



BILL 10 FAILURE LEAVES PF SPLIT

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) sympathizer Munir Zulu says some senior members of the ruling party's Central Committee are praying that President Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021.

Some ministers are praying that Lungu is not eligible - Munir

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Trump defeat excites Lungu's opposers

By Ulande Nkomesha
President Edgar Lungu has congratulated newly elected President of the United States of America Joseph Biden.

But most of his Facebook followers have advised him to prepare for exit next year.
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Mealie meal price hikes keep cost of living above K7,000

By Ulande Nkomesha
THE cost of living for a family of five has remained at over K7,000, mainly induced by

high mealie meal prices that have registered steep rises in recent months, says the JCTR.

We're ready to defend Lungu's eligibility case - Lubinda

By Ulande Nkomesha
JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says those plotting to challenge President Edgar Lungu's eligibility should have just kept it a secret because now that their strategy is known, PF officials will put up a spirited fight when the time comes.

And Lubinda says President Lungu will win the 2021 election by over 75 per cent if PF officials exploit the "spirit of Bill 10" in their campaign messages.

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In the latest Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB), JCTR announced that the cost of living for the month of October, 2020, stood at K7,060.29, reflecting a marginal reduction of K11.08 from September, which stood at K7,071.37.

However, the cost of mealie meal on the local market had sharply risen month-on-month to an average K187 per 25Kg breakfast bag, which kept the cost of living high.

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MoH is epicentre of corruption - Kalaba

By Ulande Nkomesha
DEMOCRATIC Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba says the mismanagement of COVID-19 funds by the Ministry of Health has confirmed that it is now the epicentre of corruption.

Commenting on the Interim Auditor General's Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 funds, Kalaba said it was unfortunate that Zambia had a weak leadership to fight the escalating levels of corruption.

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UPND has done a disservice to women, youths by rejecting Bill 10, insists Wina

By Zondiwe Mbewe

IN Zambia, especially in the political party that wants to take over from PF, they seem to relish suppressing women,

says Vice-President Inonge

Wina. And Vice-President Wina says UPND members of parliament have done a

disservice to women, youths and people with disabilities who were guaranteed some safe seats in Parliament after they rejected Bill 10.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina says the ruling PF is a very democratic party despite party secretary general Davies Mwila's decision to ask MPs to exculpate themselves for failing to vote for Bill 10.

Speaking in Parliament, Friday, during the Vice-President's Question Time, Vice-President Wina charged that the UPND did not want to see women's faces in Parliament as evidenced by their rejection of Bill 10, which would have increased their representation in the House.

She was responding to a question from Nsenga Hill PF member of parliament Kapembwa Simbao, who queried her over government's failure to pass Bill 10, when women's representation in Parliament stood at less than 11 per cent.

"The failure of Bill 10 embarrasses me, as a man, and I wonder if I am in the same country with those who proudly brought it down. The demographics of this country show that women make up 51 per cent of the total population and they also make up 60 to 70 per cent of the voters in this country. Yet in Parliament, women are less than 11 per cent. Bill 10 provided a sure way to increase the number of women [in Parliament]. I want to know if government has come up with a very good explanation to the 51 per cent in Zambia, why the attempt to improve the number of women in Parliament was not supported by the same party that wants to rule them starting from next year, and, thereby, failing this Bill 10?" asked Simbao.

In response, Vice-President Wina argued that



UPND MPs had done a disservice to women, youths and people with disabilities, who were guaranteed some safe seats in Parliament.

"The UPND MPs have done a disservice to the women of this country, to the youths and people with disabilities, who were guaranteed some safe seats in this House so that they participate in the decision-making of running their country and contributing to the democracy in Zambia. UPND does not want to see women participate. When they even know that in their strongholds, they can sponsor women, but that party does not do so because they don't want to see the faces of women in Parliament," she claimed.

Vice-President Wina said that countries that had put women at the forefront had seen substantial developments, but added that a "certain political party" that wanted to take over from PF seemed to relish suppressing women.

"Countries that have put women at the forefront have seen substantial developments in running their countries. But here, in Zambia, especially in the political party that wants to take over from PF, which they will not do, they seem to relish in suppressing women...I don't want to take it further to know how their women are treated in their homes," she said, before the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini guided her not to "go there," prompting her to swiftly withdraw her statement.

Vice-President Wina, however, said that Bill 10 had offered an opportunity to young people and women to be part of the governance of the country.

She stressed that as long as women were left out of the country's governance, Zambians should not expect much development because women "see what men did not."

"Bill 10 was offering an opportunity to the young people, to the women to be part of this governance. So long as we are leaving women out of the governance of Zambia, we should not expect much development. Women see what men do not see, sometimes. And it's only appropriate for a progressive country, like Zambia, to ensure that when progressive Bills of this nature are introduced in the House; these Bills should

be welcomed and endorsed by all members of parliament. I am still very disappointed, and I hope the women in UPND will be able to impress upon their leaders that they change their mind and look at women as equal contributors to the development of their country," she said.

Chikankata UPND member of parliament Kabwe Mwinga also asked:

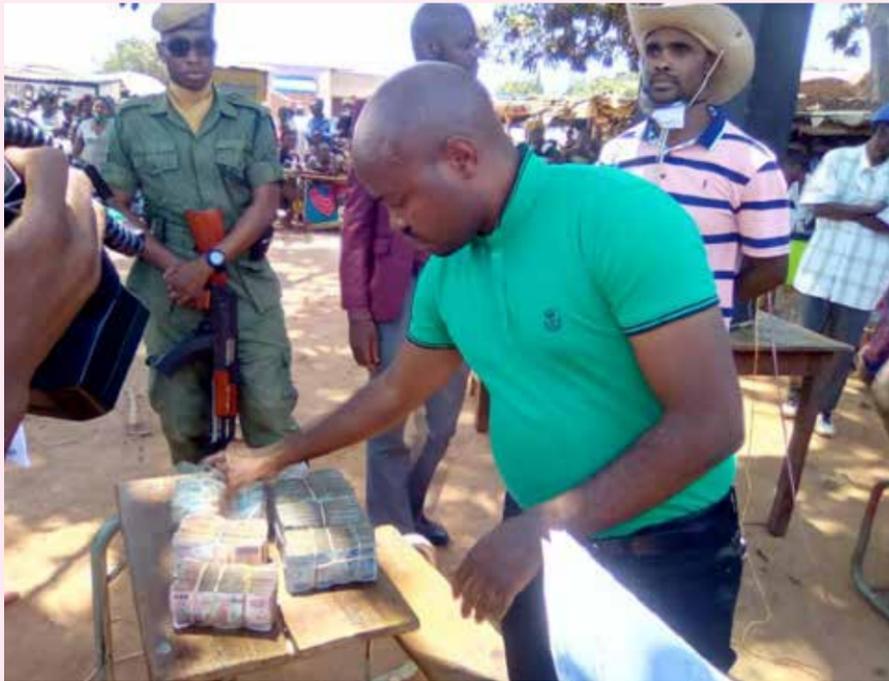
"The PF government has been attacking the opposition as being undemocratic as far as Bill 10 was concerned. Few days ago, we saw letters that asked [some PF] MPs to exculpate themselves as to why they did not support Bill 10. Isn't that mocking the MPs who had all the rights to make their own decisions, not based on political lines?" he asked.

But in her response, Vice-President Wina said that the PF remained a very democratic party.

"The Patriotic Front party is a club and it has its rules and regulations. The [PF] Secretary General [Davies Mwila] is not part of this House, he was acting outside Parliament. And he does not perhaps even know the voting patterns in the House because what he wanted to know was 'what transpired' 'why is it that the three MPs do not show on the list of members that voted.' This matter is still under investigation as to how perhaps the machines did not do a good job in capturing members, who were here, but don't seem to have voted. So, there are still some discrepancies there that the members that have been cited are questioning," replied Vice-President Wina.

"PF as a party is very democratic. We take collective decisions and we are not compelled like some parties do where their members are stopped from participation. Because those members that absented themselves and could not even debate, in PF, we debate no matter how negative the subject may be towards the party. And we are not stifled by anyone in terms of freedom of expression. So, this is what we should see in other political parties, not where they are gagged and cannot participate. In Bill 10, for example, we should have heard the reasons why some MPs were opposing the Bill, not just to keep quiet and to be told 'don't participate,' that is undemocratic."

Mpongwe PF aspirant donates K400,000 cash to marketeers



By Daniel Chansa

MPONGWE PF aspiring candidate Emmanuel Kasambo has donated K400,000 cash to marketeers, saying the money has come from President Edgar Lungu.

According to Kasambo, President Lungu made the donation in order to empower marketeers.

Kasambo delivered the cash to Ibenga market on Saturday.

He said the money was from a revolving fund and that it should be paid within four months at no interest.

He said President Lungu told him that the money was meant to boost marketeers whose

businesses had negatively been affected by COVID-19.

"The President has sent me to come and deliver cash of K400,000 to these traders here in Mpongwe district at Ibenga and Mpongwe Central markets," Kasambo said while holding the cash.

He said the empowerment was not a political one but something that should benefit every trader as long as they are trading in a market.

Kasambo then placed the cash on the table to the amazement of the traders.

Katambo is the losing PF 2016 parliamentary candidate.

There's an increase in COVID-19 reinfections, reveals Chilufya

By Ulande Nkomesha

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says there has been an increase in the number of COVID-19 reinfections.

And Dr Chilufya says the country has recorded 49 COVID-19 cases out of 6,157 tests done on Friday.

Speaking during a briefing, Friday, Dr Chilufya noted with concern the increase of patients recording COVID-19 positive for the second time.

"Zambia has noticed an increase in the number of COVID-19 reinfections. The numbers of people who are presenting with COVID the second time has gone up. The sense of security that you feel when you recover from COVID-19 is only for a minimal period, it could be as low as a month, it could be up to three months. Research is ongoing but cases of reinfections have been picked even just a month after recovery. We have also noted that cases of post COVID complications affecting cardiac pulmonary function have also gone up. Our clinics are picking a lot of cases of fatigue, swelling of feet or early signs of heart failure. So it is our appeal today that as we return to normalcy, we observe the public health measures

as clearly stipulated in the Presidential guidelines," Dr Chilufya said.

"We need to note the need for one to protect themselves whether one has protected from COVID-19 or not. The mandate on putting a mask relates to protecting yourself and to protecting your neighbour. So let us act in solidarity with members of our families, with workmates, with members of the community by ensuring that we mask up, even when we engage in any permissible congregate events activities, let us ensure the minimum is putting on a mask. So the mask mandate is the clarion call to action. The other fundamentals need to be equally observed. We will need to ensure that we upgrade our personal levels of hygiene and the community levels of hygiene. With the onset of the rains, we face a threat of a comorbidity with sanitation related illness such as Cholera."

And Dr Chilufya said the country had recorded 49 cases out of 6,157 tests.

"Zambians today are called upon to act in order to avoid a second surge of COVID-19 and to avoid a Cholera pandemic. Not doing so carries a huge potential for a second potential wave,

December, January, that would easily reverse the gains that we have posted in the past. In the last 24 hours, we recorded 49 new cases of COVID-19 out of a total 6,157 tests done. The cases were identified through health care facilities screening through community screening and through routine screening for contacts. These cases have been picked in Lusaka, Kitwe, Choma and in Ndola," said Dr Chilufya.

"Further, we have continued to see patients in our health facilities that are COVID designated and these health facilities that are recording COVID cases today are as follows: Lusaka Levy Mwanawasa Hospital where we have six patients and at Maryberg Hospital in Kansanshi North Western Province where we have four patients. A total of 35 patients have been discharged from our various facilities, so as we speak our cumulative numbers now stand at 16,819 total cases reported from the time the outbreak broke out and this is out of a total number of tests of 289,227 tests conducted so far. Critically, we have a very high recovery rate of 15,862 with 349 deaths. This recovery rate should be sustained."



CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

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

TODAYS TOPIC:

Merits and Demerits of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement with Dr. Simon Manda



In my article last week, I explored the wider political and economic context shaping the emergency of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement. In building on this conversation, I will explore merits and demerits of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement, highlighting why Zambia should look favourably on political and economic efforts around regionalism and avoid being the tail to the regional dog now emerging as a block. I couch this in the wider context of trade exchanges, growth and expansion of the country's productive capacity and thus economic recovery and resilience.

An argument is advanced that gains from the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement are there, but these are far from being straightforward and will not accrue automatically. Domestic and regional barriers require immediate attention if the bloc is to facilitate desired benefits around trade exchanges. Domestically, some of these countries such as Zambia should aim at re-organising their export product mix – export portfolio. Recent reports show that many member/partner states in the TFTA have narrow production bases, exporting only a few primary commodities. Reports also show that a significant proportion of the States have economies that are resource based with primary commodities accounting for between 40% – 90% of their total exports. This can potentially limit distribution of gains. Regionally, overlaps in membership and possible challenges of double counting and the dominance of bigger economies are some of the elements important for consideration. For instance, caveats are needed in interpreting shares of intra-African trade in total trade. First, there is a suggestion that intra-African trade may be subject to double counting, amounting to 7% of intra-regional economic community

exports and 9% of intra-regional economic community imports, owing to overlapping memberships. Second, the role and importance of informal trade dominant across many African countries including Zambia might underestimate the potential and spread of regional trade. Third, regional trade exchanges driven by blocs might not necessarily be welfare improving, particularly where trade displaces cheaper extra regional trade (i.e. the trade diversion effect). It is argued, therefore, that for intra-African trade to be welfare-improving, the trade creation resulting from increased intra-African trade must be greater than trade diversion.

It is difficult to determine actual impact that the Tripartite Trade Agreement will have on participating economies in part due to thin availability of data on regional trade flows. However as mentioned last week, merchandise exports among the members of this new FTA have steadily increased from \$2.3 billion to \$36 billion between 1994 and 2014—more than a 12-fold increase over 20 years. Projections show that when fully implemented, the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement will create a large market with 626 million customers (about 8% of the world's population) anchored on a rapidly emerging middle class. At the same time, it would also represent a large supply of young, dynamic, and potentially very productive labour force members – demographic dividend (youth bulge). It is argued that if properly harnessed, this abundance of customers and workers could attract substantial amount of domestic and foreign investment, which in turn could boost economic growth, employment creation, and wealth generation across the region. Zambia stands to tap into this trade exchange platform, which can stimulate and drive local production and industrialisation.

However, engagement into the Tripartite

Free Trade Agreement might be affected by long distances as it relates to poor infrastructure, inefficient logistics, and cumbersome customs procedures. For Zambia to maximise its potential for participating the bloc, there is need to enhance connectivity and linkages with neighbouring members. The country must consider elimination of all significant trade barriers, driving trade exchanges physical and institutional infrastructures. Whilst reminding controversial, the Patriotic Front's focus on transport infrastructure can soon be fittingly relevant for this purpose. Overall, this article has advanced an argument that gains from the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement are there, but these are far from being straightforward and will not accrue automatically. Domestic and regional barriers require immediate attention if the bloc is to facilitate desired benefits around trade exchanges. Domestically, some of these countries such as Zambia should aim at re-organising their export product mix – export portfolio. Many member/partner states in the TFTA have narrow production bases, exporting only a few primary commodities. A significant proportion of the States have economies that are resource based with primary commodities. This can potentially limit distribution of gains. For countries such as Zambia to realise the maximum potential related to TFTA, domestic industrialisation and value addition should be stimulated in order to build an export portfolio necessary to drive economic competitiveness and gains.

About the Author: Dr Simon Manda is a Senior Researcher for Trade and Development at the Centre for Trade Policy and Development and a Lecturer at the University of Zambia Department of Development Studies. He is also a visiting Scholar at Oregon State University (OSU), USA.

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Senior PF members praying Lungu isn't eligible for 2021 - Munir

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PATRIOTIC Front (PF) sympathizer Munir Zulu says some senior members of the ruling party's Central Committee are praying that President Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021.

And Zulu says it remains a source of concern that some senior members of the Central Committee continue to sponsor confusion in the party.

Meanwhile, Zulu says Tourism and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela is a liability to the PF government while the party's national youth chairman Kelvin Sampa is a self-centered man.

Speaking when he featured on a special interview on Muvi TV, Saturday, Zulu said some senior PF members were praying that President Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021.

"The confusion in PF is bordered on running mate and the youths. Most of these people that condemn, youths like myself, is for one reason that we don't go to them to say 'I don't have mealie meal at home.' So, when they are having their caucus meetings, they don't invite us. Honorable [Dora] Siliya is right that there are very senior members and even members of the central committee that were praying or that are praying that President Lungu is not eligible. I spoke to lawyers to say 'what's the issue after Bill 10?' and he said the issue of eligibility is not there. But what is a problem is delimitation. Those senior members are a source of conflict. Others are not comfortable that Her Honour the Vice-President is the Vice-President," Zulu said.

He said the PF had very good and sober ministers but at the same time had bad ones.

"PF has very good

ministers and at the same time very bad ones. I will cite certain ministers. We have got sober ministers like Honorable [Richard] Musukwa for Mines, Honorable Alexander Chiteme for National Planning, Honorable Kampamba Mulenga for Social Development, Honorable Bowman Lusambo for Lusaka Province, the Finance Minister is sober, Copperbelt Minister Mwakalombe is sober. Then we have Dr Chitalu Chilufya who is a sober guy but the only people that are denting him are young people that follow him behind. Then we have Nickson Chilangwa, Luapula Provincial Minister, very sober. Home Affairs is also a very sober guy. In fact, when Honorable Stephen Kampyongo was national youth chairman, there was discipline in the party. The moment he went to security, indiscipline has become the order of the day in the Patriotic Front," Zulu said.

"[Michael] Katambo is a very sober guy. But these other ministers like for Information; Tourism and Arts, I have just told you that Honorable Chitotela is a liability to this country. If he wants those who are going to say to him that 'honorable nshikwete ubunga (I don't have mealie meal)' and those are not enemies of progress, then we will continue to be enemies of progress. Honorable Kampyongo is sober mind, sober character, disciplinarian, and we miss him. Now, look at Honorable Kelvin Sampa the Kasama MP, the one who took over from Honorable Kampyongo. What's the order of the day? Youths are fighting. The youths in the PF have a wrong national youth chairman. It's a scam. He (Kelvin Sampa) is a scam, he has got no influence on the youths in this country.

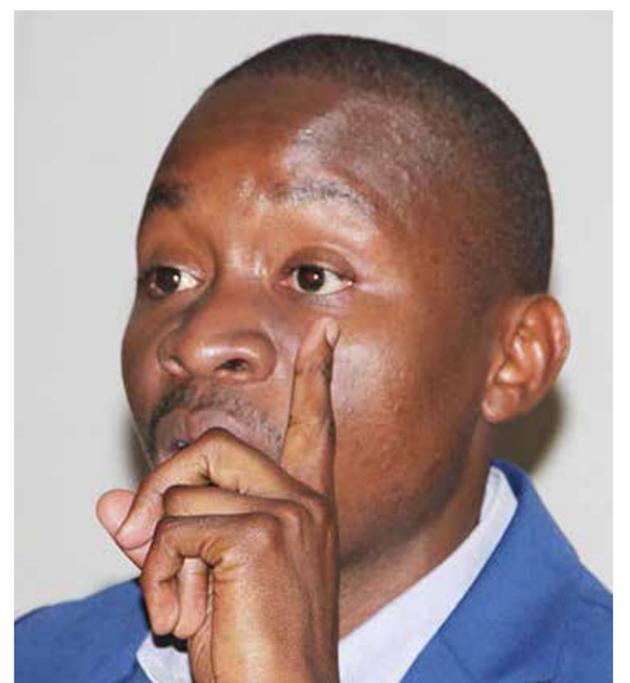
Kelvin Sampa is a wrong fellow to lead the young people in PF. He cannot influence my opinion and that's enough reason for him to be a wrong guy. Self-centered man. I can tell you that the day when Kelvin Sampa will not be National Youth Chairperson, there will be a lot of jubilation."

Meanwhile, Zulu said some of the people who have benefited from the artists empowerment fund were not genuine.

"If we were to go into the details of all the artists that have received that empowerment, is the ministry in the position to give us their business proposals so that everyone of us can have a look at them? You cannot tell me that you are going to give a WhatsApp blogger a K300,000

in this economy and say the empowerment was on merit. How? Where? What kind of an artist is Sarafina, and where? I have seen that of late, we have developed a certain social media syndrome where people project themselves as social media influencers on their CV that is, master of ceremonies, motivational speakers but then they don't put their academic credentials. Then you wonder what kind of a country we are living in. And then a person who is PA to the so-called social media influencers becomes an artist and given K300,000 which is equivalent to US \$15,000 as at today's (Saturday) rate," Zulu said.

We have got diverse artists. We have people that are into poetry, craft, designing, we have... *Continues on page 5*



Lungu not eligible for 2021, insists Mwitwa

By Julia Malunga

FORMER Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president Eddie Mwitwa has insisted that President Edgar Lungu is not eligible to stand in next year's general election.

Last Wednesday, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe said the President was not worried by the eligibility debate and that he was standing in next year's general election.

But in a brief interview, Mwitwa observed that the eligibility debate would not die down anytime soon until the Head of State filed in his nomination papers.

"My personal view on the matter still remains as it was when LAZ participated in the eligibility case, which is that I do

not think that President Lungu is eligible to stand in 2021 or thereafter. I don't think that this debate will end any time soon because the only time the ConCourt can be called upon to say something on the question will be when President Lungu files his nomination papers," Mwitwa said.

And when asked if the ruling Patriotic Front should take President Lungu's eligibility case lightly, Mwitwa said: "not at all."

Chipampe said President Lungu was not moved by the ongoing national debate surrounding his eligibility ahead of next year's general election because the period from 2015 to 2016 did not count as a term.

"The President is going to stand, he is going to be the (PF) candidate because he is eligible, he qualifies to stand. This

issue was resolved by the court judgement which everyone saw. The matter is closed as everyone is saying. The matter is not in any way related to Bill 10. If you remember very well, in Bill 10 if you check, there is nowhere where there is mention of the President's eligibility or ineligibility to stand. As far as he is concerned, it is closed. He is not worried in any way, he is going to stand and he is not moved, he is going to stand because that was not a term as the ruling from the ConCourt stated. The 2015 to 2016 (period) was not a term. A term should be at least three years as you know that is what the ruling said and that is what the President is saying. The President did not cover three years between 2015 and 2016," said Chipampe.

By Ulande Nkomesha

JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says those plotting to challenge President Edgar Lungu's eligibility should have just kept it a secret because now that their strategy is known, PF officials will put up a spirited fight when the time comes.

And Lubinda says President Lungu will win the 2021 election by over 75 per cent if PF officials exploit the "spirit of Bill 10" in their campaign messages.

Meanwhile, PF secretary General Davies Mwila says the ruling party will win the 2021 elections without Bill 10.

Speaking during a mobilisation committee meeting in Lusaka, Saturday, Lubinda said talks about President Lungu eligibility were nonsensical.

"The issue of eligibility is nothing but a comeback on Bill 10. What do I mean about a comeback? After celebrating, the very next day people started complaining and now they want to divert so that you stop looking at the spirit in Bill 10, you start talking about nonsense about eligibility. My friend and young brother, he is sitting there Mulenga Sata, when we were contesting elections in Kabwata, Mulenga didn't tell me 'I am going to petition you', he didn't, because nobody tells you in advance. If a person tells you in advance, it is because they want to frighten you. They know that matter is done, it is tested and rested. Had they been serious, they could have kept quiet, had they known there is something they can do, ba SG nga baikele tondolo (they would have been silent), to wait but they even tell you that 'we will petition you' and they think tizankala ndwi (we will sit idle)? President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his team, we are all ready," Lubinda said.

"Don't listen to that, some are even calling me 'Minister of Justice we have started shivering', you someone has told you that I will come at night to steal from you, can you complain? You tell him 'well done you are a very good thief. You come you will find

We're ready to defend Lungu's eligibility case - Lubinda

I have put an electric fence' even us we have been told, that is the trick they want to use. So please don't entertain that discussion. Us let us go out and tell the people that the spirit of the referendum is still living, the spirit of Bill 10 is still living, that is the message we should give to our people. Because when we also enter the eligibility talk, there are those who are afraid, they will be more frightened, what do you think will happen? That even when we go and support, they will petition, we are going to lose members. As mobilisation committee, this is the message that must go to the people."

And Lubinda said although Bill 10 died in Parliament, the spirit of the bill still lived in the clauses which many people wanted enacted.

"Those who are saying they have won Bill 10 and after going there and dancing after drinking Four Cousins, they said Bill 10 has died, but I want to tell you one thing, when a person dies, there is always a ghost, there is always a spirit. To us it is not the paper called Bill 10, to us, it is the spirit of Bill 10. That spirit still lives in Edgar Chagwa Lungu, that spirit still lives in us. Why does the spirit live? You have heard people saying we should have got this, if the bill had passed we could have more women in Parliament, that is the spirit. Yes we failed to get the two thirds majority, why did we fail? It is because some [people] went to dance for Four Cousins and Hungry Lion. One of my friends told me that Hungry Lion that they ate and that Four Cousins, it wasn't their boss who bought for them. He just gave them space to dance at his home but they bought their own

food. Every member of the PF should carry the spirit of Bill 10, please don't go out and say that they lost in Parliament, it is the people of Zambia who lost, who made the people of Zambia lose? It is Four Cousins and Hungry Lion," Lubinda said.

Lubinda said if party members were to use the message of the failed Bill 10 and the failed Referendum, President Lungu would win the election by 75 per cent.

"In our Constitution, there is Article 52 sub article (6), very dangerous, extremely toxic in that Constitution. It states that if people have filed in their nominations, Presidential candidates, if in the middle of campaigns one who filed in their nomination dies, the whole election is canceled. If one resigns the whole election is canceled. Now tell me in a country where we have people that are treacherous, are you sure if they see that article and they see that they are losing, can't they resign? If they see that Edgar Lungu is on top

because in 2021, Edgar Lungu is not winning with 51 per cent, in 2021 because of the spirit of Bill 10 and because of the failed referendum and if you use that message, all of us we use that message, Edgar Lungu will get out of that election with more than 75 per cent," said Lubinda.

"We didn't go to Parliament for numbers, we went for the spirit that we from the PF, that those of us in government are not selfish people. We want to empower the Zambian people. Can you imagine that government, President Lungu himself saying we want to make a referendum, we enhance the rights of people so that if in Kanyama there is no water, they can sue me as President. That is what President Edgar Lungu wanted. Are you sure the others can do that?"

Meanwhile Mwila said the party would win the 2021 elections without Bill 10.

"We won 2016 without Bill 10, we are in government without Bill 10, we are going to win 2021 without Bill 10,

it ends there. Ba Lubinda has spoken of the clauses that are in there, the country has lost, all of us are affected," Mwila said.

He said anyone who insulted a presidential appointee was not a genuine member of the party.

"We are meeting here as a family, we are members of PF and we expect to respect each other. Anyone who is going to create confusion in the party, there will be no room in the party. Anyone who is going to create violence among themselves is not a member of the party. Anyone who is going to insult the Presidential appointee is not a member of the party. You cannot say that 'yes we are for Edgar Lungu you Minister of Justice you are useless', that is not the way we operate. You have to respect the appointees for the President. If you are my friend, that friendship will end, you are insulting Ministers who are innocent, we will not allow that and we will kick you out. The situation where people are

insulting leaders, we are not going to allow that. We cannot allow members of the party to go on the street, they block roads, they start harassing innocent people, we will not allow that. We are going for elections and we want discipline. Us what we want is order, if we see suspensions going through then you are not disciplined," Mwila said.

Mwila called on party members to register as voters.

"Voter registration is starting after tomorrow (Monday), we expect members of Parliament, councilors, mobilisation committees, and the structures to work together to ensure that we go on the ground and tell our people to go and register for the 2021 elections. The ward officials, the constituency officials, the district officials and the province you have to get involved and the councilors and the MPs. We want numbers, the political party that will register more numbers will win the elections next year," said Mwila.

COMESA launches Save & Remit digital banking platform

By Tenson Mkhala

COMESA Business Council Chief executive officer Sandra Uwera says the digital financial system has been identified as a focus area for improving the efficiency and performance of SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Speaking during the launch of Save and Remit Services in Lusaka, Friday, Uwera said digital banking and digital financing remained key to supporting women

in the communities to save money.

She added that the launch was important because it provided government business with key aspects that promoted domestic trade and encouraged cross-border trade between Zambia and its neighbours.

"The digital financial system has been identified as a focus area for improving the efficiency and performance of

SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa.

The digital banking and digital financing is key to supporting women in the communities and in rural areas to a way to save money and to use cash to support household and small entrepreneurs growth for women and youth. I must say that this launch is important because it provides government business and business to business with key aspects that promote domestic

trade and encourages cross border trade between Zambia and her neighboring countries," Uwera said.

"Digital financial inclusion supports women inequality and should be made more accessible to women. It is important because it establishes financial independence, especially because money is power and such independence promotes the sustainability of many families and establishes the growth and competitiveness of the Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)."

And Save and Remit services director Putty Muuka said that the digital platform would contribute to growing the economy.

"I grew up in a generation where Zambia had taken a leap to empower and promote the girl child, both in terms of education and skill. This approach has an impact on the strong, ambitious, fearless and successful female phenomenon we admire and look up to in today's world. Thus, the female population of our country is contributing greatly to the Zambian economy, which makes providing women with services, such as we are offering, all the more important," said Muuka.

Save and Remit services is a payable platform created to offer basic and affordable administration packages to savings groups, cooperatives and Zambian businesses, which cannot afford to hire a qualified accountant.

Senior PF members praying Lungu isn't eligible for 2021 - Munir

From page 4

"...people that do Dununa Reverse, and we have people that do Mwankole. But there are certain artists that we have not heard their songs since our high school days and they have failed to build their careers and only to use COVID-19 as an excuse to raise money, for what? If for 10 to 15 years people failed to make money, what guarantee is there that with this money, they are going to make it? And that money will be paid back. For me this is forum shopping because if we as a people were given a chance to even read their business proposals, maybe it would make sense. The intentions were good. Those (artists) are under the Ministry of Tourism. Why didn't the ministry come up with a system of teaching people how to hunt and then they go for lion skin in South Luangwa or Luangwa National Park? Why is that information being hidden to make us think that there is more money in cash than in hunting or there is more money in cash than in fish. Why not teach them how to fish? K30 million could have been invested in human resources and then they go

and then rip the benefits. Why is the minister of tourism not telling the Zambian people the cost of learning how to hunt? That information is hidden. But when it's money time, it's Christmas for everyone."

He said the artists who had benefited from the empowerment fund had no capacity to pay back.

"[Those who have benefited from the empowerment fund have no capacity to pay back], and it's a fact. We are a country of jokers," Zulu said.

Zulu said Chitotela is a liability to President Lungu.

"One thing that is correct is that most of these cabinet ministers are trying to sugarcoat certain statements [such as] 'President Lungu is happy with this, people are calling me from outside Zambia.' Which non-Zambian would call Honorable Chitotela to please President Lungu? They have disappointed the President on Bill 10, then a foreigner should call Honorable Chitotela and say 'you are doing a great job for President Lungu?' To me, and with no apologies to make, he is a liability to President Lungu. If I am an enemy of progress,

Honorable Chitotela is a liability to this government," he said.

And Zulu said it is a source of concern that some PF members of the Central Committee continued to sponsor confusion in the party.

"So, why this crop of ministers and members of the central committee can sponsor that confusion remains a source of concern to a lot of us. They don't believe that when it's your time then it's your time. It's not their time so they can wait. I was arguing with some people on a certain WhatsApp group and I said look, you guys want to make noise to say what happens if State Counsel John Sangwa brings a petition? I said are you telling me PF has no human resources to talk for President Lungu? There is enough human resource. But how many of good intent [can do that]? Not everyone that carries a flag on their vehicle means well. Not everyone that is a member of the central committee means well. It's mixed," he said.

Meanwhile, Zulu said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is a toothless bulldog which cannot investigate the illegalities around the

awarding of a tender to HoneyBee Pharmacy.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is a toothless bulldog. Corruption exists both inside and outside the government systems. I have been to the Anti-Corruption Commission to complain over some Chinese called Jiang Gung of Washang Investment. This Chinese guy has the audacity to call me when I am leaving the Anti-Corruption Commission buildings and say 'I can see you leaving ACC, you went to report me but ACC is in my pocket.' And I tell this to the ACC to say this Chinese guy is claiming that you are in his pockets. If I had a way, that institution should have been disarmed. They should ban it. We only have three institutions in this country, Zambia Police, Drug Enforcement Commission, and Zambia Revenue Collection. ACC is a stooge of certain Chinese. The convictions of the ACC are those of K200, K300, or K1,000. Anything above US\$50, 000, tell me one case that has succeeded? How can they investigate HoneyBee if they are failing to investigate a simple Chinese?" asked Zulu.

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE cost of living for a family of five has remained at over K7,000, mainly induced by high mealie meal prices that have registered steep rises in recent months, says the JCTR.

In the latest Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB), JCTR announced that the cost of living for the month of October, 2020, stood at K7,060.29, reflecting a marginal reduction of K11.08 from September, which stood at K7,071.37.

However, the cost of mealie meal on the local market had sharply risen month-on-month to an average K187 per 25Kg breakfast bag, which kept the cost of living high.

"The cost of living for a family of five, as measured by the JCTR for the month of October, 2020, stood at

Mealie meal price hikes keep cost of living above K7,000

K7,060.29, a decline of K11.08 from the September basket of K7,071.37. The reduction in the basket can be attributed to reductions in some food items. Other fruits moved from K261.19 to K206.65 for 14Kg, showing a reduction of K54.54, kapenta reduced by K40.22 moving from K231.62 to K191.40 per Kg, banana reduced from K181.66 to K163.57 showing a decline of K18.09, soya pieces reduced by K14.97 moving from K104.85

to K89.88. These reductions where, however, offset by increases in items, such as mealie meal, which moved from K164.85 in September to K187.28 showing an increase of K22.43; vegetables increased by K16.23 moving from K413.96 in September to K430.19 in October," read a statement availed by JCTR social and economic development manager Chama Bowa-Mundia.

"From the non-food but

essential items, petroleum jelly increased by K39.49 moving from K31.00 in September to K70.49 in October and the price of charcoal increased by K18.67 moving from K273.33 to K292.00. Undoubtedly, individuals, households and firms are facing significant challenges given the prevailing context. The JCTR, therefore, calls on government to address the key challenges that the nation is facing. For one, the shortage of fuel needs

to be urgently addressed given the important role it plays in facilitating various economic activities."

And the JCTR also called on government to focus on resolving the ongoing macroeconomic challenges, such as high inflation, that contributed towards increasing the cost of living.

"The Centre also continues to put emphasis on the need to guard against increases in macroeconomic variables,

such as inflation, which further erodes the disposable incomes of households, thereby, compromising living standards. The JCTR reiterates the need to rein in an expansionary fiscal stance that has over the years threatened the delivery of robust and inclusive social and economic development. In our quest for a better Zambia, the poor and the marginalised must not be ignored," stated JCTR.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 24-YEAR-OLD man has been convicted and sentenced to eight years imprisonment with hard labour for manslaughter after he hit another man who was trying to stop a fight between him and another with a stone on the head, leading to his death.

In this matter, Bwalya Mulenga was charged with manslaughter and he pleaded guilty before Lusaka High Court judge Mwila Kombe.

Mulenga was alleged to have caused the death of Richard Simwinga.

Facts in this matter are that on January 21, 2020, in Lusaka around 08:00 hours, Mulenga found Richard (deceased) and his friends chatting.

Mulenga picked a fight with William, one of the deceased's friends, and the deceased tried to stop the fight between the two.

Subsequently, Mulenga got a stone and hit the deceased on the head.

The deceased sustained a deep cut on his head and was taken to George Clinic where he was stitched and later on referred to Chingwere Level One Hospital.

The deceased was discharged on January 30, 2020 but around 12:00 hours on the same day, he was taken to the University Teaching Hospital where he was admitted until the following day when he died.

A postmortem examination was conducted on the body of the deceased and the cause of death was established to be due to complications for the treatment of blunt impact trauma to the head due to assault.

Mulenga had no lawful justification in causing the death of the deceased.

After the facts were read to him, Bwalya admitted that they were true and correct.

The court then convicted him.

In his mitigation, the convict, through his lawyer Bentry Banda from Legal Aid Board, said he regrets the loss of the deceased's life, who died at his hands on the fateful day.

Banda said the thought of loss of a life continued to haunt the convict and that he was very remorseful.

He added that the convict was a born again christian and

had reformed.

"From the date of his incarceration on June 19, 2020, the convict has had occasion to reflect on his past conduct and

has realised that crime does not pay, fighting does not pay. He instructs us that during this period he has been visited by members of the clergy at

Man gets 8 years for manslaughter

the correctional facility and that with their assistant, he

has reformed. He has become a born again Christian. He

has given his life to the Lord," Banda said. *Continues on P10*

UNZA student found with case to answer in indecent assault matter

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Lusaka Magistrates' Court has found a 22-year-old University of Zambia (UNZA)

student with a case to answer in a matter he is accused of indecently assaulting a female student at the same institution

last year.

Meanwhile, the arresting officer in the matter testified that on November 30, 2019,

the complainant told him that while she was asleep, a male person put his hands into her pants and started touching

her vagina.

This is a matter in which Ernest Sikazwe, 22 of Lusaka, is charged with indecent assault on females.

It is alleged that on November 29, 2019, Sikazwe unlawfully indecently assaulted a female student at the same school.

The accused, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge before Lusaka magistrate Nthandose Chabala.

And when the matter came up for continued trial on Friday, the arresting officer in the matter, Lewis Malambo, testified that on November 30, 2019, he received a report from a female student who told him that she was allegedly indecently assaulted by Sikazwe on November 29, 2019 around 04:00 hours in October Hostel.

He said the complainant narrated how while she was asleep, a male person put his hands into her pants and started touching her vagina.

Malambo said when she screened, the assailant ran into the toilet and locked himself.

"With help of her roommates and others, they followed him and managed to bring him to the police," he said.

Malambo said Sikazwe was apprehended and taken to police but after he was interviewed, the accused claimed he just wanted to use the toilet and he was mistaken for a criminal.

The arresting officer added that he was not satisfied with Sikazwe's explanation, especially that he was found at the female hostel around 04:00 hours.

Magistrate Chabala said considering the evidence before her, she found the accused with a case to answer and placed him on his defence.

The matter comes up on November 25, 2020 for defence.

Business confidence in economy continues to shrink, reveals ZACCI Survey

By Abraham Kalito

LOCAL businesses in Zambia have continued to express low confidence in the economy as a result of persistent negative sentiments caused by load shedding and the COVID-19 outbreak, according to a ZACCI Survey.

Announcing the Survey in Lusaka, Friday, ZACCI president Dr Chabuka Kawesha disclosed that business confidence in the local economy had shrunk to a new low this year during the period ending June 30, 2020, on the back of negative sentiments attributed to the COVID-19 outbreak and load shedding.

This was measured in ZACCI's latest Business Confidence Index (BCI) for the second quarter of 2020, which saw business confidence dwindle to 38 points from 60.3 points recorded in the first quarter.

"The BCI for Q2 of 2020 was recorded at 38 points, a decline from 60.3 points recorded in Q1 of 2020, according to the ZACCI Business Confidence Survey conducted on 114 members of ZACCI. The 38 points recorded implies that the business executives expressed negative sentiments about the business environment. The main reasons that led to negative sentiments on the business environment were load shedding and the outbreak of COVID-19 leading to closures of borders. The Survey reveals that the performance of business has worsened in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q1 of 2020 due to the aforementioned reasons," Dr Kawesha said.

"All the eight study sectors (mining and quarrying, manufacturing, wholesale/retail, financial, tourism, transport and communication, social and community and construction) recorded negative sentiments on the business environment. All the three study provinces (Copperbelt and Lusaka and North-Western) recorded negative sentiments on the business environment. The Survey reveals that the performance of business has worsened in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q1 of 2020

due to the aforementioned reasons. Further, the Survey reveals that most businesses reduced their staff in Q2 2020. Furthermore, businesses experienced reduced demand for their products in the same period."

The continued decline in business confidence carried on from the first quarter of this year, which was characterised by gassing incidences, the kwacha's depreciation and scarce liquidity in the local economy.

"The BCI for Q1 of 2020 was recorded at 60.3 points, according to the ZACCI Business Confidence Survey conducted on 114 members of ZACCI. Though an improvement from the 13.2 recorded in Q4 of 2019, the 60.3 points implies that the business executives expressed negative sentiments about the business environment. The main reasons that led to negative sentiments on the business environment were depreciation of the kwacha, load shedding and poor liquidity in the economy affecting demand for goods and services. Other factors that contributed to negative sentiments were lost contracts to supply the mines, particularly in the Copperbelt and the gassing incidences that the country experienced," read part of the survey.

"All the eight study sectors (mining and quarrying, manufacturing, wholesale/retail, financial, tourism, transport and communication, social and community and construction) recorded negative sentiments on the business environment. All the three study provinces (Copperbelt and Lusaka and North-Western) recorded negative sentiments on the business environment. The Survey reveals that the performance of business has worsened in Q1 of 2020 compared to Q4 of 2019 due to the aforementioned reasons. Further, the Survey reveals that most businesses maintained their staff in Q1 2020. Furthermore, businesses experienced reduced demand for their products in the same period. Additionally, the survey reveals that the general cost of doing

business increased in Q1 of 2020."

And he recommended that government should fund the stimulus package relief designed by Zesco for targeted customer categories, cut VAT, Turnover Tax, PAYE, among others, and encourage investments in alternative sources of energy.

"Government should fund the stimulus package relief designed by Zesco for targeted customer categories. The stimulus package requires government funding to cover 50 per cent of the cost of electricity for the commercial and residential customers falling within R1 and C1 consumption categories, respectively, prior to implementation by Zesco. This would help especially SMEs to survive amidst and post-COVID-19. Government should encourage investments in alternative sources of energy by offering special incentives," said Dr Kawesha.

"Investors should take advantage of the Electricity Act of 2019, which opens up the energy sector and gives equal access to the electricity infrastructure in terms of transmission and distribution. Government should cut VAT, Turnover Tax, PAYE and Corporate Income Tax Rates. VAT should be reduced from 16 per cent to 10 per cent for all transactions. This will allow businesses to channel the savings back into staff retention and manufacturers for increased production."

The BCI is the ZACCI proprietary tool that measures the level of confidence of business executives in the business environment and predicts short-term business trends.

It simply expresses perceptions on the state of the business climate in one figure (index) with 100 points as the median, meaning that, a BCI higher than 100 points signifies positive sentiments about the business climate, and one lower than 100 points signifies negative sentiments about the business climate.

Further, the tool is calculated out of the current business moods and expectations for the future.

By Ulande Nkomesha
 DEMOCRATIC Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba says the mismanagement of COVID-19 funds by the Ministry of Health has confirmed that it is now the epicentre of corruption.

Commenting on the Interim Auditor General's Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 funds, Kalaba said it was unfortunate that Zambia had a weak leadership to fight the escalating levels of

MoH the epicentre of corruption – Kalaba

corruption.

“The Ministry of Health is the epicentre of corruption in the country! Unfortunately, nothing is being done. The fight against corruption by this government is very academic, strictly academic. That is why you find people of all sorts... corrupt elements in this

country serving in government can go scot-free because they are affiliated to the ruling government. We have a very weak leadership that is just there to threaten the Anti-Corruption Commission,” Kalaba said.

“Today, the ACC is a laughing stock! The Anti-

Corruption Commission is a laughing stock because they have been reduced to ‘paper tigers.’ There is nothing that the ACC can do to government Ministers. There is nothing that the ACC can do to permanent Secretaries, who have links to the President. There is nothing they can do because

once they do that, they will be told that they are ‘fighting the President!’ Where have you seen in the world? So, Zambia has lost its position, even when you look at the Corruption Index, Zambia is doing very badly. We are the ones who are now leading there. All those things are showing you that we

have lost our moral compass, we have lost direction as a country. Corruption is what is defining us. Thank God, Bill 10 collapsed!”

He said the continued mismanagement of funds had led to the reduced confidence among the donor community on the country's ability to manage resources.

“This is why the donors have lost confidence in us, this is why the multilateral partners have lost confidence in us. Why is it that the IMF did not give us donations for COVID? Why is it that Malawi was given? Why is it that Uganda was given? Why is it that all of our countries in SADC were given, but us we were not given? It is telling you that the international community has lost confidence in the management of resources in this country because what is here is mismanagement of resources, total mismanagement of resources!” he argued.

And Kalaba, the former foreign affairs minister, said that the only solution to end corruption in Zambia was to vote out the PF next year.

“The best solution to corruption is to kick out PF; let us kick out PF next year! That is why I am telling Zambians to register as voters. Don't take the registration of voters lightly. Zambians right now must go and register as voters. The only way of taking out the bad things of government is by voting them out on the 12th of August next year. Without that, it will be very difficult. Once we remove these people, Zambia will start afresh,” said Kalaba.

By Ulande Nkomesha
 President Edgar Lungu has congratulated newly elected President of the United States of America Joseph Biden.

But most of his Facebook followers have advised him to prepare for exit next year.

In a statement issued by Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe, President Lungu stated that he looked forward to closely working with President Biden in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

“His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has congratulated the President elect of the United States of America, Mr Joseph Biden following his election to become the 46th President of the United States of America. In his congratulatory message to President elect Biden, President Lungu says ‘on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Zambia as well as on my own behalf, I wish to convey our heartfelt congratulations on your election as President of the United States of America.’ The President describes Mr Biden election as a demonstration of the American people's confidence in his ability to foster unity and increase socio economic development among other aspects outlined in his restoration plan,” stated Chipampe.

“President Lungu acknowledges that Zambia and the United States of America enjoy strong relations that are based on mutual respect and benefit for the peoples Zambia and the United States of America. The President adds that the United States remains one of Zambia's strategic partners that over years, has rendered invaluable support to economic development and welfare through various initiatives and projects under the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) among other areas. While I look to working closely with

Trump defeat excites Lungu's opposers

your Excellence in the future strengthening of our bilateral relations, Please accept my best wishes for your personal good health as well as success in discharging the functions of your office.”

But after he posted the congratulatory message on his Facebook page, Saturday, some of his followers predicted that he would be voted out in 2021.

James Mbuli wrote: “Most certainly your excellency Joe deserves our highest congratulations. As for us here, I can certainly predict what will happen in next year's elections simply because what happens here as well.”

Dotten Sopia Mukes Mammy wrote: “Our Voter's cards are doing press ups in preparation for next year.”

Another follower, Mukela Mathews Siyanga, wrote: “The way Trump lost that is how you will lose next year congratulations to Jeo Biden and Kamala.”

Stefan Jr wrote: “The opposition is coming next year.”

Whitney Bright wrote: “Start reading about how to cope with defeat, it will help you next year.”

Another follower, Lemont K Nyovester, said he wanted the same thing to happen to Zambia.

“We want the same thing here in Zambia next year. We thank the Americans,” wrote Nyovester.

Rueben Mr Jay Kabwenga wrote: “Even you sir next year you still be the President of this great nation, but P will be silent.”

Learn from US elections, you'll suffer Trump's fate in 2021, Mulusa tells PF

By Abraham Kalito
 Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) secretary general Lucky Mulusa says stubborn as they are, PF should learn from Donald Trump and the just ended US elections.

Mulusa, a former National Planning and Development Minister, said PF would suffer Trump's fate in 2021.

“This arrogance of incumbency, that the PF will be in power until forever, you know, every single day I'm praying for those in government to live longer. So that they live long enough to see how proper governance is supposed to be dispensed. And secondly, I want them to live longer so that they see the consequences of their action in government. They ministers have no life after this. They think they are clever but they [will] have no life,” Mulusa said.

“If you have noticed, voters turned out in large numbers because they realised that when you neglect the power to choose leaders for your destiny, you end up with what you don't want. So they ended up with a leader who they were embarrassed with. The people are always in charge and the American people neglected being in charge. But they realised in time and decided to undo the mistakes they had made previously. That's why we can see that the Americans voted in numbers.”

He said leadership was not an entitlement.

“You know, no one is entitled to be in leadership. You see anyone who says I will not move, or I will be here in government for so many years, it shows how misplaced they are in understanding the role of leadership. It is misplaced madness because leadership is a privilege. It's not an entitlement that you can even boast about that you will not go anywhere like they do in PF. In any case, it will be very interesting to listen to the campaign messages of the

PF. It's not just madness, it's craziness too. You know any wise person can tell you that it is wise to learn from what previously transpired. And over the past few years we have witnessed some turn of events talking place over Africa. In Kenya, the autonomy of the judiciary was demonstrated, the same happened in Malawi just recently. It has happened in America. Those who were in power in those countries including Trump were stubborn, just like the PF are.

Next year it's their turn ba PF and that's why I'm saying you don't need to be stubborn because it's not up to you to stay in public office,” said Mulusa.

“If you must continue staying in power, you must justify why you must continue. Because to be sincere, the PF has no message to give to the Zambians. There is completely nothing.”

Continues on P10

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WHEN politicians are governing a country, we often remind them that power ultimately belongs to the people. We caution politicians to exercise the authority of their offices, bearing in mind that a time will come when they will be answerable to the citizens. Here in Zambia, every five years, the people gather on one big day to judge the performance of the sitting government and then decide who to give a fresh mandate to rule.

The road to 2021 starts today, go register to vote!

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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is he who will get his supporters to register as voters. Voting is the first duty of democracy. In a democracy, your vote is your voice and your voice is your vote. "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent." That's what Abraham Lincoln believed in and this is true.

But there is one condition that the people have to satisfy before they can have that power to judge the performance of the sitting government or to decide who to give the mandate to take charge of the country's leadership. This condition is simply that an eligible citizen must register to vote. Our people need to engage with the Electoral Commission of Zambia officials and be counted.

Those who have been spending hours on social media saying "I can't wait for 2021", this is the time, the road to 2021 starts with the registration process. All the hullabaloo about

power belonging to the people is useless if you do not register to vote. All those who have been making noise about eligibility of some presidential candidates must know that they, too, will be ineligible to vote if they don't register.

Just imagine being in a situation where the country is deciding on its leaders and you have no say in it! Imagine a population rallying behind the most disgraced politicians as a preferred candidate in an election and you cannot do anything about it because you did not register to vote! This is what will happen to those who will not register to vote in the coming month. A democracy is worthless if

the people don't participate in the electoral process.

A prisoner cannot dictate to the prison authorities how he must be treated, but that's because he is a prisoner in the first place. Citizens who are living in a free world, in a democracy have the power to dictate how they must be government, how their government leaders must behave. They have the power to discipline non-performing leaders by voting them out of office and putting in new office bearers. They have an opportunity to rule themselves by making sure that they elect people who represent their interests. But to do this, one needs to first register to vote.

Political parties must desist from discouraging their supporters from registering to vote. Some party leaders have been demonizing the Electoral Commission of Zambia's decision to create a new voters' register and in the process, they have been unwittingly sending discouraging messages to the electorate. Some people feel if they register to vote, they will be endorsing an evil plan by the Patriotic Front to rig the 2021 general elections. But this is not correct.

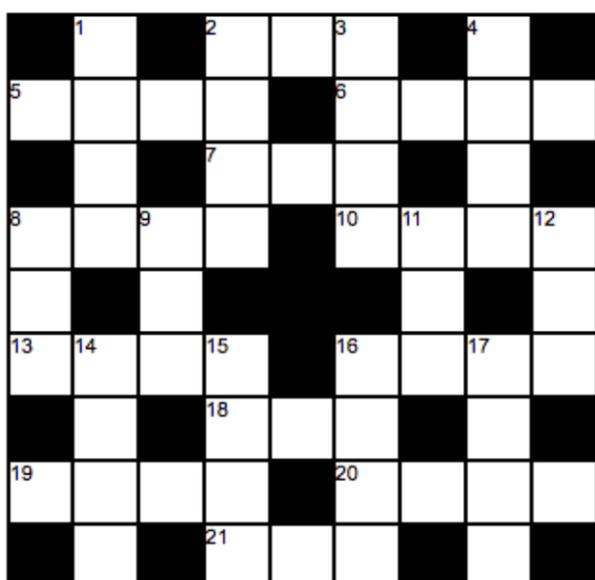
In fact, it's conspiracy theories like that which lead to the opposition losing elections because they spend more time chasing

ghosts instead of voters. Voters are out there waiting to hear from their leaders. The message from opposition political leaders must therefore be persuading people to register. This is what their rivals in the Patriotic Front have been doing. They have gone in overdrive registering voters while those in the opposition are fighting the Commission. But you cannot spend all the energy fighting the registration process with conspiracy theories. Tell your people to register to vote, that's the first step to election victory.

Like we stated in our previous editorial opinion, the winner of the 2021 election

If you don't vote during an election, you are surely voting indirectly against democracy and making way for irresponsible leaders. By not voting, you give away your right to influence the government. Your vote alone can make a difference because an election can be decided by just a single, solitary vote or handful of votes. This is especially true under a 50 per cent plus one voting threshold that we have in Zambia. It all starts with the registration process. Go, register so that you can take part in the 2021 election. Tomorrow never comes, do it today!

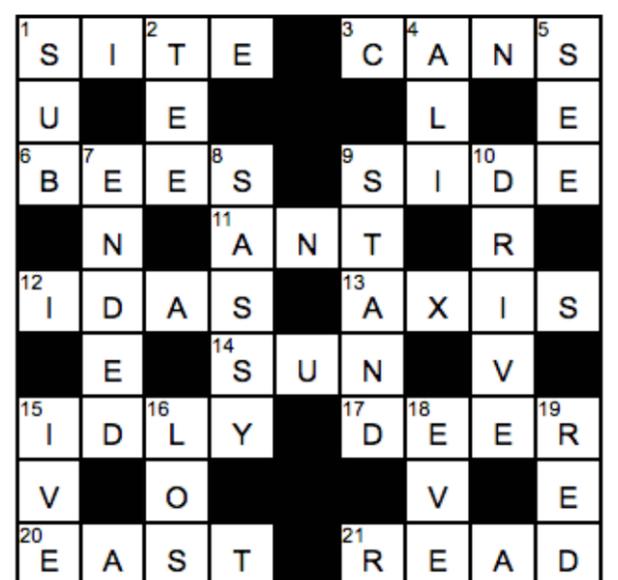
Crossword puzzle No 727



"There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness, and truth" - Leo Tolstoy

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Diminish 5. Meander 6. Tied score 7. Employ 8. Arctic Ocean floater 10. Return to the ground 13. Intellect 16. Horse kept for breeding 18. Be remorseful 19. Opposite of redo 20. Washed out 21. Caress | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chrome ____; bald 2. Overconfident 3. Marmalade tidbit 4. Plant with fronds 8. Good-for-nothing 9. Director Howard 11. Wall hanging 12. Washout 14. Quaint hotels 15. Bit of rain 16. Labor Day mo. 17. Not pretty |
|--|---|

Crossword puzzle No 726



Readers' Feedback

Chirwa's statement on ConCourt judgement clear, Lungu eligible for 2021

Editor,

"Yes, because the ConCourt only dealt with defining what a 'term' in the constitution mean. but remember there is also a clause on 'twice being elected as president'. in fact the presidential declaration form doesn't even deal with the issue of term of office but whether or not the aspiring candidate has 'twice been elected as president'. So mr chirwa should ask the supreme court to amend the declaration form". - Moses Mumba

"Chirwa never read the

judgment. ConCourt did not rule on anything, let alone Article 106 (3): A person who has twice held office as President is not eligible for election as President". - Chimu St.George
"Kikiki, so why make so much noise about it? Let him dare go for a third term and we will see why Chiluba aborted his third term mission! Nganamulyamo just take back the money...." - Gershom Habile

"Do such people really love Zambia and the Zambians? Just wondering. Even when the people have said No, they keep pushing their agenda. Even when he isn't eligible to stand, they insist. How crazy is that?" - Mwaba Sampa

"A lawyer failing to understand that Lungu saved his first term under the 1996 amendment Republican Constitution and this clause he is talking about is under the 2016 amended Republican Constitution". - Kajuba Mazuba

Nkhuwa's announcement on 8-12hr loadshedding

Editor,

"How does a process of just blocking water that was diverted into a tunnel affect power generation? what's the logic behind or does it mean this will affect the other power generation plants too...come up with serious lies not these ones ai daddy". - Chimuka Modify

"Why is PF being ashamed of saying the project commenced in 2011...." - Richard Waga

"Why don't they pump back the water upstream so that it passes through the turbines again instead of letting it all go down to the sea? Somebody will say it's impractical, but we wonder and admire the Chinese when they execute such a feat!" - Peter Kapenda

"PF has spent their entire time in power, announcing loadshedding schedules". - Brian Sichula

Matibini rules result of Bill 10 final

Editor,

"For the first time he has made a good decision that is in the best interest of Zambia's democracy". - Himbula Munamonga

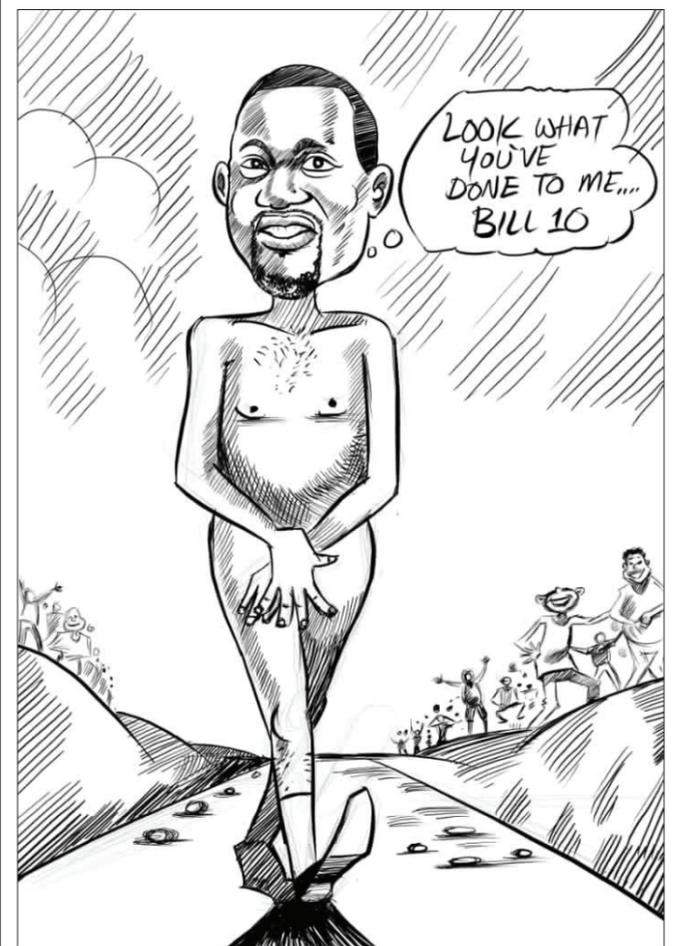
"Finally you have reasoned with the Almighty God on your decision. May God bless more life and continue to work as Mr Speaker under the UPND government! Love you Matibini". - EM Loans

"Bill 10 been like a general election ,we have had so many bills passing and being rejected in the house since independence but this one Kaya, just when it started at NDF that who ever interfere with the process with face jail I said my God wukalu uneza". - Douglas Chindumba

"I have a feeling hon ngambi chose not to vote for the bill because he knows that the PF will not adopt him next year as they are pushing for kangombe. So no need

for him to be loyal to them when they will not reciprocate. The excuse was therefore a means of self preservation by the MP". - Chileshe Ellis

"Wisdom has finally located some one. Thank you". - Letford Mwiinga



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

Editor,

"These people were so intelligent while in opposition until they formed government and slowly they started losing their intelligence and started using money to think, and why can't they allow the disabled, youths and women to complain that their rights have been infringed on". - Martin M Martin

"Inonge in government represents the women and Sumaili in government represents the disabled. so why crying for bill 10? Not all of them will be in government and you first leave and they shall be represented you ba fyumbu munshololwa mwaonaula ichalo". - Michael Bethu

"I just wonder what happens to people who were vibrant in the NGO world when they join government. They seem to somersault 360°. Look at our VP she was quite vibrant as boss of NGO CC in the UNIP era. Same goes for former Women for Change lady who is Vice Chairperson at ECZ and her colleague there the CEO who was with CSPR". - Rogers Kapila

"This woman doesn't impress me whenever she opens her mouth. Looks like patriotic front have taken advantage of her because the woman fears the PF cadres more than she fears Zambians. She must be ashamed of herself!". - Chanda Pochoko

"She told Parliament that Bill 10 will give police powers to arrest PF cadres. She just has no principles sorry with due respect for her her thinking is that of a cadre". - Constantineus Khan

"I don't think madam Inonge Wina is too old, she simply does not have the principles. Look at Joe Biden, he is just 2yrs younger than our vice president and there he is , about to become the president of the most powerful nation on mother Earth". - Boyd Mfunda

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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'Trusting ECZ difficult'

Editor,

"ECZ is under PF armpit, toothless and has not acted on PF innumerable electoral breaches... Zambians will never trust PF and ECZ because if they can lie in parliament without a Sense of shame. ECZ is biased to the core. Zambians want an impartial and independent electoral body not the compromised ECZ under injustice Esau Chulu. We don't trust him and will never

be trusted. How do you bring strange rules without consulting or involving players and you expect to be fair...God forbid...!!!!!" - Kenny Sefuka

"How do we trust an Institution that created a Chitulika Constituency without a Member of Parliament? An Institution that aides a Ugandan to its restricted electoral servers to defraud

us? An institution that gives ghost votes to one person in Lundazi, Chingola and Vubwi.....and subtracts the votes for a hated Candidate in Kanyama from the finally tally?? Mama you should retire....." - Michael Mulele Sililo

"As If She Is Story Telling Her Grand Children. Who Can Trust ECL Appointed By ECL". - Felix Londola

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ZAMBIA Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) secretary-general Cosmas Mukukahas argued that the outcome of the matter where he is challenging his retirement in national interest has a bearing on the case where he has been sued over his continued occupation in office, hence the two actions should not be separately determined by two different judges.

In this matter, two affiliate unions of ZCTU have lodged a complaint against Mukuka in the Lusaka High Court industrial relations division, seeking an order that the latter is not qualified to hold his said position as he is no longer an employee.

The complainants, who are Levi Chimfwembe, the general secretary of the Mine Contractors, Factors and Allied Workers Union and Chikaiko Phiri, National Union of Technical Lecturers and Allied Workers, are seeking an order that Mukuka is not qualified to hold the said position pursuant to Section 18 of the Industrial and Labour Relations Act and Article 14(8d) of the constitution of ZCTU as he is no longer an employee.

They also want, among others, an order of interim injunction to restrain Mukuka by his servants, agents or whomsoever from authorising documents, giving instructions, approving payments and other matters connected to or incidental to the operations of ZCTU pending final determination of this matter.

Chimfwembe and Phiri had argued that Mukuka's employment was terminated by way of retirement in national interest on May 5, 2020 and as such, he was not qualified to continue to hold the position of secretary general in ZCTU.

Chimfwembe and Phiri had also asked the court to transfer their complaint to another judge.

They argued that they were likely to suffer prejudice if their application was not granted as Mukuka kept on referring to the matter where he was challenging his purported retirement in national interest.

But in an affidavit in opposition to an application to transfer the matter to another judge, Mukuka stated that the administrative decision to allocate the

two matters under cause numbers IRC/LK/373/2020 and IRC/LK/460/2020 to the same court was premised on the actual fact that they were closely related.

He stated that under cause number IRC/LK/373/2020 he is challenging the validity of the purported retirement in national interest, while cause number IRC/LK/460/2020 related to his continued occupation in office following the purported retirement.

Mukuka stated that the causes of action should not be separately determined by two different judges as the outcome of the matter where he is challenging the purported retirement had a

ZCTU SG opposes application to transfer matter to another court

bearing on the other matter where he had been sued for continued occupation in office.

He stated that any attempt to determine the case involving his stay in office would no doubt pre-empt the outcome of the matter where he was challenging the purported retirement in national interest and there was a likelihood of rendering it academic or a possibility

of having conflicting judgements or decisions on the same issues.

Mukuka stated there was no prejudice to be occasioned to the complainants by the mere fact that the two causes of actions were before the same court but that the administrative decision to allocate the two matters was to avoid having two conflicting judgements or decisions which could bring

the legal profession and administration of justice into disrepute or ridicule.

He added that the application by Chimfwembe and Phiri did not disclose or acknowledge actual bias on the part of the court and there is no evidence of bias whether conscious or a real likelihood of bias to necessitate the recusal of the court and subsequent transfer of the matter to

another judge.

Mukuka also urged the court to invoke its inherent jurisdiction and powers and stay the proceedings under cause number IRC/LK/460/2020 pending hearing and determination of the complaint under cause number IRC/LK/373/2020 to avoid the likelihood or possibility of delivering conflicting judgements by the court.

Ex-Speaker denies restricting access to Safari Lodge, another property

By Zondiwe Mbewe

FORMER Speaker of the National Assembly Amusa Mwanamwambwa has denied claims by Pioneer Safari Lodge Limited and another that he has restricted entry and exit access to their properties through an access road which is through his retirement house.

The former Speaker has submitted before the Lusaka High Court that to prevent crime in the area and to save his wild animals, he put a fence around his farm and installed three gates, among them was Pioneer Gate, which he created at his cost.

Mwanamwambwa added that the truth of the matter was that Pioneer Safari Lodge and Chriss Christian Wienand did not want to employ a guard to

man the Pioneer Gate because they wanted to save money as they allegedly told him that they did not budget for the expenses or costs of manning the said gate.

In this matter, Pioneer Safari Lodge Limited and Wienand have sued Mwanamwambwa in the Lusaka High Court for allegedly restricting and limiting access to their properties.

They are seeking, among others, a declaration that they were entitled to a right of way from their properties through the access road, as well as damages for inconvenience, loss of quiet enjoyment and loss of business.

Pioneer Safari Lodge and Wienand, who have also sued the Attorney General,

explained that an access road to and from their properties was through the former Speaker's retirement house which was built for him by the State.

But in his affidavit in opposition to the affidavit in support of ex-parte summons for an order of interim injunction filed in the Lusaka High Court recently, Mwanamwambwa explained that in the late 1980s, his wife, Catherine and him acquired Farm No.380a in Palabana area, then part of Lusaka District.

He added that upon his retirement in 2011, a portion of land was subdivided from Farm 380a and ceded to the State for the specific purpose of building his retirement house, as per his statutory

conditions of service.

"The portion in question is now Subdivision No.1 of Farm No. 380a," Mwanamwambwa explained.

He stated that there was no omission or negligence on the part of the State to include a road on his gate, as there had never been a road cutting across his land to the plaintiff's land even before the subject land was ceded to the State to build his retirement house.

Mwanamwambwa stated that he took occupation of the retirement house in 2015, further explaining that he was passionate about, and supports, tourism because for several years in public and political service, he ran tourism in Zambia.

He stated that as such, he had set up a game ranch on his farm and that among the animals he was keeping were eland, Impalas, Duikers and Clawless Otters.

Mwanamwambwa stated that on two occasions, poachers entered his land and killed six Impalas, and that dogs from outside also entered the ranch and killed his Duikers.

He stated further that there was crime in the area, adding that in 2015, a white lady who lived in the neighbourhood was raped by trespassers and criminals.

Mwanamwambwa stated that on another occasion, criminals trespassed on his farm and attempted to gang rape a girl who was employed to cook for the Chinese who were building his retirement house.

He stated that the plaintiffs were aware of the general crime in the area and the poaching of his animals in that the carcass of one of the animals poached from the game ranch was found in the premises of the Pioneer Safari Lodge.

"To prevent crime in the area and to save my wild animals, I put a fence around my farm and installed three

gates. Among them is Pioneer Gate, which I created at my cost without any contribution from the plaintiffs, their guests and families. That is why I named the gate after the lodge. The Meanwood gate and the Twatasha gates are too far from the plaintiffs as they are located on the Western part of my farm while the plaintiffs' said land is located on the Eastern part of my land," Mwanamwambwa stated.

He stated that it was not true that he had restricted entry and exit access to Pioneer Safari Lodge, adding that the plaintiffs kept insisting that Meanwood and Twatasha gates be left open for their convenient use, without due consideration to the security of his family, property and wild animals on his farm land.

In their statement of claim, Pioneer Safari Lodge had stated that it was the Legal owner of property No. Subdivision 9 of Subdivision W of Farm No. 380a, while Wienand was the Legal owner of Subdivision 10 of subdivision W of farm 380a.

The plaintiffs further stated that Mwanamwambwa was the former Speaker and the Legal owner of Subdivision C1 of Farm 380a which was ceded to the Zambian State to build the retirement house for the former Speaker of the National Assembly.

They stated that on unknown dates, Mwanamwambwa placed gates at every entry point to their properties and restricted access thereto by restricting timing of entry by placing sign posts.

The plaintiffs stated that the restricted times had infringed on their freedom of movement from their properties through an access road and had caused hardships to their businesses they were running on their properties, including Pioneer Safari Lodge's business of Tourism, lodging and restaurant facilities.

Man gets 8 years for manslaughter

From page 6

PASSING sentence, Judge Kombe said she had taken into account that the convict had admitted the charge of manslaughter, and thereby not wasted the court's time.

She, however, said the charge of manslaughter was a very serious offence and attracts a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Judge Kombe said she does not understand why the convict would react in a violent manner when the deceased was trying to maintain peace by making

efforts to stop a fight.

"The facts in this case have revealed that you picked a quarrel with the deceased's friend. When the deceased tried to stop the fight, you got a stone and hit the deceased on the head. I do not understand why you would react in a violent manner when the deceased was trying to maintain peace by stopping the fight," she said.

"To aggravate the situation, you picked a stone and hit him on the head,

which is the most delicate part of the body. You failed to control your emotions. How could you aim for the head?"

Judge Kombe added that since the convict had decided to engage in unlawful acts, he had to face the consequences of his actions, adding that he needed more time to reflect because a life was lost.

She said there were so many ways of resolving disputes and violence was not one of them.

Judge Kombe sentenced him to eight years imprisonment with hard labour with effect from date of arrest.

"I have come to a conclusion that justice will be served by imposing a sentence which will reflect the seriousness of this offence that you committed. In order to meet the ends of justice, I sentence you to eight years imprisonment with hard labour with effect from date of arrest, which is June 19, 2020," ruled judge Kombe.

Learn from US elections, you'll suffer Trump's fate in 2021, Mulusa tells PF

From Page 7

BECAUSE in terms of campaign messages, you talk about food, you talk about agriculture, you talk about the state of the economy and you talk about what you can offer the people. The PF has got nothing absolutely nothing to offer to Zambians. Their standard measure is the fire renders. That's their standard measure, which

is four times the price of machines and that's the standard in the PF. Everything they have given you is at four times the price, the roads they are rolling out is four times the price. So everything that has happened in Zambia is at four times the price. So it doesn't make sense to be stubborn."

Zambia battle Malawi for semi-final spot

By Ngosa Chalwe

AFTER recording massive victories in their opening game, Zambia and Malawi will today clash for a place in the semi – final of the COSAFA women's Championship in a Group B encounter.

The tournament which is being staged in South Africa will see Zambia after their 8 – 0 win over Lesotho take on rivals Malawi also enjoyed a 9 – 0 win over Lesotho.

Ahead of the match, national team coach Bruce Mwape is bubbling with confidence describing the game as a must win encounter for his Olympics bound team.

“This one is a must win, it is a must win in that they [Malawi] have an advantage of one goal so for us to qualify to the semi-finals we need to score goals,” Mwape said.

Zambia and Malawi are tied on three points but the latter lead the group owing to a superior goal difference.

Mwape however has already engaged in mind games saying Malawi are too reliant on China based striker Tabitha Chawinga who scored six goals in the game against Lesotho.

“The Malawian team

played well but they were just banking on one player who scored six goals for them the other three goals were shared by three players which shows that

they are banking on one player for them to win games,” he said “looking at tomorrow’s game, it will be a 50 – 50, affair. It is serious because we want

to go as far as the final.”

Mwape is expected to maintain the same team that beat Lesotho.

Long – serving Hazel Nali will start in goal while

Lushomo Mweemba, Anita Mulenga, Margret Belemu and Martha Tembo will form part of the defence.

Midfielders Misozi

Zulu, Mary Wilomba and Ireen Lungu will play in the engine room

Striker Barbra Banda is expected to lead the team in attack.

Eto'o involved in road accident in Cameroon

FORMER Barcelona and Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o is in stable condition after he was involved in a road accident around Nkongsamba-Douala road in Cameroon.

Eto'o was said to be returning from a wedding celebration when his car was hit by a public transport bus on Sunday morning.

Although the car was badly damaged in the front, the 39-year-old was immediately moved to a hospital where he is doing well under the doctors' watch.

“The crushed car Samuel Eto'o was in. I can confirm that he is fine, we spoke again. Doctors taking care of additional examinations,” a Cameroonian journalist tweeted.

According to France Football, the Barcelona legend suffered a head injury but no life was lost in the crash.

Eto'o who is a special

adviser to Caf President Ahmad Ahmad, announced his retirement from football in September 2019 after a playing career that spanned 22 years.

He won several laurels across Europe which include four La Liga crowns, three Uefa Champions League titles, two Coppa Italia, the Fifa Club World Cup amongst others.

On the international scene, Eto'o is the all-time top scorer in the Indomitable Lions' history with 56 goals and the second-most capped player with 118 appearances after Rigobert Song (137 caps).

The 39-year-old won two Africa Cup of Nations trophies in the 2000 and 2002, and he also has an Olympic Gold medal in his cabinet, after helping the Central African country win the football competition at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Australia. GOAL



Pirlo confirms Ronaldo ankle injury in Juventus draw against Lazio

JUVENTUS coach Andrea Pirlo has confirmed Cristiano Ronaldo suffered an ankle injury in the 1-1 draw with Lazio on Sunday.

The Portugal star, who gave his side the lead in the first half at Stadio Olimpico, picked up a knock in a clash with Lazio midfielder Luis Alberto and was replaced by Paulo Dybala in the 76th minute of the game.

Pirlo could not give any details on the severity of the injury but told DAZN: “Ronaldo is a key player not only for us but for all the teams he has played for. Unfortunately he had an ankle problem and was forced to leave the field.”

The reigning Italian champions held on to their lead until the deep into second half stoppage time, when Joaquin Correa laid it off for substitute Felipe Caicedo to smash into the bottom corner and earn a point for the home side.

Pirlo was happy with his side's performance overall, but warned that such slip ups could cost them the Serie A title.

“We had a good match, they had never shot us on goal, there were no signs, but we have to take care of every little detail,” the former midfielder said.

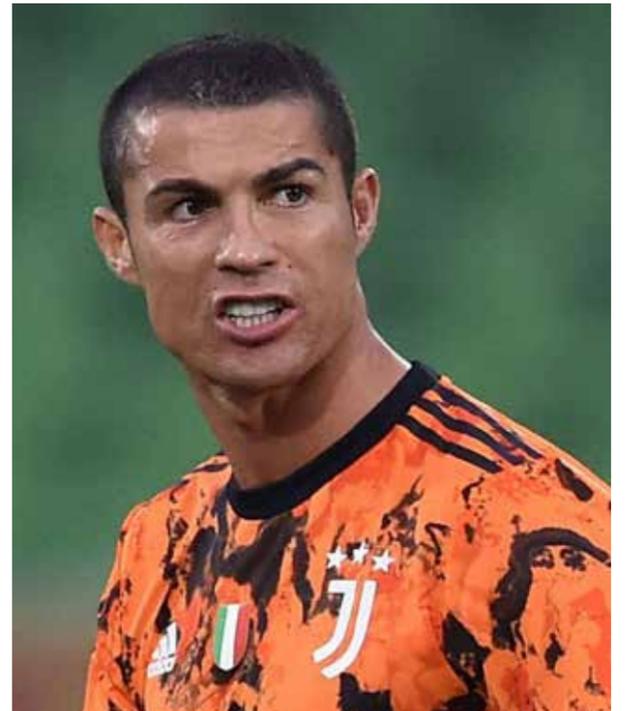
“We didn't manage the ball in the last 10 seconds. We are satisfied with the game, unfortunately not with the result.

“The head comes first of all, today all the boys have given their best, shown that they can play these matches. if you go on to the pitch with a negative attitude, you have bad performances.

“We were missing the malice to achieve the decisive results. When they do it like they did today, they see the solutions.

“We are always working to improve, we put new ideas into every game. Today [Federico] Chiesa was unable to play, [Giorgio] Chiellini is injured and Alex Sandro and [Matthijs] de Ligt are out, but we can't use these as excuses.”

Pirlo's men are now three points behind Serie A leaders AC Milan, who host Hellas Verona at San Siro on Sunday evening. Lazio, meanwhile, are ninth in the table and five points adrift of the Rossoneri. GOAL



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MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE - NUMBA

By Ngosa Chalwe
DESPITE managing to collect three points against Lumwana Radiants at the weekend, Zesco United coach Mumamba Numba was not entirely impressed with his team's poor finishing at goal.

After drawing his first game and losing the second, Numba was poised to drop more points at Solwezi's Independence Stadium against Lumwana but was rescued by a late winner by defender Adrian Chama.

Chama scored a 75th minute header after connecting a Kelvin Mubanga pass to give Numba his first competitive win since he replaced George Lwandamina at Zesco.

In a post match interview, Numba said it was good that the team managed to collect three points but more work needed to be done.

"We planned for a victory; we knew it wasn't going to be an easy game playing Lumwana at their home. The team is picking up; there is a great improvement looking at the games we have played so far. We still need to work especially on our finishing; we created chances which would have made a very big difference but we wasted those chances. As we get to training, we just have to go and try and work on our finishing so that we can be clinical at goal," Numba said.

Meanwhile, Power Dynamos coach Perry Mutapa also rued his team's missed chances in their 1-0 loss against Buildcon.

Power foiled a chance

to return from Emmanuel Okutu's 21st minute strike after missing two penalties with Zachariah Chilongoshi and Lameck Kafwaya being

the culprits.

"It is a concern for us to have a clinical striker. We had anticipated that coming to the third game, we were

going to collect nine points. I don't think coming out with nothing is not being fair to ourselves. If the players had that urgency, we would

have gotten something. In terms of fighting [spirit], we always try to tell them even at training that if they have that extra push, I don't

think any team can stand us," said Mutapa and hoped that the team would come back refreshed from the international break.

Buffaloes, Eagles play out stalemate

By Ngosa Chalwe
GREEN Eagles foiled a chance to go two points clear of leaders Forest Rangers after playing to a 1-1 all draw against Green Buffaloes.

With Forest having dropped points in their 1-1 all draw against Lusaka Dynamos on Saturday, it was advantage Eagles who were taking

Buffaloes on Sunday.

However, Eagles failed to take advantage of the chance to go top of the log after leaving it late to draw 1-1.

After a scoreless first half, Jackson Chirwa gave Buffaloes the lead on the 56th minute after beating Allan Chibwe from the spot kick.

But Eagles pulled one back at the death courtesy of a Hosea Silwimba goal.

The result sees Eagles go second on seven points at par with leaders Forest.

In the other match, Zanaco played to a 1-1 all draw against Nkwazi.

Langson Mbewe gave Nkwazi the

lead on the 27th minute to ensure the police outfit go into the break with the lead.

However, Zanaco came back strong in the second half with substitute Abraham Siankombo finding the back of the net on the 89th minute to ensure the spoils are shared.

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