COVID DONATIONS RAISE CONCERNS

...Ng’andu, Chilufyfa in strong verbal exchange over accountability

By Stuart Lisulo

THE Ministry of Finance has ordered that all government entities must submit income and expenditure returns on all COVID-19 funds received from the Treasury by 5th of every month to the Office of the Accountant General.

And Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yambo has advised all companies, individuals wishing to donate COVID-19-related funds to deposit the cash into a GRZ bank account.

Sources have told News Diggers! that during a COVID-19 meeting chaired by Vice-President Inonge Wina on Wednesday, a sharp exchange of words ensued between Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu and Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya over accountability regarding pandemic funds.

The source explained that Ng’andu expressed dissatisfaction with the measures put in place to ensure accountability of the funds under the ministry of health, leading to a strong verbal exchange between the two Cabinet ministers.

In a statement released, Thursday, Yambo guided that all government entities must submit income and expenditure returns on all COVID-19 funds received from the Treasury by 5th of every month to the Office of the Accountant General.

PF suspends its N/Western chair over corruption allegations

Chingola couple tests positive for COVID-19

By Zonziwe Mbewe

HEALTH Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says a Chingola couple that recently traveled to Dar-es-Salaam via Nakonde on a business trip has tested positive to COVID-19, bringing the countrywide total to 76.

ECZ sets June 9 for by elections

By Ulande Nkomeha

THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has set June 9 polling day for the Nakato and Imalyo wards in Mongu and Bulilo wards in Chilubi.

ERB rules out fuel price cut

By Stuart Lisulo

FUEL prices in Zambia will not be reduced despite falling oil prices on the international market because the kwacha’s rapid depreciation against major currency convertibles has negated any potential reduction, says the Energy Regulation Board (ERB).
By Zonilele Mbewe

THE Ministry of National Development Planning has warned members of the public to be wary of unscrupulous individuals swindling innocent members of the public under the pretext that they are recruiting personnel for the Ministry. It has come to our attention that some fraudsters are defrauding job seekers and collecting fees as high as K700, purporting to be a charge for the applicants to be employed in the Ministry of National Development Planning. The fraudsters are even signing fake contracts with applicants, with assurances that the latter will be engaged as field agents for a six-month period to sensitise the public about the 7th National Development Plan (7NDP). This is totally false and members of the public should not fall for the trick. The Ministry of National Development Planning has reported the matter to the Zambia Police Service to institute investigations and bring the culprits to book. Ministry of National Development Planning Permanent Secretary (Development Planning and Administration) Mr Chola Chabala wishes to categorically state that there is no on-going recruitment of personnel to be engaged as field agents on the implementation of the 7NDP. The Permanent Secretary further wishes to inform members of the public that there is no requirement for agents to be engaged on temporary or permanent basis in the public service. Mr Chabala advised that any advert prescribing payment of a fee is fraudulent and culprits must be reported to law enforcement officers for appropriate action.

Chingola couple tests positive for COVID-19

By Natasha Sakale

THE Non-governmental Organisations’ Coordinating Council (NGOCC) has expressed concern over the escalating number of reported cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV). According to the NGOCC, there has been a surge in the number of GBV cases in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The combination of economic and social stresses brought by the pandemic, as well as restrictions on movements, have dramatically increased the number of women and girls facing abuse in almost all countries, according to the United Nations, she noted.

She stated that people should use this time of isolation to consolidate family ties rather than resorting to violence.

"This is the time when families need to be sober and help the nation if the fight against COVID-19 is to be won. The proposed measure for people to stay at home should not be a cause for GBV but a time to consolidate family ties. It is therefore, disheartening that instead of spreading love and social stresses brought by the pandemic, as well as restrictions on movements, have dramatically increased the number of women and girls facing abuse in almost all countries, according to the United Nations, she noted.

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By Mirriam Chabula  
NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili has urged President Edgar Lungu to remove Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo from his position for embarrassing government and misconducting himself.

And Kambwili has offered the services of NDC lawyers to all the public transporters and commuters who are being harassed by the Lusambo’s actions.

"It is very disappointing the way Lusambo has been acting. My question is; is the President quiet about it? He can then either be saying he's the President and says 'I am the president above the law? Tell us what Lusambo is doing is beyond the law from within himself? Since when did minister start having their own laws to do things? First and foremost, this issue of masks is not mandatorily by law, it is a request from the President that he wished every Zambian could wear a mask. But even that is done for the good intention of not spreading Covid-19, we should also be weary of affordability. And is it for our affordability our masks? Because some of the people in this country, we talk of a whole day just to earn K10 and that K10 they use to buy a bit of cooking oil, some vegetables and some mealie meal to feed their families," Kambwili said.

"Now, if we want to force people to wear masks, give them free masks. As people are entering the buses and entering shops, there must be masks displayed to pick and buy. By the way, these masks are disposable, if buy you buy a mask today at K10 or K15, immediately after using it, throw it away, how sustainable is that? If Lusambo and his family can buy some masks, he should not think that everybody else can afford. And people have donated masks to this government, where are those masks that people have donated? Because we are supposed to see them at the entrance of shops, markets and at the bus stations so that as people as they board the buses, they pick the masks." Kambwili said.

"I was inappropriate for Lusambo to be punishing people who weren't wearing masks when the masks were not being distributed for free. "If you don't buy people masks, why beat them and harass them like that? Some struggle to find a K4 to pay for the bus from Kitangalungu then you go and stop that bus on the middle of the road and ask someone to get off the bus for not wearing a mask, when they've already paid for the bus? What are we doing to our poor people? And I hope everyone says the law from within himself and the President is quiet about it. I want the President to tell us whether he's the one who instructed Lusambo to be harassing people without masks in public buses and beating people who are going to buy a mask.

"If indeed the President allowed this hooliganism, Kabwata (thuggery) kind of behaviour, where in the country going? Is Lusambo above the law? Tell us what he has done to President Lungu that he cannot remove him from his position to the government because what Lusambo is doing is an embarrassment to the entire PF leadership and PF government. Surely, how can an embarrassment to the entire PF leadership and PF government. Those are supposed to be call boys at the stations. We don't need this kind of behaviour, Bowman must be caged, he's a danger to society, and he's an embarrassment to Zambia," said Kambwili.

Kambwili offers lawyers to those who’ve suffered losses from Bowman’s harassment

By Julia Malunga  
SHEKEE UPND member of parliament Romon Kang’ombe says he resigned from being a member of the PF of Zambia due to the party’s Western Province interim committee because of a lack of consultation with him, and vows that he doesn’t plan on ditching the party because he has a baptism certificate last week.

Last week, UPND chairperson for elections Garry Nkombo said that the party had dissolved the Western Province interim committee and accused the PF of bribing its councilors to resign from the party.

Nkombo said the party established an interim committee headed by Nkonyena UPND member of parliament Kapeluwa Mhungwana in a bid to stop the PF from buying and targeting councilors in that province.

And in a Facebook post, Wednesday, Kang’ombe announced that he had resigned because he was a member of the dissolved committee and therefore, did not want to be a member of the interim committee one as it would be seen as though he was undermining his colleagues.

"There was a meeting prior to the dissolution of the old committee, a committee which I happened to be provincial youth chairperson. A resolution was made that all members of the old committee should be stripped off and an interim committee in readiness for convention should be constituted and none of the old members should be part of the interim committee. I was in the old committee, the resolution was not made. I asked to include me in the interim committee because it conflicts with the PF’s constitution. At the meeting that was conducted prior to the dissolution of the committee, a resolution was made, I think it is prudent and imperative to correct that error and not be part of the interim committee because it is going against the resolutions. I would rather trade on a fair foundation without people questioning me. I don’t want to be a subject of discussion over a very straightforward matter and also to undermine colleagues that I was working with against them," Kang’ombe said.

"When asked if he had plans of leaving the party, Kang’ombe replied in the affirmative.

"I leave UPND to go to which party? As far as I am concerned, there is no sound political party that I can go to! If I left UPND, I would go to my farm. Unfortunately, I am not leaving UPND before we form government. I was firing on a single pistol, not now I have a baptism certificate in the UPND. I have corrected my mistake it is prudent for them not to sulminating when you receive an appointment. I accepted basically because I was aware of the resolutions that were made prior to the dissolution. His appointment came about should be the basis of staying in the position. If it has become because of defying certain resolutions, then it is not viable. People will look at you like a compromised person who is not principled and I am not in that bandwagon," Kang’ombe said.

Meanwhile, Kang’ombe said President Edgar Lungu is not measuring the party’s popularity by creating by-elections.

"If Lungu would want to come here and camp in Sesheke let him come, I will then nominate him. In Chilulo where he had camped for seven days and chased us, if he thinks he is popular by conducting politics like that to measure his popularity on the ground, then he needs to be sat down and lectured by people like me," said Kang’ombe.

I have baptism certificate in UPND - Kang’ombe

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DMMU bemoans desperate situation in drought-Luapula, Northern provinces

By Miriam Chabula  
DISSASTER Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) national coordinator Chanda Kabwila has described the aftermath of the droughts in Luapula, Northern and Muchinga provinces as a very destructive one, and the livelihood of our people has been disturbed so much. It is overwhelming to look at the extent of the damage! In partnership with the UN FAO, we have seen the last floods they experienced were in 1950, that’s the briefing we got from there and now, basically, the real situation in these areas is very desperate and very serious. We will be seeing that we are experiencing floods, some of them don’t even have toilets. So, we don't even understand how they get to answer the call of nature because they use pit latrines in the rural communities and these pit latrines got flooded, so we are able to see fecal matter because as the water levels rise, the pit latrines are also rising. People don’t even have water to drink because water has been contaminated by fecal matter.

He, however, explained what government had done so far to help the victims.

"What we are doing as government is that we’ve continued to provide food for the people, we’re continuing to provide charcoal to try and help out on contamination of water. In some areas, government has asked utilities not to disconnect people who are on their systems because they need water and also because of COVID-19. Government has just finished the procurement of temporary shelters. Then, government, with its cooperating partners, will soon start supporting people through emergency food. tinder. Government has had distributed losses as a result of Luangab’s actions.

"I am calling upon all those who have viable rice crops to be producing rice in the middle of the road and the minibus drivers or those who can make a loss as a result of that action to come to the NDC secretariat so that we can also offer lawyers to go to court because this is unacceptable. Bowman has become a law and I have never heard any minister who says 'I am the president of this Province, how can the PF of Zambia be saying he's the President of Lusaka? What a shame! I have said this before and I will say it again, people like Bowman don’t need to be in government. Those are supposed to be call boys at the stations. We don’t need this kind of behaviour, Bowman must be caged, he’s a danger to society, and he's an embarrassment to Zambia,” said Kabwili.

"If Lungu would want to come here and camp in Sesheke let him come, I will then nominate him. In Chilulo where he had camped for seven days and chased us, if he thinks he is popular by conducting politics like that to measure his popularity on the ground, then he needs to be sat down and lectured by people like me," said Kang’ombe.

Local News 3
The ERB has particularly been monitoring movements in international oil prices vis-a-vis the performance of the kwacha against the US dollar because the two are the major factors that directly impact local fuel prices.

She added that 12-month analysis of the oil market showed a corresponding fall in fuel prices, indicating that fuel price cuts cannot be cut, locally.

Over the last 12 months, international crude oil prices have been decreasing on the global market by over 50 per cent since December 2019, and April 2020.

The decrease is largely attributable to the collapse of the OPEC+ agreement, market share wrangles between Saudi Arabia and Russia and the drop in global oil demand on the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns in different countries.

During the same period, April 2019, to April, 2020, the kwacha, on the other hand, has been constantly depreciating against the US dollar because of the 2.5 per cent trigger band and limits above which the regulator would not cut fuel prices, locally, on account of the kwacha’s loss value.

The ERB has determined that the Arrangement in the sustained reduction in international oil prices during the kwacha’s depreciation during the same period, and thus the price changes made since the last review in December, 2019. Since the last adjustment on December 26, 2019, international oil prices have been falling, currently, below US $30 per barrel, while the exchange rate of the kwacha against the US dollar has risen by as much as 50 per cent, stated Mfuni.

Notably, a steep depreciation was recorded in the first four months of 2020 when the kwacha depreciated by K4.22 from K144/475 F on January 10, 2020, to K18 605.07 F in April, 2020. As can be seen from the trends, the two key fundamentals that impact local pump prices have been moving in opposite directions, thereby, cancelling out the gains that would have translated into reduced local pump prices over time. It should also be noted that, unlike other countries, Zambia’s fuel needs are met through the importation of commingled feedstock, a mixture of crude oil, finished products and other components on one hand, and refined petroleum products, such as petrol and diesel on the other.

Fuel prices in Zambian will not be reduced despite falling oil prices on the international market because the kwacha’s rapid depreciation against major currency convertibles has negated any potential reduction, says the Energy Regulation Board (ERB).

Brent Crude Oil prices on the international market have dropped to a five-year low to reach US $67.57 a barrel by Wednesday, compared to US $70 by the end of last year.

In a statement, Thursday, ERB public relations manager Kondi Mufi, however, stated that the regulator would not cut fuel prices, locally, on account of the kwacha’s loss value.

The ERB hiked fuel pump prices to an unprecedented K17.62 per litre of petrol effective, Friday, December 27, 2019, when the kwacha was around K14 per dollar.

Currently, the kwacha’s trading was at an average K18.45 per dollar.

...As prices are reviewed for every country at the end of every sixty days, the March, 2020, price previal was that fuel was quoted on a consignment procured in January, 2020, when the international oil prices had not yet started to experience a down trend, and the kwacha had started to depreciate steeply, it did yield minor price variations.

However, due to the projected extreme volatility in the two fundamentals at the time and also considering that the changes would have been below the 2.5 per cent trigger band, it was decided not to change the prices, Mufi stated.

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We’re for masks, yellow hence you’re, HPCZ urges public

By Natasha Sakala

THE Health Professions Council of Zambia (HPCZ) has called on the public to embrace the wearing of masks whenever they leave their homes to protect themselves and those around them.

HPCZ has, however, backed the Ministry of Health’s scientific approach and evidence-based testing for placing restriction on countries away from wasting COVID-19 testing kits.

In an interview, HPCZ Registrar Zwembwa Bwalya said despite patients wearing masks, health workers must ensure that patients are properly shielded with face mask and shields, whatever equipment that they have available. He added that the President (Edgar Lungu) has directed that everyone going out should wear masks, much the same as on the front-line and the people that are seeing patients coming from different hotspots, not only to be in protective equipment all the time because they don’t know the kind of patients that they are screening, it could be a COVID-19 patient so they will only be able to protect themselves if they have the equipment, Bwalya said.

"We just need to urge the public out there to mask-up whenever they are going out, it’s only for their good and we will continue to support to protect the health workers who are also to protect health workers because in an event that they are found positive and they are wearing masks, much the same as on the front-line and the people that are seeing patients coming from different hotspots, not only to be in protective equipment all the time because they don’t know the kind of patients that they are screening, it could be a COVID-19 patient so they will only be able to protect themselves if they have the equipment", Bwalya said.

"We’re for masks, yellow hence you’re, HPCZ urges public..."
By Zondiwe Mbewe

DEMOCRATIC Party President Kalaba says Zambia should brace for tougher times because government is seen to have a grip on the economy.

And Kalaba says that Zambia should forget about mealie meal prices and other commodities reducing and must brace themselves for an even higher cost of living.

Meanwhile, Kalaba has urged President Lungu and PF members that contributions from well-wishers go in ensuring that citizens are protected from face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu estimated that Zambia's budgeted revenue would be at least K14.8 billion, which is 19.7% per cent of the approved 2020 budget.

He also said that Zambia's economy had been revised downwards and projected to grow at -2.6 per cent on account of the COVID-19 impact.

He said speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme, Thursday, Kalaba and Dr Ng'andu's projection meant that Zambia should brace themselves for a period amid a spike in commodity prices.

"That means that the world will experience not only the price of the meat meal, about the price of cooking oil (and) rentals from their landlords coming down. They must brace themselves for harder times. They are basically telling you that, ‘we expect hard times to come ahead. They are only giving you an assurance that this is the problem that we have. Government being in government must find ways of ameliorating their deficits so that citizens are cushioned. That is why across the globe are now talking to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). That is why IMF has even relaxed its measures on countries like Rwanda, that they had borrowed from them. In fact, they have even given money to fight COVID-19. Because they understand that there will be challenges. So, if you are not talking to IMF, the world is not going to help you. You are saying you are taking to? Kalaba asked.

And he said if PF survived 2020, the meal would become as expensive as K500. "For the PF, there is no way out of this. The PF has reached a dead-end! There is no way they can get out of this. If you are planning on how you should win the elections, but you are planning on how you should win those elections. Because even if the PF was to win elections, civil servants will lose their jobs! You will start buying a bag of mealie meal at K500 in the market (big bag) because, now, they will say, ‘after all, I'm going, my food is not enough for my family to survive – it's okay! The PF as a government, has lost credibility before the international community. The PF, as a government, has reached a dead-end and you don't expect much from a regime as tired as this one. All they know is to suppress freedom," he added.
People’s Alliance for Change (PAC)  
Viva New Zambia!!!  
Why we deserve your vote

Developmental Culture - Land Audit and Redistribution

By Andyford Mayele Banda

After the coronavirus pandemic, we need a serious change of culture. Zambia needs a developmental culture. A developmental culture is a culture in our own understanding as PAC where whatever we do as citizens contributes to the development of this country. Whatever we do whether it is dancing or tourism or travelling has a positive impact on the economy. For those who have been privileged to travel to South Africa especially on long weekends and holidays, you will hear many South Africans saying I am going home. They love to visit their homes and these are their villages, where they come from, where their relatives live, where their ancestors are sleeping. I am not sure if what they go to do has an impact on the economy maybe they come back fresh to contribute to the economy or something but they are accustomed to I am going home this long weekend. It is their culture.

Last week we posed a question, what do we have in our powers that we can use to advantage ourselves as we emerge from the coronavirus fiasco? As PAC the answer is that we have land and water. Yes Zambia is blessed with so much fertile land and water. As we indicated from last week’s article we need a vision. After the coronavirus which I am sure we will survive, it will be like we use to sing in the young days, ‘aliyense kwabo, kwabo aileyense kanjila kaikwabo’. This means that each one has to take a road that leads to his or her place. Simply means God for us all and each one for himself. Many nations will be looking for ways to recover and giving aid to Zambia will be at the tail end of their priorities. As PAC we believe that more than ever it’s time to create local solutions and ideas and ensure we come up with policies that will support the local people. The quickest way to empower people is to give them land. Every citizen deserves a piece of land.

Getting back to the preamble we need a developmental culture. We have the partial lockdown as it is, imagine if our culture was to go back to our farms small as they may be at least that will be the safest place for us to social distance. But not only will we be social distancing but we will be working hard to produce something on our land. Since Zambia is not on total lockdown, this time instead of saying stay at home, we would say stay at your land and produce. Many people currently are just locked up indoors and doing nothing and yet the world is transforming and we need to come up with solutions and ideas for the transforming world. What ideas can we best bet on it stands? It’s just producing food. We need that culture of going back to the land and produce something. We need systems that will support Zambians to venture into small scale farming. But we have a problem!

Like we have mentioned before, a lot of Zambia’s land is in a few individuals. Those that are privileged keep accumulating land and reselling to fellow citizens at exorbitant prices. That is criminal and must change. Many people have acquired massive land which is just sitting somewhere as a decoration. They are keeping land without doing anything as if it is a National Registration Card (NRC). Yes we need a LAND AUDIT AND REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND. Yes let’s grab all land that is idle and redistribute to Zambians who will apply to become small scale farmers. Most politicians are a culprit to getting cheap land and do nothing with it. I have a farm this side but you are doing nothing on that farm all because of the politician’s position they got land which they had no plan with. If President Edgar Lungu does not institute redistribution of land, we as PAC will institute a land redistribution once we assume office in 2021. We need to redistribute land to the many Zambians who are ready and passionate about farming.

It will be in the interest of country to venture into mass production of food not just for local consumption but for exports because the world will need food after the coronavirus. So this is not the time for our government to be ndwii! It’s time to be serious and institute the land audit immediately and redistribute idle land to passionate Zambians not to PF cadres. I know many Zambians want to be small scale farmers but they fail because land is expensive and they do not have the necessary support for basic equipment such as a borehole to start their farming activities.

As PAC we will empower new farmers with land and basic equipment to start their farming activities. We shall ensure that we empower them to start farming crops that have the local and international markets. Giving farmers land and start up equipment is not enough. We have a lot of Agriculture and Water engineers that can be engaged to train the farmers on the best farming methods and how to manage water. As PAC we do believe that the knowledge that is readily available should be utilized to minimize the rate of failure. We have so much potential to venture into fish and goat farming. Pronouncements of encouraging young people to venture into farming are not enough. There has to be a support base of the young farmers.

Like we mentioned before, there is no good project that will succeed with the current politics. Corruption has to be stamped out. Nepotism has to be stamped out. Cadernism has to be stamped out. Doing projects for political mileage has to be stamped out. Only deserving citizens with no political connections but talent and passion must be empowered with land and water and basic start up equipment. Then we need to create a structure that supports small scale farmers, from construction to production to markets. We need to make targets to grow them. Eish we are so passionate and we know once voted in we can achieve it.

The coronavirus era should teach us valuable lessons as individuals even as a country. For starters it’s no time for business as usual. We need to do things differently and innovatively. Hmmm we are not sure though if the PF would like to make political sacrifices and do things differently for the sake of our beloved country Zambia. Zambia has so much potential to achieve greatness even after the coronavirus, but a lot needs to change especially in the political arena.

So under the PAC government we shall create what we will call a developmental culture. In agriculture people will have the culture to go and have fun in their farms. In tourism Zambians will tour Zambia. In block making Zambia will buy Zambian blocks and the list goes on. Yes the visionary must rule for the good of Zambia. We shall uplift lives and transform the economy for many. We shall empower our local people and create policies that will support Zambians. YES! YES! YES! PAC 2021 is the way to go.  

Andyford Mayele Banda
President  
People’s Alliance for Change (PAC)
Zambia’s debt rapidly accumulated under Chikwanda – Kalala

Kalala stated Zambia’s economy was in a dire situation because of excessive borrowing.

"It is an undisputable fact that the economy in Zambia is in dire situation but not necessarily due to external factors or the recent COVID-19 as some people and Mr. Chikwanda would like us to believe. The main causes are self-inflicted such as excessive borrowing, wrong priorities and abuse of the borrowed moneys that are now being plundered and misused.

The economy has been in decay for a long time without anything tangible being done to revive it. The call was made in good faith and out of genuine concern for urgent and decisive action to be taken by those in power to resuscitate the economy for the good of the nation. It would be unreasonable for any sensible person and perilous for the nation to ignore the timely and sound advice given by these well meaning and well informed citizens," stated Kalala.

"It would be a lack of logic to expect people who are the principal stakeholders to remain silent and indifferent at a time of a national crisis as the one Zambia is currently experiencing. Those holding and those who have held public offices before should strictly be held responsible and accountable.

No one in public office should be above accountability. Any one who feels he cannot be scrutinized or to be held accountable should not be holding public office. It is self- deceiving and an affront to public interest for some people to believe that they hold the freedom to do anything in public office and to consider that they can remain above accountability or concern or suggest anything is an infamy.'
How govt loans were used for PF campaigns

Magande, government contracted six loans amounting to US$140.2 million. In 2008, President Levy Mwanawasa died in the middle of the annual budget cycle, meaning we had a new finance minister taking over from Mr Magande to implement the remainder of the cycle from November 24, and thus Mr Musokotwane. Ministry of Finance data shows that in the whole of 2008 government procured five loans only, amounting to US$132 million. In 2009, Musokotwane contracted seven loans amounting to US$233.3 million.

The PF argues that there is nothing wrong with borrowing as long as it is for a good purpose, and we agree absolutely. But can they explain to the taxpayers of this country, what is the return on investment for all these loans? Can they show us how much profit was generated from the Eurobond money invested in Zesco and Zambia Railways? We are saying it’s better NOT to borrow if you don’t have a profitable plan with the money, than to borrow and plunder the money through corruption, leaving substandard infrastructure for political expediency.

You claim to have built infrastructure, that’s okay. But your tax revenue base has not increased as a result. But your tax revenue base has not increased as a result. Where did the money go? We borrowed hundreds of millions of dollars for the Kabwe North Bank, but Zesco is reducing in generation capacity instead of increasing. How many unemployed citizens benefited from the hundreds of million borrowed under “Youth and Women” empowerment loans?

It goes without saying that this is the reason why the PF will never commit to an IMF programme, especially with the next election looming. This is why they don’t want parliamentary approval before borrowing. That’s the plan. If they don’t borrow, they will not have money for campaigns and they will lose in 2021. So expect more loans this year and next year.

Remember how the PF presidential candidate went round the country to launch fake investment projects in 2016, like the reopening of Mulungushi Textiles in Kabwe? That is the same way that they acquired loans that ended up as campaign expenditure for the ruling party. From our research data, one can tell that some of the loans that the PF government contracted in 2016 were for campaigns. Some of the projects mentioned in the loans never even took off, meaning the money was diverted towards unaccounted for expenditure.

We will end by reminding readers about this leaked audio recording from 2016, where a Finance Minister discusses cash transactions for campaigns with the secretary general of the ruling party. Readers can listen again until you form your own opinions about the source of the money which was being discussed here. https://wp.me/p86XRW-iJ5

“The quality of life that you have is determined solely by the effort you put into giving your life value, purpose and a reason.”
- Steven Redhead

Crossword puzzle No 589

Across
1. Chill baked dessert.
4. What you do with eyes.
6. Put into words.
7. Sphinx.
8. Pen filler.
13. Popular pop.
16. Has a meal.
18. No-fills tool.
22. Make up.

Down
1. Yellow cooking vessel.
2. Psychic’s claim.
3. Let someone borrow.
4. Hit the slopes.
5. Large deer.
6. Fig leaf.
7. C& V, inc, etc.
9. Smaller mont, tic.
10. Fill us ruffy.
11. Roma’s mate.
12. White filter.
13. Consumed.
14. Kind of meat from pig.

Crossword puzzle No 588
Reopen Prime TV

Editor,

“When I read comments on these platforms regarding the closure of Prime TV my heart sinks. It look like scores of citizens think that because Prime TV does not support the ruling party it should be closed when it is a private entity that can chose who it want to support. I think people are advocating for one party state going back to the UNIP days which is bad for democracy in this day and age” - Mutinta Mulonda

“They should just unconditionally reopen Prime TV. Some of us no longer watch TV news because there is no Prime TV. Currently my source of news is social media” - Chanda Pochoko

“We need Prime TV back” - Charles Chiwwindi

“Some Zambians here are like that proverbial man who blissfully fed a man-eating crocodile without realizing that he would end up being eaten. As they say, those who go to dinner with the devil must carry a long spoon. If you believe that Zambia in the way it’s governed is a democracy, you really need assistance in understanding the value of diversity in democracy” - Evans Kaimoyo

Editor,

“When they made the 2020 budget didn’t we all ask where they’d get the money? They even wasted so much on buying army trucks etc as if we were going to war! Priorities! The budget should have heavily supported sectors that would give us profit returns, those profits would then support 2021 budget and the extra change would finance things like army trucks! As of now we have no profit returns! Even the debt we accumulated wasn’t invested properly!” - Henrietta Bowsalda

“Are we not as a country sliding into a recession? In short the growth forecast is 0%” - Bo Ndete Lilato

“PF very good at announcing problems but NO solutions” - Mwamwemwa Kamona

“The worst is yet to come, the ripple effects of global recession from industrialised countries to developing countries will be felt more in the aftermath of the coronavirus. The urban dwellers will take the worst hit more than those in villages, in certain cases, wages will be difficult to pay as cash flow from state coffers will be very limited” - Mwewa Kapiri Kapiri Chanda

“Some Zambians who use abusive language. Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.” - McElvis Sims

Editor,

“Hmmmm, surely Ethiopian airlines can allow the plane to burn all that fuel only to bring 1-passenger into the country?” - Lawrence Atta Mills Jr

“Admitting such stark facts and they still insist on pouring money into making a National Airline. How can one describe this type of thinking?” - Lawrence Wakung’uma

“Uhmm this is highly uneconomical. How do they cover the costs?” - Nomso Kalenga

“This is not the time to cry for money. Save the lives of people you have put in danger with your reckless policies. Had you suspended incoming flights on time, we would have been talking a different story now” - Mo Ze

“Yet the police are doing the same more in conjunction with Bowman Lusambo” - Chonta Malinga

“This is unacceptable in my opinion, that’s his son whom he works hard for to ensure he lacks nothing. The police have several things to do and this isn’t one of them” - Paul Malata

“They failed to find the gassers, owner of the 48 houses now they want to show their energies on a simple matter” - Abel Ngoma

“Police should be the last ones to condemn George because their record on human rights isn’t any better than Bester’s!! In fact they are the worst abusers of the citizens they are supposed to protect!” - Cimbula Matanga

“Its very sad for us who know this brother closely. In his intent there was no evil when disciplining his child, If anything the pain of what would become of the son in future over rode any other consideration” - Jerry Nyambe

“Police should be the last ones to condemn George because their record on human rights isn’t any better than Bester’s!! In fact they are the worst abusers of the citizens they are supposed to protect!” - Cimbula Matanga

“Leave this innocent man alone. He fathered that boy and has the right to discipline him. Teenagers are really hard to control, he’s only doing what every parent must do to get their child back on track. Arrest Kaizer, and yourselves for brutality!” - Janet Mundando

When they made the 2020 budget didn’t we all ask where they’d get the money? They even wasted so much on buying army trucks etc as if we were going to war! Priorities! The budget should have heavily supported sectors that would give us profit returns, those profits would then support 2021 budget and the extra change would finance things like army trucks! As of now we have no profit returns! Even the debt we accumulated wasn’t invested properly! - Henrietta Bowsalda

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 aircraft comes into Zambia with 1 passenger?

Dear editor,

“Why not just close the route?” - Mwale Lameck

“And yet the Zambian Government wants to invest and go in the same aviation industry, with the same routes, on borrowed funds”. - Nomso Kalenga

“This is not the time to cry for money. Save the lives of people you have put in danger with your reckless policies. Had you suspended incoming flights on time, we would have been talking a different story now”. - Mo Ze

“Admitting such stark facts and they still insist on pouring money into making a National Airline. How can one describe this type of thinking?” - Lawrence Wakung’uma

“Ummm this is highly uneconomical. How do they cover the costs?” - Lawrence Atta Mills Jr

“Hmmmm, surely Ethiopian airlines can allow the plane to burn all that fuel only to bring 1-pasenger into the country?” - Happy Mcsiz

“He is lying, the cost of flying one person cannot generate revenue. Not even 12 people can!” - McElvis Sims
Kenya quarantine escapes arrested in bar

POLICE in Kenya have arrested two people who escaped from a coronavirus quarantine centre in the capital, Nairobi.

They were among dozens of others who were being held under quarantine in a wall of the quarantine centre, drawing public condemnation. The two were arrested while drinking at a bar in Kibuyu area, north of the city, and were taken back to the quarantine centre.

Malagasy leader 'congratulated for herbal cure'

Madagascar’s President Andry Rajoelina says he has been congratulated by his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo for launching a herbal coronavirus ‘cure’.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says there is no proof of a cure for Covid-19, but the country’s national medical academy (Anaman) has also cast doubt over the use of Mr Rajoelina’s touted prevention and remedy.

But President Rajoelina tweeted that he and Félix Tshisekedi had chat via a video conference about the Malagasy plant-based tonic, dubbed Covid-Organics.

‘Africa is united and develops together’

Developed by the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research (Intra), it is made from the artemisia plant - the source of ingredient used in a malaria treatment - and other Malagasy plants.

The Indian ocean island, which has a population of more than 25 million, has recorded 121 cases of coronavirus, and no deaths.

DR Congo, with a population of 51 million, has recorded 393 cases, including 25 deaths.

The president of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina has officially launched a local herbal remedy claiming to prevent and cure the novel coronavirus.

‘We have been carried out -- two people have now been cured by this treatment,’ Rajoelina told ministers, diplomats and journalists at the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research (IMRA), which developed the beverage.

This herbal tea gives results in seven days,’ he said.

Downing a dose, he said: ‘I will be the first to drink this today, in front of you, to prove to you that this product cures and does not kill.’

The drink, which has been called Covid-Organics, is derived from artemisia -- a plant commonly used as malaria treatment -- and other indigenous herbs, according to the IMRA.

But its safety and effectiveness have not been offered to schoolchildren, as it was his duty to ‘protect the Malagasy people’.

‘Covid-Organics’ can be used as prophylaxis, that is for prevention, but clinical observations have shown a trend towards its effectiveness in curative treatment,’ said Dr Christian Andriamialisoa, IMRA’s director general.

The large Indian Ocean island has been detected 121 cases and no deaths.

The pandemic has triggered a huge rush for herbal formulas, with lemons and ginger in the belief that they can protect against the virus.

The World Health Organization (WHO), which has warned people to be vigilant about alleged cures for Covid-19, did not attend the launch.

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), referring to claims for herbal or tea remedies, says: ‘There is no scientific evidence that any of these alternative remedies can prevent or cure the illness caused by Covid-19. In fact, some of them may not be safe to consume.’

Mozambican killed for threatening police

TWO police officers are to be charged for beating to death a man who had threatened to film them playing football in contravention of coronavirus restrictions in Mozambique.

Abdul Razak, 44, confronted officers on Sunday in the Munhava area of Beira city, saying they were not observing social distancing rules.

The police chief’s spokesman, Orlando Mudzimane, said the two officers involved were in detention and would be held accountable for their actions.

‘Criminal and disciplinary processes are under way,’ he said.

‘The police will provide the bereaved family with the necessary support, according to the law,’ the spokesman added.

The southern African nation currently has 41 cases of Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by coronavirus.
**Adebayor refuses to donate amid COVID-19 crisis is Togo**

Former Premier League striker Emmanuel Adebayor has hit back at those who have called him out for not donating money to his home country of Togo amid global coronavirus crisis, stating that he will not be parting with his money purely because others wish him to do so.

Football has ground to a halt across the planet in the wake of Covid-19’s rapid spread, with most countries in some state of lockdown as authorities attempt to get the virus under control and treat those who have been infected. As a result, many footballers have spent their time helping to raise funds or awareness for charities that directly benefit those on the front line of the fight.

Samuel Eto’o has donated relief packages to his home nation of Cameroon, with items such as food, soaps, sanitiser and personal protective equipment handed out in the country’s economic Dasoula.

Didier Drogba, another African icon, joined Eto’o in rounding off February by his Drogba Foundation, to his home nation’s government as a facility to screen for the disease.

Such charitable moves prompted some to ask Adebayor what he would be doing with the wealth he has accumulated across his long career. Former Arsenal, Manchester City and Tottenham striker says that as he is an open man, who will not be swayed by the actions or opinions of others.

“I always do things according to the wishes of my heart and not according to the words of others,” Adebayor said in a Facebook live video.

‘I am sorry that people compare me to Samuel Eto’o and Didier Drogba by asking me why I don’t have a foundation or why I don’t donate, as if I was the one who brought the coronavirus to Togo."

“I am neither the one nor the other, I am me, Shyri Emmanuel Adebayor. A word of advice for the guys in the guys regarding donations, I will not do that. Everything is clear and very simple. Thank you and good day.”

Adebayor, now 36, had signed for Paraguayan side Rosario Central earlier this year before football was halted due to the coronavirus pandemic. GOAL

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**Kamanga won’t stand if those barred are not re-instated, vows Siwale**

By Abraham Kalito

SEASONED Former President Blackwell Siwale says FAZ president Andrew Kamanga will not contest the 2020 elections if those who have been disqualified by the association are not re-instated.

Siwale clarified in an interview with goal Diggers that the 2020 elections are in a similar situation as those who have been disqualified, he too cannot stand unless those who have been disqualified are allowed to contest the elections.

He vowed that there will be no way Kamanga will contest the elections while the others remain disqualified.

“If I don’t stand for elections, there will be no way Kamanga will contest the elections while the others remain disqualified.

“Just because there are players who have committed serious offenses, it is not a good thing. These politics in football were brought by Kamanga himself. We are people who are willing to work with anyone, but then he brought division,” he said.

However, Siwale said FAZ has manipulated the court ruling made on 20th April 2020.

“In my understanding, and according to the explanation given to me by my lawyers, that is the status quo to hold the elections and election process is still in force. FAZ lawyers can seek interpretation from their learned colleagues and friend but they cannot conduct election. Let them election and see who will be the one to be elected. They know who they have done, how can a server containing serious information go missing? A server? There is a lot they have done that they are afraid of.”

By Abraham Kalito

NKANA FC fans have demanded for the removal of two top official, citing poor management of the club as reason.

In a petition directed at club sponsors Mopani Copper Mines, the fans demanded that Mr. Everisto Kabila and Chief Executive Officer Charles Chakatayka be relieved of their duties immediately.

“Arising from the unpleasant reports of mismanagement at Nkana Football Club and on the back drop of the reports of the arbitral termination of the contract for the Ghanaian Goal Keeper Stephen Adams which resulted in FIFA banning Nkana Football Club from signing players for three transfer windows after the club failed to settle as ordered the amount of $28,350 equivalent to K323,227.60 at today’s rate of $1 - K18.4560 as monitored by FNB and the reports of the hulls having imposed unprecedented fines on the club, the fans demanded for the removal of Mr. Everisto Kabila and Mr. Everisto Kabila through the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Charles Chakatayka on March 17 2020, read a statement.

“A follow up was made on March 22, 2020 with Mr. Chakatayka who informed the Nkana Fans Exco that no meeting had been scheduled and that he would either communicate later or alternatively, the fans Exco could schedule a meeting with Nkana President Mr. Everisto Kabila through the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Charles Chakatayka on March 17, 2020, read a statement.

Therefore, the fans petitioned Mopani Copper Mines through a meeting held on Wednesday, to appoint officials on an interim basis and that the appointed should secure accounts.

“In view of the foregoing, the Nkana Fans National Executive Committee calls for an urgent removal of Mr. Everisto Kabila and Chief Executive Officer Charles Chakatayka by the club. The fans petitioned Mopani Copper Mines through a meeting held on Wednesday, to appoint officials on an interim basis and that the appointed should secure accounts.

In addition, fans have petitioned the Nkana Football Club to urgently petition the club to urgently petition the FAZ president Andrew Kamanga and the General Administrator for the holding of elections for the new executive committee.

The fans petitioned Mopani Copper Mines to appear before them to cease handling any football affairs while the club is alleged to be owing a number of players and a named former club coach substantial amounts of money. These and many well documented issues speak to the unprecedented mismanagement that has befallen the club. The fans requested for the holding of elections for the new executive committee. The fans petitioned Mopani Copper Mines to appear before them to cease handling any football affairs while the club is alleged to be owing a number of players and a named former club coach substantial amounts of money. These and many well documented issues speak to the unprecedented mismanagement that has befallen the club. The fans requested for the holding of elections for the new executive committee.

The Fans National Executive Committee acting on behalf of the fans urgently wrote to Mopani Copper Mines and the FAZ president Andrew Kamanga - Administration to immediately place both Mr. Everisto Kabila and Mr. Charles Chakatayka on indefinite leave from Nkana Football Club and to cause them to cease handling any football affairs while the club is alleged to be owing a number of players and a named former club coach substantial amounts of money. These and many well documented issues speak to the unprecedented mismanagement that has befallen the club. The fans requested for the holding of elections for the new executive committee.

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**I Didn’t Bring Coronavirus to Togo**

**FAZ embarks on mitigation campaign against Covid-19**

By Abraham Kalito

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has embarked on a mitigation campaign against Covid-19 aimed at finding the best ways of finishing the season amidst the pandemic.

According to statement by FAZ acting spokesperson Sydney Mungala, the association has proposed a mitigation package but will first assess the situation to ascertain the impact of the pandemic on the operation of the clubs.

Mungala said clubs will be expected to give FAZ details of the hardest hit aspects of their operations through a questionnaire and that the information will be used to determine the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Executive Committee has proposed a mitigation package for its member clubs arising from the impact of the Covid-19.

During an Executive Committee meeting this morning (Wednesday), FAZ has resolved that it will assess the impact of the Covid-19 on its members and see how they can mitigate the damage. Members will be expected to give FAZ details of the hardest hit aspects of their operations through a questionnaire that will be circulated. FAZ has urged members to remain compliant with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization in the fight against the Covid-19.

Member clubs are also advised to observe the labour laws in the wake of Covid-19 which has affected their financial status,” he said.

Mungala quote association secretary general Adrian Kashala as saying that there is optimism within FAZ that the Covid-19 threat will be curtailed soon to ensure that football returns to the pitch.

“We continue to monitor the situation around the Covid-19 and we are hopeful that football will return to the pitches soon. In the meantime, we are urging all our members to play their part in the fight that has plunged the whole world into a health crisis. The Football Association of Zambia remains shut in respect of the Covid-19 threat. Play Safe, Stay Home and Keep Safe. Or come up with something different to speak to the Covid-19 fight.”

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**Bundesliga ready to resume on May 9**

**BUNDESLIGA CEO Christian Seifert has said that the league will be ready to return to competitive action no later than May 9, although government approval will be required before an official decision is made.**

Representatives of each of the 36 clubs in the top two German tiers decided on the date after a meeting on Thursday, with it very much the intention of said teams to finish off the season.

Doing so will undoubtedly see matches played behind closed doors and involve rigorous testing of players and staff for coronavirus, as well as frequent deep cleaning of stadiums.

Seifert told the press: “The Bundesliga is ready to resume, no matter whether it’s on May 9 or a later date. But it’s not up to us to find a date. The political decision makers decide.

“We have not defined an exact date today. The fact that we are even able to think about resuming games underlines the performance of the German authorities.

“It would be presumptuous for the DFL to name an exact date for the restart.” GOAL