



ARTICLE 52 MUST GO - MUNDUBILE

...Sangwa wants to use it to bar Lungu

Story page 3

Zambia records 2 new COVID-19 deaths

By Ulande Nkomesha

ZAMBIA has recorded two new COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total number to 24.

And the country has as at June 30 recorded 26 new COVID-19 cases out of 227 tests done. Story page 7

Learn from Malawi, abuse of state machinery always backfires - Chikoya

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel

Chikoya says what has happened in Malawi should be a wake-up call for all countries that the arrogance of abusing State machinery eventually backfires.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya said the whole electoral process leading up to the re-run presidential election in neighbouring Malawi highlighted why separation of powers was essential.

"The elections in Malawi are a learning curve. The whole process leading to the re-run is a learning curve and must be a wake-up call for all other countries in this region and even beyond, that if you take people for granted..." Story page 7

MoH approves LAZ AGM

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Ministry of Health has permitted the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) to hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) slated for July 4, 2020, provided members abide by strict regulations to prevent possible spread of COVID-19. Story page 6



Photographer Chellah Tukuta with his lawyer Linda Kasonde at Lusaka Magistrates' Court yesterday
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Sangwa explains ConCourt, Speaker jurisdiction dispute

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has the power to interpret both the law and the Constitution but that power is only limited to the National Assembly, says constitutional lawyer John

Sangwa State Counsel.

In an interview, Sangwa explained that the difference was that the ConCourt's interpretations had legal effect on all stakeholders, including to members of the National Assembly itself, while Dr

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"I have read all the ruling of the Constitutional Court and the ruling by Dr Matibini. The Constitutional Court is correct and Matibini is also correct..." Story page 2



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
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"I have read all the ruling of the Constitutional Court and the ruling by Dr Matibini.

Matibini has powers to interpret Constitution – Sangwa

The Constitutional Court is correct and Matibini is also correct. The problem is the context in which these statements were made. Matibini has power or authority to interpret the Constitution, but the effect of that interpretation is limited to the business of the National Assembly," said Sangwa.

"The interpretations of the Constitution have effect throughout the country,

including the Assembly. Matibini's interpretation is law within the Assembly; [but] the Constitutional Court's interpretation of the Constitution is law within the country, which has the effect of overriding what Matibini says."

Last week, Dr Matibini argued that the ConCourt was wrong to state that he had no power to interpret both the law and the Constitution

when he declared Chishimba Kambwili's Roan Parliamentary seat vacant.

"The observation by the Constitutional Court that the Speaker has no power to interpret the law and the Constitution was made by the way (Obita Dictum), a just remark which is not binding upon future courts. Though it may be respected, according to the reputation of the judge, the eminence and the circumstances in which it came to be pronounced. Honourable members, it is self-evident

law and the Constitution. I do not, with respect, agree with the Constitutional Court that the Speaker has no constitutional mandate to interpret both the law and the Constitution. Honourable members, my understanding or interpretation of Article 77 (1) of the Constitution and Section 34 of the National Assembly Powers and Privileges Act is that the National Assembly has power and jurisdiction to conduct its internal affairs. As a matter of fact, the Constitutional Court acknowledged the doctrine of exclusive recognisance in the case of Chishimba Kambwili and the Attorney General when it referred both to Article 77 of the Constitution and Section 34 of the National Assembly Powers and Privileges Act."

"In view of the foregoing, I am not persuaded by the observation or, indeed, suggestion by the Constitutional Court in the Kambwili case that the Speaker has no constitutional mandate to interpret the

liars, they don't ever tell the truth. So, my advice to the people of Zambia is that they should not take Mulenga and his pronouncements seriously. What he was talking about is mere politicking, it is a lie and his statement was made out of desperation because Mulenga knows that the PF is exiting government in 2021. So, they are trying to see if they can win two or three youths to vote for them. But time has run out, it's over for them, they can just wait for the day of elections. Otherwise, they are already gone," Kabwita said.

And Kabwita said that youths would continue to protest against bad governance. "This government should prepare for more protesting, there is more coming! What they should know is that the protest they witnessed last week, the one that was organized in the bush is just an example of what's coming. We will protest against bad governance and we won't even wait for the police to give us permission to do so. We are upset with the manner in which PF is governing this country; we are upset because of the injustice, which is in this country; we are upset because of corruption; we are upset because of the lies President Lungu told the youth in Zambia from 2015 to 2016; we are upset that Chinese nationals have continued to abuse Zambian workers and Zambian youths in this country; we are upset because of the thieving and the way government officials are stealing from the poor; we are upset because President Edgar Lungu is not protecting the Constitution, which he swore to protect. These are among the many issues that we have put on the table as the youth to protest against this government," Kabwita complained.

Meanwhile, Kabwita observed that government would continue mismanaging the affairs of the nation as long as President Lungu and PF remained in power.

"For as long as the PF continues to manage our affairs, you will continue to see all sorts of things, which are not supposed to be done. For instance, today we have a minister, who is a well-known corrupt number one minister in this country, Chitalu Chilufya. He was arrested for two minutes and given a police bond! After two minutes, he went to Parliament and addressed the nation. How can we be addressed by a corrupt minister, a thief, a well-known criminal? This country has gone to the dogs. Chitalu Chilufya is a thief, a well-known criminal, he cannot even account for the properties that he has amassed in his seven years of being a deputy Minister and a full Cabinet Minister of Health. Time of reckoning is fast-approaching. If this regime will protect Chitalu Chilufya, I tell you, when we form government next year, Chitalu Chilufya will be tried and prosecuted by the courts of law," warned Kabwita.



PF incapable of creating 10,000 jobs by December – Kabwita

By Mirriam Chabala
ZAMBIANS must not take seriously Youth and Sports Minister Emmanuel Mulenga's pronouncement that government will create 10,000 jobs by December because the PF is incapable of creating any employment, says National Democratic Congress (NDC) national youth chairman Charles Kabwita.

And Kabwita says youths will continue protesting against bad governance because they are unhappy with the way President Edgar Lungu and his Patriotic Front administration have been managing the affairs of the country.

Meanwhile, Kabwita has insisted that it is wrong for President Lungu to allow Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya to continue in office when he is still under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for alleged corrupt practices.

In an interview, Kabwita said the PF was incapable of creating jobs.

"Mulenga was lying! Those were mere lies by a desperate Minister coming from a desperate regime and Zambians should not take that seriously because he said it out of excitement while on-set. There is no way PF can create 10,000 jobs for the youths in just six months when it has failed to create any job for any youth from 2015 to-date. So, don't believe what Mulenga was saying on Sunday Interview, it's all lies! PF are pathological

Political parties ask ECZ to chop proposed nomination fees by 50%

By Julia Malunga
THE Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says most political parties have asked the commission to consider reducing its proposed fees by half.

In an interview, ECZ Chief Electoral Officer Patrick Nshindano, disclosed that the UPND, however, proposed to maintain the 2016 general election nomination fees.

"The political parties provided a submission with the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) members proposing to half all the current fees, whilst the UPND indicated to maintain the 2016 fees. After deliberations, the Commission indicated that they would get back to the political parties on the final fees after taking into account the submissions that were made. This was after the political parties further rejected the revised downward submission by the Commission," said Nshindano.

According to a proposal by the Commission, a presidential nomination fee is K150,000 from the current K60,000, while a female presidential candidate and persons with disabilities will pay K120,000.

A male parliamentary candidate will be

required to pay K25,000 from the current K7,500 and female and persons with disabilities candidates will be paying K20,000.

"Presidential candidate (male) current K60,000 – proposed K150,000; female and PWD candidate current, K60,000, proposed, K120,000.000; parliamentary (male) current, K7,500, proposal, K25,000.00; female PWD current, K7,500, proposed, K20,000.00," read the proposal.

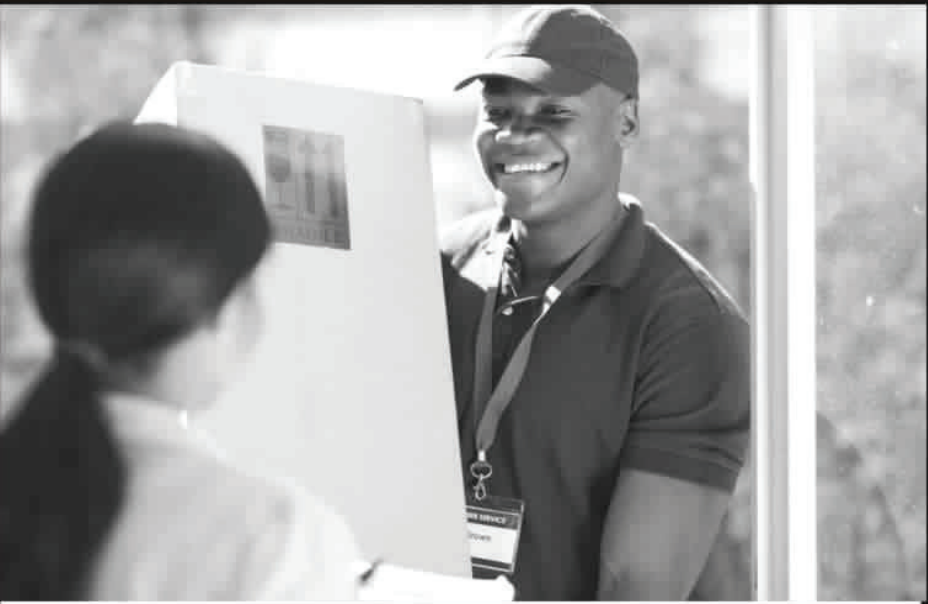
On the other hand, a mayoral candidate will be required to pay K25,000, up from the current K7,500.

"Mayoral male candidate current, K7,500, proposal, K25,000; female and PWD current, K7,500, proposal, K20,000; council chairperson male, current, K2,500, proposal, K10,000; female and PWD current, K2,500, proposal, K7,500," the proposal read.

Meanwhile, councillors would be required to pay K2,500 from the current K 750,000.

"Councillors male (city/municipal) current, K750, proposal, K2,500; female and PWD current, K750, proposal K2,000; male (town/district) current, K400; proposal, K2,500; female and PWD current, K400; proposal, K2,000," read the proposal.

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By Ulande Nkomesha

PF chairperson for legal affairs Brian Mundubile says the ruling party wants Article 52 removed because it disadvantages candidates, not just President Edgar Lungu, by shortening their campaign period once their nominations are challenged in court.

But Mundubile says the party is not threatened by Constitutional Lawyer John Sangwa’s intention to petition President Lungu’s nomination because the Constitutional Court already decided on the matter.

In an interview, Mundubile said Article 52 needed to be repealed because it was disadvantageous to affected candidates.

“I want to proceed to mention that the spirited fight for those that didn’t know that State Counsel John Sangwa has been putting up against Bill 10 was just on account of wanting to bar President Lungu or to challenge the nomination of President Lungu. They have been fighting amendments to Article 52. Now when you are making a Constitution, you should not target an individual for instance President Lungu in this particular case, 2021 is his last chance to stand for elections as President. Now, if you fight amendments to Article 52, that will stand for a very long time affecting many other people, councillors will be affected, MPs will be affected and indeed other Presidential candidates. So the whole essence of cleaning that particular article is that we looked at the practicality of

elections,” Mundubile said.

“When you look at the practicality of elections, [it] is that in any given election context, in this particular case at adoption stage, there are a number of competitors and aspirants. So, let us take for instance a councillor, when a councillor is petitioned, after he or she files in his nomination with only 60 days to campaign and the matter is determined after 21 days and this particularly, then the councillor is cleared to proceed and campaign

elections he would have lost one month meaning that going back to the campaign they already had lost that steam, he loses his supporters. So, there is no mechanism to atone the damage that has resulted on this particular councillor. So,

we were saying in order to have a clean process where at the face of it the ECZ checks, they have basic procedures to ensure that a particular candidate is eligible, should there be other evidence to show that one is not eligible,

maybe he presented false documents, or this person was not eligible in the first place, you can follow them to court and petition their election. So, nobody is disadvantaged per se but in the other case, the candidate is disadvantaged.”

Mundubile, however, said the party was confident that the ConCourt would not change its position on the matter even if a fresh petition was brought to the table.

Continues on P5

DPP enters nolle in Atlas Mara banker theft case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has entered a nolle prosequi in a matter where a 30-year-old banker at Atlas Mara was accused of stealing about 54,000 British Pounds and over US\$38,000 belonging to the bank.

The matter against Regis Phiri, who is the son of former Zambia Security Intelligence Services director general Regis Phiri, has since been discontinued.

In this matter, Phiri of Lusaka’s Makeni area was facing 12 counts of theft by servant and fraudulent false accounting.

In count one, it was alleged that on July 5, last year, Phiri, being employed as a banker at Atlas Mara, with intent to defraud, made eight false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to show that a payment of 12,000 British pounds was deposited and authorised on account number 45939700, when in fact not.

In count two, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri stole 12,000

British pounds, property of Atlas Mara Bank.

In count three, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri, with intent to defraud, made 11 false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to show that a payment of 16,500 British pounds was deposited and authorised on account number 48544800, when in fact not.

In the fourth count, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri stole 16,500 British pounds, the property of Atlas Mara Bank.

In count five, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri, with intent to defraud, made ten false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to show that a payment of US\$15, 000 was deposited and authorised on account number 48559200, when in fact not.

In count six, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri stole US\$15,000, the property of Atlas Mara Bank.

In count seven, it was alleged that

on June 29, last year, Phiri with intent to defraud, made 11 false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to show that a payment of 16, 500 British pounds was deposited and authorised on account number 48544800, when in fact not.

In count eight, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri stole the 16,500 British pounds.

In count nine, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri, with intent to defraud, made six false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to show that a payment of 9,000 British pounds was deposited and authorised on account number 45939700, when in fact not.

In count 10, it was alleged that on the same date, Phiri stole the 9,000 British pounds.

In count 11, was alleged that on the same date, Phiri, with intent to defraud, made 16 false entries in the Atlas Mara card management system using bank officers’ credentials to

show that a payment of US\$23,500 was deposited and authorised on account number 48559200, when in fact not.

And in the last count, it was alleged that Phiri stole the US\$23,500.

Phiri pleaded not guilty to the charges before Lusaka Magistrate Lameck Mwale and trial started.

But when the matter came up for continued trial yesterday, State prosecutor Juvenalis Kamutondole informed the court that the State was not ready to proceed with the matter.

He indicated that he had instructions from the DPP to enter a nolle prosequi in the matter.

In response, Magistrate Mwale informed the accused that in the light of the nolle prosequi that had been entered by the DPP in his favour, the matter against him had been discontinued and he was free to go.

“In light of the nolle prosequi received from the DPP, proceedings against the accused are hereby discontinued and the said accused is accordingly discharged,” said magistrate Mwale.



A Transformative Livestock Sector and its Potential to Drive Youth Development in Zambia

By Chisoni Mumba, PhD

IN the past few weeks, the youths of Zambia have been making demands to be part of the national governance and development process. Salient among the demands have been high unemployment rate and the consequent right to be heard through freedom of speech. This has coerced the relevant authorities to lend a listening ear. One prominent sector that comes out from relevant line ministries is the youth being encouraged to start cooperatives and venture into livestock farming. Some groups have already started receiving small livestock such as chickens and goats. Livestock can indeed play a significant role in employment creation and lead to youth empowerment and development. However, the way in which this is being done currently may not achieve the desired results. A critical and close look at the livestock industry elucidates lack of organisational models and non-existent institutional innovations. In this article, I will endeavour to discuss a systematic way through which in my informed opinion, the livestock sector can potentially play a significant role in youth empowerment. I will start with giving examples of flaws in the way we are currently traditionally implementing this agenda, and end by briefly explaining my proposed sustainable and systematic way in which the livestock sector can play a potential role for Youth Empowerment in Zambia.

Perhaps before getting into details, let me introduce myself because from the onset of writing articles, chiefly cantered on livestock subsector and how the government may harness it to contribute to livelihoods and GDP effectively, I have gotten many questions on who I am and what my agenda is. Well, I am an animal health economist with research interests in livestock economics, systems thinking and participatory epidemiology in animal health. My main agenda is to play a role in the transformation of the livestock sector through research is livestock economics, participatory strategic planning, foresight modelling, and livestock development policy advocacy. In short, thae underlying premise and public discourse of my pilgrim is to offer foresight and advice to would-be information end-users. A lot of research is being conducted but ends only in peer-reviewed journals that end-users do not have access to. My thrust is to share with my fellow citizenry some of this information in the sector where I am well versed. Why advise our nation? Well, Historians always remind us that if we do not look back at history, we shall repeat the same mistakes our ancestors made. For example, advisory systems in Ireland and the United Kingdom during the middle of the nineteenth century helped Irish potato farmers diversify into different food crops during the potato famine in Ireland (1845–1851). That is my role! Period.

I have persistently asked, and I will still ask again; "Do we have a livestock policy? Alternatively, in simple terms, what is our primary national goal with regards to livestock? Are livestock production strategies in place? What is really Zambia’s livestock agenda? Do we have a livestock production, research, disease control, and market agenda? Do we have livestock genetic improvement agendas? What are Zambia’s livestock value addition strategies? Do we have livestock expansion programs? Does Zambia after more than 50 years of Independence have an improved locally adapted Dairy or Beef breed before we even ask about pigs or goats? Do we have incremental stakeholder advisory indabas on livestock? If the answer to these many questions is NO: what are we still doing and who is to blame?

Back to the objective of this article, let me start with describing the flaws in the way we are currently distributing livestock and livestock equipment such as egg incubators to youth and women groups in the name of cooperatives. We are

now using the traditional system, what the Bembas call "Tubatwailie bakayiwonawile abene", a reversal way of giving the groups livestock and thinking they will learn later while keeping the animals. In its current form, you can provide livestock to the youths but come next year; there will be no livestock because they either died, stolen or eaten due to lack of sustainable systems in place. We have seen Governmental and Non Governmental Organisations give livestock to farmer groups, and almost all disappear a few months or years later. For instance, one NGO gave dairy cattle (Jersey breed) worth K12, 000 each (then) to cooperatives in one of the provinces, but more than half died of East Coast Fever (going by local names of Denkete or Chigodola) because of poor or lack of tick management. They assumed that these exotic breeds are also managed like local breeds which survive by the grace of God. Similarly, we have seen egg incubators being given to cooperatives, but one year down the line, there is no chicken to show because either the incubator could not work due to unstable power supply consequently spoiling the eggs or indeed the hatched chicks could not survive due to poor chick management. The other issue is the widely held perception that such initiatives mostly favour youths aligned to the party in government. Whether a mere perception or not, there is a need for practical political will to demystify it. Some groups are given livestock, but they have no land on which to rear them. How can we provide livestock to someone in Kabwata without land and expect the chickens and goats to multiply after being fed on crumbs of plain nsima? Are we merely giving them livestock for them to slaughter and eat? Is there a well-planned and thought through the process before distributing livestock to be reared on paved stone environments? In my opinion, this is not livestock development? There is a need to develop viable and sustainable systems for livestock development using the 6 million youths, and women groups whom I believe are leverage for transforming the livestock sector. How can this be done?

We need to start by developing a full package for any beneficiaries of livestock empowerment project, be it youths, women groups, schools, minority and disadvantaged groups. We need to come up with viable models that take into account the number of livestock commiserate with a feasible business intention, e.g. for pigs how many sows (females) and boars (males) does each group need to run a viable enterprise? Then, before we give these groups livestock, let us give them some basic coordinated training in livestock production and health management in conjunction with universities/ colleges, line ministries such as Fisheries and Livestock, Commerce, Trade and Industry, and other stakeholders. I am not talking about the several knee-jerk and uncoordinated pieces of training, which are currently being conducted by every Jim and Jack among small-scale farmers. After giving them livestock, there should be an attending animal scientist and veterinarian in charge of production and animal health just like we have extension officers for conservation agriculture and other programs. Private practitioners, government and universities have these experts who can be conveniently linked to cooperatives that can work closely with these groups until such a time when the groups can become independent with a proper exit strategy. The animal scientist and veterinarians during the intervention phase will give quarterly reports to the line ministries implementing such development projects, e.g. Fisheries and Livestock, and Youth and Sports, Community Development. In three simple words, this is; "planning, implementation, and evaluation", something that is not happening currently with a number of either government or NGO implemented projects. It should be understood from the onset that Livestock rearing is a business; as such, a risk management plan must be put in place. This calls for integrating livestock insurance in the



business model. Viable commercial and emergent (weekend) farmers in certain areas must be linked to these systems for farmers to make exchange visits and practical training on livestock production and management. Government breeding (rather multiplication) centres must be connected in the same model. Donors and cooperating partners would definitely want to support a viable and sustainable livestock development system. It is such a system that deserves egg incubators from the Presidential Economic Empowerment Funds. These farmer groups will be then connected to the market through chain stores. It is these primary groups that we can further pool to form a secondary and tertiary groups that can then access regional and international markets through a systematic way. Only then will we be able to trace and identify livestock with a paper trail at every level of transaction. Currently, livestock like chickens and goats will change hands ten times before reaching the consumer without a paper trail at every transaction. This does not give confidence to the consumer that the meat they are eating has been appropriately raised with sound animal health systems. Additionally, this long farm-to-fork chain serves to exploit the producer and the consumer. This, in my opinion, is what I call livestock development for this country. By empowering the youth sustainably and systematically, we will be providing employment, national food and nutrition security, and incomes, hence building household economic resilience.

Now to do this, we need to have a clear livestock policy, with production strategies that will systematically feed into this system with clear budget lines. Any strategic plan that we are developing in a top-down process without speaking to viable and sustainable systems may not achieve our desired goal to use this sector for youth empowerment and development. We shall continue saying the livestock sector is a game-changer and has potential drive the export diversification agenda but without achieving or realising that potential. The best way for the government to avail the youth’s constitutional right to freedom of speech being sought is to empower the youths in the manner I have outlined – sustainable, systematic and impartial. When this is done, the majority of the demonstrations the youth will be involved in are ones of their successes to their peers, and such demonstrations do not need the almost always invariably elusive police permits.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ADD president Charles Milupi says it is ridiculous for Vice-President Inonge Wina to think that the “stay at home” recommendation has increased electricity consumption when power shortages have always been there before the disease outbreak.

Commenting on Vice-President Wina’s claim that electricity consumption had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, Milupi said that there was no logic in what she said because industries and factories closed, while households could also not use much electricity due to long load shedding hours.

He challenged government to explain the real cause of Zambia’s ongoing power deficit rather than spreading falsehoods.

“That statement is not technically accurate. It’s ridiculous that these people are using Zesco for collecting money. Zambian homes are not like European homes where a man and a woman are both working and during the day they all go out of the home. Our homes, whether you are at home or not, things are happening, those who are at home remain cooking. And these complaints of the (fast-depleting) units didn’t happen during the time when people started staying home. This problem has been with us for a long time. It started when they talked about increasing tariffs by 200 per cent. Immediately they made that announcement, we started seeing that the units were depleting fast,” Milupi said.

“I have a building in Western Province where we were using electricity units worth K400 per month. The moment they did this, it went to K2,000, but nothing has changed in terms of usage. So, to imply that people are

Wina wrong about electricity consumption increasing due to COVID-19 – Milupi

using more electricity is not correct. The PF government must be honest with the Zambian people. If we have got problems, be honest so that the Zambian people can support you. Don’t tell things that are not factual.”

Milupi said the shutting down of some industries during the COVID-19 pandemic should actually have drastically reduced electricity usage.

“The amount of cooking in homes has not gone up because of COVID-19. They should address the cost of electricity. It’s the same government that has been employing cadres, who are increasing the cost to government like vehicles, fuel, and so on, which forces government to do this. We had the 18 hours of load shedding, meaning that automatically people are using less electricity. For example, for 12 hours, you have no electricity at home and whether or not you want to cook, power is not there. Industries were not working; businesses were closing so the electricity usage should have drastically gone down. Now, they have been clever and they pushed up this consumption of units and maintained the same level of income into Zesco. Why can’t she (Wina) explain it like that?” Milupi wondered.

He insisted that there was no logic in anything the PF government did.

“Zesco continued to operate at the same level that they were operating before when they were producing less electricity. Their customers are consuming less because there is no electricity. Let

them just look at the cost of these electricity units. There is no logic to anything that the PF is doing. They have failed to run things! Zesco needed to be funded the same level as if they were producing all the electricity before load shedding,” said Milupi.

Last Friday, Vice-President Wina told MPs during Vice-President’s Question Time in Parliament that electricity consumption had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic when asked if government was considering lowering power tariffs.

“Government has received some presentations on the issue of Zesco tariffs. But the country should be aware that the tariff increment came at a time

when the Load Management programme was between 12-14 hours, and currently is standing between eight to 10 hours [in a day]. This impacted the rate of consumption of electricity

units for households. And there has been a fundamental shift following continued efforts to reduce the load shedding hours. Additionally, with the COVID-19, ‘Stay Home

and Stay Safe’ has increased consumption of electricity because of the notable increase in the use of gadgets by households,” claimed Vice-President Wina.

ZIPAR attributed Zambia’s reduced inflation to low liquidity

By Natasha Sakala
ZAMBIA’S low liquidity levels in the economy have contributed to the declining annual rate of inflation in June, 2020, as the demand for goods on the market has reduced, says ZIPAR.

In an interview, Zambia

Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) senior research fellow Caesar Cheelo said the local economy had experienced a slowdown, hence the reduced demand for goods on the market, resulting in a slowdown in price increases.

“...The other thing is the economy with COVID-19, and even before COVID-19, the economy is undergoing a significant slowdown. For households, what that means is there is not as much money in the pocket as there was so demand for general commodities, even food, goes down. So, with declining demand, you expect that the prices will go down, or they will slow down in terms of increasing,” Cheelo said.

He added that the decline in the annual rate of inflation was mainly due to the reduction of food prices owing to the good yield experienced in the just-ended farming season.

“Like I said, the reason why we have seen this marginal or slight decline is mainly because of food prices. Food prices have gone down. I think there are two things that would drive that: the first thing is the (2019/2020) agricultural season was very good. So, as we get more food secure, as we get more food output getting into the shops, getting into the urban areas, you expect prices to not increase that much because the supply is sort of matching the demand for food,” said Cheelo.

“When you look at the trend on just the overall inflation, essentially what it means is prices have slowed down, not that prices or costs have gone down. So, the speed with which things are increasing has slowed. So, it’s not so much that in terms of the impact on households like they will be a price reduction for commodities, it’s just that in the previous month in May, prices increased by about 16.6 percent. They increased, but by 16.6 per cent. Now in June, they have increased, but by a smaller percentage, 15.9 per cent. So, it still increases, but the increases are relatively smaller in June. But the issue is we still have double-digit inflation.”

Zambia’s annual rate of inflation decreased to 15.9 per cent in June, down from 16.6 per cent recorded in May, mainly triggered by price decreases in food items.

This was the first time in 15 months that inflation reversed its upward trajectory.

Zambia Statistics Agency (ZSA) data showed that the annual rate of inflation of 15.9 per cent recorded in June, 2020, peaked to a near four-year high since September, 2016, when inflation was at 18.9 per cent, reducing to 12.5 per cent in October, 2016, before it dropped to close that same year at 7.5 per cent.

Lusaka Hotel employees in 7 months salary arrears

By Julia Malunga
WORKERS at Lusaka Hotel have gone seven months without being paid.

And Business Development Manager Chazya Sinkamba says the hotel has been experiencing a number of challenges since 2016.

In an interview, workers who sought anonymity said some workers were sent away on forced leave without pay.

“From November last year, we have not been paid and they are not telling us

anything. Some workers were sent on forced leave and they are not being paid. How do they expect us to survive with an economy as bad as this one? We have families that depend on us, children that are not going to school and we can’t afford three meals in a day. Things are not okay at this Hotel,” lamented the workers.

But Sinkamba said it would be premature to say when the workers would be paid.

“Since March, when the

COVID-19 pandemic started, we were able to see that movements was restricted on health grounds so what transpired was that most hotels and lodges were closing down. And literally, there was no business. And if you recall, there was a lockdown in Kafue and therefore, that necessitated the manner in which we were going to operate. So to protect our staff in terms of their own health, we had to send staff on leave and that is paid leave. Also, as a company, it was an opportunity to give people time to rest. If you look at the business that we are in, the leisure sector, I think it was one of the worst hit because people are not having functions and I think the technological advancement in people meeting from Zoom means that there is no necessity for people to meet,” lamented Sinkamba.

“And I think that is why arrears have accumulated. The hotel has been experiencing quite a number of challenges over the years starting from 2016 to date. It has been accumulating quite a number of debts because of increased competition. The Hotel was in need of recapitalization and for us to give a business case to the bank to say ‘give us US\$3 million’ it must be backed by a practical revenue stream. Given the circumstances, we are doing our best to keep our employees. Right now, we are exploring opportunities, including banks and possibly finding a business partner that can help us recapitalize. It is not a matter of deliberate policy where the company is making money and you are not paying your staff. It is a situation where there is zero income coming in because there are no meting and functions. And to give you a timeframe when they will be paid, I think it will be premature for me to say.”

Article 52 must go, Sangwa wants to use it to bar Lungu – Mundubile

From P3

“The question as to whether President Lungu was eligible to stand in 2021 was decided by the ConCourt. We also know that State Counsel John Sangwa exhausted all his arguments as regards to the President’s eligibility in 2021. So, even if he has that petition on his laptop, we know that there are no different arguments that he can present to the ConCourt to convince the courts otherwise, just like we know the position of the court is. We remain firm and to support that position, people have been saying and have been underrating in their statements, underrating President Lungu’s strength, but we can see that they are playing double standards. You are thinking that you have a weak candidate but at the same time you are almost blocking the Constitution making process just to block this person, what does that mean? That is how strong the candidate is! President Lungu has continued to deliver to the people and we are confident he will emerge victorious,” Mundubile said.

“We have a very strong candidate that people are ready to even block the Constitution making process just to stop him from standing because they know that when President Lungu

stands, there is no chance. We are very confident because the court ruled, there is no other position the court will take on this matter. I have read that particular judgement three to four times and I am very convinced that there is no other position that they will take other than that position. So, even if our colleagues petition the court, the court will come with the same judgement.”

Mundubile wondered why Sangwa wasn’t taking his petition to court immediately.

“So, to target President Lungu on account of Article 52 is being unfair to many other aspiring candidates that are to be affected by that particular article in the future. So, if State Counsel John Sangwa still had questions as regards the judgement on President Lungu’s eligibility, they can simply go to court now for further interpretations and allow the Constitution process to proceed. They can get the answer they are looking for in future, they can get it now. If they have some discomfort they have on that judgement, if they are not clear as to what the court said about that particular judgement, they can still go to court now for further interpretation rather than to

wait and keep that petition on the laptop for the next one year just to come and file in that petition. They can actually go to court now, so that amendments to article 52 should not affect other people that are may be not targeted by these few individuals in this particular case,” said Mundubile.

“So our advice and counsel is that when we are making a Constitution we must look at it holistically. We have made mistakes like this in the past where individuals have been targeted in making a constitution then later on, you find yourself in a Constitution that is absurd, a Constitution that raises more questions than answers. This is because people have been targeted in the past and in this particular case, I think there is no need to put that spirited fight all because of one article, yet you can address the questions with the court now as to whether President Lungu is eligible or not because that article will not only affect Presidential candidates, it will affect councilors, MPs. So, I think as a people, let us take a different direction when it comes to Constitutional making so that we don’t amend the Constitution so often.”

By Natasha Sakala
ECONOMIST Prof Oliver Saasa says it is better for local indigenous investors to be given an opportunity and incentives to procure shares in existing and new mines as opposed to government increasing its shareholding through ZCCM-IH.

Mines Minister Richard Musukwa recently disclosed that government, through ZCCM-IH, was working towards increasing its stake of shareholding in mining firms, adding that he wanted to see ZCCM-IH and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) play a major role in mining operations for citizens to derive maximum benefits.

Prof Saasa, however, observed that although government’s intention might be good for the country, it could send a wrong signal to foreign investors because their proposal might be perceived as expropriation.

“Essentially, if you come to the operationalization of that policy stance, it would mean that government would want to either have new mines where they will have a stake, which is much larger than the current average; the current average

Empower Zambians to directly own shares in mining companies, Saasa urges govt

is about 20 per cent. Or, they would want to actually buy more shares from existing mines. Now, wanting to buy more shares from existing mines and if it becomes mandatory then, of course, it means that it will send some eyebrows rising on the part of investors, who are already doing so. So, the act can be celebrated if the country has the capacity, but one has to be cautious of the possible effect on how the perception of how government or the country will be perceived in the investor community out there. So, yes, it may be a good thing, but please do that with caution without unnecessarily suggesting that government wants to assume a more strategic control in the ownership of an area, which is traditionally perceived to be opened up to private sector participation, mainly foreign investment, as well as indigenous local

investors,” Prof Saasa said in an interview.

“There are a number of things that one has to take into account. Firstly, that is a policy decision that its credibility and may be an expression of a wish on the part of the investment arm in the mining sector, ZCCM-IH. So, at their level, it’s a mere expression of interest. But it’s a policy statement that can only get legitimacy of its coming from the Minister because it is something that catches on ring-fencing of increased interest in the mining industry by the government at a time when we agreed that the economy will be private sector-driven. Now, being private sector-driven does not mean equity shareholding by the government. But when you are really talking about getting to those levels as a policy stance and they even come from the Minister, then, you are really talking

about somewhat diluting the assumption that is taken by those investors, both within the country and outside regarding the policy regime.”

And Prof Saasa, who is also Premier Consult managing consultant, argued that it would be better if government created incentives for indigenous Zambians to own shares in mines directly as opposed to through ZCCM-IH, given the country’s liberalized economy.

“A word of caution is merited here that, generally, it’s not the business of government to run business, it’s a principal that speaks to once you have liberalized and you have opened up, that’s how you market the country outside to the world, nobody

should feel threatened by stances that suggest that the government either wants to expropriate or they want to diversify to a level where they begin to crowd out the private sector operators from certain segments of the economy. One would be more comfortable, I am hearing government saying, ‘we would like to encourage,’ through some instruments, concessions and what not, ‘we would like to encourage locals, Zambian domestic investors to increasingly own shares in mining activity, either existing or new ones and we are going to provide an incentive to ensure that there is more local investment rather than government investment,” said Prof Saasa.

“That way, you are empowering locals, you

are empowering local communities; it’s something that must be a conscious government policy. You cannot have a situation where more than half a century, the major strategic activity that controls about 70 per cent of foreign exchange is copper mining; a significant portion of it is still predominantly foreign. And I am talking foreign investors and domestic local investors, we would like to see increased entry of the private sector, Zambian indigenous private sector in mining and if you are talking about empowering local investors into mining through the incentive regime that will push them there, it will dilute and complement foreign investment. For me, that is music to my ears.”

Chita Lodge asks court to dismiss Kaizer assault case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CHITA Lodge Limited has argued that the delay by four Lusaka men to prosecute a matter where it has been sued together with Kaizer Zulu and others for alleged kidnapping and assault is inexcusable, prejudicial and detrimental as it continues to incur expenses in an effort to defend the claim.

Chita Lodge Limited has, therefore, asked the Lusaka High Court to dismiss the said matter for want of prosecution.

But the four Lusaka men have argued that the application by Chita Lodge to have their case dismissed is frivolous and vexatious, adding that no prejudice has been occasioned to the defendants in the matter.

This is a matter in which Bernard Nshindo, Sengelwayo Jere, Saul Masikoti, who are qualified surveyors and businessmen, as well as Mason Mweemba, a driver, sued Zulu, President Edgar Lungu’s former Special Assistant for

Political Affairs and his two acquaintances, Kachingwe and Rashid in September, last year, for allegedly beating and kidnapping them on accusations that they were taking pictures of his speed boat at Chita Lodge in Kafue.

Others sued are Chita Lodge Limited and Bella Mwanza, an employee of the said lodge.

But in their defence, Chita Lodge Limited and its employee, Mwanza, denied being aware of the alleged assault on the plaintiffs, nor participating in it.

They argued that Zulu and his two acquaintances were admitted into the premises as visiting guests and that if at all the assault took place, which is denied, they acted in their individual capacities as guests.

Chita Lodge and Mwanza have now asked the Court to dismiss the matter for want of prosecution.

In an affidavit in support of summons to dismiss matter for want of prosecution filed in the Lusaka High Court recently, Chita Lodge and Mwanza stated through their lawyer Nomankhosi Jere of Messrs. Ranchhod | Chungu Advocates that it had now been over three months since they filed their defence, adding that the plaintiffs had neglected to prosecute the matter.

“To-date, the plaintiff has neglected and/or omitted to issue Orders for Directions. On June 3, 2020, the defendant, through its Advocates Messrs. Ranchhod | Chungu Advocates, wrote to the plaintiffs’ advocates advising them to prosecute the matter, failure to which an application to dismiss for want of prosecution. Receipt of the same was acknowledged,” read the affidavit.

Jere submitted that the plaintiffs’ delay in prosecuting the matter was inordinate, inexcusable, prejudicial and detrimental as the defendant continued to incur expenses in an effort to defend the claim.

“I, therefore, crave the indulgence of this Honourable Court to dismiss this matter for Want of Prosecution,” he stated.

But in an affidavit in opposition, the plaintiffs, through their lawyer Machayi Kasaji of Messrs C L Mundia and Company, strongly objected to the defendants’ application for an Order to dismiss the matter for Want of Prosecution as it was frivolous and vexatious.

Kasaji stated that it was surprising that the defendants were so determined to have the matter dismissed on an interlocutory basis rather than have it heard on the merits.

“It cannot be said that the plaintiffs have neglected to issue an Order for Directions because cases in the High Court are Court-driven, therefore, only the Court is imbued with the authority to issue an Order for Directions. Moreover, the Court record will show that on June 5, 2020, the plaintiffs caused to be filed Summons for Directions and an Order for Directions, which documents we are yet to uplift from Court,” read the affidavit.

He stated that no prejudice had been occasioned to the defendants in the matter as prejudice must be demonstrated and not merely pleaded.

“By reason of the premises, I beseech this Court’s indulgence to dismiss the fourth and fifth defendants’ application as the same is frivolous and vexatious,” stated Kasaji.



KAPOCHE PF member of parliament Dr Charles Banda (r) confers with Sinda District Council Chairperson Michael Phiri (l) during a tour of his constituency, Saturday. Picture by: Zindikilani Banda

By Ulande Nkomesha

THE Ministry of Health has permitted the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) to hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) slated for July 4, 2020, provided members abide by strict regulations to prevent possible spread of COVID-19.

The AGM, which is expected to take place on July 4, 2020, usually attracts about 1,500 lawyers countrywide.

In a letter written by Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Administration Kakulubelo Mulalelo addressed to LAZ honorary secretary Mwenya Mukupa dated June 25, 2020, Mulalelo stated that that LAZ’s request to hold their AGM was approved as long as they followed health guidelines listed in the Statutory Instruments 21 and 22 of 2020.

“I am in receipt of a letter to hold

MoH approves LAZ AGM

the LAZ Annual General Meeting on 4th July, 2020. The government and, indeed, the Ministry of Health is cognizant of the importance of your meeting. However, I wish to reiterate that the risk posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic is currently high. Local transmission has been established in all the provinces of Zambia affecting over 1,400 people with 18 deaths recorded,” stated Mulalelo.

“The Public Health Act Cap 295 and issued Statutory Instruments 21 and 22 of 2020 guide our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guided by public health guidelines and the President’s guidance given during

the various national addresses, the following measures must be put in place as you have a meeting: (1) Risk communication and sensitization through health talks to the participants. (2) Provision of hand-washing and sanitation facilities; enforced hand hygiene. (3) Physical distancing of not less than one meter. (4) Wearing of masks throughout the meeting. (5) No handshakes and hugs. (6) The room must have adequate ventilation. Your request to hold your AGM is approved on the condition that you follow the guidelines listed above. You may request for technical support to guide the setup prior to your meeting.”

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

KAPOCHE constituency PF member of parliament Dr Charles Banda has told his constituents to pray for Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 to succeed for them to see more development.

Speaking when he held a community meeting at Kapandula Primary School, Saturday, Dr Banda, who is also Local Government Minister, cited the delimitation of constituencies and wards, which could only be considered if Bill 10 passed in the House.

He stressed that some constituencies and wards remained too large, geographically, hence the need to delimitate them to enable public services be brought closer to residents.

“Let me not lie here so that tomorrow we fail to reverse our words. Bane, delimitation of constituencies and wards is very important so that MPs and councillors have manageable areas to handle compared to vastness of some constituencies and wards. Now, nkhani ili apa, these laws you have been hearing called Bill 10. Once Bill 10 passes through, you and me...we shall all clap hands because we will know that delimitation has been accepted. But the moment the Bill is still being discussed and our friends, the UPND, are saying it is a bad one. So, let's pray that this Bill 10 is accepted, then more good things will reach our communities,” Dr Banda claimed.

He wondered what was so contentious about the Bill when it would cure the ongoing wrangles among traditional leaders who continued to fight for positions.

“Surely, we see and hear

For more development, pray for Bill 10 to pass – Banda

traditional leaders fighting for leadership. We have seen a situation where a chief is called for a meeting, but instead of one, you find two or more come...confusion! It is in Bill 10 that will ensure on the throne there is one chief at a time,” he argued.

And Dr Banda hailed the continuous infrastructure development projects in his constituency, bragging that he was the only member of parliament, who had delivered massively in the area since Independence.

“I am the only MP out of all who has delivered according to your needs. When we were campaigning, you told us, ‘roads,’ and today, we are working on about five roads in the constituency, 11 bridges, which we have made passable and talking about water, we have drilled 68 boreholes. Who in your history ever did this? No one. Even when I was an MP in 2001-2016 I never delivered what I have delivered this time,” boasted Dr Banda.

Meanwhile, District Council chairperson Michael Phiri called on local residents to never feel ashamed of supporting the PF, but remain proud because the ruling party was doing a great job.

“Everything has its own time. You were crying for development, but now even your fingers are able to point at what we have done as the PF government. Don't be ashamed of the PF leadership; it's a viable and productive government, which you should be proud of,” said Phiri.

During his usual tour around the constituency, headman Chagwiwala Ackilas Banda told Dr Banda that voters were ready to give him a third term as area member of parliament.

“We will vote for you, Dr Banda. Don't worry about these making noise here (Kapoche)! We have seen how you work with President Edgar Lungu and

the two of you have done wonders! Wherever you go, just know that wapita kale 2021 as we are behind you!”



said Banda.

Dr Banda was escorted by District secretary Best Mwanza, District youth chairperson Pingilani Banda, vice district chairperson Thomas Mwale and some ruling party cadres to inspect ongoing developmental projects in his constituency.

Learn from Malawi, abuse of state machinery always backfires – Chikoya

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya says what has happened in Malawi should be a wake-up call for all countries that the arrogance of abusing State machinery eventually backfires.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya said the whole electoral process leading up to the re-run presidential election in neighbouring Malawi highlighted why separation of powers was essential.

“The elections in Malawi are a learning curve. The whole process leading to the re-run is a learning curve and must be a wake-up call for all other countries in this region and even beyond, that if you take people for granted, the arrogance of abusing State machinery can only carry you to a certain extent, but it will backfire. We learn from the Malawian scenario the importance and a critical role of each wing of government. Every wing of government, the Judiciary, the Legislature, and the Executive have to be free and independent. They have to be autonomous so that they are able to provide guidance. The role of the security wings, again, they are there to protect not individuals, but ensure that the Constitution of the land is protected and the citizens of the land are protected, including all other stakeholders whether ruling or opposition,” Fr Chikoya said.

He said citizens get agitated in a country where corruption, vote-rigging, and electoral malpractices are the order of the day.

“People's power is critical. What every country needs to learn is that we need a very

well informed and empowered citizenry that is able to articulate issues regarding the affairs with their country, corruption, vote-rigging and electoral malpractices. There must be zero tolerance to that. So, when people are agitated and upset, they will win and carry the day. That is the lesson that we learn from the Malawian scenario. We saw people voicing out and demanding. We should not be requesting for our rights; we should demand that quality management of elections takes place,” Fr Chikoya said.

He also advised the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to serve the interest of the general population by providing a free environment for people to vote.

“Electoral commissions are not there to serve the interests of the ruling elite; they are there to ensure that democracy thrives and ensure that people can vote freely and that their vote is protected and not manipulated; the importance of having quality and credible alliances and working together in order to achieve a common purpose. The Electoral Commission needs to lay aside personal interest or partisan interest just to make sure that a country is redeemed and set free from the trajectory that will otherwise lead to destruction,” he advised.

“Those that are in office

Zambia records 2 new COVID-19 deaths

By Ulande Nkomesha

Zambia has recorded two new COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to 24 deaths. And the country has at June 30 recorded 26 new COVID-19 cases out of 227 tests done.

According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Health, Tuesday, both deaths were recorded as brought in dead at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

And out of the 26 new cases recorded, 19 are from Lusaka while seven are from Chirundu.

The cumulative number of cases now stands at 1,594 cases with 241 active cases.

The country further recorded 18 recoveries with 12 from Lusaka and six from Western Province.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 1,329.

cheaply by those that want to use you and remember you during elections. Demand for much more. And much more means having a country where institutions can operate, where citizens can voice out, express their opinions, assemble and give peaceful protests. And the security systems must protect them and shield them,” urged Fr Chikoya.

Malawi's new President, Dr Lazarus Chakwera, emerged triumphant in last Tuesday's presidential election, defeating incumbent Peter Mutharika with 58.57 per cent of votes.

The historic polls followed Malawi's Constitutional Court, which annulled former president Mutharika's win in May, 2019, citing vote tampering.

IN THE
SUBORDINATE COURT
OF THE FIRST
CLASS FOR LUSAKA
DISTRICT
HOLDEN AT LUSAKA
(Civil jurisdiction)
2020/CRMP/ML/152

BETWEEN
IS THE MATTER OF
SECTION 4 OF THE
MONEY LENDERS ACT
CHAPTER 398 OF THE
LAWS OF ZAMBIA
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
APPLICATION BY
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LENDERS FOR AN
APPLICATION FOR
A MONEY LENDERS
CERTIFICATE.

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MAPALO MONEY
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the Money Lenders Act
CAP 398 of the Laws of
Zambia at Lusaka before
Honourable Magistrate
Mr/Mrs/Ms B.S
MALUPENGA on the
3 th July ,2020 at 08 : 30
hours in the forenoon
and that the business
will be carried out under
the name and style
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IMAGINE buying bread for your family and you consume half of the loaf for breakfast. In the evening when you want to make tea, you find the bakery owner who sold you the bread has grabbed it, saying “you need to save the remaining half for breakfast tomorrow because I don’t have enough flour to make more bread”. Who does that? Well apparently, the Managing Director at Zesco and his entire management find a lot of logic and sense in this reasoning.

On June 27, 2020, Zesco announced the rolling out of smart meters that will enable the power utility to regulate the usage of electricity by switching off certain appliances in customer’s homes. During a press briefing, Friday, Zesco managing director Victor Mundende said the smart meters would be rolled out at a cost of US\$40 million over a period of five years.

“Yes, from our comfort of our offices and from the comfort of your homes, we will be able to deal with certain appliances in order to just share the little power that we have. What we mean is that we will be able to; if we have less power going to an area, we will be able to switch off other appliances that you have like

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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The madness at Zesco is getting out of hand

geysers, without the customer intervention. If we go to another level of load shedding, we will be able to switch off cookers and so on and so forth,” said Mundende.

This is absurd! It is an imaginable lack of common sense in many ways. Why would Zesco spend a whopping US\$40 million on efforts to stop people from consuming the electricity that it sells for its sustenance? We are not economists, but common sense dictates that whatever investment you make must produce a return that is more than equal to the initial capital in order for that business to be considered viable. How will this US\$40 million investment profit Zesco? We are told that Zesco, in

fact, will enter into a loan agreement with the suppliers of these metres; how will they make money to repay the loan if the plan is to stop people from consuming electricity? What kind of appliances will Zesco be switching off in order to recover US\$40 million?

Zesco needs to explain to the nation for our people to appreciate this reasoning because in the absence of an explanation, this sounds like a stupid move by a group of people who are not very smart. If we may ask, with such a decision, can Zesco still claim its motto of powering the nation? How are they powering the nation with US\$40 million worth darkness? Really, this is absurd.

We can’t imagine that the Zesco Managing Director and his team of technocrats all agreed that this is a viable investment for the company.

All along, we have been made to believe that the biggest challenge Zesco is facing is generation capacity. But strangely, instead of pouring this money towards increased power generation, they are focusing on limited consumption. This is the kind of news that citizens wish was fake. If Zesco announced that the utility would not consider new applications for power installation during a specified period until it improves its generation capacity, people would not be as shocked as they are now. That makes

logical sense, people would assume that Zesco wants to satisfy its current customers’ needs before it adds more consumers to the power grid.

But with this announcement, we cannot resist the temptation of calling out the Zesco management. With all due respect to Mr Mundende and his team, this, in our view, is a paralysis of thinking. Do they understand that reducing the usage of their service means less revenue? If they do, how do they plan to meet the increased demand? Wow! Zesco has really gone crazy. If this is what is called thinking outside the box at Zesco, then we implore them to immediately halt their plans and go back to

thinking inside the box before they kill people.

What about investing that US\$40 million in solar energy? The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) claims that the US\$60 million invested in solar energy at the Lusaka South Multi Facility Economic Zone is capable of generating 54 megawatts of power which can cover a huge portion of Lusaka’s domestic consumption. Would it not make sense for Zesco to invest that money in more solar energy?

Like we have stated, Zesco has not done a good job explaining the rationale behind this move. If Zesco does not explain how it intends to profit from this move, the catch would be that the bosses want to steal from the supply contract of the so-called smart metres. That is how we would interpret such a bad decision. If Zesco will not profit from this investment and the consumers would not make profit from it either, it means a few pockets have been lined up for gratification. We don’t believe this is an act of dullness, it’s a shameless decision with criminal intent. Someone wants to steal from the US\$40 million deal.

Crossword puzzle No 636

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

“Do not let arrogance go to your head and despair to your heart; do not let compliments go to your head and criticisms to your heart; do not let success go to your head and failure to your heart.”
- Roy T. Bennet

- Across**
1. Sum
4. Dole or Marley
6. Rip off
7. Some sculptures
8. Took off
9. Quite a few
12. Raring to go
14. Petroleum
16. Bathroom fixture
17. Whole wheat or rye
- Down**
1. Black sticky substance
2. Dining surface
3. Connection
4. Abbott, Lou's partner
5. Overly assertive
8. Naval force
10. Discuss loudly
11. Catch
13. Shoot the breeze
15. Unhappy

Crossword puzzle No 635

1	B	E	G	I	N		4	B	U	D
	R		A		5	A	I	R		U
7	E	S	S	A	Y		8	I	C	E
	A					S		D		
9	K	I	10	S	S		11	B	E	A
										12
			M			13	F			R
14	P	E	A			15	R	A	N	G
	E		17	R	I	O		E		A
18	Z	I	T			19	G	R	E	A

Readers' Feedback

Sangwa's 'ready' petition against Lungu's nomination

Editor,

"We as Zambians must stand up to defend our Constitution, which we say we give ourselves. if I may remind everyone reading this comment.I quote, 'We the Zambian people give ourselves this CONSTITUTION'. So let us speak out if someone or something wants to disrespect our birth right". - Philip Mbewe

"After the bible, the constitution is the most sacred document, people should not treat it like regalia or toilet paper which any one can use to suit the selfish political ambitions. This is a noble fight and only

fools would oppose it". - Richard Waga

"Let's unite together to save our Constitution, the main reason why bill 10 is being pushed from left-right and center, it has nothing to do with improve our welfare. It's a shame that the whole bunch of ignorant MPs in PF have thrown all their efforts to ensure the evil bill goes through". - Keith Moono

"Whether it is he or another... The entire party is not making it at that time, let him stand it's

ok!" - Mercy Mwanza

"I foresee PF with no candidate in 2021, because if one petitions a candidate on legitimacy issues he or she should be suspended until the case is disposd off by the courts". - Reagan Reaner Ng'andu

"If the PF are not careful, they will end up without a candidate next year". - Peter Mmembe

"You deserve to be the justice minister sir..." - Mutinta S Tintoz

"Yakosa, people must respect the constitution and its people. So ECZ get ready too". - Victor Malama

"You don't mention that State Counsel. These criminals will come and arrest you on trumped up charges, confiscate your laptops and that's it. You are dealing with Mafias. Don't mention where you keep your important data". - Joséf Banda

"This is Sangwa. Our Constitutional Lawyer". - Sydney Mwansa



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Milingo's lies over KCM paying CEC after sale of mine

Editor,

"Since Government has done what I can call a hostile take over of CEC infrastructure why not let KCM pay all the outstanding dues to CEC, then let Zesco supply free power to KCM, until the mine is sold, kaili you want free things! But pay CEC what is due". - Ngambi Stanford

"Let the Konkola Copper Mines provisional liquidator, Mr Milingo Lungu, provide legal

documents to prove that indeed CEC had agreed to be paid the money it is owed by KCM after KCM sale. I am more than sure that such a big deal could not have been agreed to without legal documents". - Roy Chabala

"More drama. This country really needs to be brought back to ORDER where only honest men and women are put in decision making positions. You can't have development with so much dishonesty as the modus operandi". - Mike Phiri

Lungu's directive for bars and night clubs to remain closed until there's favourable weather conditions

Dear editor,

"So the weather conditions of those operating in markets and foreign owned bars are favourable compared to the weather for local Zambian bar owners? Asking on behalf of a friend. Just go to the markets people don't sanitize, there are limited masks etc people have moved on". - Ngambi Stanford

"I don't agree with you ba President. Our statistics on corona are really not that terrible to warrant continued closure of business houses. We have 85% recoveries and fewer deaths in comparison to a lot of Countries when you analyze the statistics. People are deprived of their livelihood out there in a number of sectors of the economy. Just

do what Msgufuli did, but with a cautious approach of being mindful that the disease is still out there. People will now start dying from hunger rather than corona. What I saw on TV in the UK shocked me. People were at Bournemouth beach in thousands. People are tired of just sitting around, and afterall cases are winding down". - Nick Ndawa

"Truth be told bars are already open. It's just the music that remains to be switched on". - Shi

Chilambe

"I guess the weather is favorable for the foreign nationals operating bars right now". - Teddy Deogratius Malunga II

"But we all know that people in rural areas are still operating". - Jabez Yerred

"I guess he has not been to Soweto market". - Geoffrey Chiwaya

Mwiimbu's vow to defend Constitution from illegal amendments

Dear editor,

"Lawmakers swear to promote, protect and defend the constitution as MP Jack Mwiimbu says and not what MP Brian Mundubile says could be done without due process". - David M Mwanangombe

"These people misbehaving in parliament like Lubinda and Mundubile always run away when invited to debate with the likes of Linda, Sangwa or Mwiimbu, because they know they are a fraud. Mundubile and Lubinda are the biggest constitutional fraudsters in our history, making non-existent rules to push an illegitimate document". - Richard Waga

"Lawyers and indeed parliamentarians are not above the law! One of the

principles that govern law making is that laws cannot be applied retrogressively (backwards). Meaning if parliament wants to amend the laws governing law making, to remove the 6 months lifespan, that only applies to bills tabled before the house after the ammendment and knowing that bill 10 died on 4.06.20, that amendment that was passed by the standing committee does not apply! This level of lawlessness under Lulu, Matibini and Mambilima, all lawyers is unfortunate!" - Thomas Sankara

"If bill 10 goes through PF will fight with the people on the streets of Lusaka and that will be the end of Lungu because we will ask him to resign. My advise to PF is forget bill 10 if you want peace with the people". - Otto Mutez Tez



EU excludes United States from ‘safe’ travel list

THE European Union has excluded the United States from its initial “safe list” of countries from which the bloc will allow non-essential travel from Wednesday.

The 27-member bloc gave approval on Tuesday to leisure or business travel from 14 countries beyond its borders, the Council of the EU, which represents EU governments, said in a statement.

The countries are Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

China has also been provisionally approved, although travel would only open up if Chinese authorities also allowed in EU visitors. Reciprocity is a condition of being on the list.

Russia, Brazil and Turkey, along with the United States, are among countries whose containment of the virus is considered worse than that of the EU average and so will have to wait at least two weeks. The bloc will carry out fortnightly reviews.

The move is aimed at supporting the EU travel industry and tourist destinations, particularly countries in southern Europe hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The list needed a “qualified majority” of EU countries to be passed, meaning 15 EU countries representing 65% of the population.

It acts as a recommendation to EU members, meaning they could potentially set restrictions on those entering from the 14 nations and will almost certainly not allow access to travellers from other countries.

The EU’s efforts to reopen internal borders, particularly among the 26-nation Schengen area which normally has no frontier checks, have been patchy as various countries have restricted access for certain visitors.

Greece is mandating COVID-19 tests for arrivals from a range of EU countries, including France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, with self-isolation until results are known.

The Czech Republic is not allowing in tourists from Portugal and Sweden.

British residents can also travel to many EU countries, although non-essential travellers to Britain are required to self-isolate for 14 days. *Reuters*

Inovio’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate shows promise in small early-stage trial

AN experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc (INO.O) showed promise and was found to be safe in an early-stage human trial, the company said on Tuesday.

The vaccine, one of the 17 being tested in humans and part of the Trump administration’s “Operation Warp Speed” program, induced “immune responses” in healthy volunteers, Inovio said.

Immune responses in the study were measured by the vaccine’s ability to generate binding antibodies, or virus-neutralizing antibodies, and T-cell responses - considered the two most important metrics for a successful vaccine.

Based on preliminary data, the drug developer said 34 of the 36 volunteers, all aged between 18 and 50 years, showed overall immunological response rates and most of the 10 patients with side-effects experienced only redness at the site of the shot.

The company said it planned to begin a mid-to-early stage study in summer.

Shares of the company, however, fell 7% to \$29.35, as investors were expecting more detailed data from the trial. The stock has gained nearly 900% this year on bets of a successful coronavirus vaccine.

“We believe this preliminary data is likely to raise more questions on the competitive immunogenicity front and limits our ability to get more-constructive on Inovio’s shares based on this limited disclosure alone,” said Stifel analyst Stephen Wiley.

Governments, drugmakers and researchers are working on hundreds of experimental vaccines and drugs to treat COVID-19, which has killed more than 500,000 people worldwide.

The World Health Organization has picked vaccine candidates of Astrazeneca (AZN.L) and Moderna Inc (MRNA.O) as the world’s leading and most advanced ones among more than 200 candidates.

Inovio said in May its experimental vaccine produced protective antibodies and immune system responses in mice and guinea pigs.

Earlier this month, Inovio received grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to scale up production of devices used to administer its experimental vaccine. *Reuters*

Flu virus with ‘pandemic potential’ found in China

A NEW strain of flu that has the potential to become a pandemic has been identified in China by scientists.

It emerged recently and is carried by pigs, but can infect humans, they say.

The researchers are concerned that it could mutate further so that it can spread easily from person to person, and trigger a global outbreak.

While it is not an immediate problem, they say, it has “all the hallmarks” of being highly adapted to infect humans and needs close monitoring.

As it’s new, people could have little or no immunity to the virus.

The scientists write in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that measures to control the virus in pigs, and the close monitoring of swine industry workers, should be swiftly implemented.

Pandemic threat

A bad new strain of influenza is among the top disease threats that experts are watching for, even as the world attempts to bring to an end the current coronavirus pandemic.

The last pandemic flu the world encountered - the swine flu outbreak of 2009 - was less deadly than initially feared, largely because many older people had some immunity to it, probably because of its similarity to other flu viruses that had circulated years before.

That virus, called A/H1N1pdm09, is now covered by the annual flu vaccine to make sure people are protected.

The new flu strain that has been identified in China is similar to 2009 swine flu, but with some new changes.

So far, it hasn’t posed a big threat, but Prof Kin-Chow Chang and colleagues who have been studying it, say it is one to keep an eye on.

How worried should we be?

The virus, which the researchers call G4 EA H1N1, can grow and multiply in the cells that line the human airways.

They found evidence of recent infection in people who worked in abattoirs and the swine industry in China when they looked at data from 2011 to 2018.

Current flu vaccines do not appear to protect against it, although they could be adapted to do so if needed.

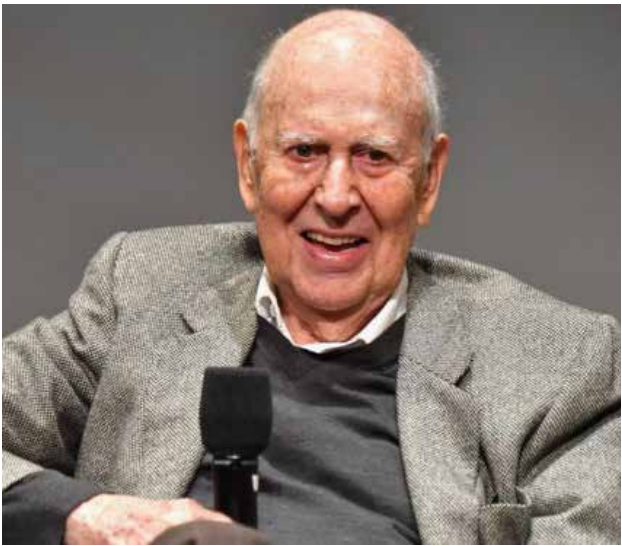
Prof Kin-Chow Chang, who works at Nottingham University in the UK, told the BBC: “Right now we are distracted with coronavirus and rightly so. But we must not lose sight of potentially dangerous new viruses.”

While this new virus is not an immediate problem, he says: “We should not ignore it.”

In theory, a flu pandemic could occur at any time, but they are still rare events. Pandemics happen if a new strain emerges that can easily spread from person to person.

Although flu viruses are constantly changing - which is why the flu vaccine also needs to change regularly to keep up - they do not usually go pandemic.

Prof James Wood, head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge, said the work “comes as a salutary reminder” that we are constantly at risk of new emergence of pathogens, and that farmed animals, with which humans have greater contact than with wildlife, may act as the source for important pandemic viruses. *BBC*



Comedy star Carl Reiner dies at 98

The prolific writer, comedian, director and actor also directed several films including Steve Martin vehicles The Jerk (1979) and All of Me (1984).

He was in 2001’s Ocean’s Eleven and its two sequels as conman Saul Bloom, and had a double act with Mel Brooks.

He died of natural causes on Monday at his home in Beverly Hills, his assistant Judy Nagy confirmed.

Reiner also acted in films such as The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming (1966).

He was a close friend of fellow sketchwriter Brooks, and the pair found a new audience with their 2000 Year Old Man routines, which spawned books and an animated TV special.

Reiner’s agent recently posted a picture of the pair supporting the Black Lives Matter movement along with Reiner’s daughter.

In his 90s, virtually every day in Beverly Hills, Reiner met with Brooks, after they both lost their wives, and they would sit on Reiner’s sofa watching movies, telling jokes and recalling a lifetime of comedy.

Reiner started acting in the US army during World War Two. In the 1950s, fellow writers on Your Show of Shows included Brooks and Neil Simon, creating a combination of silliness and satire. *BBC*



Xavi admits preparing to coach Barca

XAVI has revealed his staff are preparing “a lot” to coach Barcelona as the Camp Nou great eyes a return.

The current Al-Sadd boss was linked with the Barca vacancy earlier this year when the Liga champions sacked Ernesto Valverde, before they turned to Quique Setien in January.

Barca have struggled to convince this season – the title holders now two points behind bitter rivals Real Madrid in the race for La Liga glory with six matches remaining.

While outlining his future plans for Barca, the 40-year-old insisted he will not come back unless he has the control to make decisions.

“The biggest hope I have now is to be Barca coach and get Barca back to winning ways,” Xavi, who has led Al-Sadd to Qatari Super Cup and Qatar Cup silverware, said via Sport.

“Not me but these players and Barca triumphing. And as a consequence, our technical staff, who are preparing for it a lot and it makes us really excited.”

Xavi, who won 25 trophies during his playing

career with Barca, added: “I’m a club man. I would like to return at the right moment to start a project from zero.

“I’ve said it a lot of times but I want to take footballing decisions at Barcelona.

“It’s clear that after the elections the stage would be set, of course. I’m not ruling anything out.

“They came for me in January, we were speaking. I told them the circumstances and timing weren’t right.”

Barcelona’s next presidential election will take place in the summer of 2021 – usually a date in June – with current leader Josep Maria Bartomeu not seeking re-election.

Xavi’s former team-mate Juan Antonio Pizzi believes the club legend is the ‘future of Barcelona’ and he is destined to return to his roots as coach when the right opportunity presents itself.

“I think he evaluated the situation very well – there is the fact that he would be coaching former team-mates – but also the fact that he would be going home perhaps without the experience of having managed in La Liga,” Pizzi



said. “I think that led him to take the decision that he eventually took, to say: ‘Give me some time. I want to coach Barcelona and I think I’m prepared to do it but I think I have to develop myself a little bit more.’

“I am absolute convinced that the future of Xavi and the future of Barcelona will come together at one point, I don’t know if in two years or five years or eight years but Xavi is going to be Barcelona coach, there is no doubt about that.” **GOAL**

Aubameyang has Arsenal in a corner, says Parlour



RAY Parlour is desperate to see Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang sign a new Arsenal contract – but has told the striker that ‘no-one is bigger than the club’ as doubts over his future grow.

Aubameyang only has one year left on his current deal at the Emirates and admitted in a recent interview that he had yet to decide whether he would extend his stay in north London.

“I have not received a proposal recently, but we have had discussions with the club for quite a few months,” the Gabon international told TF1’s Telefoot programme. “The board know very well why nothing has happened so far. They have the key. It’s up to them to do their job and then we’ll see how

it goes. “It’s a turning point in my career and, to be frank with everyone, this will be a very difficult decision to make. But beware, I haven’t made my choice yet. It will be perhaps the most important decision of my career.”

Barcelona have been linked with a possible move for Aubameyang this summer, while Inter are another club who are believed to be keeping a close eye on his situation.

Mikel Arteta has publicly stated his desire to keep the forward ‘at all costs’ but, with the coronavirus pandemic crippling clubs’ finances, Arsenal might be forced to accept an offer, should a bid for their captain arrive once the transfer window opens.

Gunners legend Parlour – who won three league titles with the club and made a record 333 Premier League appearances – hopes an agreement can be found but admits that Arsenal have now been put into a corner by the striker, who has full control over the situation.

“Mikel will sit down with him and say, ‘we desperately want to keep you at the club,’” Parlour told Goal.

“But as a player, if he doesn’t want to stay and says he wants Champions League football, you’ve then got to make a big decision.

“No-one is bigger than the club, I know he is a very important player and I would love to see him stay, but the players have got the power now.” **GOAL**

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Boarding Time: 30mins before departure time

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THE next edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (Afc) has been postponed by 12 months, the Confederation of African Football (Caf) confirmed in their Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday.

The 33rd edition of the biennial tournament was due to begin in Cameroon on January 9, 2021, but has now been pushed back to January 2022 due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across the continent.

Goal understands that Caf's concerns about the ability to fit in the outstanding qualifiers before the intended start date of January 2021 are behind the decision to postpone the 24-team tournament, although African football's governing body has not announced whether the 34th edition of the tournament—scheduled for Ivory Coast in 2023—will also be pushed back.

On Thursday, Fifa announced that September's international football window

CAF POSTPONES AFCON TO 2022

would be cancelled for all territories outside Europe and South America, denying Africa a critical window in which to play some of the outstanding four rounds of qualification.

While Caf could play some of the outstanding qualifiers in the October-November international window, this would impact the World Cup qualifying campaign, where the five qualifying teams must

play in eight qualifiers before the Qatar tournament in late 2022.

Algeria are the reigning African champions, having defeated Senegal 1-0 in the 2019 final in Cairo.

The Africa Cup of Nations was long held during January and February, but moved to a June-July schedule ahead of the 2019 event, with newly elected president Ahmad Ahmad keen to avoid the club-

vs-country disputes that often overshadowed a tournament being played during the European winter.

However, the 2021 tournament's dates have already been moved once, with the original June-July 2021 dates brought forward to January due to the unfavourable climate in Cameroon during the summer months.

Caf also confirmed

the 2020 African Nations Championship—the biennial tournament for home-based players—will be played next year, having originally been scheduled for April 2020.

The Chan—which was also due to be held in Cameroon—had been indefinitely postponed due to the onset of Covid-19.

Caf's decision comes after Uefa pushed the 2020 European Championships

back by 12 months, while the 2020 Copa America has also been shunted back to a 2021 start date.

Also announced during the meeting, Caf has revealed that the semi-finals of their two continental club competitions—the Champions League and Confederation Cup—will be one-legged affairs moving forward, rather than the home-and-away ties previously. **GOAL**

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

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