



UP CLOSE WITH DPP SIYUNYI SC

“Sometimes there can be no evidence but it’s in public interest to prosecute, and vice versa”

By Mirriam Chabala and Sipilisiwe Ncube

DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Lillian Siyunyi, State Counsel, says prosecuting corruption cases can be a complex task, explaining that “sometimes there can be no evidence but it is in public interest to prosecute”.

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We’ll deal with Rwanda issue diplomatically, says Chipampe as Challenger jets into Kigali

By Julia Malunga

STATE House says it has initiated diplomatic engagement with the Government of Rwanda to deal with allegations linking President Edgar Lungu to a rebel movement in that country that claims to have received funding from the Zambian leader to overthrow President Paul Kagame’s regime.

In a statement, Thursday, President Lungu’s Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe said State House was concerned that the public in Zambia had escalated speculation around allegations linking President Lungu to terrorist financing in Rwanda, despite his office refuting the claims.

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UPND MPs were in order to walk out on Bill 10, rules Speaker

By Mirriam Chabala

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini says UPND members of parliament, who walked out of the House when Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 was being considered three weeks ago, were not out of order.

Dr Matibini has, however, said, even though walkouts in themselves do not amount to a breach of parliamentary practice and procedures, they deny the electorate of their full representation in the House.

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Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Operations Bonnie Kapeso assisted by other police officers remove PF cadre Mwelwa Chama out of the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court Complex yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chitalu denies corruption charges

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has cautioned Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya against going with his

sympathizers to court after the minister pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of properties suspected to be proceeds of crime.

And three suspected PF cadres were

yesterday roughed up by Zambia Police officers, led by their Deputy Inspector General Bonny Kapeso, after they attempted to force themselves into the premises.

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How Honeybee Pharmacy was awarded ZAMRA licence after failing inspection

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Chitalu denies corruption charges, as police clobber PF cadres



Dr Chitalu Chilufya confers with his lawyers at Lusaka Magistrates Court yesterday

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has cautioned Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya against going with his sympathizers to court after the minister pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of properties suspected to be proceeds of crime.

And three suspected PF cadres were yesterday roughed up by Zambia Police officers, led by their Deputy Inspector General Bonny Kapeso, after they attempted to force themselves into the premises.

Meanwhile, Kapeso says all the cadres who were beaten got what they deserved because they were forewarned.

The Police officers arrived early and sealed off the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court and all roads leading to the complex.

The officers, who were armed in riot gear, were restricting entry to the premises and searched vehicles to stop PF cadres from accessing the premises in light of the confusion which characterised Dr Chilufya’s previous court appearance.

Before Dr Chilufya arrived at court, a PF cadre drove straight into the court premises ignoring the police who asked him to stop so that he could be scanned.

After entering the premises, some officers ran towards his vehicle and forcefully removed him from the driver’s seat.

He was made to seat down for a few seconds before being led to a police vehicle.

The cadre was then bundled into a police vehicle and was ordered to lie down whilst being kicked and hit.

He was then taken to Kabwata Police Station.

Few minutes later, two other suspected cadres who attempted to enter the premises were equally beaten and taken to Kabwata police station.

Whilst being led to the vehicle, one was heard saying he was at court for his own case.

And once in court, magistrate Mwale read out the four charges to Dr Chilufya to which he said he understood.

Dr Chilufya then pleaded not guilty on all counts.

After entering pleas of not guilty and adjourning the matter to August 4, 2020 for commencement of trial, magistrate Mwale cautioned Dr Chilufya against going with his sympathizers to court in view of the COVID-19 guidelines which allows only a few people at court.

“Before we adjourn this matter, let me caution the accused as regards to your sympathisers. As the judiciary, we have guidelines which we follow in view of the COVID-19. We don’t want a lot of people coming here. Ask your sympathisers to stay home, your lawyers are here to handle the case,” said magistrate Mwale.

Meanwhile, speaking to journalists after the case was adjourned, Kapeso thanked the cadres who adhered to the message from

Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja to stay away from court.

He, however, said those who were beaten got what they deserved.

“Through the office of the Inspector General of Police and on behalf of the Inspector General of Police Mr Kakoma Kanganja, we would like to thank all the cadres for adhering to the message from the IG to stay away from court sessions. We are grateful that you the press are also here, and we do not see any confusion as for today. We promise that this spirit we have started will continue until the matter is disposed accordingly,” Kapeso said.

“Well, we warned them in advance that if you misbehave, you will not blame us. I think what they have gotten is what they deserved. We are not here to play. We want to respect the institutions of governance and people must also respect the police. We deserve respect at all times. And the issue of cadres taking the law into their own hands, they will reap what they deserve.”

Asked if people would see more of security at court premises, Kapeso said, “that will be determined according to circumstances. If the circumstances do demand that people are unruly, officers also have to behave in the manner that suits the circumstances.”

In this matter, Dr Chilufya has been charged with four charges of possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime contrary to section 71(1) of the forfeiture of proceeds of Crime Act no. 19 of the 2010 of the Laws of Zambia.

In the first count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown but between December 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017 in Lusaka possessed US\$200,000 which was used to purchase 6,000 shares in Samfya Marines and Tourism Services Limited from Den Daas Investment Zambia Limited, property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

In the second count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown but between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 in Lusaka possessed K270,000 cash which was used to purchase 2,000 shares in Samfya Marines and and Tourism Services Limited from Leo Jonas Ngosa Investment Limited, property suspected of being proceeds of crime.

In the third count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on an unknown date but between January 1, 2018 and December 30, 2019 possessed K3,000,000 which was used to purchase Lot No. 365/366 also known as Spark Guest House situated in Mansa district of Luapula Property, property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime.

In the last count, it is alleged that Dr Chilufya on a date unknown but between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 in Lusaka possessed US\$52,000 which was used to purchase a passenger boat also known as Transport 32 from Smart Own FZE of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu says he will soon conduct random door to door visits to his ministers’ homes to check on what farming activities they are doing to supplement food security in their abodes.

And President Lungu says the country is losing a lot of revenue due to the continued importation of fish as the country still has a deficit of over 80,000 tons of fish.

Speaking when he inspected some fish ponds at State House, Thursday, President Lungu said he would soon conduct door to door visits to his ministers’ homes to see whether they were farming.

“This is an industry which can be a game changer in people’s lives, even in households. I will take you around one of these days to Mr Kampyongo’s home where he is doing some fish farming and a few others [like] Honorable Jean Kakapa. I will be going from door to door to check on

I’ll visit ministers’ homes to check if they’re farming - Lungu

what my ministers are doing in terms of supplementing their domestic food security. So, you can see that there is a lot that we can do. We can keep birds, chickens, ducks quails including pigs, goats and so on, just a few for the home. You can keep cows for the milk. For me, there is a lot we can do in the backyard. So, we will be visiting spontaneously and randomly to see what my friends are doing because we agreed on this one a long time ago. Growing vegetables in the backyard, cabbages, this is what I would like to see,” President Lungu said.

And President Lungu said the country still had a shortage of over 80,000 tons of fish.

“Currently we have a deficit in excess of 80, 000 plus tons of fish. And this for us is loss of revenue for the Republic of Zambia including loss of jobs, we are creating jobs for other people outside the country where we are importing the fish. So, I think that if we can meet that deficit of 80, 000 plus tons of fish, a lot of people will have jobs created, there will be improved nutrition in families and generally we will save some money, the much needed foreign exchange that we are using to import the fish,” said President Lungu.

UPND MPs were in order to walk out on Bill 10, rules Speaker

By Mirriam Chabala

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini says UPND members of parliament, who walked out of the House when Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 was being considered three weeks ago, were not out of order.

Dr Matibini has, however, sai, even though walkouts in themselves do not amount to a breach of parliamentary practice and procedures, they deny the electorate of their full representation in the House.

Speaking when he rendered a ruling on the point of order raised by Lupososhi PF member of parliament Chungu Bwalya on whether or not UPND members of parliament were in order to have walked out of the House when a matter as important as Bill 10 was being considered, Dr Matibini said a walkout was a means through which MPs expressed their displeasure.

“Honourable members will recall that on 24th June 2020, when was House was considering the report of the committee on media, information communication technologies and the honourable member of parliament for Chama Mr D. Mung’ambu MP was debating, Mr L.C Bwalya MP, Northern Province Minister raised on a point of order in the following terms and I quote: ‘Mr Speaker, I recognize the fact that we have

an opportunity as members of parliament to converse outside and to be able to walk out of Parliament. Mr Speaker my point of order is about the UPND members of parliament; at least where I am here in the theater Mr Speaker, all of them stood up and walked out. That left me wondering what is it is going on whether or not these honourable members of parliament are here to represent their electorate out there and perform their functions as legislators and promote the governance that we the Zambians have enshrined in our Constitution,” Dr Matibini recounted.

“...Mr Speaker, are the honourable members of parliament from the UPND in order to walk out of the chamber, the theater and indeed I want to presume other areas where they are sitting just immediately we begin deliberating after a long kind of a holiday due to COVID-19? Are they in order Mr Speaker to deny their electorate a chance to hear them and also to not allow themselves to participate in the affairs of this country? I need your serious ruling Mr Speaker.’ In my immediate reaction to the point of order, I reserved my ruling to enable me investigate the matter and render an informed ruling. I have since studied the matter and I am now ready to render my ruling.”

Dr Matibini said the



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini

UPND members of parliament were in order to have walked out of parliament because a walkout is a conventional means through which a member or members can express their displeasure on a matter before the House.

“A walkout is a conventional means through which a member or members can express his or her or their displeasure on a matter before the House. I also wish to point out that although the practice of walkouts is common in most Parliaments worldwide; it has, however, adverse effects namely; it deprives the electorate of representation during the subsistence of the walkout. In this regard, in a ruling I rendered on Tuesday, 24th November, 2015, on a point of order that was raised by the [then] honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing, honourable S. Kampyongo MP against UPND members of parliament on Thursday 19th October, 2015 found in the National Assembly Parliamentary debates of 18th September to 10th December, 2015 at pages 1868 to 1871, I started inter alia as follows and I quote: ‘let me hasten to point to out that while it is conventional for members to walk out of the chamber for political or other reasons, this practice nevertheless has unfortunate tendency of denying the electorate their representation in the House’, end of quote. Therefore honourable members, I wish to reiterate that walkouts in themselves do not amount to a breach of the rules of the House or indeed parliamentary practice and procedure albeit they deny the electorate of their representation in the House. In view of the forgoing, the honourable members of the UPND who walked of the House were not out of order, I thank you,” ruled Dr Matibini.



**WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY,
BUT IT'S THE GOVERNMENT
WE ARE AFRAID OF.**



PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE UPND

PHOTO FOCUS



Police apprehend a suspected PF cadre when Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya appeared at the Lusaka Magistrates Court yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Deputy Inspector General of police in charge of Operation Bonnie Kapeso assisted by other police officers remove PF cadre Mwelwa Chama out of the magistrate court complex at the Lusaka Magistrates Court yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



A suspected PF cadre is taken to Kabwata police Station after he was apprehended at Lusaka Magistrates Court premises when Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya appeared yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



By Ulande Nkomesha

UPND Lukulu East member of parliament Dr Christopher Kalila has called for the closure of Parliament and for all MPs to be quarantined, following the rising number of COVID-19 cases at the National Assembly.

In an interview, Dr Kalila, who is also UPND health and nutrition chairman, bemoaned the lack of information being given out to MPs on the rising cases at the National Assembly.

“My view is that the public health guidelines are extremely very clear; for every positive case, there are contacts and those contacts must immediately go into quarantine but it is not happening at Parliament. So, that is questionable. Why it is like that? Because it is not rumours, it was a press statement that was given yesterday that three Parliamentarians actually tested positive and I am assuming that they are in quarantine wherever they are. The first point of concern I have is that why should the Parliamentary management have to issue a press statement before they even

Close Parley, quarantine all MPs – Kalila

tell us?” Dr Kalila wondered.

“Of course it was a rumour from other people talking but as a member of parliament, we were all constrained in raising alarm because it was not yet mentioned to us. These days, people always say ‘where is the evidence?’, but now that the management itself has given out the statement to that effect, it calls for concern that why [aren’t] all of us members of parliament not going for quarantine? Because we have been exposed to those colleagues of ours who have not been named of course but the fact that they are MPs, we have been mixing with them. So we have all been exposed and at best, we need to know whether we are positive or not, which means we need to test! All of us should be tested. Currently, the rules are that if you are a contact, you need to go for 14 days in isolation but that has not happened.”

He insisted that keeping

Parliament open was a public health risk.

“Some of us don’t stay at the motel, we stay at home so we go and come back home. Every visit I take to Parliament, when I come back I am exposing my family. Ideally, I should have been in quarantine right now as I speak to you. All of us including, Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, everyone, we are at risk and we have been exposed and we must be in quarantine. There are also rumours and speculations that two people have died and that was not reported to you guys,

I don’t know why but you must have heard of it. The fact that there are two deaths and those 19 cases as of two to three days ago, today there can be more. So, there is transmission happening there at the National Assembly and spiraled out of control and the right way is to send all of us into quarantine. All of us from Parliament must walk into quarantine centers, to protect public health,” he said.

“The question is those three MPs, which contacts did they give? Obviously they should have given us who have

been interacting with them but why are we scot free and walking around freely? People are insisting that because of social distancing and masking, they are insisting that we can continue with the new normal but tell me how effective are these measures? We were masking there in Parliament but look where we are? Remember WHO have also said it is airborne disease, so the moment you just take out your mask and you are talking, there you are breathing from the air. For me it is a straightforward thing close,

quarantine and test to protect citizens.”

Dr Kalila called on the Ministry of Health to be consistent and hold regular COVID-19 updates.

“Briefings once a week were good because they were always giving out information to the public. One of the reasons that people are taking it lightly is that they have stopped getting the messages as they used to. For human beings they tend to think that maybe this thing is over that is why some people even question. So, those messages should be brought back at a time it is heightened like this, in fact it should be daily,” said Dr Kalila.

UPND won’t have it easy in PF strongholds – Sunday

By Mirriam Chabala

THE UPND should not expect to have it easy in the PF’s strongholds when its supporters have been violent and intolerant towards ruling party members, says PF media director Sunday Chanda.

And Chanda says constitutional lawyer John Sangwa State Counsel is just looking for relevance by suggesting that the PF should “rent a crowd to boo Hichilema if they were aggrieved with the booing of President Edgar Lungu by Monze residents.”

In an interview, Chanda urged UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema to decide whether or not he would like to be given a taste of his own medicine in PF strongholds, charging that the UPND were mistaken if they expected the ruling party to stay quiet, while being abused.

“The Patriotic Front is not going to join the UPND in its race to the bottom! We believe that when the UPND goes low, we have a duty as a party that is in power to go higher. So, we will not fall for the UPND’s race to the bottom; we will not join them in their quest to reduce debate to a matter of booing someone you disagree with. And for Mr Sangwa’s information, the Patriotic Front has numbers; PF is a mass movement, it does not need to hire any crowd whatsoever. The party is under very strict instructions from the President not to retaliate, but to remain focused on showing that we are better than the UPND and we don’t need to replicate what happened in Monze and use that against Mr Hakainde Hichilema because Zambia has principled men and women, sensible young people in our population and those are in the majority and when they look at an incident, such as the one that happened in Monze, the sensible ones, those with a gift of knowledge

will look at such an incident and laugh at the UPND,” Chanda argued.

“The UPND have not, as a matter of fact, gotten anything out of booing the Head of State. As a matter of fact, Zambians with good sense of judgement and wisdom have looked at what the UPND did in Monze and they all have agreed that that was a low blow. However, we are not shocked when Mr Sangwa pronounces himself on a matter that has been condemned, even by their royal highnesses in Southern Province. If Mr Sangwa believes that even their royal highnesses are hallucinating when they condemn the incident that happened in Monze, then we don’t know how else we can help the situation because, clearly, we have a situation where probably the Sangwa we are dealing with is a shadow of his former self!”

And Chanda warned that the UPND would not have it easy in ruling party strongholds if they did not stop violence in their own strongholds.

“Politics is not going to be reduced to a business of booing and staging a booing!

The UPND, once again, are tempted to do that, and they organized to boo the Head of State in Western Province just on his recent visit to the province. But they were scared of the numbers [of PF], so that was why it could not work. So, it’s a mind-set in the UPND, but it is not helping them and that is not going to help them going forward,” said Chanda.

“What we will not do, however, if the UPND and Mr Hakainde Hichilema think they are going to have it easy in PF strongholds when they exhibit violence and intolerance against the PF in their strongholds, then they are mistaken. So, it is up to Mr Hakainde Hichilema to decide whether he wants PF strongholds to give him a taste of his own medicine, the ball is in his court! For the first time, we would expect that Mr Hichilema should be magnanimous enough and show character and leadership by condemning what happened in Monze, he mustn’t be lied to by frustrated voices, such as that of Mr Sangwa. Mr Sangwa is looking for relevance, we all know what our brother has gone through, so he is looking for relevance.”

without any commitment and that continued engagement will depend on the Zambian government’s actions and policies in the revision of the 2020 budget.

And Prof Saasa says the fact that Zambia has opted to restructure its debt means it has technically defaulted, making it difficult for the country to source financing to cover the K26.9 billion financing gap in the 2020 budget.

In an interview, Prof Saasa observed that the IMF’s statement released, Wednesday, revealed that the Fund had “not moved an inch” in bringing hope towards the conclusion of an agreeable, much-needed economic programme with Zambia.

“The IMF statement suggests that the negotiations did end up without any IMF commitment (a polite way of meaning that the discussions collapsed and that continued engagement will depend on government actions and policies that are yet to be defined as they relate to the revision of the 2020 budget and the medium-term fiscal stance. In the IMF’s own words: ‘Discussions will continue as the authorities (i.e. GRZ) determine their policies and priorities in the formulation of the revised 2020 budget, as well as the medium-term fiscal stance needed to restore debt sustainability, revive growth and lower poverty.’ To the extent that these policies and stances are yet to be known, it would seem as if the IMF has not moved an inch in bringing hope towards the conclusion of an agreeable programme with Zambia,” Prof Saasa observed.

IMF talks collapsed with no deal - Saasa

And Prof Saasa said a reduction in revenue generation was expected to be sustained due to low productivity in the economy.

Zambia’s budget deficit has leaped to K17.2 billion from K14.8 billion announced in April, induced by a reduction in economic activity, according to the Ministry of Finance.

“...Now, because of that, then it means the shortfall will keep on increasing to the extent that the tax revenue is dwindling and productivity, output on the average has come down. Whether you are talking about those in production, those processing, but also in services. So, services you can think of transportation, movement has actually been curtailed significantly. You’ve seen services like banking, yes, it’s still there, but you’ve seen hotels, a number of them, especially the major ones have closed down; the likes of Intercontinental and Pamodzi, because tourists are not coming in. Flights, I mean, the air travel business, tourism, generally, it has been significantly affected. So, tourism was contributing quite significantly to the Treasury and these are the sectors that are not the major shortfalls. If anything, government, now, has to find money, what we call stimulus packages, to give to the industry that were supposed to be giving us money, as government, but now, we are giving them money so that they do not collapse completely to a level where post-COVID-19, when things calm down, we hope it will be sooner than later, they will continue starting generating and paying tax,” he said.

“It may mean a number of things; firstly, of course, this was expected and the revenue generation as seen, there is a shortfall. So, you know what you expect from ZRA. ZRA, for a number of years, they would dictate that they’ve gone beyond their targets, but those targets were only sustainable to the extent that companies were paying tax and that tax collection was enhanced. Now, we are having two challenges: firstly, tax revenue comes down as a result of many companies struggling at the moment

because of COVID-19 and there are other things, other parts; for some tax payers, like the mines, there was a tax regime that was introduced in 2019 that still has brought in some major challenges between government and the miners. But of course, in the mining sector, which I am talking about, really, the major tax payers, we have challenges with KCM as you are aware, and of course, also with Mopani. So, even if the price of copper increases, we may not be able to cash in on a good price because output has slackened. So, when you combine that with the stressed economy as a result of the pandemic, you would understand that ZRA would not be able to cash in what they anticipated. So, essentially, on the revenue side, we have those challenges that are affecting our revenue base.”

He added that government’s decision to embark on debt restructuring indicated that Zambia had technically defaulted on its sovereign debt.

“The debt situation, as the Honourable Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng’andu) did indicate, it means that, actually, our credit levels, investors may not be very enthusiastic in coming here, with the COVID-19. That you may not be able to go to capital markets, for example, to borrow because you pay through your nose! In fact, that is not an option, we can’t go for another Eurobond, that’s not an option and even the IMF will not actually encourage that. At the moment, we are actually restructuring the debt, meaning that we have, for all intents and purpose, when you restructure the debt; it’s exactly as good as defaulting. It is actually defaulting and for the purpose of rating agencies, immediately you announce that you are restructuring, it means you have defaulted already as a default. So, we have technically defaulted and we are renegotiating to pay later. So, for the purpose of classification, our rating status would actually be affected as a default country. Because of that, it’s not easy to get money from the capital market, even from ordinary markets,” said Prof Saasa.

Airtel closes head office after staff member catches COVID-19

By Natasha Sakala

AIRTEL Networks Zambia Plc has announced that it’s head office has been closed down after one member of staff tested positive for COVID-19.

In a statement, Wednesday, Airtel head of corporate communications Yuyo Nachali-Kambikambi said that the head office would remain closed to members of staff and the general public until further notice.

“Airtel Networks Zambia Plc wishes to advise its customers and the general public that its’ Head Office situated on Stand 2375, Corner of Addis Ababa drive and Great East

Road, Lusaka has had to be closed due to one member of staff having tested positive for COVID 19. In line with the Ministry of Health Public Health guidelines and in order to curb the spread of the disease, our Head Office will remain closed both to the public and members of staff until further notice. Our staff will continue to be available electronically and customers are urged to visit our other service centres for any urgent assistance and encouraged to use self-help portals as well as do any monetary transactions using the Airtel Money service.#Be Smart #Be Safe,” read the statement.



PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE (PAC) Viva New Zambia!!!

Why we deserve your vote



CHANGE, POWER AND ALLIANCES!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

IN ORDER to ensure that we have an open discussion especially with our colleagues from the opposition, we want to state from the onset that we agree with the notion that any change is better than no change at all as there is definitely no hope in the PF. Any change will come with some level of hope as opposed to continuing with the PF government. However, it is also in our considered view that the excitement to just bring about any change must not overshadow the need to have difficult discussions about the merits and demerits of alliances. Lets not forget that 10 years ago our people who are calling for change now were then tired with the MMD and out of exctiment they did usher in the PF government and 10 years later its clear people want change again. So, the question that we should ask ourselves is that does any change make sense at all if after 5 years people will start shouting, we want change again?

On paper the opposition has some good candidates who seem to have good intentions for the country. We want to caution people that power has changed so many people who seemed to have had good intentions in the beginning. So, the point is that while we may really need change, we must ensure that at least in the 10 months ahead we pay more attention to all candidates that are aspiring for us to usher in the right leadership on August 12, 2021. Looking at the fact that we still have one year, my advice to all colleagues is that lets leave all Presidents of opposition parties to talk to as many people as possible and exercise their freedoms to aspire.

Power changes people. Power is power. Why do you think that some accomplished people in various careers still come and try a short at joining politics or becoming Presidents? Because power comes with a lot of privileges and some sense of being important and powerful. That's why people change, even those that were humble change. It comes with total security, the road is swept before you pass, you mingle with important people such as world leaders and business leaders, you can make quick money, you can employ relatives, you can fire people, you can squeeze businesses, you can squeeze your opponents, you can

make a lot of powerful decisions. Your word is final. So, when people get into power and see the many things, they can do which they couldn't do before, they start changing. They start focusing more on how to hold on to power than how to deliver the promises they made to the people. They start making decisions based on how to keep power not on how to develop a country. That's why people always ask, why do politicians change? Power changes them. The point is that the next 10 months must be good enough time to be sure of what kind of Zambia we really want and what kind of leader we truly want. The country won't develop if we keep asking for change every five years.

Coming into alliances is good to bring about change and yes PAC is open to enter an alliance with likeminded individuals depending on the conditions prevailing in March/April 2021. For now, it is important for us to grow our political party. And it is suicidal to enter an alliance now because that will give the enemy ammunition ahead of 2021. Shortly after we entered the alliance on constitutional reforms in 2019, we wrote an article on 13th December 2019 and we still stand with those words and here is an excerpt:

"Truth be told, an opposition alliance is not a guarantee for change in any election, but it is something that should be considered depending on the demands of the political climate that time towards an election. Because we must be alive to the fact that political climates change with time, the guy who is famous today is not guaranteed of being famous tomorrow. It's not a given. Hence, it will be suicidal for us to start marketing one brand as we go towards 2021, we must be smart, patient and tactical.

Being marketed under one brand today, will give the ruling party propaganda machine ammunition to make sure we are finished before we start. Hence, as we discussed we need for now to focus on the core issues of our coming together. Opposition political parties in this coalition must also work hard for their credibility. This will be key for each person to bring something on the table when the time is right. Each political party has influence over a certain demography, hence each political party will bring something to the table from a certain group. We will need different flavours come that time hence the need for all to go flat out and mobilize.

The people must support it. It must have a general buy in from members of the public. The

opposition political parties must work to upgrade their credibility, and this can only be done by individually continuously recruiting members and focusing on issues. It will not be called an alliance of opposition political parties if only one or two political parties bring members to the table. It is called, not by name only, but by the mere fact that each political party has numbers to bring to the table.

The People's Alliance for Change (PAC) is a political party that was formed to merge an alliance with the people. A true alliance with the people is one that puts the interest of the citizens ahead of itself. This is the only way the opposition's alliance whether on issues of common interest or in an election will be seen to be relevant. We also need to be alive to the fact that the country is in dire need of a shift in its political leadership. We cannot compromise the fact that a new generation of leaders must be entrusted with the running of this country if we have to achieve meaningful development and create jobs for the people and give a support base to small businesses." End of the excerpt and this is so true today.

For any alliance to work, parties must ensure that critical issues are addressed to avoid confusion once someone ascends to power. Alliances must not be used as job opportunities for lazy political party leaders who may not have the zeal to mobilize. Alliances must not be used as a strategy for so called established political parties to kill competition from other political parties. Change is critical in 2021 and it must happen possible. But by whatever means, lets ensure its real change, change that will transform the lives of the people as opposed to just employ another group of politicians who will start plundering once they realize how sweet power is.

As PAC we shall continue to aggressively engage the people to learn more of the plans we have for this country and there is no doubt for real change we are the best option. However, yes, we do agree that any change is better than no change. Whether PAC will be in alliance to ensure change or not, that will only be considered sometime next year. And for the record we are still confident that come 2021 we will be the people's choice in the elections as a revolution is looming.

**Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)**

By Mirriam Chabala and
Sipilisiwe Ncube

DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Lillian Siyunyi State Counsel says prosecuting corruption cases can be a complex task, explaining that “sometimes there can be no evidence but it is in public interest to prosecute”.

And Siyunyi has explained that the case of Amos Chanda and others has not finished as her office could be looking for alternative charges and other evidence, adding that in the case of Tourism Minister Ronald Chitotela, there was no basis at law to appeal the acquittal.

Meanwhile, Deputy DPP Nkumbiza Mumba has revealed that the National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) attended to 36,765 cases before different courts of law in 2019, out of which 21,296 convictions and 1,434 acquittals were recorded.

In an exclusive interview with News Diggers!, State Counsel Siyunyi said the DPP’s office cannot appeal a court judgement on a point of fact following what a witness said in court, but on a point of law guided by how the matter was concluded.

Asked if she was satisfied with the outcome of the Chanda and Chitotela cases, Siyunyi said the two cases were different in terms of how they satisfied the conditions for prosecution, adding that sometimes, there can be evidence but it could not be in public interest to prosecute.

“Well, in the Amos Chanda case, there was no judgment. But if it is the Chitotela case that you are talking about, the reasons for his arrest and the proof was proper at the time. After the Chitotela case was perused, it was found that there was sufficient evidence on which the prosecution could go on, that’s why we took the case to court. So at that time, because when you receive, you read because there are two conditions in order to satisfy a case; is there sufficient evidence to want a conviction? Yes. Is it in public interest? Yes. Sometimes there can be evidence but it’s not in the public interest to prosecute. Sometimes, there can be no evidence but it’s in the public interest to prosecute. But the two conditions ought to be

DPP explains prosecutions challenges: “sometimes there can be no evidence but it is in public interest to prosecute”

satisfied, they are mutual. So at that time, yes according to our understanding of the matter, yes there was [evidence]. But what happens in court is something different which may render that we shouldn’t appeal,” Siyunyi said during an interview at her office, Tuesday.

“You may wish to note that the DPP cannot appeal on a point of fact, the DPP only appeals on a point of law. Then what happens after a judgment is given? What we look at is not what the witness has said in court, but the conclusion that the court reached. Is there a basis at law where we can say the judge was wrong in acquitting? So that’s the point of law; were legal procedures not followed in the conduct of this case? If it’s found that the legal procedures were not followed, then that’s the time the DPP can appeal. The DPP cannot appeal on what a witness said because that’s a matter of fact.”

Asked to categorically state if she was satisfied with the Chitotela acquittal, she said: “There are no questions...that arose from the judgment of the court.”

“One of the cases you referred to in your query was the Chitotela case which has been adjudicated on. So for this case, other than the witness statements that were given, they also got statements from places like [Ministry of] Lands to confirm ownership of the properties that were in issue, when it was bought and the like. And then there would also be likely bank records to see how much money comes into these people’s accounts and how much is going out. So those are the things that were contained in his docket. So it’s on the basis of the evidence that is in the docket that a decision is made,” Siyunyi said.

Asked to explain what transpired for the case of Chanda and others to be stopped, she said her office was not yet done with the matter.

“The Amos Chanda case has not finished. Maybe we are actually looking for alternative charges, for other evidence. So, it’s not concluded. We can take



Director of Public Prosecutions Lillian Siyunyi

it back even in 2022 or 2023, even 2026,” Siyunyi said.

She explained that she did not personally read all dockets that were referred to her office and it was inconceivable to imagine that she could decide whether certain high profile cases should be prosecuted or not.

“Dockets don’t only come to the DPP’s office, they first go to the registry and then they will bring them to the DPP’s office. Even if I am not there, my deputy will be there. But if she isn’t at the office either, she will assign someone else to look at that docket. So we don’t get specific phone calls from anywhere among the law enforcement agencies to say ‘there is this docket that’s coming for politician B’, no. Everything goes through the right channels, and once we get that docket, believe you me, I don’t read the records outrightly, I give them to people who will look at it, whether it’s a corruption case, GBV case and so on. So whenever a case comes [to this office], I just take note that this case has come and it’s recorded in the registry book and delivered to that department that later on renders an opinion to my office. When I get that opinion, that’s when I decide to go through,

and it’s very rare that I argue with the people that have written an opinion,” Siyunyi explained.

“That politics aspect, I have never encountered it anyway. Maybe it’s unconscious bias, but it never happens because once someone writes an opinion, I would be able to say. And when it comes to corruption cases, other than the opinions here, we also get the opinions from the investigating agencies themselves. In particular, corruption cases are investigated by ACC and in most cases are prosecuted by ACC, they only come here for consent to prosecute. So there is the additional opinion that comes from ACC itself and then our officers here also review the opinion that was given together with the available evidence. It’s only after that is done when the consent to prosecute is given or not given.”

Asked to react to the statement from Chief Government spokesperson Dora Siliya who challenged the DPP to explain how much money was being wasted through fighting political corruption, the State Counsel wondered what price tag could be placed on getting justice.

“When you say political corruption, which cases in

particular? Because if you just say one, or two or three cases, how are we going to know? I think the goal of taking a case to court, there are so many reasons why you take a case to court. Sometimes you seek retribution. It’s like defilement, you want justice for this child who has been defiled. So, what price tag can you place on getting that justice? There is no price tag because the child is already damaged physically, emotionally, mentally, it takes a lot,” said Siyunyi.

Meanwhile, Mumba said 21,296 convictions were recorded last year out of 36,765 cases.

“Last year, for your information, we attended to 36,765 cases before the different courts of law. Then out of those, we recorded 21,296 convictions; 1,434 acquittals; 646 reconciliations; then there were 130 inquests; then we withdrew from the magistrates’ court 1,693 cases. Then we sent 309 on probation for juveniles; 126 were sent for counselling; then 236 cases were discontinued by nolle prosequi and 8,524 were carried forward into 2020. So as you can see, the number of nollies is not only for politically connected people,” Mumba said.

She added that prosecuting cases was not cheap.

“From the time an arrest is made, in terms of quantifying how much resources go into the process, it’s a lot. I am sure you have heard sometimes people accusing the police of asking them for transport to go and apprehend the suspect. That is where cost starts from. From the investigations, the government is spending, the time the docket comes here, if I have to spend three hours on a file, if you quantify that in money terms, if I was in private practice, I would be making millions because private

lawyers charge per hour. So, if we quantify the number of hours we spend in perusing cases and then taking matters to court, it’s a lot of money that the government spends in ensuring that prosecutions are done. So, it is expensive to prosecute,” Mumba said.

She also said if there were any political violence cases that were not prosecuted from the last general elections, it was because no one reported them to the law enforcement agencies.

“You have heard about the principle of separation of powers. It actually trickles down to this level where our role is to prosecute. We are not involved in investigations. That is why I am saying that once a case is reported and we receive the docket, then we prosecute. Our mandate doesn’t include us following up cases, that’s the duty of the police and other investigative agencies to follow up on complaints. Ours is, we get the information as given by investigators and we look at the evidence. We won’t go and say ‘arrest this one and this one’, that’s not our mandate,” said Mumba, as Siyunyi agreed.

“Because then, you can emotionally get involved in the matter. So even your professional decisions will be blurred. There are cases whereby I have an interest and then I say ‘why don’t you get this person?’ and then there is no evidence. So, even my professionalism there is very difficult to...but sometimes, people can go and report a case and the Law Enforcement Agencies do not do anything. And then they write to us, we also can say ‘there is this complaint, what have you done about it?’ But if we haven’t received anything, we won’t know that Ms Ncube complained about Davies Chama, we wouldn’t know.”

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ATTORNEY General Likando Kalaluka State Counsel has told this country that the controversial US\$17 million Ministry of Health supply tender for Health Centre Kits was awarded to an individual called Imran Lunat, and not Honeybee Pharmacy Limited. When people queried how he could approve such a transaction given the high liability risks that could arise from dealing with a non-registered entity, the principal legal advisor to the government said: “In case of liability, government would pursue the sole trader and not the limited liability company because the contract is with the sole trader - Imran Lunat”.

Today, we would like to share with the people of Zambia revelations about how this individual obtained the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority licence to win this tender, and the names of the directors of the company that applied for the ZAMRA pharmaceutical licence. Our readers must remember that the Ministry of Health recently distanced Imran Lunat (whom they say they awarded the contract) from the directors who registered Honeybee Pharmacy Limited at PACRA, five months after the contract was already awarded.

Now, we challenge the Ministry of Health and the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority to dispute any of the facts that we have gathered about how Honeybee Pharmacy obtained its licence. Note that without this licence or failure to meet the conditions for this particular ZAMRA licence, no company or individual can be awarded a medical supply tender by the Ministry of Health. So this was the beginning of the US\$17 million scandal.

An application for grant of Pharmaceutical Licence of wholesale was received from Honeybee Pharmacy on August 27, 2019 and ZAMRA sent

Here’s how Honeybee tender flouted procurement rules

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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If Attorney General new about this, he aided criminality

inspectors to the operating premises in Chaisa township the same day. The person who was interviewed in the capacity of director of the company is Mr Zakir Motala Hussein. According to Information given to ZAMRA by Honeybee Pharmacy, the names of the company directors are: Mr Abdurrauf Motala, a teacher of Plot 107, Umodzi Highway, Chipata, Eastern Province and Mr Randenlyage Ojitha Janeelaga Perera, a businessman of plot 420 Obote Road, Kamwala Lusaka.

Now, let’s look back at the names of the company that the Attorney General and the Ministry of Health say government had no dealings with when awarding this contract. Who are the directors of the Honeybee Pharmacy Limited that was registered months after the contract was already awarded? According to records at PACRA, the shareholders are the same people who applied for the

ZAMRA licence on behalf of Imran Lunat’s sole trading company which is not registered, namely Zakir Hussein Motala and Abdurrauf Abdurrahim Motala.

Was the Ministry saying the truth when they said they erroneously added the word “limited” to the company that was awarded the tender? If they had no dealings with the limited company, why is it that the Ministry of Health Procurement Committee accepted a ZAMRA licence that was issued to a company that was owned by someone else and not Imran Lunat?

Honeybee Pharmacy applied for a ZAMRA wholesale licence on August 27, 2019, the inspection was done the same day and the following day, the licence was issued. Is this the time that ZAMRA takes to issue licences to applicants? Why was the Honeybee’s application treated as an emergency? Why was the ZAMRA Licence issued on

August 28, 2019 indicating that the “suitably” qualified personnel was Mr Imran Lunat, when the inspectors were not shown any documents showing that this individual was a qualified and registered pharmacist?

According to the ZAMRA inspection report, Mr Imran Lunat was engaged as a covering pharmacist on a part time basis. His Health Professionals Council of Zambia (HPCZ) full registration certificate and annual practicing certificate were not displayed anywhere on the premises, and he was not even present at the time of inspection. The Company has no full time pharmacy technologists. The only employees found on the premises were a cleaner, a driver and two general workers.

In the case of Liability, how will the Attorney General pursue the individual whom he recommended for the award of US\$17 million when the ZAMRA Licensing records show that this

person called Imran Lunat is just a part time covering pharmacist with no power of attorney or substantive responsibilities over the company that was awarded the contract? Was State Counsel Likando Kalaluka acting in the interest of good governance when he gave a “no objection” to this tender?

The records we have obtained from ZAMRA show that the inspectors made the following recommendations: “Grant of Pharmaceutical Licence to Honeybee Pharmacy is NOT recommended”. Why was the company awarded a licence when it failed inspection? This recommendation was made on August 27, 2019, and Honeybee Pharmacy paid for registration and re-inspection of its premises on August 29, 2019, but the licence was already issued on August 28, 2019. How did this happen? On the same day that the licence was issued, ZAMRA wrote to Honeybee Pharmacy informing them that they had

failed the inspection. So, why did they go ahead to issue the licence? When was the second inspection done since the licence had already been issued?

We now ask: in whose interest was the Ministry of Health procurement committee acting on this tender? Under whose instructions was the Attorney General acting when he gave a “no objection” to the award of this contract? Was this medical supply tender awarded as required by law under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No.3 of 2013? Is this not clear collusion by public servants to flout the procurement rules?

We want to end by asking the Attorney General (since he says there is nothing unusual in this tender) to tell the people of Zambia, how many such government contracts his office has approved and awarded to individuals with similar irregularities? Since he says this is normal practice under his reign, the taxpayers, whose money is used to procure these supplies, deserve to know if he still stands by his position that this bid from Honeybee Pharmacy met all the public procurement provisions.

In a normal country, a lot of people would have been fired and arrested for their roles in this dirty deal. We await responses from the Attorney General’s Chambers, ZAMRA, Ministry of Health and ZPPA. In the meantime, we now need to follow the money. Is it true that government has not paid anything to the companies that won this tender? We believe this is also false information, we are digging...

Crossword puzzle No 648

1		2		3		4		5
				6				
7						8		
9		10			11			12
				13				
14				15		16		
		17						
18					19			

“A president cannot defend a nation if he is not held accountable to its laws.”
- DaShanne Stokes

- Across

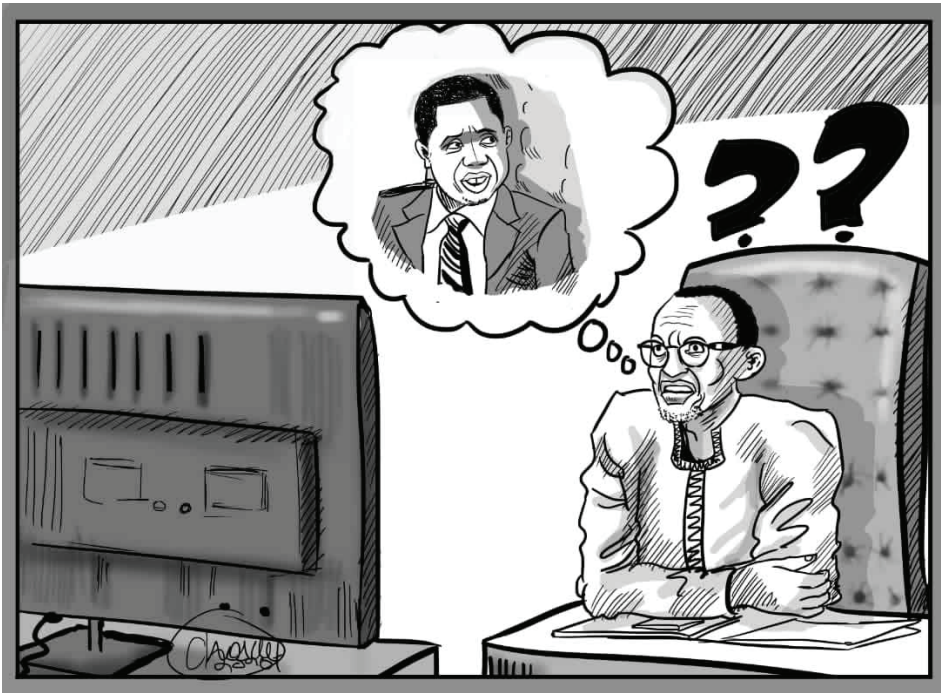
1. Diminished
4. That man
6. Gorilla or Chimp
7. Lawn trimming tool
8. Assist
9. Embrace
11. Worry
14. Grazing ground
15. Antiquated
17. Chest bone
18. Pig holder
19. Slackened
- Down

1. Unspoiled
2. Pooch
3. Projectile for target board
4. It pumps blood
5. Furious
10. Figure out
12. ___ and dined
13. Fleshy ear part
14. Flesh under the nose
16. Disk operating system

Crossword puzzle No 647

1	E	R	2	A		3	S		4	R	U	5	N
	V		6	C	R	E	D	O					O
7	E	8	S	T		E		9	O	10	D		D
					11	A	M	12	P			R	
13	R	E	A	D				14	R	O	O	T	
			L		15	D	16	R	Y		O		
17	F	L	18	Y			O		19	S	P	20	A
	U		21	A	M	P	L	E				R	
22	R	I	M			E			23	W	E	E	

Readers' Feedback



Tutwa's refusal of writing the apology letter to LAZ

Dear editor,

"Just yesterday I saw him denying the break their bones video, now this...next you will hear ati am not Kabwe Central mp". - Mistar Bulambo

"Let LAZ just suspend his practicing liscence... The man is an emberasement to the legal profession!" - Ian Malekhanie

"The sad part is that it would have been more honourable if he himself had indeed written it, but the man denies honour... What a terribly perplexing individual, and not in a good way". - Mercy Mwanza

"This man is very arrogant as if he is the only one who is conversant with the law". - Jeff Jay Mweetwa

"Wondering now if this guy is really normal..He also refuted saying "break their bones " when clearly the video is there for all to see..I think ka normal tesana". - Clever Zimba

"Will someone explain to me the difference between a lawyer and a liar". - Douglas Simonda

Lungu's denial in financing Rwandese rebels

Editor,

"This is a serious matter, the Government of Zambia should hold a joint press conference with Rwanda's Government to clear the air, but as long as the statement is just from Zambia it means nothing to the people of both countries and the world". - Kelvin Chiti

"Imwe did the rebel say it's Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the republican president of Zambia??? If so how can he guess his details??? Do they know each other???? Let the president address the nation on this serious matter before the presidency of Zambia is demeaned..... Hope this isn't true". - Muzike Wabululami

"Lets wait and see how the case unfolds in the Rwandan courts. I once read this saying in English "There is no smoke without fire". - Preston Kasempa

"We thank God the rebel

leader himself mentioned the name. If it was in the local press, we all know who would have been blamed". - Mukaba Mukaba

"Kawalala savomela show me a single scandal Jonathan took responsibility for? Even mukula trees directly linked to him anakana but we all know anadyamo, so learning from history I believe this story". - Jay Nyendwa

"If it was in other countries Zambia could have been under protest now....?? Why is the Zambian Parliament quite on such sensitive a matter like this one?? A point of order is needed in Parliament... What more our Zambian drivers are stuck in South Africa cause the local drivers are protesting against the foreign drivers who are working in that country....??? We need to wake up as Zambians

mmmmm!!!" - Collins Bishop Mwansa

"There is no smoke without fire, of all the head of states in AFRICA why Edger Lungu of Zambia?" - Lewis Mwansa Kabamba

"Our Eurobond at work". - Chibwe Palangwa

"Just refusing isn't enough, a national address should be a must to put all things straight for God's sake. These allegations can not be brushed aside as if it's a cadre moment.... nichani kansi?!" - Dee Lee

Could this be the "individual X" who was mentioned in the FIC report of financing even terrorism? Mmmmmmm yabako tricky iyi! But how come out of the whole globe, only to point out at him?" - Eugene Chilufya Wilhelm II

Kamba's claim that opposition using ACC to weaken the Presidency

Editor,

"If it's the opposition pushing the ACC to act then the ACC are not doing their job, Dr Chitalu Chilufya should just be answerable to the charges against him period! don't intervene on corruption charges". - Joseph Kalaba Kaoma

"This is the problem of giving senior politcal party positions to Ignorant people simply because they shouted party slogans Louder than others. And why of all the listed accusations point out a boat? Is it because that is all is in Kennedy Kamba's head? Shouting pabwato!!! It is PF and President Lungu who have Weakened the ACC". - Christopher Kalima

"Kamba and many others have benefitted big time from PF corruption so they will resist any moves by the system to punish the corrupt, knowing the same would catch up with them one day". - Malumbe Banda

"Please learn to appoint or elect qualified or reasonable individuals in those sensitive and strategic position of your political parties rather than just doing a piki pikina piki doli kind of things. Failure to which such kind of embarcements would always be the case as seen above". - Kenneth K Kakoma

"To you it ends with a speed boat.What about those villas? Wait!" - Victor Mboyonga

"Illiterate cadres showcasing their skills bwafya!" - Chika Bob

CEEC's pledge to create 125,000 jobs between 2020-2021

Editor,

"You got the job in 2016, therefore, this is a PERFORMANCE EVALUATION not an INTERVIEW. Your contract renewal is based on what you have done not what you can do? In short you will be judged against your own song 'Sonta epo wabomba'. - Eng Steven Phiri

"Yours is not to create jobs, yours is to create a cadre of successful

indigenous business people who in turn will create jobs and wealth for the country. On this score you have faired badly. Highlight what you will do differently. You guys underate the responsibility Zambians have given you. In other countries such responsibilities are grasped with all body parts in time institutions became world leaders". -

Mavuto Hassan Nyirenda "Having listened to him on Sunday interview, I can say he is a brilliant guy and wants to do great things with CEEC. Rather than express our bias lets see how we can take advantage and leverage some of the opportunities that are slowly coming our way via CEEC or any other government agency or institution". - Choolwe M Mulanshi

#

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published. Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

We're dealing with the Rwanda issue diplomatically - State House

By Julia Malunga

STATE House says it has initiated diplomatic engagement with the Government of Rwanda to deal with allegations linking President Edgar Lungu to a rebel movement in that country that claims to have received funding from the Zambian leader to overthrow President Paul Kagame's regime.

In a statement, Thursday, President Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe said State House was concerned that the public in Zambia had escalated speculation around allegations linking President Lungu to terrorist financing in Rwanda, despite his office refuting the claims.

"State House is concerned that despite stating its position on allegations purported to have come out of a court trial in Rwanda, some citizens have continued

to issue wild speculations and accusations on the matter. As stated on Tuesday, State House maintains that the allegations purported to have been submitted to a Rwanda Court are false and the Zambian Government is dealing with the matter through diplomatic channels with Rwanda. State House would, therefore, like to advise all citizens including the media to allow the due process of diplomacy take its course without speculations and further unwarranted allegations," stated Chipampe.

According to Flightradar24.com, a website that records and stores aircraft movement data, the President's old Challenger Jet, Registration number 9JONE, flew to Kigali Rwanda yesterday on an unknown mission.

The flight, whose manifest remains unclear, but did not include President

Lungu who was appearing in public at State House Thursday, left Lusaka at 07:32 hours and landed in Kigali at 10:05 hours.

Flight data records show that the Challenger left Kigali at 18:40 hours and was yet to arrive at its next intended destination by press time at 20:00 hours. Flight time for the Bombardier CL604 Challenger between Lusaka and Kigali is approximately 2 hours, 30 minutes.

When called to clarify why the presidential challenger was in Rwanda yesterday, Chipampe ignored the query, stating that he had already issued a statement regarding the Rwanda issue.



DEC nabs Lusaka businessman for drug trafficking

By Mirriam Chabala

THE Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) has arrested a 35-year-old businessman and leader of a drug cartel operating in Lusaka's Chibolya compound for trafficking in over 40 grams of cocaine.

DEC has also arrested 10 people for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 43.19 tonnes and trafficking in 76.20 kilograms of loose cannabis in a special operation conducted in Central and Muchinga Provinces from July 12th to July 15th, 2020.

In a statement, Thursday, DEC deputy public relations officer Mwenge Mulenga explained that Moses Chishimba Bwalya of Obama compound in Lusaka was a known drug trafficker and cartel leader operating in Chibolya Compound in the distribution of cocaine and heroin.

"The Drug Enforcement Commission has arrested Moses Chishimba Bwalya a known drug trafficker and cartel leader operating in Chibolya Compound for trafficking in over 40 grams of cocaine, contrary to Cap 96 of the Laws of Zambia. Bwalya, 35, a Businessman of Obama compound has been arrested for trafficking in 43.08 grams of cocaine. The suspect is a known drug trafficker and cartel leader operating in Chibolya Compound in the distribution of cocaine and heroin. The Commission so far has arrested a number of runners that are connected to this cartel but the ring leader has in most instances been eluding arrests," Mulenga stated.

Mulenga also stated that 10 more people were also arrested for unlawful cultivation of cannabis in separate operations carried out in Muchinga and Central Provinces.

"Meanwhile, the Commission conducted a special operation in Central and Muchinga Provinces and arrested 10 people for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 43.19 tonnes and trafficking in 76.20 kilograms of loose cannabis. The operation was conducted from 12th July 2020 to 15th July, 2020 in Chitambo District of Central Province and Lavushimanda District in Muchinga Province. All the suspects are in police custody and will appear in court soon," stated Mulenga.

How Honeybee Pharmacy was awarded ZAMRA licence after failing inspection

By Julia Malunga

A FRESH investigation has revealed that Honeybee Pharmacy, a sole trader that was awarded the US\$17 million contract for the supply of Health Centre Kits under the Ministry of Health, was given a wholesale Pharmaceutical Licence by the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), despite failing to meet the requirement.

Last month, the Ministry of Health issued a public apology for "erroneously adding the word 'limited'" to Honeybee Pharmacy when awarding the tender, but insisted that all provisions of the public procurement Act were observed.

This was before Attorney General Likando Kalaluka also confirmed approving the tender on grounds that it met the requirements of the law.

But according to a letter dated August 28, 2019 addressed to the Director at Honeybee Pharmacy, signed by ZAMRA Director for Medicines Control Dr Z. Munkombwe, Honeybee Pharmacy failed to meet 20 inspection conditions for the award of the prerequisite Pharmaceutical License, without which it could not win the medical supply tender under the Ministry of Health.

"Dear Sir, deficiencies noted during the pre-licensing inspection of Honeybee Pharmacy. A pre-licensing inspection for grant of Pharmaceutical Licence of your premises situated at plot No737 Great North Road, Chaisa, Lusaka, was conducted on 27th August 2019 and the following deficiencies were observed:

1. The pharmacy personnel engaged were not present at the inspection.
2. There was no copy of the Health Professions Council of Zambia full registration certificate for both pharmacist and pharmacy technologist engaged.
3. There was no valid HPCZ annual practicing certificate for the pharmacy technologist engaged.
4. There were no contracts as proof of employment for the pharmaceutical

personnel engaged.

5. There was no certificate of payment (Business Levy) and Fire Safety Certificate from the Lusaka City Council.
6. There was no appropriate signage to clearly identify the premises as a pharmaceutical wholesale business.
7. There were no air conditioners to provide artificial ventilation in the main storage area.
8. There were no rooms for quarantine, recalled and expired products.
9. Two additional wall thermometers were needed in the main storage area.
10. There was no refrigerator.
11. There were no temperature monitoring charts.
12. There was no dangerous drugs cupboard.
13. There were no shelves in the warehouse.
14. There were no receipts or issue books.
15. There were no systems of monitoring expiry dates checked on products.
16. There were no systems for monitoring of product deterioration carried out.
17. There was need to develop and implement standard operating procedures on sales/distribution, expired and recalled products.
18. There were no pedal waste bins in the warehouse.
19. There was need to clean the toilet and handbasin.
20. There were no statutory reference materials available."

Dr Munkombwe advised Honeybee Pharmacy to address the deficiencies observed before applying for re-inspection of the premises.

"We wish to advise you to address the above deficiencies and notify the Authority accordingly, so that re-inspection of your premises may be conducted. Please note that the re-inspection will be conducted after payment of re-inspection fee of K3,460,"

stated Dr Munkombwe.

But According to the register of pharmaceutical wholesale establishments in Zambia obtained from ZAMRA, Honeybee Pharmacy was issued wholesale licence number PL/5-00091/19 on August 28, 2019, the same date when ZAMRA wrote to the entity indicating that it had failed inspection.

Further records showed that Honeybee paid for wholesale re-inspection and registration on August 29, a day after ZAMRA had already issued the pharmaceutical wholesale licence.

Meanwhile, according to information given to ZAMRA by Honeybee Pharmacy, the person who was interviewed during inspection in the capacity of director of the company is a Mr Zakir Motala Hussein.

The names of the company directors are: Abdurrauf Motala, a teacher of Plot 107, Umodzi Highway, Chipata, Eastern Province and a Mr Randenlyage Ojitha Janeelaga Perera, a businessman of plot 420 Obote Road, Kamwala Lusaka.

According to records at PACRA, the shareholders of Honeybee Pharmacy Limited, a company that was registered about five months after the tender was awarded, are the same people who applied for the ZAMRA licence on behalf of Imran Lunat's sole trading company which won the US\$17 million tender, namely, Zakir Hussein Motala and Abdurrauf Abdurrahim Motala. Imran Lunat, whom the Attorney General says is responsible for any liabilities that may arise, was engaged as a covering pharmacist on a part time basis.

Records at the Ministry of Health show that a solicitation document for the Health Centre Kits supply tender was issued on October 7, 2019 and the evaluation of bids was done on October 22, 2019, while the contract between Honey Bee Pharmacy and Ministry of Health was signed on November 22, 2019.

Suarez would welcome ‘great player’ Lautaro at Barca

LUIS Suarez says he would welcome the addition of “great player” Lautaro Martinez to the ranks at Barcelona, despite the Inter forward being mooted as his successor in a No.9 berth at Camp Nou.

Speculation continues to suggest that the Blaugrana

will be launching a big-money raid for an Argentina international striker in the next transfer window.

Barca are in the process of trying to free up funds that will allow them to table a bid for a top summer target – with Philippe Coutinho among those the

Liga giants are looking to move on.

Martinez is considered to be a shrewd long-term option for those in Catalunya, with the 22-year-old already adjusted to the demands of European football while having plenty of potential to unlock.

If a deal were to be done then another South American would be added to a fearsome attacking unit alongside Suarez and talismanic club captain Lionel Messi.

Uruguayan frontman Suarez, who has spent six years at Barca, claims he

would be happy to see another proven performer snapped up.

The 33-year-old told Sport of the Lautaro links: “He is a great player. He’s been playing at a great level for Inter.

“It’s not easy to arrive in Italy from Argentina and show everything that he’s shown in a league as complicated as the Italian one.

“He’s young and if he comes to Barca we will try and help him to adapt and help him to feel comfortable.”

For now, Suarez and Barcelona are focused on ending the 2019-20 campaign as positively as possible.

The Liga title appears to have slipped from their grasp, as they sit four points behind arch-rivals Real Madrid with two games left to take in.

Quique Setien’s side do, however, still have the Champions League crown to chase down, with elite European competition set to resume in August.

Suarez believes Barca can prevail there, as they prepare to take in the second leg of a last-16 showdown with Napoli and a potential quarter-final

date with German giants Bayern Munich.

“Now we have to focus on the two games we have left,” said Suarez.

“We have to be at the level of prestige this club demands. The last chance to win something will be the Champions League.

“First, we have to get through the last 16 against a tough rival who are in good form since the lockdown. To think about Lisbon, first we have to beat Napoli.”

Pressed on whether Barca can go all the way, Suarez added: “We have the capacity to be at the level this club demands if we’re 100 per cent.

“If something doesn’t go well, if we suffer a handicap, maybe we won’t make it, but that’s football.

“For example, against Villarreal [in a 4-1 win] we saw a good team. We had players missing but we were at the level required.

“We dropped a little in the following games. But Villarreal was important because it showed us this team, if in form, can produce performances in the Champions League.

“If we’re at the level of the club, we can manage it. But we have to be at our best.” **GOAL**

Super League returns

By Abraham Kalito

AFTER close to 200 days without active football as the COVID-19 pandemic forced officials to suspend the Super League, the highly-anticipated return of the competition is here.

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) fought stakeholders who wanted to end the league prematurely and assured government that all guidelines aimed at avoiding the further spread of the Coronavirus would be observed to the letter.

The league resumes tomorrow but the people’s game would not admit spectators on to the pitches.

There would be new rules to use on and off the pitch during the remainder of the season.

Among the on the new pitch rules that would be put in place when Premier League football returns included the option of

using up to five players.

The upcoming round of Super league fixtures will see managers being allowed to use up to five substitutions during a game while only three players from each team would be allowed to warm up at one time.

Footballers on the pitch would have to restrict contact and interaction with opponents. Players would also drink out of their own bottles and no sharing of bottles would be allowed.

Non-playing staff members must wear protective masks inside the stadium and clubs must apply strict cleaning and disinfection measures inside the stadium, according to the guidelines availed by the Ministry of Health.

Earlier, the Ministry of Health had to certify pitches fit for use before the

players could start training.

The competition, meanwhile, would pick up from where it ended before the games were suspended due to COVID-19.

The five-month break meant that almost all footballers who had injuries and with no chances of playing the remaining games are now fit and back on the pitch.

There will be a fierce battle for the title as has already been demonstrated by the difference in the number of points between the team on top of the log to the 10th side.

Forest Rangers are the surprise package of the campaign as the Super league side is currently at the top of the Super League table with 46 points while Napsa Stars are trailing with just a point behind.

The Zambia Army sponsored outfit Green Eagles are third with 44

points while Nkana is following behind on 43 points.

Champions Zesco are a point adrift of Nkana. The difference in the number of points is testament to how competitive this season has been.

The competitive nature of the league is such that Zanaco, who are tenth of 35 points, have a chance of becoming champions at the conclusion of the league.

Kabwe Youth Soccer Academy, Mufulira Wanderers and Nakambala Leopards are in the relegation battle but it is the Kabwe-based side and the Copperbelt-based Mufulira Wanderers that will most likely be relegated as they trail Leopards by three points.

you that Council, at its sitting of 28th June, 2019 via Minute Number C/23/06/19 approved the recommendation of the Finance, Valuation and Commercial undertaking under which we resolved that the lease agreement between the Lusaka City Council and the Matero Constituency Development Trust be terminated. The Council advertised the Matero Stadium to the general public for redevelopment so as to choose the best developer. In view of the foregoing, you are hereby notified of the termination of the lease for breach of condition of the said lease agreement. We thank you for the interest you showed in redeveloping the stadium,” Mwansa’s letter read.

And Matero Ward 28 Councillor Kelvin Kaunda has said Sampa has never been a leaseholder for the stadium but was only a member of the Trustees of

LCC terminated Matero Stadium lease with MCDT a year ago, it has been learnt

By Abraham Kalito

THE battle for Matero Stadium in Lusaka has escalated following the Lusaka City Council (LCC)’s revocation of the lease with Matero Constituency Development Trust (MCDT).

This move saw potential developers applying for the lease of the stadium in order to further develop it.

But Lusaka mayor Miles Sampa, through his lawyers Mambwe, Siwila and Lisimba Advocates, wrote the local authority threatening legal action should it not stop advertising the stadium for lease because the former Matero member of parliament’s lease was still active.

However, a year ago, Lusaka City Council Town Clerk Alex Mwansa had written the MCDT on July 18, 2019 informing them of the expiry of the lease with the City Council.

“We wish to inform

the Matero Constituency development Trust by virtual of him being the area member of parliament.

“Matero stadium has never been leased to him, he was a member of the Matero Constituency development Trust by virtue of being the area member of parliament and documents are there to show, the Constitution is there for Matero Constituency Development Trust and the right person to take up the issues of the stadium is the current member of parliament and not his worship the mayor. The legal documents are there, the Constitution is there where all the parties signed. Matero Stadium has never been a property of His worship Mr Miles Sampa,” said Kaunda.

However, Sampa has said Kaunda is not the right person to comment on the Matero Stadium matter because he is not on the ground to know what was going on in his area.

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By Tim Zulu
PERCHED on the 8th position of the Eden University National League table, 12 points adrift the shoulders of the cream de la cream of the Eden pace-setters, Police College Football Club do not let anything deter them from their belief that they have the ammunition to load enough points to shoot closer to the summit.

And their self-belief to test their armory comes under heavy scrutiny this Saturday at the Levy Mwanawasa stadium with a delayed week 22 trigger fixture against the noisy Kitwe United.

The expectant starved soccer fans will bear witness to this explosive fight in the comfort of their homes via the giant pay television station Super Sport at noon.

Police College Head Coach Conwell Munyati says much as he has respect for the Kitwe-based team, it would be "so unwise" for him and his boys to think of mounting a serious challenge if they fail to win against high profile teams

POLICE COLLEGE DARE KITWE UTD

like Chingalika.
"We have to keep our dream alive and our plan from Saturday (tomorrow) onward is to fight for 3 points, whatever it takes, and if we are to keep that winning streak alive, then no doubt we shall reach our target and seat comfortably in the top 4," Munyati said.

Asked if his side is meeting Kitwe United at the right time considering that

the Steven Mwansa-coached side has experienced more pain than smiles in front of the television cameras in their previous live encounters, Munyati simply said "we won't be playing for the cameras".

"I think for us as Police College, it's not our business to remind them about those losses as our main concern is just getting 3 points, not the playing in front of the cameras," said Munyati.

And his opposite number, Mwansa, said he was still aware of those painful TV games and this time, he is leaving no stone unturned.

"To us, this is a must win game and no doubt, victory will take us on top and we just have to be there. We know they are a good side but we have prepared well for them and our players are all injury-free. We are game," said Mwansa.

Having lost to Indeni and Gomes, both Ndola-based teams, Kitwe United have another TV test beckoning and if they have to avoid a third television defeat, they need to hold firmly to the shirt of slippery Peter Lungu Daka, Police College top scorer with nine goals, if not those of crafty Innocent Kashita, Oliver Chishala or Godwin Inambao.

But much as Police are

a stubborn team to beat, Kitwe United once breached the law nine months ago in Lilayi and may do so now if bully Phelegon Kaunda, goal poacher Holy Songwe, ball master Clive Biyete or workaholic Moses Lolozi are let on the loose.

With both teams boasting of quality and well balanced players, this will be a game too difficult to call where the pendulum will tilt.

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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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