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President Hakainde Hichilema on arrival in Chipata yesterday - Picture courtesy of State House (Story page 7)

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AMERICA’S climate envoy John Kerry says the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow is the “last best hope for the world to get its act together”.

Kerry told the BBC that key countries were pursuing policies that border on being “very dangerous”.

He said that if greenhouse gas emissions were not reduced enough over the next nine years

there was no chance of meeting long-term targets.

The aim is to hold the rise in the earth’s temperature to 1.5C.

Scientists have said that would require global carbon emissions to fall by 45 per cent from 2010 levels by the end of this decade.

But apart from a brief period during COVID-19 lockdowns, emissions are still rising.

China, the world’s biggest emitter, will be key to any hopes of a strong outcome at COP26, when it is held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

Leaders and delegates from around the world will attend the summit, including Kerry and US President Joe Biden.

Kerry has previously said the US will push for rapid action after four years of “reckless behaviour” under previous president Donald Trump.

He said the US would now move forward with “humility and ambition” in the global negotiations.

A former presidential candidate, Kerry has long been

a powerful voice in climate politics. As president Barack Obama’s secretary of state he played a key role in securing the Paris agreement in 2015.

The US Special Envoy on Climate Change told BBC Radio 4 documentary Glasgow: Our last best hope? that there were a lot of big promises without the necessary action.

“The truth is emissions are going up around the world, not down in enough countries, and key countries are pursuing policies that border on being very dangerous for everybody,” Kerry has previously called on China to increase the speed and depth of its efforts to cut carbon.

China has promised to peak emissions by 2030 - but the US diplomat said that was not good enough.

“If you don’t reduce enough between 2020 and 2030 the scientists tell us we can’t get where we need to go. We will not be able to hold the earth’s temperature rise to 1.5 degrees and we won’t be able to achieve net zero by 2050,” he

said.

Kerry said he wanted Glasgow to raise the ambition of the 20 major economies in the world.

He said he would be looking for definite road-maps to net zero and money to help less developed countries also reach their goals without suffering economic hardship.

Kerry called this the “greatest test of global citizenship” he could think of.

“Glasgow is coming at a point where these scientists have told us we have about nine years remaining within which to make the most critical decisions. Those decisions have got to really start in earnest and in a significant sum in Glasgow,” said Kerry. “We have to get on the road here and we’ve been talking about it for 30 years. So this is really what Glasgow is about, the last best hope to do what the scientists tell us we must which is to avoid the worst consequences of climate by making decisions now and implementing them now.” - **BBC**

Brothels worry Sinazeze, says councillor

By Ben Mbangu in Sinazongwe

THE Sinazongwe district council has expressed concern at the sudden increase in the number of brothels at Sinazeze trading area thereby promoting rampant prostitution business locally known as Blackgate.

Responding to concerns from members of the public at a civic leaders’ engagement forum organised by Sinazongwe community radio, council chairman Cliff Siachibweka said the local authority was aware of the rising levels of prostitution at Sinazeze trading area following a sudden increase in the number of brothels.

He said very soon his office will move in to control the situation.

“This issue is a sensitive one but my office will soon engage owners of the brothels because as council we don’t give licences to such business. It is a great concern that requires all of us to address if we are to fight the spread of the HIV pandemic,” said Siachibweka.

But area councillor Charles Ntiiti said it was difficult for him to address the matter because it was the source of livelihood for others.

“The Blackgate issue is beyond me because that’s where people are earning a living. I think the only thing I can do as area councillor for Nkandabwe ward where Sinazeze falls into is to try and engage our sisters on dress code issues so that maybe prostitution can be reduced,” said Ntiiti.

By Charles Tembo

FORMER parliamentary public accounts committee chairperson Howard Kunda says government should spotlight the devastating cost of corruption to the economy.

Kunda said President Hakainde Hichilema has so far shown political will to fight corruption.

In a statement, Kunda, who is the immediate past Muchinga member of parliament, said there is need to fight mismanagement of public funds.

“Spotlighting the devastating cost of corruption to the Zambian economy, society and individual level is essential to curbing of the vice. President Hakainde Hichilema has pledged to step up efforts to promote and implement the anti-corruption fight, and so far he has demonstrated the necessary political will, which I want to highly recommend,” he said. “Under my tenure as public accounts committee

chairperson, with my team, we worked on a number of issues relating to corruption and mismanagement of public resources of the country. I understand the adverse effects of even mismanaging a one Zambian kwacha (K1) that would have been allocated to the intended budgeted and approved purpose by parliament, which in the end trickles down to a common citizen there in a village of Isoka or Dudumwezi, when he/ she doesn’t receive the necessary development needed in time because the money intended for that purpose was mismanaged by a controlling officer.”

Kunda said President Hichilema needs to support and upscale operational capacity of the Auditor General and other oversight institutions.

“Above all our President and his government needs to identify and address the root causes of corruption and mismanagement of public

resources so as to close the leakages before they even start. Financial systems should also come on board and work with government to take measures to prevent them from being abused to hide, move or to launder assets stemming from corruption,” said Kunda. “Zambia has the potential, and currently the political will to actualise the potential has been exhibited by President Hakainde Hichilema. Let’s all support him in the fight against corruption.”

By Masuzyo Chakwe

UNDER the current terms and conditions, the debts of our countries are not payable, says Socialist Party president Fred M’membe.

Dr M’membe said simple arithmetic shows that the debts of the world’s poorest countries were under the

I expected Lungu at Showgrounds to promote what he believed in - Moyo

By Edwin Mbulo in Livingstone

THE national day of prayeronly brought disunity in the country, says Joseph Moyo.

The African Woman Foundation (TAWF) founder says the Church let down Zambians when it accepted a call from the brutal PF regime for prayer, fasting, repentance and national reconciliation instead of them initiating the day.

Reflecting on the national day of prayer, which was commemorated on Monday, Moyo said the Church needs to get back to the pulpit and leave the corridors of politics to politicians.

“The former president Edgar Lungu called the Church to prayer when it was supposed to be the other way round. The day that is supposed to unite us all has only brought one thing, not peace, not reconciliation, not forgiveness, it has only brought disunity in the country,” he noted. “The day has only become a torch that revealed our divisions in this country because those that started it were not there (at Lusaka Showgrounds). The former ministers of PF were not there and Edgar Lungu decided to go to a different venue.”

Moyo wondered when Zambia would ever be healed when “the medicine (prayer and reconciliation) has become irrelevant to others especially those who were the architects of the day”.

He said he personally does not need October 18 to worship God.

“When I watched it on TV, I expected Edgar Lungu to have been at that stadium to promote what he probably believed in. The pronouncement of this day came from him, but today he is not there with his henchmen. His former ministers and supporters,” Moyo noted. “Actually the chief archbishop of this day was not there.”

He said the Church should be separated from the state.

“You can’t allow the military to lead this day when there is a church mother body. The government even

announced the construction of the house of prayers and employed pastors to oversee it. You can’t have the clergy employed by the government to oversee the construction of the house of God,” Moyo said. “How can that be? It means that the Church is now a subject of the government when it is supposed to be independent. The Church is supposed to invite the government. That is why even the ministry of religious affairs become controversial. So my message is that the Church needs to go back to the pulpit because they left the pulpit and went to the corridors of power in politics. That is why you had Christians for Lungu and I will not be surprised to hear that there are Christians for HH (Hakainde Hichilema). Christians for this and that but we need Christians for Christ.”

He said the military should get back to the barracks.

“So we say to the Church get back to the pulpit and if you get back there you will earn the respect that you desire so that when there are differences you can help in reconciliation. But they were invited by the state, the same state that was brutalising people to prayer and reconciliation. That was an embarrassment,” Moyo said. “A brutal regime called the Church to prayer saying there is too much sin in this country and the Church accepted instead of calling them to order.”

He added that a church is like the diplomatic institutions.

“The Church is separate from the state. When politicians go to Church they remove their political affiliation. They become equal and can share hymn books and sit at the same pew. They go there as subjects of the Church, subjects of the clergy who are leading them to Christ,” said Moyo. “But to see the government or the military become the convener of prayers, the government inviting the Church to Christ, no, no, no! Our Constitution does not say that the Church becomes the vicar, Pope, pastor or priest. We don’t need a chief priest at State House. We need someone to lead and unite this nation.”

Debts of our countries irrepayable - M’membe

current terms and conditions irrepayable.

“Half of the world’s poorest countries are today in external debt distress or at high risk of it. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there was a significant 12 per cent rise in the debt burden of the world’s low-income countries to a record \$860 billion in 2020. And this calls for urgent efforts to reduce these debt levels,” he said. “This is a dramatic increase in the debt vulnerabilities facing low - and middle-income countries. We need a comprehensive approach to this poor countries’ debt problem, including debt reduction, swifter restructuring and improved transparency.”

Dr M’membe said sustainable debt levels were needed to help “these countries achieve economic recovery and reduce poverty”.

He said the external debt stocks of low and middle-income countries combined rose 5.3 per cent in 2020 to \$8.7 trillion, affecting countries in all regions.

“This rise in external debt outpaced gross national income (GNI) and export growth, with the external debt-to-GNI ratio, excluding China, rising five percentage points to 42 per

cent in 2020, while their debt-to-export ratio surged to 154 per cent in 2020 from 126 per cent in 2019,” Dr M’membe said.

He said debt restructuring efforts were urgently needed given the expiration at the end of this year of the Group of 20 major economies’ Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which has so far offered some temporary deferral of debt payments.

Dr M’membe noted that the G20 and Paris Club of official creditors launched a Common Framework for Debt Treatments last year to restructure unsustainable debt situations and protracted financing gaps in DSSI-eligible countries, but only three countries - Ethiopia, Chad and Zambia - have applied thus far.

“Further, debt payment freezes could be included as part of Common Framework debt restructurings, but more work is also needed to increase the participation of private sector creditors, who have thus far been reluctant to get involved,” said Dr M’membe. “If no reasonable measures are urgently taken, the challenges facing highly indebted poor countries could get worse as interest rates rise.”

Dictators are created by bootlickers - Akafumba

By Edwin Mbulo in Livingstone

EDGAR Lungu should have listened to His Royal Highness senior chief Mukuni instead of bootlickers, says NDC interim president Josephs Akafumba.

He said likewise President Hakainde Hichilema does not need bootlickers or cheerleaders but constructive criticism so as to remain focused on delivering the best for Zambians.

Akafumba said dictators are created by bootlickers and criminals who have vast interests to protect.

Recently, Mukuni warned infrastructure minister Charles Milupi when he paid a courtesy call on him and chief Hamusonde of Bweengwa west of Monze district at the Oriental Swan Hotel that traditional leaders would not let the UPND government scot-free.

He said if the UPND government starts making mistakes traditional leaders would speak out.

“If you start making mistakes we will highlight those mistakes. We will not let you scot-free, no. You will hear from our concerns,” he said.

Mukuni, who was critical of Edgar Lungu’s governance, has been consistent in warning the UPND leadership about going against their campaign promises.

Commenting on Mukuni’s position, Akafumba - a lawyer by profession and member of the UPND-Alliance - said constructive criticism helps heads of state to offer good governance.

“We, in the UPND-Alliance, will listen to traditional leaders’ views on how we should be true servants of the people. We will also listen to their criticisms as opposed to Edgar Lungu and the PF who viewed some traditional leaders especially His Royal Highness Senior Chief Mukuni and Hamusonde as enemies of the government,” he said. “Apart from threatening to arrest HH (Hakainde Hichilema), I am so sure that chief Mukuni and Hamusonde were headed for prison too. Chief Mukuni’s wife [Veronica] was arrested in disguised accusation and she spent nights in cell. My brother to summarise the whole PF theatrical drama, I just want to say Edgar Lungu should have listened to His Royal Highness Senior Chief Mukuni instead of

bootlickers. President HH does not need bootlickers or cheerleaders. He needs constructive criticism so as to remain focused on delivering the best for Zambians.”

Akafumba said Mukuni meant well in criticising the PF but that they gave him a deaf ear and subjected then opposition leader Hichilema to unwarranted arrests.

He said Zambia would no longer be the same in terms of human rights and the rule of law under President Hichilema’s leadership as compared to that of Lungu.

“We are, and President Hichilema is committed to the rule of law and I urge all judges, lawyers, magistrates and indeed

the law enforcement agencies to live up to their sworn ethics. We need all Zambians to be accorded equal representation regardless of tribe or economic status,” he said.

Akafumba said dictators are not born as such.

“They are created by bootlickers and criminals who have vast interests to protect. So when Zambians get a chance to talk to President Hichilema, please don’t be praise singers. Tell him what is on the ground so that he can act,” urged Akafumba. “I still demand for Edgar Lungu’s apology for having tried to set this country on fire by condoning tribalism and hate speech under his watch.”

Time ripe for judicial reforms in Zambia

UNIVERSITY of Zambia law lecturers O’Brien Kaaba, Felicity Kayumba Kalunga and Pamela Towela Sambo say the time for judicial reforms in Zambia is ripe.

The lecturers have given five arguments to support their conclusion hinging on judicial impunity and abuse

of power, case allocation, corruption, executive deference, and low public confidence in the Judiciary.

In an article (check page 5) the lecturers say calls for judicial reforms in Zambia reached their highest pitch in the 2011 debates leading up to the 2016 Constitution

amendment.

“For instance, in January 2012 the Law Association of Zambia wrote to the then minister of justice demanding that there should at least be an open conversation regarding the various issues including the independence of the Judiciary, competence

of judges, accountability, and efficiency,” the lawyers recall. “Time is now ripe for these progressive constitutional provisions to be given life by accompanying judicial reforms which ought to also improve the quality of judicial officers.”

Zamtel commissions Kitwe artist to recreate KK’s 1964 official portrait

By Masuzyo Chakwe

ZAMTEL has commissioned 23-year-old Kitwe based artist Mercy Gondwe to recreate Dr Kenneth Kaunda’s iconic 1964 official portrait.

The project, launched to commemorate Zambia’s 57th Independence anniversary, is also in line with Zamtel’s One Zambia One Nation, One Network campaign.

Best known as the Pencil Lady, Mercy is credited with frequently portraying influential figures in their realistic, yet expressive likenesses, which has won her a legion of fans.

The portrait will be unveiled at the former residence of late Dr Kaunda on Saturday, October 23 in Lusaka’s State Lodge.

Zamtel corporate communications manager Changwe Kabwe said the painting was another way in which the company was helping to keep the legacy of the founding president alive.

“We are recognisance of the fact that this is the first time that Zambia is celebrating independence without our founding father who sadly passed on June 17th 2021. As an indigenous brand, we owe it to our future generations to keep Dr Kaunda’s legacy alive,” Kabwe said in a statement.

He said Zamtel was keen on promoting the growth of the local arts and creatives sector, expressing confidence that the painting would breathe in a new life into Dr Kaunda’s strong

legacy.

“We know that Mercy is a hugely talented young artist and this project goes to show Zamtel’s commitment to promoting other forms of art. And through this gesture, we want other young artists especially girls to realise that they could earn a living through arts,” said Kabwe.

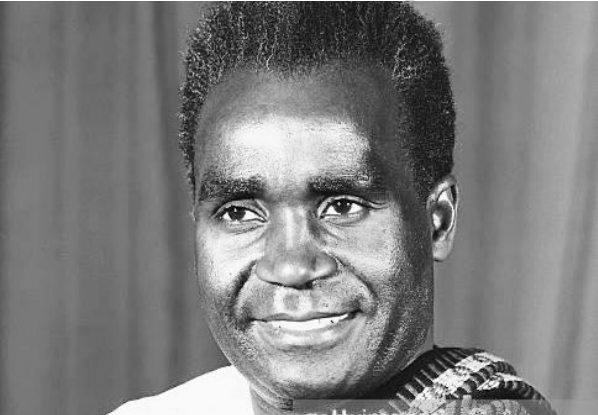
And Dr Kaunda’s daughter Cheswa commended Zamtel for the initiative, adding that the painting would help keep the memory of her late father alive.

“We are moved by the gesture from Zamtel to honour the old man with a painting. Thinking of him around this period of independence is very humbling to us as a family,” said Cheswa. “As an artist himself, we know how much he appreciated art and this gesture would have made him proud.”

Meanwhile, Gondwe said she was overjoyed to have been selected by Zamtel to paint Dr Kaunda’s portrait.

“This is a dream come true for me. I have always admired Dr Kaunda and I never got a chance to meet him but working on this project will enable me get even more closer to him. I feel really privileged,” said Gondwe.

The portrait will be handed over to Dr Kaunda’s family who will later give it to the Lusaka National Museum for its presidential collection, with the hope of it being auctioned at a later stage to raise funds for charities that were close to Dr Kaunda’s heart.



Out of order

Faith Musonda: the young lady who suddenly united Zambians in scandal gossip

There’s a saying I used to love when I was young. It went like this, “If you can’t dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bullsh*t.”

With the case of Faith, it seems she both DAZZLED us with brilliance of some sort, and BAFLED the logical thinker with some an unexplainable magnitude of sheer bullsh*t. So, I will talk about both the brilliance, and the bullsh*t in her acts.

Now, Faith’s luxury house in New Kasama was found with K65 million and US\$57,000 in liquid cash stacked in bags in one of her rooms, while she had travelled out of the country, leaving the loot in the house unattended. We were never told if she lived alone or not, but with that sort of cash around you, I want to believe that it’s difficult to stay alone. But that’s a story for another day.

There have been murmurs doing the rounds as usual on social media to the effect that the money seems to have been a couple

of millions more than what was recorded by those law enforcement officers who stormed her house. Well, if half of those stories could be true, they wouldn’t surprise me due to the fact that it’s not robots that were sent there to mount the operation, but humans. And in human hands, things can easily go wrong such as suddenly forgetting how to properly count money, or ‘accidentally sliding a couple of K100 batches and some dollar notes into our usually empty pockets for bread and beer’. Someone would have said, “Ubombela mwibala alya mwibala”. But I won’t say that because I don’t append my signature to such crap, that thinking belongs to.... you know who! But I am not here to question those people who went to Faith’s house on whether they ‘counted’ the money well or not. That can be done by Faith herself, the purported owner of that money. As earlier indicated, Faith’s act both dazzles and profoundly baffles my mind.

Each time I attempt to conduct my own hypothetical forensic analysis of what she did and the magnanimity of the amounts involved, certain factors just stagger my imagination and steer a cocktail of curious thoughts; the kind of thoughts that I hate harbouring in my mind because they disturb the subconscious person in me. First, how did that loot find itself in Faith’s custody? That of course is perhaps the greatest question everyone wants an answer to. Could it be true that Faith was trading in minerals as she claims?

Well, should that be the case, then this young lady must have had unmatched business ingenuity to have managed to raise a lot of ‘starter’ and venture into such a business, looking at her feeble background at ZNBC as a gospel programme presenter and a few other jobs she had before or after that. It seems she became so established in her purported enterprise such that in no time she became ‘eligible’ for body guards and chauffers! Not many former gospel presenters have ever risen to half that level, K65 million plus USD57 ‘pin’! Or could it be that someone simply gave her that loot?

If that is the case, then the question is WHO, and for what? Human beings don’t just exchange gifts of K65 million. It’s either you sell goods or services - and that should be to huge conglomerate level, not just individuals.

Let’s assume some powerful, wealthy sugar daddy or mummy decided to give their ‘young partner’ that kind of money for whatever reason, I don’t want to imagine, whatever the receiver of such loot is offering must be something so special! I honestly don’t want to believe that someone would part with such galactic proportions of ‘falanga’ for sheer lust or even the so-called love. No, I don’t want to believe that it could be for mere coitus pleasure because only a critically ill wealthy lunatic can be that stupid. For, nobody, no beauty or conjugal pleasure is worth it. Even God requests for only 10 per cent of one’s income despite the fact that He gives us life. Who are we to start giving each other such amounts, for what exactly? So no, that money found with Faith must have another story behind it, and not just it being a gift from a wealthy partner. And that’s exactly what the people of this country want to know. Where did the money come from - and where was it going?

My grandson’s only pair of boxer shorts are torn. My entire life depends on soya chunks that I struggle to get daily, thanks to that company which makes them. Without it, most of us are nothing. So, I refuse to believe that Faith got that money from a flourishing love affair with a big wig who gave her money that could buy a plate of nshima and chicken for the entire population of 18 million people here!

All I know is that Faith has unique ‘faith’ because James 2:14-26 teaches that, “Faith without works is dead.” So, we want to know the works she did to acquire that loot.

Now, there is a belief that there are other people holding similar, or even higher amounts hidden in their homes out there. Could it be that huge amounts were abruptly withdrawn and distributed to different people



By Michael B Munyimba

to keep? Who authorised the withdrawal and from which account? The country recently experienced a near total run out of K100 notes in ATMs because they had suddenly vanished, hidden by the likes of Faith and others, we want to know why. One thing that baffles me is why she had to leave such quantities of cash and travel out of the country, knowing very well that someone knew about it. Supposing that person had arranged with thugs to break in her house and steal it, would she have reported the matter to the police? That’s the baffling part I was referring to.

Ok, now let me conclude. Firstly, I wish to succinctly state that this article is not meant to discredit, blame or accuse Faith, after all, we still don’t know the truth yet. I urge those in charge of this case to resume briefing and updating us on how it’s going. Don’t try to do things secretly, you may evoke public mistrust. Already, Davies Mwila was on one of the online papers and social media wondering why suddenly there is silence on the matter, saying perhaps the new government was behind the whole issue. I don’t think the President would like such bad publicity. Tell the people what’s going on!

I also urge journalists to make follow ups and not just sit and wait to be given updates, this matter is of national interest. Faith took the country by storm and brought the whole country together, all united, gossiping together. We don’t want that unity broken by silence.

Ethiopia’s PM links food aid to foreign pressure

ETHIOPIA’S Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has linked food aid from abroad with diplomatic pressure on the country, in a statement reported by state-owned Ethiopia Television (ETV).

He said Ethiopia needs to stop receiving the assistance to avoid that pressure, ETV reported.

“If we make sure that this thing called wheat [food aid] does not enter Ethiopia, 70 per cent of Ethiopia’s problems will be solved.

“Ethiopia’s problem is wheat aid. With wheat aid

comes diseases. With wheat aid come many things, many consequences. If we stop it, many of the problems will be solved,” Prime Minister Abiy said.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a visit to a wheat farm in Oromia region.

Ethiopia, which is among major aid recipient countries, is facing increasing pressure from some Western governments over the conflict in its northern Tigray region, where millions are at risk of starvation. - BBC

Centre for Civil and Political Rights expects more engagements with Zambia

By Masuzyo Chakwe

CENTRE for Civil and Political Rights human rights officer Lázare Eeckeloo says it is hoped that Zambia will continue its engagement towards human rights.

He adds that the country is also expected to submit the latest reports and implement at least some of the recommendations before the next review of the Human Rights Committee.

Zambia ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1984.

She also ratified seven of the other eight core human rights treaties.

Eeckeloo says this means that the State has an obligation to regularly report to the so-called ‘Treaty Bodies’, on the implementation of the human rights enshrined in these treaties.

“Not only that, but Zambia also has to implement those human rights and guarantee their respect. However, in practice, the State is not always complying with its obligations. Out of the eight human rights treaties that Zambia has ratified, three committees have been waiting for the

submission of the State report for several years,” she said.

“Zambia was supposed to submit that report to the Committee Against Torture in 2016, to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in 2015, and lastly, to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights even in 2010. But sending State reports on time is only part of the process. The main goal of the UN Human Rights mechanisms is a better implementation of human rights on the ground. How is Zambia doing on that front?”

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights organised, together with the Zambia Council for Social Development, a consultation with civil society on October 11 and 12 in Lusaka.

The hybrid meeting included representatives from ZCSD, NGOCC, AAZ and others.

Civil society shared their concerns in the meeting, and these included the need to abolish the death penalty, the need to review the Constitution to guarantee gender equality and the importance of the domestication of treaty provisions.

Another topic was the need

to guarantee access to justice for all, which entails adequate resources for courts and transparency when appointing officials.

Civil society also requested that the freedom of peaceful assembly be guaranteed for everyone, not only for those in political power.

The civil society organisations bemoaned continued criminalisation of defamation of the President, saying it had been used to silence journalists and human rights defenders.

They stressed the importance of the inclusion of women, youth, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Eeckeloo said some of the issues of concern had been around for years.

She said Zambia had received recommendations from treaty bodies as well as from other States in the Universal Periodic Review on such matters.

“It is hoped that Zambia will continue its engagement towards human rights, submit the late reports and implement (at least some of) these recommendations before the next review of the Human Rights Committee,” said Eeckeloo.

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WRITING in 1865, Lewis Carroll in his 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' proclaimed: "If you do not know where you are going, any road will take you there."

It is the same point I am advancing today that development efforts mustn't be pursued with mixed approaches. Whether it is a project, programme or policy being implemented by governments, non-governmental organisations, bilateral or multilateral agencies, private sector or indeed civil society must be done with clearly selected 'outcomes'. Development 'outcomes' are the very purpose we initiate and implement various interventions in every sector of our economies—to improve the livelihoods of beneficiaries in desirable ways. When we put in place schools, clinics, police stations, trunk and feeder roads, housing units, cultural villages, factories, etc. (as critical socio-economic OUTPUTS),

Towards functional monitoring and evaluation practice: agreeing on outcomes to monitor and evaluate

we do so in anticipation of actualising corresponding 'OUTCOMES'. That the behaviour of beneficiaries will be transformed positively and when sustained, such a society will enjoy the long-term desired consequences, the IMPACTS. Thus, agreeing on OUTCOMES to monitor and evaluate constitute a significant requirement towards building stronger monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements in an organisation—governmental or non-state agencies.

Setting goals is part of the governmental decision-making process at every level. All

governments have goals—although not all have M&E capacity. Assuming that a country or organisation is in fact in a position to move forward in building a results-based M&E system, the next step is to choose and agree on the outcomes (derived from the goals) to monitor and evaluate. Knowing where you are going before you get moving is key. Specifically, this article addresses (a) the importance of outcomes; (b) issues to consider in choosing outcomes to monitor and evaluate; (c) the importance of building a participatory and

consultative process involving main stakeholders.

Importance of outcomes: At the outset, it is important to distinguish between goals and outcomes. Goals are generally long term, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are being pursued globally under the United Nations management. From goals we move to outcomes, which, in the SDG example, are of intermediate time frame (five to ten years). From outcomes we derive targets that are generally short-range—in the SDG context, about one to three years. Why is it important to

emphasise outcomes at this stage? Why not move directly to setting indicators? Because establishing outcomes will illustrate what success looks like. By contrast, indicators are only relevant when they measure against an objective. Thus, measuring indicators will show the progress made toward reaching the intended objectives. Decision-makers and stakeholders are positioned to make the intended outcomes of governmental action as explicit as possible. One cannot set indicators before determining outcomes because it is the outcomes—not the indicators—that will ultimately produce the benefits. Outcomes will demonstrate whether success has been achieved.

In short, outcomes will show which road to take. Setting outcomes is essential in building a results-based M&E system. Building the system is basically a deductive process in which inputs, activities, and outputs are all derived and flow from the setting of outcomes. Indicators, baselines, and targets (some of which already covered in my previous articles), all crucial elements of the performance framework, are derived from and based on the setting of outcomes.

Issues to consider in choosing outcomes to monitor and evaluate: What are the strategic priorities? What are the desired outcomes? These are the questions that every organisation, every level of government, and the interested parties in civil society can be asking—of themselves and others. We focus in the following primarily on how this relates to the national government. Every country has finite budgetary resources and must set priorities. Consequently, it is important to keep the following distinction in mind: one budgets to outputs and manages to outcomes.

There are many issues to consider in choosing outcomes to monitor and evaluate. For example, outcomes could be linked to international economic development and lending issues, including a National Poverty Reduction Strategy, a National Development Plan, the HIPC Initiative, or the SDGs. If there is a UN plan for the country, decision-makers need to examine a host of socio-economic and political benchmarks, and articulate specific desired outcomes to meet them, to formally join this important regional bloc. At the country level, there could already be some stated national, regional, or sectoral goals. Also, political and electoral promises may have already been made that specify improved governmental performance in a given area. In addition, there may be citizen polling data indicating particular societal concerns. Parliamentary actions and authorising legislation are other areas that should be examined in determining desired national goals. There may also be a set of simple goals for a given project or programme, or for a particular province of a country.

From these goals, specific desired outcomes can be determined. It should be noted that developing



Unpacking M&E with Kanyamuna

countries like Zambia may face special challenges in formulating national outcomes. Developing countries may find it difficult to set governmental priorities for some of the reasons referred to earlier, including lack of political will, lack of planning and analytical capacity, or a weak central agency in charge of M&E. At the same time, though, every government needs to have goals, and there are ways of building a national consensus and developing the necessary capacity to set priorities and determine desired outcomes. This entails launching a participatory process involving key stakeholders. Donor assistance with institution and capacity building can also help jump-start the technical and analytical process of formulating desired national outcomes.

Importance of building a participatory and consultative process involving main stakeholders: Setting goals in isolation leads to a lack of ownership on the part of the main internal and external stakeholders. Likewise, when choosing outcomes, it is crucial to build a participatory and consultative process involving the stakeholders. The participatory process should start with the development of goals and continue with setting outcomes and building an indicator system. Indicators cannot be simply turned over to technicians, because the political apparatus has to be consulted and has to agree on both goals and indicators. The new realities of governance, globalisation, aid lending, and citizen expectations require an approach that is consultative, cooperative, and committed to consensus building. The voices and views of stakeholders should be actively solicited. Engaging key stakeholders in a participatory manner helps to build consensus and gain a commitment to reaching the desired outcomes.

Zambia is currently undergoing a transitional period where a new administration, the UPND Alliance government led by President Hakainde Hichilema has to lead the formulation of the 8th National Development Plan (2022-2026). There must be stakeholder-consensus in defining development OUTCOMES for the 8NDP if Zambia is to see a shift from the perennial mediocrity we got used to under past regimes to something desirable and citizen empowering. Aluta continua for predictable development goals emanating from clearly defined OUTCOMES.

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DR Fred M'membe has asked the ruling UPND elections chairman Gary Nkombo to reign in on the violence from UPND cadres.

He says Thursday's elections in some parts of our country are not without violence.

"Gary, Good morning! This is Fred M'membe. Please reign in on the violence from UPND cadres. At 01:00 this morning [Monday] an SP camp in Kaumbwe ward of Kaumbwe Constituency was attacked by UPND cadres causing three serious injuries and smashing a motor vehicle. And yesterday [Sunday] afternoon SP members were attacked by UPND cadres in Katotoma, Lufubu ward, Mwansabombwe causing some injuries to at least two people. Please let's do everything possible as leaders to put an end to political violence," urged Dr M'membe.

It seems UPND cadres are still in denial and are resisting change.

According to Theo Tsaousides, "Change is hard. We hear it often, we say it often, and we end up believing it. Nevertheless, change is something we also desire and strive for. Whether the change involves abandoning a bad habit, developing a new skill, or making a big life change, we have all experienced the desire to make a change in our lives. While change requires effort, resilience, planning, and support, there are some approaches to change that make it more difficult. Another major reason that makes change difficult is that we are not ready and willing for change. We may be comfortable where we are and even scared to step into the unknown. As long as our current state provides us with comfort and security, making the change will be difficult. Talking about change and doing something about it are two different things. Besides being too comfortable where we are, or being too scared to make a change, what makes change seem difficult is that we are not really convinced about how much better life will be after we make the change. Is

all the effort worth it? How is my life going to be better? How are my relationships going to be better? The lack of clear benefit makes it hard to convince ourselves to put effort toward something whose appeal is not evident. We may not like our current state, but if there is no desired state to aspire to, change becomes redundant. Being unable to envision what life will be like after the transformation dampens our motivation...When the focus is on changing how someone else feels, thinks, or acts, we may end up disappointed, frustrated, angry, and hurt. Despite our best intentions, our most persuasive approaches, or our darkest

UPND should quickly cage its violent cadres

Our View

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manipulations, a person will not change just because we said so. The only thing we can change is how we connect and relate to other people. This does not mean that we shouldn't offer help, guidance, or opinion when asked to. But change itself is each person's individual task and duty. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. So, if you are finding changing other people difficult, shift your focus to changing you."

Hakainde has, since ascending to power, been condemning violence and reiterating that law and order must prevail. He has been saying police should not look at the face of wrongdoers, not even political affiliation. For some time now, PF members have been complaining of

violence from UPND cadres. Equally we have seen some contradictory messages, postures from senior UPND officials over maintenance of law and order. Remember Obvious Mwaliteta's statement that UPND should have a presence in markets and bus stations? What was Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Gary Nkombo's position to that declaration? He welcomed it. Next, before the floor of House – parliament, Minister of Home Affairs Jack Mwiimbu also lauded – supported – Mwaliteta's move. It took Hakainde's intervention to stop the madness! Clearly, there's resistance to change the order of doing our politics. We had feared – dreaded – ahead of the August polls that a UPND victory could also see a continuation of political violence. PF had perfected and governed through terror. Physical violence and that of the mouth kept the PF in power for 10 years. Impunity was the order of the day. And the primary, if not ultimate, victim of PF reign of terror was the UPND. And it seems the UPND wants to inherit violence as party of its modus operandi! It certainly will take not just Hakainde to stop this rot. The entire party hierarchy must not just condemn but disown its savages. Those given the authority to maintain law and order, the police that is, must arrest and prosecute these forces of violence – forces of evil.

As we have stated before, on August 12, citizens voted against violence, arrogance and all manner of criminality. Post-August elections, there's no room for violence and all vices associated with the PF regime. That past must remain where it rightly has been consigned to. Our nation cannot stomach a PF-reloaded way of doing things. That said, justice must now prevail. But this can never be equated to retribution, for revenge is not for man.

As Martin Luther King Jr said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. [...] We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. [...] The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind."

The nation must renew itself by releasing forces of darkness and welcoming the light of hope.

The calls for judicial reforms in Zambia reached their highest pitch in the 2011 debates leading up to the 2016 constitutional amendment. For instance, in January 2012 the Law Association of Zambia wrote to the then minister of justice demanding that there should at least be an open conversation regarding the various issues including the independence of the judiciary, competence of judges, accountability, and efficiency. In January 2014, former President Michael Sata appointed a 20-member Legal and Justice Sector Commission and tasked it with reforming the justice system and ensuring that it responds to the political, economic, and social needs of Zambia. This move was accompanied by assurances from the then Minister of Justice, Wynter Kabimba, stating that the commission would be a catalyst for a progressive judiciary based on merit, transparency, and judicial independence. Although the commission began its work in March 2014, it did not complete it in time for the constitutional changes in 2016. That notwithstanding, the 2016 constitutional amendment included some progressive provisions such as financial independence, and under Article 118, principles of judicial authority which include accountability. Time is now ripe for these progressive constitutional provisions to be given life by accompanying judicial reforms which ought to also improve the quality of judicial officers.

Undoubtedly, there are many good judges in Zambia whose impact has unfortunately been diluted by the context and circumstances under which they work. Over the years, due to the lack of a transparent and credible system for appointing judges, the judiciary became a 'dumping ground' for all manner of failed lawyers – with some lawyers lacking any track record of professionalism, integrity, and clear commitment to the rule of law and constitutionalism. In this article, we argue that the time is ripe for judicial reforms in Zambia. We demonstrate this by highlighting at least five problems that call for urgent and well-thought-out judicial reforms.

The first reason is judicial impunity and abuse of power. Over the years, a culture of impunity which insulates the judiciary from public accountability, has entrenched itself. It is common for judges to start work late; delay proceedings; pass decisions inordinately late; and write rulings and judgments lacking in substance and merit. Efforts to hold such judges accountable have largely been unsuccessful because the judiciary has consistently propounded a self-serving jurisprudence insulating judicial officers from lawsuits over their execution of judicial

The time is ripe for Judicial reforms in Zambia: here is why

duties. In effect, this tends to make a mockery of constitutional norms about judicial accountability. This aura of impunity has often spilled over to punishing those who criticise the judiciary or make irreverent accusations against judges. Examples are legion and include the citing of Professor Muna Ndulo for contempt of court in 2009, for writing a newspaper commentary relating to a matter before court; citing of lawyer John Sangwa for contempt, for complaining about the misconduct of a High Court judge; the conviction and sentencing of civil activist Gregory Chifire to six years imprisonment for contempt of court for irreverent comments on judges; the suspending of practice certificates for lawyers Gilbert Phiri in 2017 for allegedly making irreverent remarks on social media; and the wanton banning of John Sangwa from appearing before any court for criticizing the performance of the Constitutional Court. In doing this, the judiciary often relies on outdated common law doctrines and precedents that have long been vacated by English jurists and are clearly inconsistent with constitutionalism and human rights norms.

A more recent example of some of these problems came to the fore in the case of John Sangwa v Sunday Bwalya Nkonde (2021). In this case, the High Court judge charged Sangwa with contempt of court for complaining, in an affidavit, about the misconduct of the judge. The behaviour of the judge in this case shocked the Supreme Court, compelling it to remark as follows: "To say that the conduct is unacceptable is an understatement, it is at the very least to be frowned upon...." Yet the concerned judge incurred no consequence for such unjudicial conduct. This deeply entrenched culture of impunity should be eradicated to pave way for judicial accountability.

The second reason we wish to highlight relates to case allocation. Allocation of cases is not an innocuous exercise. When the judiciary fails to devise an objective mechanism for allocating cases to judges and magistrates, the system is opened to wanton abuse. As Professor Muna Ndulo has argued, "the lack of an objective system for allocating cases to judges encourages judge shopping" and is fertile ground for corruption and political abuse. This seems to have been the case in Zambia, especially in relation to the allocation of sensitive political cases at the Subordinate and High Courts levels. The

judiciary seemed to work like a criminal cartel where many sensitive political cases appear to have been reserved for a pre-determined small pool of magistrates and judges. Once this happened, the outcome was almost always fait accompli. An editorial comment by the News Diggers newspaper of 27 December 2018 aptly captured this vice in the following terms: "Maybe our judges don't know how it pains when you take a matter to court and you hear that it has been allocated to judge X or judge Y. Not only do you feel like withdrawing the case, but you also feel like crying from hopelessness."

The third and troubling reason is corruption. Prior to the 2010 constitutional reforms in Kenya, judicial corruption was considered to be so widespread that a common expression had been coined: "why hire a lawyer when you can buy a judge?" Although there has not been any recent systematic investigation into the levels of corruption in the judiciary in Zambia, there is reason to believe that it is bedeviled by similar levels of corruption. Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) reports have routinely named the judiciary among the top five most corrupt public institutions in Zambia. Further, the 2019 Global Corruption Barometer, which measures both public opinions and direct experiences of bribery, established that 28 per cent of respondents believe that "most or all" magistrates and judges are corrupt. In addition to these surveys, allegations of corruption have been levelled against judicial officials. The most recent example is the case in which politician Chishimba Kambwili accused Magistrate David Simusamba of soliciting a bribe of K360,000 in return for a favourable judgment in a matter where Kambwili was appearing against the accused magistrate on allegations of fraud. Kambwili reported the alleged extortion to the late Chief Justice Mambilima whose reaction was uninspiring.

Corruption should never be tolerated in the judiciary. As an enforcer of constitutional norms, the judiciary should be a shining example of integrity. There is a clear relationship between corruption and constitutionalism. As Arthur Chaskalson, the former Chief Justice of South Africa, once remarked, "corruption and maladministration are inconsistent with the rule of law.... They undermine constitutional commitment to human dignity, the achievement of equality

and the advancement of human rights and freedoms. They are the antithesis of the open, accountable, democratic government required by the Constitution. If allowed to go unchecked and unpunished they will pose a serious threat to our democratic state."

The fourth reason we wish to highlight is executive deference. Although we have seen a few courageous judgments, overall, the Zambian judiciary has failed to be the guardian of the Constitution and human rights in matters against the executive. Over the years, courts have gladly surrendered their power to check the excesses of government, giving a veneer of legitimacy to what are otherwise unconstitutional actions. In Lord Atkin's memorable words, the judges have tended to be more "executive-minded than the executive." Further, Supreme Court judge Mumba Malila recently criticised the tendency by the judiciary "to succumb to resigned acquiescence and to retreat into tranquil comfort zones when judicial leadership matters the most," arguing that this had contributed to the breakdown of the rule of law.

Consider the amount of groveling by the Supreme Court in the case of Attorney General v Nigel Kalonde Mutuna and Others (2012): "...we are satisfied that bearing in mind the authoritative position of His Excellency, it would be illogical and unreasonable to hold that he did not receive credible information as President for him to act as he did. He is the overall authority on everything. His sources are exclusive to the public domain and must be impeccable."

In our earlier writings, we have criticised the patent executive mindedness of the Constitutional Court to a point of disregarding well known legal principles of judicial reasoning and inadvertently unconstitutionally amending the Constitution. Such undue executive deference is indicative

of a judiciary in great need of reform if it is to effectively perform its function as guardian of the Constitution and peoples' rights.

The final reason we wish to highlight is the low public confidence in the judiciary. The greatest asset for any judiciary is public confidence in the competence of its judicial officers and the entire institution. Judges do not have police or military forces to help enforce their decisions. Their effectiveness is solely dependent on the support of the people, who consider delivery of impartial justice as an important common good to be preserved. Public confidence is, therefore, an indispensable ingredient of the judiciary's capacity to protect rights, enforce the rule of law, and superintend over the constitutional order. Public confidence assures the effective role of the judiciary in contributing to the rule of law and consolidation of democracy.

Public confidence in the Zambian judiciary is currently deficient. The Afrobarometer Round 8 Survey on Zambia 2020, for example, established that only 44.8 per cent of the respondents trusted the judiciary "a lot." The Zambian people have more faith in the military (at 58.9 per cent) than in the judiciary. This is hardly surprising considering that the judiciary has seldom asserted itself as protector of the common good but has largely been seen as a poodle of the executive. The World Bank index on judicial independence, for example, shows that since 2015, the independence of the judiciary has been eroding. Using an index ranging from 1 to 7 (1 being the lowest and 7 being the highest), the Zambian judiciary had a score of 3.40 in 2017, and its scores in 2015 and 2016 were 4.04 and 3.97 respectively. Among neighbouring countries, the only countries with a lower score than Zambia were Zimbabwe (2.99), Mozambique (2.89), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2.39). A close analysis reveals that these

countries are largely dysfunctional states. All the other judiciaries in neighbouring countries had higher scores than the Zambian judiciary.

These figures should not shock a keen observer of judicial behaviour in Zambia over the last few years. A 2018 editorial comment by the News Diggers newspaper, decrying the sentencing of journalist Derrick Sinjela to 18 months for contempt of court by the Supreme Court aptly summed it as follows: "Sending Mr Sinjela to prison will not change the perception that there is something very rotten about our judicial system. Something needs to be done to restore the respect and confidence of the public in our judiciary. The judges need to look at themselves and be very honest. Have they conducted themselves, generally, in a manner that would command respect from the public? Are they carrying out their duties with dignity and the independence that would inspire public confidence? How are they relating to the powers that be? When there are suspicions of corruption, how are they being dealt with by the judiciary itself?"

The examples we have given demonstrate the urgent need for improvement in the judiciary. The problems that were identified as far back as 2011 appear to have worsened over time with the Patriotic Front administration having abandoned the judicial reform process and arguably presided over the worst performing judiciary. Refreshingly, the United Party for National Development has committed to undertaking judicial reforms. These progressive pronouncements must be accompanied by concrete action towards comprehensive judicial reforms. We have adequate resources such as the work of the Justice and Legal Reforms Commission, to facilitate the timely completion of these long overdue reforms. The time to act is now, before the 'New Dawn' administration gets drunk on power.



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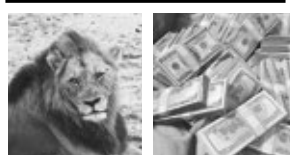
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Facebook to hire 10,000 in EU to work on metaverse

FACEBOOK is planning to hire 10,000 people in the European Union to develop a so-called metaverse.

A metaverse is an online world where people can game, work and communicate in a virtual environment, often using VR headsets.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has been a leading voice on the concept.

The announcement comes as Facebook deals with the fallout of a damaging scandal and faces increased calls for regulation to curb its influence.

"The metaverse has the potential to help unlock access to new creative, social, and economic opportunities. And Europeans will be shaping it right from the start," Facebook said in a blog post.

The new jobs being created over the next five years will include "highly specialised engineers". - BBC

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We are looking for a developmentally oriented govt for next 5yrs - Musamba

By Masuzyo Chakwe

WE are looking for a developmentally oriented government for the next five years, says development analyst Charity Musamba.

Dr Musamba says the starting point was understanding why Zambians worked for change through the past elections and ushered in a new government.

“This is basically because number one, there was a general feeling that this country was being mismanaged and we lacked proper leadership in terms of national development management. So the first and foremost expectation of the government is to ensure they put in place a team of leaders that can begin to take this country back on the path of development. What do we want to see in that path?” she said in an interview. “We want to see the public resources of this country used specifically and primarily to develop this country, especially in terms of social development, economic development and financial development, paying serious attention to the common needs, especially of the poor and vulnerable.”

The University of Zambia development studies lecturer said the second reason was that people realised that there was a lot of misconduct, especially by power holders, particularly the political elites.

Dr Musamba said the level of lawlessness was becoming a major concern where social and political groupings that had no legitimacy and authority from Zambians took over leadership and positions of power and started using those opportunities to enrich themselves or pursue activities and interests that

were not in the interest of the citizens.

“For instance, violence became unconstrained and we saw that alongside that, institutions mandated to ensure justice for all were weakened so that’s the third reason why Zambians worked for change,” she said. “We realised that the state and the institutions were weakened and manipulated for political and personal gain which means under this government, we expect that we give back the autonomy and

independence of these institutions because they are supposed to be serving all Zambians regardless of one’s political affiliation.”

Dr Musamba said Zambians want to see a public administration that was professional, non-partisan, autonomous and one that was able to deliver.

“So this is a very big expectation that we have. We also want this government to work on very serious economic challenges such as the issue of indebtedness. Let

us understand why we have fallen into this problem and let us not hide behind the COVID-19 pandemic. We are heavily indebted today largely because we have not been spending the available resources prudently and we have failed to grow the economy so we end up always in deficits forcing us to borrow resources,” she said. “Then we borrow but we have not made sure that these resources are utilised properly. So this is a vicious cycle we found ourselves in.

We want this government to put this problem to an end in way one - grow the economy and invest in productive areas, providing employment opportunities and ensure that resources for productive purposes are reinvested to ensure that we expand the economy and increase our revenue.”

Dr Musamba said this growth should be inclusive and broad based.

“We don’t want economic growth that benefits just a few people, that’s what we expect

from this government. In short we are looking for a developmentally oriented government for the next five years. One that will be able to fend off partisan and individual interests,” said Dr Musamba. “We don’t want the state to be captured by a few individuals and groups. We want the state to be working on serving all the Zambians in the right manner especially ensuring that there is pursuit of equality and equity in terms of sharing public resources.”

ZFE calls for adequate funding of labour ministry

By Oliver Chisenga

THE Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) says the Ministry of Labour was underfunded in the previous government.

And ZFE says it is concerned with recent happenings on the labour market concerning some illegal work stoppages in some companies.

The Federation says the recent one has been recorded at Mansa Sugar Company where employees were demanding salary increments.

Addressing journalists in Lusaka yesterday, executive director Harrington Chibanda urged the new dawn government to make a change by funding the Ministry of Labour adequately.

He noted that every politician had campaigned by promising to create jobs and protecting workers’ rights.

“That Ministry must be well funded so that we can move together with the head

high that indeed in this country we are now reducing on the aspect of employers exploiting workers. Because those that are given the mandate to go out there and enforce the labour laws have got the ability to do so. They need that proper funding,” he said.

Chibanda however, added that ZFE was yet to engage the new administration on the same issues.

He said there was a lot of time to engage the government and see how best challenges in the labour market could be addressed.

And Chibanda has advised workers throughout the country to always follow legal processes of airing grievances, especially when it concerned wage demands.

“For unionised employees the right and legal procedure is to engage management through the bargain unit, which is a unit representing workers by their union representatives and management representatives through

which concerns are tabled and discussed to reach agreements in an amicable manner while production is going on smoothly,” he added.

Chibamba said it was illegal and unacceptable for some workers to just wake up and withdraw their labour on account of poor conditions service, especially where there were running collective agreements.

He said given that most

companies operated budgets that ran from January to December financial year, this could be time for the workers’ representatives through the unions to start presenting their demands to management.

“Upon pre-negotiation sessions between the union representatives and the management, we will provide some vital information to management that can be taken

into account in the budgeting process for the next financial year,” said Chibanda. “So, our call on workers out there is to desist from engaging in unlawful work stoppages, as such actions are counter-productive and they may lead to industrial disharmony in the country.”

Chibanda said ZFE is also mindful that there was a category of employees that were not unionised.

Polish PM accuses EU of blackmail

POLISH Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has accused the EU of “blackmail” in a heated debate with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen over the rule of law.

The clash in the European Parliament follows a top Polish court ruling that rejected key parts of EU law.

Von der Leyen said she would act to prevent Poland undermining EU values.

In response, Prime Minister

Morawiecki rejected “the language of threats” and accused the EU of overstepping its powers.

“Blackmail must not be a method of policy,” Prime Minister Morawiecki of Poland’s ruling conservative-nationalist Law and Justice party told the European Parliament.

Tuesday’s debate covered an unprecedented and controversial ruling this month by Poland’s Constitutional

Tribunal that in effect rejected the core principle that EU law has primacy over the national legislation of member states.

The case, brought by the Polish Prime Minister, was the first time that an EU member state’s leader had questioned EU treaties in a national constitutional court.

The head of the European Commission said the situation had to be resolved but she was adamant: “This ruling calls into question the foundations of the European Union. It is a direct challenge to the unity of the European legal order.”

The ruling has raised concerns that Poland - like the UK - could exit the EU in a so-called Polesxit. But Prime Minister Morawiecki has repeatedly insisted the country has no plans to leave the union.

“We should not be spreading lies about Polish Polesxit,” he told the European Parliament.

Opinion polls consistently show strong backing for EU membership among Polish voters. Mass protests have been held by Poles who back remaining a member.

But in recent years, Poland’s right-wing populist government has found itself increasingly at odds with the European Commission over issues ranging from LGBT rights to judicial independence. -BBC

HH says govt is now ready to deliver a better life for all

By Christopher Miti

PRESIDENT Hakainde Hichilema says Zambians must work in a way that demonstrates love for each other, fairness and equity.

Speaking on arrival at Chipata Airport yesterday, President Hichilema, who was in Eastern Province to drum up support for UPND candidates for Lusangazi council chairperson and Kaumbwe Constituency elections, said God knew what he was doing when putting Zambians together.

“This country is our country. We must work in a way that demonstrates love for each other. We must work in a way that demonstrates fairness and equity across the country because God put us in this lovely country together,” he said. “God knew what he was doing. He has given us all the resources, it’s up to us to exploit these resources.”

President Hichilema thanked the people of Eastern Province for giving the UPND 49 per cent votes in the August 12 general elections.

“Taonga chomene (we thank you so much) for what the people of Eastern Province did. On the 12th August you ignored the divisive campaigns, the tribal campaigns that were waged around here. You chose to unite this country,” he noted. “Your vote demonstrated that despite all the negativity, all the violence, you the wise people of the east voted for this President. You gave us 49 per cent of the votes. Taonga.”

President Hichilema, who knelt before the people at the airport, said he was humbled and that his heart was filled with gratitude for the votes.

“My heart is thrilled with

the sense of humbleness. The sense of saying, how shall we reward the people of Eastern Province? How shall the youths who were brutalised everywhere...I remember one day we went to Mfuwe and we landed at the airstrip in struggle there. Almost denied the rights to land on our own airstrip,” he said. “And immediately, we left the airstrip going into the township, it was teargas all over. It was like a warzone all over. But despite all that, you, our brothers and sisters in Eastern Province decided to be part of change.”

President Hichilema said people used to laugh at easterners that they like remaining behind but that this time they decided to be part of change.

“If you look at it really clearly, with all the issues that we were not able to access our voters, to get 49 per cent, what if we had campaigned here? We would have done much better,” he said. “We look forward to 2026. We want to deliver more councillors, MPs, council chairmen and more mayors. Mayors and councillors that are here are encouraged to work with us closely because the country has decided to move towards change.”

President Hichilema said Zambians should look forward to the UPND national budget which would be different from the PF budget.

“We will deliver. You will see when our budget comes out it will be totally different from the PF budget. One thing you must check out, we are taking money away from the thieves in Lusaka and bringing it into the constituency,” he said. “We have been in office for one month and

three weeks only. We have organised, we are working in a methodical way. We are studying, we have been studying things. Now we are ready to go and we will go towards that which you want, a better life for all of us the people including banthu bakuno kum’ mawa (the people of Eastern Province).”

And speaking when he paid a courtesy call on chief Nyamphande of Lusangazi district, President Hichilema said during the campaigns he was not allowed to meet chiefs or campaign in the province.

He said his government which was elected on a ticket of change would not let the people down.

President Hichilema said his government would always

tell the truth even when it is challenged.

He said he was the only President who went to the UN General Assembly with only 15 people in his entourage in the history of Zambia.

He urged Nyamphande to work with the government adding that it does not matter what his allegiance was in the last election because that was his constitutional right.

Meanwhile, Nyamphande said one of his duties as a traditional leader is to ensure land is made available to

the people.

He also said there was need to start value addition to the agricultural products which would also create jobs.



Restitution will benefit the country, says Kateka

By Oliver Chisenga

NEW Heritage Party leader Chishala Kateka says those that stole from the Zambian people may be forgiven but not necessarily excused.

In an interview during the national day of prayer, fasting, repentance and reconciliation on Monday, Kateka said forgiveness is a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance towards a person or group who has harmed one.

She however, said restitution would benefit the country more than anything else.

Kateka said the New Heritage Party identifies with the theme of the 2021 national day of prayer which was ‘Zambia Seeks Sustained Unity for Shared Prosperity’.

“We at the Heritage Party identify very much with the

words ‘Sustained Unity’. When people are united all other good things can be achieved. The country has just come out of a general election and, as with other elections, there is a lot of hurt encountered by many people,” she noted. “Those that lost the election, those within the various parties that were not adopted and those within the now ruling party that feel that their needs have not been met.”

Kateka added that this complex web of disenchantment leads to divisiveness across the country, along party lines and within political parties.

“Such divisions are counterproductive,” she said.

And commenting on the absence of many PF members from the event, Kateka recalled that the UPND was also absent

from previous national days of prayer.

“These absences point to the fact that the event is seen as partisan event by both parties. This is really sad,” she said.

Kateka said the day of prayer is meant to be an occasion for the whole nation to seek God and ask Him to “reset people’s buttons” as individuals and collectively as Zambians so that there may be the much needed healing in the land.

“The Lord commands a blessing upon a people when they live together in unity,” she noted.

On suggestions that the UPND should abolish the day of prayer, Kateka said this would send a “wrong signal” to the nation.

“The UPND government has abolished the Ministry of National Guidance and

Religious Affairs and so abolishing the Day of Prayer as well will be seen as, one, setting out to undo things that were put in place by the previous government. Two, being anti-Christian,” Kateka said.

Meanwhile, Kateka noted that President Hakainde Hichilema was “very conspicuous by his absence” at his first day of prayer.

“[President Hichilema] had travelled to engage himself in some activities that he could have done another time. What message is he sending to us by delegating this very important activity?” asked Kateka.

Vice-President Mutale Nalumango attended the event at Lusaka’s Showgrounds while President Hichilema prayed at the United Church of Zambia’s Mbereshi congregation in Mwansabombwe.

US football coach loses job for refusing to take COVID-19 jab



A TOP US college football coach has been fired for refusing to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Washington State University (WSU) sacked Nick Rolovich, its highest-paid employee, and four of his assistants, for failing to meet a vaccine mandate.

The mandate means all state workers in Washington have to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or lose their jobs.

Rolovich, 42, who earned \$3.1m (£2.25m) a year, had applied for a religious exemption from the mandate.

But WSU's Director of Athletics, Pat Chun, said the exemption had been refused.

"This is a disheartening day for our football programme," Chun said.

"Our priority has been and will continue to be the health and wellbeing of the young men in our team."

Rolovich's sacking marks the culmination of a three-month showdown between the coach and Washington's Democratic Governor Jay Inslee.

In August, Gov Inslee announced that all state employees and healthcare workers would need two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to keep their jobs. Monday was the deadline for them to get vaccinated, or have a medical or religious exemption.

But Rolovich had said he would not get vaccinated, calling it a personal decision.

"While I have made my own decision, I respect that every individual - including coaches, staff and student-athletes - can make his or her own decision regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. I will not comment further on my decision," he said earlier this year.

Some 90% of WSU employees and 97% of students have been vaccinated, according to the college.

Rolovich, who was in his second season at WSU, is the first major college football coach to lose their job over their vaccination status.

Kasama Golf Club elects new executive

By Kelvin Siabana in Kasama

THE newly elected president for Kasama Golf Club, William Lembalemba says his team will ensure that the sport is promoted to acceptable standards in the district in order to attract more new golfers.

Lembalemba adds that golf is an important sport that needs to be developed in the district in order to encourage many people to participate.

He has called on the business community in Kasama to invest heavily in the sport for it to flourish.

The club president said his new executive had a mammoth task ahead to make sure Kasama Golf Club became a force to reckon with in Northern Province by uplifting the infrastructure to modern standards.

Lembalemba added that people should stop perceiving golf as a sport for the rich because it was just like any other sport, and people who wants to take it should do so.

He cautioned against hearing what he termed falsehoods from people who do not understand the rules and regulations of golf.

Lembalemba said despite Kasama Golf Club facing numerous challenges, the new executive was eager to make it a better place for all members and non-members.

He said the new executive would also embark on identifying pupils from different primary schools in the district for them to take keen interest in the sport.

The elections were conducted in a transparent and peaceful manner witnessed by top officials from the Zambia Golf Union, Kasama Municipal Council and other prominent people from both the public and private sector.

NEIGHBOURING QUEENS BATTLE

By Bright Tembo

COPPER Queens today take

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on the Scorchers of Malawi in the first leg of the Women's Africa Cup qualifier match away in Lilongwe.

The Bruce Mwape drilled side landed in Malawi on Monday afternoon with 20 national women's football

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team players, fondly known as the Copper Queens.

The team will be without captain Barbara Banda who plies her trade in China at Shanghai Shengli.

Also missing is Spain-based striker Racheal Nachula and Prisca Chilufya who plays for BIK-Kazgurt in Kazakhstan due to complicated COVID-19 regulations in their respective bases.

Mwape will have to rely on Red Arrows prolific goal poacher Grace Chanda, and the presence of Spanish-bound Racheal Kundananji will give the coach more options.

Speaking ahead of today's game, Mwape said it will not be easy.

"Malawi is not a small team. In football each and every team grows everyday, so we just need to take each team very serious because there are no under dogs in football," he said.

"The game against Malawi it won't be easy, it will be tough. We have already seen how the Malawians are playing, how they have played at the COSAFA; it won't be easy. And looking at the way we performed at the Olympics, everyone is now on us; they want to put up a challenge just to surprise us. But we are ready for anything."

Mwape is however happy to have the likes of left back Martha Tembo and Kundananji in the team after the duo missed the COSAFA tournament.

"We had a challenge with the left back during the COSAFA tournament. We used a central defender but now that we have Martha (Tembo) in the team, I don't think there will be any problem," Mwape added.

"And even in our left wing we had a challenge because the one that played at the COSAFA was a central striker. But at the moment we have capable players who are able to play on the left, like Kundananji."

Asked if the absence of team captain Banda would affect the team, Mwape said he had enough players from the Under-20 to replace her.

"Somehow yes, it may affect the striking force but we have capable players that can actually do better. And I believe that the juniors have started doing well, so we should also encourage them because this is the right time we can show the nation that they can also deliver with or without Barbara Banda; they can actually deliver," said Mwape.

"I am happy with the performance of Ochumba Oseke Lubanje because she is now maturing slowly. Given enough game time she will be one of the best strikers in our team. We will try to be cautious especially in the first half so that we see their tactics, and if we see that we can open up in the first 20 minutes we will try and give instructions. And if all goes well, we will try to fight for

an early goal so that we finish the game here in Malawi. Making it to the Africa Cup it will be an encouragement to the upcoming players like the Under-20 because this is now like the second time and the ones coming behind will also want to fight for places at the national team."

And striker Lubanje said the team had to put more effort ahead of today's qualifier match.

"Tomorrow's (today's) game is not an easy game and we have put a lot of effort ahead of this game. And we need to take good results home; where we have come here in Malawi we need to pick up the maximum points," said Lubanje.

"Malawi is a strong side, we saw how they played at COSAFA; they used a lot of their wings to attack. We won't underate them but we need to pick up points. If it does not go our way, a draw is better because we will beat them at home."

Teams finetune for the teulings grand finale

By Bright Tembo

JUST a month is remaining to the 2021 Teulings Youth Sports Challenge grand finale that is set to take place at OYDC-ZAMBIA.

Participating teams from 11 sports disciplines are now fine-tuning their skills to win medals and trophies.

In teqball, teams OYDC and OlympAfrica are expected to compete for the top position as they have emerged the two strongest teams fighting to scoop the prize.

Teulings Teqball coordinator Richard Mulenga says athletes are doing fine and ready for the grand finale, adding that team OYDC is still on top of the log-standing.

"It's a new sport and I am happy how these kids are adapting in all angles. We are looking forward to the grand finale," said Mulenga.

And teulings football coordinator Alex Sikanyika named Kafue Celtics and Red Lions as the teams in the boy's category likely to battle it out during the grand finale.

He added that for the girls, it would be Twikatane and Red Lions sizing each other.

Sikanyika described teulings games as successful, stating that players could not wait for the final so that they get rewarded.

"Two teams are doing well in the boys' category and will fight till the end. Red lions and Twikatane are really pushing hard and the boys can't wait

for the awards," said Sikanyika.

In hockey, coordinator Floyd Chomba said competition for the grand finale would be among three teams: Zambezi, Springfields and Lusaka Sharks.

Chomba further said Springfields has in the last years been dominating the Teulings hockey league.

Meanwhile, OYDC programmes manager Mwange Kampamba, said preparations for the grand finale were progressing.

The Teulings/OYDC Youth Sports Challenge grand finale will be held in December.

It will also mark the end of the sporting season for the year at the Centre in 11 sports disciplines.