

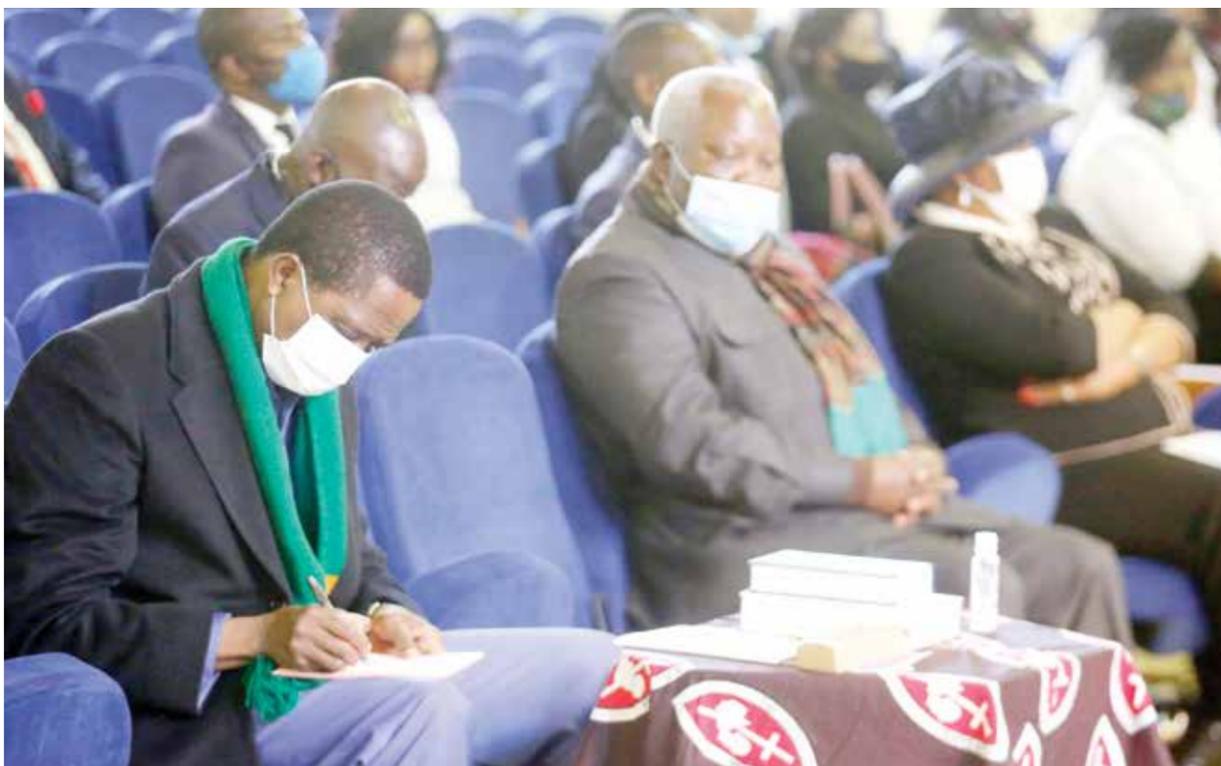


By Julia Malunga
EASTERN Province PF chairman Andrew Lubusha says the ruling party in the area is still trying to get hold of provincial youth chairperson Emmanuel J. Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, following last week's fracas at Lusaka Central Police.

But PF sources in Petauke have told News Diggers that Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, fled into Mozambique upon hearing that police were looking for him on charges of aggravated robbery.

Police in Lusaka have launched a manhunt for Banda, who let PF cadres into an attack on Lusaka Central Police station where they assaulted unsuspecting officers on duty and got away with an undisclosed amount of money, belonging to one of the officers. *Story page 10*

PF APOLOGIZES TO POLICE IG ...but claims they can't find fugitive official, Jay Banda



President Edgar Lungu (l) takes notes during the Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for Rev. Dr. Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde General Secretary, United Church of Zambia at St. Andrews Congregation in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

PF needs alternative candidate in case ECZ rejects Lungu - aspiring MP

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda ASPIRING
Kaumbwe constituency PF member of parliament Moses Mutale says the ruling party should identify an alternative presidential candidate in case the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) rejects President Edgar Lungu's nomination papers on account of eligibility.

In a press statement, Mutale cautioned that it would be dangerous for the ruling party to start scrambling for a presidential candidate at the eleventh hour as it will be costly and difficult for the PF to sell such a candidate at short notice.

"I am seeing the PF party being caught unaware looking at things. We should have an alternative in mind to say, 'if this fails, what are we going to do?' People are watching and waiting how the ECZ will welcome the nomination papers for our candidate Edgar

Lungu because they'll say, 'if he will be attempts to forward his papers, we'll take him to court!' Now if the court will ban him from contesting, what are we going to do?" wondered Mutale. *Story page 4*

Govt to address civil servants' indebtedness

By Zondiwe Mbewe
VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina says Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu will soon furnish Parliament with details of how mechanisms being put in place to address the issue of civil servants being indebted to financial institutions will be implemented. *Story page 7*

Youths who engage in violence are foolish - Mumbi Phiri

By Mirriam Chabala
PATRIOTIC Front (PF) deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says youths who engage in violence should be ashamed of themselves for being foolish enough to fight amongst each other as brothers and sisters.

And Phiri says it is embarrassing to the ruling party for PF youths to continue breaking the law even when President Edgar Lungu had spoken against their actions, warning that anyone found wanting would be firmly dealt with by the police.

Addressing youths on a PF blog, Saturday afternoon, Phiri said violence among PF youths was embarrassing the party as President Lungu, who is also the ruling party president, had always spoken against political violence. *Story page 5*

Zambia lacks transparency in debt reporting - World Bank

Story page 10



CTPD'S MONDAY OPINION

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

TODAYS TOPIC:

Agricultural Marketing and Financing in Zambia: Reflections from Tanzania with Dr. Simon Manda



This series of Monday Opinion has concentrated on realities and challenges of agriculture finance and marketing among small-scale farmers in Zambia. Last week, I delved into what should be done by state and non-state actors to strengthen support in credit and marketing for small-scale farmers in Zambia in order to drive an agenda for national growth and poverty reduction. We set out the realities and challenges of agricultural marketing in their broader sense.

In this article, I will delve into how agriculture marketing and financing can be improved. I will draw on regional experiences such as from Tanzania in order to highlight Zambia's own efforts around agriculture marketing and financing. Specifically, this article will be reflective of the recent launch of the Research Brief by the Centre for Trade Policy and Development Executive Director Isaac Mwaipopo on Friday last week. The study is both in print and electronic version and interested readers are advised to access these. The overall objective of this Briefing Note was to explore and understand regional approaches to agricultural marketing and mechanisms for access to finance among small-holders and how lessons could be used to enhance and build on Zambia's experience. Specifically, the brief aimed to explore regional mechanisms for the promotion of marketing and access to finance; to examine possibilities for enhancing national efforts around small-holder marketing and access to finance such as ZAMACE; and to explore and propose alternative pathways to enhancing smallholder participation in marketing and access to finance in Zambia. In this study, we drew from documentary evidence, field observations, multi-level interviews and group discussions with small-holders from Iringa the agricultural region in the southern part of Tanzania. In Zambia, documentary reviews and national level interviews were deployed to reflect on alternative pathways for enhancing local participation in marketing and access to finance.

Results have shown in the study region, Tanzania successfully rolled out two marketing systems: a Collective marketing system (CoMS) which lends itself to small-scale farmers and a warehouse receipt management system (WaRMS) for relatively large and better organised farmers. Our analysis has shown that investing in the warehouse receipt management system can potentially be attractive to large and medium scale farmers who can trigger sufficient business volume and attract wider private sector investments. On the contrary, alternative community driven collective marketing can be fittingly relevant for smallholders who lack sufficient volumes and face unique challenges. The central argument here is made that successful agriculture marketing and related credit finance system centrally depends on the extent to which national government can guarantee transactions and processes therein, and the extent to which private sector actors can leverage in order to stimulate small-holder production and productivity. This necessary cause for a progressive coordination arrangement between and among divergent and multi-dimensional players. This is seen as vital in an environment where policy and institutional processes appear divergent and awash



with contestations. This coordination arrangement can bring together producers and their associations and aggregators on the one hand, commanding sufficient volumes that can feed into other platforms such as ZAMACE who recently registered on the Lusaka Stock Exchange. The role and importance of the Food Reserve Agency – notwithstanding the political current that often underpins its operations – should will require serious rethinking in order to fit into a novel coordination arrangement.

Key points are important to remember for this purpose. First, creating marketing platforms such as ZAMACE is important but these will require mechanism for ensuring local access and participation. Some of this will require locally or community driven marketing systems that reflects smaller volumes at that level to feed into platforms such as ZAMACE. Aggregation thus becomes key. Second, collective marketing is crucial for aggregation and markets access among smallholders whilst warehouse receipt management system seems to work well for relatively well organised value-chains and farmers who can address lengthy registration processes and related costs. Additionally, these can hold their produce and wait for prices to pick up.

Third, a consideration of several value-chains is crucial for running warehouse receipt management system beyond somewhat less lucrative values chains such as cereals. This might prove controversial given recent prices of maize for instance which showed signs of picking up. However, in the longer-term view, wider value chains should be considered beyond oft less lucrative chains. Fourth is that the state has its role in providing infrastructure and in creating a national policy and institutional context necessary in shaping actions from multi-level and multi-dimension actors including Smallholders. Fifth is that private sector involvement in agricultural marketing and credit supply is crucial in driving agriculture marketing and credit finance. And that all key players should be brought in somewhat a coordination arrangement which will allow creation of mandates between and among state and non-state

actors.

Against this background and in the spirit of igniting wider national conversations, several recommendations can be proposed:

1. ZAMACE should be capacitated for large-scale and medium scale emergent farmers but alongside collective marketing model that can operate at local and community level for oft less organised Smallholders who also commend minimal volumes.
2. There is need to rethink the role of the Food Reserve Agency in the new agricultural coordinational arrangement so as to not to crowd-out the role and operations of private actors ZAMACE inclusive and local level collective marketing systems. This includes strengthening the operations of stock monitoring committee in the country (food security concerns), publicising deliberations for wider farmer planning and market anticipation
3. In the new coordination arrangement ZAMACE alongside a government seal can allow producers to access credit (inputs) by guaranteeing the processes. Specific mechanisms should be created to link producers to local banks such as NATSAVE or ZANACO with a warehouse receipt that is guaranteed with a government seal – be it with WaRMS or collective marketing.
4. There is need for state and non-state support towards smallholder specific infrastructure support such as irrigation facilities, electricity including renewable energies. Some of this can be floated to private actors to manage on progressive private-public partnership arrangement. Overall, it is often said agriculture possess the potential to drive a growth and poverty reduction agenda in Zambia. A new approach is thus needed that can shape a novel coordination arrangement of players.

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By Natasha Sakala

CIVIL Society Scaling-Up Nutrition Zambia Alliance (CSO-SUN) has called for the review of the relief food distribution policy to ensure all necessary nutrition elements are included in the food packs rather than maintaining the mealie meal and maize only packages.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC TV2 Morning Live show, CSO-SUN country director Mathews Mhuru observed that the current food packs being distributed to hunger-stricken areas were making them more vulnerable as they did not meet their dietary needs.

CSO-SUN demands nutritious packaging policy on relief food

“The first step is just reviewing the policy that has to do with relief food distribution at DMMU-level because the number of times we have had interactions with DMMU, they would tell us that maize and mealie meal is what is in the policy. So, we really have to review that and start having a response that will respond to the dietary needs of the people.

What we don't really see is the fact that most of the time, when we are taking just one type of food to people who are really vulnerable, you are actually making them more vulnerable,” Mhuru said.

“Just the case of Gwembe [District] when we had some serious food insecurity last year, we found people actually getting ash, mixing with mealie meal

and giving to their children and you know those would have very devastating health effects. So, coping measures will just compromise the health of the people that would consume these foods if they are just given one type of food, especially mealie meal and some of it is even sold because people would need some bit of income just to find other foods. So, we really need to look at having a package that meets the dietary needs of the people if we can add. Yes, the carbohydrates are needed; we need something that would complement like the protein needs and the micro nutrients that the populations affected by food insecurity would actually benefit from.”

He further called on well-wishers to complement the government's efforts in areas such as Lunga District where there was a surge of malnutrition cases despite relief food being distributed in the area.

“This is the area that concerns us the most as CSO-SUN. Our visit to Lunga has revealed a threat of continued rise in malnutrition cases in

the area due to lack of diversity in food consumption. The people of Lunga are currently consuming two major foods, which are rice and fish. Rice is a carbohydrate, which does not offer much and while fish is high in protein, monodiet is not good for nutrition, hence there is already a surge in malnutrition cases. Our engagement with the health authorities revealed that the number of people suffering from severe acute malnutrition has risen tremendously with many people yet to be visited by the health authorities,” Mhuru said. “This number is expected to rise significantly as health authorities continue to interact with people in the District. CSO-SUN, therefore, calls on government, through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), to increase the allocation of food given to the people of Lunga and diversify the food pack in order to meet the nutritional needs of the affected families. We also call on well-wishers to compliment government efforts and take the little they have to Lunga to enable the people to

survive.”

He said Lunga had been affected by the floods in the 2018/2019 farming season, hence the food insecurity.

“In the 2018/2019 season, Lunga had floods again so there was relief that was being taken there. So, we were expecting that in the 2019/2020 farming season, this will not be the case, but it has continued. So, it becomes a very difficult situation for the people living in the area. We were very happy that the President (Edgar Lungu) and the Vice-President (Inonge Wina) took interest in Lunga and...gave instructions to DMMU to start taking relief food to this area. What we found on the ground is that yes, relief has been taken to the DMMU twice; in February as well as end of May. So, this relief food was maize and mealie meal and that has been our challenge,” said Mhuru. “We've always advised government, you know, in times of severe hunger, when you take maize and you give people mealie meal, it becomes very difficult for them to have meals that would meet their dietary needs because you realize that is just one food that would actually cause the micro-nutrient deficiencies to the people there, hence we are not even surprised that the cases of malnutrition are increasing in the area.”

Changala advises Parley to adjourn after 3 MPs test positive to COVID-19

By Mirriam Chabala

GOVERNANCE activist Brebner Changala has called on Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to adjourn Parliament sine die in order to avoid further spread of COVID-19 amongst Parliamentarians.

In an interview, Changala argued that there was no need for Parliament to continue endangering the lives of its members just for the sake of passing Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019.

He also expressed worry that the COVID-19 fight in Zambia had weakened because President Edgar Lungu and his officials seemed to have relaxed on their commitment to the fight.

“This COVID-19 has been mishandled by our Zambian government. They started well, then they loosened up and they weakened the momentum. We have reached a situation where we have gone back to our new normal. But in the recent days, weeks and months, we are experiencing sudden deaths of individuals. COVID-19 is real; so my appeal to our colleagues in government and our Parliamentarians is to show leadership by adjourning that Parliament sine die. Their main reasons of staying functional is because of Bill 10 which seems to be a matter of life and death to them. It is very important to preserve human life. I am reliably

informed that a lot of MPs have tested positive to COVID-19 in Parliament...The Speaker must be magnanimous enough and adjourn that House,” Changala said.

“They will die before they even pass the Bill 10 law. So they must look at the human interest other than passing a bad law that will cost them in the end. So I am appealing to the Speaker to adjourn that House sine die.”

He observed that Zambians were not taking the presence of COVID-19 in Zambia seriously because government was doing much to sensitise the citizenry.

“The current COVID-19 challenges must also be explained to our colleagues in street vending. If you go to Lumumba road and Freedom Way, you would think twice even to talk about COVID-19 because there is no social distancing there, they have thrown away the masks and yet, the deaths in the country are rising day by day. Our President has also gone into oblivion, he has reduced or totally disappeared from the public eye to galvanise and sensitise the people of Zambia on how serious this pandemic is. It is ravaging many nations, South Africa, America, Europe and many other states. So it is very sad that leadership is lacking in this matter both from government and from the legislature,” said Changala.

By Mirriam Chabala

GOVERNMENT Parliamentary Chief Whip Brian Mundubile says the incorporation of an electronic system for conducting business in the National Assembly has improved the way matters are deliberated in Parliament and could eventually lead to sessions conducted remotely.

In an interview, Mundubile said the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak had provided the

E-Parliament could be the future for MPs – Mundubile

National Assembly with an opportunity to adopt electronic platforms, even though they may function perfectly, but observed that the future of conducting parliamentary business could eventually be digitally and remotely via

e-Parliament.

“It's work in progress; you see, every change comes with its own challenges. I think the honourable members are getting acquainted with the new system slowly and the last few days have been quite good, the system is working well and the members are getting it right. There is harmonisation of the system, we are calling it a hybrid system where we are using the current system in the Chamber and merging it with the other system now where we are using tablets and being able to participate from other locations. So, I think so far, so good. This system has helped us to migrate to e-Parliament, which we have been considering for some time. It is something that we were already thinking about that one day we would migrate to that kind of thing because that is the future and it's what is happening the world over,” explained Mundubile.

“We need to come to a place where we... the fact that we can't control the happenings like this pandemic, and if in future we have a pandemic, I will just sit in my bedroom and participate in Parliament just like the way children are learning on the Internet. So, I would also be able to pass laws as it were. So, this is a great milestone in my view, and I hope that everybody must embrace this change and be happy that we are where we are. We didn't get there earlier because of our own liking. But due to circumstances, we have found ourselves here and I think that is the way that we are going to prepare for this.”

ECZ nomination fees remain unreasonably high, unnecessary – Kambwili

By Ulande Nkomesha

NATIONAL Democratic Congress (NDC) president Chishimba Kambwili says the revised nomination fees by the Electoral Commission of Zambia remain unreasonably high and unnecessary.

And MMD president Nevers Mumba says ECZ should clearly explain the reason for hiking nomination fees.

In an interview Kambwili said leadership should not only be a preserve for the rich and corrupt, arguing that the K95,000 nomination fee needed for one to stand as President was meant to deter people from participating in leadership.

“Those fees are unreasonable and unnecessary and they are only meant to deter the poor people from participating in the leadership of this country. K95,000 is a pension for some people in Zambia. Some civil servants worked for 20 to 30 years to come and earn K95,000, now you expect a civil servant who wants to be President to go and get their pension money and pay for nomination. Is that reasonable? Politics must not be the reserve for the rich and the corrupt because surely to pay K95,000 somebody must be rich or they have obtained money corruptly. Today the economy is biting for anybody to put the nomination fee at K95,000, which is equal to the

pension of some people after working for 30 years. It is an insult to the poor people and an insult to the people of Zambia. It is a very unreasonable decision,” Kambwili said.

He said it was wrong for the ECZ to use the election process to generate income for the country.

“There are a lot of poor people who are very intelligent and wise but they don't have the money, are you telling me that such people should not vie for the position of Presidency? Should not vie for position of MP, should not become councillors? The Electoral Commission of Zambia was established by an Act of Parliament to run elections on behalf of the people of Zambia and their source of funding is very clear and instructive in that Act; it shall be funded by treasury [and] through grants. It is not a business, it is not a cash generating venture for the state. Its job is to organise elections,” he said.

“When there are elections, they prepare a budget and take it to the Ministry of Finance. More often than note we have been assisted by donors in running the elections. Since when was ECZ defined as a body to raise its own money to hold elections. So this nonsense of saying running elections is expensive, it is not their duty to raise money, the money is supposed to be raised by the state through the

treasury. Whoever is behind this just wants to deter certain people from exercising their rights to run for elections.”

Kambwili said the nomination fees should be reduced to a maximum of K5,000 to enable people participate in the election.

“The nomination fees for the President, my take is that it must be K5,000. There are certain benchmarks that you can set for a political party to sponsor a President; how many members they should have? The structures that they should have all over the country; but you cannot go and deter people from running using fees. You will end up being ruled by a crook just because he is able to raise K95 000 and a genuine clean person doesn't run for office because he can't afford the higher fees. So for me the nomination fees for the President should be K5,000, MPs K500, councillors K50,” said Kambwili.

And Mumba accused ECZ of not consulting political parties before arriving at the revised nomination fees.

“We have condemned this behaviour of the ECZ. This sector of our society called ECZ is one of the most sensitive sectors in most African governments; they are the sources of war, they are sources of conflict. We have advised our ECZ time after time that this must be a consultative

process all the way to the end. They cannot sit in the board room and decide on some commercial figures as a nomination fee. What are they doing with the electoral process? Is it a business for them? They need to satisfy us and make us understand why they have become thirsty for such hefty amounts,” Mumba said.

“We don't understand why they are doing that. We are in disagreement with their behaviour. Even if they bring to K2, the question will still arise why are you not doing consultations with stakeholders? Why do they feel like they have to be doing it away from us? Then we have to always fall behind and argue them back to normalcy, why are they doing that? We are here, they can call us, we sit down together and they put their case across ‘we need K200 000 from each one of you; because we are broke and we have no money to hold elections; they need to tell us why they need all that money, we are not children!”

The current proposed fees for male presidential candidates stand at K95,000, females at K75,000, and K60,000 for youth and persons living with disabilities, while for Parliamentary candidates the proposed fees stand at K15,000 for male, K13,500 for female, and K10,000 for youths and persons living with disabilities.

State-sponsored terrorism may lead to civil war, fears Imenda

By Mirriam Chabala

ZAMBIA may end up degenerating into a civil war if government fails to stop the violence being perpetuated by its cadres, warns UPND deputy secretary general Gertrude Imenda.

And Imenda has warned the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) to be mindful of their news reports, saying the national broadcaster and its staff could be cited for promoting hate speech if conflict erupted.

In an interview, Imenda charged that the State was sponsoring its cadres to engage in terrorist activities where innocent citizens were being brutalised as the Zambia Police Service helplessly stood by.

"With what is going on right now, because of the State-sponsored terrorism in this country, don't be surprised, we are going towards a civil war if somebody doesn't do something to stop what is going on. Because of this State-sponsored terrorism, this country may be at the verge of a civil war. What is happening is unacceptable. People booed the President, yes, but who said that booing someone is a crime? It's just another way of expressing dissatisfaction at the governance of this country. People are unhappy at the misuse of the PF," Imenda said.

"And who said that all those who were booing were all UPND? Isn't it the PF, themselves, who said: 'even in Southern Province, there are people who belong to PF?' So, what happened? Why should we blame the UPND and particularly singling out president Hakainde Hichilema? It's uncalled for, how does he come in? The man is at his home observing the COVID-19 guidelines as was stipulated and flagged off by the Republican President. But something happens in Monze and someone says, 'HH should apologise,' for what? Did you see him there? In fact, it's even good that our members of



parliament did not go there because I can only imagine what could have happened if our political leaders, like members of parliament, were there in Monze. Our members of parliament, like Honourable Jack Mwiimbu, Cornelius Mweetwa and Gary Nkombo could have been the scapegoat; they could have charged them with treason."

She told the police to stop shielding the PF and their violent conduct.

"The police in this country do not know how to play their role and I am warning them because they will also be cited for looking the other way when PF is involved in lawlessness. My message also goes to the Inspector General of Police [Kakoma Kanganja]; look, the PF organized a meeting just after the Monze booing, they held a meeting where they were threatening that, 'HH shouldn't go to Luapula and on the Copperbelt' and things like that, did they get a permit to do that? I don't think so. The youths wanted to demonstrate and they stopped because of COVID-19," Imenda said. "But here are PF people two days ago or so, they had a meeting to churn out hate speech against Hakainde and the UPND. This shouldn't happen; we need an impartial police service that will serve the interest of Zambia. The truth of the matter is that people express their anger at the leadership because what they were promised is not there. They were promised jobs. The youths were promised jobs by this PF government, but what is there? There is nothing, people have no jobs, no money in their

pockets. There is poverty, and they say, 'a hungry man is an angry man.' So, when somebody expresses his displeasure, you don't say, 'he has committed an offence,' who do they think the Head of State is? He's not a god; we elected him to serve the interests of the people, not the bellies of his goons!"

And Imenda warned that ZNBC would equally bear the blame should a civil war erupt in Zambia because stories that in most times promote hate speech.

"That media outlet, if civil war breaks out, if genocide breaks out, ZNBC and its staff will be cited for causing that. They can be taken to the International Criminal Court (ICC) if genocide breaks out because of the messages that are churned out of ZNBC. I was watching their news the other day, hate speeches are going out on ZNBC to the people. Because of that, do you know what is happening today?" wondered Imenda. "The same State terrorism machinery has organised people in various towns; I received a phone call from Kasama, the PF youths went round insulting and making effigies of Hakainde. What has Hakainde done apart from being the leader of the biggest political party now in terms of following? We know that Hakainde, right now is at 60 per cent [in terms of following]. So, because of the pressure that the PF are feeling, they are organising State terrorism to cause chaos as we go into the 2021 elections. And I can really see this going out of hand, unless something is done."

By Ulande Nkomesh

UPND Mazabuka member of parliament Gary Nkombo says Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini is to blame for Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya's failure to give concrete reasons why PF members are flouting COVID-19 guidelines.

And Nkombo says Speaker Matibini allowed Dr Chilufya to patronize him and call him bitter for simply raising matters of fact.

In an interview, Nkombo said it was the duty of Speaker Matibini to ensure that Dr Chilufya substantially answered the questions raised regarding continued flouting of COVID-19 guidelines by the ruling PF.

"I have served under Speaker [Amusaa] Mwanamwambwa. When a Minister fails to answer the question, the Speaker will insist that you have not answered the question...as far as I am concerned, my question was not an emotional question to warrant Dr Chilufya to start calling me bitter. I blame the Speaker because ordinarily, a Speaker who discharges his duty in a balanced and fair manner would have insisted that Dr Chilufya withdraws the word bitter on my part because I am not bitter. Dr Chilufya was patronising me and the Speaker allowed Dr Chilufya to patronize me," Nkombo said.

Speaker allowed Chitalu to patronize me, says Nkombo

"This is not the first time Mr Speaker has done that. Five days ago, I asked the same question around discrimination in this society where PF have allowed the wheels of society to start plucking off because there is disorder; the Vice President refused to answer my question and she just said I can't answer. When the Speaker says as the question is put, whoever is supposed to answer the question, they will call upon them, it means they have qualified that question. If the question is out of order as of Chilufya's case, the Speaker would have said this question is not related to what we are talking about. If it is unfair, the Speaker should have said this is an unfair question."

He said it was unfair that Dr Matibini allowed Dr Chilufya to abuse him by calling him bitter.

"I asked my question based on facts; it is a fact that Chilufya is in court for criminal charges, there is nothing to be emotional about that. So, the Speaker allowed Dr Chilufya to abuse me based on a fact. So clearly speaking, Chilufya's patronage on me, I blame it

on the Chairperson and I have no doubt about it. This is what my conscience tells me that the Speaker is unfair with me. Going forward, he must just learn to be fair, that is what I am asking. Why I am insisting on that is that when I protested for being called bitter, the Speaker said 'I have asked the Minister to be temperate', that is not what I had wanted. He said 'the Minister has heard'. No sooner had he protected the Minister than the Minister said 'UPND is an undemocratic party'. So who was at fault? It was the Minister and the Speaker allowed him to continue patronizing me," said Nkombo. "The point is that all our days are numbered in that House; Mr Speaker, myself, Chilufya, all of us, our days are numbered. The whole point is that they say in English, 'He who laughs last, laughs the loudest'. We will see in the next few months, all of our jobs are on the line, everyone in that House is there for a short while. After that, we are going back to the table and then the Zambian people will tell us whether we are going to remain there or not."

TI-Z demands transparency in usage of Covid donations

By Ulande Nkomesh

TRANSPARENCY International Zambia (TI-Z) says there is lack of information being disseminated to the public on the COVID-19 donations to enhance transparency.

In an interview, TI-Z executive director Maurice Nyambe said information from COVID-19 donations had noticeably reduced and that there was need to disseminate it on a regular basis to ensure transparency in their utilisation.

"It is one thing to tell us how much has been donated, you also need to tell us how those donations have been

utilised. It was a good initiative to publicize the donations that were given, but this must be in a regular manner, whether you are doing it on a monthly basis or every two weeks or something. I think, as the public, we need to have a regular update to what is being donated and how these donations are being used," Nyambe said.

"The other week, we were told that some health workers have not been paid, then you start wondering, 'but we have been given so much in terms of donations in terms of money and in terms of materials, so why should we have health workers involved in the

COVID-19 fight not getting paid?' So, it is about clarifying these things and making it clear what really is going on. It's about being consistent with the information you are releasing to the public, particularly, when it comes to public funds. These are public funds and public funds attract a certain level of scrutiny because they belong to the public."

He also wondered why the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development was targeting to acquire funds from the K8 billion COVID-19 bond to pay contractors when funds to the road sector were already allocated before the Coronavirus pandemic.

Government has so far managed to raise K6.8 billion from the COVID-19 bond that was recently issued by the Bank of Zambia (BoZ), according to Ministry of Finance data.

"It is important that government gives a consistent message as to what is actually transpiring because where there is lack of clarity, where we seem to be getting contradictory statements, that is when speculations arise. When speculation arises, that is when people begin to ask questions: 'what is going on here?' 'Is there something under-hand going on here?' Our plea to government is to be very clear about what they are proposing and not just telling us what they are proposing; why are they proposing to move in that manner? What has happened to money that was allocated towards those road projects? Is that money finished? What is going on?" wondered Nyambe.

PF needs alternative candidate in case ECZ rejects Lungu – aspiring MP

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

ASPIRING Kaumbwe constituency PF member of parliament Moses Mutale says the ruling party should identify an alternative presidential candidate in case the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) rejects President Edgar Lungu's nomination papers on account of eligibility.

In a press statement, Mutale cautioned that it would be dangerous for the ruling party to start scrambling for a presidential candidate at the eleventh hour as it will be costly and difficult for the PF to sell such a candidate at short notice.

"I am seeing the PF party being caught unaware looking at things. We should have an alternative in mind to say, 'if this fails, what are we going to do?' People are watching and waiting how the ECZ will welcome the nomination papers for our candidate Edgar Lungu because they'll say, 'if he will be attempts to forward his papers, we'll take him to court!' Now if the court will ban him from contesting,

what are we going to do?" wondered Mutale.

He said it was obvious what some groups or individuals planned to do regarding the candidature of the 2021 presidential PF candidate, judging by views on social media, and that it should be a big enough sign for the ruling party to wake up to avoid being shocked.

"We don't need to sleep as a party. We need to find an alternative candidate. Among those who want to aspire, as a party, we have not come up with anyone who we can sell as a party. Let's be careful because, according to the Constitution, it's clear, and ignoring their points will endanger ourselves as a party," he cautioned.

Mutale also observed that the Judiciary currently could not show that they were against the ruling party's candidature, but warned that when nomination time comes, it would rule out President Lungu's eligibility.

"This time, the Judiciary cannot show their colours, they can't come out open that they are not with us. Suppose things happen the way it happened in Malawi where the Electoral Commission rejects the papers of our candidate and going to court we lose the case, what are we going to do? Who will be our next candidate?" Mutale asked.

He insisted that it was not a crime to have an alternative presidential candidate to avoid putting the ruling party's name into disrepute.

"Why can say 'Edgar Lungu prepare a person who can be shown to the Zambian people?' It's not a crime to say, 'let's bring somebody on board.' Truly, I am seeing our boat is sinking in 2021 if we don't prepare for the alternative candidate as a party. Let's put our house in order, suppose our President is banned, who will take over? Let's look for a person with a clean record, not these painted with corruption, but a clean person who can be moving around with the

President," urged Mutale.

Last November, President Lungu confirmed during a press conference at State House that he was available to run and be re-elected at the 2021 general elections.

But some stakeholders have vowed to petition President Lungu's nomination papers, such as constitutional lawyer John Sangwa, State Counsel, who last month revealed that he had already drafted a petition to challenge the nomination of the Head of State in the Constitutional Court if he attempts to stand for a third successive time at next year's general election.

The petition would be pursuant to Article 52 of the 2016 Amended Constitution, which allows any interested party to challenge the nomination of a presidential candidate in the ConCourt.

President Lungu has twice been sworn into office after being elected in January, 2015, and again in August, 2016.



President Edgar Lungu (l) takes notes during the Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for Rev. Dr Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde General Secretary, United Church of Zambia at St. Andrews Congregation in Lusaka on Sunday, July 19, 2020. PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY

Lungu asks Church to “passionately” pray for Zambia’s peace

By Ulande Nkomesha

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has called on the Church in Zambia to passionately pray for the country’s peace.

Speaking at the United Church of Zambia St Andrews Congregation in Lusaka during the farewell and retirement thanksgiving service for the outgoing UCZ general Secretary Reverend Peggy

Kabonde, President Lungu said government was happy with the UCZ’s mission in promoting national unity and urged the members to pray for the country’s peace.

“My government is happy to associate with the United Church of Zambia whose mission is to preach the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ and has continued to promote national unity through its motto of ‘All one in Christ’. I want to say how proud I am to be part of this service. The United Church of Zambia to me is a church that believes in the power of unity,” President Lungu said.

“I commend the United Church of Zambia for being pioneers of gender equality by allowing female ministers to work side by side in the Ministry. The election of Rev Peggy Kabonde as general secretary has been a milestone in this regard. The Reverend’s ascension to general secretary is a good example of gender equality in leadership positions. This is in line with my government’s policy of gender balancing in considering people to occupy positions of authority. I also want to take this opportunity to ask the body of Christ in this country Zambia to passionately encourage its members to pray for Zambia’s peace.”

He praised the church for its role in nurturing politicians like Zambia’s

first President Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

“The United Church of Zambia has a very rich political heritage, mark my word, I am not saying political movement but I am saying it has a very rich political heritage. It has nurtured the political careers of most politicians of our land like Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, Mr Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, Mr Harry Mwanga Nkumbula and many others...Most of these men and women were educated and trained in UCZ missions or mission-run institutions. Having been inspired by the principles and values acquired from schools and training institutions, these men and women, together with other politicians, fought for the independence of this great country Zambia,” said President Lungu.

“The United Church of Zambia has in its work significantly contributed and continues to shape the Zambian people’s mind, spirit and soul. We are aware the United Church of Zambia has its pastoral mandate guided by core values of safety and health, environmental stewardship, respect for people and highest ethical standards. This is evidence during the COVID-19 pandemic when the church has continued providing leadership to its members and ensuring that the lives are safeguarded by following the health regulations.”

Youths who engage in violence are foolish - Mumbi Phiri

By Mirriam Chabala

PATRIOTIC Front (PF) deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says youths who engage in violence should be ashamed of themselves for being foolish enough to fight amongst each other as brothers and sisters.

And Phiri says it is embarrassing to the ruling party for PF youths to continue breaking the law even when President Edgar Lungu had spoken against their actions, warning that anyone found wanting would be firmly dealt with by the police.

Addressing youths on a PF blog, Saturday afternoon, Phiri said violence among PF youths was embarrassing the party as President Lungu, who is also the ruling party president, had always spoken against political violence.

She warned that those defying party instructions against violence by acting otherwise would be dealt with by the police and that the party would not protect them.

“Good afternoon ba youths pali (on) this blog. Some of these things which are happening, bupuba bwenu (it’s because of your own foolishness). You are so foolish; why should you agree, even me in my position to pay you to go and start fighting with your own brother? Throwing stones in the name of politics? Naiwe waima bupuba bupuba waya mukucita (and you even agree foolishly to do that), why don’t you challenge me if I am doing that? I am a mother of seven and my children are at school or seated at home. But iwe waima ati nibu politician (but you want to be violent in the name of politics), ubupuba bweka bweka (that’s complete foolishness). If it’s HH who sends you, mind you in case you don’t know, he has three children. HH’s children are not even here in Zambia, they are either in America or England. Elo iwe balekutuma waima bupuba bupuba (yet they are sending you to engage in violence and out of foolishness you are also accepting to do that),” Phiri said.

“My brother Chishimba Kambwili has five children; his first born is a female Doctor schooled here in Zambia and the second born is a lawyer. Have you ever seen Chishimba Kambwili’s children throwing stones? Some of them are overseas in England. So why should you agree to be used

as tools of violence? Bupuba bupuba (how foolish), you should not accept such things! You should challenge us as politicians to take our children; if it’s a good fight, then challenge us to use our own children. One of my children is a doctor and another is a pilot, mulenjeba ‘mayo sendeni abana benu ebo babe ama (ma’am get your own children to be) front liners [of violence].”

She reminded youths that there was no benefit in being violent except to be killed or injured.

“Ba youth lekeni ubupuba (stop being foolish youths), you are to blame for having your bones and ribs broken [by the police] and when you die, you will just remain in the statistics like ulya (that) Mapenzi Chibulo uwali ku Chawama bupuba bupuba alecita demonstrate (who was in Chawama township demonstrating like a fool). What did the family benefit? It’s just statistics. And each time HH goes on Radio, he just says ‘Chibulo Chibulo’, what will the family benefit from that? Lekeni ubupuba (stop being foolish). Nga politician ulefwaya ukulwa atuma abana bakwe (if any politician wants to fight, let them use their own children), full stop!” Phiri said.

Meanwhile, Phiri warned the PF youths that the party would not protect them from the police if they engaged in violence.

“The people who are saying Kapeso and Kanganja should go are not thinking straight because you are always blaming us as leaders that we are the ones who send you to engage in violence. I, for instance, have never sent anybody, I have never made anyone drunk and then give them money to go and start misbehaving. I want anybody to challenge me on that. My conscious and my biblical teaching doesn’t allow me to use other people’s children, giving them the beer which I can’t give to my own children just for them to engage in fights,” said Phiri.

“And those leaders sending

you to do this, I was telling the other people on the other blog, ‘HH is quarantined at his house but he’s sending you to go and engage in violence and you are also accepting. But he has three children who live abroad and he’s not asking them to go and throw stones, so why should you do it?’ Otherwise mwilatubepesha at (don’t blame us saying) ‘leaders, leaders’. As for me, if police beat you up because you are misbehaving, I won’t say anything. The law should take its course and this is the stance of the secretariat. You are embarrassing us. The boss has been saying publicly and it’s not lip service what the President has been saying, he means it. But you are acting otherwise, so police will deal with you.”



Mwiimbu renews judicial review application over Bill 10 in Court of Appeal

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LEADER of the Opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu has renewed his application for leave to commence judicial review proceedings before the Court of Appeal against Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini’s decision to allow continued consideration of Bill 10 in Parliament despite it lapsing.

Mwiimbu’s renewed application follows the Lusaka High Court’s refusal to grant him leave.

On Friday, High Court Judge Sharon Newa refused to grant Mwiimbu leave to commence judicial review proceedings against the said decision of the Speaker, saying she had no jurisdiction to interrogate the exercise of the Speaker’s powers pursuant to the internal practices and procedures of the National Assembly.

She said the Speaker, being protected from any court action where he exercises his powers under the internal procedure of the National Assembly, would only be amenable to such court action if in the exercise of that power, there is alleged breach of the Constitution.

Judge Newa further said the

Constitutional Court by virtue of Article 128 (1) of the Constitution is the court that is vested with jurisdiction to deal with such matters.

Mwiimbu, however, renewed his application for leave to apply for judicial review before the Court of Appeal on the same day his case was dismissed by the Lusaka High Court.

He cited Attorney General Likando Kalaluka as the respondent.

According to his statement on renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review filed in the Court of Appeal, Friday, Mwiimbu is seeking an order of mandamus directing the Speaker of the National Assembly to discontinue any or any further consideration, debate or other proceedings in relation to the Bill.

He also wants a declaration that the decision is invalid, null and void and of no effect and an order that all proceedings in the National Assembly relating to the Bill be stayed until after the determination of this matter or further order of the court.

The grounds upon which the said reliefs are sought are that: the Speaker’s decision was and is unreasonable and/or irrational and without justifiable

reason given the fact that the Bill lapsed on June 4, 2020 and as such that it was and is not amenable to further consideration, debate or process in the House.

Mwiimbu also wants the court to declare that the decision was, and is, illegal, null and void ab intio in terms of the established practice and procedure of the National Assembly, which is binding on the House.

He further wants the court to declare that the decision was wrong at law by reason of failure by the National Assembly to follow laid down procedure when it resumed business relating to the Bill and subsequently deferred the said business for consideration on a date yet to be advised but within the current session of the National Assembly despite the fact that the Bill was “killed” upon its lapse on June 4, 2020.

“The Applicant will also advance the proposition that the role that the Speaker of the National Assembly played in this matter was Administrative in nature and these officers are public officers, his decisions are amenable to Judicial Review,” Mwiimbu stated.

In her ruling, Friday, Judge Newa said her jurisdiction in the matter had been ousted on the basis of the Constitutional Court’s decision that the courts have jurisdiction to hear and determine matters where the Speaker of the National Assembly was alleged to have breached the Constitution.

Judge Newa said even if she had jurisdiction to interrogate the exercise of the Speaker’s powers pursuant to the internal practices and procedures of the National Assembly, it would ultimately involve interpretation of the Constitution, from which the said powers were derived.

She added that as seen, she had no such Jurisdiction, as it was vested in the Constitutional Court.

“On that basis, I find that this is not a case that is fit for further investigation, and I accordingly decline to grant leave to commence judicial review proceedings, and dismiss the matter. Looking at the fact that the matter seeks to enforce matters of national interest, I order that each party bears their own costs of the application,” judge Newa ruled and granted leave to appeal.



**PATRIOTIC
FRONT**
Why we deserve
your vote



SHOW US YOUR MANIFESTO, THEN WE CAN SAY YOU'RE WORTHY COMPETITORS

Zambians, especially the youth must examine political Party manifestos...There are parties that only have insults and wish lists of "What" without "Hows". Tragically, there are those ready to set Zambia up in flames just in order for them to earn the title of "President".

By Sunday Chilufya Chanda

We in the Patriotic Front have always stood for noble politics.

As a party we stand opposed to politics of character assassination, personality cult and regionalism. We refuse to pursue a style of politics where in order to belong to the inner circle of a given political order, you must belong tribally. We therefore reject anything that defeats the nation's motto of One Zambia, One Nation.

When politics fail to rise above character assassination, then the Zambian people have a right to put a stop to such degeneration.

We reject that any Opposition political Party should engage international bandits to ruin Zambia's enviable reputation just for them to get to State House. Politics of deceit and falsehoods against any development project will not take any Opposition party into office. In today's Zambia, it is the contestation of ideas and presenting alternatives that counts. So when the Opposition in Zambia says they'll "fix it", Zambians, especially the Youth are answering back: Tell us "HOW" you will do it. In short - show us the alternatives.

No political Party should ever seek public office if it can not avail Zambians a manifesto-this is a demand Zambians -especially the younger Zambians must make. Zambian youth should seriously interrogate political Party manifestos to question whether or not they serve their aspirations for a sustainable and developed future.

So to young Zambians we say:
_ "ask all of us (politicians) to show you our

manifestos and on that premise and our capacity to deliver embrace or discard"._

This is very important because today's youthful generation cannot and must not subscribe to politics of tribal affiliation and insults. Today's youth must reject "manifesto-less" political parties. They are deceptive and immoral political parties and politicians without manifestos are in fact a disservice to democracy.

It is sad to note that no other political Party in Zambia apart from Patriotic Front **"It** has a manifesto which becomes a social contract with the people.

is sad to note that no other political Party in Zambia apart from Patriotic Front has a manifesto which becomes a social contract with the people"

What are these manifesto-less parties and politicians

communicating? What alternative hopes and road maps are they selling to the public?

Surely it cannot be insults, character assassination!

Tragically, there are those ready to set Zambia up in flames just in order for them to earn the title of President. What does it profit any Opposition leader to use his networks to plant a lie that threatens Zambia's national security? Why should any Opposition leader fail to condemn a threat against national security? The question is what it would profit them to become President of ashes and ruins?

On this score, we seek to educate our colleagues that the most important title in any nation is "citizen". Never do anything that hurts the interests of the citizens - as the late Dean Mung'omba said "you cannot injure society and expect to go scot free".

On our part as a party we are a grassroots party and have the ordinary citizen at heart.

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu both as President of the Patriotic Front and Head of State has the welfare of the ordinary citizen at heart as he spearheads the implementation of the PF manifesto through the execution of the Seventh National Development Plan towards the attainment of Vision 2030.

Our Head of State has demonstrated a leadership style that has been about more than just a title or a designation; he has rolled up his sleeves and has mingled among us as one of us. He works with us, he laughs with us and he cries with us. Therein lies one of his key strengths; his down to earth humility. His warm and sincere infectious influence and inspiration has rubbed on to the youth and the women and permeated through every social, economic and regional demographic across the nation.

He is an aggressive warrior when it comes to delivering for Zambians; and a cultured gentleman when it comes to treating people with respect.

While our manifesto-less detractors are frustrating development efforts in their "strongholds" and sponsoring fake news and hate speech through their network of malicious media, President Lungu is implementing a party Manifesto of Development and a Personal Manifesto of Love.

Let everyone be measured by their manifestos.

Zambians are tired of those who promise to "fix it" without dealing with the "how". Zambians will not fall for anything that rides on national misfortune just to win an election. Zambians are saying: Show us the "how" if at all you are worth competitors and viable alternatives.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
LEADER of opposition in parliament Jack Mwiimbu says opposition members of parliament have always collaborated with the government but they will not work with the ruling Patriotic Front (PF).

And Mwiimbu says the opposition will now onwards defy the COVID-19 health regulations and embark on countrywide campaigns for 2021 because the PF are doing the same.

Reacting to President Edgar Lungu's remarks in

UPND MPs will work with govt but not PF – Mwiimbu

Mongu that the opposition MPs' continued refusal to work with the government would cost them votes in 2021, Mwiimbu, in an interview, said they had specifically refused to work with the PF party.

"I want to state very categorically that UPND MPs have never refused to work with government. Members of the public must realize that there are three arms of government namely;

the Legislature, Judiciary, and the Executive. UPND members [of parliament] are part of the government of the day and we constitute part of the legislature. So, we are working with the government and we are the ones that decide on the budgeting process in parliament. But we are not going to work with PF in whatever endeavours they are trying to do. We will work with the government but not with the political party,"



Mwiimbu said.

He said the opposition would not participate in any of President Lungu's meetings which he had been holding whilst monitoring government projects around the country.

"If they are indicating that we are refusing to participate in any of the meetings he is having throughout the country, yes, we are refusing to participate because as far as we are concerned, President Lungu is campaigning in all these tours he is doing. And we cannot be part and parcel of his campaigns throughout the country. But we have never refused to work with the government of the day on development projects and that is why we approve money," Mwiimbu said.

Meanwhile, the Monze member of parliament said his party would embark on a countrywide campaign for 2021 because the PF was doing the same.

"The other issue which I have to indicate is that as far as we are concerned as UPND, the campaigns for 2021 elections have started. The PF are now in full gear campaigning for themselves throughout the country despite the guidance they

have given on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has given a guidance through a Statutory Instrument, advising members of the public not to be meeting in large numbers due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, but the PF Government, led by President Lungu are in the forefront of breaking the law which they have enacted," he said.

"It therefore follows that they have no regard whatsoever pertaining to the outbreak of the pandemic in this country. We as UPND now strongly believe that they are using the COVID-19 outbreak to disadvantage the opposition in the campaigns in this country. When it comes to the opposition, the government through the police and other agencies are always frustrating our efforts to exercise our rights of association. They have already told us that we cannot meet and sell our programmes due to the pandemic but for themselves, whenever it suits them, they don't regard that there is COVID-19 pandemic in this country... From now onwards, we are going to defy the directives they are giving pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic in this country. We shall also embark on a countrywide campaign for 2021 because as far as we are concerned now, the campaigns have commenced."

And Mwiimbu said it is nonsense for Mufulira member of parliament Evans Chibanda to suggest that only members of the PF would be allowed to feature on radio stations on the Copperbelt Province.

He said no one would stop the opposition from featuring on radio or TV.

"That is being foolish and undemocratic. You are aware that we have consistently complained that the democratic space in this country is narrowing under the PF. The PF, using unruly thugs and cadres, are the ones in the forefront of attacking radio stations and TV stations, frustrating anyone who would want to express their opinion on radio and TV. We have to state that in this country, there are laws and regulations that govern the management and operations of TV and radio stations as well as newspaper publications. And there is no one who can stop any opposition political party from appearing on radio, to be featured on TV or being featured in newspaper publications in this country," Mwiimbu said.

He said Zambia had even failed to attract funding from financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank because of too much lawlessness under President Lungu's regime.

"The Constitution of this country which is the supreme law is very clear on the rights of individuals. What that particular MP is advocating for is lawlessness. And we should not allow lawlessness to reign in this country. Unfortunately, under the reign of President Lungu and the PF, lawlessness is the order of the day. Anyone who has got opposing views to the PF is considered an enemy and that enemy must be killed. We cannot allow that to happen in this country," said Mwiimbu. "And they don't consider that whatever actions they are taking have far reaching repercussions. And that is why as the Government of the Republic of Zambia, we are failing to attract funding from these financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF. It is due to poor governance record under the Patriotic Front."

Chief Sikoongo should have exhausted all avenues before suing Chirundu council, rules High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE Lusaka High Court has dismissed an application by deputy Chief Sikoongo of Choongo village in Chirundu District where he was seeking leave to commence judicial review proceedings against the Chirundu District Council's decision to bar him from attending council meetings.

In her ruling, justice Gaudentia Milimo Salasini said deputy Chief Sikoongo went straight to court when he should have exhausted all the other remedies.

In this matter, Peter Choonga, in his capacity as deputy Chief Sikoongo, sued the Chirundu District Council seeking an order of certiorari to move into the High Court for the purpose of quashing the decision of the Council Secretary to bar him as deputy Chief Sikoongo from attending council meetings.

Choonga further wanted a declaration that the said decision of the council was unlawful and an infringement on his statutory functions as provided in the Chiefs Act.

He wanted, if leave was granted, a direction that the grant of such leave should operate as a stay of the decision of the Chirundu District Council secretary to bar him from attending council meetings and

that hearing of the application for judicial review be expedited.

Choonga's grounds upon which the relief was sought were that the council's decision to bar him from attending the meetings was unlawful, unreasonable and an infringement on the statutory functions of the deputy Chief Sikoongo as provided in the Chiefs Act.

Further that he, being deputy Chief Sikoongo, was entitled to attend council meetings as a statutory function duly transferred or assigned to him in line with the provisions of section 10 of the Chiefs Act, Chapter 287 of the Laws of Zambia.

But in her ruling, Jjudge Salasini said an applicant for leave to commence judicial review proceedings needed to show that he or she had an arguable case with a likelihood of succeeding in the substantive matter.

She added that the application for judicial review should be made promptly and only in the absence of an alternative remedy.

"The applicant did not exhaust other remedies but came straight to court when he should have exhausted all the other remedies. In this regard, the application for leave for judicial review is dismissed. Leave to appeal is granted," ruled judge Salasini.

Govt to address civil servants' indebtedness, panic loan deductions by institutions

By Zondiwe Mbewe

VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina says Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ng'andu will soon furnish Parliament with details of how mechanisms being put in place to address the issue of civil servants being indebted to financial institutions will be implemented.

And Vice-President Wina says a huge number of councillors are joining the PF after resigning from the UPND because of high levels of intolerance in the opposition party.

She said this during the Vice-President's Question Time in Parliament, Friday morning.

Chimwemwe Independent member of parliament Elias Mwila asked how prepared government was to discuss options of bailing out civil servants, such as teachers, police officers and nurses, as a good number of them were getting negative salaries due to heavy panic loan deductions and deductible figures, which kept increasing.

In response, Vice-President Wina said government was taking action to address the matter.

"Government would not

like to see its civil servants being indebted to financial institutions and government is taking action to address this matter. The Minister of Finance will furnish the House with details of how the mechanisms being put in place to address this issue will be undertaken," Vice-President Wina said in response.

Asked by Lubansheni PF member of parliament George Mwamba on what was causing a huge number of councillors to resign from UPND and join PF, the Vice-President said it was due high levels of intolerance in the opposition party, among several other factors.

"There are many factors contributing to this exodus of councillors from UPND and one of these is the high levels of intolerance in UPND. The newcomers to the party are finding this very uncomfortable and that's why some of them are leaving. And some are leaving because they cannot operate under a very undemocratic party where councillors are forbidden from interacting with government officials. Councillors want to see development in their wards and if they are forbidden

from going to a government Ministry to discuss issues of development, then they get frustrated and leave. UPND officials should not complain whatsoever. And there is no PF that is buying any councillor, we don't have those resources to undertake such an exercise," Vice-President Wina said.

And Vice-President Wina said the Ministry of General Education had put in place programmes to reach out to rural pupils.

She explained that in conjunction with UNICEF, the Ministry had secured some radios and other reading materials in local languages for rural school children uags to ensure they were not left out.

"Of course, we do realize that there is no electricity in some parts of the country and

sometimes radio reception is not very clear, but government, through the Ministry of General Education, is doing everything possible to reach out to all the pupils in our rural schools," said Vice-President Wina when responding to a question from Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta who asked: "The children and parents of Chiengi would like to find out from the hardworking PF government the efforts that it's making to reach out to the students and pupils, who are staying at home during the time of COVID. The children of Chiengi do not have access to computers or modern kind of communication that can enable them to learn as other children are doing because their parents cannot even afford television [sets]."

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WE have repeatedly warned in the past that this was going to happen. We repeatedly appealed to the President to consider closing the borders, leaving passage for only essential goods. This was never done. In fact, on the closure of borders, the government authorities behaved as though there is a particular commodity that they were involved in exporting and they didn't want to lose out on income by closing the border.

So why is the government acting as if surge in Covid mortality rate has come as a surprise? Why are they behaving like they didn't expect anything of this sort to happen? What is now happening in Zambia is a consequence of negligence. This is incompetence, and our government is guilty as charged. When advisors were singing to them, asking for a lockdown of the borders, they reacted stubbornly. In fact we remember that at the beginning of April, President Lungu was bragging that Zambia was already on lockdown and that the measures he had put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19 were

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We missed the opportunity to contain Covid, it's now time to effect behaviour change

perfectly fitting the international definition of disease control lockdown, as people's movements were restricted - according to him.

We remember that people applauded the President for choosing to keep our borders open. They persuaded him to even open bars. Some of our people are eager to go out and drink and party, they still can't see the danger that is lurking out there. At one point they were even asking very silly questions to allege that Covid was fake, such as: "Do you know anyone who has tested positive to Covid?"

Well here we are

now. Can we still claim that this virus is fake? If Zambia was already on lockdown, where have all these infections come from to claim the lives of our beloved ones? Let's not be naive as citizens. What is happening now was already predicted by experts. We were told that August would be the peak of the spread of the pandemic where we would have as many as 900 plus deaths. These statistics are exactly as they were predicted. The rise in the cases has got nothing to do with the weather changes.

Experts tell us that right now, we have less than 50 per cent of people adhering to the safety measures.

This is a non mitigated scenario where very few people wear face masks. They are moving about with their business as if these are ordinary times, as if there is nothing to worry about. To borrow Miles Sampa's words, our people are excitedly hugging, kissing and wha.. wha.. wha..!

We simply don't listen as a people together with our leaders. The measures put in place so far are very far from sufficient. Experts are pointing us to what is happening in the markets, at the bus stations, the use of public transport, adherence to wearing of face masks and sanitising our hands.

Some citizens even get rude when told to wear a mask before entering restricted premises.

We must say here and say it categorically that it is going to be difficult to prevent the spread of the pandemic because we already missed the window period for controlling it. Right now, the best that our government can do is to prepare for the worst. They should prepare for more deaths and more quarantine centres.

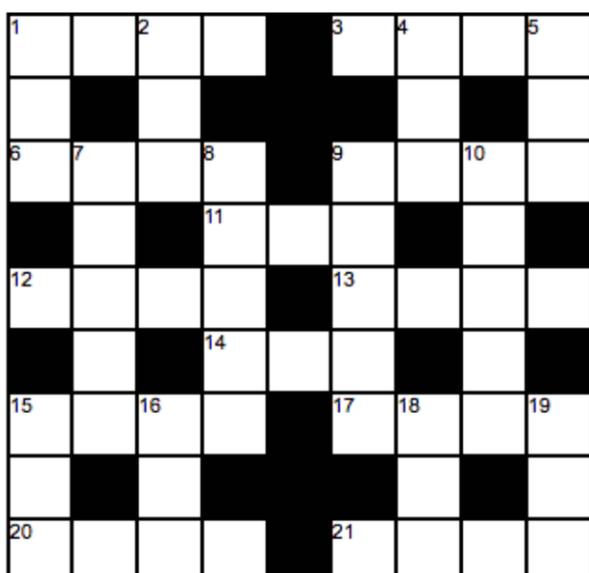
We must also say that it is not too late to make a difference. There are still some reactive measures we can take to mitigate the death toll. Government can consider a ban of

public transportation for at least two weeks, which is incubation period of the virus. Experts tell us that this could significantly make a difference. Authorities can review this measure every two weeks.

We can no longer say we don't know anyone who has died of Covid-19. Our people are perishing every day. Our lawmakers whom we interact with are dying, some are battling for their lives in hospitals. Our nurses and doctors whom we live with in our homes are dying, our police officers who we personally know from communities are dying. We are no longer talking about people we know, we are talking about family members.

Our people must understand that government has failed to protect citizens, It's now time for behaviour change. We are calling on all well-meaning citizens to make individual contributions to stop this disease. Please make a difference, even by choosing to stay home during this period, if you can, resist the temptation of going to crowded places, especially without protective clothing. We are at war!

Crossword puzzle No 649



"The first person you have to conquer is you. This is because when at last you win over million people, the first person to bring you down could be you. Discipline yourself!"
- Israelmore Ayivor

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not fail 3. Went too fast 6. Snatch 9. Percussion instrument 11. Put to work 12. British submachine gun 13. Command post 14. Negating word 15. Skeletal 17. Quench 20. Big brass instrument 21. Large lot size | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrinkly dog 2. Neptune's realm 4. Better than a bogey 5. Make less bright 7. Fashionably dated 8. Cottontail 9. Owed amounts 10. Distressed 15. Gamble 16. Pen tip 18. Part of a circle 19. Female sheep |
|---|---|

Crossword puzzle No 648



Reader's feedback

Former ministers' K4.7m debt to State

Editor

Let them pay and put interest on top it's been long. - Brian Chama

You see illegality has become a norm in Zambia to an extent where they even challenge the same illegality in the constitution court. Let them start paying the money before the parliament is dissolved. Look at the amount of money that went to waste this money can do alot of wonders. No wonder they want to change the constitution so that ministers continue staying in office after parliament is dissolved in an effort to continue misusing the tax payers money with impunity. - Kayimbo Kayimbo

Here is the amount they have all been pretending not to know. Now sir, kindly go further and publish amounts as per individual former minister. - Brian Sichula

1. They are supposed to indicate gross amounts
2. Where is the government money they spent on fuel, accommodation and food while campaigning, that needs to be refunded
3. Does the figure include interest because they have deliberately delayed to pay
4. The figure should include an amount for damages for lives lost due to lack drugs in hospitals due to these illegal payments. This refund figure is an insult. - Richard Waga

Politicians can not be trusted.

Malanji's quest to expose Lungu's enemies over Callixte

Dear editor

How possible can some one entice a person who is incarcerated in remand prison. It's even a waste of time and resources because the investigators may not even be allowed to talk to the accuser who is being held in prison.

- Rhodes Chipengu
The more perceptive citizens can already see where the story is going. If climate change won't be blamed, it will be the usual suspect. - Larry Mbiri

It is clear now that the whole purpose of Malanji's trip too Rwanda was to go and try to convince Kagame that it was the opposition in Zambia that enticed the accused to mention Lungu. Any purported further investigation by Zambia will be sham, they have already decided who will be their culprit. - Nanja Mpile

We know what that statement is intended to achieve. This PF Government doesn't get tired of doing the same thing over and over, accusing HH of anything and everything. Before we know it, someone will even accuse HH of being Tasila's father! - Chilala Muhyila

Next time learn to respect the FIC report. In view this begin your investigation with the 2018 FIC report you will know the truth. - Mark Malumo



Forest Rangers players' COVID-19 positive test result

Editor

Something is not adding up here..... They have been testing since they went into camp so how come they've tested positive at once? And these guys were suppose to play today..... They should double check the equipments we're using for testing in this country, maybe its Chinese! - Ian Malekhanie

Why the are you playing football in the middle of a pandemic? - Jackson Thompson

Rumour had it that Forest Rangers never wanted to play Zanaco on their first "new normal" game. This has just justified the rumour. - Milton Kapambwe

Chitalu's failure to respond to why PF keep flouting COVID-19 guidelines in Parley

Dear Editor

Yes listening to him was very disappointing he avoided the questions totally. Then they expect Zambians to respect COVID rules, very disappointing seeing the president himself not respecting these rules as he goes about campaigning aka inspecting projects. - Josh Godwin Musuku

brains. -Noritah Mwanza

Soon resume daily update you said, do you need more donation sir? Why should u always blame UPND for your failures? They say a failure always has an excuse. - Richard Mweetwa

Is there any provision to re-ask the same questions again.....Mr. Speaker Sir let the Minister answer the questions that were presented to him again? - Harry Masuwa

I was expecting the speaker to remind the minister to answer the questions but he was quiet - Gladwell Habeene Snr

This is the more reasons why some of us are still doubting corona yamu Zambia..... Unfortunately these guys seem to be managing manipulating the minds of the majority.... They're playing politics and they seem to be doing fine! - Ian Malekhanie

PF has very dull Ministers, and he thought by beating about the bush he had answered the 4 questions. Looks like his corrupt fingers are more intelligent than his

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.

Malanji your PF corruption will make you go mad. You rushed to Rwanda to go and corrupt Kagame. This matter is Court and the accused is the Rebel Leader in that Country who told the court the person who was funding his Rebel group is Mr. Lungu. Courts dont change the evidence testified in there jurisdiction. Zambia is already interfering in Rwandan internal affairs. Don't send any investigators to Rwanda. The matter is in Court. We need these investigators on the miracle 48 houses, the gassing, Soweto market fire, the FIC reports, Auditor general reports, Covid 19 misappropriated donations etc. - Nyambe Simate

Now it's coming back to the opposition; the strategy is well known. But Rwanda has to conclude that case in court and review the evidence the man may have. - Kelvin Pumulo

Sikananu asks court to strike out State's defence over police beatings

By Zondiwe Mbewe

THE 56-year-old man of Lusaka's Obama Area who has sued the State following the beating he allegedly received at a bar at the hands of some Police officers enforcing COVID-19 regulations, has asked the court to strike out the State's defence.

In its defence, the State asked the court to dismiss David Sikananu's claims, saying he was not entitled to any of the reliefs he was seeking in the matter as no such beatings took place.

But Sikananu has argued that the said defence does not disclose any reasonable defence to his claims, as such it should be struck

out and judgment on admissions be entered against the State.

In this matter, Sikananu has sued the Attorney General in the Lusaka High Court, seeking damages for injuries sustained after allegedly being beaten at a bar by some Police officers who were enforcing COVID-19 regulations.

He wants a declaration that the officers had no right under the COVID-19 regulations or any other laws to humiliate, assault, torture or subject him to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Sikananu also wants a declaration that the Police had no right to violate his Human Rights

under the guise of enforcing the COVID-19 Regulations or any other laws or regulations applicable in Zambia or any other directive for enforcing measures for the prevention of COVID-19.

He is further seeking damages for false imprisonment, including exemplary damages, as well as an order that the medical report form dated April 23, 2020 be corrected to reflect the fact that he was beaten or assaulted by the Zambia Police Officers.

But in his defence, Attorney General Likando Kalaluka urged the court to dismiss the case saying he would put Sikananu to strict proof about his claims.

However, Sikananu, who earlier filed summons for leave to enter judgment in default of appearance and defence, now wants the court to order that the defence filed by the State be struck out on the ground that it discloses no reasonable defence.

"The said defence does not disclose any reasonable defence to the plaintiff's claims. I verily believe that it is proper and just that the said defence be struck out and judgement be entered against the defendant as claimed," he stated.

In his statement of claim filed, May 15, 2020, Sikananu explained that on April 22, this year, around

17:30 hours, while enjoying good health, he went to a bar called Kimata at the market called Big Jose in Obama area to play a game of billiards which was not a contact sport.

He stated that around 18:30 hours, four unknown Police Officers from Chelstone Police Station, while ostensibly enforcing the Public Health COVID-19 Regulations (SI no 22 of 2020), descended on the bar.

Sikananu claimed that upon gaining entry into the bar, the officers took turns in unlawfully beating him and other patrons using a plank and a truncheon.

"Upon gaining entry into the bar, the Zambia Police Officers (one plain clothed officer brandishing a plank with metal or sharp objects, another plain clothed officer brandishing a truncheon, a uniformed officer brandishing an AK 47 Assault Rifle and another plain clothed officer manning one of the doors to the bar) ordered Sikananu together with the other patrons in the bar to sit down on the floor

which was filthy and dirty," read the statement of claim.

"Thereafter, the said officers, while hurling abuses and insults at Sikananu and the patrons, took turns in unlawfully beating or assaulting Sikananu and the other patrons using the said plank and truncheon."

He further claimed that he was repeatedly beaten or assaulted on his arms, hands and feet and in the process, he sustained deep cuts, experienced excruciating pain and bled profusely.

Sikananu stated that as a result, he was unlawfully humiliated, assaulted, tortured and subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by the Zambia Police Officers.

He added that the said Police Officers had no right whatsoever under the COVID-19 Regulations or any other laws to humiliate, assault or torture him.

Sikananu stated that he was also wrongfully imprisoned and deprived of his freedom for about 30 minutes.

It's Covid bond that'll help infrastructure projects not donations, explains Mwale

By Ulande Nkomesha

HOUSING and Infrastructure Development Minister Vincent Mwale says the K8 billion Covid-19 bond is a special fund established to help stimulate the economy, including infrastructure project, and should not be understood as money raised from Covid donations.

In an interview, Mwale explained that the K8 billion Covid-19 bond was a special fund to help deal with the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He also announced that funds coming from the Covid-19 bond would help finance infrastructure development projects, but added that no cash derived from any Covid-19 donation would be used to fund ongoing road works.

"Part of the Covid-19 bonds funds would be used to pay for road works. Government has borrowed to stimulate the economy. It is just the name of that stimulus package, Covid-19; it is a bond that has been issued to borrow money to stimulate the economy. It is not money meant for fighting Covid-19; it is not donations for Covid-19, it is just a stimulus package that government has put together and this money is being borrowed by way of a bond," Mwale explained.

"This money is going to stimulate the economy; we are

going to pay local contractors. You heard the President (Edgar Lungu) say, 'we are going to pay retirees'; you heard the President say that, 'K30 million out of that will go to empower youths,' we are going to pay local suppliers; it is money that government has borrowed to invest in the economy. You have heard that there is money that will be put up for businessmen to borrow; those businesses that have suffered as a result of Covid-19, they should be able to go to commercial banks and borrow."

He added that the infrastructure and construction sector had struggled during the Covid-19 pandemic, hence the need for the bond.

"So, only that this bond is called Covid-19 bond. People are saying, 'it is Covid-19 money' no! It is not money meant for Covid-19, it is money that has been organised to be able to deal with the challenges that Covid-19 has brought to us, the negative impact that Covid has brought on our economy. As a result of Covid-19, we have seen a lot of business suffer, we have seen a lot of people laid off and the trickle-down effect has been terrible! Even contractors that have not received adequate funding, they have laid off people, businesses have really suffered," he added.

"Government wants to

stimulate the economy so that the wheels of the economy can begin to run. You have heard the Minister of Finance (Dr Bwalya Ng'andu) out of K8 billion, I think K5 billion has been raised. So, it is not Covid money, it is not donations, it is not money meant to fight Covid-19, it is money that is being raised to be able to deal with the challenges that Covid-19 has brought on us. Part of that money has been earmarked to pay for road works as a way of putting liquidity in the economy."

And Mwale said that the funds, which would be acquired from the bond to the sector, will be paid back by the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) through funds collected from toll gates.

"That money is not coming free; NRFA will be able to pay it back over time from the money they will raise from toll gates. So, K4 billion will be given, it will go to contractors, and mostly local contractors, so that money remains in the economy. In the long-run, NRFA, which will receive this money and pay contractors, will be able to pay back this money once they collect from toll gates. This will be done in a long period; it is actually a business transaction. People have really misunderstood the situation, it's just money from the bond to deal with the negative

impact of Covid-19. I have seen opposition leaders, even at the highest level, misunderstanding it," said Mwale.

Zambia lacks transparency in debt reporting, reveals WB

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

THE World Bank Assessment Report on Debt Transparency among International Development Associations (IDA) countries has exposed Zambia's lack of transparency on debt reporting.

The Assessment Report on the availability, completeness and timeliness of public debt statistics and debt management documents posted on national authorities website published on April 1, this year, revealed the lack of transparency on Zambia's debt reporting and that there was partial information available about the country's contracted loans.

It also revealed that of the 36 per cent of IDA countries researched on, debt disclosure standards were still poor, with data either absent or deemed insufficient or too old to

qualify, compounded by the limited accessibility of debt information in Zambia, which is only the Ministry of Finance website.

"Partial information available on the last loans contracted. Explanation: the annual economic report provides with the names of the creditors and the amounts. Financial terms are not indicated. Data accessibility: single-source. Explanation: Annual economic report and budget speech (guaranteed debt)," the Report read.

It showed that there was limited coverage of debt statistics and that neither Local Government (LG) nor State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) debts were discussed.

"Reporting is on an annual basis. There is limited coverage as the annual economic report does not provide with coverage

of government debt. Neither debt from LG and SOE debts are discussed," it disclosed.

And the Report revealed that most of the debt information reported was usually outdated.

"Time lag: six months. The 2018 Annual Economic Report published in the course of 2019 contains end-December, 2018, debt data," added the Report.

And the World Bank maintained that debt transparency remained critical if potential lenders would better understand their prospective borrowers.

"In the context of rising public debt levels, debt transparency has become of critical importance for several reasons: creditors need to fully assess the debt sustainability of their potential borrowers, citizens need to be able to hold their governments accountable for the debt they take on, and borrowers need to design strategies based on a clear understanding of the level and cost/risk profile of their debt portfolio. One of the pillars of debt transparency is the dissemination of timely, comprehensive, and accurate data," the Report stated.

Meanwhile, of the 36 per cent of IDA countries researched on, debt disclosure standards still remained poor, with data either absent or deemed insufficient or too old to qualify.

"Results of the April, 2020, assessment show that almost half of the countries we researched publish a medium-term debt strategy, although less than 10 per cent translate it into their annual borrowing plans. However, gaps remain: in 36 per cent of IDA countries, debt disclosure standards are still very poor, with data either absent or deemed insufficient or too old to qualify (prior to 2018)," read the Report.

Fugitive PF official, Jay Jay flees into Mozambique

By Julia Malunga

EASTERN Province PF chairman Andrew Lubusha says the ruling party in the area is still trying to get hold of provincial youth chairperson Emmanuel J. Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, following last week's fracas at Lusaka Central Police.

But PF sources in Petauke have told News Diggers that Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, fled into Mozambique upon hearing that police were looking for him on charges of aggravated robbery.

Police in Lusaka have launched a manhunt for Banda, who let PF cadres into an attack on Lusaka Central Police station where they assaulted unsuspecting officers on duty and got away with an undisclosed amount of money, belonging to one of the officers.

Sources say the incident happened two weeks ago after the anti-robbery squad of the Police, popularly known as C5, shot and killed a suspect earlier, who happened to be Banda's relative.

The suspected robber died after sustaining four bullet wounds.

This is said to have infuriated the PF official who demanded to meet the officers involved in the shooting incident.

However, the officers did not comply, prompting Banda to mobilize cadres who stormed Lusaka Central Police, with at least one visible firearm, and assaulted some of the police officers who were on duty.

When asked about Banda's whereabouts, Lubusha, in an interview, said the province had still not heard from Banda as his phones were unreachable.

"We have not heard anything from him. His phones have been unreachable and we got the information a little bit late because we were in Mwanza doing some party mobilisation and also making some COVID-19 donations. Going forward, our President (Edgar Lungu) has always been emphasising on discipline and unity. And what is so disappointing is that as the ruling

party, we need to set an example so that we set a precedent for the opposition to follow. But nevertheless, I can't speak much because I have not heard from him and his side of the story. But what I would like to emphasise is that we are a law-abiding party and we expect all of our members to set a good example. If, indeed, that is what happened, we would like to condemn the act in every possible term," said Lubusha.

"But I would like to get his side of the story because I am commenting on a one-sided story; we have only heard from the police. But we sympathise with the police if it happened and we would like to sincerely extend our apologies to the Inspector General of Police [Kakoma Kanganja] as well as the Minister of Home Affairs [Stephen Kampyongo]. There is a bad name and as a party, we are not going to interfere with the investigations of the police. Once we get his side of the story, we will sit down as the party and look at the best way we can try to protect the image of the President and that of the

party."

But a PF source in Petauke said Banda's whereabouts are not a secret to the party.

"Lubusha and the secretariat in Lusaka know where to find Jay Jay if they are truly looking for him. Jay Jay is in Mozambique, that's where he is and they know. This is not a new route for him, he has a lot of dealings in Mozambique, even his vehicles are known there. They can find him," the source said.

"What our party should be explaining is why they are not suspending him or firing him from that position. If he did nothing wrong, why is he on the run? Why is he not surrendering himself to the police? So it is laughable when our chairman tells you that he needs to hear the side of the person who is on the run. That's a fugitive who is running away from the law, what does he want from him? If we are serious about discipline in the party, we must treat offenders the same way. Not looking at someone's face."

Arteta's Arsenal expose Manchester City flaws

MANCHESTER City have suffered their first domestic cup defeat in 880 days. Normally you could put something like that down to circumstance; all good things must come to an end.

With two League Cup wins, an FA Cup success and eight successive victories at Wembley in total, City were probably overdue a defeat.

Despite boasting 71 per cent possession in their FA Cup semi-final defeat to Arsenal, and outshooting the Gunners 16 to four, they couldn't breach a spirited and committed defence.

Mikel Arteta has clearly learned plenty from his two seasons sitting alongside Pep Guardiola in the City dugout and used it to outfit his former teacher.

The Arsenal boss drilled his side in curtailing the byline cutbacks that lead to so many City goals, squeezed the space to stop Kevin De Bruyne and Ilkay Gundogan shifting the ball quickly, and closed the gaps close to the box where David Silva weaves his magic.

This was not a defeat that can be chalked down to bad fortune or missed opportunities. Guardiola picked his strongest line-up, minus the injured Sergio Aguero, and were second best.

City's problems were laid bare and the defeat emphasised the areas where Guardiola will want to strengthen in the transfer market when the window opens in a week's time.

There has been a worrying trend of recent defeats on the road - to Manchester United, Chelsea and Southampton. Those games features large amounts of possession for City but they failed time and again to convert chances from open play. Of those 16 shots against Arsenal, only one tested goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

Most worrying however is their inability to close the back door in games where they dominate possession.

Guardiola's high-risk, high-reward strategy of playing high up the pitch is dependent on an alert defence being able to snuff out any threats before they begin.

Arsenal's victory exposed the weaknesses in a backline that is not quick or clever enough to cope with sharp counter-attacking football. It has been a problem all season, exposed by fast-breaking teams such as Wolves and United at the Etihad Stadium, and at relegated Norwich way back in September.

Arteta's Arsenal were precise and brave when they played out from the back but City were sloppy once the high press was broken.

GOAL



Police College in dramatic comeback

By Tim Zulu

EDEN University National Division One side Police College produced one of those heart ripping and dramatic comebacks of all time and of course one of its kind ever in the Eden 2020/2021 league season, smashed in two quick star neck-breaking monster goals under a minute at the

last breath of the game.

Substitute and hero of the day Harrison Zulu came off the bench only to do damage to 'Chingalika' who were just flashes of minutes away to wrestle the Eden leadership off Prison Leopards, but Zulu came in with other ideas, dipping in one in the 89th minute to cancel Bydon Zimba's 58th minute tap in.

This goal left Kitwe United devastated and wondering why live television matches are proving to be an unending thorn in their flesh.

Police College Coach Conwell Munyati told Eden media that the game against Kitwe United was won in the dressing room.

"As we were driving coming to Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, the boys' spirits low probably not themselves knowing it was the first game during this difficult period we are in (Covid-19) and for that matter, we were going on international channel for the first time ever. Trust me, it was difficult and strange to see the boys even failing to sing as we always do," Munyati said.

"When we entered the huge dressing room and seeing the inside beauty, it's like the boys became more jittery but slowly loosened up a bit and confidently started taking selfies though I could still see some pockets of fear. It was like imagining seating where great Chipolopolo star players take their football oath. However after all formalities, the game started. We could not take authority, we were still not ourselves and coming back to the dressing room scoreless, we did a lot of mental strength talk but sadly when we returned, we gave in a goal after our goalkeeper lost grip of the ball but we quickly picked up ourselves."

He said as a team on a

mission, the boys recalled their dressing room pep talk of "getting them on no matter what to the last whistle".

"We saw them making changes with the aim of closing us down. It was at that time we too switched our tactics from the traditional 4-4-2 diamond to the more difficult 3-3-4, killed off one right back defender, brought in first Harrison Zulu to give us shape then Titus Chabuka and Francis Chisanga so we could push our opponents to their own half and there it was, we stressed them, got what we wanted as per our game plan and left the dreadful Levy dressing room with the last laugh of our most difficult day in office," said Munyati.

"Otherwise it was not easy playing a refined big side like Kitwe United because for us, you have to beat the best to be counted and despite the earlier fears of playing in a huge stadium under the cameras, the boys believed in themselves and did the job with top excellence."

This was another of his third runaway victory since taking over the mantle from Abuld Mwale who left for Super League side Nakambala Leopards in Mazabuka.

He narrowly humbled steady Prison Leopards in Kabwe, humiliated Mumbwa Medics at home in Lilayi (2-1), drew with Muza 1 all, went on to squeeze Chambishi against their own wall via a 2-2 draw and now joins Indeni and Gomes in handing over Kitwe United a painful triple jab of defeat.

The Steven Mwansatutored boys may have lost this rescheduled week 22 tie last Saturday but never make a mistake of counting them out, especially with their next opponent National Assembly this Wednesday in Lusaka.

Super League to go on as planned

By Abraham Kalito
THE resumption of the Super League has been left in tatters following concerns by stakeholders considering the increase in the number of players and staff of Forest Rangers

who tested positive to COVID-19.

On Saturday, the first super league match between log leaders Forest Rangers and Zanaco was called off after Health officials learnt that 28 players and support staff had tested COVID-19 positive.

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) was unaware of the positive cases and stated that the Ministry of Health had revealed nothing to them.

Reports surfaced later that Zanaco's failure to produce results of the Covid-19 test contributed to the cancellation.

But FAZ is adamant that the league will be concluded on the pitch.

"Following a consultative meeting with all the stakeholders, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) wishes to inform its membership and the public that it has been resolved that all the matches scheduled to launch the resumption of the league will take place as scheduled," FAZ Spokesperson Sydney Mungala stated.

A meeting attended by the Director of Sports John Zulu, National Sports of Council of Zambia (NSCZ) acting General Secretary Raphael Mulenga, FAZ vice president Rix Mweemba and General Secretary Adrian Kashala resolved that the league goes ahead.

He stated that stakeholder have since been briefed on the measures to be taken to ensure that matches are played.

"FAZ notes that all members have been fully briefed through consultative meetings preceding the resumption of the league about the measures to be taken. All the teams have been reminded to adhere to the measures provided by the Ministry of Health. Director of Sports John Zulu said government was watching keenly the events in Ndola and hoped that the sports authorities will deliver on Republican President Edgar Lungu's call to its the football family to resume the league subject to observing guidelines by the ministry of health," stated Mungala.

"The matter involving Forest Rangers was tabled with the authorities referring the matter to the Ministry of Health. In the meantime, Forest Rangers have assured the Football Association of Zambia that they will fulfil the fixture. FAZ has pledged to continue working with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Sports in ensuring that they adhere to all the set guidelines."

There are ten rounds remaining before the league officially ends and only six points are separating the first six teams on the log.

4 Zesco Utd, Power Dynamos players test positive to COVID-19

By Daniel Chansa

TWO Zesco United and two Power Dynamos Football Club players have tested positive to COVID-19.

On Saturday, 28 Forest Rangers players and support staff tested positive to COVID-19 resulting into cancellation of their FAZ/MTN Super League game against Zanaco FC.

Addressing the media at Levy Mwanawasa stadium in Ndola, Sports Minister Emmanuel Mulenga said the league will go ahead despite the recorded cases.

Forest Rangers became the first team to record COVID-19 cases involving 28 of their players and ball boys after taking a mandatory test before the resumption of the League games.

They were supposed to play Zanaco on Saturday in a late kick off match at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

"All the players have been swabbed, it has been proved that Zesco, two players are positive and Power (Dynamos), two players are positive. For the positive players, they will be isolated and their immediate contacts have tested negative, meaning the games will go ahead," Mulenga said.

He said tests for all players would be done 72 hours before any game.

"Division one teams will also go through the same process. Our goal as government is to protect the citizens," said Mulenga.



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