



CABINET CITES 25 IN

Lubinda too emotional, says Miti
Story page 6

MISUSE OF FUNDS

...we have charged controlling officers pending disciplinary action - Miti

By Ulande Nkomesha | cited as culprits and charged | funds and the continued
CABINET Office says 25 | pending disciplinary action | mismanagement of public
controlling officers have been | on the misuse of COVID-19 | funds in various Ministries.
Story page 10

AG details Honeybee bogus drug supply tender

By Natasha Sakala | unregistered manufacturers | meet acceptance criteria for
THE Auditor General has | such as paracetamol tablets | appearance test.
revealed that Honeybee | that had mould like growth | According to the Report
Pharmacy supplied drugs from | on the surfaces and did not | of the Auditor General on
the accounts of the republic
for the financial year ended 31st
December 2019, 58 out of
the 60 items that constituted
the health centre kits worth
US\$3,400,151.04, (about
K70 million) were sourced
from non-contract stated
manufacturers.

AG reveals how MoH withdrew K60m from Treasury without approval

By Ulande Nkomesha | authority on the withdrawal of | "It was observed that
THE Interim Audit Report | K60 million was sought from | the supplier sourced various
on the utilisation of | the Secretary to Treasury | medicines and medical
COVID-19 resources for the | and there were indications | supplies from unapproved
period February 1, 2020 to | that approval was going to be | manufacturers. In this regard,
July 31, 2020 has revealed | granted but that instead, the | fifty-eight (58) out of the sixty
that the Ministry of Health | request was rejected. | (60) items with an invoice
transferred K60,884,345 | *Story page 2* | value of US\$3,400,151.04 that
from a Treasury account | constituted..." *Story page 6*
without any explanation and
approval from the Secretary
to Treasury.

And the Report also revealed that the Ministry of Health made cash withdrawals in amounts totalling K3,361,196 which was contrary to the Treasury and Finance Management circular of 2020.
According to the report, the controlling officer at the Ministry of Health stated in his response to this query that

Culprits involved in mismanaging COVID funds should be prosecuted - Kambwili

By Ulande Nkomesha | meant for COVID-19 relief. | law enforcement agencies to take action | the utilisation of COVID-19 resources,
NATIONAL Democratic Congress | Commenting on the Interim Audit | and bring to book all individuals found | with the highest being an over-
(NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili | Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 | wanting for mismanaging COVID-19 | commitment of K652 million, which
has called for the arrest of all the | resources for the period February 1 to | resources. | entailed that procurements made for
culprits involved in misapplication and | July 31, 2020, which revealed that K1.3 | The Interim Audit Report | various medical supplies were not
misappropriation of over K1.3 billion | billion was misapplied, Kambwili urged | highlighted financial irregularities in | adequately supported... *Story page 7*



By Zondiwe Mbewe

ZAMBIAN model Mercy Mukwiza has testified before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that photographer Cornelius Chella Tukuta once asked her if he could take nude pictures of her but she refused.

And Mukwiza has denied claims by Chella that Northern Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje opened a shop for her at East Park in exchange for sexual relations with him.

She said she has never had sexual relations with Sipanje, adding that the relationship she had with him was strictly business when she worked with him in 2015 while designing campaign materials for PF.

Meanwhile, TV personality Natasha Vandermass testified that she alerted Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya about allegations posted by Chella on his Facebook page against her that she sold young girls to high profile men.

This is a matter in which Lusaka photographer, Cornelius Chella Tukuta is charged with libel.

It is alleged that Tukuta on May 26, 2020 in Lusaka, published defamatory matter affecting Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya in the form of a video on Facebook that "This Dora Siliya is hooking up girls, selling girls to the high profile people, so that men can be sleeping [with them], she is actually the highest of the highest professional prostitute. If Dora Siliya is refusing these allegations that she does not connect girls to high profile people for sex, let her come".

He had pleaded not guilty to the charge and trial commenced with Siliya testifying in the matter as the first prosecution witness.

And when the case came up for continued trial yesterday before Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale, Vandermass testified that she was the one who texted Siliya alerting her about what Chella

Mercy Mukwiza denies having sexual relationship with Sipanje

had posted on his Facebook page against her in May, this year.

She said this was after she noticed that Chella was trending on social media after posting a video where he made allegations that Siliya was selling young women to high profile men.

Vandermass said because Siliya was a woman she looked up to, she was compelled to message her and make her aware about the allegations on social media.

She said Siliya was her mentor and was the matron for Miss Universe Zambia committee which she joined in 2017 with other members like Mukwiza and Alice Musukwa.

And Mukwiza, a 30-year-old model and entrepreneur testified that she met Chella in 2014 when she was taking part in the Zambia Fashion Week as a model and Chella was one of the photographers at the event.

She said her relationship with Chella had not been a very good one because when she was in the changing room during the fashion show, Chella sneaked in and took pictures of her in her underwear and started circulating them as his work on Facebook.

Mukwiza said Chella also sent her a message on Facebook, asking her if he could take nude pictures of her but she declined.

She added that Chella then offered to take pictures of her without her face on them, but she still declined.

The witness said while she was out of the country in Japan, she started receiving messages from some people telling her that pictures of her in her underwear were circulating on Facebook.

"Later on, I started getting messages from people that pictures of me were circulating on social media. At the time I was in Japan, representing the country. So I told Mr Chella Tukuta to take down the pictures or I would sue him when I come back home. To which he responded, 'let's meet in court'. By the time I was coming back from Japan, I just decided to forgive him," she said.

On Chella's allegations against Siliya that she sold girls to the high profile people, Mukwiza said she was very disgusted and disappointed by the accused's remarks.

She denied Chella's claims that the Northern Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje opened a shop for her at East Park Mall in exchange for sexual relations with him.

"In relation to me, he posted that Mr Charles Sipanje, a permanent secretary opened a shop for me at East Park and that in exchange, I had sexual relations with him. The post was completely false because I have never had sexual relations with Mr Charles Sipanje. The relationship I had with him was strictly business when I worked with him in 2015. I was designing campaign materials for PF and he was one of my contact persons in PF," Mukwiza said.

"I did own a shop at East Park called 'Mysteriously Blu Clothing' and I had a partner Chungu who saw a vision in what I was trying to do and decided to partially invest in the business. The shop (however) closed down."

In cross examination by defence lawyers Linda Kasonde and Mulambo Haimbe, the witness said a friend of hers by

the name of Tilyenji Mwanza was the one who introduced her to Sipanje, saying he was looking for a designer.

She denied that the relationship with Sipanje was informal and personal.

Mukwiza also described her relationship with Alice Musukwa currently "as a former colleague" and further admitted that she had disagreements with her.

And Marjory Banda, 54, a businesswoman and Siliya's friend of over 10 years said she was saddened by Chella's remarks against Siliya.

"I saw on social media that Mr Chella Tukuta alleged that Ms Siliya was selling girls for sex. I was saddened because I know that honourable Siliya is not that kind of a person, she likes to mentor young girls," she said.

In cross examination, the witness agreed that she had not brought anything before court to show that she actually watched the purported video [by Chella].

Another witness, Chita Chibesakunda, a Cyber Security Technologist at ZICTA, testified that on June 18, this year, the Zambia Police requested ZICTA for assistance in an investigation regarding some derogatory remarks that were made against various individuals.

He said the request contained Facebook links that were to be downloaded by the authority.

Chibesakunda said the police also requested that ZICTA establishes as to whether the devices that came with the request letter had a link to Chella Tukuta's photography Facebook page.

"I was assigned the case by my supervisor in which I



proceeded to carry out digital forensics. There were two HP laptops, one Techno Smart Phone, a Samsung smart phone and an external hard drive," he said.

The State witness said information from the two laptops and hard drive was extracted and analysed using a tool known as FTK Imager.

He said during analysis of the three devices, laptops and hard drive, it was discovered that one of the HP laptops had administrative access to the Chella Tukuta photography Facebook page.

Chibesakunda said he then proceeded to access the links that were provided to him in the

request letter.

"Upon accessing them, I used a tool to download the videos from each of the links that were provided in the request letter. I then compiled a report with all my findings from the analysis I carried out on the laptops, the hard drive, and I also documented the processes of downloading the videos," said Chibesakunda.

"Each screenshot has a caption with the date the video was live streamed on Facebook and the titles from the videos. The videos were then placed on a CD that was then attached to the report."

The matter comes up on December 2, for continued trial.

COVID-19 fight now frustrating, leaders are flouting health guidelines – Mujajati

By Natasha Sakala

MEDICAL practitioner Dr Aaron Mujajati says the fight against COVID-19 in Zambia is frustrating because leaders are in the forefront of abrogating the laid-down preventive guidelines.

In an interview, Dr Mujajati observed that the disregard of COVID-19 guidelines had started from the highest level, adding that it should not be a surprise that the country was expected to experience a spike in cases by next month.

"If you see the disregard of COVID-19 prevention measures at the highest level, who then should listen? When we see all these gatherings, politicians are having concerts, music concerts, and politicians gathering people for political gatherings, no COVID-19 measures anywhere in place, and we shouldn't be surprised that there is a spike coming. There is a second wave coming, why are we surprised? We shouldn't be surprised and until we change our behaviour, COVID-19 will continue to disrupt our lives. We need to see exemplary behaviour at all levels not where I speak one way and act another way, who is going to

listen?" Dr Mujajati asked.

"And we are seeing all these things and then today, we are saying, 'oh, by the way, brace yourselves for a new wave, second wave of COVID-19'. But why are you surprised? For me, that's my problem, why are we acting surprised and why should we even start warning people? They know what needs to be done, they know what needs to happen. You know, sometimes, there is what we call 'information fatigue' where we are saying the same thing over and over again, but the people we look up to are behaving the exact opposite."

He added that the rate at which guidelines were being flouted had begun to cast doubt on the existence of COVID-19 in the country.

"Just over the weekend, there was a huge concert at Woodlands Stadium, huge, massive concert and you say we still have COVID-19 in Zambia? How many times have politicians gathered their people and sometimes you wonder if there is still COVID-19 in Zambia," Dr Mujajati said.

Continues on page 3

Engineering Board chair drags EIZ to court over licence revocation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CHAIRPERSON of the Engineering Registration Board, Desiderius Chapewa has dragged the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) to the Lusaka High Court, seeking a declaration that the Council of the institution has no authority to revoke his membership and practicing licence.

Chapewa is also seeking damages for loss caused to his professional reputation, and an order of injunction restraining EIZ, its servants or agents from interfering with his enjoyment of membership and all rights of membership of the EIZ, Engineering Registration Board and the Council of EIZ until final determination of the matter or further order of the court.

He also wants interest, costs, and any other relief the Court may deem fit.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court recently, Chapewa stated that on September 12, 2020, he was elected to the Engineering Registration Board by the members of the EIZ.

He added that he was subsequently elected Chairperson by his fellow Board members.

Chapewa stated that the election included a rigorous vetting process by EIZ's Nominations and Elections

Committee (NEC), which considered the academic and other qualifications of nominated candidates.

He further stated that EIZ's Nominations and Elections Committee considered his nomination and concluded that he was qualified to serve on the Engineering Registration Board.

Chapewa added that his nomination was thus progressed and notified to the members of the Engineering Institution of Zambia as being a valid nomination, qualifying him to take part in the elections.

He, however, stated that sometime in September 2020, EIZ wrote to him inquiring about his postgraduate qualifications.

"It is the plaintiff's belief that the defendant wrote to him in that manner with a view to disqualify him from serving as Chairperson of the Engineering Registration Board," read the claim.

Chapewa stated that by letter dated October 5, 2020, he responded, advising EIZ that his qualifications remained as submitted to the said institution during the electoral process aforesaid, namely, a bachelor's degree.

He, however, stated that notwithstanding his response, EIZ

proceeded to accuse him of having misled the institution with respect to his qualifications.

"The plaintiff will aver that at no time has he submitted any other qualifications to those formally submitted to the defendant. The plaintiff will aver that the defendant further convened a Council meeting which discussed his qualifications. Following that meeting, the plaintiff was given an ultimatum to either step down or suffer suspension for a period of up to six months," read the claim further.

Chapewa stated that EIZ, by letter dated October 15, 2020, had proceeded to purportedly revoke his Practising Licence.

He stated that EIZ had done so unilaterally without preferring him with an appropriate charge and/or affording an appropriate hearing to enable him defend himself.

Chapewa stated that EIZ's unlawful actions aforesaid constituted harassment, discrimination, and interference with his rights of membership of the Engineering Institution of Zambia and Engineering Registration Board and had caused loss and damage to him.

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources for the period February 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020 has revealed that the Ministry of Health transferred K60,884,345 from a Treasury account without any explanation and approval from the Secretary to Treasury.

And the Report also revealed that the Ministry of Health made cash withdrawals in amounts totalling K3,361,196 which was contrary to the Treasury and Finance Management circular of 2020.

According to the report, the controlling officer at the Ministry of Health stated in his response to this query that authority on the withdrawal of K60 million was sought from the Secretary to Treasury and there were indications that approval was going to be granted but that instead, the request was rejected.

"According to Section 32(5) of the Public Finance Management Act No.1 of 2018, a transfer of public money shall not be made

AG explains how MoH withdrew K60m from Treasury account without approval

between accounts at the same bank or different banks without written approval of the Secretary to Treasury. Contrary to the provision of the Act and the circular, the Ministry of Health transferred K60,884,345 which it received from the Treasury Single Account (TSA) to a bank account held at First Capital Bank, without approval from the Secretary to Treasury," read the report.

"There was no explanation as to why the Ministry had moved the GRZ funds from the Treasury Single Account at Bank of Zambia into a bank account that had been opened for Donor Funds at a commercial bank. In response, the Controlling Officer, Ministry of Health stated that authority was sought from Secretary to Treasury and there were

indications that approval was going to be granted but instead the request was later rejected."

And the Report revealed that the Ministry of Health made cash withdrawals in amounts totalling K3,361,196 which was contrary to the Treasury and Finance Management circular of 2020.

"According to the Treasury and Finance Management Circular No. 1 of 2020, controlling officers were guided that no cash shall be withdrawn for payment of subsistence allowances, fuel refunds and any other allowances. 'These shall be paid directly into the beneficiary's bank account.' Contrary to the Treasury and Finance Management Circular No. 1 of 2020, between 20th March 2020 and 30th May 2020, the

Ministry of Health made cash withdrawals in amounts totalling K3,361,196 which were used to pay various allowances and fuel among others," read the Report.

"The Ministry of Health HQ undertook trainings in Patient's Critical Care and Case Management of COVID-19 patients for healthcare workers in Southern, Eastern, Copperbelt and Muchinga Provinces at a total cost of K2,361,419. The training was done in two (2) phases with Phase I being Case Management and Phase II being Critical Care. The total amount that was approved and paid for Case Management was K1,183,710 and K1,183,710 was paid for Critical Care."

Meanwhile, the Report also revealed that there were

weaknesses in the handling of non cash items by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).

The Report stated DMMU lacked criteria in the distribution of donated items.

"During the period from 25th March 2020 to 29th April 2020 the Unit received donations in form of face masks, hand sanitisers, methylated spirit, sprayers, hand wash basins, among others with an estimated value of over K245,760 from 12 companies and donors. However, the following were noted: Lack of Criteria in the Distribution of Donated Items; the Unit had no written down procedures to be used in the distribution of the donated items and as such the modality used in the issuance to various Ministries and other Institutions could not be ascertained as no priority assessment was done to ensure that the items are donated to high risk areas," the Report read.

"In response, the National Coordinator DMMU indicated that the donations were made based on the risk analysis in the COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Contingency and Response Plan. However, no evidence of the risk

analysis reports were availed for audit."

The Report further stated that there were pledges and donations in terms of cash amounting to K2 million in provinces and districts that were not reported.

"In provincial and districts offices an examination of records revealed that, as at 31st July 2020, there were pledges and donations in form of cash in amounts totalling K2,860,000, Aid-In-Kind valued at over K2,028,001 and US\$10,000 and other assorted items not valued. It was observed that, there was no mechanism in place to ensure that donations by various stakeholders made in the provinces were reported to headquarters for consolidation. As such the completeness of materials donated could not be verified," the Report read.

"In response, the National Coordinator DMMU indicated that updates on donations made to provincial and district offices were available for verification. However, as at 14th August 2020, no reports on donations from provincial and district offices were availed for audit and the updated register of donations was not availed."



Transparency International Zambia

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Kwacha Road
Olympia Park
P.O. Box 37475
Lusaka, Zambia

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 17 TH ELECTIVE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ZAMBIA THAT WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM THURSDAY 30TH JULY TO FRIDAY 31ST JULY 2020 AT 09:00 HRS WILL NOW BE HELD ON THE FROM THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020 , VENUE MIKA CHAMBA VALLEY EXOTIC HOTEL

The Agenda is as follows:-

1. Notice of meeting
2. Attendance register and apologies
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. To consider and approve the minutes of the 16 th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 10th May 2019
5. Matters Arising and action points from the minutes of the 16 th Annual General Meeting held on 10 th May, 2019
6. To Receive the Chapter Presidents Governance Report
7. To receive and consider the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019
8. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year
9. To elect a New Board of Directors
10. To consider any other relevant business
11. Date of the next Annual General Meeting
12. Closure of the meeting

The AGM will be preceded by a capacity building training on the 26th and followed by the 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner for all invited members, staff and other stakeholders from 18:00 hours to 20:00 hours on Friday 31 July 2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTS HAVE SINCE BEEN DISPATCHED AND ATTENDANCE WILL BE STRICTLY FOR FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS AND BY WRITTEN INVITATION TO FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS AND THOSE AUTHORISED BY THE BOARD.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD Dated 2nd November 2020

Mr. Maurice K. Nyambe
Executive Director / Board Secretary Zambia
Plot No. 128, Mwambula Road, Jesmondine
P.O. Box 37475
Lusaka

Leaders are flouting health guidelines, laments Mujajati

From page 2

"If men and women who wield more authority than I do are acting in the opposite direction, even if I spoke, who is going to listen? So, my problem is that it's frustrating that we have COVID-19, we have all these things going on and then you see people, when I saw that gathering at Woodlands Stadium, I was in shock! And I was like, 'maybe we no longer have COVID-19 in Zambia, maybe it's finished.' So, really, I feel very frustrated with the way we are managing COVID-19, the way we are behaving towards COVID-19 as a community at all layers and that if we don't take care of ourselves, we will see these numbers continue to go up and our lives will be disrupted. You see, we don't want to go into another lockdown, we saw how disruptive the last one was, nobody wants a lockdown, you saw how our children were disrupted at school."

He added that leaders should lead by example as the general citizenry tended to do what they see as opposed to what they heard.

"Any activity that requires national mobilisation, or any behaviour that requires national mobilisation, it needs to be modelled and to model that behaviour, the leaders of that society need to model that behaviour. Now, when your behaviour is not modelled, it doesn't matter what you say

as an analyst, which is what I am saying, provided there are all these images that are showing that at certain layers of leadership, COVID-19 is not taken as a serious matter; people tend to do what we do, they rarely do what we say. They will see I am doing as Dr Mujajati, assuming I am in leadership, that's what they will do," Dr Mujajati said.

He added that the spike in the UK and US stemmed from relaxation in health measures, which was exactly the case in Zambia.

"Do you know that the UK on Thursday, this week, they are going into a national lockdown because of the second wave, why? Because even there, precautions went through the window. In the US, COVID-19 has a new spike, why? Because of these (2020 presidential) elections that they have, they have also been having these rallies and things like that and they are experiencing this spike. Now, even here, apparently, government is expecting a new spike, but the thing is look, there has been some sort of a relaxation of commitment and that relaxation, unfortunately, and I am sure you have been seeing the images, it's across the board," said Dr Mujajati, who, however, called on citizens to ensure they took precautions and avoid crowds to prevent a further spread of the disease.

Lifestyle

EVERYBODY IS A LIFESTYLE GYM BODY

DAILY CLASSES
ADVANCED EQUIPMENT
PERSONAL TRAINING

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP
K850

OFF PEAK MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP
K750

LEOPARDS HILL ROAD
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

EAST PARK MALL, CORNER OF GREAT EAST & THABO MBEKI ROAD
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

COMP

By Ulande Nkomesha

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) has demanded a full probe into the misapplication of COVID-19 funds and that stern action should be taken against perpetrators.

Commenting on the recent Interim Auditor General's Report on the audit of utilisation of COVID-19 resources which indicated that K1.3 billion was mismanaged, TI-Z chapter president Rueben Lifuka, in a statement, stated that the continued mismanagement of funds was symptomatic of the rising levels of impropriety and impunity in the management of public affairs.

He stated that it was disappointing that times of emergencies such as COVID-19 presented opportunities for people with ill intentions to engage in corruption and general abuse of resources.

"The Interim Report of the Auditor General on the audit of utilisation of COVID-19 resources as at 31 July 2020, clearly makes for very sad reading and is a serious indictment on failure of systems and procedures in Zambia. This is symptomatic of the rising levels of impropriety and impunity in the management of public affairs. As Transparency International Zambia (TI-Z), we are not in the least surprised by this development and as early as April 2020, when the government of Zambia's official response was taking shape, TI-Z emphasized the need to ensure that principles of good financial management were adhered to, not just in terms of funds being donated, but aid in kind as well," Lifuka stated.

"We sounded a timely warning of the potential of such donations being abused and we recommended that government puts in place a

TI-Z demands full probe into COVID funds misapplication

mechanism to fully account for each and every donation received. Our advice was premised on history, we recall that following the unfortunate gutting of the Lusaka City Market, the corporate world and individuals made generous contributions towards the rebuilding of the said market which still remains incomplete to this day. History has indeed taught us that times of emergencies such as COVID-19 present opportunities for people with ill intentions to engage in corruption and general abuse of resources because of the tendency to shortcut established processes, guidelines and procedures in a bid to respond in a timely manner to the emergency."

He said the Interim Report of the Auditor General raised important findings which should be urgently addressed and further called on the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Zambia Police Service to take keen interest in the matter and institute their own investigations.

"TI-Z therefore demands that a full investigation be instituted by all Ministries and departments involved in managing the COVID funds, and that all culprits that are involved in this blatant theft of the country's much needed resources be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We have in the past observed a reluctance by the authorities to deal decisively with such revelations made by the

Auditor General. Our hope is that these revelations on the COVID funds will mark the beginning of decisive action that will help bring to an end the theft and abuse of public resources. In this vein, we also call upon the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Zambia Police Service to take keen interest in this matter and institute their own investigations," Lifuka stated.

He stated that it was disheartening that government had failed to operationalize the National Disaster Relief 10 years after the enactment of the Disaster Management Act of 2010.

"TI-Z would like to remind all stakeholders that as recently as two weeks ago on 16th October 2020, we released the findings of a project we implemented with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which tracked the management of financial and material donations made towards Zambia's COVID-19 response. Two of our findings pointed to poor coordination mechanisms among different government institutions involved in the COVID-19 response; and weak tracking and record keeping systems within the COVID-19 response resource management mechanism. We also highlighted our fear that those inadequacies were potential loopholes through which people with ill intentions could engage in corrupt practices and general abuse of the COVID resources," Lifuka

stated.

"While not entirely surprising to us, it saddens us that the Auditor General's COVID-19 report has proved our fears correct. The Interim Report of the Auditor General raises important findings which should be urgently addressed. We highlight a number of our concerns arising from this report: The failure to operationalize the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund, 10 years after the enactment of the Disaster Management Act of 2010, is a serious omission and needs to be urgently rectified. Such a Fund, if it was operationalized, should have been the vehicle for mobilizing and coordinating the receipt of funds and donations for the COVID 19 response. Government should urgently set this fund and provide for a better system of managing COVID 19 donations and support grants."

He stated that TI-Z was concerned with the reported weaknesses in the accountability of COVID 19 resources and lack of adherence to the Public Finance Management Act.

"We are concerned with the reported weaknesses in accountability of COVID 19 resources and clearly unscrupulous individuals have taken advantage of the loopholes in the system. From the Auditor General's report, we have identified that between February and July 2020, Zambia has had a total of about K6.8 billion

which includes cash, pledges, commitments and aid-kind donations with the largest amount K6,399,286,226 coming in form of pledges and commitments from bilateral and multilateral organisations. This is a lot of support which needs to be well accounted for and we note with concern that the biggest recipient of this support- the Ministry of Health is the one also cited for the most indiscretions and irregularities. Similarly, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit has been mentioned for a number of lapses," Lifuka stated.

"We are concerned by the apparent lack of adherence to the Public Finance Management Act No 1 of 2018 particularly by the Ministry of Health. It certainly does not augur well for MoH when the Auditor General highlights that contrary to the provision of the Act and the Circular, the Ministry of Health transferred K60,884,345 which it received from the Treasury Single Account (TSA) to a bank account held at First Capital Bank, without approval from the Secretary to Treasury. There was no explanation as to why the Ministry had moved the GRZ funds from the Treasury Single Account at Bank of Zambia into a bank account that had been opened for Donor Funds at a commercial bank. What is even of great concern is that while MoH sought authority from Secretary to the Treasury, this request was later rejected.

We want to know what actions have been taken against the Controlling Officer and all other officials at MoH who made this decision without prior approval."

He stated that it was unacceptable that the Ministry of Health over committed expenditure on government by K63,783,528.

"As TI Z, we are concerned about the lack of financial stewardship and find it unacceptable that the Ministry of Health over committed expenditure on government by K63,783,528. MoH engaged 100 suppliers to supply various medical items to be used in the fight against the COVID -19 pandemic at a total cost of K779,783,529 and the total contracts entered into by the Ministry of Health exceeded the overall total budget provision of K716,000,000 (K659,000,000 - Multi-Sectoral Contingency and Response Plan and K57,000,000 - Epidemic Preparedness Fund)," Lifuka stated.

"There has to be a logical conclusion to this otherwise such actions lend weight to the speculation that over commitment of expenditure on government was deliberate. While we acknowledge we have a pandemic to deal with, this should not be justification for such reckless expenditure particularly that this country is facing many economic challenges. A question still needs to be..."

Continues on page 6

By Abraham Kalito

PF MEDIA director Sunday Chanda says the ruling party is not disappointed that Bill 10 collapsed because the responsibility of its failure lies with the UPND.

And Chanda says UPND will still fail to win next year's general election despite having successfully derailed Bill 10.

In an interview, Chanda argued that Bill 10 was not a PF affair, adding that the ruling party's only disappointment was that the UPND had "killed the Zambian dream."

"I think Bill 10 was not a PF affair, yes, we supported the Bill and, yes, we had made recommendations and, yes, we agreed and disagreed with some of the resolutions that came out of the NDF and we went into the NDF (National Dialogue Forum) and we looked at this whole process with a spirit of 'give and take' because we believe that the contents, therein, would be beneficial to the Zambian people. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side, and UPND in particular, chose to play politics with a very serious matter that would have placed this country on a different trajectory," Chanda said.

"So, in terms of being disappointed, we are disappointed with the UPND because they lost an opportunity to rise above cheap and partisan politics to looking at what is good for the country. And we were very open to say that let the UPND and ourselves come to the table, put the Bill on the table and say, 'provision by provision, line by line' to disagree. But that was not so."

And Chanda said UPND would still fail to win next year's election despite having successfully campaigned against Bill 10.

"So, we want to say officially to the UPND that they are dream killers. UPND under Mr Hichilema killed the referendum on the Bill of Rights, recommendations which would have restored better rights to the Zambian people. And here we are today talking about the collapse of Bill 10, which would have made a huge difference to the Zambian people. But they shouldn't lie to themselves that they will win elections because Bill 10 collapsed. Just look at 2016, you campaigned against the referendum on the Bill of Rights, did you win the elections? Even this time around, you won't go anywhere!" he said.

He said the PF would not give the UPND space to talk about President Lungu's eligibility as that was a non-issue.

"The other issue that the UPND wants to bring is the no issue of the eligibility debate. We are not going to give them room and space to entertain a dead matter. The ConCourt pronounced itself on the candidature of President Edgar Lungu. And the only reason why they would want to mount that campaign is because they understand that President Lungu is the strongest political contender for 2021 and by all means, they would want him out. They don't want to see his name on the ballot paper," said

UPND won't win 2021 despite Bill 10's demise – Sunday

Chanda.

"Mr (John) Sangwa, S.C., is defending his opinion,

he is not defending the Constitution because the same arguments Mr Sangwa

is resurrecting today are the same arguments he took before the Constitutional Court and

he lost. So, we are saying to our colleagues that as they panic about President Edgar Lungu's

candidature, we are going to focus on taking development to the people of Zambia."

Fire Siliya to protect your legacy, Sacika urges Lungu

By Natasha Sakala

FORMER secretary to the cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika says President Edgar Lungu should fire Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya because her tribal remarks are reckless and irresponsible.

And Dr Sacika says the whole Bill 10 process was a fraud, urging President Lungu to emulate Dr Kenneth Kaunda in ensuring a consensus in the Constitution-making process.

In an interview, Sacika observed that given that President Lungu was ineligible to stand next year, he had nothing to lose by dropping Siliya from her position as a means of protecting his legacy.

"President Lungu has nothing to lose but everything to gain by taking decisive action against extremists in

his party and government, like Dora Siliya, who are driving this country in the wrong direction. President Lungu is not standing in the election next year because the law does not allow him to do so. So, he must be concerned about his legacy, about the legacy he is going to leave with the people of Zambia. Now, people like Dora Siliya have absolutely no sense of the future. All they are thinking about is how to win an election and to secure small jobs for themselves as ministers. They don't think about the damage they are doing to the country by behaving in such a reckless manner! This is not the way to run the affairs of the country because what we do today or what we fail to do today will impact negatively on the affairs of the country in the future,"

Dr Sacika said.

"How can you be happy as a President or as a minister running a country, which is broken, you cannot be happy. Wise leaders or wise people learn from the mistakes of others and avoid making the same mistakes, but apparently, our leaders don't think in that way. Now, what Dora said in Sinda (District) is reprehensible and dangerous and President Lungu should do something about it. In fact, he should fire her as a minister and take further measures, such as not adopting her in the elections next year because she is a reckless person and thoroughly irresponsible!"

He charged that Siliya spat on the national anthem with her toxic tribal remarks which she issued in Sinda.

"The national anthem

that we sing every day is a Zambia's prayer to God, that's what it is. Every time we sing the national anthem, we are praying to God to make Zambia what you say in the National anthem, but Dora spat on the national anthem! How can we say, 'one land, one nation is our cry' when Dora is busy promoting hate against fellow Zambians? How can Dora encourage people from Eastern Province to defraud their own government's Social Cash Transfer scheme through pretending that they are poor when they are not? How safe is our country in the hands of people like Dora? We are not safe at all," he cautioned.

"Running government is not a play matter and these are serious offenses for which Dora must be punished! If a president, who fails to act

decisively against her, he will be damaging his own reputation beyond repair. No president can entertain the likes of or the thinking of Dora Siliya."

And Dr Sacika said the whole Bill 10 process was a fraud.

"The whole Bill 10 exercise was a fraud, conceived and polluted by persons, who are not honest and sincere. For goodness sake, Zambians can do better than this! When Kaunda was confronted with a similar problem in 1991, he was prepared to sit with MMD, sit down with them, discuss the Constitution they wanted to change and they arrived at a consensus. I was a cabinet secretary at the time and I know what happened. The House of Parliament at the time was a One-Party Parliament, if KK had wanted, he would have said to Mr Chiluba and MMD, 'I am not interested in your objections to the Constitution, I am going ahead to enact the Constitution as it is because the whole house was one party...' but KK climbed down. So, they needed to obtain consensus on the Constitution and he was prepared to accede to the objections that Chiluba and the MMD had made to the Constitution," said Dr Sacika.

"Leadership does not mean that you must be a dictator, this is what was happening with the Bill 10 issue, they wanted to dictate terms, and the people behind that spent so much money to drive a project that was doomed to failure right from the word go. Now, with the falling away of Bill 10, given Lubinda must now present the revised Public Order Act."

FPI bemoans attempts to silence journalists, demands fair conclusion of Costa's case

By Natasha Sakala

FREE Press Initiative Zambia founder Joan Chirwa has expressed concern that attacks on journalists remain unpunished.

In a statement commemorating the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Tuesday, Chirwa said the arbitrary arrests of journalists on flimsy charges was sad, arguing that information didn't get to the public as it should due to the interruptions.

"The FPI also notes with sadness the arbitrary arrests of journalists on flimsy charges, all with a motive to silence them so that they get interrupted in doing their work and information does not get to the public as it should. In some instances, journalists have been summoned for unjustified reasons. A recent example is the summoning of Diamond TV Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Costa Mwansa, and the Head of News and Current Affairs, Mr. George Chomba, and other journalists from ZNBC. The FPI demands a fair, speedy and logical conclusion to this matter. Impunity for abuses which seek to silence journalists in Zambia is a real and serious threat to freedom of expression and the free flow of ideas and information to all people as they head to the 2021 elections," Chirwa stated.

"The FPI recognizes the important role that the Government of Zambia, the public and private media play in enabling the open exchange of information and opinions among ordinary citizens, businesses, citizen associations, political parties, and governments. However the fact that most of the attacks on journalists remain

unpunished, perpetuated and tolerated is a serious cause to worry in this time and age. The FPI strongly urges the media regulators, government and all industry players to permit journalists to freely carry out their work without interference, making sure they are protected against stereotypes and political agents. The FPI believes that a free press is a must in advancing democracy, human rights and inclusive development for all."

She called on stakeholders to allow the media play its role as the fourth estate as the country heads to the 2021 polls.

"The FPI is calling on the government and all stakeholders to allow the media to fulfill its role of being the fourth state, in providing information and ideas freely as we head to the 2021 polls. In its message to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, under the auspices of the United Nations which falls today, November 2, 2020, the FPI stated that the media has such an enormous role and influence in determining people's choices in next year's crucial vote, and thereby fostering the democracy of the nation of Zambia," she stated.

Chirwa also bemoaned the physical abuse and sexual harassment which journalists faced in the line of duty.

"The FPI notes with serious concern the arrests coupled with human rights violations inflicted on journalists throughout the country in the recent past. The role of a free press cannot be over-emphasized. A free press plays a vital role in democratic societies, enabling the open exchange of information and opinions among ordinary

citizens, businesses, citizen associations, political parties, and governments. Even though freedom of the press is constitutionally guaranteed in Zambia, many journalists have faced not only verbal but physical abuse and sexual harassment while they perform their work. In particular, FPI is very concerned with the physical harassment of journalists by the Zambia Police. Zambian journalists require maximum protection from the Zambia Police and not harassment. The police and the entire justice system should instead

work together with journalists to enhance the free flow of information to the public," stated Chirwa.

"The FPI therefore, calls on all politicians, political parties especially those involved in the upcoming 2021 general elections, to stop harassing journalists and allow them to undertake their work freely. We are hopeful that as an organization working together with all stakeholders, journalists will be allowed free space and coverage without intimidation, harassment and interference as we approach the 2021 polls."

Chitalu warns of spike in COVID-19 cases in Dec

By Natasha Sakala

MINISTER of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya has warned that the country risks having a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in December if preventive guidelines are not adhered to.

Speaking during a COVID-19 update, Monday, Dr Chilufya said that Lusaka, Copperbelt and North Western Provinces remained epicentres, adding that 63 cases were recorded in the last 24 hours.

This brings the cumulative number of cases to 16,543 with 15,733 recoveries and 349 deaths since the pandemic began.

"The country in the last 24 hours conducted 5,771 tests out of which 63 were positive. We did not record any deaths therefore our deaths still remain at 349. The 63 new cases are coming from the Copperbelt, North Western and Lusaka the three provinces continue to be the epicentres for COVID-19," Dr Chilufya said.

"Despite the dwindling numbers, it is time for us to adhere to the directives that His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has given in the past for us to ramp up public health measures in order to protect ourselves with COVID-19. We have noted with concern the happening in the region in Europe and in America where cases have continued to

spike and here, countries have gone back into lockdowns. That possibility is not remote for Zambia and our epidemiological modelling did indicate that in the event that we do not adhere to the measures that have been stipulated, we risk having a spike in the month of December."

He SAID with the dwindling number of patients, the Levy Mwanawasa Central Hospital would now be open to the public for routine medical services.

"Currently, we only have one patient admitted to the Levy Mwanawasa Medical University COVID-19 centre and as we announced last week, the Levy Mwanawasa Central hospital will now be open to the public for routine health services and we shall confine management of COVID-19 to the infectious diseases unit and to the ICU which has certain unique facilities needed to handle COVID-19. However, we are using this window to escalate our levels of preparedness in the event of a second wave for COVID-19. For now, we are repurposing the use of our COVID-19 facilities to re-establish, to strengthen routine health services," said Dr Chilufya.

He said there were also six patients currently admitted in North Western Province, four of whom were on oxygen support.

By Natasha Sakala

THE Auditor General has revealed that Honeybee Pharmacy supplied drugs from unregistered manufacturers such as paracetamol tablets that had mould like growth on the surfaces and did not meet acceptance criteria for appearance test.

According to the Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the republic for the financial year ended 31st December 2019, 58 out of the 60 items that constituted the health centre kits worth US\$3,400,151.04, (about K70 million) were sourced from non-contract stated manufacturers.

"It was observed that the supplier sourced various medicines and medical

Auditor General explains dubious HoneyBee medical supply tender, toxic drugs

supplies from unapproved manufacturers. In this regard, fifty-eight (58) out of the sixty (60) items with an invoice value of US\$3,400,151.04 that constituted the health centre kits supplied were sourced from non-contract stated manufacturers. The contract required that the goods supplied under the contract shall be registered for use in the procuring entity's country. It was observed that the medicines and allied substances contained in the 4,752 health centre kits with an invoice value of US\$3,792,761.28 delivered in August and September

2020 were not registered with the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority. The Special Conditions of the Contract Clause (Delivery and Documents) requires among others that the original certificate of quality control test results in conformity with the World Health Organisation "Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Trade" be availed to the procuring entity. A review of

the letter of Goods Acceptance Certificate by Medical Stores Limited revealed that the Health Centre Kits were not accompanied by the Certificate of Analysis from the Manufacturer / Supplier," the report stated.

The report further revealed that tests by ZAMRA on paracetamol tablets supplied by Honey Bee and valued at US\$179,074.37 revealed that the tablets had mould like growth on the surfaces and that the sample did not meet acceptance criteria for appearance test.

"In this regard, tests were carried out by ZAMRA and Zambia Bureau of Standards to assess the quality of the medicines and medical supplies and the results were as follows: Tests on Paracetamol Tablets ZAMRA undertook tests on the paracetamol tablets (BP100mg and BP500mg) contained in the health centre kits that had been supplied and had an invoice value of US\$179,074.37. A review of the Certificate of Analysis dated 10th September 2020 on paracetamol tablets BP500mg revealed that the tablets had mould like growth on the surfaces and that the sample did not meet acceptance criteria for appearance test. In addition, a review of Certificate of Analysis dated 16th September 2020 on paracetamol BP100mg revealed that the sample did not meet the acceptable criteria for Assay and Friability Tests," it read.

"Lubricated Latex Condoms; A laboratory test report dated 22nd September 2020 from Zambia Bureau of Standards revealed that the condoms supplied with an invoice value of US\$114,428.16 had failed on the following parameters: bursting volume, hang and roll (water tightness), length, and package integrity. A laboratory test report dated 22nd September 2020 from Zambia Bureau of Standards

revealed that the latex examination gloves supplied with an invoice value of US\$109,961.28 had failed the water tightness test. The soap bar supplied in the kits with an invoice value of US\$13,068 did not have a trade and manufacturer's name. Soap bar Supplied without Manufacturers Name; Diazepam injection with an invoice value of US\$4,656.96 was missing from the health centre kits supplied. 4g of Tetracycline HCL 1% eye ointment tube was supplied instead of 5g which had an invoice value of US\$22,952.16."

The report further revealed that the company did not reach the criteria needed to be considered as a supplier for the said contract with questionable references among other irregularities.

"On 26th July 2019, the Director, Clinical Care and Diagnostics Services sought authority from the Permanent Secretary-Administration to urgently procure 50,000 Health Centre Kits. According to the bidding document, the tender was split into five (5) lots to ensure that the Ministry would not be reliant on a single supplier for the delivery of the Health Centre Kits. In November and December 2019, the Ministry engaged three (3) suppliers to supply and deliver 50,000 health centre kits at total contract sum of US\$35,651,700; Artemis Pharmaceutical Zambia Limited 22,500 kits, US\$14,139,450; Honeybee Pharmacy 22,500 kits, US\$17,958,150 and Pharanova Zambia Limited, 5,000 kits US\$3,554,100 bringing it to a totals of US\$35,651,700. As at 24th September 2020, only Honeybee Pharmacy had supplied 4,752 health centre kits worth US\$3,792,761.28 which was invoiced to the Ministry and had not been settled while the contracts for Pharanova Zambia Limited and Artemis Pharmaceutical

Zambia Limited were in the process of being terminated by the Ministry due to failure to provide performance bonds," the report read.

"A review of Phase 2 of the Preliminary Evaluation of bidders to consider in part whether the bidder had over two (2) years' experience in dealing with pharmaceuticals revealed that Honeybee Pharmacy had passed the evaluation based on referral letters of having supplied similar products to two (2) of its customers. However, Honeybee Pharmacy's responsiveness was questionable in that; the evidence provided by Honeybee Pharmacy comprised of referral letters from two customers from Malawi and South Africa who had been supplied 16,000 units of health centre kits and 20,000 units of male condom kits respectively. The referral letters lacked details such as contact details of the referees (including the names of the directors who signed the letters, the physical and postal addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses) and the letters had no dates. The referral letters did not therefore allow for follow up to verify the legitimacy of the references. Further, the pharmaceutical license which allows trade in wholesale was only issued on 28th August 2019 which was less than four (4) months at the time of signing the contract and therefore Honeybee could not have been supplying for more than two years."

It was further revealed that an analysis of the financial statements submitted by the three bidders revealed that the average turnover from 2016 to 2018 did not meet the criteria as they fell below the value of the bid.

The report further revealed that Honeybee did not have manufacturers' authorisation from ZAMRA.

Continues on P7

Lubinda too emotional – Miti

By Abraham Kalito

ALLIANCE for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti says President Edgar Lungu should transfer Justice Minister Given Lubinda to another ministry because he is too emotional and will mislead the Head of State on other bad laws like Bill 10.

And Miti says government has deliberately approved the one-month voter registration period to increase their chances of winning the 2021 general election.

Speaking on 5FM's The Burning Issue programme, Tuesday, Miti argued that Lubinda was an emotional Minister who could not lead a critical Ministry such as the Ministry of Justice.

"Bill 10 represented one of the darkest clouds that hovered over Zambia. And towards the end, it got to a point where you said we have talked; we have begged and so on. The actual voting day, I could hardly watch Parliament TV. So, going forward, the fall of Bill 10 is good for all of us. And for the Minister of Justice, he needs to pull back his emotions from legislation. Don't say, 'I'm going to do it again and present the Bill to Parliament again!' That is what killed the Bill in the first place. If everybody could read you from afar, you know. So, the only thing I am going to say to Mr Lubinda, now, is pull back! The whole period of Bill 10, he was emotional and he was insulting to the people of Zambia. He was becoming worse off during this period," Miti said.

"It's a little disturbing and I hope that the President will tell him to calm down. If not, he should reshuffle him. He needs to take him away from the Ministry of Justice maybe this law is too personal, so take him to a Ministry where he can kind of cool down. And then, pull someone there who can watch the law and legislation for the good of the country. Otherwise, in the same way that Minister Lubinda led the President down the wrong path, he might do it again with other laws. And it's not only the President he is leading down the wrong path, it's the whole country."

She said Lubinda was emotionally charged, which influenced his actions, adding

that he was capable of enacting laws just for vengeance.

"And those emotions are not good for the country, especially when you are talking about law-making. Never go to court, never go to Parliament to pass laws simply because you want to prove to someone that you can do it. When you are making laws, you stand back and say, 'this law can see me when I'm on the other side, it can see me through.' So, go back now and look at 2016. These are procedural laws that were supposed to be passed in order of us to go forward as a country. Remember, the 2016 Amendment was the one, which was popularly accepted by the people. So, what Minister Lubinda needs to do is pull back and stop passing laws for his own vengeance. When he is speaking, he sounds as though he is saying 'muzachiona, mwanya!'," she said.

And Miti said that government had deliberately approved the one-month voter registration period to increase their chances of winning the election in 2021.

"Again, it's the why? Why are you doing this? We want an explanation where you will say where, from time immemorial, we have used the three months period, now you want one month. There is no explanation. Further,

a lot of people do not know that they have to register. The grandmothers in the villages have no idea of this because there has been no campaign. So, the equation I keep asking is why is the ECZ trying to disenfranchise people? It would have made sense if ECZ had stood up and said, 'we want to reduce the number of people on the register.' What is the logic? Because we don't even have resources to register voters for three months. This is a question that Mr (Patrick) Nshindano needs to answer," said Miti.

"Why are we trying to reduce the period of voting? From the three months we have always been used to, to one month. It's almost as though we want to make life difficult. Governance in Zambia is about making life difficult. Question again, what are Mr Nshindano and Judge Chulu's motivation to reduce this period? Because from where I sit, it's going to be an extremely unfair election because the people, who have National Registration Cards, are being denied the opportunity to register and vote! The reason is that the government wants to see few people register and vote. Last time, they won by few votes and they know that the odds are against them this time around. That's the reason."

TIZ demands full probe into COVID funds misapplication

From page 4

"...ANSWERED why was there this over commitment and what will be done to redress this." Lifuka stated that the lack of discipline at the Ministry of Health, DMMU and other entities involved in the procurement process during this COVID-19 period should be urgently addressed.

"The lack of adherence to Public Procurement regulations is another matter of concern and we see gross abuse all in the name of emergency procurements. We find it difficult to find reasons for some of the single sourcing cited by the Auditor General or tenders that lack competition or cover bidding. The lack of discipline in MoH, DMMU and other entities involved in the procurement process during this COVID 19 period should be urgently addressed. We cannot allow a situation where a few greedy people profit from

emergency procurement to the detriment of millions of Zambians. We need answers to all these matters pertaining to procurement and if anything we strongly recommend that the procurement function for COVID19 should be removed from the Ministry of Health in order to stop these malpractices. The Ministry has not demonstrated capability to correctly handle public procurement and it will be unjust to allow it to continue with this function," Lifuka stated.

He called on the Secretary to Cabinet and Secretary to Treasury to take action against the blatant disregard for public circulars which were meant to guide the manner that public servants managed public resources.

"We call on the Secretary to Cabinet and Secretary to Treasury to action against the blatant disregard

for the public circulars which are meant to guide the manner that public servants should manage and account for public resources pertaining to COVID 19. We are concerned to read that COVID 19 funds are used to pay daily subsistence allowances and other allowances for workshops, meetings etc. We further note how fuel is procured and utilized without necessary documentation by some public entities. It is worrying to see the impunity and lack of adherence to public financial regulations by different public officers. We cannot turn a serious pandemic like COVID 19 into a looting spree. There has to be some order and government has no option but to stop this abuse," stated Lifuka.

"The Auditor General points to weaknesses in the handling of non-cash items at the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit

(DMMU). It is reported that DMMU lacked criteria in the handling and distribution of donated items. The Unit had no written down procedures to be used in the distribution of donated items. Further DMMU had no mechanism in place to ensure that donations by various stakeholders made in the Provinces were reported to headquarters for consolidation. As such the completeness of materials donated could not be verified. We have also not forgotten that the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) National Coordinator Mr. Chanda Kabwe refuted the findings of our NDI project and insisted that there was transparency in the COVID donations, implying that there would be no possibility of mismanagement occurring. We will be interested in hearing what he now has to say in the wake of the Auditor General's revelations."

By Ulande Nkomesha

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili has called for the arrest of all the culprits involved in misapplication and misappropriation of over K1.3 billion meant for COVID-19 relief.

Commenting on the Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources for the period February 1 to July 31, 2020, which revealed that K1.3 billion was misapplied, Kambwili urged law enforcement agencies to take action and bring to book all individuals found wanting for mismanaging COVID-19 resources.

The Interim Audit Report highlighted financial irregularities in the utilisation of COVID-19 resources, with the highest being an over-commitment of K652 million, which entailed that procurements made for various medical supplies were not adequately supported by an approved budget and exceeded the entire budget.

"I think we are not going to run a country where every time we are talking about the Auditor General's Report. Now, it has even extended to COVID, which is killing people, COVID which has affected the economy. My call to government, President Edgar Lungu must take interest in the COVID funds and the audits that have been done by the Auditor General. There is no way we can lose K1.3 billion in misappropriation and misapplication and issues of not approving certain procurements because money has gone into people's pockets. I am urging the Head of State to take keen interest and make sure that the culprits are brought to book, there should be no sacred cow and there should be nobody who should be spared for this COVID [misapplication of funds]," Kambwili urged.

"As a person, who has had COVID and has felt the pain of COVID, I feel so bad and my heart bleeds that people can take advantage of COVID to make personal money. This is unacceptable and it erodes donor confidence, people have helped us a lot; private companies, the donor community, have helped us to fund the fight against COVID and if we don't take keen interest and certain people are not brought to book under this issue, both from the

Ministry of Health and from the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, I am telling you that the next wave of Covid, which is expected all over the world, we will have a problem with people giving us money."

He questioned how K60 million was irregularly transferred from a government account to commercial bank accounts.

"Mwe bamuyina olo kwena mufulo aba nenu ba le lwala mwaya muku bula impya sha ba lwele COVID (people are sick of COVID-19 and then you want to go take money meant to help them), COVID has destroyed the economy, COVID has killed people then people think of making money? This is very very bad! These people in PF sometimes are very careless, we heard of (Kennedy) Kamba saying 'write some names so that you can go and see people at Ministry of Health bami pelako tuma (they give you) K200,000 contracts for supplying facemasks, and then we are told of this. This is already confirmation, Kamba can go write a list and get COVID contracts, this story must be followed. Please, let not this issue die like the way other issues have died. President Edagr Lungu, I am urging you, please, our President, take interest and on this matter show the country, indeed, PF means well in as far as your government means well in fighting corruption. K1.3 billion under the financial circumstances that we are in is a lot of money that we can't lose like that. My heart bleeds, cry my beloved country!" Kambwili said.

"This K60 million of transfer of money from the government account we want to know to which account was it transferred, who transferred that amount, under whose authority? These are the questions that we want to know because it may be someone, who is a politician and gives an instruction and then they say, 'it is a controlling officer', but what we want to know is where was this money transferred to? Who transferred it? Under

whose authority, whether by way of verbal instruction or written instruction? And what was it used for in that account it was taken? What was the application of the K60 million? Because we cannot just end up being told that K60 million was transferred in a government account, to which account? And, ultimately, what was it used for?"

Kambwili said the Audit Report had confirmed that a number of PF cadres had continued to benefit from COVID-19 funds.

"We have seen that a lot of people that were poppers, who did not have money before COVID, particularly cadres have made so much money driving expensive cars, just between this time COVID has hit the country. So, this story has got legitimacy in it because we have seen it and when we ask 'that one is driving a Ford today? Ehh...COVID supplies'. We want to know, this is extremely important, that is

where we are going to start the fight against corruption from. This story must not die a natural death. It is a time bomb, let's build confidence, we are yet to be hit by COVID badly and if we don't build confidence from this story in terms of fighting corruption on COVID funds, we are going to lose the support. Ultimately, it is the poor people that are going to suffer. My plea, without malice, let us take this opportunity to root out the corrupt people from the system. Some people's way of life is not commensurate with their earnings," said Kambwili.

"Kaunda had ministers, who had served 27 years some of them, they didn't have money like we are seeing some of the ministers in today's government. Some of the ministers in today's government have invested in everything, meat processing plants, lodges, car hires. I worked in government close to



five years, I did not make the money that we are seeing some ministers have made, and surely we cannot just sit down and watch people play with national resources like this. I am urging citizen number one to help us because once he

gives instructions to the Anti-Corruption Commission, 'please follow these people, DEC follow the people that have been mentioned, who were involved in this K1.3 billion...' We need to know the truth over this K1.3 billion."

Culprits involved in mismanaging COVID-19 funds should be prosecuted - Kambwili

Auditor General reveals dubious HoneyBee medical supply tender, toxic drugs

From P6

"ITB 14 1 (h) required that the bidder should furnish a certificate from the competent appropriate drug Regulatory Authority (RA) and that bidders should submit a Manufacturer Authorisation. However, a review of the evaluation report at the

technical stage revealed that out of the sixty (60) items bid, Honeybee Pharmacy did not have manufacturers' authorisation but were found to be responsive," it read.

The report also revealed that six officers from four stations who had died had

not been removed from the payroll and had been paid salaries and allowances amounting to K160,381.

Further, it was also revealed that a senior resident medical officer from Senanga

General Hospital who was absent from duty since 2014 was irregularly paid salaries amounting to K1,981,551 and as at 31st August 2020, the funds had not been recovered.

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VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina says the failure to pass Bill 10 will have devastating effects on several governance issues. According to her, this Bill was key to empowering women, youths and the disabled. She wonders what explanation she will give to women who were hoping to be empowered through the legislation of Bill 10. We couldn't help but laugh hearing this from the Vice-President.

"The non-passing of Bill 10 will have a devastating effect on many issues. I just wonder how the people who are celebrating [the defeat of Bill] today, whether they will be able to face the youths, the women, the people with disabilities. Mr Speaker, for the last 50 years, the women of this country have struggled to have their voice heard in decision-making organs. And this was quelled by the opposition that felt that women should not come to the table where decisions are made. So, what message should we take to the women to tell them that the opposition political parties do not want to see the advancement of women because Bill 10 was going to introduce affirmative action where the number of women in Parliament and in councils; the number of youths

Inonge was appointed first female VP without Bill 10, she shouldn't lie to people

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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in Parliament and in councils; the number of people with disabilities in Parliament and in councils would have increased. But now, this will not happen. This was the only chance that the advancement of women in decision-making positions would have been realized," Wina told Parliament during Vice-President's Question time on Friday last week.

We agree with the Vice-President that our women and youth need empowerment and they deserve a place on the decision making table. But we disagree with her that this could only be done if Bill 10 was enacted. This is a lie and the Vice-President knows this because she is a living testimony against what she is

trying to make people believe. Firstly, even if we were to agree to the so-called proportional representation in Parliament, Bill 10 did not and does not explain how this model would be structured. PF simply wanted MPs to say yes to the proposal in the Bill so that the actual decision to allocate seats and to delimitate constituencies should be left to a simple majority. So it is clear that the PF has ulterior motives on this matter.

We disagree with the Vice-President when she says Bill 10 was the only chance that the advancement of women in decision-making positions would have been realized. Madam Wina herself is the first female Vice-President

of this country, was there Bill 10 when she was being considered by the President for that job? Between 2011 and 2020, we have seen the first female Vice-President, the first female deputy Inspector General of Police who went further to become the first Female Inspector General of Police. During this same period, we have seen the highest decision making position in the judiciary moving from one female Chief Justice to another. We can add that we have also had a second female Minister of Finance. That is not all, currently law enforcement agencies, Anti-Corruption Commission and Drug Enforcement Commission as well as the Financial

Intelligence Centre are headed by women. All this has been happening without Bill 10 being in effect.

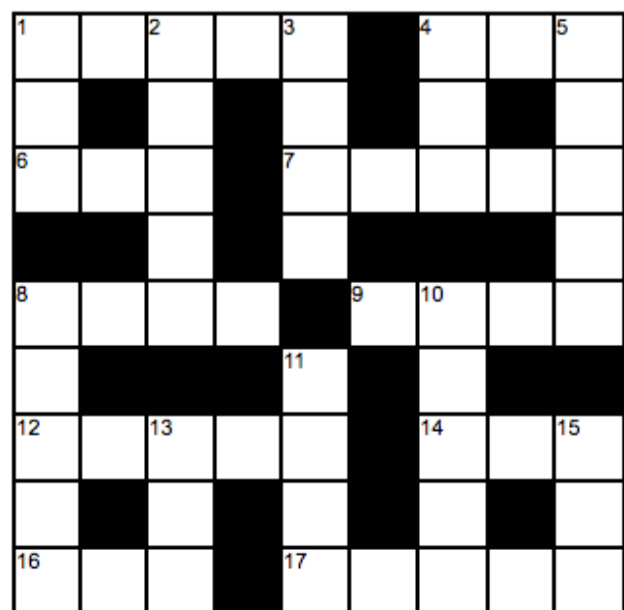
So we don't understand why our first female Vice-President is trying to paint a false image that in the absence of Bill 10, no one will ever care about the plight of women. It is incorrect and also shameful for Madam Wina to try and convince people that the collapse of Bill 10 marks dooms day for Zambia. We know this development has left the ruling party devastated and there is finger-pointing going on, but that does not mean the whole country is or will be affected by this defeat.

Women and youth

empowerment is a matter of political will. If the PF is dedicated and truly committed to empowering women and youths, they must start by adopting them to fill 60 per cent of their parliamentary and local government seats in the 2021 elections. If they can't do that, it means they are not confident that they can win and it also means they are not truly committed to empowering women and youth. It also means that they are merely politicking and trying to make political gains from cheap propaganda. PF must not blame it's incompetence on Bill 10.

We have seen in the past that we have a government that does not respect laws of the land, so we wonder why they are wailing uncontrollably over the downfall of this Bill 10 when in practice, they have no regard for the Constitution. Is there anyone in PF who can explain why the Cabinet has been borrowing billions of dollars without approval from parliament? The law says Parliament must deliberate before contracting debt so that our loan acquisitions can be scrutinized, but has this PF regime respected that provision in the law? The answer is no! So why do they want to fix laws which they don't even care about?

Crossword puzzle No 724



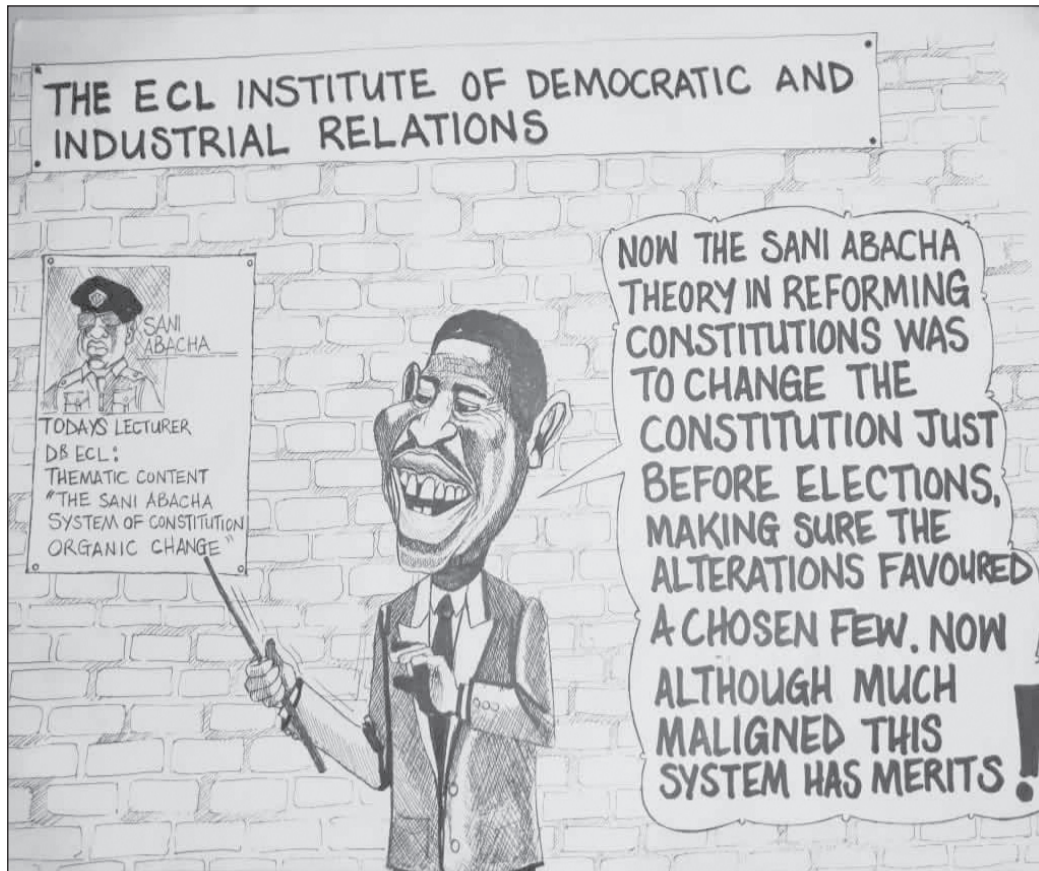
"Resistance is a sign that shows you're going the right way"
- Constance Friday

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hunger for 4. Stanley ___ trophy 6. Everything 7. Give a nudge to 8. Impulsive 9. Practice boxing 12. Expressionless 14. Fuel 16. Writing fluid 17. Prize money | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spy org. 2. A titan 3. Genesis spot 4. Car for hire 5. Great strength 8. Synagogue leader 10. Cell phone precursor 11. Decide not to attend 13. Pose a question 15. Observe |
|--|--|

Crossword puzzle No 723



Readers' Feedback



'Bill 10 flop will have devastating effects on PF'

Editor,

"Which devastating effects because we're already devastated economically?!" - George Mwape

"We are already facing the devastating effects of having a group of incompetent, corrupt and selfish people in government. PF is the worst thing that happened to mother Zambia. So granny just enjoy the loot quietly!" - Levi C Kangololo

"But we've been living without Bill 10 all this while so what devastating effects is she talking about?!" - Francisco Kayemba Jr.

"How can it have devastating effects when it was NEVER a law...the problem with Zambian leaders is, they always want to be politically correct. The fall of the draconian #Bill10 will never have effects on us. Just move on agogo and fix the economy with your son!" - Uri Boy

"SO in other words, she is saying her government cannot bring any meaningful development without Bill 10?!" - Kapangala Masangala

"It has devastating effects on your party. What has devastating effects on governance issues is high indebttness, high exchange rate, unemployment, procurement and distribution of expired drugs to public health institutions, loadshedding and high inflation rate!" - Asa Amisi

"For the first time I concur with the old lady though as usual I differ with her in that the devastating effects will be on her PF and their uncertain political future!" - Callaghan Mwamba

Sunday's remarks on UPND being the high priests of tribalism

Editor,

"The only high priests are those always in the news preaching tribalism, and that's PF. While UPND is being labeled by propaganda, PF is actively practicing tribalism, discriminating and seeking to benefit from it. Lungu does not even bother to quietly admonish his division agents!" - Richard Waga

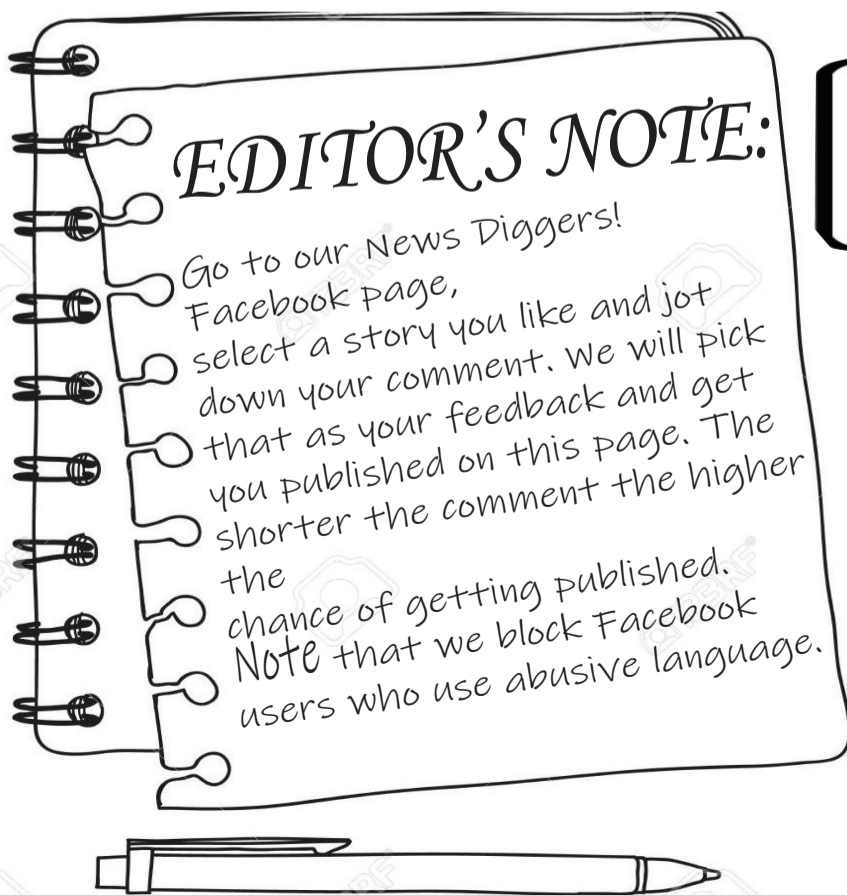
The aftermath of Bill 10 Flop has indeed devastated the PF. They are still searching for answers and excuses wherever they think they can find it. Anyway "Ulelosha taba mucheba kukanwa". Let us give them space to mourn and console each other". - Christopher Kalima

"If what this man is planning is to destroy Zambia, then I pray God does what he does best, humble him for the sake of the Zambian good people". - Joe Kaingu

"GBM, Nkandu Luo, Christopher Yaluma, Bizwel Mutale, Dora Siliya and Chanda Nyela are from UPND according to Sunday Chanda. Sunday Chanda these men and women are real tribalists, the record is there!" - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"Sunday Mabokosi Chanda is a misguided soul. I knew that what Dora said had a blessing from the party and she will not be fired. Here we are today Sunday Chanda justifying tribalism by heaping blame on a party who up to now have no record of a video or videos of any of their ministers inciting tribal hatred like their PF counterparts. Shame!" - Enza Pule

"Sunday is always confused on Mondays. A rogue regime with cabinet minister who are spread tribalism and division being led by a fake humble leader. The mask has fallen off his lying face". - Chaka Kelly



'ACC erasing HoneyBee tender irregularities, not investigating'

Editor,

"You are not investigating but erasing evidence. You took the principal suspect to Court only to have testify against yourself as an institution and you think we all have our brains removed to believe this crap!" - Shilota Kapimpa

"ACC is now an institution for laundering corruption and the corrupt. I have zero faith in it". - Chisomo Tembo

"Then their investigation officer shall tell the courts that he saw nothing wrong with HoneyBee tender before the judge. The honourable judge shall ask the ACC, then why are you here prosecuting this case?"

they look surprised and then quashed out. It's a strange world". - Christopher Phiri

"If you can't find the owner of those 48 houses with water and electricity bills running monthly, can you find why toxic medicines were given to patients? Ikalenifye tata. You salary will still come pa monthend". - Kingsley Kaliye

"Nkalani chabe naimwe. We know you are working under very difficult circumstances. Just go to your offices, switch on your PCs, put your jacket on the chair and watch Youtube". - Nkole Jimmy

"Just stop investigating

anything in this country, ba ACC just work and collect your salaries pa month end. Thanks". - Richard Esco

"There is no need to tell us, investigate go to court, come tell us when you are done, you almost killed us with your witness last time... So ka trust tesana". - Majorie Busiku Nzila

"I hope this time around you will have everything in place we won't accept your mistakes were your officer will fail to answer properly in court". - Mark Sakeni

"We all know that this will die a death or it will go to court for a nolle prosequi". - Zuba Kayasha

'Kambwili right, Lungu needs to apologise for insulting Zambians, but he wouldn't'

Editor,

"He insults the very people he wants the votes from". - Chanda Pochoko

"Mmm ati working lol... he can't even control the price of bread ati he is working, I think we know the foolish one!" - Sami Hopkins

"The president should be the last person to use that kind of language, very unfortunate". - Humphrey Willombe

"Politicians only apologize when humbled. Which politician can apologize with everything at his/her disposal? Even yourself, apologized when time humbled you". -

Mulenga Onasis

"Lungu should indeed apologize, being a head of state does warrant him to use such language, when I retaliate people will build mountains out of a small hill, at least as Zambians we don't deserve such". - Quincy Muyoli

"Lungu's language, reactions to issues of deteriorating governance standards, empathy to the unfortunate and sensitivity to feelings of the governed has never been presidential. When a president says his critics on his government's reckless

borrowing (which borders on the criminal) are idiots, how do people and the international community take it? Does the man have 'handlers' or do these 'advisors' secretly hope he goes down the historical junk heap with a thud and spectacular ignominy?" - Cephas M Kunda

"Lungu is a humble man who has never apologised for anything or empathised with victims of numerous extrajudicial killings by the police. He just does not have that presidential empathy or temperament of making his office accommodating. He is always in confrontation mode!" - Richard Waga

By Ulande Nkomesha

CABINET Office says 25 controlling officers have been cited as culprits and charged pending disciplinary action on the misuse of COVID-19 funds and the continued mismanagement of public funds in various Ministries.

On Monday, the Auditor General revealed in the Interim

Cabinet cites 25 controlling officers as culprits in misuse of COVID-19, govt funds

Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources for the period February 1 to July 31, 2020, that a total of over K1.3 billion was mismanaged in various transactions, which included dubious transfers from GRZ accounts amounting

to K60 million and up to K3 million in cash withdrawals.

In a statement released following the revelation, Tuesday, Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Simon Miti said government was concerned with irregularities reported in the COVID-19 audit and the Auditor General Report for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2019.

"Government is very concerned about the number of Ministries, Provinces and spending agencies (MPSAs) being cited for audit queries as this has potential to undermine public confidence in the Executive and more fundamentally adverse effects on the performance of the public sector and service delivery. The concerns by government arise from the Auditor General's Report for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2019 and the COVID-19 Report which have cited some controlling officers for irregularities," Dr Miti said.

"Consequently, Cabinet at its 22nd meeting held on 26th October, 2020 directed that disciplinary action can be taken on all officers who would be cited in the Report. To this effect 25 controlling officers have already been charged by Cabinet Office in accordance with the performance of contracts for the omissions and commissions as highlighted in the Reports. Depending on the exculpatory statement provided, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against the erring controlling officers and their staff."

Dr Miti said the 25 controlling officers would appear before the Parliamentary Public Accounts (PAC) in due course.

"The 25 controlling officers will appear before the Parliamentary Public Accounts (PAC) in due course. This is in respect of violations of the Public Finance Management Act No 1 of 2018 and the Financial Regulations of 2006. Government has however commended 37 controlling officers for adhering to the financial management regulations and attaining the target of zero audit query," said Dr Miti.

"Government has provided the necessary institutional and regulatory framework for management of public funds, which includes creation of Audit Committees in each Ministry, upgrading of the finance cadre to director level and the establishment of the internal audit oversight committee which provides technical support on the verifiable action taken to resolve all outstanding audit queries. Furthermore, controlling officers have been attending various meetings, the last of which was the meeting on Sunday, 25th October, 2020 at Cabinet Office where they were reminded of the importance of resolving audit queries timely in their institutions."

Americans choose between Trump and Biden

Election Day in the United States is officially under way. The spotlight is on the race for the White House between President Donald Trump, who is seeking a second term, and his rival, veteran Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump held five rallies in four states – North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin – on the final day of campaigning on Monday. Biden spent most of Monday in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Trump and his team have continually pushed baseless claims that votes counted after Election Day are evidence of malfeasance.

Early voting surged to levels never before seen in US elections, just over 100 million early votes have been cast either in person or by mail.

Millions of Americans are heading to the polls in person on Tuesday, adding their ballots to the more than 100 million already cast by early voters.

Donald Trump, 74, is seeking to avoid becoming the first incumbent president to lose a re-election fight since George HW Bush in 1992.

National polls suggest Democratic candidate Joe Biden, 77, has a broad lead, but the race is close in key battleground states needed to win the presidency.

Record early voting has been fuelled by the pandemic and the US is on course for its



highest electoral turnout in more than a century

The election comes after America's worst-ever week for new coronavirus cases, with more than 1,000 people dying each day.

The first polls close at 23:00GMT (18:00EST) in the eastern US, but will be open until 06:00GMT Wednesday in Alaska.

Rules around processing mail-in ballots vary across the country, so in some states counting will not finish on election night.

The Republican president is being challenged by Democratic Party nominee Joe Biden, who is best known as Barack Obama's vice-president but has been in US politics

since the 1970s.

As election day approaches, polling companies will be trying to gauge the mood of the nation by asking

voters which candidate they prefer.

We'll be keeping track of those polls here and trying to work out what they can and

can't tell us about who will win the election.

National polls are a good guide as to how popular a candidate is across the country as a whole, but they're not necessarily a good way to predict the result of the election.

In 2016, for example, Hillary Clinton led in the polls and won nearly three million more votes than Donald Trump, but she still lost – that's because the US uses an electoral college system, so winning the most votes doesn't always win you the election.

With that caveat aside, Joe Biden has been ahead of Donald Trump in most national polls since the start of the year. He has hovered around 50% in recent months and has had a 10-point lead on occasions.

DW News/ BBC

Ivory Coast govt accuses opposition of 'plotting' against the state

IVORY Coast's government on Tuesday accused the opposition of "plotting" against the state after it vowed to set up a rival government following bruising presidential elections won in a landslide by the incumbent, Alassane Ouattara.

The standoff pitched the West African nation deeper into a three-month-old crisis that has claimed several dozen lives, triggering EU appeals for calm and dialogue.

Hours after 78-year-old Ouattara was declared victor with more than 94 percent of the vote, Justice Minister Sansan Kambile accused the opposition of "acts of assault and plotting against the authority of the state."

The Abidjan public prosecutor has been asked to investigate, Kambile said, warning that "all options are on the table."

Opposition leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan had told reporters late Monday that opposition parties and groups were forming a "council of national transition."

"This council's mission will be to... create a transitional government within the next few hours," N'Guessan said.

The goal, he said, was to "prepare the framework for a fair, transparent and inclusive presidential election."

Ouattara's landslide in Saturday's vote had been widely expected -- two opposition leaders had called for a boycott of the ballot and a civil disobedience campaign. But the protests and bloody clashes have also stirred traumatic memories of a crisis a decade ago that tore the country apart and dealt it lasting economic damage.

Around 3,000 people died after then-president Laurent Gbagbo refused to accept defeat by Ouattara. N'Guessan late Monday said the "transitional council" would be led by opposition veteran Henri Konan Bedie, 86, a former president and long-term adversary of Ouattara. "Keeping Mr Ouattara as head of state could lead to civil war," he warned.

France24



Bobi Wine (C) will vie as the presidential candidate for his new political party called National Unity Platform (NUP)

Bobi Wine: Ugandan pop star cleared for president run

UGANDAN politician and musician, Bobi Wine, has been cleared by the electoral commission to run in next year's presidential election.

Police have arrested dozens of his supporters during amid chaotic scenes in the capital, Kampala.

Bobi Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi is among 11 candidates challenging President Yoweri Museveni, who has been in power since 1986.

The elections will be held in February next year.

Bobi Wine, 38, has shaken up politics in Uganda since he was elected to parliament in 2017.

Since he expressed his presidential ambitions, police and the military have repeatedly dispersed his rallies, and beaten and detained his supporters.

Last year, he was charged with intending to "alarm, annoy or ridicule" the president. He was also charged with inciting violence after being accused of calling on his supporters to physically harm the president.

He has denied the allegations.

He told the BBC in 2019 that his popularity, especially among the youth, is based on "people.. not just following me. But are following an idea".

From early in the morning, armed police

and the army deployed heavily along the route Bobi Wine used to get to the nomination centre.

Presidential aspirants are only allowed to take small delegations with them to register for the election, as a coronavirus prevention measure, the BBC's Patience Atuhaire reports from Kampala.

The politician was accompanied by supporters running alongside his car, while others adorned in the red colour of his People Power Movement followed the procession on motorcycles.

Police fired teargas to disperse the procession, clashes then ensued resulting in several people being injured including police officers.

After Bobi Wine handed his papers as the presidential candidate for the National Unity Platform (NUP), he was forced into a police van and driven home.

But he refused to get out of the vehicle, insisting that he needed to make his way to the party headquarters for the manifesto launch.

Speaking to his supporters at home, Bobi Wine said that the police had pepper-sprayed him and his colleagues in the eyes.

Uganda's electoral body has banned public rallies, and candidates are expected to campaign through mainstream and social media.

BBC

‘I wouldn’t appoint Koeman as kitman!’ – Barcelona boss blasted by Joaquin

BARCELONA boss Ronald Koeman has been slammed by former Spain star Joaquin once again, with the Real Betis icon saying he would not appoint the Dutchman as kitman if handed the reins of any given club.

Bad blood between an outspoken winger and divisive coach has existed for some time.

Joaquin, for all of his obvious quality, endured a forgettable spell working under Koeman during his time at Valencia.

The 39-year-old is still going strong back at Betis, with a trip to Camp Nou next on the agenda for

him, but he is not about to forgive and forget when it comes to grievances from his past.

Joaquin butted heads with Koeman on a regular basis during his spell at Mestalla and is still irked by events that happened outside of his control.

“It was not the most beautiful experience of my sporting career,” Joaquin told El Larguero.

“It was not a pleasant experience, but as I always say: one has to live with everything and what happened at that time.

“I do not want to talk about this issue because honestly it hurts me what

happened there, I had a bad time.”

Koeman spent less than six months in the hot seat at Valencia, with the Liga giants quickly disposing of his services.

He has gone on to spend time with AZ, Feyenoord, Southampton, Everton and the Netherlands national team before returning to familiar surroundings in Catalunya.

Joaquin is baffled as to how Koeman has landed such a high-profile post at Barca, with the Spaniard admitting that he would never consider hiring the Dutchman if he were ever

to become president at Betis.

“Not even as kitman!” was Joaquin’s blunt response when the question was put to him.

The two men will, however, see their respective paths cross in La Liga on Saturday.

Barca have been

struggling to find a spark of late, while Betis are also finding consistency hard to come by, and Joaquin says both he and Koeman will have more pressing concerns this weekend than trying to rebuild bridges that were burned a long time ago.

He added: “I turned

the page, we told each other everything.

“Fortunately, it did not last long and we were able to save the year by ending as well as possible because the year was complicated.

“[This weekend], he is not going to greet me and I am not going to greet him.” **GOAL**



Shepolopolo in shape for COSAFA title race

By Ngosa Chalwe
NATIONAL team coach Bruce Mwape says he will take a cautious approach when they take on Lesotho in the COSAFA Women’s Championship opener in South Africa.

Zambia will today begin their search for the title with a Group B clash at the Wolfson Stadium in Port Elizabeth.

Mwape said in an interview after the morning training session that the team is in shape.

“All went well this morning, at the moment there is no gap to work on. We just have to look at the plan for the Lesotho side. We have seen them the way they play but you know how football is, maybe there will be changes in the team. We are ready for them, we will try by all means to be cautious, we don’t want to concede and when we score we are scoring to win and not force a draw,” Mwape said.

Meanwhile, captain

Barbra Banda said the team is ready.

“The team in general, we are very ready for the game. The morale is very okay, I have to lead my team the

way we are supposed to do things and our target is to carry the day,” said Banda.

Zambia is in Group B alongside Malawi and Lesotho.

ZAMBIA - MALAWI

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Zesco, Rangers clash promises clash

By Ngosa Chalwe
AFTER an exciting round one, the Super Division will today enter Week Two with the match between Zesco United and Forest Rangers promising sparks.

Zesco coach Mumamba Numba will today get a feel of the Ndola derby when his side takes on Rangers at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium as they search for a first win of the season.

After dropping the guard in added time to draw 1 – all against Napsa Stars, Numba has called on his players to give in their best when they take on Forest who opened their campaign with a convincing win against Nkana.

“Our target is to collect maximum points, especially that we dropped two points when we

went to Lusaka. We are playing a local derby against Forest, it will be an interesting fixture because this is a game that will show that we have a team that can produce better results,” Numba said.

He said his team needed to improve.

“Looking at what we did in Lusaka, if we can improve, I think we will have a field day tomorrow [today]. This is a different game I think we have planned for Forest the team is ready. Looking at the way the team performed, we will give them another chance to prove themselves we will stick to the team that played in Lusaka so that we see how they will perform against Forest Rangers,” Numba said.

This will be Numba’s second

game in charge.

At President Stadium in Kabwe, surprise leaders Prison Leopards will have their mantle tested when they meet Perry Mutapa’s Power Dynamos.

Leopards come into the match at the back of a 3 – 0 win away to Kitwe United last Friday.

The game will have an interesting aspect in that former Power midfielder and assistant coach Mwenya Chipepo, who is in charge of Leopards, will face his former bosses.

Both teams are tied on three points after round one victories.

In Kitwe, defending champion Nkana are under pressure to produce a result against Lumwana following their 2 – 0 humiliation at the hands of Forest on Saturday.

Lumwana, who are coached by Patrick Phiri, a former Nkana coach and striker will be eyeing a win after they were held to a 1 – all draw at home to Nkwazi.

Coach Manfred Chabinga is under pressure to record his first win of the season to ensure the team puts their title defense on track.

Nkana are second from bottom with no points.

- Full Fixtures
- Prisons v Power
 - Young Eagles v Buildcon
 - Arrows v Kitwe
 - Dynamos v Napsa
 - Indeni v Buffaloes
 - Zesco v Forest
 - Eagles v Zanaco
 - Nkana v Lumwana
 - Nkwazi v Warriors

By Ngosa Chalwe
VETOED aspiring Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) president Kalusha Bwalya is not among those set to attend the crunch stakeholders meeting which is expected to resolve disputes surrounding FAZ elections.

On March 28, 2020, FAZ was set to go to the polls to usher in a new executive to oversee the administration of football for the next four years but the elections were disputed.

While Football House had managed to conduct provincial elections in some provinces, the process was halted before they could even to hold the presidential election.

Kalusha, a former FAZ president, was among the high profile personalities who saw their nomination for the FAZ top job rejected after he allegedly failed an

KALU TO MISS FAZ CRUNCH MEETING

integrity test.

FIFA originally proposed to host a meeting on September 1, 2020 with the Ministry of Sports, FAZ, the National Sports Council of Zambia and a group called the aggrieved parties were expected to be in attendance.

The meeting failed to take place on September 1 and was moved to October 30 but it flopped again.

FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala has since announced in a statement issued by communications manager Sydney Mungala that the meeting will be staged tomorrow.

However, Bwalya, who was believed to be party of those aggrieved, is not among the people who have been listed to attend the meeting.

Additionally, former

FAZ vice president Richard Kazala whose nomination also flopped is not among the attendants.

"The aggrieved parties on electoral complaints will be represented by Damiano Mutale, Patson Lusaka and Ricky Mamfunda," Kashala said.

The FIFA meeting will be held via video conference from 10:00hours - 12:00

hours [Swiss time] and is expected to be attended by 10 invited participants.

Sports minister Emmanuel Mulenga, his permanent secretary Joe Kapembwa, FAZ president Andrew Kamanga, Kashala and director of Sport, John Zulu will be in attendance.

Others are National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) chairperson Patrick Mutimushi and his

acting general secretary Raphael Mulenga.

"FIFA, who are the conveners of the meeting, have also shared their agenda which includes remarks from the football governing body, the sports minister, NSCZ, aggrieved parties, response by FAZ and the way forward and the closing remarks, which will be made by FIFA," Kashala said.

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

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

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