



Political situation is tense - KBF

By Joseph Mwenya and Tenson Mkhala in Kabwe
DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba, his Movement for Democratic Change counterpart Felix Mutati and PF 2021 aspiring presidential

candidate Kelvin Bwalya Fube yesterday commemorated the National Day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation at Saint Johns United Church of Zambia congregation in Chimanamani, Kabwe.

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Movement for Democratic Change leader Felix Mutati(l) with Kelvin Bwalya Fube during the day of national prayer at Bwacha UCZ in Kabwe yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mtayachalo, others ditch Nawakwi's FDD

By Natasha Sakala

YOTAM Mtayachalo, Solomon Mbuzi and the entire Chama North ward and constituency executive committees have resigned from the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) citing poor leadership among other things.

In a letter dated October 13, 2020, Mtayachalo stated that following a meeting, the entire Chama North and South constituency and district leadership resolved to resign from the party.

"Following recent unfortunate developments in the party, failure to embark on party mobilization activities in readiness for the 2021 general election..."

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POLICE U-TURN

ON HH SUMMON

...as UPND vows not to surrender him for interrogations

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

POLICE Spokesperson Esther Katongo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is not among the the party officials who have been summoned by police in Muchinga Province.

This came after UPND supporters vowed to escort Hichilema to Mpika where he had been summoned for interrogation in connection

with the abduction of two police officers.

On Thursday last week, Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja claimed that two police officers from Mpika Police Station were

abducted by UPND cadres who were in the company of Hichilema.

A day later, Muchinga Province Police Commissioner Joel Njase told News Diggers in an interview that Hichilema

had been summoned to appear before police in Mpika in order to assist with investigations in the abduction case.

When asked if Hichilema was one of those that had been summoned, Njase responded

in the affirmative.

"Yes, we have summoned him. Like I earlier on hinted that for now we are investigating the incident that happened. Once we hear their..."

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Multitudes pray for economy, unity

By Julia Malunga

MULTITUDES yesterday gathered at Lusaka Showgrounds to commemorate the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation.

The commemoration, which was held under the theme "Zambia Seeks God's Intervention for Sustained National Unity, Peace and Prosperity", was graced by President Edgar Lungu and other senior government officials.

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Handling of Covid donations worries TIZ

Story page 5

Mutati should tame Mulusa before he dents his persona – Sunday

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PF MEDIA director Sunday Chanda says Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) president Felix Mutati should tame his secretary general Lucky Mulusa's excitement before it becomes injurious to his persona.

And Chanda says the PF wants democracy to thrive and would hate to see MDC's lifespan shredded to pieces before it starts to walk.

Meanwhile, Chanda says no right thinking member of the PF would want to join MDC because it is a party led by people who were fired from government.

Last week, Mulusa said Zambia is right in the last stages of a failed State.

Mulusa, whose last post in government was Minister of National Development Planning, also revealed that he broke ranks with the Patriotic Front after noticing that collective

responsibility was turning into collective irresponsibility among government officials that he was working with.

But in an interview, Chanda said Mulusa failed to comprehend collective responsibility the whole time he served in government.

"We have welcomed the formation of MDC because it is testimony that contrary to what the doom sayers have been propagating, Zambia's democratic space is not shrinking but it is growing. Those who believe that the democratic space in Zambia is shrinking are those who have outlived their usefulness to the democratic equation of this

country and they cannot offer any relevance anymore. And I don't think they must bring it to the democratic space. They must leave it on their inability to reinvent themselves. The democratic space in this country is growing and flourishing. When you see new political parties being birthed and of course some of those forming them are people who have been in the democratic space for some time. We can pride ourselves as the Patriotic Front and say that we have scored well in terms of growing Zambia's democratic space," Chanda said.

"And unfortunately, for the whole period that Mr Mulusa served as either an advisor to the president or as cabinet minister, he failed to comprehend one thing called collective responsibility. It is immoral that Mr Lucky Mulusa will today wish to project himself as an angel of light when the decisions which were made were made under the binding of the collective agreements. I am happy that his leader honorable Felix Mutati understands collective responsibility better than his secretary general Mr Mulusa."

Chanda said Mulusa was probably under the influence of alcohol when he described those fire trucks as wheelbarrows.

"And I want to place it on record that probably, Mr Mulusa was drunk when he made those remarks about the 48 fire engines. Mr Mulusa was 1/10, I believe that he was probably drunk when he made those remarks because as minister, he was expected to understand tender processes, procurement procedures better than any other person. But clearly I think speaking off the

cuff and under the influence of something and I would want to suspect it was under the influence of beer, he made outrageous remarks as a senior government official showing that we were dealing with someone who was incapable of comprehending collective responsibility, and also to understand that there are institutions set up by law to oversee tender procurement processes and that that is not the doing of the president. But clearly here is a man who did not understand what he was up to," Chanda said.

And Chanda said Mutati should tame Mulusa's excitement before it causes damage to his persona.

"Let me advise Mr Mulusa that his attempt to drag the former Finance minister in his rhetoric might just prove to be more injurious in the long run for Honourable Mutati. And we advise Honourable Mutati

to ensure that he zips Mulusa's mouth and if he can tame and manage his excitement because he can cause irreparable damage to the persona of Honourable Mutati," Chanda said.

Chanda said the MDC should focus on issues if it wants to remain relevant in politics, warning that failure to do so might cause casualties.

"And we also want to place on record here that Zambia will rise above its current challenges including this COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the economy and the adverse effects we're feeling today. Mr Mulusa is being hypocritical when he talks about government borrowing because had government not borrowed, the Chingola-Solwezi Road would have been in the same state. And unless he doesn't believe that we did well to wipe off his tears by ensuring that that road was worked on. And it is also important that we caution the MDC and its leaders that they are far from being set. And if they want to be relevant, we would advise them to focus on

issues, otherwise there will be major casualties. From the point of view of the Patriotic Front, we want democracy to thrive and we would be hurt to see MDC's lifespan shredded to pieces even before it starts to walk. So, if Mr Mulusa wants to tell lies about President Lungu and the Patriotic Front, we will have no option but to tell the truth about him," he added.

Meanwhile, asked if the PF was not afraid that it would lose some of its members to the MDC, Chanda wondered what would motivate a right thinking member of his party to join a party led by people who were fired.

"Democracy provides for the freedom of choice. It provides for people to move from one political party to another. And whether we like it or not, Zambian politics are nomadic. But we would want to really understand what would really motivate any right thinking member of the Patriotic Front to move from a party that is winning elections to a party that is being led by people who were fired, not even people who resigned but were fired by His Excellency President Lungu," said Chanda.

Caritas attributes shrinking civic space to national dialogue failure

By Natasha Sakala

CARITAS Zambia executive director Eugene Kabilika says failure of the national dialogue process is the cause of the fast shrinking civic space in Zambia.

In an interview, Kabilika said the National Dialogue Forum was insignificant because it focused on constitutional reforms while overlooking glaring divisions going on in the country.

"We are having all these problems because of the failed dialogue process which was completely overlooked by key political players. Key political players in this case, I am talking about the government in power, they should not have brought the NDF, national dialogue forum to replace the national dialogue process because then the dimension changed, NDF only began to talk about constitutional reforms but it overlooked the glaring division that was happening in the country. And now the divisions are becoming wider and wider. It is either you are PF or you are opposition or you are what. Either you are this tribe or you are that tribe, you can't go on like that in a country and the only person who can help us to come together are those who are given the instruments of power, they can mobilise people, they can make sure people come to the round table to discuss," Kabilika said.

He said if nothing was done about the divisions in the country, it might breed chaos. **Story Continues on P7**

IBA partners with MISA, BBC Media Action to curb disruption of radio programmes

By Julia Malunga

THE Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) says it is worried about the disruption of radio programmes by political cadres.

And Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says it is clear that the ruling Patriotic Front is failing to manage its cadres.

In a brief interview, IBA director general Josephine Mapoma said the Authority had plans to engage various

stakeholders on the same this November.

"On 19th of November, in conjunction with some donors, we will be engaging political parties, Journalists, and other stakeholders. We will work in conjunction with MISA Zambia and BBC media action. We are equally worried about what is happening," said Mapoma.

And in a separate interview, Nkombo said PF did not want the opposition to

engage citizens because they were advocating for a one party state.

"It has now become clear that the PF are failing to manage their cadres who are above the police. If you recall, the issue of radio station attacks started a long time ago, back at the Sun FM in Ndola, in Mpika there was an attack and it continues. So for Mr (Sunday) Chanda to say that we should be talking to the police when we want to go on the radio is draconian. It is jungle law they are using and they have now exposed themselves to the fact that PF cadres are stronger than the police and they will not allow people to the public because they want to advocate into a one party state," said Nkombo

Last week, PF media director Sunday Chanda advised politicians to engage police before appearing on any radio programs because not everyone was tolerant to divergent views.

"As we begin to get closer to the general elections, people take politics differently and it is always important when there is such a program happening, politicians engage the police for their own safety and the safety of other people. Because not all of us will be tolerant to divergent views. This happens not just in PF strongholds. Not long ago, Fr Bwalya was beaten by UPND members in Mazabuka when he featured on Mazabuka Radio. So there is a likelihood of such events happening, not just restricted in PF strongholds. Even speaking for myself, if I want to feature on a radio station whether it is in Monze or in Mazabuka, I am not going to last three minutes in that radio station. So if I want to feature on any radio program, the first thing I would do is to inform the police because it is not just because of my own safety but the safety of the people working in the radio station," said Chanda.

UPND officials beat up Mpika residents who refused to respond to their slogans, claims Wina

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina says some Mpika and Serenje residents were beaten up by UPND officials after they refused to respond to the opposition party's slogans.

And Vice-President Wina has urged police officers not to condone any lawlessness in the country as was the case in the two areas.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina has urged political leaders to ensure that they familiarise themselves with ethnic tribes in order to avoid landing themselves in problems by using offensive words.

During the Vice-President's question time, Friday, Serenje member of parliament Maxwell Kabanda asked what government's position was over the abduction of policemen in Mpika and the trail of destruction that was left in that area where properties were damaged.

In her response, Vice-President Wina said UPND cadres beat up Mpika residents for not responding to their slogans.

"Mr Speaker, the abduction of government workers in this case of police officers is very regrettable. And the abduction was carried out by people who are known party cadres. And some of them were even leaders who engaged in this exercise. The police officers were guarding the area and then a convoy passed by showing slogans of

their party. And the people standing on the road side who did not respond were beaten by this group of hooligans driving in a convoy. And these were UPND cadres. And two police officers were injured and the ammunition taken from their guns and then sent away to tell their story. Some of them are in hospital now," Vice-President Wina said.

She said it would be worrying if the abduction incident symbolized the beginning of Armageddon.

"Mr Speaker it's very regrettable that things like this can happen in our country. Or maybe it's the beginning of the state of turbulence that we have heard about. If we start to be unruly before we even end the year going into 2021 at election time, I don't know how the situation would be like. And I want to urge our police officers that they should not condone any lawlessness as we saw in Mpika and Serenje. The officers who were supposed to intercept this group of hooligans left them scot-free and now they have escaped the law. But they will be followed because they are known. So, Mr Speaker, it's very unfortunate that incidences of this nature can arise where violence is used on innocent people who should be protecting our politicians but instead they are beaten. I hope this is not the beginning of Armageddon that we hear about," Vice-President Wina said.

And when asked by Senga Hill

MP Kapembwa Simbao if Zambia was still safe following the indiscriminate use of some Bemba idioms by some political leaders, Vice-President Wina encouraged political leaders to familiarize themselves ethnic tribes before using them.

"Mr Speaker, we are one Zambia one nation and we use each other's language. However, before you learn another ethnic group's language, it's better to know which words are offensive and which words are for this and that. It's unfortunate that some of the words were used which either are derogatory or offensive being used by people who may not understand the language fully. And some languages are full of idioms. So, if you are taken by the flowery nature of that language, you can land yourself into problems. I encourage Zambians to learn these languages but to be weary of how we use the language especially where we are not sure about the meaning of the words that we want to use, especially in public because public pronouncements have wider repercussions. So, when you use words at a public rally, you have to weigh the impact of those words on your audience. And I believe this is being considered by our leaders and that our leaders will take note after what transpired in Lukashya constituency and other areas where offensive words were used," Vice-President Wina said.

Meanwhile, when Chavuma UPND

By Natasha Sakala

SESHEKE UPND member of parliament Romeo Kangombe has denied allegations that he was in the vehicle in which two abducted police officers were bundled.

And party chairman for agriculture Levy Ngoma says the party will not avail its leader Hakainde Hichilema to police in Mpika as doing so will be taking themselves into a PF trap.

Meanwhile, Hichilema was yesterday blocked from visiting his counterpart Chishimba Kambwili in prison after officers told him to get clearance from Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo before he could be admitted.

Last week, Mpika police summoned Hichilema and Kangombe over some incidences which transpired when they were in the area.

And on Friday, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo charged that Kangombe was in the vehicle where two police officers and five civil servants were bundled after being abducted.

"The occupants of the vehicle on which the two officers were bundled included the member of parliament for Sesheke constituency, honourable Romeo Kangombe. So dear colleagues, besides the two officers, five other people including two civil servants, an agricultural extension officer, a veterinary officer and three community members who stood by the road side were also attacked by this militia group and they sustained serious injuries and multiple deep cuts. In addition, the seven casualties recorded, the UPND militia group also stole properties which included a Lenovo laptop, a wallet, a shaving machine, cell phones and cash money amounting to K2,400. All the stolen items were valued at approximately K10,000. Furthermore, one residential

We won't avail HH to Mpika police, vows UPND

house had the spare bedroom and kitchen window glass panes deliberately damaged. This damage of the residential house is yet to be ascertained," said Kampyongo.

But in an interview, Kangombe said Kampyongo's statement was nothing but lies and malice.

"It's malice, it's not true. My comment is it's not true, what the Home Affairs Minister should have done is that before issuing the statement, I am his colleague, I am a member of parliament just like him, I am his young brother for that matter. He should have engaged me to get the truth from me, not rushing to the media. I never got any civil servant, so I am waiting for an official call out then I will respond, I will go to the police. As at now, I haven't received any [official summon] so when I receive, I will appear," he said.

When asked if he was worried that Kampyongo's statement would influence investigations, he said he was waiting to see how events would unfold.

"I don't know, I am just waiting. Its in public domain so you guys will be following the event as they unfold. If I may ask you, how can you identify a police officer? It's by way of uniform or an ID, so I had none in that context and as far as I am concerned, there were no people abducted," said Kangombe.

And at a press briefing, Sunday, Ngoma wondered why Hichilema was being summoned despite being a victim of a PF attack.

"Those are the aggressors, those are the ones who are supposed to be the accused, shamelessly, you hear one Hakainde Hichilema being summoned to appear before an institution, the police, for a crime that he never

committed. The United Party for National Development in this regard has not committed a crime, yes there is those summons which the police have prepared. If you were to pose a question, do we attend to such? Your answer is as a good as mine. No law abiding citizen will take himself in harm's way. This trap that the Patriotic Front have set before us that we should go to wherever they could be summoning us, we are way ahead of them because we

have got information, factually so that from Kabwe, Kapiri, Mkushi, Serenje, Mpika, they have lined up their cadres so that mayhem breaks out, peoples lives get to be lost in the process. We are not going to fall into such a trap," said Ngoma.

"There are other ways and means which can be pursued to pursue this matter, those other means, we are ready but for this call, to go and throw ourselves in harm's way, the UPNDs position is that it

is not attainable and we are not ready for that. That is the position because we are the victims."

And during the same briefing, party secretary general Stephen Katuka demanded the arrest of Esau Ngoma who was identified as one of the people who was throwing stones at Hichilema's convoy in Serenje.

"We demand as a party for the arrest of one Esau Jere who has been mentioned as one of those who was throwing

stones and is a known figure, he is a chairman for Serenje PF and there is another one who was the chairman for Lukashya who was there and has been identified. Those are the people we demand the police to arrest before they can send call out to innocent people," said Katuka.

Meanwhile, Hichilema was yesterday blocked from visiting Kambwili despite other officials being granted access.

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Mtayachalo, Chama north FDD committee ditch

By Natasha Sakala

YOTAM Mtayachalo, Solomon Mbuji and the entire Chama North ward and constituency executive committees have resigned from the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) citing poor leadership among other things.

In a letter dated October 13, 2020, Mtayachalo stated that following a meeting, the entire Chama North and South constituency and district leadership resolved to resign from the party.

"Following recent unfortunate developments in the party, failure to embark on party mobilization activities in readiness for the 2021 general election and more importantly the meeting which was held on 27th September 2020 in Chama district comprising of Chama north and Chama south constituencies and the district leaderships respectively which discussed the way forward the entire constituencies and district leaderships including the general membership resolved to resign from Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD). In view of the foregoing my continued membership in this political

party has become unattainable and as such I regret to inform you that I have resigned from Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) with immediate effect. Further constituencies and the district leaderships in Chama district will be communicating to the party secretariat about the resolutions of the meeting of 27th September 2020 in due course," he stated.

Mtayachalo, who is former chairperson for labor and employment and acting chairperson for information and publicity noted that he was leaving the party without any hard feelings and appreciated the opportunity given to him to serve in senior positions.

"However I would like to take this opportunity to thank the party President madam Edith Nawakwi, the National Policy Committee (NPC) and the general membership of the party for the confidence which was bestowed on me as evidenced from several senior party positions I previously held in the party and consequently I'm highly indebted to the organization for the rare privilege which was accorded to me during my

tour of duty in the party thus enabling me to leave the FDD as a very happy man with no hard feelings against anyone," stated Mtayachalo.

"Furthermore I would be failing in my duties if once more I did not acknowledge and appreciate the massive grass root support I received from the entire general membership of the party countrywide and as such I would like to wish them all the best in their future political endeavours as I also reflect seriously with the local leadership in Chama district on which political direction to take and the nation shall soon be informed about which political party the entire FDD membership in Chama shall join after consultations."

Meanwhile, Mbuji, in a separate statement, Sunday, said FDD in Chama district was dead as the entire leadership.

"It is in light of the foregoing that I would like to inform the people of Chama and the national at large that myself, the entire ward and constituency executive committees for Chama north have also followed suit and we have also tendered our resignations from the FDD with immediate effect. This now signifies that the FDD is now dead and buried in Chama district and very soon we shall decide to join a progressive political party of people's wish where the entire membership of FDD shall belong to and victory for that political party in Chama north shall be assured because we shall campaign for the party president and the party vigorously. In conclusion on behalf of the party in Chama north constituency I would like to assure Mr Mtayachalo of our unwavering support wherever he decides to go because we believe he is the man full of passion and the drive for the people of Chama and we have no doubt that using his abundance wealth of experience in leadership he shall take the constituency to greater heights and more importantly we are comforted with the support the people of Chama north have invested in him," he stated.

"Furthermore the decision to resign from FDD was arrived at the meeting which was held on 27th September, 2020 in Chama district because of poor leadership and authoritarian type of leadership which Nawakwi

Nawakwi

has continued to exhibit no wonder since the death of our great leader Lt General Christon Tembo the party has lamentably failed to make an impact on the Zambian political stage because the current visionless leadership which has continued to violate the party constitution with impunity as members who demand for holding of constitutional meetings such as national policy committee meetings and national convention are suspended and expelled from the part, hence many of these members do not question the leadership for fear of reprisals."

And Mbuji challenged the FDD national chairperson Portipher Chungu to state which clause they used to expel Mtayachalo from the party when it could only be done during a national convention.

"Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) in Chama north constituency in Muchinga province would like to challenge the party National Chairperson Mr Portipher Chungu and party President Edith Nawakwi to state which clause in the constitution empowers them to expel a member from the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) because such powers are vested in the Extraordinary or National Convention in accordance with article 12(g) of the party constitution and I quote "The National Convention shall have the appellent power to deal with matters of discipline of party members end of quote. Further the standing committee of the National Policy Committee (I.2c) has no such powers to expel a member of the party as in accordance with Article 19(a) of party constitution it mandates the committee to report to the NPC on all matters affecting disciplinary cases before it," stated Mbuji.

"Therefore we are challenge these two leaders to tells us when the NPC was held to purportedly expel Mr. Mtayachalo from the party and above all as per article 18(i) of the party constitution the powers to suspend any party member are limited and rests in the NPC and as such we are taken aback that someone aspiring for the highest office in the land is ignorant about the party constitution which is shameful."

Political situation is tense – KBF

By Joseph Mwenya and Tenson Mkhala in Kabwe

DEMOCRATIC Party leader Harry Kalaba, his Movement for Democratic Change counterpart Felix Mutati and PF 2021 aspiring presidential candidate Kelvin Bwalya Fube yesterday commemorated the National Day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation at Saint Johns United Church of Zambia congregation in Chimanimani, Kabwe.

The duo joined hundreds of congregants and KBF was the preacher.

In his sermon, KBF said the political mood in the country was tense because of the unresolved issues and the suppression of the freedoms to freely speak and assemble.

And KBF said it was wrong for political leaders in power to say that a particular tribe would never rule Zambia because it was God who appointed leaders.

"The political scene today is just as it was in the times of the Apostle Peter when the leaders threatened him with arrest for preaching about Jesus. We see threats, intimidation and suppression of fundamental freedoms of assembly and speech. How can you reconcile, when you are not allowing your political opponents to enjoy the freedoms in the constitution?" KBF asked.

KBF said genuine reconciliation was only possible if politicians admitted that

there were problems on the political scene and openly discussed to resolve them.

"We cannot talk of reconciliation without acknowledging the problem and identifying the person with whom we have a problem with. When you are wrong, seek peace. When you are guilty, seek peace. Unresolved conflicts can break fellowship with God and one another," he said.

And the Lusaka Lawyer said it was wrong for political leaders to state that a particular tribe would never rule Zambia because God had the power to appoint a person of his choice in leadership.

He said politicians should learn to tame their tongues and desist from tribal remarks because such conduct could lead the nation into civil strife.

"We must be very careful with what we say as politicians. Tribal remarks such as 'Bembas are thieves' or 'this tribe will never rule Zambia'; will land us in trouble. It's not up to any political party to determine which tribe should rule because it is up to God," said KBF, who pledged a total of K50,000 towards the completion of the church building and K10,000 towards the boys and girls groups.

And speaking during the service, Mutati asked the Church to pray for political party leaders.

Mutati said October 18 was significant because it was the day when the nation

could heal from wounds afflicted on each other.

"Today is the day of national prayers. Prayer to reconcile ourselves. Prayer to be able to heal the wounds that we may have inflicted on each other. Today is a great day when the nation of Zambia and it's people must come as one nation as one under the same God. Today's talk must be above preaching the unite in diversity. We should preach peace and preach reconciliation as a nation, the responsibility of what we do as political party lies in you because you are the ones who choose. So choose properly and pray for us politicians," Mutati said.

He said Zambia had many challenges which might slide the nation towards a cross road.

"As a nation, we have many challenges and sometimes, there is a feeling that we are sliding as a nation towards the cross road. There is nothing greater than coming together as one," said Mutati.

And Kalaba said politicians were Christians first before anything else.

"Today I did not come for politics but to pray. We are Christians first before we are politicians and so today bring the day as it is, I will rely on Matthews 5:24 the Bible says 'before you go to the alter, reconcile first with your brother' and that is why today the three of us have found ourselves here because of unity. Today is a point of unity," said Kalaba.

IT'S
SIMPLY
BETTER
SHOPPING

LEWANIKA
SHOPPING CENTRE

CORNER OF BULUWE &
MOSI-O-TUNYA ROAD
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

LEADER of the Opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu has warned that if elections are not handled properly, it will create a crisis in Zambia.

But deputy chief whip says UPND is not a parallel government for it to start dictating how the Electoral Commission of Zambia should operate.

Debating a motion by Vice-President Inonge Wina for the House to support the K325 million 2021 budget for ECZ, Friday, Mwiimbu said the ECZ, in its current state is a danger to peace.

“Madam chairperson, I want to state that the Electoral Commission of Zambia in its current state is a danger to the peace of this country because they have been very inconsistent in the way they want to manage elections in this country. You do recall, madam chairperson, that a month ago, the electoral commission, through the chief electoral officer at the ECZ held a press conference and told the nation that the current register of voters will be used provided that you go to the polling station and verify your particulars. When the President of the Republic of Zambia came to this House, when he announced that there will be a new list of voters, the Electoral Commission of Zambia summer-sorted like an F16 and said that they are cancelling the register of voters,” Mwiimbu said.

He warned that if elections were not handled properly, it would create a crisis in the country.

“Madam chairperson you have to realize that in any country, elections are key to the governance of the country. And if you don't handle it properly, you create chaos and anarchy. We therefore call upon the electoral commission to handle matters

ECZ a danger to peace – Mwiimbu



Jack Mwiimbu

of elections prudently and professionally for the sake of this country. That is what we are all asking for as stakeholders. We are asking for a transparent manner of handling the elections. We don't know why the electoral commission is insisting that members of the public who are not able to access internet should register through that platform. Members of the public in Nalolo, in Nabwalya or in Shangombo and most of these areas do not have telephone connectivity. The people of Zambia, madam chairperson, are listening and we are supposed to be representing the people of this country,” Mwiimbu said.

Mwiimbu, who is also Monze Central UPND member of parliament, insisted that registering nine million voters in one month was illogical, given the COVID-19 pandemic which meant restrictions on large gatherings.

“We know that in Makululu in Kabwe who are going to vote out a certain MP have been complaining

that they do not believe in this system. Madam Speaker, we are aware that there is COVID-19 in this country and there are regulations. How do you expect to register nine million voters in one month when the regulations are saying ‘you must not congregate in large numbers.’ As if that is not enough madam speaker, in the Northern region of this country, Luapula, North Western, it's now raining heavily. How do you expect the poor peasant [farmers] in these areas to rise and queue up maybe for one week and register as voters at the expense of providing food for their children? We are creating a crisis deliberately. Whom are we trying to please by creating a crisis in this country? What is the problem with having the current register and only allowing people to verify their particulars?” he asked.

Mwiimbu also insisted that Zambia had two laws, one for every citizen and another for PF members.

“Madam Speaker, we are aware that in this country, there are two laws; one for

the ordinary Zambians and one for the PF. Whenever the PF commit offenses in this country, nothing is being done. And during the elections, the electoral commission is impotent. Complaints have been raised [but] the Electoral commission have been saying that ‘our hands are tied.’ We are aware where ministers are being beaten by PF cadres. We are aware where PF cadres have attacked police stations. There is impunity in this country we are aware of cadres who are calling themselves America one and Commander One and in Lukashya, they had press conferences with the chief whip here, directing them to take the appropriate action. How can you allow impunity to reign in this country just because you belong to a certain political party,” said Mwiimbu.

But Ngulube said UPND should not attack the ECZ to hide their mischievous activities.

“Madam Speaker, allow me to say I am very disappointed with the caliber of debates that we are trying to bring to this House. As leaders, we must be seen to be uniting this nation. We will not allow that every time somebody stands up they want to be threatening the nation, threaten MPs, threaten the ruling party. Before you even form government you should be threatening people. Who do you think you are? Madam speaker, allow me to say that there is a threat that the ECZ is a danger to this nation but how do they come to this parliament if the ECZ is a danger? They have lost squarely. All the by-elections that have been there, they lose because the ECZ is neutral. We have been losing in Southern Province, Western and other

strongholds because the ECZ is neutral. So, let them not attack the ECZ to hide their mischievous activities,” Ngulube said.

“Madam Speaker, I am aware that just in 2016 after the presidential election and there was an election petition, some mercenaries and imperialists funded a lot of money because some people believed there was going to be a re-run. We want to know where is that money and how have you used that money, because you want to hide trying to pretend to be clean when the donors and those people who gave you that money are still asking how you used that money if it was not meant to discredit the ECZ? Please explain to the people of Zambia and to your fellow MPs how that money was used because you can't be getting rich when you are in the opposition.”

Ngulube also said it was not true that the PF had special laws which protected him.

“Madam speaker, I also want to say that this issue of saying that two sets of laws, one for PF, we cannot always allow people who on one hand they attack the police and abduct them, and then pretend to be neutral. I want to say Madam Speaker that if I were a police officer somewhere in charge of some province, those people would have been in cells now. And we will not condone any kind of threats of violence, whether you want to defend yourselves or not, there is a state somewhere which will take charge,” Ngulube said.

Ngulube said UPND were massaging their ears by saying they are about to form government.

“Madam Speaker, they have been massaging their

ears thinking they are about to form government. Now, if it's true that they are about to form government, why are they so scared of the voters roll? As far as we are concerned, all those dead voters we saw in some constituencies, all those exaggerated voters, we want to assure them that if the new voters roll comes out, all those dead people will not appear on the voters roll. And in 2021, we will not see any of those strange numbers. And that is why some people are so dead scared of a new voters roll, because we are aware that it's not possible that from 1991, the same people who voted in 1991, none of them have died, none of them have relocated, none of them have moved. So, stop insulting the ECZ. This time around, it will be bumper to bumper. We are following you very closely,” said Ngulube.

“Madam Speaker, I also want to say that the UPND is not a parallel government for them to start dictating to the people of Zambia how ECZ should operate. The ECZ is independent. And the same leader of opposition was telling the people of Zambia that Bill 10 is dead and that the ashes are in the Indian Ocean. So, if Bill 10 is dead, why do you want it to come on the floor of the House? So, the inconsistencies you have been labeling on ECZ are also being shown on your face Honorable leader of opposition.”

And during her presentation of the motion, Vice-President Wina said there was need for ECZ to organize another workshop with MPs, to educate them on the online voter registration exercise.

She also opposed those complaining about the 30-day voter registration period saying the commission only required 33 people to register per day, polling station, in order to meet the target.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
POLICE Spokesperson Esther Katongo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is not among the party officials who have been summoned by police in Muchinga Province.

This came after UPND supporters vowed to escort Hichilema to Mpika where he had been summoned for interrogation in connection with the abduction of two police officers.

Police U-turn on HH summon after UPND plan solidarity procession

On Thursday last week, Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja claimed that two police officers from Mpika Police Station were abducted by UPND cadres who were in the company of Hichilema.

A day later, Muchinga

Province Police Commissioner Joel Njase told News Diggers in an interview that Hichilema had been summoned to appear before

police in Mpika in order to assist with investigations in the abduction case.

When asked if Hichilema was one of those that had been

summoned, Njase responded in the affirmative.

“Yes, we have summoned him. Like I earlier on hinted that for now we are

investigating the incident that happened. Once we hear their part of the story, that is when we can make a comment,” Njase said.

Asked when Hichilema was expected to appear before the police, Njase said announcing the date would create a security risk.

“We will advise because of security concerns. Immediately we say this day, you will find that other things will start happening. So what we want is that other people are given a chance to give their testimonies, we also want to record from them,” said Njase.

This infuriating UPND supporters who vowed to escort Hichilema to Mpika in numbers.

But Katongo warned the UPND supporters who to cancel their plans because Hichilema was not among those that had been invited.

“We wish to dispel reports that the opposition UPND leader, Mr Hakainde Hichilema is among those summoned,” Katongo said in a statement.

Katongo advised those who were planning to hold a solidarity procession to rescind their plan as doing so would be tantamount to unlawful assembly.

“Having monitored some social media posts in which some UPND officials are calling for people to go and give solidarity to those members of the UPND summoned by Police in Muchinga Province, we wish to advise them not to proceed as doing so will be tantamount to unlawful assembly or conducting an illegal procession which is against the law. There is no need for sympathisers, in this regard, to come into conflict with the law. As per our mandate of maintaining law and order in the country, we will be at hand to do just that. We therefore advise all those planning to travel to Muchinga Province for the above mentioned reason to rescind their decision,” stated Katongo.

There’s no coordination between health, finance ministries in handling covid donations – TIZ

By Natasha Sakala
A STUDY by Transparency International Zambia has revealed that there is no coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance in handling donations made towards the fight against COVID-19.

And the study has revealed that some private sector actors were making declarations of donations before they actually donate, giving them an opportunity to gain popularity based on falsehoods.

Speaking during press briefing, Friday, TIZ democratic governance lead officer Gilbert Mwanza said the lack of coordination among stakeholders signaled lack of information on the total amount of donations made.

“The first thing that TIZ noticed is that in terms of the coordination mechanisms, there is lack of effective coordination among stakeholders. Why do we say so? Through TIZ’s engagement meetings with health permanent secretary administration

and the Ministry of Finance Accountant General’s office, it was apparent that the two ministries are not sharing adequate information on specific records of resources management towards the COVID-19 response. It was further apparent that these institutions lacked information on the status of the total donations towards the response as would be seen from each making reference to the other,” Mwanza said.

Mwanza said the lack of real time donation capturing and tracking mechanisms created an opportunity for falsifying or failure to capture all donations.

“In terms of the record keeping and updated information and resource management in COVID-19 response, as of August 2020, the Ministry of Finance could only provide statistics of donations up to June 2020. So you can imagine, July and August, they did not have the adequate information with regards to how much is there but the only information we could be provided with is up to

June. We are hoping probably by November, we will get something from August,” he said.

He added that there was hesitation by government and some of the donors to provide information on donations.

“Colleagues, you can agree with me that if a person has donated in good faith, why would they refuse to give you the information of what they have donated? So for us that

is a red flag because if you came out in the open to say, you donated K1 million to the Zambian people and when you are asked, how much did you donate to verify and you refer the person that is asking you to the people he donated to, it raises a very big question as to whether you genuinely donated that money or probably it was just window [dressing],” Mwanza noted.

“We encountered a

number of challenges to confirm the donations by the receipts as they were not ready to share the data.”

And Mwanza said declaring donations before they could be made created an integrity issue in the whole process.

“It has also been noted that some private sector actors are making declarations of donations before they actually donate. This is not only an integrity issue but also creates opportunities from private sector actors to get popularity on falsehoods as well as it having a potential to unduly influence public institutions involved in management of resources. An example that I would cite is somebody just saying I have donated one million face masks when in the actual sense the face masks have not been delivered. So how then can we prove that those face masks are going to be delivered to the intended people,” said Mwanza.

He however commended the Auditor General’s office for moving in and ensuring that donations are audited continuously instead of waiting until the end of the year.

And TIZ advocacy officer Patrick Bwalya said from April to June, the country received donations, in various forms, amounting to K209.1 million towards the fight against COVID-19.

The study ran for three months and was necessitated by concerns raised by stakeholders over accountability in the handling of COVID-19 donations.



Former President Rupiah Banda and his wife Thandiwe during the commissioning of Rupiah Bwezani Banda road in Lusaka’s Lilayi area on Saturday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Julia Malunga
MULTITUDES yesterday gathered at Lusaka Showground to commemorate the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation.

The commemoration, which was held under the theme “Zambia Seeks God’s Intervention for Sustained National Unity, Peace and Prosperity”, was graced by President Edgar Lungu and other senior government officials.

In a statement of purpose, Northmead Assemblies of God overseer Joshua Banda said the purpose of the gathering was to repent and seek God’s intervention.

“We are gathered to seek God’s interventions in three key areas; sustained unity in light of the fact that from time to time we as a people by our ingratitude to God and our insensitivity to one another tend to weaken ourselves in the noble quest and commitment to celebrate our unity in the amazing diversity we have been endowed with. As a result, sadly, we find ourselves sometimes quarrelling and even trading insults and we have regrettably even resorted to violence especially during election intervals,” said Bishop Banda.

“Your Excellency, this

Multitudes pray for economy, unity

day gives an opportunity for Zambians to confess these faults to one another and we turn to God in fasting and repentance with a determination to reconcile. Peace is a rare commodity that God has blessed Zambia with. Our gathering together, therefore, from all walks of life, setting aside any differences that may abide is an indication of our determination to call upon God for help. To sustain the peace and harmony that we so badly need. We observe that Zambia like many nations has been battling recently with the COVID-19 pandemic which has gravely impacted our economy and our very livelihood. However, we will use this national convocation to seek God’s intervention in accordance to the three key passages that have been indicated. The purpose of our gathering is to humble ourselves, repent and seek the face of God.”

And in his prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop David Masupa, President for Independent Churches of Zambia thanked God for blessing the country’s economy with a positive trade balance.

“God Almighty, Rock of salvation. David describes

you in Psalms 95 that you are our maker of human flesh, the heavens and the earth, the great God and the great King above all kings. We come in your presence with thanksgiving in our hearts, we thank you for the great things you have done for us as a people of Zambia. In 2019 and 2020, God our apple tree, you gave us increased bumper harvest. Despite adverse climate conditions, the one that commands the ravens to feed us, even in time of famine. You provided a brook even when there is drought. You have been faithful to us. Jehovah in 2020 as a nation you increased our copper production, you also increased our nickel and Manganese production. You increased and you will increase the production of our gold, cobalt, coal and emerald. God, king of the earth, you have blessed our economy with a positive trade balance which is a great hope to put our country Zambia on the path of economic recovery even as we leap in 2021,” prayed Bishop Masupa.

“We will not forget to be thankful for the you for the massive infrastructure in road construction and rehabilitation ,airports, schools, health posts hospitals, colleges, universities

coupled with social protection programs where over 4.2 million Zambians have benefited under the distinguished good leadership of Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu administration.”

Meanwhile, Bishop Billy Mfula of Jesus Anointed Ministries prayed that God should usher the country into prosperity economically.

We won’t avail HH to Mpika police, vows UPND

From P3

HE wondered why PF had time to monitor prison visits when they had more pressing issues like the debt mountain to deal with.

“Those inside this prison have a right to be visited, we who are outside have a right to visit those inside, no one should stand in between unless those standing in between agree that this is a demonstration of the breakdown of the rule of law. No order, no leadership, nothing. Ni chipante pante, that’s what’s going on. Only rogues stand in between but I know the prison officers here are not the ones who are responsible for this, it is the political leadership of the PF which has nothing to do because if they had something to do, especially working on the Eurobond and the debt mountain, they

would be busy working on the mess they have put in the country in and not paying attention to visitations within the law,” said Hichilema.

NDC vice-president Josephs Akafumba said the prison officers asked Hichilema to get clearance from Kampyongo.

“What they have told us is that president HH must get clearance from the minister of home affairs, Kampyongo which to me doesn’t make sense, why, because today, its an official visiting day. The sad part is a lot of people have been allowed, but why not HH, isn’t he a person, isn’t he a Zambian for him to visit his fellow president. This confirms what we have said from the word go that this was a political persecution,” said Akafumba.



CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

This is a weekly column aimed at sharing CTPD's perspective and steering public debate on various issues pertaining to Trade & Investment Law, Public Finance Management, Extractives and Human Development.

TODAYS TOPIC:

Debt repayment suspension and its implications for fiscal space with Dr. Gabriel Pollen



OFFICIAL data from Zambian authorities as presented in the 2021 National Budget indicate that the external public debt stock stood at US\$11.97 billion as at end of June 2020. Debt servicing costs have been quite substantial over the past few years. Fitch reported that "Zambia faces approximately USD1.5 billion in external debt servicing (105% of current international reserves) in 2020." Using current exchange rate, Zambia's 2021 National Budget is only around US\$6bn, with external debt repayment accounting for around 23% of this amount. In fact, external debt repayment for 2021 is expected to devour over 86% of domestic revenue.

The international community recognises the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies around the world, especially on the poorest countries. Following appeals from the World Bank and the IMF, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) was established in April 2020 as a facility to allow debt-service suspension to the most impoverished countries, to aid their efforts in addressing the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, given the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent projected recession of the Zambian economy of up to 5%, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has appealed to its creditors to give the country some breathing space. In September 2020, Zambia requested its Eurobond holders to suspend debt service payments for a period of six months.

Reportedly, China has responded to Zambia's calls for debt relief by implementing a debt repayment suspension plan, for instance, relieving and rescheduling US\$225million and US\$426.3 million for 2020 and 2021, respectively. For 2021, for example, China's offer amounts to around a third of Zambia's external debt repayment commitment. This is a substantial amount which would free up a substantial portion of domestic resources, allowing the government to allocate more resources to economic sectors. More debt relief from other creditors will provide substantial breathing space for the Zambian government.

Debt relief can permit greater fiscal space for expenditure programmes aimed at creating and enhancing the productive capacity of a country, which could also diminish the burden of debt in future, as enhanced economic activity leads to a greater resource envelope for the government. Zambia will need to design a suitable plan and create a conducive policy environment, while implementing projects and programmes that can bolster productive capacity of the country. This will require directing the freed-up resources towards key productive sectors such as agriculture and industry, with swift gains in terms of surplus creation and provision of fiscal linkages. Debt repayment suspensions will free up more resources and permit the Zambian government to build local productive capacities.

The improved fiscal space from debt relief can also support private

sector activity by way of transfer of resources and creation of a conducive environment and liquidity provision for businesses. It really is about doing the right thing in economic terms in so far as this opportunity goes. But this requires putting in place mechanisms such as transparency and wider dialogue which will ensure that freed-up resources are being used effectively and efficiently for the intended purposes. Indeed, making the right policy choices requires multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement, and creating space and resources for the private sector to underpin integrated local productive capacities.

The improved fiscal space can also support and safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable sections of society. The idea though is to ensure that resource transfers due to improved fiscal space help the country's poorest people to learn and earn a sustainable living.

While debt service suspension can provide breathing space for the government, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that the freed-up resources are efficiently and effectively utilised to build productive capacities to enhance economic activity.

About the Author

Dr Gabriel Pollen is a Senior Researcher (Public Finance Management) at the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) and a Lecturer with the University of Zambia, Department of Economics.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE Lusaka Muslim Society has named a road in Lilayi after former Republican President Rupiah Bwezani Banda.

And Banda says the honor will give him the strength to fight cancer of the colon which he has been diagnosed with.

The Rupiah Bwezani Banda road is a one kilometer stretch at Total filling station, off Kafue Road from Linda turnoff round-about.

Speaking at the unveiling of the road name, Banda thanked the community for the honor.

"You can imagine what a great honor it is for me and my family and my late father who is the middle name 'Bwezani' for the recognition for the good neighborliness that we are doing together in this neighborhood and deciding to name this road after me and my family. There is nothing I can say than to say this is deeply touching. I like people and when people like me back, it makes things very good. As you have heard today, I announced that I am not very well. I have been diagnosed with the cancer of the colon. But with things like this, it makes one feel strong to fight and to continue to work with others and make our world, country, our city Lusaka, and the Rupiah Bwezani Banda close makes it a happier place," Banda said.

He said despite not feeling too well, he forced himself out of bed to receive the great honor.

"Although I wasn't feeling

Patience pays, says RB as Muslim community names road after him

very well this morning, I said I must get up and go there and receive this honor. Thank you so much and I wish all the people of Zambia to enjoy driving on this close here which has been named after my family, my wife, my family, and my colleagues from my office for the honor that you have given us. I was talking to some young people earlier who called me [and I told them] that patience pays. As you know, I am 83 years old now and still people are honoring me. I became vice-president at the age of 69 and because of my patience of working well with people, not rushing things, I became vice-president at 69 and later on became President of this country," President Banda said.

"And today, perhaps you don't realize how big this thing is and that's why I am putting it next to my vice presidency and presidency. It's a very important honor for me, my family, my late father whose middle name I am carrying that people of this country will always remember the role that I have played in working together with all Zambians to make our country what it is, a peaceful and a loving country where people can pray to the God as they so wish regardless of what religion. I am very proud that on this

same street, this close which has been named after me, a beautiful boutique church of the Muslim, we call it mosque is being built right at the entrance of my home. Every time I come out of my home and I see it germinating, growing more bigger and beautiful, I feel greatly honoured that I will be next to people who are remembering that whoever created us above us is still above us and making sure that we are happy and that our children have a future to look forward to. Thank you so much for the great honour. We thank the city of Lusaka for naming this street after me. And my wife and my children join me in saying thank you."

And Secretary to the Parkway Eureka Mosque Shehzaad Chaddat said the community decided to honor the former president because he also lived in the same area.

"Today, we are very excited to announce the naming of this road as Rupiah Banda close. We are neighbors of His Excellency. We are setting up a mosque on this road and His Excellency was instrumental in allowing us to build a mosque on this road. We have learnt with great sadness that His Excellency has not been feeling too well and we would like to wish him the best as the Muslim Society. This road

was constructed in 2016. And we always knew that his Excellency was living here. Then we thought of what better name to give it. We decided to name it in March or April. We submitted the proposed name to the council and it was

approved in July. So, we just got the signs put up this week and that is when we decided that his excellency comes through to do the actual unveiling of the name. We also want to thank the Lusaka City Council for approving the name, especially the mayor and the other people who sit on the council," said Chaddat.

And Muslim secretary Daniel Princlloo wished Banda good health as he fights cancer.

"We would like to wish His

Excellency the Former President of the Republic of Zambia, the best of health, more life and happiness. Today, we are here to name this road here in Lilayi after His Excellency Rupiah Bwezani Banda. We are here to appreciate him and show him how much we love. As citizens of this country, we looked to him for more guidance each and every day of our lives and with love, we present it to you sir," said Princlloo.

Caritas attributes shrinking civic space to national dialogue failure

From P2

"So this way, we are literally sowing so much divisions in the country and we may reach a point where no one will be able to do anything about it, we will just be looking and that is very dangerous. So, international community, I am sure they are able to analyse what is happening in the country, they are able to do whatever they can to help us to try bring the nation together, to bring the country to order. Here are so many things which are happening which are actually indicating to the disorder that we may face," he said.

And Kabilika called on the international community to help the country solve its debt problem.

"The international community must not look at Zambia as having capacity to be

able to resolve all the problems that they are having. There is the issue of debt and there is the issue of liquidity in the economy. The debt is weighing heavily on the country. Zambia, having resources at its disposal to respond to the COVID-19 as well as to carry out very important activities such as holding an election which is a very big decision making point in the country. So they must try by all means to help either to encourage dialogue among the key political players or provide funds that are needed to make sure that processes such as the electoral process are done," he said.

Meanwhile, Kabilika said the Electoral Commission of Zambia was not engaging in effective dialogue.

"And this idea of holding meetings and telling others is not helpful. I am now referring to the meeting that was held for

presidents with the ECZ, holding a meeting and telling them that this is what we have done, so what do you want them to do? To say yes or to say no? That's not dialogue, dialogue you table, what are the issues, you table them; there is registration of voters, that's an issue, issuance of NRCs, that's an issue. So how do we deal with these issues because they are being talked about? People were telling me when I went to the Southern Province recently that people who are issuing NRCs are literally running away from the community, one minute they are in this school, when the community go there, maybe they just do four, five people and then they disappear. So people have been literally hunting for them. You cannot run a country like that because if you want to give NRCs to people, be stationed there and let people get the NRCs because that helps the process," said Kabilika.

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TODAY, we are talking about police summoning UPND officials to Mpika for questioning, following some violent incident that occurred. The story is that UPND members, in the company of their leader Hakainde Hichilema, abducted two police officers who were on duty.

But we are hearing very little about the involvement of PF supporters who besieged the UPND entourage that was coming from Kasama where Mr Hichilema had gone to give solidarity to his party deputy secretary Patrick Mucheleka. We are also hearing very little about the unnecessary police interception of the UPND entourage in Mpika.

This is very unfortunate, and as long as the police look at the faces of the perpetrators of violence, this vice will never be curbed. We must, therefore, be concerned as a country that political violence is escalating instead of reducing as we heard towards the next general election.

It is worrying that our police service is increasingly becoming compromised when it comes to enforcing the Public Order Act, and this has been a major source of political conflict and violence. Many times when members of the

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Ear to the ground

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No one deserve to be elected until they say no to violence

opposition try to engage in political mobilisation, they are attacked by members of the ruling party, but when police step in to instill law and order, they target the opposition.

This trend has been negatively impacting our democratic credentials as a country. The conduct of police officers and political stakeholders has been polluting the operating atmosphere. We would like to categorically condemn this state of affairs by reminding our leaders about their roles in a democracy.

Politics is an area of great importance for promoting justice, peace, development and

community service. If we all start to regard politics as a vocation, a way of building society for the common good, there will be no need for violence in elections. No one deserves to be elected unless they have respect for the people they want to serve and say no to any form of violence. The enjoyment of the right to peace requires an active commitment from those who seek to govern and those who call themselves leaders to create an environment for the advancement of civility.

Campaigns must be carried out in a peaceful and honest way, devoid of any violence and slander of other opponents.

All must be guided by the truth, integrity and justice. That's the Zambia we want. It is necessary to remind all political parties, their candidates, cadres and supporters that politics and the elections that accompany them are for the good of the people and the country, and not for political survival of any individual or party.

We, therefore, call upon the leadership, cadres and supporters of all political parties to avoid distorted presentations of their opponents and indeed of the situation in our country. Responsible politics demands a fair assessment of the country, its present state and of what can

reasonably be expected for the coming years.

In the present atmosphere of fierce competition and character assassination, we remind our politicians and their supporters of the noble goals of political activity. Politics should aim at the promotion of human dignity. Political debates should concentrate on programmes to improve the life of the nation rather than on character assassination. There is an urgent need for understanding and dialogue. Politics should be conducted in a manner that respects and enhances the lives of others. If you want to mobilise every section of the population, you can't

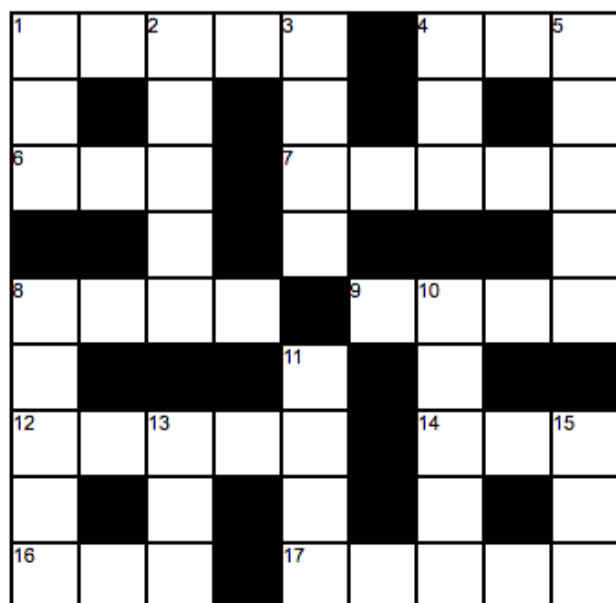
do it with violence, with feelings of hatred and intolerance.

Our political leaders and their supporters should not think and act on impulse, they should not make emotional decisions laced with ego. They should use their brains to think about the difference they want to make. The use of violence against anyone puts humans next to animals. Animals can engage in illogical violence because they are not blessed with the same thinking capacity as humans. Therefore, violence and the animosity that comes with it must be left to animals that cannot debate or co-exist with divergent views. No one can build a united nation on the basis of violence. Our politicians must know this.

Political violence must be consciously combated and not discreetly tolerated. We should never allow our country to play host to political violence. Our voices must not go silent when we see one of us fall victim to political violence. Combating this political violence is our collective responsibility.

To have peaceful, free and fair elections, certain conditions have to prevail in our country and in our hearts. There ought to be a conducive atmosphere. Let's use our votes to politic, not punches.

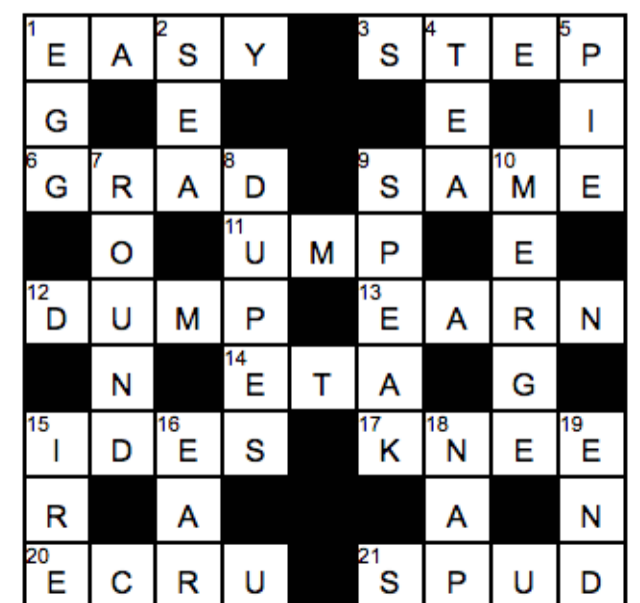
Crossword puzzle No 714



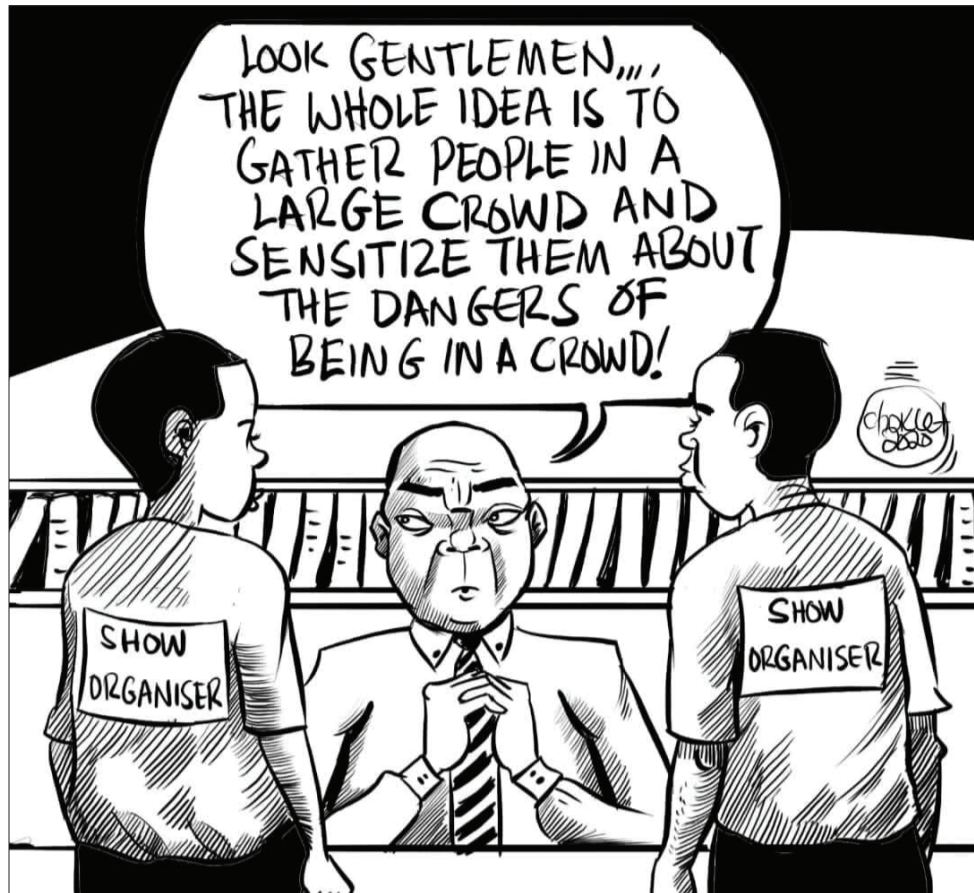
“Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.”
- Maya Angelou

- | Across | Down |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hit the books | 1. Total |
| 4. Long-tailed rodent | 2. Beneath |
| 6. Angry | 3. Tug |
| 7. Wandering one | 4. "Losing My Religion" band |
| 8. Piece | 5. Present time |
| 9. Remain in place | 8. Practical joke |
| 12. Infuriate | 10. Distinctive quality |
| 14. In the past | 11. \$0.00 |
| 16. Family | 13. Rifle or revolver |
| 17. Door sign | 15. Rowing need |

Crossword puzzle No 713



Readers' Feedback



Lungu on debt situation worrying

Editor,

"His statement only tells us one thing, that Edgar Lungu is a clueless president who only wants to continue ruling for the sake privileges the presidency offers him. With this statement Zambians should be worried because we have a man who is leading us in a ditch and he claims not to know about it". - Mundia Bwalya

"May be another Lungu not this one who is the father of Ubomba Mwibala Alya Mwibala. The one who owns kasaka kandalama. There is no hope anywhere under PF because even the current budget is anchored on borrowing heavily to finance corruption. Bally will fix it". - Noritah Mwanza

"Worrying is not the solution to the debt problem and how should the zambians feel when the president sounds like he is at a loss". - Jamali Jay Ngoma

"How can he say he was worrying when he had to be aware of what he was getting himself in to? Unless he's saying that the debt was contracted without his knowledge?" - Zuba Kayasha

"Says a man who was bragging that every country borrows. Why should debt situation worry you when you are the one who created this mess. The same energy used when borrowing the money, you should use it to repay the debt. People advised you not to borrow recklessly but you couldn't listen, so now pay back the money you borrowed". - Dennis Tyson Phiri

ND! OPINION: Like we said, the State had no evidence against Mucheleka

Editor,

"To Patrick Mwalula Mucheleka I say Welcome to the Club of Veteran Politicians. Only very serious political challengers are imprisoned on trumped up charges in African politics. Youngman you are a Beacon of Hope to many who cannot stand or speak for themselves. Ubufumu bu Sheta amenshi. As a member of the Royal Family you understand what you are going through much better. But your Struggles like those of the politicians before you is not a Battle in Vain. Kalombo Mwane". - Christopher Kalima

"It's persecution, only wanted him to stay away from campaigning during by elections". - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"Of course government cannot prove anything in this case, its just gimmicks Kampyongo is using to frighten opposition leaders and their cadres into submission". - Mutinta Mulonda

"Charging someone with a very serious and non bailable case such as aggravated robbery when you dont have evidence is a great injustice you can do against someone. Take note of the arresting officer so that one day he will be asked how he arrived at that charge because it's not a small charge". - Asa Amisi

"Pure abuse of power! They take pride in abusing opposition citizens. PF must go!" - Diana Kaumba

'Sunday's advice that politicians should report to police before appearing on radio draconian!'

Editor,

"Where is it written that after paying for a political radio programme one must inform the police. Is Sunday by saying so, justifying disruption of paid for political radio programmes, by cadres. As in, if the police are not notified then cadres have a right to disrupt a paid for political programme. All that is required Sunday Chanda is to discipline those unruly cadres and ensure they keep to their lane!" - Grace Shankaya

"The constitution guarantees freedom of speech and assembly but PF wants us to be reporting to police before going to radio stations. That would be a draconian practice and very undemocratic. That is why even DCs think politians should report to them first in every district. Let us say no to draconian practices". - Lassie Kakuta

"And this is the utter rubbish most people in 2015

and 2016 were busy shouting PAMAKA - PAMAKA whatever this means, all those that supported these Dictators should feel ashamed of themselves. Where, world over is this happening? If no where then Zambia is a confirmed failed state!" - Dhanx Car Lee Mbw

"These pricks are now taking us for a ride, we need to show them that we can defend our rights. They think we are docile because we have turned a blind eye or chosen to ignore all they have been doing!" - Sylvester Chongo

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

IG's claim on UPND abducting and assaulting 2 cops in Mpika

Editor,

"How can the police be abducted? Were they drunk? It means you the police are failing your duty. Your duty is to protect the citizens not to be abducted by citizens. This is what happens when the police are blaly bobbing!" - Gershom Habile

"You send your PF cadres disguised as UPND to cause violence only wanting to justify the involvement of HH so you find it easier to erase him out of the ballot paper next year, it shall NEVER work out, sadly, be reminded that your time for reckoning is fast

approaching, HH is coming to bring sanity in the country". - Dhanx Car Lee Mbwe

"Were the police officers drunk on duty? They should be charged for incompetence!" - Larry Mbiri

"So in a Bemba newspaper the heading will be "BAKAPOKOLA BABEEBA?!!!! Mmmm Mr IG can't never!!!! Why mentioning HH? We can't afford to go to the polls with one man on the ballot papers!!! Stop

this scheme of trying to implicate the opposition who have been victims of cadres attacks in Mpika, serenje and kasama!! Be professional when dealing with national matters, don't be used by politicians!!!!" - George Bwalya

"The IG is a disappointment, just a month ago his officers were attacked by JJ at the biggest police station in the country broad daylight and he was mute.whats happening to this country... where have we gone wrong as a people of this great nation? Please Bwana IG you can do better than this!" - Gift Mwanamwambwa Wa Musiwa

Guinea decides on third term for Conde amid voter-card concerns

VOTERS in Guinea went to the polls on Sunday to decide whether to extend the rule of 82-year-old president Alpha Conde, who in March pushed through constitutional changes allowing him to run for a third term.

At least 50 people have been killed over the past year during demonstrations against the new constitution, according to Amnesty International, and violence erupted repeatedly during campaigning.

There were no reports of unrest on Sunday, but a number of people including one of the candidates said they had been turned away at polling stations because of problems with their voter cards.

The election comes at a delicate moment in West Africa, where concerns are growing over a slide in democratic gains. In August, Mali's government was overthrown by the army, while in Ivory Coast, months of protests against President Alassane Ouattara's bid for a third term on Oct. 31 have turned violent.

In the west of Guinea's capital, Conakry, dozens of voters queued quietly to vote in a primary school whose exterior was plastered with posters of Conde.

"I hope that things will happen in peace," said Mariama Camara, a housewife.

But across town in the Koloma Soloprino neighbourhood, an opposition stronghold, several voters told Reuters they had been unable to participate because of voter card problems.

"When I arrived at the polling station, I was told my card was not valid," said resident Fatoumata Barry.

While no reliable opinion polls are available, many political analysts expect Conde to prevail after he won overwhelming approval for the new constitution in a referendum in March - although that vote was boycotted by the opposition.

"A HOLY MESS"

Conde faces 11 challengers, including his long-time rival Cellou Dalein Diallo, a former prime minister who finished runner-up to Conde in elections in 2010 and 2015.

After casting his vote, Diallo said he was worried that Conde would steal the election with "cunning and violence".

"We will not accept (that)," he said.

One of the candidates, former foreign minister Makale Camara, said she herself had not received a voter card at all, and so had been unable to vote.**BBC**

The governor of Nigeria's Osun state has escaped what officials call an "assassination attempt" when armed people attacked anti-police brutality protesters in the state capital Osogbo.

After marching with the protesters, Governor Adegboyega Oyetola was addressing them when shots were fired.

Mr Oyetola was not hurt but some of his aides were wounded.

Nigeria has been rocked by more than two weeks of protests against the Sars police unit.

Its officers are accused of extortion, torture and murder.

The government has promised to disband Sars (Special Anti Robbery Squad) but this has not satisfied the protesters, who have now broadened their demands, calling for an end to decades of corruption and mismanagement in Africa's biggest oil producer, which has left many young Nigerians with bleak economic prospects.

Thousands of mostly young people have once more taken to the streets of cities across the country.

The protests have also been backed by global celebrities such as Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, US rapper Kanye West, footballers Mesut Ozil and Marcus Rashford as well as Nigerian superstars Davido and Wizkid.

What happened in Osun?

A group of people armed with guns and machetes opened fire at the time Mr Oyetola was addressing the

End Sars protests: Osun governor escapes 'assassination attempt'



protesters in the Osun state capital Osogbo - after he had marched and sang with them.

The officials were hurriedly taken into their vehicles for safety.

Stones were also hurled at the official convoy as it left.

The governor's spokesperson told the BBC

that the governor and his deputy survived the attack unhurt but some aides were wounded and a local journalist was in critical condition due to a serious head injury.

Officials say the attack was not carried out by the protesters but by thugs.

Similar attacks on the

protesters have also happened in the capital, Abuja, and the country's biggest city, Lagos. It is not clear who is behind them.

Mr Oyetola is from the same party as President Muhammadu Buhari, the All Progressives Congress.

What do the protesters want now?

The hashtag #EndBadGovernance has now been shared by almost 1.8 million twitter users, while #BetterNigeria and #FixNigeriaNow are also being widely used.

"As long as there is no positive change, we will be here," one man told the BBC at a protest in Abuja on Saturday.

"The leaders, the elders have failed us. We need to begin the process of building a new nation by coming out like this," he said.

An unprecedented challenge to Nigeria's leaders

The ongoing protests are clearly a strong message not only to the current government but to the entire political class in Nigeria.**BBC**

Door 'still ajar' for EU trade talks, says Gove

THE door is "still ajar" for talks with the EU over a post-Brexit trade deal but only if it moves ground in key areas, Michael Gove has said.

Negotiations between the UK and the EU have stalled amid disagreements over fishing access and competition issues.

The cabinet minister told the BBC that the EU must speed up the negotiating process and offer the UK better terms.

The EU has said it is prepared to "intensify" talks but it would not agree a deal at "any price".

It comes as the CBI and other business organisations urged the UK government to focus on bridging its differences with the EU, saying a deal was vital to help the post-Covid recovery.

They warned that uncertainty about the UK's future trading relationship with its largest market was "chipping

away at business resilience" at a time when many firms were being battered by coronavirus.

Downing Street said on Friday that official negotiations over a future economic partnership were "over" and the UK should "get ready" to trade with the EU from 1 January without a specific agreement.

Boris Johnson has accused the EU of resisting the UK's preferred outcome of a deal based on the one the bloc has with Canada.

The prime minister has said the UK should now be prepared for the alternative of a much more limited relationship, based on the EU's existing arrangements with Australia.

However, this would see tariffs applied on goods crossing the channel once the UK leaves the EU's single market at the end of the year, pushing up the cost of imports and exports.

'Drawn stumps'

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, was due in London for talks with his counterpart, David Frost, on Monday, but the UK said this would be pointless without a fundamental change in direction from the bloc.

Mr Gove told the BBC's Andrew Marr that the EU "effectively ended the current round of talks" when its 27 leaders met in Brussels on Thursday to take stock of progress and said more was required from the UK.

"It was the case we were making progress but then the EU retreated from that," he said.

"We have drawn the conclusion that unless their approach changes, they are not interested and they have in effect drawn stumps."

Mr Johnson previously indicated that the UK would walk away from the talks unless EU leaders agreed an outline deal at last week's summit in Brussels.

Asked by Andrew Marr whether the UK was engaging in sabre-rattling or the door was still ajar to further discussions, Mr Gove replied: "It is still ajar. We hope the EU will change their position and we are certainly not saying if they do change their position we can't talk to them."

'No picnic'

Mr Gove said the UK was preparing for a range of outcomes, including leaving on what he described as "Australian terms", which would see trade between the two partners default to World Trade Organization rules.

"That is not going to be a picnic," he said on this scenario. "The key thing is we are taking the steps alongside business to be ready for that outcome."**BBC**



The female tiger is seen embracing a tree, rubbing herself against the bark to leave her scent and mark territory in Land of the Leopard National Park

Thousands rally to support beheaded teacher

THOUSANDS have attended rallies across France in support of Samuel Paty, the teacher beheaded after showing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to his pupils.

People in the Place de la République in Paris carried the slogan "Je suis enseignant" (I am a teacher), with PM Jean Castex saying: "We are France!"

A man named as Abdoulakh A was shot dead by police on Friday after killing Mr Paty close to his school near Paris.

An 11th person has now been arrested as part of the investigation.

No details have been given about the arrest. Four close relatives of the suspect were detained shortly after the killing. Six more people were held on Saturday, including the father of a pupil at the school and a preacher

described by French media as a radical Islamist.

President Emmanuel Macron said the attack bore all the hallmarks of an "Islamist terrorist attack" and the teacher had been murdered because he "taught freedom of expression".

The murder comes as a trial over the 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo - a satirical magazine that has published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad - is under way.

Where have the rallies been taking place?

The Place de la République in Paris filled with people rallying in support of Mr Paty, 47. Mr Castex and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo joined them.

The square was the scene of a huge demonstration in which 1.5 million people showed solidarity with Charlie Hebdo following the deadly attack of

January 2015.

One protester on Sunday carried a sign reading "zero tolerance to all enemies of the Republic", another "I am a professor. I'm thinking of you, Samuel."

Another told Le Figaro she was a French Muslim who was at the rally to express her disgust at the latest killing.

A minute's silence was followed by the playing of the Marseillaise. All the protesters were wearing masks to protect from coronavirus.

Mr Castex tweeted the rendition of the anthem, along with the words "you do not scare us... we are France!"

Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said France would succeed in defeating the enemies of democracy if it were united and that all teachers in France needed support.

Nathalie, a teacher from Chelles

who was at the Paris rally, told Le Monde she was there because she had "realised you can die of teaching".

In Lille, people carried banners and placards with the simple words "I am Samuel".

Thousands of people also gathered in Place Bellecour in Lyon to pay their respects, with another large turnout in Nantes.

Demonstrations are also being held in Toulouse, Strasbourg, Marseille, Bordeaux and elsewhere.

In addition to Sunday's demonstrations, there will be a national tribute paid to Mr Paty on Wednesday.

On Saturday, Tareq Oubrou, imam of a mosque in Bordeaux, told France Inter: "A civilisation does not kill an innocent person, barbarism does."**BBC**



Kane eclipses Rooney, Henry to set Premier League record

HARRY Kane's blistering first-half performance for Tottenham against West Ham has seen Premier League records tumble as the England skipper notched up two goals and an assist inside the opening 20 minutes.

The striker was on song for Jose Mourinho's side in the opening exchanges against the Hammers, putting the spectre of an indifferent international break to rest in emphatic form as he had a hand in all three goals for the hosts.

The 27-year-old forward helped Spurs open their account inside a minute with an excellent long ball from inside his own half to find Son Heung-min out wide on the left, with the South Korean star cutting back into the box to curl a low effort past Lukasz Fabianski.

Son returned the favour only seven minutes later to tee up his team-mate just outside the visitors' penalty area, whereupon he slid the ball between fellow Three Lions man Declan Rice's legs before rifling a tidy finish in at the left post.

Kane then capped off a scintillating opening act when he doubled his tally just beyond the quarter-hour mark, rising to meet Sergio Reguilon's exquisite cross at the right post and head home.

The finish elevated the forward into esteemed company as he became the first man in almost a decade to notch up double figures in goal involvements after just the first five games of a Premier League.

With 12 in total (five goals, seven assists), he exceeded the previous records set by Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in 2011-12 and Arsenal's Thierry Henry in 2004-05.

His second goal also gave Tottenham their quickest three-goal haul in a top-flight game for over 13 years, when they clocked up three finishes inside the first 14 minutes against Derby County in August 2007.

The pair of combinations between Kane and Son also put the duo on the cusp of matching a Tottenham club record for successful link-ups in a single Premier League campaign, with eight - just one behind the full-season record of nine achieved by Teddy Sheringham and Darren Anderton in 1992-93 and 1994-95, plus Sheringham and Chris Armstrong in 1995-96. **GOAL**

Liverpool fear the worst over Van Dijk injury

LIVERPOOL face an anxious wait to discover the extent of Virgil van Dijk's knee injury, amid fears the Dutchman is set for a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

Van Dijk was forced off just 11 minutes into the Reds' 2-2 draw at Everton on Saturday, following a reckless challenge from Blues goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

He was sent for a hospital scan immediately after the game, with Liverpool's medical staff concerned at the possibility of serious ligament damage.

Club sources insist there have been no scan results at this stage, but beIN SPORTS reported during the Manchester City-Arsenal game that Van Dijk had ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament, and could face a spell of seven to eight months out of action. Liverpool were left deeply unimpressed by that report, making their feelings known to the Qatar-based broadcaster.

Reds captain Jordan Henderson revealed that Pickford, who was not even booked for the challenge, had sought him out at the final whistle, asking him to pass on an apology to Van Dijk.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, though, was unamused at the refusal of VAR to intervene and issue the England goalkeeper a red card. Indeed, it emerged later that Liverpool had contacted the Premier League asking them to review the application of VAR in the game, having been further incensed at seeing a late winning goal, scored by Henderson, ruled out for a questionable offside against Sadio Mane.

On the Van Dijk incident, Klopp said: "In the game, it was pretty quick. For me, it was a clear penalty what I saw and then obviously we saw that the flag went up, so offside. I still thought it's worth to have a look on the foul but that didn't happen.

"We have no power there, we just sit here and now you discuss it with me. We have to ask other people about that.

"What can I say? I don't want to say Jordan Pickford wanted to do it but it's, of course, not a challenge how a goalie can do it in the box because there's another player. If it's not offside, it's 100 per cent a penalty. So it's nothing, that's all."

Liverpool also have concerns over the fitness of midfielder Thiago Alcantara, who was on the end of a wild challenge from Everton forward Richarlison in the closing stages of Saturday's game.

Thiago was able to finish the game, with Richarlison,

who was shown a straight red card, later tweeting an apology to the former Bayern Munich man. But afterwards Klopp revealed the 29-year-old had complained of pain.

"When I left the pitch, Thiago told me in the red card situation with Richarlison he thinks he got injured," Klopp said. "We will see if it's true or not, but if he felt like this then we need to have a look."

To lose either, of course, would be a huge blow to Liverpool's ambitions this season. Van Dijk had, prior to Saturday, played every minute

of the Reds' last 74 Premier League matches, becoming a totemic presence since his £75 million move from Southampton in January 2018.

Without him, Liverpool would have to rely on Joe Gomez and Joel Matip as their only specialist senior centre-backs. Matip himself only returned from a hamstring problem against Everton, emerging unscathed after his first 90-minute outing in almost a year, while Gomez too has a history of injury issues and has not been at his best so far this season. **GOAL**

ZAMBIA - MALAWI

TRAVEL WITH US DAILY TO:
Lusaka - Chipata - Lilongwe
1st Bus 05:00hrs
2nd Bus 06:00hrs
4th Bus 10:00hrs
5th Bus 13:00hrs
Boarding Time: 30mins before departure time
Lilongwe - Chipata - Lusaka
1st Bus 05:00hrs
2nd Bus 06:00hrs
3rd Bus 08:00hrs
4th Bus 10:00hrs

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 Suggestions, comments and complaints: 0977794043 / 0977310202
 E-mail: kobs@iconnect.zm / kobsinvestments@yahoo.com / kobsquick@iconnect.zm

Micho calls Nkwazi goalkeeper Muntanga ahead of friendlies

By Ngosa Chalwe

ZAMBIA'S bid to be in form ahead of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) will next week see them face two international friendlies against Ethiopia and South Sudan.

And Chipolopolo coach Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic has roped in Super Division side Nkwazi goalkeeper Charles Muntanga in the 23 member team that is set to face the two nations.

Zambia has been drawn in Group D of the African Nations Championships alongside Namibia, Tanzania and Guinea.

The tournament is slated for Cameroon in January.

According to the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), the technical bench has retained most of the local players that were part of the just-ended FIFA international window which saw the Chipolopolo play three matches against Malawi, Kenya and South Africa.

"Micho has drafted Nkwazi goalkeeper Charles Muntanga, Zanaco defender Kebson Kamanga, Luka Ng'uni and Paul Katema. The

team enters camp on Tuesday 20 October and will jet-off to Ethiopia the following day in readiness for the match against that country's national team on Thursday," the FA reports.

Zambia's second match will be against South Sudan on Saturday before facing Ethiopia again on Sunday.

Micho is using the matches to prepare the players for the back-to-back Africa Cup of Nations qualifier matches against Botswana in November and the African Nations Championship.

FULL SQUAD:
GOALKEEPEERS

Lameck Siame (Kabwe Warriors), Jackson Kakunta (Power Dynamos), Charles Muntanga (Nkwazi)

DEFENDERS

Kondwani Chiboni, Zachariah Chilongoshi (both Power Dynamos), Luka Banda, Luka Ng'uni (both Napsa Stars), Dominic Chanda (Kabwe Warriors), Benedict Chepeshi (Red Arrows), Kebson Kamanga (Zanaco)

MIDFIELDERS

Benson Sakala (Power Dynamos), Albert Kangwanda, Kelvin Kapumbu (both Zanaco), Amity Shamende (Green Eagles), Leonard Mulenga (Green Buffaloes), Bruce Musakanya, Kelvin Mubanga Kampamba (both Zesco United), Collins Sikombe (Napsa Stars), Chaniza Zulu (Lumwana Radiants), Paul Katema (Red Arrows), Thomas Zulu (Nkwazi)

STRIKERS

Friday Samu (Green Buffaloes), Emmanuel Chabula (Nkwazi)

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MICHO ROPS IN MUNTANGA

...as team prepares to face Ethiopia, South Sudan in friendlies

By Ngosa Chalwe
ZAMBIA'S bid to be in form ahead of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) will next week see them face two international friendlies against Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Story page 11

ZBF sets ambitious plan for Olympics bound boxers

By Ngosa Chalwe
THE Zambia Boxing Federation (ZBF) have set up an ambitious plan for the three Tokyo 2020 Olympics bound boxers ahead of the event next year.

The world's biggest sporting event was set to take place this year but has been moved to July next year owing to the spread of the Coronavirus.

The three pugilists are Patrick Chinyemba from Exodus Boxing Academy, Zambia National Service's Evaristo Mulenga and Steve Zimba of Zambia Army.

ZBF general secretary Chomba said when he appeared on ZNBC's Kwacha Good Morning Zambia yesterday that the players who were set to enter camp in Lusaka tomorrow are also likely to travel to North Africa.

"Come Tuesday, they are entering Camp at OYDC; they will be in camp for about 90 days and our hope is that after that 90 days, we make arrangements to go and camp in North Africa. Our view is that we go to Cuba, then Japan later as the Olympics draw near," Chomba said.

He said the COVID-19 outbreak had derailed the progress of the boxers.

"It has affected them because boxing is a contact sport so if you just do shadow boxing without running and punching someone, you don't make progress so during the camp, we hope the training will be vigorous," said Chomba.



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✓ Convenience
Start the voter registration process online, from anywhere at your own convenience.

✓ 24/7
You can lodge your application at any time of the day during the pre-registration phase.

✓ Save Time
Spend less time at the registration center.



#VotingSquad