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Zambia records 91 new COVID-19 cases, 8 deaths

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that Zambia has recorded 91 new COVID-19 cases out of 2,741 tests, with eight brought in dead cases recorded in the last 24 hours.

Story page 2

UPND targets 80% win

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma says the UPND is targeting to win the 2021 elections by 80 per cent. Commenting on President

Lungu's remarks in Lufwanyama that in 2021, people should vote for one party in all election posts as it will ensure development, Kakoma said UPND was destined Story page 4

PF acting like a terrorist

organisation using State resources

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has expressed anger at the continued provocation from the ruling Patriotic Front, saying the country is being run by a terrorist-like organisation.

And Hichilema has called on Zambians to unite again, like they did in 1991 to defeat the one party state and in 2001 to reject the third term bid, saying only a united people's voice will save the country from destruction at the hands of the Patriotic Front.

"The police have thrown out our youths' notifications, NDC and UPND, on the peaceful demonstrations against ECZ, yet PF are having rallies. Lusambo and everybody in PF do as they wish. I believe they do not even notify the police, but we were following the law, they don't want us to do it. This confirms that PF is behaving like a terrorist organisation, but using state resources and instruments such as the police and the Judiciary to brutalise citizens, to oppress citizens, to take away citizens rights and freedoms of assembly, movement and associations," he lamented.

"You followed what they did to my support of the community in Kamanga on the water..."

Story page 5

MDC will shake other parties

By Julia Malunga

Felix Mutati yesterday unveiled list of notable politicians like

FORMER finance minister | Change (MDC) party, with a | secretary general.

his Movement for Democratic Lucky Mulusa joining him as his

The following is the rest of the

interim executive committee of the newly launched MDC; economist Trevor Simumba is chairperson

for economics, chairperson for the youths is Venon Kasonde, Ambassador Joyce Musenge is the deputy secretary general, vice-president in charge for administration is Shelly Thole and former ZCTU president Leonard Hikaumba is vice-president in charge of politics.

Meanwhile, former Minister of Labor Fackson Shamenda is also a member of MDC.

Story page 4

Police withdraw summons against **Binwell**

By Daniel Chansa in Kitwe POLICE in Kitwe have

withdrawn the summons that were issued against former District Commissioner Binwell Mpundu. Story page 7

Nalumango demands Mucheleka's release before prayer day

By Natasha Sakala UPND national chairperson Nalumango has Mutale demanded that President Edgar Lungu released the opposition party's deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and others from prison before talking about

Story page 10

Jay Jay gets nolle, rearrest

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE State has entered a nolle prosequi in a matter in which suspended Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others were accused of assaulting a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.

Story page 11



Govt reveals how **MoH employee** drew 10 salaries



By Ulande Nkomesha

FORMER finance minister Dr Situmbeko Musoktwane has expressed doubt that the debt relief given by the Chinese government will lead to a rebound of Zambia's economy.

The Chinese government last week granted Zambia a debt service suspension initiative on all concessional facilities.

In an interview, Dr Musokotwane said despite the help from China, the country may continue struggling due to the level of its indebtedness.

"To start with, that thing is something that came a couple of months ago and I do not think it is specific to Zambia. It is the general approach by the government of China to all countries under COVID-19, which more or less matches what the western countries have also done. It is for everybody who owes China. Whether it helps Zambia or not is not clear, but on the other hand, it is possible that inspite of that help, you will still find the country is

Musokotwane doubts economic rebound from China's debt relief

struggling, because the level of indebtedness was so high that even when somebody gives you help, it still does not help you because you already overborrowed," Dr Muskotwane said. "Let me give an example of somebody who has no food in their homes; they are starving; someone can bring you a bucket of mealie meal, it is help; it will, maybe, see you through a day or two, but it doesn't mean that hunger is finished or ended in that home. Yes, we have had some assistance, but your natural state is so bad that inspite of that bucket of mealie meal that is coming your way by way of help, within a few days, it is gone."

He added that the effect of China's debt relief would only be seen once major economic projects started to operate positively.

"You can indirectly deduce that if we continue to have problems in paying all our obligations, in other ways, we can't pay our teachers, buy medicines, we cannot pay our arrears, then you know that inspite of the help that the Chinese gave us and the western world, our situation is dire. If it was not, then we will not be having all these payments, all these kinds of problems that we are having. In the next two months, if we still continue to have problems, failing to pay other debtors here and there, failing to run goverment programs then we shall know

that inspite of the help from China, inspite of the help we will get from the G20 nations, our situation remains tough," Dr Musokotwane added.

And Dr Musokotwane said it was disappointing that President Edgar Lungu, during his working visit to the Copperbelt, called and ordered Secretary to Treasury Fredson Yamba to allocate funds for the completion of a school that had stalled.

He said it was clear that the money for the completion of the school was not budgeted for, which indicated that some funds would be diverted.

The government system knows; the Copperbelt Minister knows, the PS for the Copperbelt knows, and they have been

there is a problem here. Now why has it been left like that for years? It has been left like that because they were told there is no enough money to cover this," Dr Musokotwane said. "If you go around the country, there are so many schools that have been abandoned, including in my constituency. If the President ordered for money to that school to be done, it means that something else is going to suffer because the Treasury has only so much money. So when we tell them to fund this school and there is no money in the budget, it means that they must take that money away from another project in the country. Clearly, the problem is the

system."

He said government's expenditure was likely to increase in 2021 due to the PF's desire to demonstrate popularity in some areas in the country.

"There will be a lot of expenditure in 2021, already you can see that. The issue of by-elections, councilors are being enticed with money to resign from their positions. The government wants to demonstrate popularity in the areas they have always considered themselves not to be popular. I am sure you have seen the amounts of money budgeted for defence and security, we have seen the arsenal by the police, we have also seen the huge amounts of money into the fertiliser support program, [which is] well above what we have ever seen in this country. Remember, [when] you overspend in 2021, what it simply means is that in 2022, there will be hardly any money for fertiliser because you spent it in 2021," said Dr Musokotwane.

Kambwili judgment in forgery case deferred to Wednesday

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba yesterday failed to deliver judgement in a matter in which NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer.

Magistrate Simusamba said he could not deliver judgement yesterday due to circumstances beyond his control.

He, however, said it would be delivered on Wednesday morning.

"Unfortunately, I'm not ready to deliver judgement this morning. However, judgement will be delivered on Wednesday at 10:00 hours. Circumstances that have led to my failure to deliver judgement are circumstances beyond my control," magistrate Simazusamba said when the matter came up for judgement on Monday morning.

He apologized to the parties for the inconvenience.

Kambwili's lawyers - Musa Mwenye State Counsel, Keith Mweemba, Christopher Mundia and Gilbert phiri - were also present. Kambwili was accompanied by his vicepresident Joseph Akafumba, Roan NDC member of parliament Joseph Chishala and some party members who went to offer him support on assumption that judgment would be delivered yesterday.

There was also presence of police officers at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court complex who were securing the place ahead of judgement in the same case.

In this matter, it is alleged that on October 29, 2013, Kambwili, with intent to defraud or deceive, forged a 'no change return' (companies form 71) purporting to show that it was genuinely signed by his son Mwamba when in fact not.

It is further alleged that on the same date, Kambwili, knowingly and fraudulently, uttered the same document to an officer at Patents and Companies' Registration Agency (PACRA).

On September 21, 2020, Magistrate Simusamba closed the matter and further set yesterday, October 12, as date for judgement.

This was after Kambwili's lawyers in conduct of the matter failed to show up as they were before higher courts.

By Julia Malunga

PRESIDENTIAL Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe says it is unfair to blame the PF government for the bitting economy because there's no country which is thriving at the moment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And Sikazwe says he is confident that President Edgar Lungu will win by over 60 per cent because citizens are comfortable with him.

In an interview, Sikazwe said COVID-19 had affected the whole world.

"Economically, that is why some of us are very comfortable and relieved if you are saying the economic situation in Zambia is worse than before as compared to all the surrounding countries of the world, it will be a different story. But what is prevailing in Zambia is the exact situation that is prevailing in all countries. Three days ago there were demonstrations in South Africa, there are confusions in Zimbabwe, and it is everywhere! Why do you want to single out Zambia? Tell me a country that

Don't blame PF, COVID has hit all world economies – Freedom

is doing better economically this time especially after coming out of COVID-19, all of us have been hit by it and you know the effects. We are just trying to rebuild, trying to re-correct ourselves and see how we can improve things," Sikazwe said.

"The situation has been bad, all of us have to accept that COVID has hit us. If we are going to be judged because of the devastating situation that we have undergone, then people will be very unfair. That is why we have the confidence that we are winning. So far so good, nobody is saying things are 100 percent perfect, we know that the economy is biting which is very correct because we know where we are coming from. So when people tell you that PF is going to lose, just tell them to wait until 12th August, 2021."

And Sikazwe said President Lungu would win because he had brought about a lot of change.

his "What kind of measurement are people using to judge us that we have failed? That is where I

are people using to judge us that we have failed? That is where I have a problem. For someone to wake up and just say 'you are going to lose, it is not true. Even when you are going into an examination class, you should have confidence that you are going to pass, you don't go into an examination class when you have lost hope that you can't pass. What gives you confidence that you are going to pass is your performance from where you are coming from and the efforts you put in to ensure that you grasp whatever information that is required for you to go and sit for the exam. Which we think as a PF government we have done. Surely if you cannot see the change as the President stated in his speech in Parliament that we have changed the face of Zambia," Sikazwe said.

"So let them (opposition) just concentrate and abide by the rules of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) not condemning and saying the PF will lose. Let them focus! His Excellency has put himself in the driving seat and he is going to correct whatever challenges that we are going through. But in terms of elections, I can assure you we are winning, if anything we might even win beyond 60 percent. That is why we are working day and night. You can't say you are going to win elections, when you are just in Lusaka singing and condemning. Go to the people in Mpulungu, go to the people in Shang'ombo they are the ones who are going to tell you that things are not

He said Zambians were very comfortable with the ruling PF and President Lungu.

"In terms of fertilizer distribution, we are on top of things, since when did you hear of farmers getting inputs in September or October? I think there are just too many scores that we have scored. So it will be very difficult for our colleagues to just wake and say 'we are going to be in government.' Zambians are very comfortable with President Edgar Lungu and the Patriotic Front. So come 2021, the PF is going through," said Sikazwe.

Zambia records 91 new COVID-19 cases, 8 BIDs

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has announced that Zambia has recorded 91 new COVID-19 cases out of 2,741 tests, with eight brought in dead cases recorded in the last 24 hours.

Speaking during the COVID-19 briefing, Monday, Dr Chilufya said despite the downward trend in the number of cases, there was a worrying trend of severe sickness being presented among patients.

"Although we continue to see a downward trend to the numbers of COVID-19 cases identified through various surveillance systems in the country, we note a continued worrying inclination of disease severity among those with underlying conditions and most of those presenting late to our health facilities...unfortunately we have seen very sick people presenting to our facilities and we have picked up two major issues that I would like to address now. Number one, those in the communities, when you have symptoms such as having difficulties in breathing, fever and so on, present early to the facilities. The symptoms remain the same, a cold, running nose, flu, a headache, a fever, some aches and pains. You may feel what is commonly called as malaria like," he said.

He also expressed concern over the

increased number of BIDs recorded in the last 24 hours.

"8 BIDs in the last 24 hours in Lusaka, two very sick patients referred from a private facility four days ago who are not doing so good. One was referred from a private facility yesterday and has been there for the last three, four days and that is not good. This is a message informed by what we are seeing as a trend out there. in the last 24 hours, we conducted 2,741 tests. With this enhanced capacity we did look at current samples and a bit of the backlog and we did note 91 new cases of COVID-19. These 91 new cases have been reported in Lusaka, Ndola, Mufulira, Solwezi, Kitwe, Kalulushi and Chililabombwe," Dr Chilufya said.

"We continue to see reduced cases in our facilities though we bemoan the severity of the cases that we see out there and we see now that we have 17 patients at our various facilities, 10 in Lusaka and seven in the various parts of the country and what we see is a reduced number of people on oxygen support and these are in total seven. We have also discharged 83 patients from our various facilities in the country. The total number of cases now stands at 15,549 and this is after 91 new cases were added, we have 14,682 recoveries and deaths have increased to

3/15

And Dr Chilufya urged private health facilities to be professional and ensure they refer patients with COVID-19 symptoms early.

"The second point we have noted is attending private facilities and staying in those facilities even when you are symptomatic, the call is to both the public and the private practitioners. For the public and the private practitioners the message is this, the statutory instrument that has been invoked out of the public health act stipulates clearly designated places where you seek attention when you have COVID-19 symptoms. These are places where we have appropriate competencies, appropriate machinery, appropriate support systems and these have been told to everybody," he said.

He further expressed concern over bar owners who were opening beyond the stipulated hours and putting their patrons

"We have noted with concern that bar owners who were allowed to operate from Friday to Sunday in particular from 18:00 hours to 23:00hours are even closing at 05:00 hours. You are putting your patrons at risk, we have noted even adherence to the masking up rules and so on and so forth, the compliance is getting poorer in hotspots. Remember, it is at the reservation of the owner of the premises to ensure adherence to these rules in the hotspots. In the markets, the shops, the workplaces, let us support this multisectoral response that the government has embarked on," said Dr Chilufya.

Meanwhile, director infectious disease Professor Lloyd Mulenga said COVID-19 HIV positive patients who were adhering to treatment were recording outcomes similar to those without the condition.

"So far for the patients that have come in so far, we have seen that the majority of patients that we see in these facilities are HIV negatives. Under HIV negatives and this is just for the past six weeks where we had 80 female and 89 male then for the positives there were 49 with more male who we had admitted. And we only considered those who have severe disease. And in terms of blood group, one thorny issue about blood group O, for the HIV negatives we see that majority of the patients that we have admitted with severe COVID-19 have been those with blood group O," said Prof Mulenga.

Meanwhile, Standard Chartered Bank made a US\$50,000 donation to CIDRZ for the purchase of laboratory reagents needed for COVID-19 tests.



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By Julia Malunga

FORMER finance minister Felix Mutati vesterday unveiled his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party, with a list of notable politicians like Lucky Mulusa joining him as his secretary general.

The following is the rest of the interim executive committee of the newly launched MDC; economist Trevor Simumba is chairperson for economics, chairperson for the youths is Venon Kasonde, Ambassador Joyce Musenge is the deputy secretary general, vice-president in charge for administration is Shelly Thole and former ZCTU president Leonard Hikaumba is vicepresident in charge of politics.

Meanwhile, former Minister of Labor Fackson Shamenda is also a member of

Speaking at the colourful launch, which was also attended by PF 2021 presidential aspirant Kelvin Bwalya Fube and Zambians for Empowerment and Development (ZED) leader Fred Mtesa, Mutati said his party would shake others.

"As we consulted on issues to do with the conditions of living, we also were told that the current political climate, the way we are carrying on, we are a divided country. We are divided along tribal lines, we are divided along regional lines. So we are at a cross road as a country. And what is more is that we have a dilemma of making a choice between the lesser of the worst. Which party should the people of Zambia choose, it is always the lesser of the worst. So we are here as MDC to give an alternative," Mutati said.

"As MDC, our shared values, we believe as a country we have had a rich history of unity, of togetherness and we believe this can truly come

MDC will shake other parties – Mutati

back to Zambia. MDC is a party created for the people of Zambia to bring prosperity to the people of Zambia. With MDC, for next year's election, it provides the people of Zambia the option, the alternative, the chance not to choose the lesser of the worst. And because you are choosing the lesser for the worst, many Zambians have said that it is better not to go and vote. Our role is to motivate those Zambians that now there is an option, now you have a choice. A choice which is not colored by tribe, region, gender but driven by the fuel of unity, peace and prosperity for the people of Zambia. We are not

just a party, we are 'The Party' that will shake baja benangu (others)."

He said the surge of corruption in higher offices affected the cost of service.

"...we are seeing a surge of corruption not only in high offices but also in corporate boardrooms which is making the cost of service go up. If you want a job, you have to pay something. If you want a favor you have to pay something. Sometimes even to get a place in school, you have to bribe somebody," Mutati said.

He said debt was Zambia's number one problem.

"We have many challenges

as a country and in particular, issues around COVID-19, we have issues around debt, we have issues around the economic fundamentals. All we are saying as MDC is that we have to create new solutions to deal with old problems. We must remain alive to the disruptive effect of COVID-19 and the effect that debt is pumping which we are seeing in the form of the exchange rate, inflation, and the cost of basic items. And as MDC, we have a singular philosophy that you will never spend money that you don't have, neither should you borrow beyond your capacity to pay. We believe

that in a situation where we are, we have to re-imagine that yes infrastructure is crucial but it is mode of financing that infrastructure that now matters," Mutati said.

"So as MDC, we are saying we are going to create a private sector drive infrastructure fund. And this will have the effect of ensuring that we slow down and go towards halting debt accumulation. And debt today is our number one problem, we must tackle it. The Minister of Finance was saying in his budget that when I pay debt, I pay salaries I have no money. How do you grow the economy? It is not his problem, the problem is the excess debt. And you say 'Mutati you were part of it, you were Minister of Finance' yes, I accept collective responsibility. I will not be the first one to apportion and point blame of who did and did not do. I played my part in the team, when the team wins, everyone celebrates, when you lose, please don't point fingers. That is not team spirit." He said he had learnt something from each of the presidents he served.

"I have worked with three presidents, the one who appointed me first Levy Patrick Mwanawasa and what I remember of him is the issue of discipline, the issue of rule of law and the determination to push you to work hard. Story

We're targeting an over 80% win – UPND

By Ulande Nkomesha

2021 elections by 80 per cent.

Commenting on President Lungu's remarks in Lufwanyama that in 2021, people should vote for one party in all election posts as it will ensure development, Kakoma said UPND was destined to win.

"In 2021, the people of Lufwanyama will vote for HH, the presidential vote for Lufwanyama will go to HH. In 2021, the votes for the MP will go to the UPND candidate, the council chairman votes will go to the UPND and the councilors also. So we are sweeping the votes in Lufwanyama in 2021. His prediction of course will come to pass that all the votes will go to UPND. That will be replicated in many places in Zambia. We are targeting to win the polls by more than 80 percent, so it is going to be a landslide. We will win Lufwanyama," Kakoma said.

"That confidence by Edgar Lungu

and the PF is not that they have delivered allowed corruption to take the center NRCs, the party cadres have now taken UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma or that the people are with them, they stage in Zambia. You can see that he is over the show and are now charging says the UPND is targeting to win the also know that the people are not with helpless in the fight against corruption. people to enable them enter the centers them. Even in the Copperbelt where they think it is their stronghold, the carpet has been swept off their feet. The ground has shifted, it is no longer the Copperbelt that Lungu used to know. In his entourage, if you are seeing people, there are just government officials, civil servants who are just following to do their work not that they are with him. The same civil servants are going to vote against him including the police that are guarding him, they are going to vote against him."

Kakoma said President Lungu was famous for wrong reasons like failure to fight corruption, among others.

"He is boosting that his name is well known, yes he is well known in Zambia but for wrong reasons. He is famous for doing wrong things, he is famous because he is a President that has failed to fight corruption. Many people now are wallowing in poverty because he has Those people that are with him are the ones now running the show, corrupt people that are surrounding him are the ones who are running the show. Many Zambians are wondering why despite giving him so much power, he yields a lot of power but he is failing to use that power to use on the corrupt people that are surrounding him," Kakoma said.

"We have seen that even party cadres have taken a leaf from him and they are taking over functions of government. They have taken over the bus stops, the markets, the bus stops at Intercity Market, cadres are now charging fees for loading buses. Every bus which leaves now they have to pay to PF and not the council. That is lawlessness, recklessness. Complete lawlessness and the President knows this and he's doing nothing and being helpless. Now we have seen even in other programmes like the issuance of where they are getting NRCS. That information has landed on his desk and he is still looking helpless. He can't control the situation."

Kakoma said President Lungu was also known for bringing down the economy.

"Edgar Lungu is famous for bringing down the economy. That is what people will remember him for, that he found a robust economy growing at seven percent per annum now he has brought it down. Agwesa economy Chagwa agweza economy (Chagwa has caused the economy to collapse) to negative four percent. So with an economy that is growing negative at four percent, you cannot create jobs that is why he has seen that a lot of young people graduating from colleges and universities and some just finishing Grade 12 can not find jobs. The economy has fallen!"

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

DEPUTY Secretary to the Cabinet for E-Government Dr Martin Mtonga has revealed that a Ministry of Health employee in Luanshya was drawing 10 salaries from the government payroll system using 10 different bank accounts.

And Dr Mtonga says another medical doctor from Mpongwe who had been on an unpaid study leave has been drawing salaries for 12 years whilst studying in Russia.

Meanwhile, Dr Mtonga said 71 deceased employees on the Copperbelt were maintained on the payroll while various other employees drew salaries after resigning and retiring.

Speaking when featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Dr Mtonga said a lot of discrepancies had been discovered during the ongoing government payroll cleaning programme.

"But now a report has come from the office of Controller of Internal Audits and they have advised Cabinet on what it should do and those measures are being done. The Secretary to Cabinet now is taking that responsibility of maybe disciplinary or maybe dismissal or even reporting them to the Law Enforcement Agencies. Some of them are already being picked up by police, DEC, and some of them by ACC. You can call it, may be theft or whatever you can call it. In fact, we have removed a lot of PEMIC end users, we call them end users. Some ministries were totally wiped out to zero and we had to ask that particular ministry to give us a new list because those others are now under investigations. For example, we found one in Luanshya, one individual was getting 10 salaries. You cannot get salaries on your own. It means somebody at PEMIC must have been involved. The Ministry of Home Affairs even knows where he is now because he was picked up. He was under Ministry of Health,"

Dr Mtonga said. He said another medical doctor in Mpongwe on the Copperbelt continued drawing his full salary while on an unpaid study leave.

"Some of them are true ghosts. They don't really exist. And the Account General has taken out a good number of them from the payroll and they have never come back. So, it means they are ghosts. Some of them, when we took them out, they came back with documentation that they were transferred and maybe their transfer was not regularized and when that regularization is done, that is okay. We found a lot of discrepancies. For example, in Mpogwe, we found a medical doctor who has been on study leave for the past 12 years and this medical doctor was still drawing salaries and yet he is on unpaid study leave for 12 years. He was still drawing salaries, including allowances when in fact, this medical Dr is in Russia studying. We even traced where that Dr is," Dr Mtonga said.

On the Copperbelt, he said 71 deceased employees were still on the government

Govt reveals how MoH employee drew 10 salaries using different bank accounts

"Yes, we found quite alarming numbers [like] 71 employees deceased and I think that was only for Copperbelt Province. have various other numbers for Northern, Eastern, and North-Western provinces. We have various figures for deceased who were still drawing salaries instead of being maybe on separatee's payroll, retired...those who had resigned, people who were on unpaid study leave and yet were still drawing money. We discovered quite a good chunk of these," Dr Mtonga said.

He added that the programme for cleaning up the government payroll had not yet been concluded.

"The exercise has not yet concluded. We are still going on. Before the COVID-19 pandemic came in March, we had done about four provinces. And then COVID-19 came in and then we had to suspend

the operations on the payroll verification exercise. And now that government is opening up and we are getting to work in the new normal, we have just started. Currently as I am speaking to you (host) today, we are in Luapula Province. We are doing verification in Luapula Province. As at September payroll, Luapula Province has 14, 271 employees on the payroll and we are doing a headcount of them now. One by one, checking on them and ensure that they are in their correct locations, they are drawing the correct allowances or they are drawing the correct salaries etc," Dr Mtonga added.

He said Cabinet Office had also started taking disciplinary action against the 7, 690 civil servants who were illegally benefitting from the FISP.

And Dr Mtonga said 945, 000 farmers had already deposited money for the Farmer Input Support

Programme (FISP) subsidized inputs.

"We haven't gone back to a manual system. Everything that is happening under the Farmer Input Support Programme is monitored electronically. But we are using two way. We have what we call the direct input supply, and the cardless redeeming. Both of them are connected to a system which we call the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Information Management system (ZIAMIS). So, what happens here is that the direct input supply, these are districts that the big fertilizer suppliers will take the fertilizers or the inputs into a warehouse then the inputs will be logged into the system," Dr Mtonga said.

"Then our farmers who are registered will come and get what we call the authority to deposit which they have been doing and it is going on very well. As at now, I think we have around 945, 000 farmers who

money out of the targeted one million. After the authority to deposit has been given to them using their cooperatives, then they go to the warehouse with an authority to collect code. It will be punched in the system and then it will be known that 'Martin Mtonga, yes you are now allowed to collect your inputs.' That's the direct input supply. Then you collect the inputs and here in Lusaka, we can even see that Martin Mtonga has collected the inputs in Lundazi. [It's] a very difficult subject to abuse in the sense that we know exactly that Mr Zulu has collected the inputs because you will have come with the 'authority to collect code.' The code is given to an individual."

He further said the e-voucher system had also improved.

"The cardless redeeming one is going on very well. Previously, we used to hear that the card has not been loaded with money and a farmer would remain for four days and so on waiting for the K1,700 to be loaded by the government. We have eliminated the card component of it. All you need to do is that, when your authority to collect is granted to you, you go into an Agrodealing shop, the Agro-Dealer will log in. They will know you and verify you using your biometrics as well, and then you collect your inputs without any cards. So, the cardless redeeming is working very well as well," Dr Mtonga

And Dr Mtonga said the government would soon launch a computer assembly plant under the Public Private Partnership.

"Currently, the computers in Zambia are slightly cheaper because the tax rate on computers is very low compared to our region. We have reduced the rate to about five per cent and on the components, it's zero per cent if you are going to manufacture on your own. So, people are encouraged to assemble. And government has plans now, which are quite in an advanced stage and this is being led by the Copperbelt University where we are going to have our own Computer Assembly plant under PPP programme. So, that has already been set and any time, I think they will be launching it. And those computers will be assembled here, and tablets will be assembled locally. Our first plan was that we should bring these to schools first,"

PF acting like a terrorist organisation using State resources - HH

By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has expressed anger at the continued provocation from the ruling Patriotic Front, saying the country is being run by a terrorist-like organisation.

And Hichilema has called on Zambians to unite again, like they did in 1991 to defeat the one party state and in 2001 to reject the third term bid, saying only a united people's voice will save the country from destruction at the hands of the Patriotic Front.

"The police have thrown out our youths' notifications, NDC and UPND, on the peaceful demonstrations against ECZ, yet PF are having rallies. Lusambo and everybody in PF do as they wish. I believe they do not even notify the police, but we were following the law, they don't want us to do it. This confirms that PF is behaving like a terrorist organisation, but using state resources and instruments such as the police and the Judiciary to brutalise citizens, to oppress citizens, to take away citizens rights and freedoms of assembly, movement and associations," he lamented.

"You followed what they did to my support of the community in Kamanga on the water system The vandalism there. there, the discharging of live ammunition in the community, and the beating of people openly. PF are now the Janjaweed of Zambian politics. I wish to remind the people of that article which got me arrested, where I said the PF were training militia. This is what we have now, the maturing of the terrorist we see visible in terrorising seed that was planted way | communities. back which is now what

Continues on P10

ECZ needs new management - Sacika

By Natasha Sakala

FORMER Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika says President Edgar Lungu should consider reconstituting new management at the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) because of the manner it is currently being managed.

In an interview, Dr Sacika noted that reconstituting new management at the electoral body would help in preserving its integrity.

"President Lungu should not be indifferent to the concerns of the people about the Electoral Commission of Zambia. The buck stops at his door steps, he is the President of the country. If it is necessary to reconstitute the management at the Electoral Commission of Zambia, he should not hesitate to do so. It is important in the interest of all the people of Zambia that the integrity of the ECZ is preserved. This is absolutely important instead of keeping one or two individuals in jobs where their performance leaves much to be desired," Dr Sacika said. "President Lungu took oath to run the affairs of this country according to the law as established, how can he allow [Justice Esau] Chulu to flout the Constitution and the law in the manner he has done? It's baffling, it's incredible. What is the point of having laws or having a Constitution if those who are mandated to implement the laws are allowed to flout the laws?"

He further wondered why Justice Chulu had failed to implement the provisions of pf the law which provide for the establishment of offices in all the provinces and implement the continuous registration of voters.

"Chulu has failed to implement the provision of the Constitution which requires the commission to establish offices in the provinces. He has failed

to implement that law which requires a continuous registration of voters, a demand Zambians made during the Mwanakatwe Constitution Review Commission way back in 1993. He has failed to prevent the abuse of the electoral process by the political party in power. Now, under Chulu's leadership, the Electoral Commission of Zambia has lost imagination and creativity. The commission is managing the electoral process on the lines we established way back in 1962 and yet the political environment has changed drastically and new methods are therefore required. The commission's failure in my view to implement a continuous registration of voters is a manifestation of this lack of imagination and creativity. The law is there, if the law is there, why is Chulu failing to implement it? It baffles me," Dr Sacika added.

He further noted that Justice Chulu d chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano had misunderstood the independence of the Commission and caused mistrust among stakeholders.

"The mistake that Chulu and Nshindano are making is that they regard the Electoral Commission of Zambia just as another administrative organ of government, which is there to manage the electoral process and is answerable only to itself. This is a very wrong understanding of the affairs of the ECZ and it is this understanding that is responsible for the mistrust in which the ECZ is held by many stakeholders. The ECZ is not just another administrative organ of government like the public service commission for example. The electoral commission is first and foremost a political institution which must always perform or try to perform its functions in accordance with the aspirations and expectations to all its clients, the political

parties," Dr Sacika said.

"Now, when the constitution says that the Electoral Commission of Zambia is independent, it does not mean that Chulu and Nshindano are free to operate as they please without regard to the concerns and aspirations of their clients. The independence of the Commission merely means that the Commission shall not accept instructions from any source to manipulate the electoral process to favour this or that political party. That is what the independence of the commission means. Now, the Electoral Commission of Zambia has lost credibility, a lot of credibility."

And Dr Sacika said the Commission should set up a permanent liaison committee to ensure continuous dialogue with political parties.

"Now, in order to be more inclusive and open in its activities, the Electoral Commission of Zambia should set up a permanent liaison committee of politica parties to discuss matters relating to the electoral process on a daily basis if possible in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding and ensure that the process is acceptable to all the players,"

He further said calling for a consultative meeting with political party presidents was good for politics but not good as a management strategy.

"Now, calling presidents of political parties, including the Republican President, to a consultative meeting like they did, may be good for public relations but it is not good as a management strategy. A most effective strategy would be to have a permanent liaison committee that would be a more sensible management strategy...Calling for a meeting of the presidents in the way they did is good for politics but it's not solving anything at all," said Dr Sacika.



TACKLING THE UNZA, CBU CRISIS

By Hakainde Hichilema, UPND President

HE United Party for National
Development (UPND) wishes to
express its utmost disappointment
by the continued neglect of the plight
of the University of Zambia and Copperrbelt
University by the Patriotic Front (PF) led
Government.

PF has shown a lack of genuine commitment to the development of higher education in Zambia by constantly choosing to ignore the challenges that UNZA and CBU are experiencing. This is evident in the recently announced National Budget by the Minister of Finance which does not address core issues that UNZA and CBU continue to experience.

Firstly, the University of Zambia (UNZA) was a creation by the Zambian people whose main mandate was to attend to the needed human capital of the 1960s shortly after independence. Our people, under the leadership of President Kenneth Kaunda's UNIP Government succeeded in establishing what would become Zambia's premier university. The University of Zambia has over the years rendered its leadership role in teaching and research in the nation amidst a very hostile economic environment and under a leadership that does not value higher education. For example, 53 years after being established, UNZA uses obsolete infrastructure such as laboratories, lecture theatres, limited office space for staff and limited hostels for students, all of which were originally meant to carter for approximately 300 lecturers and 3000 students, respectively. These infrastructures are what a student population of over 20,000 is using. Secondly, members of staff at UNZA have been working under very difficult circumstances yet they remain productive and patriotic to the nation as they have chosen to shun greener pastures abroad. For example, the University of Zambia owes its former and serving staff a staggering K600 million in unpaid terminal benefits which include pension and gratuities from as far back as 2011. Furthermore, the payments of salaries and other related allowances for members of staff at this institution has continued to be a nightmare under the PF Government.

The challenges that workers face are shared by students too. For instance, a few years ago, the PF decided to abolish student meal allowances and further went on to reduce the number of loan recipients for students at UNZA and CBU in the name of redistribution to other new universities. This act led to a reduction of the overall enrolment

at the university for the past three years. The reduction in student enrolments at UNZA and CBU have resulted in decline in revenue at both institutions. This also means that some potential students have been conspicuously denied access to the institutions as most cannot afford university education without Government support. It is not deniable that students at other similar public institutions deserve Government support. However, this support should not, in any way, deprive others who could have accessed UNZA or CBU. With the increasing numbers of young citizens needing higher education, the PF must have increased funding to the Ministry of Higher Education in order to meet the corresponding demand. Their lack of improving students' support and increasing the number of student loans at all public institutions as seen in the 2021 budget clearly demonstrate a lack of commitment to the higher education sector.

The prevailing situation at UNZA and CBU has not only been a source of instability at the two institutions for decades now but worsened at the hands of the PF Government. A Government that is committed to resolving the perennial, and often embarrassing moments, when our lecturers and researchers are subjected to misery ranging from delayed salaries to non-payment of terminal benefits and non-existent research national grants, should have intervened in a more meaningful way than through piecemeal contraction of a ZANACO loan to partially liquidate what is owed to pensioners and serving staff.

It is equally unacceptable to subject students to hunger due to lack of monthly allowances and, generally, unconducive learning environment. The PF's uncoordinated and visionless policy shifts in managing students' affairs in higher learning institutions has increased the level of vulnerability of students studying at UNZA, CBU and other similar public institutions. These challenges faced by our cherished institutions have continued to tarnish the reputation of our institutions that we should all be proud of as a nation.

The conduct of the PF Government against UNZA and CBU has deprived workers and retirees alike of the benefit of the true value of their hard earned dues. They have failed to honour citizens who have offered their time and energies in contributing to national development. The PF's policy on higher education has also destroyed a once happy university life that a few of us enjoyed at some point.

Thirdly, as a Party and Government in

waiting, we had hoped that the 2021 National Budget would mark the start of serious commitment to addressing the persistent challenges that UNZA and CBU have been facing. We were looking forward to a budget that would dedicate sufficient funds for the dismantling of debt that UNZA and CBU owe its members of staff and their retirees. However, in their usual style of ignoring important and strategic institutions of the country, the PF have chosen to apportion the same K200 million budget line of 2020 in form of statutory obligations and a very negligible amount to address outstanding bills that UNZA owes third parties. This means that UNZA's problems will continue to haunt the nation as long as the PF remain in office. It further means that workers' salaries would remain stagnant amidst an economic environment which has already devalued their income.

While the UPND appreciates the importance of introducing and developing new universities across the nation, it is folly for the PF Government to neglect an institution which should be used as a centre for capacity development for the upcoming higher learning institutions. The UPND considers UNZA to be the "Harvard" or "Oxford" of Zambia whose experience and diverse expertise should be used to harness the development of new universities through the provision of training of staff to run the new institutions as well as curricula development. As a Party, we will be committed to ensure that UNZA. like other key strategic institutions in the nation, receive the required attention and total commitment of Government. We assure the nation, staff and students at the two institutions that the UPND Government will prioritise the dismantling of debt owed to all staff, both serving and retired. The Party will also initiate a clear and feasible sustainability plan that would see UNZA regain its past glory in the region as a true centre of service and excellence in research and teaching. We will extend the same initiative to all similar and new public institutions in the nation to ensure a healthy teaching and learning environment for our people. These, we consider, as an important aspect of economic independence.

The UPND will further reintroduce student meal allowances at UNZA and CBU and introduce the same at all public institutions of higher learning in order to support our young citizens' journey to economic independence. The UPND is a Party that is truly committed to the advancement of higher education in Zambia as education is one of the anchors of true economic independence.

By Ulande Nkomesha

COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya says the PF should stop being paranoid and provide space for everybody, including those who have dissenting views.

Commenting on PF Secretary General Davies Mwila's statement that Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu was a UPND supporter and he would be treated as a political opponent, Fr Chikoya said the religious society had the right to speak about the ills affecting the country.

He said the culture of intolerance being exhibited by the PF may lead to chaos.

"What we are seeing happening actually has happened even in the old testament times. Those who are in power expect everybody, expect prophets to speak what they want to hear; but we want to categorically state we are not their mouth piece. We have a responsibility to speak to power, to speak to the moral consensus of this country. We are the salt and the light of the world and

PF's intolerance will breed chaos, warns Chikoya

salt irritates. So the reaction is not surprising. The culture we saw happening in Chankukula, the destruction of a borehole, a destruction of a political party office, we saw what happened in Kasama and in full view of the police, meetings are being stopped in churches, if you want to get a permit others can walk and petition anyhow. So those are not good indications," Fr Chikoya said.

"If people focus on that, if these things are not checked, the culture of intolerance will lead to chaos. They are not being champions of doom, they are just saying if you don't change, if you don't sleep under a mosquito net for example you will get sick of malaria. Our message to the political party in government, which is the Patriotic Front, stop being paranoid and provide space for everybody to share dissenting views."

He urged PF to use the same energy they had when reprimanding religious leaders to condemn members of the party who were publicly making tribal remarks.

"We cannot claim that this is the space that is exclusive for politicians and the church should be in that corner. Those who keep on lamenting and mourning about church interference in politics need to wake up and wise up because the church is going nowhere, it is right where it rightfully belongs. So we condemn the excessive reactions and intolerance that is being championed," he

"I wish they can use the same energy to condemn, reprimand and suspend some of their own members who have publicly been very tribal. Those are the worst enemies of Zambia but they will go for a person who is saying the levels of tolerance are slowly getting diminished in Zambia, which is a fact. People cannot go freely in certain areas without incurring the roast of party cadres. You have people that are armed to the teeth in the real sense of the word to defend their political party positions which are not right."

And Fr Chikoya described UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and other UPND officials for aggravated robbery as unjust.

"We are concerned with the tramped up charges. Yes people may commit offences, there are certain things that can actually be dealt with by just giving a caution to people. I don't think in this case, the case of aggravated robbery should have been really slapped on those people. Those people can be cautioned and there is community service and other things. So when people immediately go for the most punitive kind of action against opponents, that is again an indicator of how intolerant [this government is]," he said.

"It is like they are just watching and laying an ambush when you just make a mistake then you are in for it. At the end of the day, such things backfire, the Bible is very clear you will reap what you sow. I emphatically speak to the people in government; whatever you are planting, you shall reap, that is what will happen. If you are planting peace, if you are planting justice, you are planting the fair application of the law, you are planting proper functioning and effective institutions that are independently able to operate without being told or ordered to do certain things that is what you reap. But if you don't, then you have every reason to fear because you are planting violence, confusion, tribalism, intolerance which you will reap in full measure. That is a fact!"

Fr Chikoya said it was time for the leaders to wake up and mature in the sense of providing proper leadership.

"It is high time that our leaders wake up, grow up and mature in the sense of providing proper leadership. They are just in leadership as stewards, they are not the absolute owners. So all this language of no 'we are here to stay, you know, there is time and chance for everything on Earth. The season to rule and there is a season to not be in power. So, people should not live as though today is there forever," said Fr Chikoya.

Police withdraw summons against Binwell By Daniel Chansa in Kitwe

POLICE in Kitwe have withdrawn the summons that were issued against former District Commissioner

Binwell Mpundu. Last week, police warned and cautioned Mpundu for unlawful assembly.

Copperbelt Charity Commissioner Katanga said Mpundu and three others were been warned and cautioned for holding an illegal meeting.

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

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

After revealing their intentions, Mpundu and Kang'ombe were suspended from the party.

But Copperbelt Chairman Nathan Chanda lifted the suspension within 24 hours.

Mpundu was summoned by the police to appear for questioning.

He, however, did not appear as his lawyers asked that their client appears on Monday October 12, 2020.

But in a turn off events, Mpundu disclosed that he was informed by Police that his summon has been withdrawn

and was not required to appear at the police.

"I was supposed to appear today (Monday) at the police but I was informed by the police this morning that the summons have been withdrawn. So I will not appear at the police," said Mpundu.

He said the Police summons could have been politically motivated and might have been withdrawn since the party had initiated a reconciliation process in the province.

Mpundu announced his intentions to run for office as Nkana constituency member of parliament.

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Public media must start giving equal electoral coverage now

s we head towards the 2021 general elections, there is need for media houses, especially those that are funded by taxpayers to provide equal coverage to all political players. It has become a norm in Zambia today that public media is a mouthpiece of government officials; it has become a norm that public media is for the party in power; it has become a norm that the opposition can only get coverage from private media. This is wrong.

The Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, Times of Zambia, Zambia Daily Mail and the state owned news agency, ZANIS, are required, by law to provide a service to all citizens of this country and this includes those who participate in politics. Both members of the ruling party and the opposition are tax pavers who deserve coverage from state media.

We are

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concerned that a continuation of biased coverage from these public media houses is disadvantaging the opposition. Television and newspaper coverage during the pre-campaign and nomination period is supposed to be fair if we are to provide a level playing field. But the ruling party always benefits from positive, extensive coverage in the government-owned television and press. While opposition television and radio programs are labeled "political adverts," the ruling party uses news coverage as an opportunity to campaign.

State media resources belong to the people of Zambia and should be used

in a way that benefits all Zambians. The misuse of public assets has a profound negative effect on the general public as it leaves people feeling taken advantage of and thus reinforces voter frustration and apathy.

What is even worse for Zambia is that those private media houses that choose to offer a platform to the opposition become targets for closure and attacks from political cadres from the ruling party. All the recent cases that we have heard of media attacks by the PF, it has been against media houses featuring leaders of the opposition.

As Zambia slides into the formal

campaign period, we want to see the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation televising one-on-one interviews with presidential candidates. This is what creating a level playing field is. We want to see lead stories in the Zambia Daily Mail and Times of Zambia talking about the opposition and what their leaders intend to do when they form government.

ZNBC and its sister public media houses are publicly financed institutions and as such should be available to all political parties. The independence of the **Electoral Commission** of Zambia allows it to take a public stance in support of

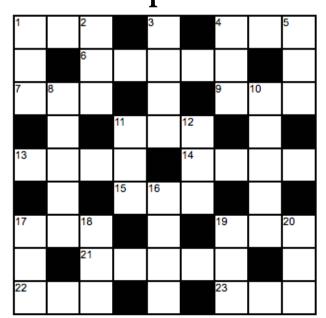
this kind of equitable media access. The Commission must therefore engage the national broadcaster and all other government-controlled media to proceed with television and radio broadcasts and debates in an effort to better inform the electorate.

Such attempts to provide the much needed voter information in the months to come is what will reflect positively on the overall political environment. For future elections, the Electoral Act should be amended to provide for airtime for all registered political parties and independent candidates.

PF must be tolerant to the opposition. They don't own any of the public media houses. Consideration should be given to an independent authority to ensure that a level playing field is maintained. The Media Code of Conduct should be monitored and local magistrates empowered to reprimand violators of the Code and require corrective measures be taken immediately during the campaign period.

This trend of political intolerance and state interference using public media operations must also concern other stakeholders such as the diplomatic community and civil society organisations. This approach of disadvantaging the opposition by members of the ruling party is neither desirable nor welcome in a democratic state such as Zambia as we strive towards a more ideal democratic state.

Crossword puzzle No 710



"At the end, someone or something always gives up. It is either you give up and quit or the obstacle or failure gives up and makes way for o come through."

janure gives up d
your success to
- Idowu
Across
1. Wild ox
4. Not just any
6. Surmise
Large coffee dispense
9. Loud laugh
 Female undergarme
Rib or mandible
Too inquisitive
15. Like some wines
17. Pig home
19. Greek H
High-tech message

22. Food from a shell

23. Blemish or spoil

Koyenikan 1. "___go, girl!" 2. Family 3. Off in the distance 4. Attempt Lodge member 8. Perch for birds Ticked off Plant place 12. Whatever amount Genuine

Closest star 18. However

19. Shade tree 20. Earth's atmosphere

М Υ 0 S S C Α Ρ R Υ O

Е Р Е Т Е Ε 0 Е Ν Ρ Μ Ε R Е D Υ Ε U Е R G R Е Е

Crossword puzzle No 709

Readers' Feedback

DIGGERS OPINION: Knock! Knock! Who's there? Bond! Bond who? Bondholders!

Editor,

"They created a SINKING fund which quickly sunk in the quick sands of political and economic mismanagement. For as long as the economy keeps headed in the southern direction, and no matter how much interest payment moratorium is given, we will still be in a debt crisis". - Kanyata Mubita

"I remember former Finance Minister, Mr Chikwanda said government had established a sinking fund for repayment of the Euro Bonds. Can we call him back so that he can tell the nation what happened to the sinking fund". - Felix Mulenga

"Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu must admit that chi Economy cha Zambia CHAGWA!!! The Chinese will soon send their children to man and monitor our Toll Gates so that they can get back their money. The Chinese strong presence can be felt at ZESCO where 45% of the debt owed to China is seated. The boldness of the Chinese in the Mining Sector is still growing. Soon Mopani and KCM will be under Chinese ownership. But don't be excited. Our Miners will be WORKING to Payback the money owed to China for Infrastructure Development. This means we still have Nothing for Dr Bwalya Ng'andu to spend. The IMF and World Bank supported Debt Service Suspension Initiative is voluntary for Private Sector Involvement. Meaning the Euro bond holders are not bound to respond. President Lungu must learn to Think before he Talks. Now the Chickens have Come Back to Roost. Boasting na Njala muleke ba Lungu!" - Christopher Kalima

"Chikwanda and Miles Sampa popped champaigne in Europe after getting the eurobonds, they are no longer at MOF to clean the mess. The PF are bragging about mass infrastructure with no repayment plan, they will no longer be in governemt after 2021 to clean the resulting debt mess. Its is such lack of foresight that wll keep Zambia developing at a snail's pace. Everyone just want a pay check and cares less about leaving a good legacy!" - Richard Waga

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'Voting for party a big NO, that's how we end up having dull mps'

Editor,

"Voting for party is a big no for me that's how we end up having dull mps in parliament who can't debate only knows how to shout YAYAYAYA ... Every candidate has to be scrutinized". - Christopher Mwandila Daka

"We don't vote for the party we vote for the capability of that individual that's why we made a mistake in 2016 the sympathy for Sata and his part mislead us into the ditch we are in now". - Mubita Mubita

"Lungu is wise, may be craft. He knows he has become more unpopular than his party and HH is more popular than UPND. So he suggests not to vote for individuals but the party knowing at individual level he stands no chance in knowledge, wisdom, planning, success, vision and integrity against the mighty HH". - Victor Chakupaleza

"When you realise you are 9 months away from prison. Nothing will change that fact. I've already ironed your orange overalls". - Jackson Thompson

"He is scared we are voting for individuals this time. We have been voting for a part and mostly we end up voting for useless leaders like Lusaka headboy. Youths vote on principle, get a person who will deliver". - Imax Ivo

"No ways, we are voting for individual competences because we don't want what happened in 2016 to happen again. If the PF candidate for the ward is competent then am going for him but I know president ni HH". - Chris Rock

"No no no.... voting for an individual is the correct approach. Voting for a party is the result of what is happening... Not much work done!" - Emmanuel Sakala

Police are using selective POA to deny opposition parties to hold meetings'

"I don't agree with you, her honor, the police are using POA and working under instructions to deny opposition parties to hold political meetings. Soon Zambia shall be saved, rise up and dust yourself". -Maimbo Mukkuli

"The PF themselves are mobilizing/campaining all over and are not affected by the Public Order Act. Ngai ma double standards azo bo Inonge Wina". - Grace Shankaya

"Such a shame that an original freedom fighter

who fought for the selfdetermination of Zambians should lower herself to fight for those rights to now be taken away from Zambians because of money". - Zuba Kayasha

"Bo Mukwaye is everyday embarrassing herself over her statements and this is why her fellow Parliamentarians have lost respect for her". - Emmalito Lias

"I don't know if it's old age or what but recently she has been off the rail. In PF they don't care about leaving a good legacy, to them as long as they are eating everything is ok". - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"SELECTIVE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC ORDER ACT by PF is stopping opposition from gathering. Only a stranger can agree with madam veep. Stop mocking the opposition". -Preston Kasempa

"Its shameful to have an old lady like Inonge Wina telling blue lies. PF has taken citizens for granted and treating them like fools". - Mutinta Mulonda

Jay Jay's rearrest

Editor,

"Even if they rearrested him 1000 times, nothing will come out.. The guy won't even go to jail.. It will be another nole!" -Steven Chandalala

"This is what happens when you start feeling like Moses and start breaking the law with impunity!

Those who were cheering him on are nowhere to be seen, he is facing court alone! The law is very blind and stupid". - Hon Steward Manenga

"So even men and women

in uniform are not safe from cadres. Next time you will hear Madam Charity Katanga and Kanganja issuing warning statement against law breakers that the law will deal with them ruthlessly. An opportunity presented itself what do you have to say. Never before has the police been disgraced by cadres (and current government) in this manner. When parliament is dissolved police unite with the people to redeem this country. Enough of the harrassment

and embarrassment. For how long?" - Asa Amisi

"Forget ZAF, ZP or Army with their 12 points nonsense... I want to be a powerful and untouchable cadre like this guy not cheap like Tayali...

Any police officer will now think twice before confronting a PF cadre". - David Chris CK Chilufya

"When is the PF recruiting for cadres, what are the criteria please? Ngati ni ujimbo I can start training as soon as possible". - Browny Gift Chomba

From P5

The Janjaweed of Zambia, the militias that were trained have now matured and we can see it in the Kamanga situation, we can see it in the Kanyama brutalisation, in Nakonde where the petrol bombed our office a few days ago. We see it literally how the PF are terrorising bus stops, frightening off everybody, beating people. Look at those individuals calling themselves America 1 and America 2, look at how they can threaten anybody with guns."

He appealed to the police to resist being used for a terrorist agenda.

"I am appealing to the police not to be used in the PF terrorists agenda. I am reminding people where we have come from and where we are now. You can see that the way NRCs are being issued, this is like a terrorist approach; oppressing citizens, disenfranchising citizens, trying to do away with the voter register, all of these are connected things. These are connected actions. I am calling on the police, I am calling upon the Judiciary not to be used by this terroristlike organisation hiding in the name of a government and abusing resources, abusing instruments of power. I am calling on Zambians that they must draw a line and recognise PF for what it is and that it is after destroying democracy. PF wants to destroy our freedoms and destroy even our voting rights," he said.

"I am calling upon the SADC, I am calling on the African Union, I am calling on the UN and the Commonwealth to see what is happening in Zambia. Here is an organisation that acts like a terrorist group, but concealing itself as a government. They are using unofficial militias which is what we see in PF now, they are in combats like they are in a war zone, just to terrorise citizens. So the first call is to the citizens, the Human Rights Commission, the police, the Judiciary, including Parliament; they must all open their eyes to what is going on. Here is a terrorist organisation concealing itself in a name of a government, brutalising citizens. When you see corruption at the level it is

PF acting like a terrorist organisation using State resources – HH

going and now no one is willing to confront it, it means the governance institutions have been destroyed and we need help. You have seen the attempts they are making to amend the Financial Intelligence Center, all of these are orchestrated to destroy the state of Zambia while they reign supreme. In Zambia today, anyone who doesn't agree with the PF they send thugs to beat you or threaten you. They set you up like what they did on gassing where they tried to set some of us up, scheming to manufacture, in an evil manner, a gassing scheme in order to frame some of us.""

Hichilema also accused Kampyongo of eliminating his 2021 parliamentary rivals in Shiwang'andu.

"Even all those detentions

you see like Mucheleka's, they

decapitated our campaigns in Lukashya in order to rig the elections. All of this is a plan, remember they devised a plan how to destroy the opposition some time back. This has been a long held plan to destroy this country, to destroy the opposition, to destroy institutions of governance, and also to destroy the economy so that food can be weaponised. They are using the DMMU to weaponise hunger by dishing out food in the by elections, whenever they want to demean people, to take away people's dignity. This is a well orchestrated plan by the PF. They are threatening me to try and remove me from the ballot paper in 2021. This is what dictators do, it is what terrorists do. Keeping Mucheleka in prison for a crime he did not commit is meant to shut alternative voices. Kampyongo took the opportunity to arrest the campaign manager for Lukashya, and that young Mubanga because he is the candidate for Shiwangandu and Kampyongo knows. So Kampyongo is trying to eliminate an opponent and is abusing public office," he said.

The opposition leader asked citizens to unite and defeat the

run by a terrorist organisation, and this is the plan for the PF so that they can then go around and steal elections, this is their plan for 2021. But I want to issue a message to the people of Zambia that they must not be scared, they must not think that the election would be stolen in 2021. We will protect our elections, Zambians will protect their elections as they did to push out the colonialists by working together and without segregating each other. We achieved this in 1991 against the one party state dictatorship which was a very frightening preposition. It was a frightening pre position to think that you can remove Kaunda and the one party state, but we did it as a country. We stood up against the third term in 2001 and because we worked together and people sacrificed, the third term was defeated. I think this is another time when people should draw a line in the sand, are you with the PF and the corruption and thuggery, the militias, the shootings, petrol bombing of offices and indeed the gassing schemes or you are on the side of the people.For us in UPND we are on the side of the people and the people and the people must choose to be on the right side of history. Remember in 2021 sitting vice president Christian Tembo had to sacrifice a salary, a status as a sitting vice president. About 20 MMD ministers drew the line in the sand and stood on the side

"This is the call to PF members who know that where the party has been taken is not where Sata wanted to take it, they too must draw the line in the sand. No one can stand with two legs one leg with the PF, one leg with the people, no. This is the time to draw the line and stand on one side. Even the opposition, I am calling on them, you can't flirt with PF in the night and in the day you call yourself opposition. Take your stand now, be on the side of the people for 2021. When the people, the church and "Zambia feels like it is being everybody is on the side of the

of the people to reject the third

term," Hichilema said.

people we will defeat the PF even with their rigging plans. People are more powerful than one political party and history has taught us that. I want to call on the people of Zambia to do what we have done correctively before to deliver independence, to deliver multi partyism, to reject the third term; 2021 is yet another time to work collectively. What the PF wants to do with Bill 10 is something

that a terrorist organisation or and brutal state would do to change the laws. Do you know what they have done on the Electoral Commission, because they know that doing away with the voter register is illegal, they have now pushed a statutory instrument. They sneaked in an SI to basically undermine our court processes where we are arguing that what ECZ is doing is illegal. That is what apartheid regime was doing in South Africa; to formulate laws which perpetuated the oppression

and suppression of the black people in South Africa.""

He urged citizens to reject the new voters register.

'That is what PF is doing, the matter is in court already challenging the illegalities of electronic voter registration, doing away with the 2016 voter registration. Then they try and go behind and do an SI. You can't implement the law in retrospect only if you are a dictator, only if you are a terrorist organisation. Let's call these guys for what they are. We call on the Zambians, we call on everybody to open their eyes and see what is going on," said Hichilema.

MDC will shake other parties – Mutati



MDC leader Felix Mutati during the launch of his party at MIKA Convention Center in Lusaka yesterday

From P4

He had no limits. Rupiah Banda gave us space and said 'go and make mistakes but provided you deliver on your role.' President Lungu I learnt one thing, humanity, very humble. So from each president there was something that I have grabbed onto me and I salute the three presidents," said Mutati, adding that the party would soon go for a convention.

And Mulusa said as finance minister, Mutati resisted PF's culture of reckless spending.

"We bring you a pair of hands that comes with proof of ability to perform. A pair

of hands that has belonged to a very good government that handed over to the PF the kind of economy that the PF will never achieve. He also served as Minister of Finance and as Minister of Finance he was so stable and so disciplined in the way he ran the economy and refused to perpetuate the culture of the PF of spending when you don't have money. He brings with him to the table, competence, good character, a good history, a good performance results and highly respected internationally. And he is able to sit across the able with any other leader globally

and be able to make the right impressions for mother Zambia. We are very proud to have him as our leader," said Mulusa.

Meanwhile, in his remarks, Shamenda urged the opposition to unite in order to bring about

"The children are crying, the women are crying, the men are crying. Zambia is for the Zambians. Zambia is not for the leaders. We provide the way those who follow are the ones who are more important. Let us have a third republic after 2021. Political parties you should unite so that you clear the folks, so that you can be able to share the chicken properly. Things are tough, brothers and sisters some of us are not looking for jobs, what we are looking for are jobs for our grandchildren. At the moment, the future is bleak, I think it is time as Shakespeare said at one time 'the world is like a stage, those who have played a part, those who have messed up, please leave the stage. Let other people also try.' Dear friends I wish you well, we need change, proper change," said Shamenda.

KBF said Mutati was not

"Nachisafye mukumi posha. Ndefwaya bonse elo twalafuma muno mwimona kwati ba president balibeka iyo. Natotela mukwavi pamunchinshi mwatupela. (I came to greet you. As you leave this place, I want you to know that the president (Mutati) is not alone. I am grateful for welcoming us)," said KBF.

Nalumango demands Mucheleka's release before prayer day

Nalumango has demanded that President Edgar Lungu released the opposition party's deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka and others from prison before talking about prayers.

Meanwhile, UPND Chairperson for Religious Committee Kelly Mukonka says the party will not allow President Lungu to run for a third

Speaking during a press briefing with Lusaka clergy men, Monday, Nalumango said the national day of prayer was hypocritical.

"As UPND we have made our position clear, right from 2015, the Bible says, 'God is never mocked', this day of prayer which is fasting and reconciliation, who has reconciled since 2015? Have you seen reconciliation in our land? We are now five years of prayer, fasting and reconciliation, we

for us to be part of such a prayer is hypocritical, is actually making you know uku fwike ichoni insapato na suit (dressing a bird in shoes and a suit). We will not go to endorse hypocrisy," Nalumango said.

"If it is genuine, thank God, let people continue to pray but if it is hypocritical, if it is the Judas kiss of betrayal, people today in Zambia are in prison for crimes they have never committed and you call the same people and tell them, let's pray? Who has reconciled the country since 2015? Have you seen any reconciliation? What good is fasting and prayer if you keep on fighting and quarrelling all the time? Take Mucheleka out of prison then we can talk about praying."

She said PF had turned Zambia into Sodom and Gomorra.

"Sadly politics under the Patriotic Front has turned this nation into

don't see any reconciliation. In short, Sodom and Gomorra where those who honoured, if you don't actually you are an idiot, if you don't steal then you are dull. Those who engage in violence are protected, those who kill are rewarded by those in offices. That is sad, is this the Christian nation that we have declared?" she asked.

"We should not treat each other as sworn political enemies, as sworn enemies just because we belong to different political parties. Political thinking can differ even in a family but this kind of administration is bringing that kind of enmity even among members of the same family, remember we are one Zambia one nation and one nation one people and we should therefore be united as a people."

And Nalumango called on government to allow churches to gather in classrooms despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There is need for the Ministry UPND national chairperson Mutale | I am saying we have made this clear, | are corrupt and steal public funds are | of Health, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs to allow churches to continue to gather. I said they are the gate keepers of our society, you may not agree with me, they also pray for the peace because if there was no prayer, we would be up in flames but because God hears, he is still holding Zambia together. Allow them to pray in the classrooms, give them regulations that they must follow, the disinfecting and so on. If people are going to the bars, surely can people who are praying mess up more than those who are going to the bars," said Nalumango.

> Meanwhile, Mukonka said UPND would not allow President Lungu to stand for a third term of office.

"Our position as a clergy, we are saying no third term to President [Edgar] Lungu, we don't want to go against our Constitution," said Mukonka.

Jay Jay gets nolle, rearrest

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE State has entered a nolle prosequi in a matter in which suspended Eastern Province youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and four others were accused of assaulting a police officer at Lusaka Central Police Station.

But Banda and others were rearrested shortly after the case was discontinued.

Earlier this month, the five accused pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal in the Lusaka High Court.

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

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

However, when the matter came up for commencement of trial before High Court judge Timothy Katenekwa, Monday morning, State Advocate Angelica Mwanza said the State was unable to proceed with trial.

She said the State intended to call the victim (Mbahwe) who was the key witness in

the matter but unfortunately, they encountered challenges to secure his attendance.

And detective chief inspector Mubita informed the court that the complainant in the matter was unwell and further produced a sick note.

This was after he was called upon to explain the reason why Mbahwe was not in attendance.

"He is an outside patient at Zambian Italian Hospital. He is unable to walk as both legs and the right wrist are swollen" detective Moya said.

At this point, Mwanza said "under the circumstances, we are left with no option but to discontinue the matter for now so that it comes in the next session to allow the victim to get better. We will be discontinuing this matter by way of nolle prosequi with instructions to rearrest".

Judge Kantanekwa then discharged the accused persons but warned that such discharge was not an acquittal.

"The State has opted to discontinue this matter by way of nolle prosequi. That being the case, the court has no option but to discharge you all. However, I wish to warn you that such discharge is not an acquittal. In the meantime, you are all discharged and set at liberty," said Judge Kantanekwa .

But shortly after this, Banda and others were rearrested and subsequently released on police bond.

Zambia Meanwhile, Police Spokesperson Esther Katongo told journalists that the accused would be charged with the same offence.

"He (Jay Jay) is going back to court. There were some procedural issues that [were] charge," said Katongo.

spotted. However, he is going back to court on the same

Zambia to rebound as a force in world football – FAZ's Kamanga

FOOTBALL Association of Zambia (FAZ) president Andrew Kamanga is hopeful the national team is on the right trajectory and will soon be a strong force.

Zambia won the Africa Cup of Nations title in 2012 but since then they have not been a force unlike the junior teams and their women's team but the federation chief is confident they are on the right path again.

"We have no doubt that with the trajectory that the team is on, we will be able to rebound as a strong force on the African continent and beyond," Kamanga said in a Facebook post.

Zambia are the only side that has managed to play more friendly matches and Kamanga has praised the team for doing so despite the coronavirus challenges.

"Chipolopolo have been busy during this window playing three international friendly matches," continued.

"Under the Covid-19 conditions, getting to play international games is not easy. Some of our colleagues in other countries have opted not to play any games during this window while others have had to take games to other continents where the Covid-19 trap is less cumbersome.

"It is a very tedious process to organize matches in this environment. Where opponents are available, there is always the challenge of getting the players to travel for these games and also negotiate the wearisome travel arrangements that have been worsened by the Covid-19

"Despite all these hurdles, we were able to clinch three international friendlies with the Flames of Malawi whose regional solidarity we continue to count on, Kenya and South Africa.

"We were able to manoeuvre all the players with the coach needed for this assignment except for the two Red Bull Salzburg players [Patson Daka and Enock Mwepu] that were grounded by Covid-19 restrictions at



their club. We are happy others made it with five from Europe and three from Caf leagues."

Zambia are winless in their Afcon qualifiers after playing two matches and will also be participants in the Chan tournament early next year in Cameroon and Kamanga has hinted more friendlies could be in the pipeline.

"As we continue building for the November showdown with Botswana and Chan in January, we shall continue to support all our teams with

as many friendly matches possible," the official concluded.

"We are happy that we were able to give the Chipolopolo good preparations for Botswana matches and also the Chan. We particularly note the number of local players that were given a run in the games played during the Fifa window."

Zambia won two of their friendlies, against Malawi and South Africa, but faltered against Harambee Stars. GOAL

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Micho talks up Chipolopolo win over SA... LIKE A CLASH OF BOXERS



By Abraham Kalito

NATIONAL team coach Milutin Sredojevic says the international friendly match against 'Bafana Bafana' of South Africa was like a clash of boxers attacking each other without guards.

The Chipolopolo boys came from behind to triumph over South Africa in a 2-1 thriller of a friendly match played in Rastenburg.

In a post match interview, Micho told reporters that he was happy with what he had seen and gave credit to the substitutes whose performance ensured that Zambia emerged victorious.

"It was like clash of two boxers without guards attacking each other. We have been one nil down in a situation where we controlled the game and we got that goal. I need to give credit to the players that came from the bench and won the game for us. Great team spirit for us after being a punching bag in Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, missing two Africa Cup of Nations in 2017 and 2019. After losing two matches (AFCON qualifiers), we are going back and what better confidence than beating South Africa here with top class individuals, top class team and getting good injection of motivation before the Africa Cup qualifiers against Botswana in November," Micho said.

The former Orlando Pirates gaffer said he was working on building a stronger relationship with the players ahead of the AFCON qualifiers against Botswana in November.

"The first thing I have to sort out in this team is that they have good human relations so that when they come on the field, they look right, left and back, that my best friends are around me and to play for the nation and to give their best...," said