



PLANS TO ARREST HH AGAIN UNFOLD

Most COVID-19 patients at Levy are from Blood Group O - Chitalu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ZAMBIA has in the last 24 hours recorded two deaths and 284 new cases of COVID-19, says Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya. And Dr Chilufya says a simple survey at Levy Mwanawasa COVID facility revealed that most COVID-19 patients were from Blood Group O.
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...as govt adopts Nawakwi's privatisation propaganda

By Julia Malunga
CHIEF Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says government will soon inform citizens should it decide to act on former finance minister Edith Nawakwi's allegations against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema. On Sunday, UNZA lecturer Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa observed that the Patriotic Front was using Nawakwi to cloth Hichilema with a criminal tag, after realising that the tribalism issue had been defeated. Dr Sishuwa also hinted that the PF government

planned to arrest Hichilema using Nawakwi's allegations. In a statement, Tuesday, Siliya said if it is established

that, indeed, Hichilema sold Musi-o-Tunya Intercontinental Hotel to himself, that amounted to

corrupt practices. "Government has received with great indignation reports that the former chairman

for the Zambia Privatisation Agency (ZPA) Negotiating Team, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema..." *Story page 6*

FIC must explain delay to release Trends Report, State House not involved - Chipampe

By Julia Malunga
SPECIAL Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe says it's illogical to ask State House why the 2019 Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Trends report has not been released by the Financial Intelligence Centre because it is not President Edgar Lungu's job to supervise the centre. *Story page 2*

Don't shield thieves, release 2019 Trends Report, Musa tells FIC board

By Julia Malunga
FORMER Attorney General Musa Mwenye says if the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board continues to hold on to the 2019 Financial Trends Report, they will one day be held accountable for shielding thieves and criminals. And Mwenye says he

doesn't know what will be left of Zambia's economy if the FIC becomes moribund. Mwenye was commenting on a News Diggers investigation which revealed that the 2019 Money

Laundering Trends Report might not be released anytime soon this year as the Irene Lombe Chibesakunda-led Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board has not given a go ahead for its dissemination to

the public. In his statement, Mwenye also said it was sad that FIC acting director general Clement Kapalu had been frustrated to the point of resigning. *Story page 5*

It's sexist for HH to say what goes well with beans is Legana sausage - Nawakwi

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Most COVID-19 patients at Levy are from Blood Group O – Chitalu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZAMBIA has in the last 24 hours recorded two deaths and 284 new cases of COVID-19, says Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya.

And Dr Chilufya says a simple survey at Levy Mwanawasa COVID facility revealed that most COVID-19 patients were from Blood Group O.

Meanwhile, comedian Aubrey Luo, popularly known as Shimumbi, has appealed to the government to supply free face masks in the communities, bus stops and markets as many people cannot afford to buy.

At a press briefing in Lusaka, Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said the country had recorded 284 new cases and two deaths in the last 24 hours.

"In the last 24 hours, we have confirmed 284 new COVID-19 cases including one health facility death out of 2,191 tests conducted. The deceased was a 65-year-old man who was admitted to Levy Mwanawasa COVID facility. When we disaggregate the data, we find that out of the routine screening, 74 came from Ndola, 34 from Lusaka, 21 from Mpika, 10 from Kitwe, four (04) from Chipata, three (03) in Chilanga, one (01) Chingola, and one (01) in Nyimba," Dr Chilufya said.

He said out of the two deaths recorded, one was from Lusaka while another was a Brought in Dead (BID) recorded in Ndola.

"Those that we screened from our health care facilities, again 42 from Lusaka, 27 from Mpika, seven (07) in Ndola, five (05) Kitwe, five (05) Chinsali, four (04) Isoka, three (03) Solwezi, two (02) Luanshya, one (01) Chibombo, and one (01) Chirundu. Those who are known contacts came from Chipata with six (06), Ndola seven (07), and 23 in Lusaka. We also recorded one BID at Ndola Teaching Hospital that tested positive," Dr Chilufya said.

Dr Chilufya said 18 patients were in oxygen while five were in ICU.

"Today as we speak, Levy Mwanawasa has 31 patients in admission and out of these, 18 are on oxygen therapy, five (05) in intensive care who require ventilation. Outside Lusaka, all the provinces put together we have a total of 20 patients and out of these seven (07) are on oxygen. And these are again nine (09) on the Copperbelt, five (05) in Southern Province (Livingstone and Kazungula), then four (04) in North Western Province, and two in Northern Province," he said.

He said the cumulative number of cases now stands at 12,381 out of the total 117,761 tests conducted.

"The cumulative number of cases now stands at 12,381 cases out of the 117,761 tests done so far. Deaths now stand at 290. And those that are COVID-19 deaths stand at 96 and those that are COVID-19 related deaths are 194," Dr Chilufya said.

He said the government had introduced COVID-19 testing in Kabwe, Solwezi, Kasama, and Livingstone in order to help determine the exact extent of the pandemic.

"Today, the President remains concerned over the alarming levels of spread and severity of disease and by the increased number of people who are at higher risk of getting COVID-19. The elderly are at very higher risk of getting COVID-19 and those with diabetes and hypertension. And today, because of the expansion in our capacity tests, we have introduced testing in Kabwe, Solwezi, Kasama, and in Livingstone. And we continue to expand to other parts of the country in order for us to establish the exact extent of the challenge and to early isolate those who are not well so that we can disrupt the spread," he said.

And Dr Chilufya said a simple test conducted revealed that most of the COVID-19 patients were Blood Group O.

"This COVID-19 can affect anyone and all of us are at risk. We were doing an analysis of the information we got where some members of society said that because they are Blood Group O+, they were immune to COVID-19. A simple operation done in Levy Mwanawasa COVID facility revealed that most of the patients recorded there as COVID-19 were actually Blood Group O. There is no immunity that is conferred upon Blood Group O and let us ensure that we take health measures to protect ourselves," he said.

Meanwhile, Shumumbi appealed to the government to distribute free masks in communities as many cannot afford to buy.

"Probably the government can consider distributing face masks in markets and communities because a lot of traders go about their businesses without wearing masks. They are failing to buy face masks. When you ask them to buy one they say they do not have that capacity because K10 is a business capital to them. But they are forgetting that the K10 capital they are talking about is nothing compared to the life which they risk losing by not wearing a mask," said Shimumbi.

By Julia Malunga

SPECIAL Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe says it's illogical to ask State House why the 2019 Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Trends report has not been released by the Financial Intelligence Centre because it is not President Edgar Lungu's job to supervise the centre.

Meanwhile, National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili says the report is being withheld because government officials are trying to conceal their corrupt activities.

An investigation has revealed that the 2019 Money Laundering Trends Report may not be released anytime soon this year as the Irene Lombe Chibesakunda-led Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board has not given go ahead for its dissemination to the public.

Sources at the Ministry of Finance told News Diggers that the 2019 report may not be released soon because the Chibesakunda-led board was awaiting approval from State House.

But in an interview, Chipampe dismissed the information as fictitious, saying he was not even aware if the report had already been submitted to State House.

"I think you should ask FIC themselves, they are the originators of the report. To be honest, I have no idea, I don't know whether it came here or whether it is even ready. I am not aware. Uyu wine State House chinama nshi? (This State House they are referring to what kind of animal is it?) Because everyone just hides in State House, there are a lot of people who are even doing scandals and say 'we have been sent by State House.' That is why I am saying that State House chinama nshi? Is it Chipampe? Is it Mwiinga? Is it Lukangaba? Who is State House?" asked Chipampe.

"So even those so called sources you should be querying them that 'when you say State House' who are you talking about? Because they just create stories. So people can't just be throwing State House all over. So we have a problem in this county, creating stories, we are so good, we are creative maybe we should be writing fictitious novels. I work in State House I don't know what they are talking about. I don't even know at what point this report came to State House. The report is not prepared by State House call FIC. Why should State House who are also part of the receiving end be the one to be talking on their behalf? No. The President should be supervising FIC? No, that is not his job. FIC is an independent body. We are not withholding anything."

Meanwhile, in a separate interview, Kambwili pleaded with President Lungu to allow FIC to release the report.

"We know the obvious reasons that FIC will expose a lot of glaring corruption in government and obviously they don't want the report

FIC must explain delay to release Trends Report, State House not involved - Chipampe



Special Assistant to the President Isaac Chipampe

to go public. You know that the report has been attacked by those in government left right and centre to a point that they wanted to merge it with the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) because they found that the woman at the helm of FIC is very strong for them, she cannot be manipulated. They tried by dissolving the board and appointing a new board. So it is not surprising, FIC has always been an enemy of the President because of the obvious reasons that we all know. And this is the open corruption being practiced by this government. They announced that they are going to release it on August 31, isn't it? Allow the FIC report to be released twapapata (we are begging) ba Lungu even though I am in isolation. Let the people

of Zambia know what is happening," Kambwili said.

He wondered where ministers were getting huge sums of money to make donations.

"Have you ever seen in the history of this country where ministers are giving out money like these current ministers are giving? You hear this minister has given K50,000, another minister goes and gives out K80,000 at a market. These people are forgetting that they are just exposing themselves and telling the people we have created hunger and we are stealing from you. It has never happened. The question that one must ask is; the economy is not doing well, suppliers and contractors who are working for the government are not being paid on time, projects

have stalled because there is no money, councils are not paid because there is no money, there are no medicines, nurses and teachers are not employed, Now where are the ministers getting money to donate?" asked Kambwili.

"To my brothers, you will be questioned at an appropriate time where you got those monies from. They call you Bonanza, ATM, cash gurus, mama waluse. Balemitumfya! (they are misleading you) They will get your money, they will eat it, they will not vote for you and you will end up answering the law enforcers. Power is sweet but it must be checked. I was in government, am I still I government? You should know that one day you will be out. Stop stealing from the people of Zambia!"

C/Belt PS orders Lands Ministry to give 100 plots to churches

By Daniel Chansa

SOME clergymen who lead church services in some school classrooms in Ndola say life is hard for them because schools have not been allowing them access and it is hard for them to get land.

And Copperbelt Permanent Secretary Bright Nundwe has directed the Ministry of Lands in Ndola to allocate about 100 residential plots to clergymen.

Speaking when Nundwe speaking met about 500 churches in Chifubu Constituency, Tuesday, Ndola Churches Committee Chairperson Reverend Mulenga Chilekwa said the church needed to be supported in terms of land acquisition as worshipping from schools was unfavourable.

"Create an atmosphere to have them acquire land. Through the Member of Parliament, churches need land to build churches in Chifubu Constituency," he said.

Chilekwa said it was a struggle for churches to acquire land and that was why they needed intervention from the Permanent Secretary.

"We know there is procedure but it is cumbersome to access land as a church. President [Edgar] Lungu respects the church and clergy and so we know this issue will be addressed," he said.

And in response, Nundwe, who was flanked by area member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi and Assistant Chief Registrar of Lands Lubambe Kayuni, said priority needed to go to the church in land acquisition.

"We have plots already. So I am directing that about 100 of those residential plots be given to the church," he said.

Nundwe said government could not work in the absence of the church and that was why they could not keep on renting schools and houses for prayer.

"There is no dignity in churches renting. We will work to ensure that the church is given priority. I will also make a suggestion to the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs for a deliberate policy for more churches to acquire land," he said.

He said President Edgar Lungu made it known the importance of the church and that was why the church should be given land to administer the word of God.

Nundwe, however, advised the men and women of God to ensure that they were genuine in their teachings as there were many that were purporting to be for God when they only took advantage of people.

He also told the clergy that they should run genuine businesses that were corresponding to the word of God.

Meanwhile, Ng'ambi said the church needed to be given preference as they were the ones that helped in paving way of development through the word of God.

"President Lungu has demonstrated the importance of the church, hence the need to look into the issue of them acquiring land as they are the development pavers," said Nundwe.

Ng'ambi said the men and women of God were committed to God and that was why their challenges should be addressed.

By Zondiwe Mbewe
LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has sentenced a security guard to three years' imprisonment with hard labour for breaking into High Court Judge Sunday Bwalya Nkonde's house and stealing property worth over K55,000.

In this matter, Afelo Banda of Lusaka's Kalinganga area was charged with burglary and theft.

Particulars of the offence were that on July 18, last year in Lusaka, Banda with intent to steal, broke and entered into the dwelling house of Sunday Bwalya Nkonde, and stole from there K20,000 cash, a Judiciary HP laptop Notebook by make valued at K8,000, three wrist watches worth US \$2,700, two blue De Channel perfumes valued at US \$200 and a set of Wahl Deluxe shaving kits valued at K550, all together valued at K55,594, property of Sunday Bwalya Nkonde.

He had pleaded not guilty to the charges and the matter went into trial.

He was, however, found with a case to answer.

In his defence, Banda's witnesses Matthews Banda, a driver and Patrick Zulu, a security guard, told the Court that they did not know anything about the matter.

When Banda asked his witnesses whether he didn't tell them that he was selling rice, the witnesses said no.

Zulu wondered how he would know about Banda's rice business when they lived in different areas.

Delivering his judgement yesterday, Magistrate Mwale said he had no reasonable doubt in his mind that the

accused was the one who broke into Judge Nkonde's house on the night of July 19, 2019, and stole the mentioned items.

He said there was no opportunity that the offence could have been committed by anyone else since the accused was the one on duty and was found with some items as well as the money he deposited in his two mobile accounts after the burglary.

In the premises I'm satisfied that the State has proved the case against the accused beyond all reasonable doubt and I find him guilty of the offence and I accordingly convict him," Magistrate Mwale ruled.

Earlier, Magistrate Mwale said there was clearly no direct evidence linking the accused to the commission of the offence.

He, however, added that what was available before court was the circumstantial evidence, namely, the watch and shaving machine that were found at Banda's house, as well as the money deposits that the accused made in his Airtel Mobile Money account immediately after the complainant's money went missing.

"Further, the complainant has a matching package box for the watch that was found at the accused's house. The accused's explanation was that he bought the watch and the shaving machine at Simpson. I find this explanation to be untrue because it is too much of a coincidence that the same watch goes missing on the night and it is found at the accused's house the next day," Magistrate Mwale said.

Court sentences man who stole from Judge Nkonde to 3 years

He added that the only plausible explanation was that the accused person stole the watch and Judge Nkonde's shaving machines.

In his mitigation, Banda asked for the Court's forgiveness, saying he was also out of employment.

"From the time this happened, I have never been in formal employment and my kids are suffering," he lamented.

But in his ruling, Magistrate Mwale said he had taken into account the mitigation by the convict and the fact that he was also a first offender.

He, however, said that the offence the convict committed was very serious, which attracted a custodial sentence of 10 years.

Magistrate Mwale, therefore, sentenced him to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, effective yesterday.

"I note that some items were recovered and an amount of K15,000 was also recovered. In this regard, I sentence the convict to 36 months' imprisonment with hard labour with effect from today (yesterday).

The recovered items are to be given back to the complainant if there is no appeal lodged after the expiration of 14 days," he ruled.

During trial, Judge Nkonde narrated to the Court how his cash and other items were stolen from his house by a security guard, who was guarding his premises.

He testified that on the material day, he discovered about K20,000 cash, two shaving machines, three watches, a Judiciary laptop and two bottles of perfumes missing in his bedroom.

Justice Nkonde said his first suspect was the security guard, Banda, who was on the night shift, adding that he suspected Banda because he was the only person who had seen him enter the house with money.

He said after he reported the matter to the police, he went to Banda's house in Kalinganga in the company of two police officers.

Judge Nkonde told the Court he was curious about the new music system and a refrigerator, which they found in Banda's house.

He said as Banda attempted to justify the ownership of the newly-acquired property, he started searching for a receipt in his suitcase where they saw one of the stolen watches, despite the accused trying to push it inside the suitcase.

Judge Nkonde said Banda had told him that he bought the watch from Katondo Street.

He identified Banda as the person who stole from his house and further identified one of the watches he had stolen, which he said was a rare watch and that he missed it.

Justice Nkonde also identified other items, which he submitted as part of his evidence.

In cross-examination, Banda challenged the complainant to state if the house was broken into but in response, the Judge said no door was broken, but that it was clear that a widow downstairs was tampered with.

Another witness, Martin Muyombo, a police officer

at Longacres Police Post, testified that on July 19, 2019, that he received a complaint from Tazza Mwanza of Chalala, who is the property manager of Limpo Investment Properties on behalf of Judge Nkonde that the judge's house had been broken into and some items were missing, together with money.

He said in the company of other officers, he went to visit the scene and when they got there, they found Judge Nkonde at his house.

Muyombo said when Judge Nkonde was interviewed, he suspected that the security guard who was on night duty, could have broken into the house.

The arresting officer said Banda was taken to Longacres Police Post where he was detained.

Muyombo said on July 20, 2019, someone informed him that Banda had deposited some money in his Airtel Mobile Money account.

He said the money was about K15,000.

Allow HH to use Sunday Interview to address privatisation allegations, Laura tells ZNBC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
ALLIANCE for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti says ZNBC should give UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema the same platform which it

gave FDD president Edith Nawakwi so that he can give his side of the story on the issue of privatization.

In a tweet, Monday, Miti stated that it would be important for the public broadcaster to give the accused party space to also give his side of the story on the matter.

"When is HH facing Gravazio Zulu, the best Zambian interviewer on his day (Sunday)? If ZNBC is to try to be even minimally professional, they have no choice but to bring the opposition leader on to Sunday Interview since they had Ms Edith [Edith] Nawakwi on the one side of this privatization discussion," Miti tweeted.

In response to Miti's tweet, a one follower using a handle "tn zone" wondered why this is when people were bringing up issues of privatisation.

"As far as I am concerned, the privatization thing was a legitimate business transaction and therefore there's nothing to discuss. They had 30 plus years to resolve any discrepancies, so why now?" tn zone stated.

And another follower using a handle "Theoryapplied" replied: "True, Hon Nawakwi gave a very detailed account of the privatization process and how Hichilema was

involved. Fairness dictates that Hichilema be given a similar platform to tell his side of the story. And who better do handle that than Gravazio?"

On Sunday, Nawakwi featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview where she insisted that Hichilema lured government into selecting a bidder to buy Intercontinental Hotel, which is now Southern Sun.

"There has been a lot said. And as far as the Southern Sun is concerned, I asked him a pertinent question. When the bids were opened, I took a deliberate step to call Hakainde aside and said to him 'musa (my friend), is this the best bid? The value is US \$26 million, why didn't you take the one for US \$20 million, why didn't you take the one for US \$9.5 million?'"

There were a number of offers there. His answer was very specific and even a dull person could have understood it. His argument was that; 'minister, these other people just want the keys for Intercontinental Hotel, they walk in there, clean it up and change the carpets, change the pots and start operating it as is. However, this bid which I am giving to you, lower as it is, is the best bid. We are going to get 250 rooms and there is a consequential investment of US \$15

million," said Nawakwi.

"Now, at the time, the economy of Livingstone was dead, if you sell Intercontinental and someone takes the keys and walks in and cleans the pots and starts to run it as Intercontinental, who would you rather take? You will take the one who is going to create some employment and build 250 rooms, to bring in US \$50 million, and furnish it. The other issue that I put across I said 'colleagues, I want you to create a trust for the people around Livingstone.' I never said that these shares be put in individual names. Now, to find that the chairperson of the negotiations becomes also the shareholder is what has brought us to this stage. He hasn't been open enough to say that some of the shareholders in the transaction were residing at Plot 14/ 3A Sable Road but who was residing there? It's himself. The price was low but the investment attached to it was what convinced the government to say that we were on the right path. If he had declared interest, then ZPPA would have put another negotiator there. Normally in Zambia we think that politicians are the most endemically corrupt people but I think that governance should extend to the private sector."



LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF LUSAKA PLANNING AUTHORITY

THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING ACT
NO. 3 SECTION 53(2) OF 2015 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), intends to apply for planning permission for change of Land use from Residential to Mixed Use, on Sub 15 and Sub 16 of F/378a, Ibex Hill, City of Lusaka.

The plot measures approximately 8.0925 Hectares and 10.7375 Hectares in extent. The application may be viewed at the Office of The Town Clerk of Lusaka City Council P.O Box 30077, Lusaka and submissions or observations on the application may be made to the planning authority without charge. Submissions or Observations must be in writing and made within the period of 30 days beginning on the first date of the period for the publication of this notice being 2nd September, 2020 and ending on 1st October, 2020.

ALEX MWANSA
TOWN CLERK
For/ CITY OF LUSAKA PLANNING AUTHORITY

Date of erection of a site notice 2nd September, 2020.

By Julia Malunga

FORUM for Democracy and Development (FDD) leader Edith Nawakwi says it's sexist for UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema to suggest that "what goes well with beans is Legana sausages".

And Nawakwi says Hichilema should speak out on his shares in the state owned companies, saying she will continue talking until her death.

Following the Hot FM radio programme where Hichilema confronted Nawakwi for "telling lies about privatisation", the UPND leader took to social media stating that what goes well with beans (lies) is Legana sausages.

But speaking when she featured on 5 FM's the Burning Issue programme, Tuesday, Nawakwi made a sexist interpretation of the post, and went further to say Hichilema was younger than her and could not be her husband.

"They have gone as far as, these UPND people, to abuse my husband online. People like [Anthony] Bwalya and Hakainde should stop cyber bullying because if today, Hakainde can say on Facebook that 'stop cyber

It's sexist for HH to say what goes well with beans is Legana sausage - Nawakwi

bullying', they would stop. He is the one who started saying I have a crush on him. Meaning that I want him to be my husband. Mwana wa mailo, he's younger than me. Now if a male leader says a female leader is eyeing your bedroom, what is his mentality? What's your mental disposition? Then the next thing, he posts something else 'No, Legana is good with beans'. What exactly is he saying? These sexist rants should stop from Hakainde. They should stop! Chibaba, naine ndiye ve chibabila mukakamba ati surrogate of PF (it is painful for me. That is how I feel when they say I am a PF surrogate)," Nawakwi said.

She accused Hichilema of a confidence trickster.

"I have seen that Hakainde has posted on his page a memo from my office to the then IMF president that 'this is the

evidence for Edith Nawakwi to have privatized the mine.' That is evidence that I was Minister of Finance and I was restarting the program of privatization. He should say 'go to the archives and pick evidence and say this is the evidence that Edith Nawakwi went to the great wall and signed off Chambishi mines, I signed off that one. So now this point I made that Hakainde was never minister, he was put at Grand Thornton by someone else for convenience. And with no experience and he is not an accountant, he is an economist like me," Nawakwi said. "So when he was put as lead negotiator, he was depending on the accountants behind him who were professional accountants. Sometimes, people think he knows the numbers. He was responsible for advising the government, the Ministry of Finance on

privatization of specifically Livingstone Intercontinental Hotel called Mosi O Tunya Hotel. He should have never ever been a shareholder. What he did was criminal. What he did is what we call confidence trickster."

She said Hichilema should not have "put his fingers in the basket" when he was advising the government.

"Coming back to Intercontinental, what Hakainde did was equivalent to trickster. It doesn't matter how much you bully me, it doesn't matter. When he was transaction advisor to the government, at no point should he have put his fingers in the basket and collected shares for himself. He never declared interest. That is criminal. If you call others criminals, stand on the pedestal of cleanliness. He says that I was sleeping and most of his supporters are saying 'why didn't you realise he was cheating?' If I go to an advisor and I ask them that 'advise me on the value of this vehicle', they will either undervalue it because they have an interest or they will advise me the correct price because they have the interest of the client at hand. *Story continues on P10*

Chellah's threats injured my business, Khalif tells court



By Daniel Chansa

A WITNESS has told the Ndola Magistrates' Court that some of his clients cancelled their contracts after seeing Chellah Tukuka's Facebook posts that he would burn trucks belonging to Khalif Motors Zambia Limited.

This is in a matter where Chellah, 34, is charged with publishing defamatory matter, threatening violence and showing hatred towards someone because of their place of origin.

In count one, Chellah is charged with publishing defamatory matter concerning Khalif Abudulah.

It is alleged that on May 26, Chellah did published defamatory matter concerning Khalif on Facebook in which he said "Khalif your time to leave Zambia has come you chi criminal".

In count two, he is charged with publishing defamatory matter concerning Khalif.

It is alleged that on June 9, Chellah did publish defamatory matter concerning Khalif Abudulah in form of a Facebook post in which he said "Khalif and Langiwe Lungu director at ERB stop arm twisting the Government over fuel, you are the reason fuel is still expensive when it suppose to be cheap. Thieves!"

In count three, he is charged with threatening violence.

It is alleged that on 12 June, Chellah threatened violence to the property of Khalif Motors Zambia Limited in which he said "Khalif if you don't leave Zambia we shall burn your trucks".

In count four, Chellah is charged with expressing or showing hatred for persons because of place of origin.

It is alleged that on 26 May this year, Chellah published in writing on his Facebook page expressing or showing hatred, ridicule and contempt for Khalif because of his place of origin.

When the matter came up on Tuesday for plea in count four, Chellah pleaded not guilty.

The count then proceeded with trial in count four only.

Abudulah Khalif, 68, the director and Chairman of Khalif Motors Zambia Limited said he was shocked to see the posts on Chellah's Facebook page.

Khalif, who has been a Zambian national of Somalian origin for 15 years, said he saw the postings on Facebook.

"He was insulting the company and me (Khalif) that he will burn all my cars, that I am a criminal and I was very upset because it was a big shock. The words were very bad. He said he hated the Somalians. How can a Somalian do such business. He said Khalif controls the fuel prices in the country. I was shocked by this, because I am not in government," Khalif told the court.

"For 15 years now, I am a Zambian and have an NRC. Everyone watched that and lost my business and some clients even cancelled the contracts. Some of my driver's have even stopped work because they fear the trucks will be burnt. I cannot even move around because I am scared. I feel bad."

But in cross examination, defence lawyer Chimuka Maggubwi asked Khalif to name the clients that cancelled their contracts.

"Witness can you tell this court the names of the companies that cancelled contracts with your company? And you have been a Zambian citizen for 15 years now. How can you be deported? Tell this court if you were a Zambian national by the time the alleged post was made on Facebook," asked Maggubwi.

Khalif, however, did not name any company that had cancelled contracts.

Senior Resident Magistrate Peggy Banda adjourned the matter to October 6, 2020 after Maggubwi asked for an adjournment as he was to appear at the High Court.

Simusamba reluctantly cancels bench warrant against Kambwili

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LUSAKA Principal Resident Magistrate David Simusamba yesterday cancelled the bench warrant he issued against NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili on August 25, for missing court, on condition that the accused avails his COVID-19 test results this Friday, after he is retested.

He ordered that Kambwili should be subjected to a COVID-19 retest between yesterday (Tuesday) and today (Wednesday) and that he (magistrate Simusamba) should see the results on Friday.

In this matter, Kambwili is charged with forgery, uttering a false document and giving false information to a public officer in relation to the registration of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services.

It is alleged that on October 29, 2013, Kambwili, with intent to defraud or deceive, forged a 'no change return' (companies form 71) purporting to show that it was genuinely signed by his son Mwamba when in fact not.

It is further alleged that on the same date, Kambwili knowingly and fraudulently uttered the same document to an officer at Patents and Companies' Registration Agency (PACRA).

On Tuesday last week, Magistrate Simusamba issued a bench warrant

against Kambwili after he failed to appear in court when the matter came up for continued defence.

However, Kambwili's lawyers in the matter asked magistrate Simusamba to cancel the said warrant of arrest issued against the accused person.

This is according to a notice of motion to cancel warrant of arrest filed by Kambwili's lawyers from Messrs Mwenye and Mwitwa Advocates, Wednesday last week.

One of Kambwili's lawyers, Emmanuel Kaluba, submitted that Kambwili's sickness was connected to the novel Coronavirus for which he recently tested positive and from which he was now recovering.

And when the matter came up for return of bench warrant, Tuesday, state advocate Mukuma Chipawa called the case but informed the court that the accused had not been brought before court.

He, however, said the arresting officer was before court to explain the status of the return of the bench warrant.

Chipawa also said the defence had filed a notice of motion to cancel the bench warrant against Kambwili.

Stanley Mumbula, the arresting officer in the matter, informed the court that upon receipt of the warrant last

week, efforts were made the next day to visit Kambwili's house in Lusaka to execute the warrant but that the accused was not there.

He further said officers were informed that the accused was on the Copperbelt and that messages were sent at his house in Luanshya to check if he was there but he could not be found.

At this point, Kambwili's lawyer Musa Mwenye, State Counsel, informed the court that the defence had filed a notice for cancellation of the bench warrant.

He said the defence acknowledged that the court had powers to cancel any warrant issued under its hands such as the one that had been issued in this matter.

Mwenye added that the court ought to cancel the warrant if a satisfactory reason was given as to the absence of the accused.

He further explained that the defence had filed an affidavit with sick notes and a letter from a government hospital attached, indicating that the accused was found positive for COVID-19.

Mwenye said it would therefore be extremely irresponsible of the accused and the defence to allow Kambwili to come to court in view of the fact that he was COVID-19 positive.

"How do we ensure the

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has asked the church to pray for those whose minds may be tempted to creating havoc if things are not going their way ahead of the 2021 elections.

According to a statement issued by Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe, Tuesday, President Lungu said this

when a delegation of Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) church pastors paid a courtesy call on him.

Chipampe stated that during the meeting, the President urged citizens to pray for peace as the country approaches elections next year.

“As we approach elections next year, the challenges will be many including the temptation to create havoc

Pray for those who might want to cause havoc when they lose in 2021, Lungu asks SDA church

when things are not going your way. Let us pray for such minds to be tranquil for the sake of peace in our nation,” President Lungu said.

President Lungu also commended the SDA church for its significant contribution

to national development in the education and health sectors.

“You are known for your hospitals, clinics, and schools including Rusangu University,” President said Lungu.

He urged the church to

continue with community service including feeding the hungry and reaching the poor.

And SDA Southern Zambia Union Conference president Dr Harrington Akombwa said the SDA church had enjoyed cordial

relations with government and will continue to support it.

The SDA church is this Sunday scheduled to hold its 2020 Lusaka Conference which will be conducted virtually.

By Ulande Nkomesha

ECONOMIST Professor Oliver Saasa has cautioned government not to proceed with its intention to take over Mopani Copper Mines, saying the move could render the mining company commercially unviable due to possible excessive political interference.

And Prof Saasa says that the proposed take over where government, through ZCCM-IH, plans to buy out Glencore's 90 per cent shareholding, is tantamount to expropriation, which may not achieve its intended objectives of safeguarding jobs.

In an interview, Prof Saasa argued that government's proposed take over of Mopani at this point was ill-advised as its fiscal position remained stressed, induced by COVID-19, among other factors.

“First of all, on a personal-level and my experience from where we are coming from and at the time we were running mines; the reason for justification to why we had to privatise them, and the general behaviour of governments worldwide that manage mines, big conglomerates and given the circumstances the world finds itself, including Zambia, in terms of fiscal stress that has been introduced by a number of things among which is COVID-19... This is not the time that government can consider raising resources to procure and begin to run at that level of investment of about 90 per cent of shareholding,” Prof Saasa said.

“If the company fails to make the grade and then you go deep into the Treasury, tax payers' money, you start subsidising them, then you are failing one important canon about level-playing field because you are advantaging them against the others and, therefore, you are beginning to affect the level-playing field. Immediately you start giving big subsidies to a company, you start accumulating the manager's belief: ‘we can do whatever we want, our shareholders, which is government being sovereign, have the money, they can borrow and they will come to our aid.’ The dynamism of management to take proper corporate decisions would always be questionable because they know there is the ‘big brother’ in the background. That in itself makes a company that is owned by the government and unduly controlled and influenced by government in political decisions to be uncompetitive and unviable.”

And Prof Saasa, who is

Mopani take-over ill-advised, Saasa cautions govt

also Premier Consult chief executive officer, said that the proposed take over was tantamount to expropriation.

What is important is not really ownership, what is important is to have a company that runs a mine better and the government will get its tax from there rather than Ministries trying to interfere in the management of the mine. You have to be extremely careful how far you think that you are competent as a country to allow politicians to be influencing corporate decisions. I will be the last one to advise the government to get a 90 per cent stake unless it's temporary while you are looking for a partner. Even then, the question is, why are we failing to reach an agreement with Mopani shareholders? What exactly has happened? Those companies were stressed, they said they were putting these on care and maintenance, they didn't say, ‘we are shutting down.’ But we reacted and now we are saying, ‘we expropriate?’ That is as good as expropriation, 90 per cent is as good 100 per cent. The bottom line is, government really needs to think twice before you make a mistake. We will learn to regret as we regretted during Kaunda's time,” Prof Saasa said.

“My advice to government, please think and think very carefully because in the short-term, you may believe that this is in the best interest of the workers; in the medium to long-term, from our own experience, we get 90 per cent under the circumstances, is inappropriate. It doesn't mean the government shouldn't have shares in the mine no, we can have shares. We can open our own mines if we want. But the whole idea is if government starts a mine, try to the extent possible to dilute government interests. Bring the private sector because in most cases, it is not the business of government to run business because governments are bureaucracies, businesses are not bureacies, business is actually based on the decisions that are made on corporate decision-making.”

He questioned how government would not interfere in Mopani's operations when senior officials sat as the board of directors in ZCCM-IH.

“ZCCM-IH is a holding company that takes stakes in companies. ZCCM-IH is a government investment

arm, so when you say, ‘there won't be interference, you can say that, but how can you assure that when you see the composition of the board? During Kaunda's time, the president of Zambia was chairman of Indeco, which was a holding company and the transgressions that were committed there are there for anyone, who is interested in the mines and how we collapsed and how we had to privatise. For me, if government gets 90 per cent in Mopani, that is nationalisation. Can we trust the political system, even if they say, ‘we will not interfere

to manage those mines; let us give government 90 per cent shares and give them five years and let us start talking again. Everything I am saying here leaning from the experience of Zambia will come back to haunt us. Let us learn from our past errors,” Prof Saasa cautioned.

“Everything I have described to you is exactly what happened during the Kaunda period when government was owning substantial shares in the mining houses. What I am seeing now is actually a repeat of what was happening during the Kaunda

period. If you recall, I am the person who questioned the creation of IDC because it was more like a return to the Kaunda era. Immediately, that holding company is chaired by the Head of State. Now, who are the other board members? It could be Permanent Secretaries, Directors, who were directly appointed by him in that portfolio. What is going to happen? You can imagine the corporate decision-making; the corporate laws of Zambia require that if a company defaults at some level and makes a blunder, the board

members are answerable. How do you have a situation where the chairperson of that corporation has immunity? I am not talking about President Lungu, I am talking about the Presidency. I would say this in yester years, I would say this in the next governments that would come into this country.”

He added that political interference would affect the corporate decision-making of the mine.

“Even if it was the right time, meaning that the economy was fairly vibrant and ZCCM-IH had sufficient resources to buy, there are a number considerations that government opt to reflect upon. Firstly, one has to accept that shareholding, what makes a company profitable or non-profitable is not necessarily who owns it. A government can own shares in a company, what makes the difference is not the ownership to a large degree, although there can be issues there; what makes the difference between private-owned and government-owned companies is corporate autonomy that is extended to those that are managing those mines. Immediately, you have a situation where there is political interference,” observed Prof Saasa.

“Political interference, by the way, it is not like you are interfering in the negative, but that you are making corporate decisions as if it is a bureaucracy and you are allowing political considerations. That may be justified under certain circumstances to colour the decisions regarding how much you invest when you invest, with who you are investing. Immediately you allow political considerations to influence the corporate decisions regarding the management and investment of the company, then you have painted its capacity to run efficiently and profitably.”

Glencore Plc is facilitating the offloading of 90 per cent shareholding in Mopani to ZCCM-IH, according to Mines Minister Richard Musukwa, who also told Diamond TV, Sunday, that this followed a submission by ZCCM-IH to increase its shareholding in Mopani.

The Swiss-based commodity and mining company had earlier this year announced its intention to place Mopani on care and maintenance, signalling its desire to exit the Zambian mining sector amid its huge operational costs.

Don't shield thieves, release 2019 Trends Report, Musa tells FIC board

By Julia Malunga

FORMER Attorney General Musa Mwenye says if the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board continues to hold on to the 2019 Financial Trends Report, they will one day be held accountable for shielding thieves and criminals.

And Mwenye says he doesn't know what will be left of Zambia's economy if the FIC becomes moribund.

Mwenye was commenting on a News Diggers investigation which revealed that the 2019 Money Laundering Trends Report might not be released anytime soon this year as the Irene Lombe Chibesakunda-led Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) board has not given a go ahead for its dissemination to the public.

In his statement, Mwenye also said it was sad that FIC acting director general Clement Kapalu had been frustrated to the point of resigning.

“I hope that the stories we are hearing about the happenings at FIC are not true. The reported deliberate suppression of the FIC Trends report is very sad. It is also very sad that the acting director general has abruptly resigned in a manner that suggests that him and other committed and patriotic employees at the FIC are being deliberately frustrated by corrupt individuals. We cannot allow the FIC, which is one of the very few organisations fighting corruption and organised crime in Zambia to die or be rendered moribund like some other organisations. As you are aware, our current economic problems are directly related to the high levels of corruption that started after the death of President Michael Sata, MHSRIP. The FIC is a critical organisation which is helping prevent the further decline of our economy caused by rampant corruption, and if it goes, I don't know what will be left of this economy,” he said.

Mwenye who is immediate past chief legal advisor to the government noted that since President Lungu assumed office, the country's reserves had dwindled while economic growth had also reduced.

“In 2014, our economy was growing at 7.1 percent. The current Government headed by H.E President Lungu took office in January

2015 and immediately upon assuming office the economic growth reduced by over half to 3.2% in 2015. The economic growth has never recovered since that time and last year before Covid-19 we were only growing at 1.9%. This year the economy is in negative. It is expected to reduce by between 4 to 5 %. The Late President Michael Sata found about \$2.3 Billion in reserves. By the time he died he left over \$3billion in reserves which the current Government inherited. In 2018 only about US\$1.5 Billion was left, meaning half of the reserves left had disappeared as at 2018! We don't know how much is there now- we can't even talk about the price of mealie meal and the exchange rate,” Mwenye said.

He further observed that the Lungu-led PF government was defending the corrupt, hence a sharp decline in economic growth, as the country was losing resources to private pockets.

“How does economic growth reduce so much in such a short space of time. The answer is simple. Late President Sata instilled discipline and under him, people who were corrupt were dealt with, now it's free for all. The Govt is now preoccupied with defending the corrupt and destroying institutions that are fighting corruption. All of us who condemn corruption are now enemies of the Government while the thieves and the corrupt are the ones our leaders are comfortable with. The corrupt and the thieves are the people our leaders are drinking and eating with,” said Mwenye.

Our reserves as a country are finished because of corruption. Our debt is rising because of corruption and Zambians are dying of hunger because money meant for the poor is being stolen day in and day out. Yet the Govt is frustrating officials at the FIC who are working hard to expose the corrupt. They are fighting the FIC which is trying to protect our money as a country. The FIC should be protected and we demand the release of the FIC trends report which, as we are told by the News Diggers' report, has implicated a lot of high profile individuals. The FIC Board should do the right thing and resist shielding thieves and criminals otherwise one day, they too will be held to account.

The power of spending money should be separated from the power of making money!

By **Bright Chizonde**

A CENTRAL bank, reserve bank, or monetary authority is an institution that manages the currency and interest rates of a country or formal monetary union and oversees the financial system. Central Banks are therefore essential institutions and well known for their power to print money! Since money can be said to be the blood of the economy, an effective and well-managed central bank is critical for macroeconomic stability.

Though part of the government's financial management system, central banks are usually organized as separate institutions because "the power of spending money should be separated from the power of making money." This notion is widely known as "central bank independence" and is not without justification. The spending or fiscal authority of the government, also called the ministry of finance, is directly influenced by elected officials who are motivated by short-run electoral considerations. In an election year, for example, these officials would highly value short-run economic expansions, which stimulate growth and employment, while discounting the longer-run inflationary consequences of expansionary policies. If elected officials also have full authority over monetary policy, the drive to please voters would ultimately lead to hyperinflation. The central bank would be forced to print money in order to please voters!

It is therefore important to have an independent central bank. Central bank independence refers to the freedom of monetary policymakers from direct political or governmental influence in the conduct of policy. There are two key dimensions to central bank independence; Goal independence and Instrument independence. Goal independence refers to the central bank's ability to determine the goals of monetary policy without the direct influence of the fiscal authority. If the fiscal authority of the government decides what the inflation target should be, for example, then the central bank would have no goal independence. Instrument independence refers to the central bank's ability to freely adjust its policy tools in pursuit of the goals of monetary policy. It is about the ability of the central bank to adjust policy tools in order to pursue goals aimed at safeguarding or improving economic

performance.

In practice, there are four critical indicators of central bank independence. Firstly, a central bank is more independent if the chief executive, or governor, is appointed by the central bank board rather than by the government. It is also more independent if the governor is not subject to dismissal and has a long term of office. These aspects help insulate the central bank from political pressures. Secondly, independence is greater if more policy decisions are made independently of government involvement-this includes both the setting of goals for monetary policy and the adjustment of instruments.

Thirdly, central banks are more independent if price stability is the only or primary goal of monetary policy. This is because some macroeconomic goals, such as higher economic growth and lower unemployment, may be in conflict with maintaining lower inflation or price stability. Lastly, the independence of the central bank is greater if there are limitations on the government's ability to borrow from the central bank. If the government can borrow without limits, there would be no limit to fiscal spending!

In summing up, a central bank that is too susceptible to political pressure may encourage economic cycles and hyperinflation, as politicians may be tempted to boost economic activity in advance of an election, to the detriment of the long-term health of the economy and the country. There is a need to promote central bank independence through appropriate legislation aimed at enhancing job security for the governor and board and increasing operational autonomy.

About Author

Mr. Bright Chizonde is the senior economist at the Public Financial Management Consult. He is a macroeconomist and a public finance management expert. His research interests are focused on how Zambia can improve its fiscal and budgeting processes for accelerated economic growth, while enhancing fiscal responsibility, fiscal transparency and public participation. Mr. Chizonde is passionate about simplifying economic issues for effective dissemination to the general public. To contact the author, please email: pfmconsult@gmail.com

By **Julia Malunga**

CHIEF Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says government will soon inform citizens should it decide to act on former finance minister Edith Nawakwi's allegations against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema.

On Sunday, UNZA lecturer Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa observed that the Patriotic Front was using Nawakwi to cloth Hichilema with a criminal tag, after realising that the tribalism issue had been defeated.

Dr Sishuwa also hinted that the PF

government planned to arrest Hichilema using Nawakwi's allegations.

In a statement, Tuesday, Siliya said if it is established that, indeed, Hichilema sold Musi-o-Tunya Intercontinental Hotel to himself, that amounted to corrupt practices.

"Government has received with great indignation reports that the former chairman for the Zambia Privatisation Agency (ZPA) Negotiating Team, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, was one of the key perpetrators of extensive

Govt might act on Nawakwi's allegations against HH - Dora

abuse of the privatisation process. Government is disturbed by the revelations made by Edith Nawakwi, a former Minister of Finance in the government that implemented the privatisation of State-owned enterprises, to the effect that Mr. Hichilema, as chairman of the

Privatisation Negotiation Team for the sale of Musi-o-Tunya Intercontinental Hotel, Rainbow Lodge and National Heritage Park, literally sold the entity to himself," stated Siliya.

"Nawakwi, through her various media engagements, has categorically stated that

Mr Hichilema failed to declare interest while presiding on the sale of public assets in which he had personal interest. Government finds Mr Hichilema's conduct, if true, to be a clear case of corrupt practices, bordering on non-declaration of interest, in winning a

bid. Government is, therefore, studying the matter and is following closely the reaction by the citizens who are the true owners of the property in question. The nation will be informed of the steps that the government will take should it become necessary to act on behalf of the citizens of Zambia."

By Ulande Nkomesha
 COMMUNITY Development and Social Services Minister Kampamba Chewe says government is not using social cash transfer to gain political mileage ahead of next year's general election.

And Chewe says different cooperating partners are working with government to help disperse funds to different districts under several programmes to boost service delivery.

Speaking on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk programme, Tuesday, Chewe said President Edgar Lungu was the one gaining political mileage since he had risen the stakes by giving beneficiaries higher amounts of money.

"We are not taking political mileage, but maybe the people of Zambia would say, 'yes, the Government of Zambia has done well,' we have cooperated well with our cooperating partners. Yes, indeed, it is political mileage for President Lungu and his team, they have done very well in terms of social protection and that nobody can take away from them. When MMD was in power do you know how much beneficiaries were getting?

Lungu gaining political mileage through SCT – Kampamba

K35 (per month). We have been raising the stakes. A disabled (person) gets K360; ordinary, K180. Next year, we are increasing the stakes again to K220. Our policy clearly indicates we are a pro-poor government. Cooperating partners can only come and work with a government that is stable, cooperating partners can only come and work with a government that they have trust in," Chewe said.

She said that government had a mandate to win an election, and that winning entailed fulfilling campaign promises by improving service delivery in the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme.

"Government has a mandate to win an election that we should not dispel, and obviously, how does government win an election? It keeps its promises, works on the policies that it has pronounced and this is part of its social protection policy. So, if this is getting



irritating to some sectors of society, then I think this is beyond the Patriotic Front government because that is its mandate," Chewe said.

"As government, we endeavour to give service delivery and we did agree that our technical staff, we sit tomorrow to, obviously, move forward.

I mean this is an exercise, this is something that the community, especially those on the horizontal case load are seeing for the first time. I think for me we need to do more sensitisation; we need to speak to our members of parliament and to those politicians that would want to take mileage. For example,

I hear people say, 'they (PF) are getting NRCs because they want to rig elections.' The President has talked about not leaving anyone behind. We have been administering Social Cash Transfer for a long time, even in MMD time, there was Social Cash Transfer. It is only the PF that has managed to take (the SCT) across the country and do an increment."

She insisted that the UPND had no right to accuse the PF of using the SCT programme to get NRCs and rig next year's polls.

"Initially, some sectors of society had accused the Patriotic Front of giving out this Social Cash Transfer to buy NRCs. So, they had to come out strongly because these are members of parliament that are actually manning their constituency. This is a very big accusation and, obviously, who would be the front-line is the member of parliament in allowing the government to buy NRCs," she said.

"So, that is why you see the members of the Patriotic Front will come out to dispel that and say that this is a noble cause. They have the right to speak about government policies and what government is doing. Even UPND has the right to speak about the goodwill of government. But it doesn't

have the right to tell lies that the government is giving out K1,600 to buy NRCs, so you do not expect members of parliament to keep quiet, they will obviously speak."

And Chewe said different cooperating partners were working with government in the dispersing of funds to different districts.

"I want to put on record to say, when you say, 'UNICEF has distanced itself,' yes, UNICEF will distance itself because it has nothing to do with the emergency Social Cash Transfer being implemented in Lusaka. When I say we are working with cooperating partners like UNICEF you go to UNICEF and say, 'the Ministry of Community Development says you are the ones giving the K1 600,' obviously, UNICEF will say, 'no, it is not true. We are not giving out K1 600, because in our agreement there is nowhere it is saying K1,600.' The Copperbelt, mostly, is where UNICEF will handle the emergency Social Cash Transfer," said Chewe.

"If you go to Livingstone and you say, 'we are told you are giving out K400?' UNICEF will say, 'no! I am not aware.' So, when you look at Lusaka District, Chilanga, Kafue, Livingstone,

Kitwe, all those we are cooperating with...World Food Programme (WFP), when you look at Chipata, Chililabombwe, Chirundu, Kalalushi, Ndola, Mufulira, Kabwe, Nakonde, Solwezi, Chingola, Mansa, Mongu, those we are partnering with UNICEF. When you look at Luangwa is purely Child Fund. When you look at Chililabombwe, we are partnering with the Red Cross. Chisamba is Plan International. These cooperating partners have partnered with government in different portfolios in different districts. So, if you ask UNICEF about Lusaka, it doesn't know."

Magistrate declines to refer Chellah's libel case to High Court for constitutional reference

By Zondiwe Mbewe
 LUSAKA Chief Resident Magistrate Lameck Mwale has refused to refer the case in which Lusaka photographer Cornelius Chellah Tukuta is charged with libel to the High Court for constitutional reference.

Magistrate Mwale dismissed the said application by Tukuta's defence lawyers to refer the case to the High Court, as it lacked merit and further ordered that trial continue in the matter.

In this matter, it is alleged that Tukuta on May 26, 2020 in Lusaka, published defamatory matter affecting Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya in the form of a video on Facebook that: "This Dora Siliya is hooking up girls, selling girls to the high-profile people so that men can be sleeping [with them], she is actually the highest of the highest professional prostitute. If Dora Siliya is refusing these allegations that she does not connect girls to high-profile people for sex, let her come."

He had pleaded not guilty to the charge and trial commenced with Siliya testifying in the matter as the first prosecution witness.

However, when the matter came up for continued trial, Monday, Tukuta, through his lawyers Linda Kasonde, Mulambo Haimbe and Josiah Kalala asked the Court to refer the matter to the High Court for constitutional reference, pursuant to Article 28 (2) of the Constitution.

Tukuta wanted the matter referred to the High Court for determination

of constitutional questions arising out of his arrest and his subsequent charge of libel.

He wanted the High Court to determine whether or not section 191 of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia, which criminalises expression was necessary in a democratic society, and whether or not his prosecution for libel was a contravention of Article 20 of the Constitution of Zambia, which protects freedom to hold opinions, receive ideas and information, freedom to impart and communicate the same without interference.

Tukuta also wanted the Court to determine whether or not section 191 of the penal code has a reasonable necessary limitation on the right to freely express an opinion and ideas as envisaged in Article 20 of the Constitution of Zambia.

The defence lawyers submitted that the right to freedom of expression was guaranteed in the Constitution and was integral to a democratic country, such as Zambia.

Kalala said the complainant in the matter, Siliya, was a Minister, who holds the portfolio of Chief Government Spokesperson and member of parliament for Petauke, adding that the statement that Chella was alleged to have made against her that she was a 'high-profile prostitute' was not investigated.

"The manner in which the police acted by arresting the accused was designed to intimidate him to stop him from commenting on

how public officials conduct themselves and activities they participate in. The conduct of the complainant holding high public office can be scrutinised by the public," the defence said.

However, State advocate Bob Mwewa urged the Court not to refer the matter to the High Court, arguing that Article 20 (3) (b) sets up limits on freedom of expression.

He said section 191 of the Penal Code was not in contravention of Article 20 of the Constitution.

"Article 20 which sets out freedom of expression also sets out the limits of freedom of expression in Article 20 sub-section three. These limitations of freedom of expression are not unique to Zambia," Mwewa argued.

He said the

constitutionality of criminal defamation had already been settled by the higher courts.

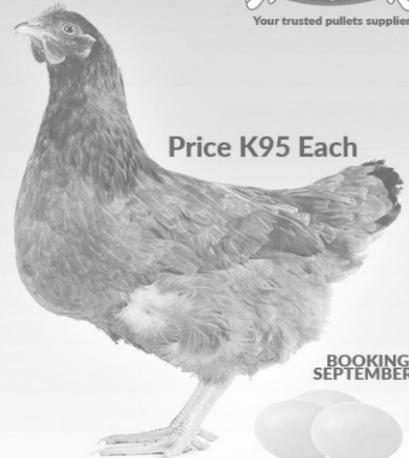
But in reply, the defence said it was a proper case for the Court to exercise its discretion to refer the issues to the High Court for determination.

And in his ruling, Magistrate Mwale denied the defence's application on the basis that it had no legal basis on which it should be referred to the High Court.

"I do not say that the application is frivolous, but in my view, the application has no legal basis on which it should be referred to the High Court. Having found that the application lacks merit, I, hereby, dismiss it and order that trial continues," ruled Magistrate Mwale, who then adjourned the case to October 22, 2020.



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The corrupt and their defenders must be uprooted from public office

FORMER Attorney General Musa Mwenye is wondering why those in government are in the forefront attacking institutions of government while defending the corrupt. He also notes that the levels of corruption in Zambia have reached unprecedented levels.

“Why do we feel the need at government level in this nation to defend the corrupt and bash agencies that have been built over several years to fight corruption? We have seen wastage [of resources] at a level where you can conclude that there must be something wrong. I am on record as having called for lifestyle audits, starting with myself. I have served in government for three years and I don’t have any problem with ACC or anyone else asking me about what I had before I went into government. What is wrong with all of us accounting for the wealth that we have? You can’t have a situation in a country where people only become successful business people when they are in government,” said State Counsel Mwenye.

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Ear to the ground

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Well, this is what happens when you have mediocre, self-serving leadership in place. Politics need people with high credibility; people with substance whose every word, every act and every policy conforms to the people’s interests. When a President makes a decision to reshuffle his Cabinet or to change the leadership of key government institutions, it must come with results. Dismissing an individual out of vindictiveness amounts to nothing less than pettiness and childishness.

Zambia needs leaders with integrity, credibility and maturity to solve the problems that are before us. No one will come and lecture us on the necessity for visionary and hardworking

political leadership that is imbued with the desire for change that is anchored on democratic governance and patriotism to our nation.

No one will come and remind us that political leadership should come with requisite knowledge, managerial ability, flexibility, acuity, resource mobilisation capacity and forthrightness. We are responsible for our own destiny and we will continue to wallow in poverty and underdevelopment if nothing is done to eradicate the mediocrity in our politics.

As we head towards the elections in 2021, our people have a responsibility to take political leaders to task and demand better performance from them

at all times. The status quo as far as the quality of politics in the country is concerned should not continue if we are to harbour any hope for development as a nation.

Unemployment levels still remain very high, over 80 per cent, and most of our young people continue to walk the streets without any opportunity for jobs. The country’s education and health sectors are saddled with numerous problems, ranging from the quality of service provided to poor remuneration of workers.

Strikes are perennial because this is the only way workers can get some little benefit from this system. And one cannot help but wonder why the government has left our people at the mercy of the so-called investors who

have no regard for our labour laws.

Many of our fellow citizens still suffer and die from preventable diseases like cholera; even some diseases that we had wiped out are re-appearing. And here comes the Coronavirus, as if various pandemics we have had are not enough. There is no future development without healthy and educated people. One cannot claim to uphold the sanctity of life if there is no provision for minimal healthcare for all. Life is sacred, a gift from God to be valued from the moment of conception until death.

In all these challenges, we don’t see a level of dedication from our government to save the people. If they are not engaging one another on trivial issues, our

politicians are serving themselves through bogus government contracts and tenders. In the midst of all these problems and challenges, our political leaders have embraced corruption, destroying the social structures of our country.

All well-meaning Zambians must come together and demand better. We have a mission to promote transparency, accountability and honesty in society. Corruption is robbing our nation of its scarce resources. Those who pay bribes, those who protect and defend the corrupt must be uprooted from public office. They don’t mean well.

How did we arrive at a country where the government is in the forefront attacking law enforcement institutions? State Counsel Mwenye is absolutely right with his observation, and such a leader must never be trusted with public office because he is there to serve thieves and not the poor who elected him into office.

Crossword puzzle No 681

1		2		3		4		5
		6						
7	8					9	10	
			11		12			
13					14			
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17		18				19		20
			21					
22								23

“Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions.”
- Primo Levi

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ___ Alamos, N.M. 4. Dance move 6. Unaccompanied 7. etcetera 9. Defeat 11. Right angle 13. Seek divine guidance 14. Apiece 15. Earned Run Average 17. Four and six 19. Bread type 21. Shock rocker Cooper 22. Small dog cry 23. Doctor (slang) | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell a fib 2. Cul-de-___ 3. Mislead 4. Drops on grass 5. Shallow cooking vessel 8. 1 and 2 10. Restless 11. Sight organ 12. Grassy plain 16. Heavy drizzle 17. Have a go at 18. Tot’s rest 19. Primary color 20. Upper left key |
|--|--|

Crossword puzzle No 680

1	H	A	P	P	Y		4	A	S	H		
			A		E			P		A		
6	T	O	P			7	A	L	E	R	T	
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8	M	O	R	E			9	S	A	I	D	
	A					11	A		L			
12	R	E	E	L	S			14	O	L	D	
	R		L		A				N		A	
16	Y	A	K				17	P	L	E	A	D

Readers' Feedback

ND! OPINION: This money being dished out will land people in jail

Editor,

"They should really work hard in the time that's left to improve prison conditions because that's where they'll be sleeping". - Kelvin Maximoff

"Too much unnecessary donations is a sign of a failed system. Every

country has systems to help citizens but once all those 101 ministries fail, donations are an idea to appear relevant". - Emmanuel Sakala

"Meanwhile retirees have not been paid because

the treasury has no money". - Mporokoso Constituency

"Yes, and one secretary general dished out 90 thousand cash in Serenje as a donation ku church..." - Kalopa K Benjamin

enough in real estate. There is too much "petty" cash around that is why K2 million is termed as pocket money. Since they want to be in those positions for long, the alternative investment is in electorates, try to win votes". - Rogers Kapila

"Imagine someone saying that if this football team wins I will give it K100,000 while three years ago the individual had nothing". - Zulu Taciturn

"The problem these people have is saving. They cannot take the money to the bank for fear of being questioned. Mind you there is FIC. Meanwhile they have invested more than

PF MPs' cash donations

Editor,

"To all citizens of this country, when you see any politician or any agent dishing out money. Get it and treat it as refund for the taxes you have been paying to the government. When voting time comes, use your brains and not mob psychology to decide who to vote for. Review how you have been living in the passed few years". - Sylvester Moomba

"They have no message for the people.... Only available tool is bribing the electorate through unsustainable cash handouts. May the people eat that money

but come voting day, donchi kubeba will slap them right back in their faces!" - Dennis Wei Mulenga

"Indeed the love of money is the root of all evil but money on itself isn't evil and it is easy to be bought with money nowonder many people do dubious means inorder to obtain it because they believe money is power". - Charles Chiluba Chuutu

"Elo these political donors should try with me. That would be mannah since my mind is already made up as to who will get my vote in 2021". - Baby Candy Monde Simukama

'Nawakwi, MMD, squarely to blame for privatisation mess, not HH!

Dear editor,

"She is not ashamed to expose her ineptness . A consultant can never be a final authority in a govt transaction, just like a shibukombe can not be blamed for a failed marriage. The success or failure of Privatisation squarely stands on her and her MMD, it was their govt program and not an HH program. If a 29 year old dribbled the whole lot of MMD cabinet then they must be charged for criminal negligence otherwise its all propaganda. Our biggest problem today is not privatization which happened 30 years ago but a broken down economy with high cost of living, K20/dollar, 48 mushroom houses, no jobs, corruption and no money in our pockets instead of more money in our pockets". - Noritah Mwanza

"The way the PF and President Lungu are fighting Hakainde Hichilema gives one an impression that HH is the ONLY Presidential candidate in the 2021 August Election. What this means and

proves is that Hakainde Hichilema's Persistence and Perseverance has Paid Off at Long Last. No Wonder HH has been a Successful Business man and Now Successful Politician. He has passed the Litmus Test of running an opposition political party under hostile environment. This makes Hakainde Hichilema the MOST SUITABLE Presidential Candidate to REVIVE the collapsed Zambian Economy. Aba kali ba kali!" - Christopher Kalima

"God did not promise that no weapons will be formed. He said they will not prosper. So this

weapon formed against HH will Not prosper because mwamufyenga pafula. Devil your time of lies is up. We don't care who sent you and who you use, politics of character assassination are long gone". - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

"Instead of telling the Zambian people of how she will solve the problem the country is in today but she is busy crying foul over privatisation, if indeed HH stole from the people then this is a golden opportunity for the PF to cage him". - Mathews W Ks

'Mumbi, it's PF that is finished!'

Editor,

"It's PF that's finished. People have made up their minds already... Ba PF tamwakapite..2021 we are voting come rain come sunshine tivota for UPND!" - Cindy Miyanda

"Allow them to hold rallies freely you will see the diffrence. People have reached at a point were even if bally privatises there families today they can still vote for him. Ninshi tafiweme mayo ba Mumbi". - Kalopa K Benjamin

"We need to buy a lot of BP machines for PF next year, plus in 2026 you will be voting from prisons!" - JonaKayz Kays

"But why are you dead scared if indeed works are speaking for you by instituting restrictions and schemes to enhance your stay in power ie, bill10, restricting the opposition on the pretext of covid19 whilst you hold your rallies, using ECZ by selectively applying the mobile NRC registration in your perceived strongholds, introducing a new voter register allocating only 31 days of registering more than K8m eligible voters. Muyopa nji amambala if you are popular?" - Dennis Wei Mulenga

"As if she will Vote on behalf of all Zambians!" - Alfred K Chilufya

"PF's imminent fall is poetically revealed by their own names
Nawakwi means - Where have I fallen?
Chagwa means - it has fallen
Lungwangwa means - Lungu has fallen
Tasila means - we are finished". - Richard Waga

"Political victory is not determined by one's opinion but by the number of majority votes casted. Keep showing your ignorance mama Mumbi". - Amos Baja Ba Tpin



From P4

If the government had the tools to advise itself, do you think we would have hired him to be our advisor?" Nawakwi asked. "We hired him because we fervently believed he was going to advise government with his whole heart and the Zambian spirit in his soul but then, he goes behind our back, incorporates a company and says that this is a foreign company. At no point did it occur to me that this young man was a confidence trickster. He was a consultant and for me to go to a consultant, it means that I don't know what to do."

She vowed to continue talking until Hichilema

It's sexist for HH to say what goes well with beans is Legana sausage - Nawakwi

opened up about his shares.

"What he should have realised is that he has an interest, he wants to be part of the project. He should have said he was the chairperson of the advising board because I also want to participate as a bidder, that's normal. So anyone who is insulting, it doesn't matter. Either he owns up that I made a mistake, we move on and hands over those shares to the government. I want to say to my brothers Bwalya and Gary Nkombo who are

defending Hakainde. He is alive, let him have three hours and talk. Prove to the people that what you did was noble. Hakainde must answer; as long as they continue to answer on his behalf, I will be on air until death," Nawakwi vowed.

When asked if she was decampaigning Hichilema, she denied.

"No, far from it. You must know that the more you pull me down, you are not pulling yourselves up. They say that I am a surrogate for PF. This is



cyber bullying which is going on. I am a leader of a political party. Hakainde's team is on record saying that I was going to be Minister of Finance. Was I the Minister of Finance? What they do as UPND is to pull me down. I want

to know how he acquired shares. It is theft of public assets. He says MMD were like monkeys in a maize field. For him, it was like he was a baboon, maybe a chimpanzee in a maize field. Most of the information that I now know, I have

known now. I thought he was a non-executive chairperson and I found it odd," Nawakwi said.

And the FDD leader said she could not form an alliance with Hichilema because it was doomed before it was born.

"We met in 2016 several times in an attempt to work together. No one called me a surrogate. I think you heard my brother say 'she didn't support me'. I was almost beaten at Sheki Sheki house for fighting for a seat for one of our sisters to stand for Ndola Central. We agreed for 50/50. There were 150 seats and even people who could win wanted to knock off, people like SC Chifumu Banda. Immediately, we said he was the president, I realized I was in trouble. But I can say it was doomed before it was birthed," said Nawakwi.

Hotel Rwanda hero 'abducted' in Dubai, says family

THE daughter of Paul Rusesabagina, who was portrayed in a Hollywood film about the Rwandan genocide, has appealed for help to secure his release, saying she believes he was abducted from Dubai.

Rwandan officials said on Monday that Mr Rusesabagina had been arrested under an international warrant for leading "terrorist movements".

Mr Rusesabagina's daughter told the BBC the allegation was false.

Her father was a human rights

advocate, Anaise Kanimba added.

Mr Rusesabagina, 66, is a strong critic of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

The family last heard from Mr Rusesabagina after he landed in Dubai on Thursday, Ms Kanimba said.

He lived in exile, and was a US resident and a Belgian citizen, she added.

"So we would love these two places to help us get him home.

"The charges they have on him are baseless," Ms Kanimba added in a BBC Newsday interview. **BBC**



Rwanda says Paul Rusesabagina was arrested following "international co-operation"

Zimbabwe to return land seized from foreign farmers

ZIMBABWE has offered to return land to foreign nationals whose farms were seized under a controversial government programme two decades ago.

Thousands of white farmers were forced from their land, often violently, between 2000 and 2001.

The seizures were meant

to redress colonial-era land grabs but contributed to the country's economic decline and ruined relations with the West.

A separate compensation scheme has been launched for local white farmers.

They have not been offered land, but the

government last month promised them \$3.5bn (£2.6bn) for seized infrastructure.

The US has said compensating farmers is one of the requirements for it to lift decades of economic sanctions.

What has the government promised?

Zimbabwe on Monday said foreign citizens who had their land seized could now apply to get it back.

Hundreds of Europeans - mostly Dutch, British and German nationals - whose investments were protected under international agreements could benefit from the offer, reports the BBC's Shingai Nyoka from the capital, Harare.

The farms were taken under a controversial land reform programme launched by former President Robert Mugabe.

He argued that this was to redress colonial-era land grabs, when much of the country's best land was reserved for the white population and black farmers were forced onto marginal areas.

Under the programme, most of the country's 4,000 white farmers - then the backbone of Zimbabwe's

agricultural economy - were forced from their land, which was handed over to about a million black Zimbabweans.

In a joint statement on Monday, the ministers of finance and agriculture said some black farmers who received land under the programme would now be moved.

To allow the former owners "to regain possession" of their land, the government will revoke offers made to black farmers currently occupying the farms and "offer them alternative land elsewhere", the statement said.

The offer marks an important step in repairing relations with Western nations and avoiding international judgements against Zimbabwe worth hundreds of millions of pounds, our reporter says. **BBC**

taken to shore.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth visited the rescued sailors in hospital and said local fishermen in the area were helping rescue teams search for the missing crew members, the BBC's Yasmine Mohabuth reports from the capital Port Louis.

He has promised an investigation into the accident.

His government has also promised to set up a commission to investigate the spill itself after coming under pressure over its handling of the incident.

Many Mauritians believe the government could have done more to prevent the spill. There is also criticism over the decision to deliberately sink part of the ship after it split in two.

Thousands of people marched through Port Louis on Saturday calling on the government to resign.

Many wore black and T-shirts with the inscription: "I love my country. I'm ashamed of my government." They waved the national flag, while honking horns and drumming.

One protester told the BBC: "They didn't do anything when the ship approached our coastline - 12 days they didn't do anything until the oil spill and now thousands of people and marine people are affected."

The captain of the ship has been arrested and charged with endangering safe navigation. He has not yet commented. **BBC**



Thousands of white farmers lost their land under Robert Mugabe-era reforms

Valdano tells Barcelona to accept Messi is leaving, warns situation is becoming 'toxic'

LIONEL Messi is already mentally out of the door at Barcelona and is sure to continue his career elsewhere, believes Jorge Valdano.

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi did not take part in Barca's first day of pre-season training under Ronald Koeman on Monday, having informed

the club of his desire to leave.

The Argentina international believes a clause in his contract allowing him to leave on a free transfer has been activated, though the club and La Liga are of the opinion his €700 million (£624m/\$823m) release clause remains the only

valid way to terminate his deal, which runs until next June.

Manchester City are thought to be leading the race to sign Messi, with Paris Saint-Germain and Inter also credited with significant interest.

Former Real Madrid forward, head coach and director general Valdano,

who began his playing career at Messi's boyhood club Newell's Old Boys and won the 1986 World Cup with Argentina, is confident the 33-year-old's future lies away from Camp Nou.

He thinks Barcelona have to accept that reality sooner rather than later, or risk an ever more acrimonious parting of the ways further down the line.

"Either he goes to another club or to his home, but he has already left Barcelona. I am totally convinced. I have no doubt," he said on Onda Cero show El Transistor.

"The sooner Barcelona realise they are going to lose the best player in their history, the sooner they can focus on rebuilding."

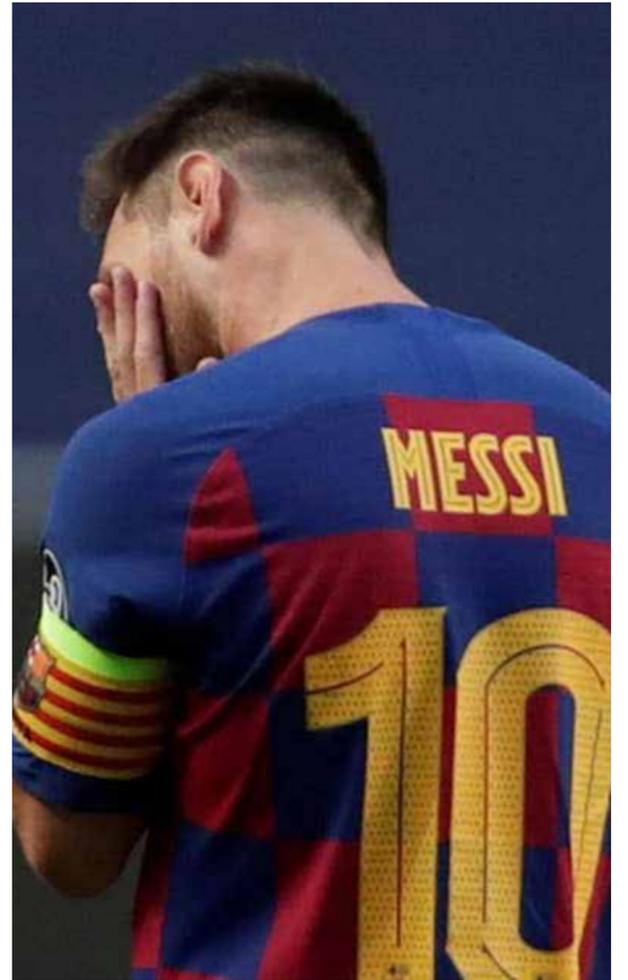
It has been suggested Messi could perform a U-turn on his decision to leave Barca, as he did after announcing his international retirement in the wake of Argentina losing the Copa America Centenario final to Chile in 2016.

"They are completely different situations because there is no contract or anything similar when Leo

left the Albiceleste and returned," Valdano added.

"There are no personal problems. I don't know how far this period is going to go, which is toxic for the club, player and La Liga.

"[Barca president Josep Maria] Bartomeu must think that when Messi leaves, he should go too... but prolonging this seems to me to be harmful to Barca." **GOAL.COM**



Sevilla re-sign Rakitic from Barcelona for €1.5m

SEVILLA have re-signed Croatian midfielder Ivan Rakitic from Barcelona for an initial fee of €1.5 million.

The Andalucian club have confirmed that they've reached an agreement with Barca which will see the 32-year-old head back to Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium ahead of the new season.

The final transfer could end up costing Sevilla a total of around €10.5m (£9m/\$12m) including variables, with Rakitic committing to a four-year contract with the club.

Indeed, Goal can confirm that €3m of those add-on fees will be due when Rakitic reaches a certain number of appearances for the club, while the figure is also related to the club qualifying for European competition.

A further €1m will be due should Sevilla win the Europa League, while an additional €2m will need to be paid in the unlikely event that the club wins La Liga. A further €3m, meanwhile, is associated with a Champions League win.

Barca released an official statement on their website on Tuesday confirming the 32-year-old's departure, which reads: "FC Barcelona publicly expresses its gratitude to Rakitic for his commitment and dedication and wishes him good luck and success in the future.

"Versatile, hard-working and with a good vision of the game, he ends his career as a Barca player with 310 games, in which he has made 40 assists and 36 goals.

"This Wednesday, September 2, starting at 11am, the farewell ceremony and subsequent telematic press conference of the player will take place."

Rakitic won 16 major trophies in total at Barca, including four La Liga titles and the Champions League, having moved to Camp Nou from Sevilla in the summer of 2014.

The Croatia international enhanced his reputation as one of the most consistent performers in the Spanish top-flight during his time in Catalonia, but fell down the squad pecking

order following Frenkie de Jong's arrival from Ajax last summer.

Rakitic still managed to appear in 39 games across all competitions last season, but was ultimately deemed surplus to requirements after Ronald Koeman's appointment as Barca's new head coach, with the Dutchman replacing Quique Setien following the team's shocking 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

The experienced playmaker will now be charged with helping Sevilla build on an impressive 2020-21 campaign which ended in Europa League glory.

Julen Lopetegui's men beat Inter 3-2 in last month's final, having already secured a spot in the Champions League by finishing fourth in La Liga.

Rakitic spent four years on Sevilla's books before joining Barca, scoring 32 goals and 41 assists in 149 games, and will hope to pick up from where he left off when the new season kicks off later this month. **GOAL.COM**

Patson committed to Salzburg

By Ngosa Chalwe

DESPITE numerous media reports that top two English teams Liverpool and Manchester United are chasing his signature, striker Patson Daka says he is committed to RB Salzburg in the Austrian league.

British media reported that Daka was on the radar of Both Liverpool and United following a decent run last season and a brilliant performance against the former in a club international friendly.

In response to a query, Daka said he has been hearing rumours about offers from other clubs but

his main focus remains to give his best to his current club in the upcoming season.

"To be honest, I have just been hearing rumours about offers but as for me, I am just putting all my focus and commitment to Red Bull Salzburg because I have a running contract which I respect and this is my club," he said.

In 2017, Daka joined Salzburg feeder team Liefering before being elevated to the main team the same year. His decent performances saw him being awarded with a contract extension last year

to tie him to the club until 2024.

The former Power Dynamos and Nchanga Rangers hitman also touched on the brace against Liverpool, saying it was a good indicator of his progress as a player.

"It was a phenomenal game with mixed emotions, a very good experience and a step forward towards improvement. Scoring a brace meant that I am doing the right things and I have to keep on being hungry for more," said Daka. "My target for next season is to help the team achieve its goals."

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Sevilla re-sign Rakitic



The experienced midfielder has completed a move away from Camp Nou after six trophy-laden years in Catalonia

Story page 11

I'M COMMITTED TO SALZBURG - DAKA

By Ngosa Chalwe
DESPITE numerous media reports that top two English teams Liverpool and Manchester United are chasing his signature, striker

Patson Daka says he is committed to RB Salzburg in the Austrian league.

British media reported that Daka was on the radar of Both

Liverpool and United following a decent run last season and a brilliant performance against the former in a club international friendly.

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said he has been hearing rumours about offers from other clubs but his main focus remains to give his best to his current club in the upcoming season.

Story page 11

FIFA meeting put off

By Abraham Kalito
THE proposed virtual between world soccer governing body FIFA and local soccer administrators and stakeholders has been postponed to a date to be announced later.

FIFA, the Ministry of Sports, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), National Sports Council of Zambia and

the aggrieved parties were yesterday supposed to hold a virtual meeting to iron out misunderstandings.

But the meeting has been postponed after the aggrieved parties, through lawyers Lewis Nathan Advocates, requested for deferment.

"The above caption refers as does the letter from FIFA dated 28th

August, 2020 addressed to you by one Veron Masengo-Omba, the Chief Member Associations Officer, FIFA. Our clients' position is that the notice for the meeting is too short. We propose that the meeting be moved to later in the week specifically Friday, 4th September, 2020 or any other date in the following week at the same time. We hope we can be

accordingly indulged," a letter from the law firm read.

"Further, we seek clarity and elaboration as to the meaning of the three (3) represent are presenting 'alleged aggrieved parties'. You may wish to note that we are officially on record as representing Mr. Kalusha Bwalya, Damiano Mutale and Mr. Patson Lusaka who

took their grievances to various adjudicatory bodies but which matters were withdrawn to give chance to the anticipated meeting with FIFA. It is important that attendance criteria is clearly outlined. We will be grateful for an expeditious response to enable us procure appropriate instructions from our clients."

Only three persons from the aggrieved parties will be allowed to represent others during the meeting.

Reports are that Bwalya, Simataa Simataa and Blackwell Siwale had been selected as they were eloquent enough to drive points.

Barca need to accept that Messi is leaving

Story page 11

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