who applied will be selected and 99.9% of those who never applied will be in the military come January! If they wanted the system to be clean, they should use a computer generated rotary". - Che Guavara

"The PF government should just reverse the retirement age back to 55 years from 65 to leave room for the ballooning youth population". - Roderick Mwansa

"The struggle is real in this country". - Winston Kameya

"They think we are fools smearing recruitment, Let them continue, One day they are going to bite their fingers". - Iden Mweetwa

"When the youths were promised 500,000 new jobs, no one mentioned 12 points or below". - Coswell Banda

"Each province must be given a quarter to employ, Or else the usual immaterial foolish things of the mind will play centerstage!" - Howard Chilundika

The illegal RTSA speed camera contract scandle

Editor,

"And there is no investigation, no reprisals, no responsibility, none of what happens in a respected democracy in response to a matter involving a colossal chunk of the National Treasury. Meanwhile, the sinless Humble One is looking to inquire into possible corruption in ancient files!" - Mudukula Mudukula

"In short it was illegal. Affected Motorists need to be refunded". - Bernard Daliso Tembo

"In other countries, people would get refunded. This is a government that facilitates the robbing of its citizens either by commission or omission and the public cheers!" - Mukala Kabwela

"And the man is roaming Scot free and even attempting to run as MP on the ruling party ticket. You are special!" - Hlupo Ziba

"Yet the guy is Scot free and government has lost money. This country is a joke". - Jones Mulunga

"The CEO can't approve and sign that Contract alone without the Minister in Charge of RTSA, the Board members and Attorney General's approval. So, the question is, what has happened to the Minister, Board members and Attorney General? This Government is not serious with fighting corruption in it's offices and Parastatals. Infact, we will not be shocked to see that contract reinstated once PF wins 2021 elections". - Kelvin Chiti

"This is one of the issues that people should have petitioned the President to form an inquiry if we were serious as a Country". - Wesley Hachisibike

"If the CEO signed the contract illegally where is he today?? His even campaigning

in eastern province wanting to stand as an MP, our country has really been destroyed mweh!!!" - Reuben H Siwila

'Police are impotent in nabbing PF cadres for damaging UPND property'

Dear editor,

"Police are impotent when it comes to PF cadres but quickly lift their tails when they hear UPND involved. PF police we understand PF cadres have more powers than you. Very embarrassing but its the sad truth". - Noritah Mwanza

"That is not good at all. For once, police should try to be above board. Scared of being fired as if there is no life beyond employment... What the hell!" - Kool Int

"You haven't arrested PF Cadres because you didn't get permission to do so. PF Cadres are immune and can commit any criminal acts with or without police presence". - Brian Kayongo

This is why HH keeps on saying that you should defend yourselves tactically, PF cadres will never stop this kind of behaviour no matter what". - Reuben H Siwila

"You have managed to arrest

people who were 'trying to damage' but failed to arrest those who managed to destroy opposition's property. This is totally unacceptable.. Dont forget that all of them are Zambians". - Mulemwa Kabila

"How can Police arrest themselves? PF thugs and Police are one and the same imwe ba PF Spokesperson. Soon government will change ukayisanga Multi mwamomeni!" - Christopher Kalima



'Mpundu right on Lungu's govt being worse than colonialism'

Editor,

"Very true, our president is very strange. He really doesn't like opposing views that's why everything is now in a mess. Secondly, who are his advisors kanshi?!" - Josh Godwin Musuku

"I totally agree with the Archbishop. This government is more ruthless and savage to anyone with a different view from their own. Immediately you give a different view then to them you are a sworn enemy". - Agrey Siyunda

"Lungu looks as humble as the Virgin Mary but he is as btrual as King Herod in terms of eliminating political threats. He surmonises peace

and allows thugs to operate and roam free!" - Richard Waga

"Its fear that governs PF and their actions... everything is based on fear.. persecution of citizens, shutting down media, imprisoning opposition, Bill 10, refusing to grant permits, expenditure on military, privatisation enquiry, armed cadres ..fear.. fear.. fear!" - Chiko Nathan Mwinga

"In the USA it is the White Police Killing and Arresting Black Lives. While in Zambia its PF under the direction of President Lungu who are Killing and Arresting those with divergent views from them. The people are forced to see 'development in long speeches as if they have no eyes to see for themselves or brains to think for themselves". - Christopher Kalima

"I'm not celebrating independence this year ... Not under this worthless government!" - Ray Junior

"Mpundu & Mambo are really patriots. Always standing on the truth". - Anord Boncar

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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By Ulande Nkomeshu
HOME Affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo says the police reserve who shot dead a 17-year-old Kamanga resident has been arrested and charged with murder.

And Kampyongo says six rioters who ran amok in Kamanga compound have been arrested and will soon appear in court.

Delivering a ministerial statement in Parliament on the shooting incidents in Kamanga and Mwinilunga,

Police reserve who shot Kamanga boy charged with murder, reveals Kampyongo

Wednesday, Kampyongo said the police reserve's action was unprofessional as he acted with negligence.

Two weeks ago, a police reserve shot a 17-year-old boy in Kamanga compound as officers tried to close down a bar which was operating

beyond the stipulated hours, causing a spate of riots in the area.

A similar incident happened in Mwinilunga on September 26 where protestors attacked police officers while they were trying to restore law and order, leading to the

shooting of one protestor.

"Investigations were immediately instituted in the matter and the police reserve officer involved in the shooting of a juvenile has since been arrested and charged with murder. Six rioters have also been arrested and they will also appear before the courts of law. Investigations in this matter are ongoing. One officer who had been assigned to pick up the body of the deceased was also injured in the process. Further, the rioters facilitated the escape of 11 suspects, 10 males and one female, who were facing various criminal charges. Out of the 11 escapees, two have since been re-arrested and detained at Chelstone police station," Kampyongo said.

"Loss of lives is regrettable and it does not please us at all when we see people lose lives. Mr Speaker, I want to bring to your attention that the life we lost in Mwinilunga is a person who was a close relative to the Inspector General of Police and so you can understand how much we are equally concerned. [In Kamanga], the reason why the police reserve was arrested is because the circumstances surrounding that action are bordering on negligence. As you know, Mr Speaker, police reservists are not supposed to use firearms in operations, they are supposed to be in the company of officers that are substantive police officers. So there were some aspects of negligence, this is the reason why that particular individual has been arrested. So the situation could have been dealt with differently if the officers applied themselves professionally as expected of them."

He added that the procurement of new police equipment would help police officers in handling crowd control.

Kampyongo further explained that the use of firearms varied with the situation that the police officers were faced with.

"Yes, indeed, the officers are trained to use equipment, including firearms, and they are gazetted. There are laws world over on this, legally allowed to use firearms. Why? Because the criminality they deal with varies. There are also criminals who use weapons and therefore, you can't expect a police officer to go with a short button to deal with a criminal who is using a firearm. But I want to assure you, through you Mr Speaker, that you have seen of late the Minister of Home Affairs procuring modern equipment for the Zambia Police Service. All this is meant to lessen the usage of firearms in dealing with situations. Most of the equipment we have gotten for them is the same equipment that will deal with crowd control and restoration of law and order, so you will see the change. Currently, officers are getting oriented on how to use this equipment effectively. But it is world over, police are gazetted to use firearms," Kampyongo said.

"Mr Speaker, circumstances vary and that is why we advise people to be civil in dealing with situations... Where officers, according to procedures, are able to disperse the crowd and the crowd abides, normally, we don't experience casualties. We only experience casualties when the rioters...put the lives of officers at risk. Like the circumstances I gave in Mwinilunga where you have got this mob wielding all sorts of offensive weapons, the officers have the responsibility to defend themselves and defend other members of the public and also property. So where it is determined that

officers used wrong judgement and investigations prove so, there are remedial measures that are in place for both victims and those that could have been found wanting. It doesn't please us to see an officer on duty being arrested on a capital offence like murder. So, it is important that we advise our people to be law abiding citizens. Certainly, where there is a breakdown of order, you can't avoid collateral damage."

And the minister said his Ministry was facing a number of challenges in the issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs).

"Government has noted with great concern that some members of parliament and political party agents are not collaborating with district administration offices and thereby making the work of my officers very difficult. The challenges being faced by my officers include ferrying of applicants. Applicants are being ferried from areas yet to be visited by the mobile teams to the current centers. This situation inconveniences the public and the officers because instead of waiting in their local areas, the people are made to camp at issuance centers. Some people are literally sleeping at issuance centers in most districts instead of waiting for officers to visit their areas. The officers cannot even sleep at night as queues form as early as 02:00 hours," Kampyongo said.

"Intimidation of officers: there has been heightened intimidation and harassment of officers by some MPs, councillors and party agents. For example, in Kanyama constituency of Lusaka Province, the registration process was disrupted and officers attacked by suspected cadres. This is counter-productive and not necessary as information, enquiries or concerns pertaining to the exercise should be made to the district commissioners at district levels, or permanent secretaries at provincial level or indeed my office; and law enforcement officers will be on hand to deal with perpetrators."

He added that the spreading of falsehoods on the exercise was another challenge.

"Some unscrupulous people are charging for affidavit forms and filling them in advance, particularly in Lusaka district. This is not only unacceptable but illegal. I have instructed officers not to accept already completed forms and I want to warn would be offenders that they will be brought to book," said Kampyongo.

"Some suspected political agents have been flooding communities, spreading falsehoods about the exercise. They are telling people that the exercise will not be extended to all areas and that it will end before the expiry of the prescribed 40 days. This has caused panic in the public and has made people to be suspicious of officers. Further, the same people are going round communities with loud speakers announcing national registration card messages when they are not government officials authorized to do so. Let me warn those spreading falsehoods that the law will take its course."

We'll ensure the right thing is done on voter registration - LAZ

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) has expressed concern over the lack of awareness by the general public on the voter registration exercise and the timelines set, which may prove to be a challenge.

And the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says 2020/2021 is going to be a rough patch for them as there will be a lot of challenges arising from deliberate misrepresentations.

In a report issued by LAZ secretary Sokwani Chilembo after paying a courtesy call on the ECZ, Tuesday, the association said it was concerned with the lack of awareness by the general public and urged the Commission to invest in visibility.

"Your Council also expressed its concern on the lack of awareness by the general public on the voter registration exercise, and the timelines set, which may prove to be a challenge. Your Council urged the Commission to invest more in visibility, awareness, and stakeholder engagement as there is no luxury of time for the process. LAZ recognizes that the Commission plays a very cardinal role in this country. It superintends a critical process in which leaders are chosen to lead the Nation. LAZ's view is that if the process goes wrong, the country is set ablaze. Therefore, LAZ wants to ensure that the right thing is done. LAZ is concerned about good image and acceptability, as the integrity of the Commission will be judged by perceptions. LAZ also appealed to the Commission to take on board as many people when it comes to the consultative process, and encouraged the Commission to be as consultative as possible," Chilembo stated

He also disclosed that the association

had been invited by the ECZ to nominate 20 of its members who would represent it at the Operationalization of the Right to Vote for Persons in Lawful Custody" consultative meeting to be held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre this Friday.

Meanwhile, Chilembo stated that the commission said 2020 to 2021 was expected to be a rough patch as there would be so many challenges arising from misrepresentations.

"The Commission indicated that there are matters which are straight forward, but are turning political. This is making the execution of its mandate difficult. The rationale behind online voter registration is to capture as many people as possible, especially the younger generation that do not want to waste time during registration. There are 8,999 polling stations which will have the physical registration process available. The Commission reiterated that it means well, and has no desire or means to manipulate the election results. It is the Commission's view that perhaps, some leaders are laying a foundation just in case things do not go their way, hence the criticism they are facing," he stated.

And Chilembo added that the commission had invited the association to support it whenever it was unfairly attacked.

"The Commission is counting on LAZ to support it when it is unfairly under attack because the Commissioners cannot defend themselves publicly. Therefore, the door is very much open to LAZ anytime, and that the Association must feel free to engage the Commission over any concerns it may have. Equally, the Commission requested that LAZ's door should also be left open to it," stated Chilembo.

SADC elections monitoring body objects to new voters' register

From P4

Currently the number of registered voters is 6,698,372. There is no doubt that the register needs to be updated so as to remove names of dead people and also include new names of people who are now qualified to vote as per the constitution. Our expectations are that the ECZ only need to identify those that are deceased and remove them from the register, include those that now qualify to vote on the voters' register and update polling stations for voters who have shifted to different locations away from where they have been voting from. Information about those who died whose names need to be removed from the voters' register is available from council offices across the country. Instead of doing that, the ECZ announced that they will delete the entire voters' register and come up with a new voters' register without consulting major stakeholders," it stated.

"The problem with deleting the entire voters' register and coming up with a new one is that everyone who is already registered as a voter will need to show up and re-register again implying that the over 6 million people already on the register will need to present themselves to the ECZ before

they can vote. In preparations for the 2011 general elections the ECZ initially conducted mobile registration for 90 days starting on 21 June 2010 but because of the slow issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs) and the lack of publicity of the registration exercise, the ECZ extended registration for 72 days, from 19th September, 2010 to 30th November, 2010,"

The board said that increasing the numbers of voters takes time and one month was not sufficient.

"Similarly, in preparation for the 2016 general election, the ECZ held a registration drive from 14th September, 2015, to 29th February, 2016, to update the 2011 register of voters. Mobile teams conducted the voter registration drive, travelling to polling centres across the country. The Carter Center did not observe the voter registration process; however, CCMG, a local CSO, did observe and concluded that the registration process was adequate," read the letter.

"The verification exercise took place from 15th May, 2016 to 25th May, 2016, and was extended from seven to 11 days after political parties criticised the ECZ for not providing voters with sufficient time to verify their details. This voter registration exercise which

lasted a period of 5 month brought an additional of 1,531,198 voters unto the voters' register and the final number of registered voters thus stood at 6,698,372 voters in 2016. It is also important to note that both in 2011 and 2016, the voters' register was only being updated to remove dead people, include new voters and update polling stations for those that had shifted from places where they previously were voting from. It is clear that in the two cases cited increasing the number of voters took a lot of time,"

It said the online pre-registration of voters had no legal backing.

"The ECZ announced that it will conduct voter registration exercise for 34 days once the ongoing online pre-registration exercise is over. The question that now arises is, what has suddenly changed with the ECZ that it will manage to register nine million voters on an entirely new register within 34 days when past experiences have clearly shown that it has taken the commission longer periods to register under two million voters? SGGEM is of the view that from this is not attainable. Instead of having a clean and credible voters' register, a lot of people will end up being disenfranchised should the ECZ go ahead to delete the voters' register

and create a new register. The ECZ may argue that the voter registration process will be faster owing to the online pre-registration process they have embarked on. There is a problem to this however. Firstly, online pre-registration of voters has no legal backing in the Constitution or otherwise at least as of the time the process was started," read the letter.

Meanwhile, the board said the online pre-registration would not speed up the voter registration process.

"The next issue is that mobile and data network services providers have not covered the country very adequately. A lot of places, especially rural areas, remain inadequately covered by the 4G network to enable people to upload the required documents on the online pre-registration exercise and so people have difficulties to successfully do the online pre-registration exercise. Another very important reason is that literacy levels in Zambia stand at 55.3%. It therefore means that 44.7% of the people are illiterate and will mainly be unable to follow up with the instruction to enable them do online pre-registration on their own. Based on these reasons, it is clear that online pre-registration is not only illegal but will also not speed up the voter registration process," the letter read.

Liverpool star Mohamed Salah's has been described as a "real-life hero" after stepping in to stop the abuse of a homeless man near Anfield.

In late September, Salah pulled up to a petrol station in Liverpool and noticed a homeless man, David Craig, being verbally harassed by a small group.

Not liking what he saw, the Egyptian star intervened, warned the abusers that they could one day face a similar fate and handed the homeless man some money.

The gesture, which was caught on CCTV, clearly meant a lot to the man in question, who has now paid tribute to Salah for stepping in on his behalf when many others wouldn't have.

"Mo was every bit as wonderful as he is for Liverpool on the pitch," Mr

Liverpool star Salah praised after stopping abuse of homeless man

Craig was quoted by The Sun.

"He heard what a group of lads were saying to me, then turned to them and said, 'That could be you in a few years'. I only knew I wasn't hallucinating when Mo incredibly handed me £100. What a complete legend.

"Mo had seen a couple of the lads hassling me. They were calling me names, asking why I was begging and telling me to get a job.

"He saw what was happening and said something to them and then he went to the cash

machine. I was more than chuffed. I'm a massive fan.

"Mo is a real-life hero in my eyes and I want to thank him."

Salah's heroic moment came on the same night that Liverpool defeated Arsenal 3-1 in the Premier League with the attacker playing the full 90 minutes that night at Anfield.

The Reds winger is well known for his charitable efforts having funded the construction of a medical centre and a school for girls in Egypt two years ago.

More recently, the star paid tribute to Moamen

Zakaria by imitating his trademark celebration after the Al Ahly midfielder was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral

Sclerosis (ALS) - a disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, and means Zakaria will not be able to play football again.

On the pitch, Salah has enjoyed a strong start to the 2020-21 season, scoring five goals from just four league games so far. **GOAL**

Barcelona supremo Bartomeu faces vote of no confidence

A VOTE of no confidence against Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu is set to go ahead after club members reached the required amount of signatures for the motion to go through.

A total of 20,687 names were submitted against the club president on September 17, with the validation of those signatures having started on September 29.

At least 16,521 confirmed votes (10 per cent of total members) were required for the motion of censure to be put into motion and Goal can confirm that the number of validated signatures has now exceeded that amount after nine days of counting.

It should be added that all of the original 20,687 votes must be checked before moving forward, which is expected to be completed before October 10.

Once that is out of the way, Barcelona will have 10-20 business days to find a date for a presidential referendum. It is unclear at this juncture as to when the referendum will take place, but it is thought that it will not be any earlier than mid-November.

In the referendum itself, 66 per cent of votes will be required to oust Bartomeu from his position.

The motion, which is backed by presidential candidates Victor Font, Jordi Farre and Lluís Fernandez-Ala, as well as eight Blaugrana fan groups, comes in the wake of Bartomeu's perceived poor handling of the club's affairs.

Indeed, several dreadful transfer windows have seen



the club's on-field quality drop drastically, with the exit of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain in 2017 an early catalyst for the troubles at Camp Nou. **GOAL**

Manchester United failed to land any of Solskjaer's targets



SANCHO, Grealish, Ake & Upamecano were all on the manager's list.

Manchester United failed to sign any of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's transfer targets in the summer window, ESPN reports.

The Red Devils' interest in Jadon Sancho was well documented, while the likes of Jack Grealish, Nathan Ake and Dayot Upamecano were also on the Norwegian's list of preferred targets.

Despite failing to land any of those players, Solskjaer apparently sanctioned the new arrivals that ultimately did arrive at Old Trafford, including Edinson Cavani and Donny van de Beek. **GOAL**

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Cavani eyes Boca move after Man Utd adventure

EDINSON Cavani has revealed that he is keen on a move to Argentine giants Boca Juniors after his stint with Manchester United ends.

Cavani has only just signed with the Red Devils, joining as a free agent on Monday after spending seven seasons with PSG.

The 33-year-old signed an initial one-year contract with the option of a further 12 months and is set to earn €11 million (£10m/\$13m) per season at Old Trafford.

Prior to joining United, Cavani has said he was in discussions with Boca vice president Juan Roman

Riquelme over a possible move to Argentina.

"Roman wrote to me with great respect, he wanted to know how I was in this situation, with a very particular salary and we had a very respectful talk," Cavani told ESPN. "Boca is a giant of the world, any footballer would like to play there. There have been several Uruguayans that have played there. Following the history of our football arouses curiosity a bit.

"There are some secrets from the conversation with Roman, you have to ask him if he wants to tell

them. We will see what happens in the future. It would be very nice to be able to play at Boca one day."

Although Cavani, who has taken the famous No.7 shirt at United, insisted he is focused on his current club, he is also contemplating when he wants to return to South America.

"I have a two-year contract with Manchester United. I want to do my best here. I feel good," Cavani continued. "The day I return to South America is not going to be when I have nothing left to give. I am realistic, I want to play until I

feel good. I will play these two years and see if I continue or go back to South America."

Cavani revealed on Tuesday that he nearly quit football this summer after he and his girlfriend battled Covid-19.

"Your family's health comes first," Cavani told Argentine radio program Dos de Punta. "Of course I considered the idea of quitting football. It is true that I managed that option and that possibility to stop playing and stay in the countryside, dedicate myself to my life in the countryside." **GOAL**



I DIDN'T MISS 2 FLIGHTS - CHAMA

By Ngosa Chalwe
VETOED Chipolopolo midfielder Clatous Chama was on Tuesday short of calling Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic a liar for stating

that the player missed two flights when called to national team.
On Tuesday, Chama and striker Aubrey Chirwa got on the last nerve of

Micho after they failed to make it to Chipolopolo camp after allegedly missing two flights.
An infuriated Micho told a briefing at Football

House that he was forced to drop the Tanzania based players after they missed a flight on two occasions.
"Players from Tanzania were supposed to travel on

Monday night, however, they have missed the flight. We have been flexible and set another flight for [Tuesday Morning]. They have missed the

flight again now they are asking to come tomorrow [Wednesday] and whatsoever.
When someone comes from Russia 10,000km away and someone is here bordering us with all due respect based on that pillar that I told you I will not allow that anyone is bigger than the nation," Micho said.

"Therefore, with my unilateral decision supported by this institution, I have decided that I remove from these matches until further notice the gentlemen Chama Clatous and Aubrey Chirwa. We wish all the best to them but there is no person that is bigger than the nation and we cannot allow this."

However, it appears Chama did not take kindly Micho's comment and responded with a statement on his verified Facebook page on Tuesday night.

The skillful but hot tempered midfielder said: "The truth is that I didn't miss two flights and I talked to the coach before our game in Dodoma and explained to him that it wasn't possible for me to make it on the first flight that I got [because] it was at 03am on Monday and our game was at 4pm on Sunday in Dodoma. The distance from Dodoma to Dar is 8 hrs and either way the team had no arrangements of us travelling all the way back to Dar after the match. I got my second ticket for today and departure time was 8:45pm in the morning and while I was preparing for my trip, I was told that I should not travel around 3pm," Chama wrote.

He maintained that he did not miss two flights.

"I don't agree with many Zambians who believe that I don't have discipline. But I didn't miss any of the two flights that I got. Thank you so much I wish the Zambia National team nothing but the best and success, (patriotism)," said Chama.



Are you eligible to register to vote?

www.ovr.elections.org.zm

18 yrs +

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

Zambian

Are you a Zambian citizen?

Green NRC

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



#VotingSquad