



DORA SHOCKS TIZ

By Ulande Nkomesha

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia says it has noted with concern the growing trend by Cabinet Ministers to unguardedly and recklessly engage in tribal talk, whose only sole purpose is to fuel hatred for other tribes.

And Lifuka says it is disappointing that Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya is advising headmen to use fraudulent means of obtaining social cash transfer

How can a minister teach people how to defraud her own govt?

funds.

In a statement to News Diggers, Wednesday, TIZ chapter president Rueben

Lifuka said the recent tribal remarks made by Siliya, who is also Information Minister, that Tongas had risen against

Easterners, was not only unfortunate but emblematic of the toxic nature which Zambian politics has assumed in the past

two years.

"The tribal sentiments reported in the News Diggers paper of 28 October 2020, that

are attributed to Honourable Dora Siliya made while on a campaign trip to Sinda in Eastern..."

Story page 4



President Edgar Lungu lays a wreath during the Memorial of late President Michael Sata at Embassy Park in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Police question Saboi for Defamation of the President

By Natasha Sakala

POLICE have released National Democratic Congress (NDC) spokesperson Saboi Imboela without charge after being questioned for Defamation of the President.

In an interview, Imboela said after being questioned at Lusaka Central Police, Wednesday, police searched her residence where they seized her daughter's laptop and her school certificates.

"The police yesterday did call me that I should report

myself at Central Police. So I ended up going today because yesterday I was not available. So

when we went today, they said they are investigating a matter of defamation of the president,

a post I wrote on Facebook. Of course my lawyer and I did tell them that..."

Story page 6

Reject Bill 10, HH urges MPs

By Julia Malunga

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has called on members of parliament to reject Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 saying it is poisonous.

In an audio shared to with media, Wednesday, Hichilema insisted that Bill 10 would harm the country.

"Beloved citizens, citizens of Zambia, Bill 10 is poison, Bill 10 is black mamba poison, it is lethal, it is deadly..."

Story page 7

Police summon Diamond TV director, news editor over leaked budget speech

By Diggers Correspondent

POLICE in Lusaka have summoned Diamond TV Chief Executive Officer, Costa Mwansa and Head of News and Current Affairs, George Chomba to appear for questioning at force headquarters today at 09:30 hours.

This is in connection

with investigations police are conducting in relation to what is alleged to be a leaked speech of the 2021 budget.

On Wednesday and Friday last week, police summoned the duo to find out how their Television station came into possession of the speech hours before it was presented to parliament.

Story page 10

Kanganja condemns PF youth's Chawama fracas

Story page 3



By Julia Malunga
PF CHAIRMAN for legal affairs Brian Mundubile says the ruling party is confident that the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 will pass Second Reading this Thursday because they have dealt with the contentious clauses.

In an interview, Mundubile said PF remained confident that the Bill would still pass Second Reading.

“We are very confident that it will go through because it is a good Bill. The numbers are there. Stakeholders, especially our friends in the opposition, they had raised issues to do with deputy ministers, coalition government and

Bill 10 will pass, we’ve dealt with contentious clauses - Mundubile

so on, so what Ministry of Justice did was to wait for the Committee to sit, and coincidentally, the issues that the opposition were raising are the same issues most of the stakeholders raised during the Committee sittings. So, what the Ministry of Justice did was just to accept the Committee recommendations, which predominantly dealt with

all the contentious issues. So, the opposition had given a condition that they can’t support the Bill because of some of the clauses, so the moment we removed them, we didn’t see any reason why they should continue not supporting it,” Mundubile said.
“Then they raised an issue of trust, they said, ‘we are

happy with the clean-up, but how do we know you won’t change mid-way?’ So, again, the Ministry of Justice went out of their way to even gazette the amendment, something unusual, but it was done as an assurance. To show them that we will not change, we are gazetting these amendments. And the Minister of Justice (Given Lubinda), in his

policy statement on Bill 10, did something unusual in that he now pronounced the substantive amendment... you know why? Because we needed to give assurances to our colleagues in the opposition. So, that should give us confidence because all the contentious issues have been dealt with.”
He stressed that Bill 10

would resolve youth and women-related problems.

“We know that our friends in the opposition are dealing with the same Zambian people that we are also dealing with: the women, youths, the disabled, the traditional leaders, and Bill 10 will resolve problems for the youth participating in governance issues, the disabled. It also resolves the wrangles in the chiefdoms. So, from that standpoint, the brave women and men in the opposition will stand up to do what is right, and that is to support Bill 10,” he said.

And Mundubile insisted that the shifting of dates of tabling Bill 10 was due to “circumstances.

“When a Bill is presented for First Reading, Mr Speaker refers it to the Committee. So, for this particular Bill, the sitting took unusually long because we wanted to make sure that as many stakeholders as possible participated. When the Bill traverses two sessions you have to, first of all, move a motion to restore it on the Order Paper. It was started in another Parliament in August so when it came up in December, first of all, before we could debate it, a motion had to be moved for it to be restored on the Order Paper because it was crossing between sessions. The next time that it came, Parliament closed because of COVID-19. So, we haven’t been shifting the dates, it has been the circumstances,” Mundubile said.

He also said that there was nothing illegal about publishing Bill 10 amendments.

“Don’t mistake gazetting a Bill to gazetting amendments. A gazette is just a publication through which the government informs people of its decision. So, what is illegal about publishing the amendment that Cabinet agreed to? So, there was nothing illegal. Those that had contested this thought that the Bill was re-gazetted, there was no Bill that was gazetted, what was gazetted were the amendments what were agreed to. And remember, it was not the decision of the Justice Minister alone, Cabinet sat and looked at the recommendations from the Committee. So, once Cabinet agreed to those recommendations that were proposed by the stakeholders, those are the ones Honourable Lubinda went and published,” said Mundubile.

“So, there was nothing illegal about gazetting the amendments. The long story on Bill 10 will be done, then, we can begin to look at other topics. I think even for you, as a journalist, this has been going on for some time and, obviously, it must come to an end so that we start something else.”

Cancer treatment too expensive for ordinary Zambians - Rupiah

By Abraham Kalito
FORMER president Rupiah Banda says cancer medication is very expensive and it is painful that the majority of ordinary citizens in his situation cannot access the necessary medical help they need.

In an interview with Kennedy Gondwe for his Studio Ken Youtube Channel, Banda said he was overwhelmed by the support he had received since he revealed his colon cancer diagnosis.

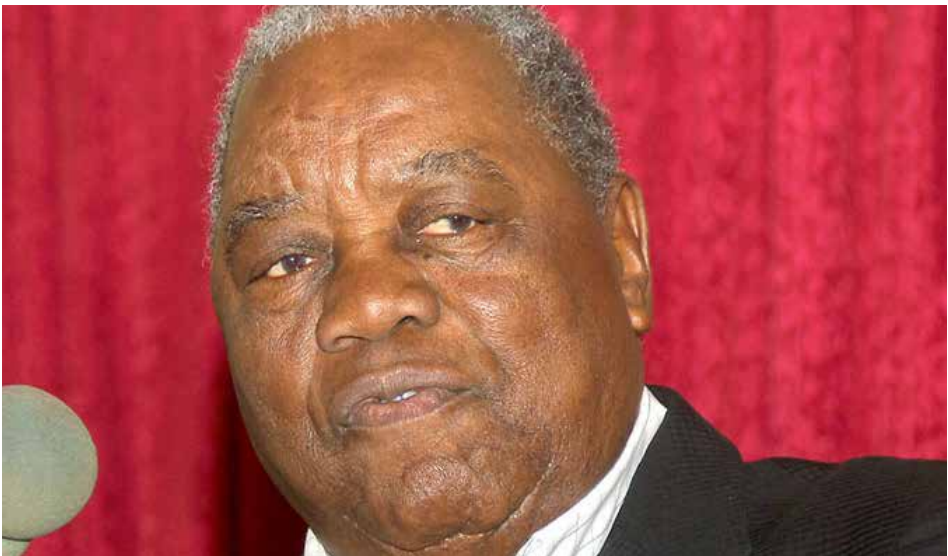
“After I announced that I had been diagnosed with cancer of the colon, life has been very hectic because they have responded overwhelmingly with sympathy, with me and my family. The question says that given that this is the third time we are dealing with cancer, yes it’s the third time. Yes it’s the third time it has directly affects me as Rupiah Banda. But we have had a lot of problems with cancer in my family, my father I lost my father to cancer of the throat,” Banda said.

“And many other members of the family, brothers, children. But my direct family,

it’s been very difficult because I lost my first wife, Hope Mwansa Banda to cancer. We did everything we could we took her to America it didn’t work, she passed on. And then I re-married my young wife and then after we had twins she was diagnosed with cancer of the breast and so fortunately, looks like science has developed now and she survived. And she is on my right had side encouraging me that she did and I can do it too. Generally my family is very shaken by the situation, I’m the head of the family and also I have a bigger family Zambia.”

Banda said he was extremely optimistic that he would win the battle but that he was, however, at ease with death.

“When you hear the word cancer then the word death comes next and I have been thinking about that too. But even in my old age, I had been thinking about death. Because at the age of 83, many of my friends and age mates are gone. But I also say to myself that I think God loves me that’s why I also try to transmit this love to others, because 83 years is a long time and my health



is generally good, it’s just this cancer which has been nagging and bothering me for the last few years I didn’t know what it was. But to tell you the truth I’m very optimistic that we will overcome. Yes, the treatment is very tough,” he said.

He described how aggressive cancer treatment was.

“I was diagnosed in the main hospital in Dubai where I went, with this cancer they would give me 12 chemotherapies. So what is happening now is that every two weeks, I have to go back to the hospital and get chemotherapy. On Wednesday, I got chemo, you can see my skin is all affected, turned black. So today on a Monday the doctors will come in and get my blood, then by a Tuesday the doctors will know the condition of my blood and on Wednesday at 08:00 I will go for my chemo. At the hospital, Dr Desai, where he is being supported by Doctors from UTH, the head of Oncology in Zambia Dr Banda, and other Doctors,” he said.

“I think three or four Doctors from the Ministry of Health plus nurses the three young Zambian nurses who have been trained here in Zambia and in South Africa in Pretoria and they all come to help. So I’m getting the best that the country can offer. It’s very advanced. Because we really didn’t know that I had cancer. Every six months the government sends me overseas for medical treatment. So, before the Coronavirus, they

discovered something funny in my internal organs and later they discovered it was colon cancer. And when you get news like that you become scared.”

And Banda said he was aware that he was receiving special treatment which was not available to ordinary citizens.

“And then I realise that this is special, it’s just for me that why it’s so painful because if I can suffer like this, what about the other ordinary people? So that’s what happens, and during the day of chemo, it’s quite traumatic because you have needles all over and you go through various chemo, the main one is 46 hours which I carry over my neck and stay with it on my body. But I get other chemo during that period maybe from 5am to 9 o’clock in the evening. And you become very nauseas but they give you medicine to help and then by 5 o’clock in the evening, I get a big chemo and they release me to come home with it on my body and it drops for 46 hours. So during that time, it’s very difficult. And from Wednesday, they come and take it off on Saturday and then I’m very weak after that, I can’t walk and can’t eat,” Banda said.

“Right now I’m feeling much better, I feel like I’m on top of the world but I know that in two days time, I will be knocked down. It’s painful but you have to go through it if there is any chance of survival. Mine was actually fourth stage when they discovered it.”

Banda lamented that cancer treatment was very expensive and not everyone could afford it.

“...the first decision we made when I became President was to set up a cancer centre. But you know, it’s one thing to set up a cancer centre and its another to have adequate medication, the necessary equipment. That is the biggest problem, cancer requires a lot of medication, very expensive medication and that is where we are facing problems and with problems that most of our economies are facing in Africa and the outside world, because we get help from the outside world but right now they are facing their own problems with the Covid-19,” said Banda.

“So it’s very difficult for the ordinary Zambians to get the help they need. Especially in the rural areas they don’t even have a little clinic, it’s very painful, the way I am feeling is the way every leader in Zambia should be feeling. It’s a very serious problem, this lack of medicines. And in cancer, it’s just one disease and by the way despite the fact that I am tired, and don’t take interviews anymore, but when you asked me to participate, I said I had to join Zambians who are fighting this disease. It’s a serious problem and we need help. And hoping that this Coronavirus thing will be over so that the world can go back to where it was before. But to answer the question I think we should make our own medicines here.”

IN THE SUBORDINATE COURT OF THE FIRST CLASS 2020/CRMP/ML/432
FOR THE LUSAKA DISTRICT
HOLDEN AT LUSAKA
(Civil Jurisdiction)

IN THE MATTER OF: SECTION 4 OF THE MONEY LENDERS ACT CHAPTER
398 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: THE MONEY LENDERS (APPLICATION FOR
CERTIFICATE) REGULATION

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: AN APPLICATION FOR A MONEY LENDERS
CERTIFICATE -APPLICANT BY ALFRED CHEWE (T/A BUCKS LEND
LIMITED)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR MONEY LENDERS CERTIFICATE


TAKE NOTICE that ALFRED CHEWE will apply for money Lenders
Certificate under the Money lenders Act Cap 398 of the Laws of
Zambia, under the name and style of BUCKS LEND LIMITED
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the above cause will be held and
determined by the Subordinate Court for Zambia at Lusaka on
the 10th day of NOVEMBER 2020 at 08:30 hours before the
HONOURABLE MAGISTRATE C.CHIWAULA

FERD JERE & COMPANY

28 OCT 2020

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ADVOCATES FOR THE APPLICANT



Justice, Honour and Integrity

27th October, 2020

To: All Members of Parliament

Dear Honourable Members of Parliament,

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL No. 10 of 2019

Kindly refer to the above captioned matter.

The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) is a statutory body created under section 3 of the LAZ Act, Chapter 31 of the Laws of Zambia. Among our objectives and mandates under the said Act, is to promote the rule of law, seek the advancement of human rights and to further the development of law as an instrument of social justice and as an essential element in the growth of Zambian society. Within our objective, is the overall duty to ensure constitutionalism, constitutional legitimacy and Democratic governance in Zambia.

Our objectives beckon us to be mindful and take keen interest in the Constitution of Zambia. The process of making a Constitution, or indeed amending one, is a very delicate matter that ought never to be taken lightly. A Constitution should never suffer amendment on political lines. We would borrow the text from the International Round Table on Democratic Constitutional Development, employed by the renowned Constitutional Lawyer Muna Ndulo and say that:

“the process of constitutional-making is crucial. The Constitution is no ordinary law to be modified or replaced by ordinary legislation. It must be perceived as a higher law, authorizing and governing ordinary law and commanding adherence to constitutional precepts. While ordinary law may be adopted and altered by legislative majorities of whatever size, the adoption of a constitution and its amendment requires much more, widespread participation by the citizenry and the achievement of a broad-based consensus.” (Ndulo and Kent, 1996)

Though the process surrounding Bill 10 has been unduly politicised, LAZ is without doubt that the process lacked the critical ingredient of broad-based consensus. For so long as no consensus exists, it is immaterial how good or progressive the contents of

a proposed Bill to amend the Constitution may be because the enactment would have failed the test of constitutionalism.

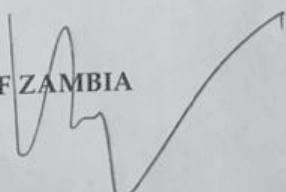
LAZ is dismayed that notwithstanding the apparent lack of a broad-based consensus, the constitutional amendment process will proceed to second reading and voting on Thursday, 29th October, 2020. This is despite many calls from the general members of the public, civil society organisations and many other stakeholders that the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill (Bill 10) be withdrawn.

As Members of Parliament, we remind you that your primary duty is to the people of Zambia who elected you into office. Article 5 of the Constitution states that the sovereign authority lies with the people of Zambia and yours is the delegated power to implement the will of the people. It is unnecessary to go into specific provisions of Bill 10 to conclude that there is no consensus amongst the People of Zambia over Bill 10. We therefore, urge you to put the concerns of the Zambian people above all party or political interest. We implore you to do the right thing. Bill 10 must be taken off the floor so that an opportunity is given for broad-based consensus on the provisions contained therein. LAZ believes that there is still time to build consensus if Members of Parliament from across the political divide put the people of Zambia first.

LAZ assures you that its interests are born out of its sworn duty to preserve and protect the Constitution of Zambia and the principle of constitutionalism.

Yours faithfully

LAW ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA



Abyudi James Shonga, Jr. S.C
PRESIDENT

Cc: Speaker of the National Assembly

Cc: Clerk of the National Assembly

No. TNOI20-NOI09

Police launch manhunt for Tembo’s killer



By Julia Malunga

POLICE in Lusaka have launched a manhunt for Lieutenant Nigel Mwaba, aged 33, of Zambia Army who is suspected to have murdered Dr Tasila Tembo.

In a statement, Wednesday, acting police spokesperson Danny Mwale announced that Dr Tembo’s body was found in a decomposed state covered with leaves in an army training centre in Mikango area.

“Police in Lusaka received a report of a missing person in which it was reported that a female identified as Dr Tasila Tembo, aged 47, of plot number 1732 Meanwood, Ibex Hill, went missing. This occurred on October 24, 2020 around 16 hours. Investigations into the matter were instituted and on October 27, 2020, at 13:00. Police discovered the body of a woman, who was later identified as Dr Tasila Tembo. The body was found in a decomposed state covered with leaves in Nanking Army Training Centre in Mikango area,” narrated Mwale.

“The body was temporarily buried at a traditional burial site in Mikango area awaiting post-mortem to be conducted today at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH). Police have since launched a manhunt for the suspect, who has been identified as Lieutenant Nigel Mwaba, aged 33, of Zambia Army in Lusaka. We appeal to members of the public, who may have the information of the whereabouts of the suspect, to report to any police station.”

Kanganja condemns PF youth’s Chawama fracas

By Natasha Sakala

INSPECTOR General of Police Kakoma Kanganja says police have launched investigations to bring to book the perpetrators of the clash between two PF youth groups that took place in Chawama on Tuesday.

In a statement, Wednesday, Kanganja condemned the fracas saying it caused anarchy and disturbed the peace of innocent citizens.

“I wish to condemn in the strongest terms the fracas that happened in Chawama Compound in the afternoon of October 27, 2020, in which some unruly youths clashed and ended up causing disruption of peace in the area. Initial investigations have revealed that two groups of PF youths in Chawama clashed, thereby, causing anarchy and disturbing the peace of innocent members of the public. They further took to the streets of Chawama and blocked some roads, thereby causing panic and fear to the public. Police officers were deployed to the area to restore order and investigations have been launched with a view of bringing perpetrators to book,” Kanganja stated.

He added that police would not tolerate lawlessness regardless of political affiliation.

“As I have always said, police shall not entertain or cast a blind eye to any form of lawlessness regardless of any political party affiliation, hence anyone who breaks the law must face the consequences of their behaviour. I am warning all those PF youths, who were involved in yesterday’s public disorder that police will catch up with them,” he stated.

He emphasised that everyone who intended to carry out any procession or protest must engage the police or risk attracting the wrath of the law.

“I wish to remind everyone that all public activities, such as meetings, processions and protests are guided by the Public Order Act, therefore, all those that wish to undertake such activities should always engage the police. Any conduct to the contrary shall attract the wrath of the law,” warned Kanganja.



TUNE INTO MUSIC.
TUNE INTO NEWS.
TUNE INTO TALK.
TUNE INTO YOUR CITY.
TUNE INTO YOUR WORLD.

97.7 FM



By Ulande Nkomesha
TRANSPARENCY International Zambia says it has noted with concern the growing trend by Cabinet Ministers to ungaurdly and recklessly engage in tribal talk, whose only sole purpose is to fuel hatred for other tribes.

And Lifuka says it is disappointing that Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya is advising headmen to use fraudulent means of obtaining social cash transfer funds.

In a statement to News Diggers, Wednesday, TIZ chapter president Rueben Lifuka said the recent tribal remarks made by Siliya, who is also Information Minister, that Tongas had risen against Easterners, was not only unfortunate but emblematic of the toxic nature which Zambian politics has assumed in the past two years.

“The tribal sentiments reported in the News Diggers paper of 28 October 2020, that are attributed to Honourable Dora Siliya made while on a campaign trip to Sinda in Eastern province, are not only unfortunate but emblematic of the toxic nature that Zambian politics has assumed in the last couple of years. We note with concern the growing trend by Cabinet Ministers to ungaurdly and recklessly engage in such tribal chauvinism whose only sole purpose is to fuel hatred for other tribes. It is astounding to observe the apparent lack of sensitivity on the part of Ministers who are members of the Cabinet, which in the aftermath of the 2016 general elections, set up the Commission of Inquiry on Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence,” Lifuka said.

“It is becoming apparent that President Lungu and his cabinet has not seriously engaged with the findings of the Commission and the many recommendations made to

Lungu must act on Dora before tribalism triggers violence - TIZ

avoid a recurrence of the rather sad events of 2016. We want to remind Hon Siliya and all other elected leaders who find it convenient to appeal to tribal instincts of the electorate, that they are creating a ‘beast that will come to devour them. ‘The Commission of Inquiry in its January 2019 report, observed that ‘the elections held from 2006 to 2016 have culminated into a vivid voting pattern, which has seen the nation divided into two distinct voting blocs, one in the north-eastern and the other in the south-western part of the country. This phenomenon has diminished the spirit of the ‘One Zambia, One Nation’ motto and is a threat to national stability”

Lifuka said it was disappointing that 56 years after independence, political leaders still saw tribe as the main selling point for their preferred candidate.

“It is difficult to fathom that 56 years after independence, our leaders still see tribe as the main selling point for their preferred candidate and what Hon Siliya is reported to have said to the people she was meeting in Sinda, in fact validates some of the petitioners who appeared before the Commission of Inquiry. The Commission received numerous submissions that politicians involved themselves in tribal campaigns, which significantly influenced voting patterns. Petitioners submitted that candidates and their supporters engaged in tribal and regional based campaigns – such as promoting the “son of soil, tribal cousin and wako ni wako” syndrome,” Lifuka said.

“The Commission observed that campaigning along tribal

lines encouraged divisions and is likely to generate political conflict on tribal lines. When politicians use offensive language in reference to other tribes, they provote tribal hatred. Further, the Commission noted that when a candidate loses an election on tribal lines, the atmosphere created is like the whole tribe to which the candidate belongs has lost. This collective loss and winning syndrome leads to prolonged post-election tension, characterised by animosity between the losing and the winning tribes.”

Lifuka urged President Edgar Lungu should take action on such reckless statements by his Cabinet Ministers before they trigger electoral violence in the coming elections.

“TRANSPARENCY International Zambia wants to remind all political parties of the provisions of the Constitution in Article 60(3) (a) which provides that: ‘A political party shall not be founded on a religious, linguistic, racial, ethnic, tribal, gender, sectoral or provincial basis or engage in propaganda based on any of these factors.’ Political parties and political leaders, should not be the purveyors of hatred, confusion and tribal conflicts. Common sense dictates that our leaders, particularly those privileged to serve as Cabinet Ministers, should be bridge builders, Ambassadors of peace, beacons of hope for a united Zambia,” Lifuka said.

“We need to invest in peace now and not when there is total bedlam in the run up and aftermath of the 2021 elections. It is unbecoming if not criminal

for Cabinet Ministers or any other political leaders as well as Chiefs to allow themselves to become Architects of electoral violence. If our leaders find it easy to use demagoguery aimed at appealing to the raw emotions of their supporters, should we be shocked when political cadres find no remorse in hacking, maiming or demeaning their perceived political enemies? Where do we draw the line and stop this rot which could be perpetuated for generations to come? President Lungu should not be indifferent to these actions and reckless statements by his Cabinet Ministers, he needs to bring them in line before these words serve as a trigger for electoral violence in the coming elections.”

And Lifuka said it was disappointing that Siliya advised headmen to use fraudulent means of receiving social cash transfer funds.

He urged President Lungu to consider taking appropriate sanctions against Siliya for what can be considered to be misconduct on her part.

“The second issue of concern raised in the article is that of impropriety on the part of the Minister. Hon Siliya, is purportedly reported to have advised headmen on how they can fraudulently find themselves on the list of recipients of Social Cash Transfer. This will be a damning indictment If indeed it is true that Hon Siliya basically provided tips to Head men on how to beat the system. It is inconceivable that a Cabinet Minister, all for purposes of electioneering, can knowingly and willingly scheme to deprive people who genuinely deserve to



receive social cash transfer,” said Lifuka.

“The question that begs an answer is whether this is the way that people who do not deserve to receive government support like FISP, find themselves on beneficiary lists? What guarantee do we have that the COVID 19 economic empowerment schemes are not being implemented in a similar manner where less deserving individuals are given priority? Is this what District Commissioners have been doing to facilitate headmen or indeed party cadres to receive government support which they are not eligible for? Zambia has yet to recover from the scandals that beset the Social Cash Transfer which led to donors withdrawing their support and these actions do very little to rebuild donors’ trust. We urge President Lungu to consider taking appropriate sanctions against his Minister for what can be considered to be misconduct on her part.”

Meanwhile, a concerned

citizen, Thomas Allan Zgambo, has written a letter of complaint to Inspector-General of Police Kakoma Kanganja to express his disappointment of Siliya’s tribal-filled utterances, saying that the PF’s tribalism is “building a monster, which will consume us.”

“I write in my individual capacity as a bonafide citizen of the Republic of Zambia lodging an official complaint against Hon Siliya. I am in possession of an audio recording of the said Hon Minister encouraging hate speech against Tongas, who are also bonafide citizens of the Republic of Zambia. Sir, I am not Tonga, but an Easterner, but I am Zambian. This hate speech has been going on for some time. We have Ministers like Hon. Christopher Yaluma and Prof Nkandu Luo preaching hate. Sir, we are building a monster, which will consume us, action should be taken, the earlier, the better,” urged Zgambo, in his letter that was acknowledged and received at Service Headquarters, Wednesday.

Michael Chilufya Sata's Memorial



Fr Chilinda presides over Sata's Memorial



Former first lady Christine Kaseba Sata lays a wreath



Davis Mwila greets Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba



Mumi Phiri greets Chishimba Kambwili



Lands Minister Jean Kapata greets a woman at the Memorial



Former first lady Christine Kaseba

Photo Focus: Family, friends and govt officials pay their respects to Michael Chilufya Sata during the former president's memorial yesterday - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

By Ulande Nkomesha

KABWE Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says there is no police brutality in Zambia, arguing that there is no way law enforcement agencies can just watch if UPND members break the law.

And Ngulube says the UPND are being ignorant in attempting to seek international intervention on police brutality because foreign actors cannot interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Commenting on the UPND's decision to write to the international community on the continued arrest and harassment of its members, Ngulube said UPND members were just law breakers.

"The issue of saying police brutality, there is no police brutality whatsoever; when you break the law, you expect that the country should just keep quiet? No! The UPND must learn to respect the law, otherwise, their problems will never come to an end. We have a lot of opposition political parties in Zambia, how come

There's no police brutality, UPND are just lawbreakers, says Tutwa

it is only the UPND who is breaking the law at will? So, we want to laugh at them, the levels of ignorance are alarming! The international community cannot do anything in Zambia. Zambia is a sovereign State and it has its own laws. The UPND is a political party and it is not a state, so how is it going to run to the UN? You are not a footballer, but you are insisting that you want to play? So, they should come for a lecture. We will organise a lecture on international law," he said.

And Ngulube said Zambia was a sovereign State, which had its own laws and policies in which the international community could not interfere

in.

"First of all, it is very clear that they are very ignorant about how the international community works. You see, the international community does not interfere in internal matters. As far as we are concerned, Zambia has its own laws and it's got its own policies and international reputation. For instance, if they are breaking the law, are they insinuating that they can break the law and nothing should be done? Is the UPND the only opposition in Zambia? It is not. It is an act of desperation to say, 'we will break the law so when they arrest us we run to the international community,'"

Ngulube said.

"As far as we are concerned, it is not the only opposition party and it is not the oldest political party. Otherwise, as far as we are concerned, even the UN wherever they are going to write it does not entertain until administrative mechanisms available in that particular country are resolved. So, here in Zambia, they must first go to court, when they have finished all the courts, even the Supreme Court, when they feel that even the courts are not fair to them, that is when they can go to the international community."

Meanwhile, Ngulube, who is also government Deputy Chief Whip, insisted that there

was no sign of the UPND were forming government next year.

"Look at how they performed in the by-elections? There is no sign whatsoever that the UPND is anywhere near forming government. They have just been making noise, claiming that they are the next government. There is nothing to show that they are the next government. They have been losing all the by-elections and they can't even accuse anybody because they have just been losing," said Ngulube.

"They are just trying to massage themselves because

the international community they want to write, which agreement are they going to write, under which treaty did the UPND sign? Which treaty did the UPND sign to the international community for them to go and complain? When you talk about the International Court of Justice only state parties can run there; if you talk about the United Nations, only state parties can go there. They are just ignorant and it is the level of ignorance that is making them look so desperate. I think they live in a world of their own."

Being in the opposition is now scary, laments Andyford

By Abraham Kalito

PEOPLE'S Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says it is scary to be in the opposition PF can do anything they want and get away with it.

And Banda says it is a clear case of rigging an election when the PF can mobilise themselves freely, while those in the opposition are stopped by the police every time they intend to do the same.

Commenting on the ongoing harassment of the opposition by the State where politicians were deprived of freedoms to mobilise, while others were almost daily in and out of court, Banda said the PF government intended to gain political mileage by deliberately using intimidation, persecution and intolerance as gimmicks to create scary circumstances for opposition parties to operate in.

"There is a lot of nonsense that's happening! Actually, today, we saw two bail applications that have been granted where first of all, the UPND MP for Sesheke (Romeo) Kangombe, who has been granted a bail of K200,000 cash and there is Mr (Chishimba) Kambwili as well, who has been granted a bail of K300, 000 cash! Now, we have never heard of such bail conditions happening in this country. To be honest, it's frightening. It's scary! Because how many of us, if we are in that position, can afford to have that kind of money to be bailed out of

police? But at the end of the day, what choice do we have? Should we give up because the guys have heightened their tactics," Banda said.

"But all these gimmicks and tactics are temporal, they will intimidate us as much as they want, but I still believe that there will be an end to this nonsense. And while it's frightening, it's also an opportunity for us in the opposition to be written down in the history books that we fought an intolerant regime and someone has to do it and we will do it. We will not stop no matter how many times they will intimidate us. I know a lot of people are now going to be scared to criticise the government of the day, but we have to make a choice...That choice is that the battle continues! And for us, as PAC, they should wait for us, we are coming, we have been quiet deliberately because we wanted to be prepared so that when the intimidation starts, we know what to do."

He said the deteriorating situation in Zambia called for the international community to come in and speak loudly against government as their actions were an assault on the country's democracy.

"And I think it's getting out of hand just looking at what has happened today, I think it's really getting out of hand and the PF are getting things out of proportion. And as such, there is need that the international community comes in. The international community

need to begin to speak up now and speak up loudly because this is clear intimidation, this is an assault on our democracy and if the international community, like we saw last week, were donating money to the Electoral Commission of Zambia, you know, funding ECZ is one thing, but the system of rigging is a process," he said.

And Banda argued that next year's polls were already being rigged because the PF were allowed to mobilise their members freely, while those in the opposition were frequently stopped by the police.

"This issue where the opposition can't mobilise and yet the PF are mobilising freely without being persecuted, that's rigging! We are all supposed to freely move around the country without having to fear that the police are going to stop us. I think if the international community is really interested in protecting our democracy, then it's time that they speak up and add their voices. But I also think, as leaders of the opposition, we need to speak to the conscience of the people. I think we are not doing enough to speak to the conscience of the people," said Banda.

"So, I think for us as PAC this is what we want to start doing so that people know that this war is not about the opposition political parties, but for the whole country. When they understand that, people will start speaking up against all the wrongs that are happening."

Zambia no longer a democratic country, laments Kang'ombe



By Ulande Nkomesha

SESHEKE UPND member of parliament Romeo Kang'ombe says he is not shaken by his arrest and will still remain an agent for change.

Last Friday, Kang'ombe was arrested for abduction and assault of a police officer in Mpika District, but pleaded not guilty to the charges.

But in an interview, Kang'ombe said Zambia was no longer a democratic country.

"I can just urge the people of Zambia to be strong and expect the worst from these people. This is no longer a democratic country, unfortunately. Otherwise, speaking for myself, I am not shaken by anything; I remain a villager under the UPND. I no longer know the definition of democracy, I hope I will after next year. For now, I don't know. You never know who the next victim is," Kang'ombe said.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Zambia are quiet, like Martin Niemöller did say: 'they came for the communists and I did not speak out, because I was not a communist; they came for the socialists I did not speak out because I was not a socialist; they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist; they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew; then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.' Today, they have come for UPND, tomorrow, they will come for some PF members and there will be no one to speak for them."

Kang'ombe urged Zambians to rise up and be true agents of change.

Police question Saboi for Defamation of the President

By Natasha Sakala

POLICE have released National Democratic Congress (NDC) spokesperson Saboi Imboela without charge after being questioned for Defamation of the President.

In an interview, Imboela said after being questioned at Lusaka Central Police, Wednesday, police searched her residence where they seized her daughter's laptop and her school certificates.

"The police yesterday did call me that I should report myself at Central Police. So I ended up going today because yesterday I was not available. So

when we went today, they said they are investigating a matter of defamation of the president, a post I wrote on Facebook. Of course my lawyer and I did tell them that we never mentioned any president's name so we don't know why they put our Zambian president's name on my post. So after investigations, we even went home, all the way home to go and search my house. They searched my house, they confiscated my daughter's laptop and my certificates, grade 12, grade seven and university, hopefully they will give me a job for that, so they really had to make sure that the house

was mine where I took them," Imboela said.

Imboela said the police were looking for gadgets which they think she could have used to post the statement.

She stated that upon return from the search, police cancelled the warn and caution statement that was drafted and released her.

"So after we came back from the house, they said they are going to release me without charge because before going to the house, they were adamant saying they are going to charge me and everything, they did actually even write a warn and caution statement but I think

it more or less not, they didn't go ahead with it. They said for now there is nothing and if there anything, they will contact me through my lawyers," said Imboela.

And when contacted for a comment, police acting spokesperson Danny Mwale dispelled reports that Imboela was arrested saying investigations were still on going.

"Saboi is not yet arrested. Information circulating on social media that Saboi has been arrested is false. We are still carrying out our investigations, we haven't yet arrested Saboi," said Mwale.

Reject Bill 10, HH urges MPs



By Julia Malunga

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has called on members of parliament to reject Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 saying it is poisonous.

In an audio shared to with media, Wednesday, Hichilema insisted that Bill 10 would harm the country.

“Beloved citizens, citizens of Zambia, Bill 10 is poison, Bill 10 is black mamba poison, it is lethal, it is deadly. No matter how much sugar you pour in a cup of poison, the cup will remain poisonous and this is a case with Bill 10. Everything the PF claims to be good about bill 10, any clause the PF claims is good about Bill 10 it is nullified by the despicable clauses that will roll back years of democratic progress in our country and we should allow that to happen. Indeed we shouldn't because it

will be a grave mistake. We ask all well-meaning members of parliament to reject Bill 10 and to reject it outright. The debate has been going on for too long about Bill 10, the people of Zambia have spoken against Bill 10, churches, civil societies, upright political parties and others very loudly and clearly that Bill 10 is not acceptable in our country,” Hichilema said.

“I draw particular attention to UPND members of parliament reject bill 10.As a party you know the position of UPND that is against Bill 10. We have discussed as a team in UPND time and again and we have concluded that Bill 10 will harm this country, will harm human rights, will harm democracy, will harm the rule of law; very clearly reject Bill 10 all UPND MPs. NDC member of parliament reject Bill 10. Independent members of parliament reject Bill 10. Indeed, well-meaning PF members of parliament you too are no different from your colleagues. We expect no less than we expect from your other colleagues, reject Bill 10 because you know in your hearts that this is wrong. MPs ought to be on the right side of history and to be on the right side of history, you have to be on the side of the people of Zambia.”

Hichilema said the country's

attention should be focused on people's needs instead of Bill 10.

“People are hurting. We must draw our attention away from Bill 10 by bringing closure to this dreadful Bill 10 because we have limited resources. In any situation, a family, a business, a country has limited resources, we must focus our resources, focus our attention on making sure that families can have food on their table every single day. That our school going children are in school, that is where our attention and resources must be, those are in college, those that are in university must remain in school because we have accorded them the bursaries that they need,” said Hichilema.

“Our attention must be drawn to the needs of those that are retired to pay them their terminal benefits on time, pensioners must be looked at, the weak, the old, the sick in society. Businesses are dying that is where our attention must be, not on Bill 10. Let us bring closure to this Bill 10 now and not any other time! This is the last time we must be talking about Bill 10 because we have more important things to do as a country. I ask you if you are a responsible citizen and you believe you represent the people of Zambia, act correctly, let us close this debate.”

Court of Appeal declines Pilato, others’ application for judicial review

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Court of Appeal has declined to grant Musicians Chama Fumba, alias Pilato, Maiko Zulu, Brian Bwembya and two others leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings against ECZ's decision to conduct a fresh registration of all eligible voters for the upcoming 2021 general elections within a period of one month and on a limited budget.

On September 29, this year, Lusaka High Court judge Gertrude Chawatama refused to grant Pilato and the others leave to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the said decision by the Electoral Commission of Zambia.

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

She said allowing the

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

And October 1, this year, the said matter before judge Chitabo was adjourned sine die following an agreement by the parties.

Judge Chitabo ruled that the matter would stand adjourned sine die with liberty to restore, awaiting pronouncements from the Constitutional Court in a matter in Chapter One Foundation Limited has petitioned the ConCourt, seeking an order mandating ECZ to carry out continuous voter registration between elections.

However, on October 5, this year, Pilato and the others renewed their application for leave to apply for judicial review before the Court of Appeal in respect of the decision by ECZ to require currently validly registered voters in terms of the law to participate in a process that amounts to requiring them to

re-register as voters in a period of one month.

They cited ECZ as the respondent.

Pilato, Maiko, Bwembya aka B Flow and two youths: Nawa Sitali and Muleta Kapatiso, on behalf of the people, were seeking an order quashing ECZ's decision for being irrational, procedurally improper and illegal and an order, compelling ECZ to re-take its decision and act within the powers vested in them by the law.

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

The applicants argued that the decision by ECZ which required currently validly registered voters in terms of the law to participate in a process that amounts to re-registration of voters in a period of one month was illegal.

They further argued that there was clearly a good arguable case worth full investigation at the substantive hearing of the application for judicial review, and therefore, they ought to be granted leave to commence judicial review proceedings.

But ECZ opposed to the renewed application for judicial review, arguing that Pilato and the others were prematurely before the Court of Appeal as ECZ was guided by the Electoral Process Act in carrying out the voter registration exercise and the law provides for a redress mechanism for persons aggrieved with the registration process.

It asked the court to dismiss the application for leave to commence judicial review, with costs.

However, when the matter came up for hearing of the renewed application for judicial review yesterday before Court of Appeal judges, Justin Chashi, Petronella Ngulube and Florence Lengalenga, the applicants through their lawyers Mutembo Nchito and Musa Mwenya, State Counsel, insisted that their renewed application for leave to commence judicial review should be granted.

But ECZ through its counsel, Bob Musenga asked the court to dismiss the application with costs arguing that the applicants were prematurely before court as they had not explored numerous avenues which were available to them within the electoral laws.

And in a ruling delivered the same day, the three Court of Appeal judges declined to grant the applicants leave to commence judicial review, saying if they were to grant the application, they could end up having three cases; before the High Court, Constitutional Court and Court of Appeal bordering on similar issues.

Judge Chashi who delivered the ruling on behalf of the other two judges said each party would bear their own costs.

And in a Facebook posting, Pilato said they would pursue every route possible to defend democracy.

“The Court of Appeal has maintained the decision made by the High Court and has since indicated that we join the already existing cases before the High Court. We will pursue every route possible to defend our democracy and our constitution. To assume that we will give up is a liability for anyone,” stated Pilato.

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MANY a time when we publish stories that expose hate speech from our politicians, or stories that reveal foul language during campaigns, we are accused of misquoting, misunderstanding, missing the context, and sometimes we are even accused of publishing falsehood, sometimes we are accused of having a hidden agenda or acting out of malice.

The story we published yesterday in which we quoted Chief Government Spokesperson Honourable Dora Siliya saying Tonga's have risen against Easterners to grab the Presidency from them, makes very sad reading. It is a story loaded with tribal sentiments and regionalism. Without the backing of an audio to satisfy ourselves with the accuracy of the Minister's words, we were not going to believe she said all that. It was going to be hard to report such a story without giving our readers the privilege of listening for themselves.

But apart from the tribal remarks, what puzzled us even more was the Minister's advice to traditional leaders on what they need to do in order to access Social Cash Transfer funds. The Minister was out-rightly advising headmen, who are not vulnerable, to lie to government so that they can get money from the Social Cash Transfer programme to buy clothes and bicycles. In other words, the Minister was teaching people how to defraud her own government.

"We are here to tap

Teaching people how to defraud your own govt

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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about issues that affect our lives, we must not forget. I have heard that you are not benefiting from Social Cash Transfer, but the government has said if that was the case, it must not continue. Headmen should be taking social cash transfer as well. So those of you who would like to benefit from Social Cash Transfer, you must go to the DC's office so that you can be told how to do it. They will ask you questions:

Does your house have iron sheets? Yes

Do you own cattle? Yes

Do you own a bicycle? Yes

How many times do you eat? You say we manage to eat four times a day.

As you are answering the machine is recording. It will say that you are not a poor person and you cannot benefit with such

answers. Let me share some wisdom with you if you want to benefit from Social Cash Transfer. The DC will teach you that even when you live in a house with iron sheets, don't say the truth so that you can be included on the Social Cash Transfer programme. That way, you can have money to buy shoes and bicycles," said Siliya.

Now, she may have her weaknesses inside and outside government, but we know Honourable Siliya to be a caring mother, a person who goes out of her way to support the poorest of the poor in her constituency. Some people may disagree with us on this point, but those who have been to her constituency in Petauke District can attest to this fact. In fact, if Honourable Siliya will be re-adopted to stand again in Petauke in 2021, she may win with the rural vote because of the work she has done in the villages, empowering women and

the vulnerable through cooperatives.

So, it baffled us to hear this mother telling people to be giving false information to government officers at the expense of the poor. If the people she was addressing go ahead to obtain money by false pretences, it is the poor people, the most vulnerable who will starve to death. Is that what the Minister wants to see? Where is her compassion for the starving people of Zambia?

The other question that arises out of this is: if a Minister can openly teach people how to defraud the government, what does it say about her own conduct around government funds? If she sees nothing wrong with people stealing at the expense of the poor, what stops her from doing the same?

Many people, including the Minister herself, may think that we were acting

out of a desire to tarnish her image by reporting that story. But that is not true. No credible newspaper organisation can pursue a malicious agenda and even be proud of scandalizing people. Yes, we have stated in the past that "news is what someone doesn't want us to publish, everything else is public relations", but that is not the same as going on a rampage to publish fake news and libel against innocent people. Publishing the truth is all that matters, if the truth exposes what someone would have preferred to keep away from the public, there cannot be said to be any malice.

Our organisation does make mistakes, and we have made a number of them in the past. As a responsible organisation, we feel bad when we publish inaccurate information. In fact, everyone gets sick when we get things wrong, even if it's just a misspelling of

someone's name. But when we are accurate, we walk with our heads high, knowing we have professionally acted as a mirror of what is pertaining in our society.

We must say that we are disappointed with the Chief Government Spokesperson over her conduct in Sinda. She may not be happy with us herself, but we are just messengers who have delivered her message to the people, like other media houses did. There is nothing we added to what the Minister said at the said rally, we spent many hours in the night transcribing, and translating her campaign message. We did not want to be questioned for reporting what she did not say. That's why we let the people listen with their own ears so that they can make their own conclusions.

But even with the efforts of reproducing the audio, verbatim and translation of someone's campaign, people will still call us malicious. It is hard for journalists to operate professionally in this country. Those who have no courage to report things as they are end up being called cowards, while those who apply themselves dedicatedly to act as a mirror of society are called paid cadres. We wonder what a true professional journalist is expected to do.

Crossword puzzle No 721

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

“Be silent or let thy words be worth more than silence.”
- Pythagoras

Across

1. Soda flavor
4. Target towards a goal
6. Shake, as a tail
7. Consolidate
8. Moreover
9. Try again
11. Frozen precipitation
14. As well
15. "Carmen", for one
17. Globe
18. Slightly submerge
19. Third planet

Down

1. Xbox enthusiast
2. What we breathe
3. Rams' mates
5. Repeated another time
5. Furious
10. Slump
12. Rage
13. Earing site
14. Smidgen
16. Mess up

Crossword puzzle No 720

1	E	I	2	G	H	3	T		4	R	A	5	G
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7	R	I	D	E	R				8	D	I	G	
	O						T		E				
9	R	I	O	T				11	G	O	O	12	D
				U		13	B						E
14	L	I	T			15	O	R	16	B	I	T	
	A		17	E	G	O		I				E	
18	B	A	R			19	T	I	G	E	R		

Readers' feedback

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.

Kampyongo on Hangwende's release being lawful

Editor,

Which law is he quoting? This is not a legal issue only but a moral one too. How can a violent convicted murderer be

released in the community with no regards to the victim family. Even if it is legal but it is not good. - Simon Chinyama

A murderer on death row gets released instead of her sentence being reduced from death to life imprisonment, this issue stinks of corruption - Masu Bbuku

Does kampyongo know that Keith Mukata is now a pastor? And why wasn't he pardoned for changing behaviour? I think changing the way we treat each other is vital than changing the government because we are the government. Let's treat each other equally. - Allan Bukata Kandama

You suppose to release those whose trial has never taken place but they are in prison. - Newton Su Simutanyi

Nothing lawful has ever worked in the police or prison institutions since you Kampyongo became home affairs minister - Mutinta Mulonda

Lawful yes, but immoral. As Government don't just concentrate on legality but morality and how acceptable to the public your actions are. It may be legal but in bad taste. - Stanslous Chew



We've enough numbers to block Bill 10 - UPND

Editor,

PF MPs have nothing to lose by voting against Bill 10 as they have only few months to go before elections but have a lot to gain, everlasting dignity and good name. - Rogers Kapila

You will be doing our country a historical honor. And everyone in support of this infamous bill has been marked for future reference... - John Noel Lungu

Small comfort to people like me that

are overwhelmed by how PF is destroying our country - Mutinta Mulonda

And we expect good from our legislative house when all they debate on are issues interesting parties sponsoring them. NOT EVEN A SINGLE INTEREST OF PUTTING THE COUNTRY FIRST. - Bornwell Chilufya

An audit and a tribunal needs to be conducted on the alleged recipients of bill 10 corruption money. - Mwenya Kay

Dora on Tonga's rising against Easterners' presidency

Editor,

The bible which Dora and all politicians swear on at one point or another, and which Dora and her cohorts read during their so called national day of prayer and reconciliation abhors lies, hate and false witnessing. Let no Christian worth their salt be fooled by such people who pray with one eye open to see who they will unleash their venom on next. I suppose they read a different bible and they belong to another Zambia. The bible simply calls such a brood of vipers. - Nervous Siantombo

This is dangerous. Is it a crime to be Tonga in this government? Surely this kind of talk must be condemned and she must be punished. - Hambeza Hez Allan

Such tribal language from a minister can cause fire in the country. Does it mean the minister is against the one Zambia one Nation slogan from our founding father Kaunda??? - Peleman Mwananyambe

It's a sign of failure Mama, tell people how you will improve their living standards and not about tribe. Am bamba but when it comes to whom I will put in power, I have to vote for the manager with the capacity of managing our nation affairs no matter the tribe. Anyway soon 2021 we will fix you remember the power is with the Zambian people in 2021 - Elias Mubanga

Mediocre way of doing politics. Tribalism will not put food on one's table - Wezzy Prescott Miyanda

Police summon Diamond TV director, news editor over leaked budget speech

By Diggers Correspondent

POLICE in Lusaka have summoned Diamond TV Chief Executive Officer, Costa Mwansa and Head of News and Current Affairs, George Chomba to appear for questioning at force headquarters today at 09:30 hours.

This is in connection with investigations police are conducting in relation to what is alleged to be a leaked speech of the 2021 budget.

On Wednesday and Friday last week, police summoned the duo to find out how their Television station came into possession of the speech hours before it was presented to parliament.

According to Diamond TV sources, the duo had their personal cell phones confiscated including a company laptop used for editorial purposes.

“It is believed that police intend to arrest the two if they do not reveal the source of the document from the Ministry of Finance. But traditionally, the Ministry of Finance gives media personnel embargoed copies of National Budget for expert analysis.

This is before the Finance Minister delivers the budget speech to members of Parliament,” the sources said. This year, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu delivered his budget speech on 25th September, 2020. Meanwhile MISA Zambia chapter has condemned the act by police and described it as affront to media freedoms in the country.

Avoid re-using hybrid seed varieties to maintain good yields, govt urges farmers

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTRY of Agriculture Director for Agriculture Moses Mwale has dispelled assertions that multinational companies are patenting indigenous seed varieties as they are not owned by anybody.

And Mwale has advised farmers to avoid re-using hybrid seeds so that they are guaranteed a good yield.

Farmers recently expressed concern that they were unable to re-use hybrid seeds as they could not afford buying new seed every year.

In an interview, however, Mwale said that companies can only patent what they produced as is the case with hybrid seeds.

“You can patent what you make. So, these multinational companies, the seed that they patent is what they make because

what it is, is: those are hybrids like the seed being sold by Zamseed, SeedCo and so on. They actually create it, in other words they go through a breeding process and because they made it, that’s why they patent it to protect it. So, even for ZARI (Zambia Agriculture Research Institute), as a national research institute, they also do their own research to come up with varieties and what they do is that they combine what is there as traditional seed and then go through a breeding process and come up with a variety. And as ZARI, they patent what they also create, but what it is that, ZARI being a research institute, it’s not into marketing so whatever they make, they then license out to seed companies to make certified seed to commercialise and sell

the seed, but you cannot necessarily patent the local varieties because seriously speaking, nobody owns it. It’s there, it’s indigenous and how do you patent something that you didn’t make? So, that’s where I think the issue is,” Mwale said.

And he advised farmers to avoid re-using hybrid seeds so that they were guaranteed a good yield.

“So, there are two types of seed that you can

come across: there are self-pollinated varieties of crops like groundnuts, beans, rice and so on. So, those kinds of crops, like beans, you can actually grow the same crop the next year, the same seed you keep. Of course, when you go to hybrids, those are the ones, which lose viability over time because you see they are created through a scientific process, and that scientific process is supposed to last for just one year. Farmers may still want

to grow in the second year, but they will definitely see a loss in yield in the second year, the third year, and at a certain point, it can’t grow anymore because it’s created for that purpose. Like I said, self-pollinated, even maize itself, there are some varieties, which are called local varieties so those you can actually grow year in, year out, as long as you keep it in a nice way in terms of maintenance and storage,” said Mwale.

Germany to enforce new coronavirus lockdown

GERMANY will have a November lockdown but schools and shops will stay open, Chancellor Angela Merkel has said, calling for a “major national effort” to fight coronavirus.

Social contacts will be limited to two households, and bars, catering and leisure facilities will shut.

France is also expected to announce new lockdown measures in the coming hours.

Covid daily deaths have risen above 500 there and officials say everything must be done so it “does not overwhelm us”.

EU special adviser Prof Peter Piot has warned that some 1,000 Europeans are now dying every day from the virus.

Night curfews are in force in several countries, including for 46 million people in France. However, one minister has complained that they have failed to halt social interactions.

“[The curfew] has simply shifted them - instead of getting together at 21:00, people meet up at six,” the unnamed minister was quoted as saying.

The German government is keen to enable families and friends to meet at Christmas, but daily infections have soared to a new high of 14,964,



with 85 more deaths reported in the latest 24-hour period.

Ireland imposed tight measures last week with the aim of reopening before Christmas and Italy shut cinemas and gyms this week in an attempt to “save Christmas”. Now the UK government is under pressure to act too.

What do we know?

A broad but limited German lockdown will now start on Monday 2 November, under terms agreed during a video conference involving Mrs Merkel and the 16 state premiers:

Schools and kindergartens will remain open

Social contacts will be limited to two households with a maximum of 10 people and tourism will be

halted

Bars will close and restaurants will be limited to takeaways

Tattoo and massage parlours will shut

Smaller companies badly hit by the lockdown will be reimbursed with up to 75% of their November 2019 takings

Mrs Merkel and the state premiers are expected to reconvene on 11 November to reassess the situation

“We have to act now,” the chancellor explained, to avoid a national emergency.

In France, the defence council and cabinet were deciding the extent of the planned four-week lockdown on Wednesday, but reports suggest schools will stay open and online study will be encouraged for older children and universities.**BBC**

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Govt ponders getting fans back into stadium

By Ngosa Chalwe

THE reintroduction of fans into the Stadium cards with Minister of Sport Emmanuel Mulenga instructing his permanent secretary to engage the

Patson in a race for fitness



By Ngosa Chalwe

STRIKER Patson Daka will be in a race for fitness ahead of Zambia's crucial Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Botswana after straining his hamstring while on club duty.

The Austria based striker sustained an injury in the back of his right thigh during RB Salzburg's 3 – 2 loss against Spanish side Atletico Madrid in a UEFA Champions League tie.

Daka started upfront alongside Mergim Berisha while compatriot Enock Mwepu was deployed in the wide areas as Salzburg were looking to collect their first win in the group stage.

However, Daka was tipped to be the main man but was forced out 27 minutes into the game after he limped

off for Malian Sekou Koita.

It is not clear for how long the player will be out but the club reported after the game that a final diagnosis would be given after full examinations.

The injury would, however, come as a source of concern to Chipolopolo coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojević ahead of the match against Botswana as Daka's availability is now in question.

Micho had previously indicated his desire to build the team around the 2017 Young African Footballer of the year.

In his recent interview, Micho, however, said he had prepared the team in such a way that local based players were ready to step up and perform in case some key foreign based players

were not available.

"We have a clear projection of what is our first 11, in the best case scenario, but we have a back plan, plan B, C, D upto plan Z ready for anything that comes. May be professional players will be blocked from coming due to the on-going situation with COVID – 19. We have made our locally based players our special commando forces ready for any challenge ahead of us," Micho said.

Zambia are bottom of Group H, having lost their two opening matches of the qualifiers and need to beat Botswana over two legs to keep their AfCON hopes alive.

Chipolopolo will play the Zebras on November 12 at home before traveling for an away tie four days later.

Ministry of Health over the possibility of having fans at the stadium.

Since July, matches were played behind closed doors in a bid to arrest the spread of the Coronavirus.

Speaking at the official launch of the 2020/2021 season, Mulenga said it was possible to have fans in the stadium, provided COVID - 19 preventive measures are adhered to.

"Over the weekend, we were celebrating our Independence and in many localities, we saw that there are games which were being played in communities including my constituency, we observed health guidelines," Mulenga said.

"I am instructing the Director of Sports and ministry staff to make sure that they expedite the conclusion of discussions (with the Ministry of Health). We will be gratified to see that doors are opened to fans within 10 days from now so that people can watch the games."

Meanwhile, 135 matches are expected to be aired live on SuperSport, representing an increase of 44 matches.

This was confirmed by Multi Choice chief customer officer Leah Looks.

And Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) president Andrew Kamanga hailed the development.

"Today [Yesterday], we are gather here for the launch of an even bigger football platform which is the FAZ/MTN Super League. This represents the cream of our game and provides even greater collaborations with various partners," Kamanga said.

"As FAZ, we are happy to see so many partners that provide support to the game in various capacities. A quick scan here shows that we have the host Multi Choice, MTN, Eden University and ZNBC. We appreciate the various roles that every one of you play in the growth of our game. It is even more important now at the time when corporate bodies are tightening their pockets arising from the impact of the Covid-19.

He appealed to fans to stay calm as the Association waits for clearance from the Ministry of Health .

"We would like to appeal to the fans that they should take note that the games will still be played behind closed doors until we are given authority by the Ministry of Health to open up," said Kamanga.

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DAKA IN A RACE FOR FITNESS

By Ngosa Chalwe
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Ronaldo blasts Covid test

CRISTIANO Ronaldo will miss Juventus' Champions League fixture against Barcelona on Wednesday after being left out of the squad following his positive Covid-19 test.

Ronaldo has been self-isolating since he tested positive for the virus while away on international duty with Portugal this month.

The Bianconeri star has made just two appearances for the Serie A club this season, having last played in the 2-2 draw against Roma at the end of September.

The 35-year-old attacker had hoped to feature in Juve's Group G fixture against Barca, meaning a chance to once again go up against Lionel Messi, but needed a negative test 24 hours prior to kick-off in Turin.

The former Real Madrid player, who has been Juve's top scorer for the past two seasons, enjoyed a fierce rivalry with Messi on the pitch during his time in La Liga.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, Ronaldo said he was "feeling good and healthy", but the five-time Ballon d'Or winner then followed that up with a comment questioning the accuracy of the Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.

"PCR IS BULLSH*T", he wrote, before eventually deleting the comment.
GOAL



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