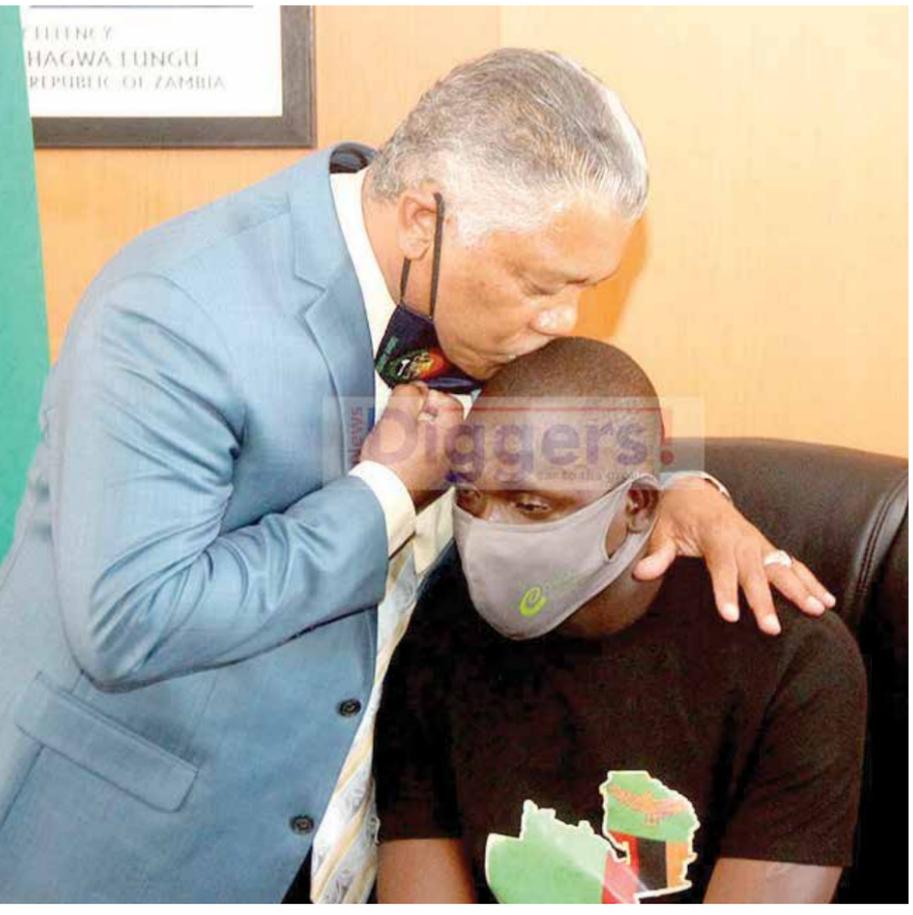




K1.3 BILLION COVID FUNDS MISMANAGED

...through questionable contracts, dubious transfers from govt accounts, Audit reveals



By Ulande Nkomesha
THE Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources for the period February 1 to July 31, 2020, has revealed that a total of over K1.3 billion was mismanaged in various transactions, which included dubious transfers

from GRZ accounts amounting to K60 million and upto K3 million in cash withdrawals. In a statement, Monday, Auditor General's Office Head of Public Relations Ellen Chikale stated that the report highlighted financial irregularities in the utilisation

of COVID-19 resources with the highest being an over-commitment of K652 million, which entailed that procurements made for various medical supplies were not adequately supported by an approved budget and exceeded the entire budget.

Story page 11

We're also waiting for HH to file his nomination – Tutwa

By Julia Malunga
KABWE Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says the ruling party is equally waiting for UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema to file in his nomination papers because he got a hotel from Livingstone without declaring interest.

his nomination papers then I challenge him...' He is a coward! Let him go to court right now, we are waiting for him. The President is eligible unless if he says, 'he doesn't

want to stand,' unless he says it himself, but the law is very clear, he is eligible! He has only served one term, before 2016, is not a term," Ngulube argued.

Story page 2

And Ngulube says the PF is not shaken by the fall of the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 because it is still the party in power.

In an interview, Ngulube insisted that President Edgar Lungu was eligible to stand in next year's general election unless he decided to rule himself out.

"The President still has another mandate coming in 2021. There was nothing in Bill Number 10 that talked about the President's eligibility, learn to educate these people. The issue of eligibility went to court. People like (John) Sangwa must stop misleading themselves. And the issue of saying 'no, we are waiting for the President to file in

Jay Jay, 4 others fail to take plea

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and others yesterday failed to take plea in a case they are charged with aggravated assault with intent to steal before the Lusaka High Court.

Story page 6

Lungu and his leadership ni ba mwankole – Ngoma

By Abraham Kalito
PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu and his leadership 'ni ba mwankole' who have made it easier for his party to win

elections in 2021, says former Sinda member of parliament and UPND chairman for agriculture Levy Ngoma.

Story page 2

Bill 10 fall a temporary setback, we'll start again next year, says Lubinda

Story page 2

By Natasha Sakala

JUSTICE Minister Given Lubinda says the failure of Bill 10 is a temporary setback as nothing will stop the President Edgar Lungu from pushing for the rights enshrined in the bill after the 2021 elections.

And Lubinda says with permission from President Lungu, he will soon present the political parties bill in parliament in accordance with Article 60 of the Constitution.

At a press briefing, Monday, Lubinda said a year from now, President Lungu and his government would start the process of constitution amendment.

"For the country, it is sad.

Bill 10 fall a temporary setback, we'll start again next year - Lubinda

However, it is a temporary setback. One year from now, President Edgar Lungu and his government will start again. So for one year, the Zambians will have to leave with difficult circumstances. As a political party and a political player, it's a good failure because now I have something to go and tell the people. Now I will go to the

people and say please look in their eyes, why did they stop this," Lubinda said.

"We as the Patriotic Front, we are geared, we are ready and as a matter of fact I can say what I said in Parliament when I was closing debate on Bill 10 that nothing will stop President Lungu from pushing for these rights to be enshrined in the

Constitution, I can assure you. Come September 2021, we will go back to these matters under the tutelage of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu."

And Lubinda says that government will not stop anyone who wants to challenge President Lungu's eligibility.

"Now, the next victory we are waiting for is the issue of

eligibility of His Excellency the President. I see, so therein lies the challenge. Can anybody indicate where in Bill 10 we were trying to enshrine that the President continues without challenge? Where? There is nowhere in the bill where we provided that the president will continue unchallenged and as a matter of fact, wasn't the matter of interpretation of the eligibility already subject of Constitutional Court review? The Constitutional Court closed that matter. But as Minister of Justice and as a member of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's Cabinet, I can say we will not stop anyone from flexing their imagination and so on and intuition, or even stopping them from going to court, they can use any court to challenge anyone including the President of the Republic of Zambia, we have no problem," he said.

"The only thing that we are happy about is that Bill 10 has exposed them. It has exposed them to the extent that they are so worried about the candidature of one Edgar Chagwa Lungu. As far as we are concerned, as far as our legal brains are concerned, they can go anywhere and challenge President Edgar Lungu's candidature. If they can make those threats, the one thing for sure is that come next year, we are going to file in nomination for President Edgar Chagwa Lungu to contest as President of the Republic of Zambia and we shall campaign and by the way we shall use Bill 10."

He wondered why the opposition was now asking for an amendment of the Public Order Act when they were the ones who put it on hold.

"Some people have been asking me, what about Public Order Act, and these are members of the opposition asking me after the collapse of Bill 10, they have come to me asking me, my answer is please go and read Hansard. When minister Kampyongo presented the bill, the amendment bill to the public order act, what happened in parliament? Leader of the opposition, leader in UPND stood up and said Mr Speaker, we don't want to present that bill until after we have finished with Bill 10, let us do the Constitutional amendment first that's when we will do the public order act. You can't have the cake and eat it that same time. So we shall wait for the amendment of the Constitution before we amend the Public Order Act. It follows," he said.

He wondered why UPND was celebrating the fall of Bill 10 when they did not state what problems they had with the bill.

"So the question is, can they be bold enough to say what is it that they gained to cause then to celebrate. I saw one video, drinking Mosi, drinking Castle, drinking Four Cousins wine and dancing like they were really on top of

the moon. What is it that they gained? I am still wondering, I am still baffled. Is it true that a person who says they want to represent the Zambian people can celebrate the defeat of a noble idea as having people with disabilities represented in Parliament... What is it that is in Bill 10 which created reason for celebration? They did not say a word in Parliament, not a single debate to say we don't want this because of this law or that law, they didn't say anything, they remained mute all to hear that they are celebrating," he said.

And Lubinda said that he would present a political party's bill in order to oblige those who thought they could escape intra-party democracy because of the fall of Bill 10

"The one thing I can assure you is I am going to request His Excellency the President to allow me to proceed with the political party's bill because it's provided for by Article 60 of the Constitution Amendment number two of 2016, it's there. If I don't do that, people can go to court and say it is prescribed. So my dear friends, that bill as soon as I get authority of His Excellency, I am presenting it to Parliament so that those parties that were thinking they have run away from having democracy because of Bill 10 shall now be obliged through political parties bill. And I am doing this because the party to which I belong is determined to continue to be a democratic party to have regular elections, to allow women to participate, to allow youths to participate in the leadership of the party and the leadership of the country, that we are determined to do," Lubinda said.

Meanwhile, Lubinda has reconciled with Martin Mambwe, a PF member who was jailed two years for slapping him.

Mambwe was part of the 966 prisoners pardoned after intervention by the Minister who pleaded with the President on his behalf.

"I forgave you that very day because it was clear to me that you were used. I wept for you in court, when I shed tears in court it was not for me, the pain had already left me by that time. I shed tears because I was looking at this young man who because of carelessness was about to destroy his future. That was the reason why I wept and today I am very grateful to His Excellency the President, ebakufumishe muchifungo teine iyo (he is the one who had you released, not me). I just went and knelt down before the President and shed tears again for you and the President kindly listened to my cry. That's how he released you. I just pray that Martin, ukwisa kuno (you coming here) is a sign that you yourself, flya nakulombele elyo naishile kuchifungo, nalikulomba ukutila ati me I have forgiven you, what remains is yourself, have you forgiven yourself," said Lubinda.

We're also waiting for HH to file his nomination – Tutwa

By Julia Malunga

KABWE Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says the ruling party is equally waiting for UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema to file in his nomination papers because he got a hotel from Livingstone without declaring interest.

And Ngulube says the PF is not shaken by the fall of the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 because it is still the party in power.

In an interview, Ngulube insisted that President Edgar Lungu was eligible to stand

in next year's general election unless he decided to rule himself out.

"The President still has another mandate coming in 2021. There was nothing in Bill Number 10 that talked about the President's eligibility, learn to educate these people. The issue of eligibility went to court. People like (John) Sangwa must stop misleading themselves. And the issue of saying 'no, we are waiting for the President to file in his nomination papers then I challenge him...' He is a

coward! Let him go to court right now, we are waiting for him. The President is eligible unless if he says, 'he doesn't want to stand,' unless he says it himself, but the law is very clear, he is eligible! He has only served one term, before 2016, is not a term," Ngulube argued.

"Forming government is not like going to buy bread at a shop. How many seats have they (UPND) won in ward elections? How many parliamentary by-elections have they won this year? Zero! They lost in Lukashya,

Mwansabombwe. Why haven't they performed better if they were about to form government? So, it is a wake up (call) to them also that, we are also waiting for HH to file in his nomination. He actually gets a hotel in Livingstone without declaring interest secretly. So, it is a double-edged sword. We can also say, 'you do this, we do that' Zambia is for all of us. What they can do to us, can also be done to them. We have a lot of characters who just wake up to start threatening, the law is there for everyone to read, nothing is going to happen. The President remains eligible, we are not even shaken. Bill 10 was not started by PF; it was not started by government. Whether it goes through or not, it is a governance system, it is not a matter of life and death for the PF."

And Ngulube, who is also government Deputy Chief Whip, said the PF was not shaken by Bill 10's flop in Parliament because the ruling party was still in power.

He, however, claimed that UPND members of parliament were abducted by the Hichilema ahead of last Thursday's vote, which explained why they failed to vote for Bill Number 10.

"I know what transpired. What transpired is that HH called for a meeting and then they blocked them (members of parliament) inside. No one from PF was absent; we had a 100 per cent turn-out. For us, nothing has been lost. The UPND have cheated themselves, they are even celebrating! They don't know what they have done to the people of Zambia. They are the ones who started this process and they were crying day and night so for us, PF, this is not about winning or losing, it was expected that people will run away from it, people will change their mind. It was expected that the Bill might either go through or not. So, there was no surprise. We put up a good fight, the Bill was almost through. We don't want to sound like we are complaining because it is not our role to complain, our role is to educate the people. We are not shaken, we have not lost anything, the President is still in power," said Ngulube.

Lungu and his leadership ni ba mwankole - Ngoma

By Abraham Kalito

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu and his leadership 'ni ba mwankole' who have made it easier for his party to win elections in 2021, says former Sinda member of parliament and UPND chairman for agriculture Levy Ngoma.

And Ngoma says the PF's failure to enact the Constitution Bill Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019 confirms that the ruling party is no longer the people's choice.

In an interview, Ngoma said Zambians were now aware that President Lungu and his leadership 'ni ba mwankole', who pretended to be humble when they were in fact lying to Zambians.

"And if the PF wants to see whether Zambians are serious or not, let them field in Edgar Lungu as their presidential candidate. It will be a serious checkmate! By 11 hours, they won't have a candidate. And they have wanted so much that Edgar Lungu should be their candidate. And if anything, Lungu is the easiest to beat this time around. And you know why? Because they have already sang ati 'ni ba mwankole,' (they are deceptive) you have heard it. These are people that, on one hand hold a Bible and on another are busy persecuting candidates. It's not what you portray to be, 'ati balaipanga ukuba humble,' (they pretend to be humble,) but they are not humble," Ngoma said.

He said President Lungu demonstrated that he was not humble when he called Zambians 'tupuba' (fools) during the commissioning of the Arcades Fly-over Bridge in Lusaka last Friday.

"They have forgotten where they come from, where they came from in Jack Compound, where people are unable to have three meals per day. Now, because they stay in air-conditioned offices and houses and having seven meals per day, where they came from in Jack Compound they have forgotten. This is the leadership of one President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who, when they bring certain developments, which is not even up to standard, like these fly-over bridges they are constructing, and then they start insulting you

ati, 'tupuba tuletalika' (fools are disagreeing)," Ngoma said.

"Zambians today, under President Edgar Lungu, are being referred to as 'tupuba.' Who does that? So, if 50 per cent of the people in Zambia do not agree with the kinds of development the PF has brought, then the President is literally saying over 50 per cent of Zambia 'tupuba.' That's an insult, a slap on the face of the Zambian people!"

And Ngoma said the PF's failure to enact Bill 10 confirmed that the ruling party was no longer the people's favourite party.

"The end of the PF is a process and it did not begin today. The PF has long been ousted from that altar of being the favourable party; they were removed from that altar of being the favourable political party way before the issue of Bill 10 started. But Bill 10 just cements further that position. This is a party that you cannot toy with, Zambians know that. How do we know? We can see the reaction of the Zambian people with Bill 10's failure to go through. See the reaction of the peasant farmer, the man on the streets, the teachers, all civil servants, the police and everybody! It has just exemplified the situation," he said.

"There was so much jubilation and that is a sign that the PF is hated by majority Zambians. Inward, there is a fire in so many hearts of the Zambian citizens because of the mismanagement of this beautiful country. And what we are seeing now is members of this same party calling Zambians as cockroaches and rats!"

Meanwhile, Ngoma expressed worry that the PF's rampant tribalism, perpetuated by senior government officials, could trigger civil war in Zambia.

"You know what happened in Rwanda? It's because of the same language. This is a party that is on the verge of causing civil war. Now Bill 10 has just brought everything to the fore. When you look at the tenacity and firmness of the members of parliament, where they were able to just refuse to be part of a raw deal, means that we still have people with integrity," said Ngoma.



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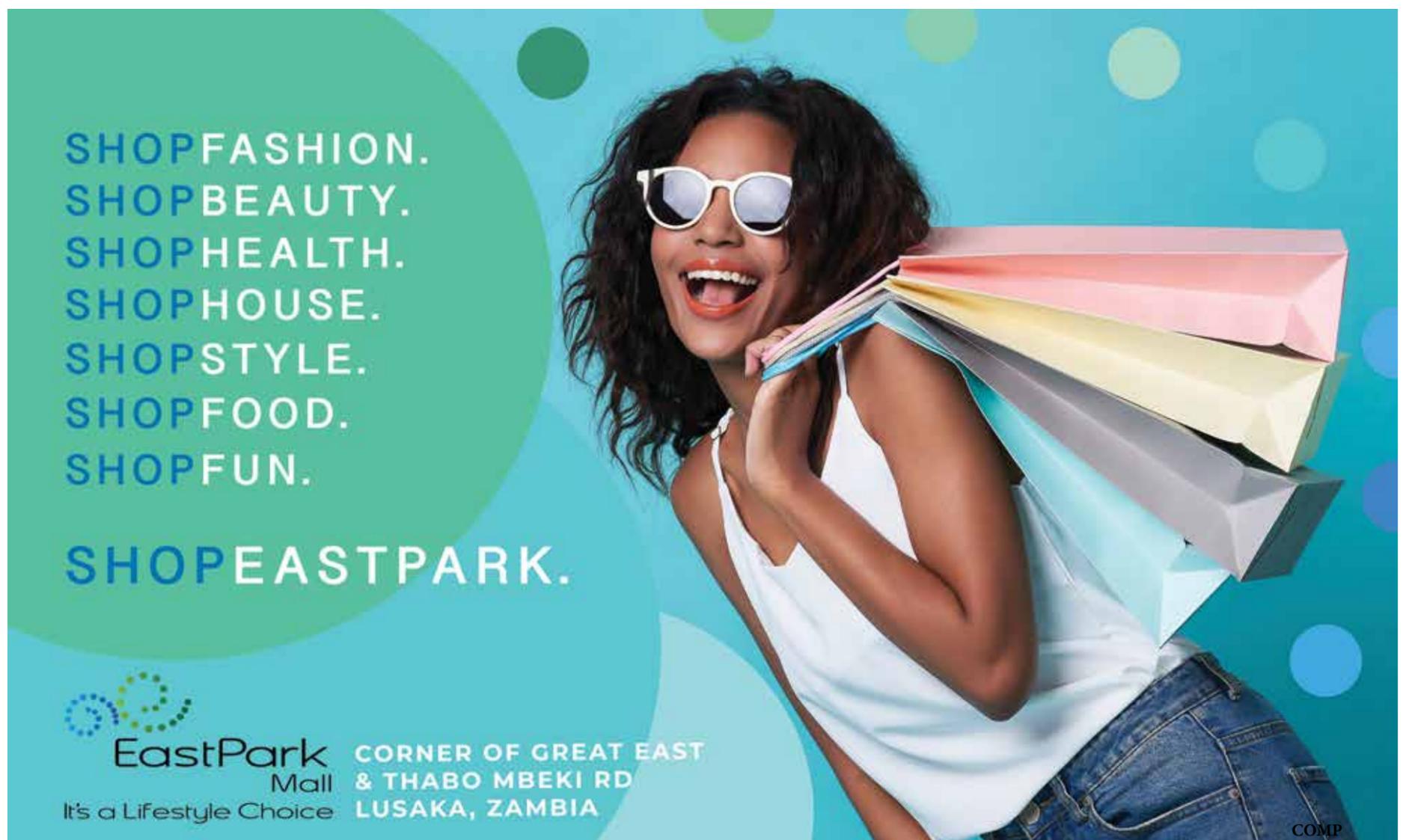
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UPND are lucky to have Kampyongo as home affairs minister - Lusambo

By Ulande Nkomesha

LUSAKA Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says the UPND will cry louder on the continued unfairness in the application of the Public Order Act due to the party's failure to support Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10 of 2019.

And Lusambo says the UPND are lucky to have a Minister of Home Affairs like Stephen Kampyongo, who is tolerant, as they would be crying every day.

Meanwhile, Lusambo has insisted that he will not apologise to Brian Bwembya, popularly known as 'B-Flow', for lying in Parliament, adding that the artist was free to take legal action if he wished.

In an interview, Lusambo said it was disappointing that the UPND had continued to complain about the unfairness of the Public Order Act yet they celebrated the failure to enact Bill 10 last Thursday.

Subsequently, three UPND officials were arrested for holding private meetings, Saturday.

"Zambians should open up their eyes and let them listen and see that UPND is not here for serious business, they are here just for confusion. Today, they want to talk about how others are being given the opportunity to campaign, we wanted in that Constitution to work on the Public Order Act. They didn't want that. Public Order Act is not Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the Public Order Act is not Bowman Lusambo or Stephen Kampyongo, it is the law, which we had found from (British) colonial rule. We wanted all those things to be reviewed, but today, they are the ones who want to cry louder. They will cry and they will continue crying louder because they don't know what they want!

If they knew what they wanted, we would have tabled all these issues in Parliament," Lusambo said.

"If they knew that there are some issues, which they didn't want, we would have debated. But they opted to go to New Kasama to that stranded young man, who wants to become (Republican) President using any form of opportunity, but God has said, 'not you, man, you can't be a leader in this country.' When we tell them that they come to Parliament to drink Mr Speaker's tea and walk out of Parliament, that is what they did. They were excited like mad people because of a pack of Hungry Lion! How can you celebrate because someone has bought you Hungry Lion?"

And he said that the UPND were lucky to have Kampyongo as Home Affairs Minister, who was tolerant, as they would be crying every day.

"I can assure you that we are going back to our constituencies to tell the people what we have done and who have been their hinderers, we will tell them. I can assure you most UPNDs won't come back, number one, who won't come back is Kapiri Mposhi member of parliament (Stanley Kakubo), whether he will use 'juju,' he is not coming back to Parliament. So, for me, let the UPND cry and they are lucky that they have a Minister of Home Affairs, who is very tolerant, Kampyongo is very tolerant, they are very lucky that they have a Minister, who is very tolerant, otherwise those people are supposed to be crying every day because that is where they belong, they belong in the category of crying," Lusambo said.

He stressed that Bill 10 had several progressive clauses.

"We came from Parliament

last week with Bill 10, the people wanted Bill 10, I can assure you that we had an opportunity to give the youths an opportunity to represent themselves in Parliament. The UPND don't want those things, we had an opportunity for women to represent themselves in Parliament, the UPND they didn't want things to happen. We had an opportunity to give the physically challenged representation in Parliament, the UPND didn't want the physically challenged people to be represented in Parliament," Lusambo said.

"We had a lot of progressive clauses in Bill 10, the UPND MPs don't even go to their constituencies, one example is Mpongwe and Lufwanyama, they don't visit their constituencies, why? Because their constituencies are too vast! We wanted to do delimitations of these constituencies so that the service delivery can be effective in these constituencies, they didn't want to do that. We wanted to put in the Constitution, 'Zambia the Christian nation...' They didn't want all those things to be in the Constitution."

Meanwhile, Lusambo insisted that he would not apologise to 'B-Flow' for lying in Parliament and told the artists to take legal action against him if he so wished.

The renowned musician demanded an apology from Lusambo for lying about the nature of their interactions in Parliament where the Kabushi PF member of parliament claimed to have sponsored his music career and that he spoke to B-Flow's parents on a daily basis when in actual fact, both were deceased.

"Let them take legal action, I know they want to protect their careers. It is unfortunate here in

Zambia that people don't want to say the truth. When we talk about me knowing those people and me knowing his parents, who told him that our parents are only our mother and father? Who told him that? My parents died a while

back, but I have parents. B-Flow should not open his mouth louder than he thinks he is; I know B-Flow from scratch, he was performing at our club, 'Go Easy' in Kabwe. What am I lying? When you sing one song and (former

US president Barack) Obama has heard it, now you feel that you have made it in life, who said that? I don't listen to his music! You have to know your league, it is not just about opening his mouth," said Lusambo.

2019 AG report reveals increase in wasteful expenditure

By Natasha Sakala

THE Office of the Auditor General has released the 2019 report on Accounts of the Republic which highlights an upward trend in several irregularities such as wasteful expenditure, which has increased from K222,534 in 2018 to K3.7 million in 2019.

According to a statement issued by the head of public relations Ellen Chikale, Monday, the upward trend in irregularities was attributed to inadequate supervision by controlling officers among others.

"The audit has revealed an increase in some of the irregularities such as undelivered materials moving from K9 million in 2018 to K23.5 million in 2019. Further there is an upward trend on Wasteful expenditure which increased from K222, 534 in 2018 to K3,730,864 in 2019. Others are Unaccounted for Revenue and Unaccounted for Funds that have increased from K143,179 in 2018 to K594,106 in 2019 and K26,000 in 2018 to K81,531 in 2019 respectively. On the revenue side, the report has also highlighted Unaccounted for Removals in Transit (RITs) in amounts totalling K47 million. The upward trend in some irregularities is attributed to inadequate supervision by controlling officers; failure to follow procurement procedures; and poor contract management among others," Chikale stated.

"The Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Republic for the financial year ended 31st December 2019 is out with irregularities in some Ministries, Provinces and Agencies (MPAs) still evident. The Report has been produced in accordance with Article 212 of the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act No.1 of 2018 and the Public Audit Act No. 13

of 1994. The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) which are the standards relevant for the audit of Public Sector entities and are issued by the International Organisation for Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) to which the Office of the Auditor General is a member. During the audit process, the Office interacted and communicated with Controlling Officers so as to provide an opportunity for them to clarify and take corrective action on the findings of the audits by so doing demonstrate the value and benefits of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The Report contains the audit findings that were not resolved during the audit process and no corrective actions were undertaken as at 30th September 2020."

The report further revealed that there was a reduction in some of the irregularities such as unaccounted for stores and misapplication of funds which dropped from K138 million in 2018 to K56 million in 2019 and K62 million in 2018 to K7 million in 2019 respectively.

"The audit report has also revealed reductions in the irregularities, notable among them, is Unaccounted for Stores which has dropped from K138 million in 2018 to K56 million in 2019; Misapplication of Funds from K62 million in 2018 to K7 million in 2019; Overpayments from K15.8 million in 2018 to K1 million in 2019; and Irregular payments from K12.7 million in 2018 to K8.9 million in 2019," stated Chikale

She further stated that the Auditor General further expressed concern with increase in some irregularities and hoped that the necessary remedial action will be taken on the issues raised in the report.



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

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This is the time to revise strategies

IF THERE is any time in our history when Boards got fully involved in the strategy formulation process, it is now. COVID 19 has misaligned shareholder expectations and most of the targets set by various companies will not be realized. Except probably for top financial institutions, nearly every company has had a significant drop in revenues. Shareholders will most likely go with nothing this financial year and possibly in next few years. This is because the challenges we faced will most certainly register on our financial statements for years to come.

The bigger problem is that while COVID 19 has had its own share of the business dire straits, the economy itself offers little hope for business recovery. The exchange rate is worse than it has ever been, and every business will face the impact of the cost of doing business. The 2021 budget is already constrained in many aspects. If boards are taking issues lightly, the failure of these businesses will reflect on their lack of foresight and leadership. While problems surely exist, the expectation is that Boards are there to sort out the mess. This is the time to demonstrate your business acumen by finding solutions to the problems your business is encountering.

Instead of waiting for things to shape up on their own, the boards should rise to the occasion and reset the business systems by calling for strategy reviews. Think of companies like the Zambia Airports Corporation, probably one of the most hit in the past nine months. Its business is largely dependent on flight landings. This nearly came to zero during this period and significantly affected the operations of the business. In terms of disaster contingency plans, I am not sure Zambia Airports Corporation had something well laid out. Government itself may not be able to bail out this strategic company the way other countries with the financial capabilities have done.

The business continuity planning process itself is a rigorous exercise that requires the intervention and involvement of the board. The board and management will need to determine resources, assets, and processes that are critical for the institution should the economic challenges continue. The role of the board is to provide this overall oversight and offer comfort to all stakeholders that the company will weather the storm. In short, this is the time to revise corporate and institutional strategies to factor in the impact of COVID 19 and general economic failures on the business. The boards should seek to reposition the businesses for a profitable outcome.

One of the agreed principles of corporate

governance is that the strategy is owned by the business and both the board and management have a significant role in formulating it. The board must understand the nature, risks, behaviour, and competition within the markets, which is provided by management through strategic analysis. The nature of business now is that demand for goods and services is falling. Incomes are realistically falling due to inflation. Recapitalisation of operations is proving expensive because everyone is seeking for a premium on their capital.

Commercial banks are aware of the increasing risk of operating in Zambia and are, therefore, mitigating potential losses through high interest rates. In short, due to the high-risk profile of all businesses, everyone is alert about how they deal with you. Your very trusted suppliers are shortening the credit period because they are not sure of your very existence after 90 days. It is not only shareholders, suppliers, and banks you should be worried about. Your own employees want more to compensate for high inflation levels. You are in a catch 22 situation: on one hand faced with falling real revenues and on the other hand, escalating costs. Even if you have the power to increase prices, it may not increase your revenues because you will fail to sell anything. In this case, what should be at the heart of a strategy review? King Reports provide strategic insights.

The strategic direction: Where should the organisation be in the long term given the challenges (and possibly opportunities) we are facing? If you are too focused on the current problems and lose sight of your business' long-term strategy, you will lose the plot. I believe that all problems are nothing but temporary where the strategic direction is clear. Think of a captain steering his ship through turbulence. It is in the maze of the moment you lose the ship. Great captains always have sight of the actual destination even when they are temporarily battling the storm. The board should inspire all stakeholders regardless that it is in firm control of the destination even when operations appear disrupted.

Markets and scope: Which markets should the organisation compete in? What kinds of products and services should it provide? The other day, during Bridges Limited Board meeting, we asked ourselves the question, 'What business are we in?' The crisis has helped us refocus, understand our markets better. We were able to dissect the market, understand each sector we have offered consultancy services and then decided where we will focus our energies going forward. We used a complex matrix to make this decision.

Going into 2021, we will know who we should deal with and our engagement will

be directed accordingly. There are markets we cannot compete in for now for lack of the leverage. In other words, we will not respond to every tender that comes our way. It also goes for products we want to focus on. Some are good for the market but not that very good for us. The question we asked ourselves was, 'How can the business perform better than the competition in those markets?'

Resources: What skills, assets, finance, relationships, technical competence, and facilities are required to compete effectively? This is a huge question. One of the issues nearly every CEO am coaching is bringing out regards poor skills-set among staff members. These issues are coming to the fore because the problems we are facing now are bigger than the available resources. If the resources were equal to the task, we would all be smiling through the storm. We are not because the problems are different but resources the same.

Some companies are thinking of hiring completely new staff. Others want heavy injection of capital as the best response. A few others have embarked on massive team building projects hoping enhanced relationships will produce the results. If you embark on any initiative without a clear strategy, you will waste your money. Strategy means that all actions have been thought through and well collaborated. Strategy also means all initiatives have a set of accountabilities, impact anticipated, and all processes will be monitored and evaluated. This is the value of strategy: you only spend money when you have collaborated all actions and the Board is part of the collaboration.

'If you are too focused on the current problems and lose sight of your business' long-term strategy, you will lose the plot'



COLLAPSE OF BILL 10 UNIFIES ZAMBIANS

By Hakainde Hichilema, UPND President

THERE is no doubt that the whole process surrounding the attempted enactment of Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 10 has polarised our communities, perhaps to levels never seen since our independence in 1964. This is an indisputable fact and one that calls for a collective national soul searching.

We must, however, use the fall out of Bill 10 to foster an energy of unity despite our political differences, because Zambia's greatest strength lies in its diversity. The intense debate the Bill generated must strengthen our democracy, our values and ideals that provide that even though we hold different views, we are one people and citizens of one mother land under one God.

We must rekindle the shared values with which this great nation was founded upon, that any human has a value far greater than any label, stereotype or misconception and that multiculturalism is an integral and deep rooted part of Zambia's national identity. We must strive for the ability to exist as one people in which we see each other as people first, without defining ourselves by race or tribe or deploy fear mongering by pitting citizen against citizen in order to maintain political power. This is dangerous and has ramifications that can affect how our communities relate to each other now and in future and most tragically, can

endanger national security.

The rejection of Bill 10 must not provide an array of weaponry by those who opposed it against those that were its proponents and vice versa. Instead it must provide all stakeholders an opportunity to inspire renewed hope, brotherly love and support to our nation and its citizens and also help us search for answers on the best way forward to resolve many challenges (and there are many of them) that still face our nation, especially on the electoral process as we lay the ground work for the 2021 election.

In this regard I wish to extend our profound gratitude to all citizens who moderated this intense national discourse for or against. My heartfelt thanks also go to various professional bodies, Civil Society organisations, Labour unions, Church Mother Bodies, different Churches and other organisations of other religious faiths. I wish to particularly express our gratitude to the Catholic Church for its sustained vigilance and consistency in providing leadership and spiritual guidance to the nation during the entire period of the debate, the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions for their forthrightness in the whole process despite a lot of pressure from the Patriotic Front and its surrogates.

My sincere thanks also go to different political parties and fellow politicians for affording citizens an opportunity to explore the Bill 10 debate from two sides of the same coin, and lastly our

MPs from all political parties that debated and expressed their views for or against the Bill and finally voted, abstained or voted against the Bill.

The failure of Bill 10 is a prerequisite for change of the status quo and the way the PF conduct public affairs that ultimately negatively impacts the lives of our people and the nation. It is a clarion call to duty for all citizens to demand for accountability in the running of national affairs from the PF. In particular, the PF must change its attitude and embrace a broad based consultative approach towards national issues. Arrogance does not pay.

People want decent jobs and proper healthcare, the ability to put food on their tables, pay school fees for their children and buy medicines in private pharmacies, because of lack of essential drugs in public hospitals. This can only be possible under a new government with fresh ideas and renewed vigour. You can't put new wine in old bottles and expect a new taste.

PF is totally bankrupt on how to reinvigorate this country back to where they found it. The people of Zambia fully recognise this impotence and will vote them out next year. UPND has a good economic plan, capable team of managers and technocrats to create the much needed economic recovery, once our citizens vote us into office next year. We have the political will and the capacity to fight corruption and any economic crimes, vigorously and without fear or favour. This is time for change!

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SUSPENDED Eastern Province PF youth chairperson Emmanuel Banda, commonly known as Jay Jay, and others yesterday failed to take plea in a case they are charged with aggravated assault with intent to steal before the Lusaka High Court.

Banda and others could not take plea as their two co-accused persons were not before court.

In this matter, Banda, 35,

Jay Jay, 4 others fail to take plea in aggravated assault case

a businessman of Petauke, Eastern Province, is jointly-charged with John Lungu, 26, a general worker of Garden House, Lusaka; Maxwell Pito, 20, a peasant farmer of Lusaka West; Moses Silyonde, 27, unemployed of Kanyama and Lyford Phiri, 21, unemployed, of unknown residential address with aggravated assault with intent to steal.

It is alleged that on July 6, 2020 in Lusaka, the five jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown and with intent to steal, assaulted Allan Mbahwe, a police officer.

When the case was called before Lusaka High Court Judge Wilfred Muma, Monday morning, only Banda, Pito and Phiri were present.

Defence lawyer Osborne

Ngoma then applied for an adjournment, saying they were not ready to proceed with the plea as the other accused, Lungu and Silyonde were not in court as they were not served with information.

Ngoma said he would ensure to serve Lungu and Silyonde with information and asked that the matter be adjourned to Thursday.

Judge Muma granted the application and adjourned the case to November 5, this year.

On October 21, the Lusaka Magistrates' Court committed Banda and the others to the High Court for trial.

Banda and the others had earlier appeared before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court and were committed to the High Court for trial where they

pleaded not guilty to the same charge of aggravated assault with intent to steal.

But on October 12, this year, when the matter was scheduled for commencement of trial in the Lusaka High Court, the State entered a nolle prosequi in favour of the five.

But Banda and others were re-arrested shortly after the case was discontinued.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
LUSAKA Province UPND youth chairman Obvious Mwaliteta says the PF are now desperate to hold on to power because they have realised that Zambians have disowned them, hence the escalated number of arrests of opposition members.

And Mwaliteta says any attempts by the ruling party to trap UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema will not work because the opposition leader has full protection from party members.

In an interview, Mwaliteta observed that the heightened arrests of opposition members was an indication that the PF had realised Zambians had abandoned them.

"I walked into town today and everyone was saying, 'job well done on Bill 10!' So, you can see that people really are just scared to be arrested and to lose their jobs. But I can tell you that the people of Zambia are ready to see change. And

PF's plans to trap HH won't work, he has full protection from members – Mwaliteta

no amount of intimidation will stop us from helping the Zambian people and from liberating this country. In fact, what they (PF) are doing to us, they are actually campaigning for us. If they think it will be difficult for us, it will actually be difficult for them because they are the ones who have created this enmity. We are not scared of them. They are not super humans. They are nothing, and they cannot do anything. We will continue campaigning because we are the majority Zambians. They are just a minority. If they were so powerful, please, we would have seen it on Bill 10. And all those threats are the last kicks of a dying horse! We are not

going to be scared of bakandile, bamwankole. Otherwise, apa naikosa! The same way they think that it will be hard for us, it will equally be hard for them because we are going to stand firm," Mwaliteta said.

He charged that the PF were desperate because they had realised that Zambians had disowned them.

"The PF are in desperate mode because they have been disowned by Zambians. Zambians have got nothing to do with the PF. Right now, they have applied a method of intimidation on the biggest political party, UPND. There have been a lot of arrests after arrests on the UPND. We understand what they are going

through. They didn't expect that at one point, Zambians would divorce them. They thought they were too powerful to continue manipulating Zambians. They have created poverty; when there is a by-election, they will go with K20s and give the people to vote for them, but still they can't get the influence and support from Zambians," Mwaliteta added.

"So, they are desperate. They don't know which direction to take for them to be in the comfort zone because Zambians have run away from them. Look at the celebrations on the fall of Bill 10. They have continued effecting arrests on members of the opposition. All they want is to stop us from campaigning, and talking. They really want to shut us up. We are not campaigning. They are the ones who are campaigning, but it is still not enough for them. They still want to intimidate the people who are not even campaigning. There are so many rallies everywhere for them, but we have never had any rally. We have tried to apply for rallies, but they never allow us. And the international community is watching, the NGOs are watching. It is tricky. We don't have political space because of them trying to ride on top of every Zambian."

But he urged Zambians to sacrifice more time and energy to liberate the country.

"It is very sad that Edgar Lungu has brought us where we are. It is the first time we are seeing a lot of arrests in this country. Every day, people are being arrested. And those who have been fired, they still follow them and arrest them thinking that they will support the opposition parties. Look at Chishimba Kambwili; all these arrests I am telling you are efforts to try to hold on power. Now, their plan to hold on power was dependent on Bill 10. But now Bill 10 has fallen off. So, we need to make sure that we monitor what is happening. Of course, we will be arrested here and there, but there is nothing we can do. Liberty does not come on a silver platter; you have to work for it. And for us to liberate this nation now, to remove it from these colleagues of ours pretending to be politicians

when they are something else, we have to sacrifice. We have to sacrifice a lot as Zambians," Mwaliteta said.

The former Kafue PF member of parliament added that Hichilema was enjoying full protection from party members, hence PF would not manage to trap him.

"And we are not going to stop. This is the true revolution that is coming. What is worrying us is that the police are being used too much. They are also frustrated, especially junior police officers. But they are just doing it because they want to keep their job. And for (Inspector General of Police Kakoma) Kanganja, the day of reckoning is coming, (Stephen) Kampyongo (Home Affairs Minister), the day of reckoning is coming. Please, let's respect

opposition political parties. We are Zambians as well. This is the only country where we belong. There is no way you can stop everyone. When we want to talk, we are arrested. They have closed the media houses. You are lucky that you, Diggers! are still surviving. What kind of people are these? But we are not going to be intimidated. We want to assure Zambians that where we have reached now, we are not going to be scared to be arrested. We will continue speaking on behalf of Zambians, and continue fighting for them. And I can tell you that if they want to plant something so that they can find a case against HH, it won't work because HH is protected by us and HH is enjoying the support from all Zambians," said Mwaliteta.

Govt's continued borrowing will keep inflation high – Hambayi

By Natasha Sakala
ECONOMIST Trevor Hambayi says government is in a very difficult position as it cannot tackle the rising inflation rate without a holistic approach in improving the macroeconomic indicators that lead to its escalation.

In an interview, Hambayi said that the annual rate of inflation which rose to a five-month high of 16 per cent in October, would likely continue increasing on account of government's continued borrowing for debt servicing, which will increase further next year.

He observed that the fact that government was borrowing locally to service the country's huge debt stock was putting pressure on the exchange rate, leading to increased import prices.

"Unfortunately, this has been a long-standing problem. I mean the effects that have contributed towards the rising inflation are underlying issues that have been long-standing. This starts with the debt situation on the country. What is happening now is that government is trying to find resources on the local market to be able to service our international debt. In having to do this, they are putting pressure on the exchange rate because they are looking for hard currency they would pay for the debt and that pressure is what is happening in depreciating the kwacha. And when the kwacha depreciates, what is happening then is that all our import-based products, because we import a lot of

products, the price increases. That increase in the price is what is driving the inflation," Hambayi explained.

"And then, obviously, our debt servicing, we are now depleting our reserves and that is undermining the macroeconomic fundamentals."

He added that there was need for Zambia to increase its foreign exchange revenue as mining companies had not been remitting adequately.

"So, the first aspect in terms of underlining issues is that as a country we must improve our foreign exchange revenue base, which is creating a trade surplus, which is increasing our export earnings. So, that is the long-term strategy that we should have taken and we haven't done anything to that effect. The second area where the resources were coming from in terms of foreign exchange earnings is the mines, but we, as a country, have not been getting the right revenue from the mines for the last five years. There is always a dispute, it's a VAT dispute, a Mineral Royalty Tax (MRT) dispute between government and the mines has also put pressure on the foreign exchange reserves," Hambayi said.

He further observed that there was no new revenue that would come into the economy to stabilise the kwacha.

"So, the third aspect that should have been improving on this is that the economy should have been performing in terms of growth, this has

not happened, the economy has been decreasing in terms of economic performance for the last five years since 2015. So, there is no new revenue that is coming into the market that is going to help having to stabilise this depreciation of the kwacha. So, those are the factors that we need to be able to deal with to start having to improve the macroeconomic indicators that lead to inflation," he said.

And Hambayi urged government to increase the stimulus package into the economy to improve liquidity and in turn reduce inflation.

"The other aspect that would help try and improve the inflation is government should increase the stimulus package to the economy because the economy requires liquidity for it to invest into the productive sector, then we can start having economic growth and that is what is going to bring about a reduction in the inflation. But otherwise where it stands now, it is a very difficult position where government is. The solution is not one, it must be holistic, it requires a number of factors which ought to come in place at the same time," said Hambayi.

Yellow Card peaceful protest to go on – Laura

By Natasha Sakala
CIVIL rights activist Laura Miti says the Yellow Card Movement Peaceful Day of Reflection will proceed as planned, saying there is no law that requires citizens to be registered for them to gather.

Police, in a letter dated October 30, 2020, refused to grant the Yellow Card Movement its request to hold a peaceful protest on grounds that the movement is not registered with the Registrar of Societies or any relevant government institution.

"Be informed that the (Lusaka) Command received your letter of notification dated 21st October 2020 in which you sought for notification for a Peaceful Day of Reflection to be held on 1st November 2020 on behalf of a group called Yellow Card Movement. Take note that the Registrar of Societies was notified through the Ministry Home affairs as to ascertain whether such movement exists or not. In the same vein, we have been guided by the Ministry of Home Affairs that the office of the Registrar of Societies was indeed engaged to establish as to whether the movement is registered or not with any relevant government authorities or institutions," read the letter signed by Donald Mwandila, the deputy commissioner of police.

"However, it has been established that the movement is not registered with any government institution and as such, its operations are illegal. With this development, the onus is upon the Yellow Card Movement to show proof that it is a registered entity without which your request for, or notification is not granted or noted."

However, Miti said the letter was unlawful and that the government was just using the police to prevent citizens from gathering.

"It's an unlawful letter because there is no law that says that for citizens to gather, you must be registered. So we are just in an environment in which the government is using the police and using all sorts of excuses, some of them utterly ridiculous to prevent citizens from gathering, which is extremely unfortunate," Miti said.

She further said the protest would proceed and the public would be kept informed.

"We will proceed, we will let the police know that their letter is entirely unlawful and then we will keep the public informed," said Miti.

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LAST weekend, Lusaka Police surrounded the opposition UPND secretariat searching for National Registration Cards (NRCs) in an operation that ended in the detention of party secretary general Stephen Katuka and member Anthony Bwalya.

According to lawyer Marshal Muchende, the search warrant that police had was saying that the officers had reasons to believe that there were piles and piles of NRCs at the UPND secretariat, and they had permission of the court to search the premises of the UPND secretariat for those suspected NRCs and other documents.

This operation by the police puzzled us for several reasons. The NRC issuance exercise is done by the government through the Ministry of Home Affairs; they are the ones with the mandate and the equipment for issuing NRCs to citizens, not the opposition or any other Jim and Jack. So, if there is any political party that can embark on an

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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If anyone can issue NRCs from the backyard, we've a national security issue

exercise of illegally issuing NRCs, it can only be the party in power. In fact, this is what the Patriotic Front has been saying. We recall that on August 6, this year, party secretary general Davies Mwila decreed that the ruling party would turn the national registration exercise into a PF programme.

“The NRCs exercise, let us take it as the party programme. Let us all get involved. Nali chita discuss naba (I discussed with the) party chairman, we are working on a budget to see if we can release some few resources so that abantu besu bali

munshila bale enda bale ongola abana mukuya lembesha ama Reg. As a party, we have taken it as a party programme. We want to involve all the party functionaries; we need to get the numbers. Once people are given NRCs, we expect to have a higher number of voters. Natwisa nama registers aya kweba ati mule lembe ama branch. Ama branch ya fwile ya fula, te kwi kala fye ati ama elections yali no kwisa (we have come with registers so that you can take note of people. The party branches need to grow, don't just be idle and wait for elections).

This is what Mr Mwila has been saying on several occasions since August, this year. According to him, the NRC registration exercise is now a PF programme and as the chief executive of the party, he has been on record making this declaration. So, like we have stated above, if there is any party that is desperate to print and issue NRCs, it is the ruling party.

What we now have to ask the police is if they have ever taken interest in searching the PF secretariat and its provincial offices to see if the party has

been involved in the illegal exercise. But do our police officers take interest in investigating suspicious transactions that are linked to the PF? No, they are not. It appears that only the opposition can commit crimes and not the PF.

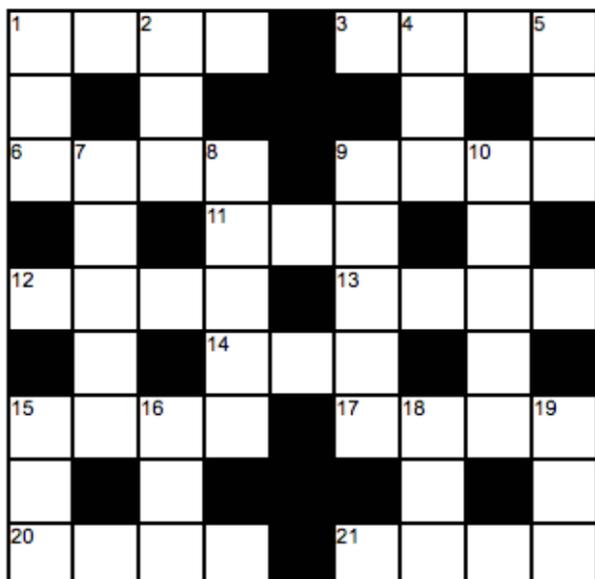
In our view, if the UPND would have committed a crime by being found in possession of NRCs for their members, then the PF has committed this crime on a number of occasions. In fact, social media is flooded with photographs of PF members making and issuing NRCs illegally. Why is it

that the police have not taken interest to investigate that? Since when did this become a crime? In August, the PF secretary general said the party was taking charge of the NRC issuance exercise, so we are challenging the police to search the PF secretariat as well.

We are also wondering if police are telling us that any political party or individual can manage to print NRCs from the backyard. If this is the case, then we have a national security issue. How can it be so easy for people to print piles and piles of NRCs as claimed? If that is possible, what stops criminals and foreigners from issuing NRCs to themselves? Our country is not serious with issues of national security. We are a very careless nation that seems to have no direction at all.

Our police officers must strive to be professional and balanced in their enforcement of the law. We cannot have a police service that only applies to the opposition, while the real culprits are left to go scot-free. It's unfair and undemocratic.

Crossword puzzle No 724



“You will never be entirely comfortable. This is the truth behind the champion - he is always fighting something. To do otherwise is to settle”- Julien Smith

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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get money for work 3. Something to worship 6. Hopping amphibian 9. Infant 11. Bread type 12. Baby's word 13. Social standard 14. Co. name ender 15. Surprise greatly 17. It has fingers 20. Necessity 21. Moved quickly | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Santa's helper 2. Pooh's young pal 4. ___ favor 5. Put down 7. Cut of beef 8. Smidgen of sand 9. Park seat 10. Lower member of nobility 15. Day light 16. Employ 18. Stereo component 19. Father |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Crossword puzzle No 723



Readers' Feedback



'Bill 10 demise a good day for democracy!'

Editor,

"Makebi Zulu, Tutwa Ngulube, Brian Mundubile, Given Lubinda and other legal practitioners in piyefu including Kabimba and Lungu, the failure of bill10 exposed their incompetences in law. They failed to calculate the number of MPs they have. They failed to sturdy the current constitution on the clauses of enacting of a new constitution. Shame!!" - Walo Tumvi Masiye

"A good victory for democracy indeed. Your focus on third bid is highly commendable. Let's not create a monster hell bent on furnishing division, dictatorships, economic plunder... Bring it on counsel, you have my total support". - Kool Int

"We were taught in grade 4 social studies that the president can only be in office for two team, so even someone who left school in grade 5 can interpret this. 2021 they should just find someone to take over from him". - Lwando Bbuku

"Let the media bring the eligibility discussion more often to educate the masses as was done on The late bill 10". - Ringson Mwansa

"It looks like, John Sangwa SC now has become a burning charcoal in their gumboots and the only way to put out a burning charcoal is just to pee in the gumboots! Ignore him at own peril timely warning .He is doing pretty good best legal mind for our motherland". - Given Chikeu

"According to what I learnt back in school, I know that a president can only be sworn in twice according to our laws... Maybe things have changed kaili syllabus keeps changing... We shall wait and see". - Zinnia Daven Choonga

ND! OPINION: Teaching people how to defraud your own govt

Editor,

"Teaching people on how to defraud the government is only possible in the government of AKAPUBA pantu nako nika lazo. They are not even shaken by this expose. The head of the THIEFDOM should have acted by now if he were serious in saving the face of his thiefdom. They are stealing from us Zambians but ITUPUBA TULETALIKA. SAD!" - Chiundule Wansimbi

"And people think politicians love them ! These guys will do anything to be in power ...teaching people to defraud SCT funds is just crooked way of showing some love to unsuspecting citizens". - Bias Sichamba

"In countries which are governed by real presidents, Dora by now would have been a former minister!" - Keith Moono

"But her honour the vice president on the floor of parliament was defending the minister's words saying headman are the ones who supply vital statistics on vulnerable people in their domain to government.can someone enlighten me here, what about central statistical office? or is the government now going to rely on village head men for such vital information, some who can barely count beyond 20, is this why there will be no census of population this year? it's puzzling!" - George Mwamba

"That's my issue with these people...they are too willing to break laws not to mention principles to get what they want. They are dangerous to our country and actually belong in jail". - Steven M Mwalusi

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Lungu's Ifwe tulebomba, ifipuba filetalika remarks

Editor,

"R-U-B-B-I-S-H! This is the kind of talk that makes our Finance minister's job very difficult under this guy. By January, the same person will be sending his minister to negotiate with IMF. Anyway, the donors and investors have already written off this clueless, corrupt government!" - Munacho Shimapengo

"Its a flyover hump. No different from the ones Kaunda built in 1986 on Great East, Church and Independence roads. No aesthetic value, whatsoever. And most critical, Lusaka is not Zambia. Kazungula-Sisheke; Chipata-Chadiza; TBZ-Mangango; Kaoma-Northwestern..., etc are linkages I can break dance about". - Mbinji Mufalo

"The man is just annoyed, depressed, in fact angry that Bill 10 never went through!"

But he should wait for the biggest shock of his life come August..... Oh sorry he's not qualified for a third term and he was indirectly pushing for a third term through Bill 10! So we can all understand where this annoyance is coming from". - Ian Malekhanie

"The loss of Bill 10 made him forget to pretend that he should act humble!" - Mze Aniesto

"But the focus should not be roads only, you should also work on the economy which is on life support machine. Even ma rural roads are bad. I can give examples of roads that are in a bad state in Eastern province, there is Lundazi-Chama road, musoro road in Kasenengwa constituency and Chipata- Chadiza road". - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"Yes we do appreciate infrastructure in other countries not at the expense of the population going hungry and bankrupt to point not having panado in hospital, no!" - Godfrey Champanga

"Borrowing to change the face of Zambia? by mentioning shopping malls, internet and whatever, it seems the "change" is merely cosmetic and more on consumption. Seriously, what value do these "malls" add when most of the money they generate leaves the country?!" - Thabale Ngulube

"The Chinese are working, you are merely cutting ribbons and plunging the country in debts!" - Richard Waga

"If ECL said he is not ashamed of the debt he has accumulated since he took over then Zambia is in trouble to have such a president!" - Mutinta Mulonda

'A census needs to be conducted before the 2021 election'

Editor,

"I have never seen voting since I was born without knowing the number of people in the country". - Innocent Makongwa

"They should now conduct a census we don't even need to debate this issue. We need this census before elections". - Belden Masenke

"Planning is not in the vocabulary of the PF". - Boyd Mfunda

"So government has failed to conduct this year's census?!" - Roy Siansulinga II

"It is a deliberate action that this year's census hasn't taken place. They don't want to be question on the disparity on figures between number of the people in some regions and that of registered voters. Of course

if census is conducted, the records can prove otherwise to the voters register in some regions". - B Alice Mweemba

"With this government wanders will never cease. For the first time in the history of Zambia under this government we are failing to do it and people are just quiet only talking about petty issues than this. Kudos to our MP for bringing up this issue". - Boniface Mweshi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

LUSAKA PF Provincial secretary Kennedy Kamba says Zambians will reject UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema for the 6th time in 2021 for influencing the rejection of Bill 10.

And Kamba has urged Zambians to reject the UPND in 2021 and vote for President Lungu because he has demonstrated love, undoubted commitment and sacrifice for the country.

In a statement to News Diggers!, Kamba charged that people with ill-motives in the UPND hijacked the voting process that could have cemented the country's Constitution.

"We have all seen how the UPND has celebrated the fall of the Constitution Amendment Bill Number 10, which was a progressive document that could have helped enhance the country's democracy and good governance. The UPND must know that all their schemes and machinations to have Bill 10 fall off were being followed closely by Zambians and posterity will judge these selfish individuals harshly by losing the 2021 elections. For us in the PF, we believe that Bill 10 was progressive. It was not a PF document, but a document for Zambians, which the UPND has killed with impunity! It is out of these selfish characteristics that Hakainde Hichilema and his UPND have been rejected by Zambians five times and they will reject him and his people for the sixth time come 2021. People with ill-motives in the UPND hijacked the process that could have cemented the country's Constitution and destroyed it," Kamba stated.

He also charged that the UPND and Hichilema did not value Christianity, nor did they endorse the SADC protocols for increased women participation in key governance positions.

"Zambians must know that through the selfishness of the UPND, there will be no increased participation of young people or students in Parliament through the mixed-member system, the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation will not be properly constitutionalised, a situation that may compromise the country's strong stance on Christian values. UPND and Hakainde Hichilema don't value Christianity. By rejecting Bill 10, the UPND is literally telling women that they should forget about their campaign for increased representation in Parliament through a mixed-member system. This means that the UPND is against the Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) protocols that calls for increased women participation in political leadership and public life," Kamba stated.

"By killing Bill 10, Hakainde Hichilema and the UPND are literally telling Zambia that they don't care about our brothers and sisters, who are physically challenged. These people could have been getting into Parliament without open vote competition. The UPND is further telling Zambia that

Reject HH in 2021 for influencing Bill 10 fall, Kamba urges Zambians

it does not care about issues affecting traditional leaders by rejecting clauses that could have addressed their plight. The Constitution amendment agenda on delimitation, which has been the cry of Zambians, could have been addressed without fail."

He also urged Zambians to reject the UPND in next year's polls and vote for President Lungu because he demonstrated love, undoubted commitment and sacrifice for this country.

"We are heading towards the 2021 polls and our appeal is for Zambians to put the selfishness of the UPND at the back of their minds and vote for President Lungu, who has demonstrated love, undoubted commitment and sacrifice for Zambia. The UPND killed Bill 10 out of malice and not in the interest of Zambians as they claim. They kept on telling lies and they stood

by their lies that Bill 10 was about extending President Lungu's tenure in office, which was a blatant lie, meant to sway Zambians from the real progressive clauses. There was no clause in Bill 10 that talked about taking away the powers of the central bank on printing money as the UPND claimed or the reintroduction of deputy ministers, which we all rejected. Bill 10 was a progressive amendment



Kamba urges Zambians

Bill that was supposed to be enacted, but the UPND have killed the outcries of Zambians. Posterity, indeed, will judge them harshly," stated Kamba.

My Bill 10 vote didn't count, the system froze, complains Ng'ambi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

CHIFUBU PF member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi has asked the National Assembly to add his vote to the 105 MPs who voted for Bill 10, claiming that even if he supported the Bill, his vote did not count as the electronic system froze.

But Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Catherine Namugala could not immediately issue a ruling on the matter, saying she would have to first consult the

ICT Department.

Speaking when he rose on a point of order in Parliament, Friday, Ng'ambi said even if it was in the public domain that he supported the Bill, he could not cast his vote as the electronic system froze on him.

"Madam chairperson, yesterday (Thursday) the 29th of October 2020, Bill 10 was presented before the floor of this House and Bill 10, Madam Speaker, was meant to benefit

the Zambian people as it was progressive and was meant to address many challenges that the Zambian people have been experiencing. But, however, Madam Speaker, one of the issues that came out yesterday is the same issue that we are experiencing this morning that from time to time, the system at this National Assembly keeps freezing and at the time of the vote, Madam Speaker [it] froze and I was unable to vote! And as you may be aware, I supported the Bill and my name was supposed to appear among those who should have voted on yes," Ng'ambi claimed.

He asked if the National Assembly could change the details and add his vote to the 105 who voted 'yes.'

"Now, that my name did not appear and I have publicly declared that it was my intention that I was to support Bill 10, since that the system failed me...as it did not register me as being present, and I am publicly declaring, will the records at the National Assembly be changed so that I become the number 106 among those that voted yesterday (Thursday) because it was the system that failed me? I, therefore, seek your serious ruling, Madam Chairperson," Ng'ambi asked.

But Deputy Speaker Namugala reserved her ruling, saying she would have to consult the ICT Department on Ng'ambi's request.

"I reserve my ruling for obvious reasons that I have to consult the ICT Department so that a ruling can be delivered. That is my position," ruled Deputy Speaker Namugala.

Zambia's debt default will continue because govt has no payment plan – Milupi

By Natasha Sakala

ZAMBIA will continue to default on its debt interest payments because the country lacks financial capacity to raise sufficient revenues due to the effect COVID-19 has had on various economic sectors, says Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi.

In an interview, Milupi, who is also the Opposition Alliance chairperson, said whether or not Zambia's lenders agreed to the six-month repayment holiday, the country would be in a precarious situation because government had no plan for economic recovery.

Eurobond holders are due to meet on November 13 to decide on a crucial vote on whether or not to grant the Zambian government's request to freeze interest payments for at least six months.

"So they have no plan and whether the lenders forgive us or agree with government to delay repayments for six months, at the end of those six months, it's like you have a big sore on your leg, painful. Instead of treating the bacteria and the infection, you just go for painkillers. The pain will go for some time, but the effect of that pain killer will wear away, the pain will be back, you need to get antibiotics, you need to treat the infection and so on to have a lasting solution. The rescheduling of debt payments for six months, even if it was agreed, and at the moment there is no hope that it will be agreed, because those people are raising very pertinent questions like, 'have we been honest in declaring exactly how much we owe,' 'what have we done with the Chinese debt,' 'how about these parastatals like Zesco,'" Milupi said.

"So, there is no guarantee that they will agree with the suggestions from government,

but even if they agreed, it will be like a pain killer of a festering sore over a six-month period. The end of that six months, that painkiller effect will wear away and the pain will be back. The country is already defaulting, we are already in default. If you borrow money from somebody and there is an agreed programme of payment that every month you will pay so much then you go there and say, 'please, can you allow me not to pay...' That is default because, for now, those people we owe money have not agreed to reschedule the debt service repayments. So, we are already in default."

He expressed concern that 50 per cent of locally-generated revenues had already been earmarked for debt repayment.

"They (government) have no debt management plan. Now, we have a situation where in our budget for this year K119 billion, there is

over K30 billion that is going towards debt repayment. Now, when you look at the amount of money that we are generating as a country, the locally-generated revenue in the budget of 2021 it is K66 billion, the rest is from external funding, either loans or donor funding and so forth. So, the debt service alone is almost 50 per cent of the locally-generated revenue. That clearly shows that we shall never reach a level where we will be able to service that debt. And when you look at this K66 billion, the point I am making is, the portion of debt service as compared to the locally-generated revenue is too high! We are talking about almost 50 per cent," Milupi said.

"So, you look at the economy because the economy is what should generate money that should go towards locally-generated revenue; what have we had

in the economy starting 2019? We have had this horrendous load shedding, when you restrict power, you restrict activities within the economy. This restriction of power has continued in 2020, so obviously in 2021, the financial reporting of companies and operators in the economy is such that I think Pay as You Earn (PAYE), corporate tax and other things like customs and excise, will be severely impacted upon. So, we do not see in 2021 the economy generating sufficient money to be able to cover debt repayments."

He added that there was no sector that gave confidence that the economy would pick up next year.

"...So there is not a single sector that gives us confidence that our economy will pick up, and if our economy doesn't pick, where do we get money to service the debt and to repay debt?" wondered Milupi.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

COUNCIL of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) secretary general Fr Emmanuel Chikoya says it is time Zambians moved on from the failed Bill 10 and transition into 2021 as a unified and peaceful country.

And Fr Chikoya says people should draw lessons from the failure of Bill 10 that not everybody is available for sale and not everything can be fixed using money.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya said it was time to move on from Bill 10 and urged the country to transition by being united and peaceful.

"At the moment, we need to transition into 2021 as a unified country, peaceful. And so, let them just cool down, calm down and stop operating from the position of bitterness. We are a Christian nation and they are in the seat and they are the ones actually trying to champion that agenda. So, let them demonstrate the love for each other, the respect for one another and also learning to agree to disagree and still being able to co-exist," Fr Chikoya said. "So, we condemn every aspect of any threats of whatever form, unleashing the security agencies on the opposition. It's not going to win them anything. They

It's time to move on from failed Bill 10 – CCZ

may temporarily cause discomfort to others. But they will surely reap what they sow one day. It's time to move on. It is not time for bitterness or threats and all those things. We are fed up of those. We need to stabilize."

He said consensus building had a greater bearing on the results for anything.

"The biggest lesson is that it is critical to fully engage and consult no matter how long it takes. We must be good listeners, avoid being arrogant [because] money cannot buy everything. You can do only so much by utilizing the blessing of being in leadership and use it for the good of all. And exercise stewardship instead of just bull dozing everything and everyone. I think those are the lessons that not everybody is available for sale and not everything can be fixed using money. Consensus building, the process has a greater bearing on the outcome and it

increases or decreases ownership in a comprehensive manner," Fr Chikoya said.

He said the failure to pass the Bill should not mean fixing the opposition because it was the economy that needed more fixing.

"At the end of the day, it's important to avoid wasting resources by doing the right things and every day. If they are going to go into that direction [to fix the opposition for not supporting Bill 10], then they have failed to learn the lesson. The tough lesson is that let us be humble. If there is anything to fix, fix the economy, the leakage in terms of corruption, and stop the leakages in terms of procurement and all those things. That is what needs to be fixed. They will be wasting time if they want to go after people in a crusade of fixing them because even if they fix them, they will not gain anything. They will create more acrimony in the country," said Fr Chikoya.

Nkwazi tighten grip at top of chess league

By Ngosa Chalwe
 POLICE outfit Nkwazi tightened their grip at the summit of the 2020 Michael Thole Elite Chess league after back to back wins in round eight and nine at the weekend.
 Nkwazi, who are seeking to defend their title, took on Lusaka Knights in round eight in a game of six matches and emerged 5 – 1 winners at the end of the round.
 After their victory, they moved to Kalingalinga in round nine where they produced a masterclass, winning five games and drawing one to end the day with a 5.5 – 0.5 score line.
 The back to back wins take Nkwazi to nine wins in as many games and boasting of 27 points, seven better than closest rivals Project Chess Zambia (PCZ).
 Second placed PCZ outwitted LIYOCA 4.5 – 1.5 in round eight before playing to a 3 – all stalemate

against Lusaka Knights in round nine.
 As the league enters its mid-season break, PCZ will be hoping to mount a strong challenge on runaway leaders Nkwazi when the teams begin to play their return game after next week.
 Having started their season on a high, Red Arrows have tumbled in the title race following their shocking defeats to Green Eagles and Napsa A by an identical score-line of 2.5 – 3.5 in rounds eight and nine respectively.
 The back to back losses see Arrows on position five with 15 points, a situation which nearly rules them out of the title race.
Full Results
ROUND 8
 NAPSAs B 4.5-1.5
 Kalingalinga
 Nkwazi 5-1Lusaka
 Knights
 PCZ 4.5-1.5 LIYOCA
 Green Buffaloes 4-2
 NAPSAs A

Red Arrows 2.5-3.5	Green Eagles 2.5-3.5	Arrows	Lusaka Knights 3-3 PCZ
Green Eagles	NAPSAs B	LIYOCA 1-5	Kalingalinga 0.5-5.5
ROUND 9	NAPSAs A 3.5-2.5	Green Buffaloes	Nkwazi



Lameck Njovu a resident of Lusaka's Kuku Compound carries eleven crates of Castle Lager on a wheelbarrow from Kamwala market to Kafue Road – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Audit reveals mismanagement of K1.3bn Covid-19 funds

By Ulande Nkomesha
 THE Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources for the period February 1 to July 31, 2020, has revealed that a total of over K1.3 billion was mismanaged in various transactions, which included dubious transfers from GRZ accounts amounting to K60 million and upto K3 million in cash withdrawals.
 In a statement, Monday, Auditor General's Office Head of Public Relations Ellen Chikale stated that the report highlighted financial irregularities in the utilisation of COVID-19 resources with the highest being an over-commitment of K652 million, which entailed that procurements made for various medical supplies were not adequately supported by an approved budget and exceeded the entire budget.
 The second highest irregularity was the

questionable awarding of contracts amounting to K384 million, among four other irregularities, all totalling over K1.3 billion.
 "The Auditor General, Dr Dick Chellah Sichembe, has issued the first Interim Audit Report on the utilisation of COVID-19 resources, which has revealed financial and other irregularities. During the audit process, the Office interacted and communicated with controlling officers at the Ministry of Health, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and Ministry of Finance so as to provide an opportunity for them to clarify and take corrective action on the findings of the audits. The Report, therefore, contains issues that were not resolved during the audit process. The Interim Report has highlighted financial irregularities in the utilisation of

COVID-19 resources with the highest being over-commitment of K652 million. Over-commitment in this regard entails that the procurements made for various medical supplies were not adequately supported by an approved budget and exceeded the entire budget for the multi-sectoral contingent plan for a period of three years," Chikale stated.
 She disclosed that the questionable awarding of contracts amounting to K384 million was the second highest irregularity, while procurement contracts awarded without competition amounted to K194 million.
 K652m in over-commitment
 K384 in illegal contracts
 K194 questionable procurement contract
 K60 in dubious transfers from government accounts
 K3 Cash withdrawals
 "The report also

highlighted questionable awarding of contracts amounting to K384 million as the second highest irregularity. Under this irregularity, some suppliers supplied medical supplies before signing the contract. This was followed by procurement contracts awarded without competition in amounts totalling K194 million. The Ministry of Health also engaged in uncompetitive procurement through cover bidding in respect of four contracts amounting to K10 million. Cover bidding occurs when a competitor submits bids that are intended to be unsuccessful so that another conspirator can win the contract, thereby, giving an unfair advantage to a specific supplier," Chikale stated.
 "The audit also revealed irregular transfer of GRZ funds to commercial banks in amounts totalling K60 million and irregular

withdrawal of cash amounting to K3 million. On procurements done in an emergency situation as was the case, the Auditor General took cognisance of the time in which the procurements were done, but was quick to mention that, even in this situation, institutions were supposed to follow basic procurement regulations, which are designed for this purpose."
 Chikale stated that the report also highlighted non-financial weaknesses, which included failure to operationalise the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund.
 "The report further highlighted non-financial weaknesses, which included failure to operationalise the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund; the lack of Highly Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital; Delayed Preparation of the Multi-Sectoral Contingency and Response Plan and failure to provide adequate incentives for front-line personnel, among others. Dr Sichembe recommends, among others, that the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund should be immediately operationalised to ensure funds for emergencies/ disasters are readily available and that a dedicated Highly Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital should be constructed to handle infectious diseases, such as COVID -19," stated Chikale.
 "The Auditor General has stated that the audit of

the utilisation of COVID-19 resources is a real time continuous audit and the essence of him issuing an interim COVID-19 audit report is to prevent or reduce any financial loss to the government and for remedial action to be taken on the issues raised. He has urged all stakeholders that are involved in the receipt and utilisation of COVID-19 resources to exercise maximum prudence in the management of public resources and hopes that remedial action will be taken on the issues raised in the report. The Report has been produced in accordance with Section 5 (1) of the Public Audit Act No.13 of 1994 which states that, 'Whenever the Auditor General has reason to believe that delay in reporting serious irregularities in the expenditure of the public funds through his annual report may occasion financial loss to the Government or prejudice effective financial control, he shall forthwith prepare such special, interim or other audit report relating to audit investigation into such serious irregularities as he considers necessary to prevent or reduce any financial loss to the Government.' The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs), which are the standards relevant for the audit of public sector entities."

Sikombe moves to Lusaka Dynamos

By Ngosa Chalwe
 MIDFIELDER Collins Sikombe has made a surprise move from Confederations Cup envoys Napsa Stars to Super Division side Lusaka Dynamos after filing a transfer request.
 On Sunday, Sikombe was a surprise omission from the line-up that faced Zesco United in a Week One Super Division match at Woodlands Stadium which ended 1 – all.
 Sikombe played a key role in

Napsa's campaign last season, helping the club to clinch their first ever Confederation Cup qualification after finishing fourth on the log.
 Club technical director Honour Janza said in a statement released by media officer Gwen Chipasula that the club would not stand in the way of the player's aspirations.
 "In granting the will and request of transfer filed by the player, the club agrees to the transfer from the Pensioners to Lusaka Dynamos Football Club on a permanent

deal. Apart from being our last season's top scorer, Sikombe helped the team to reach where it is now, including securing a place in the CAF Confederation Cup," stated Janza.
 "In as much as we would have loved to still have the player around, his will always comes first and we respect what he wants. We wish him all the best as he starts his new journey with Lusaka Dynamos."
 Sikombe was Napsa's top scorer last season after finishing the campaign with 10 league goals.

U20 DRAW MALAWI, NAMIBIA IN COSAFA

By Ngosa Chalwe
DEFENDING champions Zambia have been drawn against familiar foes Malawi and Namibia in Group B of the COSAFA under - 20 championships slated for South Africa next month.

After winning the title on home soil last month, Zambia will take their title defence to South Africa where they will be hoping to defend their honour at the regional tournament.

According to the draws that were conducted yesterday, hosts South Africa have been pitted in Group A alongside neighbours Zimbabwe, the coastal nation of Mozambique and Lesotho.

Group B will see Zambia come up against Malawi, Namibia and the Comoros Islands who come into the competition as a guest nation.

Group C has Angola, eSwatini and Botswana.

The competition will also act as a qualifier to the 2021 Africa Under - 20 Cup of Nations.

Zambia will renew their rivalry with Malawi, having

faced each other last year at Nkoloma Stadium during a Group A clash at Nkoloma Stadium with the junior

Chipolopolo emerging 2 - 1 winners.

The tournament will run from December 3 to 13.

In the under - 17 edition, Zambia has been pitted against Botswana, Malawi and the Comoros Island.

The tournament will act as a qualifier for the 2021 Africa Under - 17 Cup of Nations.

Zambia beat Mozambique 2 - 0 in the final to win the title at Mpira Stadium in Malawi.

Salah dived to earn penalty - Liverpool Legend

LIVERPOOL legend Graeme Souness has criticised Mohamed Salah for falling in 'an unnatural way' to win a penalty in the Reds' 2-1 comeback victory over West Ham United on Saturday.

Salah cancelled out Pablo Fornals' opener for the Hammers with his 42nd-minute strike from the penalty spot, which took his tally to seven goals in seven league appearances.

The penalty decision has been questioned by Souness who thinks the two-time African Footballer of the Year went down too easily in the 18-yard box after a challenge from DR Congo's Arthur Masuaku.

The former Reds midfielder feels Masuaku



was careless with his tackle while Salah threw himself to the ground to score his

third penalty in the Premier League this season.

"I don't give that if I'm

a referee in the Premier League. I've seen Salah do this time and time again," Souness was quoted by Daily Mail.

"This is totally an unnatural way to fall. Look, he doesn't actually kick him, the West Ham player makes contact with his ankle.

"I think it's careless and given an enormous invitation for Salah to throw himself to the ground.

"For me, I think it's a really harsh penalty and that's coming from a Liverpool supporter."

Meanwhile, former Manchester City defender Micah Richards absolved

Salah of any blame but faulted Masuaku for the rash contact.

"Masuaku does not need to do that there. Whether you think it's a penalty or not, the referee is there to judge whether he thinks it's a penalty," Richards said.

"He's making the referee's decision for him. He doesn't need to do it."

Diogo Jota completed Liverpool's result with the match-winning effort in the 85th minute, however, West Ham United boss David Moyes was left disappointed and amazed by the penalty decision.

GOAL

Mulenga looks forward to Kitwe derby against Nkana

By Ngosa Chalwe
AFTER starring in his debut on Sunday, Power Dynamos midfielder Joshua Mulenga says he cannot wait to feature in the Kitwe derby against Nkana this season.

Having been elevated from Young Power Dynamos, Mulenga is hoping to walk the path of defender Kondwani Chiboni and midfielder Frederick Mulambia who have risen through the ranks to the main team.

On Sunday, Mulenga played his debut game in Power's 1 - 0 win over Young Green Eagles.

After putting in a decent shift, Mulenga, who is nicknamed Sanchez, said he was delighted to have played in the Super Division.

"It was very fine. My debut was very fine, my first time to play in the premier league. I think it is a big achievement for me. I was a bit nervous but I just gave myself confidence that I can do

it. The game was just okay. We wanted the three points and we managed to get the three points. I want to thank them and continue supporting the team," Mulenga said.

Asked on the prospects of playing bitter rivals Nkana in Week 12, he said it was an opportunity he was looking forward to.

"It will be a great achievement to play the local derby, that is my dream so I am looking forward to it," he said.