We are in the right direction – Mines Minister

By Vimbai Kamoyo

THE mining sector is headed on the right track, a cabinet minister has assured players in the industry.

Speaking briefly at a breakfast meeting organised by the Chamber of Mines, Mines and Mining Development Minister, Winston Chitando said indications across the sector were that the industry was growing and future prospects were bright.

“There is growth across all the sectors of the mining industry; be it nickel, gold, platinum, granite and other minerals. Since we banned the export of raw granite we have been inundated with requests for value addition. As a Government, we are working flat out to get all the enablers that will assist the industry. “We need to work together in order to grow, the government and the private sector as well. This will see us achieve the US$12 billion mining industry economy by 2023 vision that we have,” he said.

The Zimbabwe mining industry generates approximately 65 percent of the country’s annual exports and contributes over 12% to the gross domestic product, while employing hundreds of thousands of workers.

Speaking on the same occasion, researcher and lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe Carren Pindiriri echoed the same sentiments as the minister although he said there are some grey areas that need to be worked upon.

He was presenting the state of the mining report. “Generally, mining executives are confident about prospects for their business in 2022. Notable among the positive sentiments include optimism about commodity price outlook, improvement in capacity utilisation and anticipated mineral output growth. “Again, the majority of the executives are planning to ramp up production in the coming year, as most of them want to keep their labour force or even increase it.

“It is heartening that the majority of mining companies have engaged in massive COVID-19 vaccination drive, thus doing their bit in fighting the pandemic. However, there are areas that as a sector we need to do more.

“There is a general negative perception of political risk among players. Power outages have adversely affected the operations of many mining companies. Power is one of the foremost needs of any operating mining entity. There is also pessimism on the prospects to raise outside capital,” said Pindiriri.
ZIMBABWE’s response efforts towards COVID-19 continue to bear positive results as the country recorded a 47 percent decrease in cases, as of 25 October 2021.

Presenting the 37th post-cabinet report, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Hon Monica Mutsvangwa, said unsanctioned movement among scholars in boarding schools as well as non-compliance had played a huge role in the surge in COVID cases in schools, before castigating privately owned schools of ignoring the Education Act.

“Movement of boarders during term time as well as general non-compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures for the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 and other Influenza-like illnesses in the Primary and Secondary Education Sector has contributed to outbreaks in schools.

“It has been observed that some private schools are not fully observing the provisions of the Education Act as evidenced by the continued practice of allowing parents to withdraw boarders from school for exeat breaks during the pandemic, that enforcement of the Public Health Act on such unsanctioned movement of learners during the pandemic will be evoked and strengthened.”

The Government has noted the need to ramp up vaccination to attain the national herd immunity by year-end as targeted.

Monica Mutsvangwa said the progress report on the country’s response to the pandemic, presented by Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable, Dr Constantino Chiwenga, as chairman of the Ministers’ National Committee, the country is reaping positive results in the fight against COVID due to intervention methods by the Second Republic.

“The nation is advised that, as of 25 October 2021, the country’s cumulative COVID-19 cases stood at 132 688 with 127 433 recoveries and 4673 deaths. The recovery rate was 96% with 582 active cases reported. A total of 303 cases were reported as compared to the 572 the previous week showing a 47% decrease in the number of cases. This is an indication that the national response efforts continue to bear positive results in containing the pandemic,” Hon Mutsvangwa.

She said there were other projects being done in other areas like Rushinga. “Resuscitation of G&W Industrial Minerals in Rushinga is progressing well with its completion expected by end of November, 2021. Pursuant to the Launch of the Leather Value Chain Strategy, a new Processing Plant is being installed at Zambezi Tanners in Bulawayo, with the company having assembled the requisite machinery and now installing the auxiliary feeds and extensions to the machine. “ZimChem Refiners has completed the refurbishment of its boiler in Kwekwe, and the company remains on track to increase capacity utilisation in the production of tar and creosote. National Blankets (Pvt) Ltd has managed to service its machines, refurbish the building housing the machines, and is now producing as per order, and are in the process of re-establishing their previous markets.

“The technology upgrade of the Central African Batteries plant and machinery has helped reduce the occurrence of rejects during production from a rate of 4.5% to 0.2%,” said minister Mutsvangwa.

Zim records 47% decrease in COVID cases

By Edward Mukaro

V ARIOUS infrastructure developments that are being undertaken by the private sector in the country are on course to completion, a cabinet minister has said.

Speaking at the post Cabinet media briefing, the minister for Information, Publicity, and Broadcasting Services, Monica Mutsvangwa said the minister of Commerce and Industry Sekai Nzenza had informed the cabinet of great progress in works being done by private players.

“The minister of Commerce and Industry reported that the following projects in her sector. The Zimbabwe Phosphates Industries (Zimpfos) New Blending Plant is also on course," she said.

The Msasa-based company produces a number of products that include super-phosphates, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, aluminum sulphate, and gypsum amongst others. Super phosphates are primarily used in the manufacture of fertilizers.

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Infrastructure development on course

By Vimbai Kamoyo

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Local authorities’ trade union slapped with $10 million lawsuit

By Edward Mukaro

CITY of Harare chief security officer Dr Col- len Tongowona has slapped his subordinate Max- well Mavunda and his trade union, Local Authorities Progressive Workers Union of Zimbabwe (LAPWUZ) in a $10 million lawsuit each, liable defamation lawsuit.

According to court papers filed at High Court recently, Dr Tongowona is suing over a letter authored by Mavunda, a Municipal Police sergeant and LAPWUZ Harare Branch chairperson, on behalf of his trade union to the city Cham- ber Secretary, insinuating that the Metro Police boss was victimizing his subordinates and further alleged that after a search at Dr Tongowona’s house, he was found illegally possessing a service firearm.

Mavunda’s letter dated July 19, 2021, was then circu- lated on a number of social media platforms and his tradesmen before it was used as a news source by the mainstream media.

Part of the letter deemed to be defamatory read: “Mr. C. Tongowona has a pending case of fraud in courts, but he is still being allowed into his workplace and council premis- es. He has gone on to victimize our member who is a key wit- ness in Mr Tongowona’s fraud case. The victimized member is called Battram Bombai. Again Mr. C. Tongowona’s home was searched on June 10, 2021, and found in possession of council star pistol, serial num- ber 1291668, which he was not supposed to carry home.”

Dr Tongowona, through his lawyers Madotsa and Part- ners, argues that the letter was highly defamatory of him and he is entitled to damages.

The lawyers argued that the allegations and assertions made in the article were wrong- ful, malicious, scandalous as well as defamatory and that the defendants only sought to soil the plaintiff’s good name.

“The letter contained defam- atory, false and misleading alle- gations about the plaintiff in that he is being alleged of interfer- ence and victimization of em- ployees at Harare City council and that his home was searched, wherein an illegal firearm was found in his possession, among other inflammatory assertions. Pursuant to the letter, the 1st defendant caused an article to be published in The Herald newspaper published on August 5, 2021. Interestingly to note is the fact that this paper circulates nationally in print and globally online,” argued the lawyers.

CSOs hail govt’s position on climate change

By Edward Mukaro

T he Civil Society in Zim- babwe has acknowledged the Government’s com- mitment to the Paris Agreement that seeks to hold an increase in global temperature, but, howev- er, called upon the nation to in- clude issues to do with financial inclusion of developing nations in its Conference of the Parties (COP26) country position paper.

The 26th session of the COP continues to the UNFCCC was originally scheduled to take place from 9–19 November 2020, in Glasgow, United King- dom, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak organisers had to reschedule to the 31st October – 12 November 2021. Rescheduling of the con- ference was also expected to ensure that all parties focus on the issues to be discussed at this vital conference and allows more time for the neces- sary preparations to take place.

In a statement, the CSO community called upon finan- cial institutions to intervene by making available climate finance to nations, especial- ly developing countries in the fight against climate change. "Having deliberated and reflected on the submitted gov- ernment COP26-country position paper, as CSOs in Zimbabwe we specifically call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to consider the following issues: We call upon the COP26 to consider the establishment of direct financial intervention by International financial institu- tions such as AfDB in deve- loping localised and continental finance institutions to address the imbalance between adapta- tion and mitigation financing. "We strongly support the availability of climate finance. However, we call upon the COP26 to prioritise grant financ- ing particularly to developing countries on issues of adaptation. "We call upon the COP26 to avail more financial resources to developing countries for the development of technologies that allow for the “fair and just transition” from emission-intensive technologies and processes (e.g., coal and beef production),” said CSOs.

COP president-designate, Alok Sharma expressed op- timism in the fight against climate change around the world, while also express- ing sympathy for developing nations, however, he called upon rich nations and donors to live up to their pledge. "The UK is leading the way – over the last 30 years, British governments have grown our economy by 78% while cutting emissions by 44%. That shows green growth is real. In 2012, 40% of our electricity came from coal. That figure is now less than 2%. That shows that change is possible. The UK was the first country to pledge to reduce car- bon emissions by 78% by 2035." Unfortunately reduc- ing emissions is not enough. For many nations, the picture is far bleaker. "I have real sympathy with less developed countries that feel it’s for the developed in- dustrial nations to help sort out a problem largely of their making. Indeed, one of the reasons we are determined to hold COP26 in person is to ensure the voices of these coun- tries are heard and acted on." In 2009, rich countries promised they would work to- wards raising $100bn each year by 2020 to help these countries tackle climate change. Donors need to demonstrate that the tar- get will be met and surpassed. As COP president-designate, I am determined that we will get will be met and surpassed. As COP president-designate, I am determined that we will get will be met and surpassed. As COP president-designate, I am determined that we will get will be met and surpassed. As COP president-designate, I am determined that we will get will be met and surpassed. As COP president-designate, I am determined that we will get will be met and surpassed.
**SMEs financial inclusion to spur economic growth**

The issue of financial inclusion for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has been spoken of at various platforms, but not much has been done by Financial Institutions (FI) to make life easy for business players in the sector.

Of course, financiers have their reasons for a lukewarm response towards availing funds to SMEs, but given the potential of the sector, it is only prudent that these FIs sensitise players in the sector on the available financial services beyond credit services, which are common and known.

Digital financial services providers should encourage their clientele to use digitalized financial services, which are under normal conditions cheap, secure, and risk-averse. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), FI has taken a center stage on economic growth and development in an effort to create wealth among citizens of developing countries.

The concept of financial inclusion encompasses all public and private initiatives to bring financial services to those households and SMEs traditionally excluded from the formal financial sector, and furthermore, to improve and perfect the serviceability of the financial system for the players that are already part of the formal financial circuit.

Among the impediments that have stalled SME’s access to funds is the issue of the cost of money. The cost of acquiring and servicing financial services is high; there is also difficulty in using some of the financial services, and the way financial providers treat financial users.

The cost of capital should be reduced to encourage borrowing while SMEs should innovatively produce goods that can be competitive at both domestic and international markets. The cost of capital should be reduced to encourage borrowing while SMEs should innovatively produce goods that can be competitive at both domestic and international markets. The cost of capital should be reduced to encourage borrowing while SMEs should innovatively produce goods that can be competitive at both domestic and international markets.

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The rate at which ZESA is conducting load shedding is becoming a problem to a number of Harare residents in areas like Kuwadzana, Marimba, Budiriro to mention a few. Since last weekend up to now we do not have electricity yet we are using prepaid meters. Due to the announcement of the second lockdown, some of us had food items stored in fridges and due to the load shedding the food is rotting.

Itai, Kuwadzana

Dear Editor

I am a new farmer and really appreciate efforts being made by Government to make sure farmers access funding. However, some bogus people posing as farmers are soiling the actual farmers’ names by accessing inputs via various modes, but fail to grow anything since they would have sold the inputs on the market. Hence, it is my plea to authorities to punish and blacklist such offenders.

Tafadzwa, Mashonaland Central

**Punish errant farmers - Govt urged**

**Can Government intervene on student’s industrial attachment**

Dear Editor

I am very aware of the impacts of the Coronavirus on the business sector, as a whole, but as a worrying parent, what will happen to our children who are seeking industrial attachment places? I know that jobs are scarce but why can’t the Government strategise ways to attach every university student because at times we even hear stories of other students who end up committing suicide because of that a failure to get attached to any institution as required by their education curricular. Why can’t the education sector and the Government do something because now thousands of students are applying for attachment places and many firms are not recruiting because of the COVID-19 pandemic. What will become of our children?

Rufaro, Harare

**ZESA’s load shedding irritant**

Dear Editor

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Rufaro, Harare
Present a pro-poor budget—Ncube advised

By Vimbai Kamoyo

A debt advocacy organisation has urged the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mthuli Ncube, to come up with a pro-poor budget in his upcoming presentation.

The minister is set to present his 2022 budget in November or early December. Writing in its weekly review of the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt Development (ZIMCODD) said minister Ncube needs to come up with a budget that will provide safety nets to the vulnerable in the society.

“During the past month, ZIMCODD has contributed towards the possibility of a pro-poor national budget by raising issues and facilitating robust participation in Parliament’s National Budget Consultative Meetings are held throughout the country. Balancing the complex and intersecting expectations of the various stakeholders to the national cake in the context of heavy indebtedness, economic slowdown, pandemic recovery poses a huge challenge for policymakers.”

“Citizens’ broad expectations for a people-centered 2022 National Budget reflect the primacy of education, health, agriculture, economic stimulus, and democratic reform in citizens’ considerations,” said ZIMCODD.

The organisation said the financial plan must unlock the potential to create jobs and must be all-encompassing.

“The budget must stimulate structural transformation and spark massive job creation through the inclusion of the informal sector, agriculture, and small-scale and artisanal mining in the mainstream economy.”

“It must provide meaningful economic stimulus packages and financial inclusion targeting the informal sector, smallholder agriculture, and small-scale and artisanal mining sectors where the majority of Zimbabweans currently earn their livelihoods.”

“It is imperative that the minister address extreme poverty and inequality through the provision of universal social safety nets and improved service delivery in the education and health sectors, funded through a redistributive Wealth Tax and contributions to the Sovereign Wealth Fund.”

The organisation also advised the minister to fund infrastructure development in the country as it has an impact on the development of other sectors of the economy.

“The budget must support State-driven infrastructure development to address the gaps in low-cost housing, schools and clinics construction; small dam constructions as a means to create new jobs and provide quality and accessible public infrastructure.”

“There is need stabilize macro-economic fundamentals by strengthening Public Finance Management (PFM) and extinguishing corruption, reforming the auction foreign exchange market, extinguishing or promoting sustainability of public debt and stemming Illicit financial flows in the mining sector and unjust tax incentives in the mining sector,” said ZIMCODD.

The organisation advised the government to work with other stakeholders to fast track the achievement of its goals.

“It is imperative for government to cooperate with development partners to expedite the support of vital services such as health, education and food relief programmes. Also, being accountable remains a key role for government to garner policy support and enable wider stakeholder engagement,” it said.
New dawn for real estate in Zimbabwe

By Edward Mukaro

ZIMBABWE has scored a first by becoming the first African state to recognise and celebrate real estate, through the recent launch of inaugural National Real Estate Day in Zimbabwe (NREDZ) celebrations, to create awareness and appreciation for the significance and relevance of real estate, as a key contributor to the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe Real Estate Institute of Zimbabwe immediate past president, Alexander Millin has said.

REIZ identified the need for a special day to be set aside, each year, to celebrate all things to do with real estate; hence, in March 2020, an application was submitted to the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Virginia Mabiza on 15th October 2021.

The Government of Zimbabwe, through General Notice number 2608 of 2021 duly published in the Zimbabwean Government Gazette dated 10th September 2021 declared 15th October recurring annually as the National Real Estate Day in Zimbabwe.

Speaking in an interview with this publication, Millin paid tribute to His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa and the ministry of Justice for recognizing the importance of real estate by setting aside a day in the country’s calendar.

“This is not a public holiday falling within the ambit of the Public Holidays and Prohibitions of Business Act (Chapter 10:21). All the same, this is a very special day, which should be celebrated by all citizens of Zimbabwe. “We are profoundly grateful to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Cde E.D Mnangagwa, the Government of Zimbabwe, and the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi for recognizing this very important day. The NREDZ is the first of its kind in Zimbabwe and the continent of Africa. Only a handful of countries celebrate a real estate-related day,” said Millin.

The inaugural NREDZ in Zimbabwe was launched by the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Virginia Mahiza on 15th October 2021.

Millin stated that the day is crucial to the sector as business players will use the day for various beneficial aspects that will enhance the performance of the sector, through symposiums and various measures that will bring into focus issues impacting the sector.

“This day is essential as it will enhance awareness and it will bring into focus the issues impacting the real estate sector in Zimbabwe. These include the menacing bogus agents and bogus valuers and unscrupulous land barons and the need for research modules, which can boost the performance of the sector. “Additionally, the day will facilitate discussion on aspects such as real estate tourism which will certainly promote the development of sustainable real estate projects in Zimbabwe.”

Commenting on the current state of the real estate business, he expressed concern that COVID impact had taken its toll on the sector.

“Currently the real estate sector in Zimbabwe is in a state of flux. Sales activity remains low as the sector is still trying to deal with the aftermaths of the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. Operating costs continue to spiral and building owners are facing a huge challenge as they endeavour to earn a reasonable return on their investments,” he said.

More than a year after the outbreak of COVID-19, real estate leaders are still coming to terms with the enormity of the immediate economic fallout from the pandemic and the far-reaching consequences for how people live, work and interact with the built environment. Several annual celebratory events will be held across the country, which will include seminars and workshops which will be simulcast on all TV and radio stations, live debates, essay and art competitions will be held in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher learning, special train rides will be undertaken with stops along the train route.

To add to that, the day will also see outreach programs rolled out to all provinces of the country, parades with accompanying live bands will be held in all provinces, sports tournaments will be held in all Provinces. Exhibitions will be held in all art galleries in the country and provincial gala dinners amongst a host of other initiatives.

By Vimbai Kamoyo

POWER utility, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), has raised a red flag on miners saying their debts were crippling the company’s ability to supply them with power.

Speaking on behalf of the ZESA executive chairman Sydney Gata, Transmission and Distribution Director, Howard Choga, at a meeting organised by the Chamber of Mines, said their operations were curtailed by huge debts they were owed by individuals, councils and corporates.

He further said mines were some of the huge consumers of electricity and owed them huge amounts of money.

“The authority is owed vast sum of money by the miners. As of to date, mines have a debt of USS$27 million and 400 billion Zimbabwe dollars,” said Choga.

He called upon miners to service their debts to allow the smooth running of the power utility company.

“You need to pay up your debts in order for us to be able to constantly supply you with the power you so much need. We cannot generate power when we are bankrupt. We need money to be able to supply you with electricity,” he said.

Zesa has in the past complained that its operations are hampered by huge amounts it is owed and has put notices in the press urging its customers to pay or risk being disconnected.

“We have a guarantee to get 180 Mega Watts from Cabora Bassa in Mozambique anytime, but the challenge is we are still owing them some money so we cannot access that facility,” said Choga.

The country has been hit with massive load shedding in the last couple of months, with some suburbs enduring 12 hours with no power.

“The ZETDC (Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission Distribution Company) is experiencing a power shortfall due to generation constraints at Hwange Power Station, limited import and a programme of dam wall refurbishment at Kariba which requires that two generators be taken out for 12 hours. The power shortage is being managed through load shedding in order to balance the power supply available and the connected load,” said the company in September.
SMEs financial inclusion critical to job creation - ZIMCODD

By Edward Mukaro

AWMAKERS and stakeholders have been implored to push for a people-centred 2022 Budget, which can only be achieved through financial inclusion of Small and Medium Enterprises.

In a recent media statement, ZIMCODD stated that the nation’s fortunes can change through the inclusion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the mainstream economy.

“Stimulate structural transformation and spark massive job creation through the inclusion of the informal sector, agriculture, and small-scale and artisanal mining in the mainstream economy.

“Provide meaningful economic stimulus packages and financial inclusion targeting the informal sector, small-holder agriculture, and small-scale and artisanal mining sectors where the majority of Zimbabweans live in their livelihoods,” said ZIMCODD.

ZIMCODD has been advocating for a pro-poor national budget by raising citizens’ awareness of budget issues and facilitating robust participation in Parliament’s National Budget Consultative Meetings, throughout the country.

The consultative budget meetings also highlighted the need to address extreme poverty and inequality through the provision of universal safety nets and improved service delivery in the education and health sectors, funded through a redistributive Wealth Tax and contribution to the Sovereign Wealth Fund.

Other key expectations highlighted by ZIMCODD include tackling corruption and making reforms to the foreign exchange market.

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tinguishing corruption; reforming the auction foreign exchange market; extin-
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tered 2022 National Budget reflects the primacy of education, health, ag-
riculture, economic stimulus, and democratic reform in citizens’ con-
siderations, the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development has said.

Recently, the Parliament of Zim-
babwe held a Pre-Budget Seminar in Victoria Falls, an annual event where MPs interact with Executive and pres-
tentations from the Budget Consult-
sations conducted across the country.

As part of citizen participation in the budget formulation process, earlier in the month, Parliament, through the Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and econ-
omy, and the Developed and Expanded Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Committee conducted pre-Budget con-
sultations around the country, soliciting for citizens’ expectations and priority areas for the upcoming 2022 Budget.

The Constitution compels Parliament to consult the general public on such matters.

Op-Ed: The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on small businesses and global value chains

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a heavy impact on Africa’s micro, small and medi-
cum enterprises, Dorothy Tembo, Exec-
utive Director at interim of the International Trade Centre, analyses the effects on these vital businesses.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused an unparalleled health crisis with often tragic consequences and disrupt-
ed economic development and business activity across the globe, putting about half of the world’s economic activity under stress. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) provide 70% of all jobs, but had fewer resources to ride out the storm, making them particularly vulner-
able to the crisis, with the severity increased for those in the least developed countries and small island states.

Africanbank has teamed up with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to launch the training programme ‘How to Export within the AfCFTA’. It is designed to give small-business owners and young entrepreneurs the knowledge and skills they need to take advantage of the trading opportunities soon to be unleashed by the African continent’s free-trade area and to fully benefit from the developing regional value chains.

The ITC is a joint agency of the World Trade Org-


“It’s not what we do once in a while that shapes our lives. It’s what we do consistently – Anthony Robbins”

By Chester Dimairho

Today we begin to consider the “maturity” stage of the business. Many businesses that do make it this far have a good chance of falling apart due to the ABC which is bad for any company, according to Warren Buffet. The ABC stand for Arrogance, Bureaucracy and Conceit. At this stage, the profits are rolling in consistently, the cash flows are good, you have a solid team, an established business that has been identified, the brand is visible and so forth and so on. These are all great indicators of any business. Interestingly, this is the stage when you’re most likely to get a call from your bank manager asking you if you need a loan of any kind, and they are very willing to lend you the money. The collateral will still be there as the money. The collateral will be there as the bank manager asking you if you need a loan of any kind, and they are very willing to lend you the money. The collateral will be there as

Those ARIPO member states that did not sign the Protocol in Kampala will have to ratify or accede to it first. After ratification or accession, these member states would need to domesticate the provisions of the Protocol, as is incorporated within provisions into their national legislation. This may necessitate the amendment of the existing laws and the promulgation of regulations for implementing the provisions of the Protocol. It is critical to understand that what ARIPO has done is to set the stage for its member countries to put in place mechanisms for the voluntary registration of copyright. The Protocol sets best practice and norms which member countries may adopt and adapt into their national systems. ARIPO will play a facilitatory role in terms of capacity building and technical assistance.

There is usually a gap between ratification/accession and domestication of international treaties/protocols. While there are numerous explanations ranging from lack of political will to sheer ignorance, the main reason is the assumption that the Treaty or Protocol will automatically come into effect upon ratification/accession. This coupled with lack of interest by the relevant stakeholders, has been a lot of beautiful legal instruments failing to take the intended beneficiaries to the promised land. Whether a Treaty Protocol has automatic application in a country upon ratification/accession depends on the whether the particular country follows a monist or dualist system. A monist legal system, the national Constitution provides that international treaties must be domesticated by an Act of Parliament. Tanzania is an example of the latter. It therefore follows that of the nine countries who signed the Protocol in Kampala, it is only Malawi and Namibia who can immediately implement the protocol, subject to the promulgation of implementing regulations. For the rest of the countries, there are intentions and formalities of domestication that would need to be fulfilled before the norms, standards and benefits of the Kampala Protocol trickle down to the intended beneficiaries.

Creatives must take the responsibility to push the lawmakers and policymakers to do the needful. It is a fundamental principle of intellectual property law that it is the right holder’s responsibility to protect and enforce their rights, and this includes advocating for the ratification and domestication of the Protocol. The work is cut out!

Chester Dimairho

Moses Nkomo

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Nokia and Kodak as examples. I once read such businesses are vulnerable too. Look at they have about their business. Unfortunately, business has been accumulating assets over the years. The collateral will be there as the bank manager asking you if you need a loan of any kind, and they are very willing to lend you the money. The collateral will be there as the money. The collateral will be there as the bank manager asking you if you need a loan of any kind, and they are very willing to lend you the money.

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There is usually a gap between ratification/accession and domestication of international treaties/protocols. While there are numerous explanations ranging from lack of political will to sheer ignorance, the main reason is the assumption that the Treaty or Protocol will automatically come into effect upon ratification/accession. This coupled with lack of interest by the relevant stakeholders, has been a lot of beautiful legal instruments failing to take the intended beneficiaries to the promised land. Whether a Treaty Protocol has automatic application in a country upon ratification/accession depends on the whether the particular country follows a monist or dualist legal system. A monist legal system, the national Constitution provides that international treaties must be domesticated by an Act of Parliament. Tanzania is an example of the latter. It therefore follows that of the nine countries who signed the Protocol in Kampala, it is only Malawi and Namibia who can immediately implement the protocol, subject to the promulgation of implementing regulations. For the rest of the countries, there are intentions and formalities of domestication that would need to be fulfilled before the norms, standards and benefits of the Kampala Protocol trickle down to the intended beneficiaries.

Creatives must take the responsibility to push the lawmakers and policymakers to do the needful. It is a fundamental principle of intellectual property law that it is the right holder’s responsibility to protect and enforce their rights, and this includes advocating for the ratification and domestication of the Protocol. The work is cut out!

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Zimbabwe registers 3% increase in 2021/22 tobacco growers

By Edward Mukaro

ZIMBABWE has registered an increase of 3 percent in the number of farmers that will grow tobacco in the upcoming 2021/22 tobacco season, a Cabinet minister has said.

Addressing the media at a post-cabinet briefing, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Monica Mutsvangwa said, “Regarding the planting of tobacco, some 105 528 farmers have registered for the 2021/22 tobacco season compared to 102 098 farmers that had registered at the same time last year, representing a 3% increase.”

“The area planted is 28% above that planted last year, because of an enlarged irrigated crop,” she said.

The registration deadline for (Virginia/Burley/Dark fired) the upcoming season is 31st October 2021. According to the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) statistics recorded on the 20th September 2021, Year-to-date figures reflect that a total of 210.492.646.00 kilograms were marketed at an average price of US$2.80 in the just ended marketed season.

Meanwhile, a significant number of cotton farmers are yet to receive payment for marketed produce, with only 39% of the total owed being paid to farmers. “The value of the seed cotton delivered to date is ZW$6.384 billion. COTTCO has paid a total of ZWS2.9 billion to farmers, including US$ 3 912 500.00. Payments to date are 39% of the total requirement.”

“Farmers are yet to be paid a total of ZWS3.466 billion for seed cotton delivered to COTTCO during the 2020/2021 season. As of 25 October 2021, Treasury had availed ZWS500 million towards payment of cotton farmers. The payment process has been set in motion. Regarding the Presidential Climate-Proofed Cotton Pfumvudza/Intwasa Scheme for the 2021/2022 season, the trained farmers are 36% of the targeted 520,000 growers. Outstanding payments are slowing uptake of cotton production. Measures are being put in place to expedite inputs deliveries in particular the first tranche comprising seed, basal fertilizer, and chemicals,” said Hon Mutsvangwa.

By Wellington Zimbowa

FARMERS have been advised to collect seed and fertilizers from designated centers across the country under the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ) and Government partnership programme.

In a recent post-cabinet briefing, government spokesperson Senator Monica Mutsvangwa announced that the CBZ Agro-Yield/Command Agriculture programme has enough seed while it has registered considerable progress in acquiring fertilizer for the programme.

Preparations for the summer cropping season are now at an advanced stage with all inputs including seed and fertilizer available, while Government continues to provide money to pay farmers for crops delivered to GMB and Cottco.

“On CBZ Agro-Yield/Command Agriculture Programme preparations for the summer cropping season, the nation is advised that currently, CBZ Agro-Yield has 18 000 metric tonnes and 15 000 metric tonnes of basal and top dressing fertilizers, respectively. Seed is adequately available. Farmers can promptly collect seed from SeedCo and K2,” she said in a statement.

She added that the government-controlled commercial bank is finalizing supply agreements with ARDA Seeds, Syngenta and Torcek.

However, the program has been blighted by corruption last year, with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission being spurred to open investigations into the abuse of the command programme.

She also added: “The nation is advised that as of the 24th October 2021, Grain intake stood at 1 164 274 metric tonnes, comprising 83 684 metric tonnes of wheat and 1 080 590 metric tonnes of maize, soya beans and traditional grains. Regarding farmer payments, a total of ZWS 1 billion was received from Treasury last week and cumulative receipts now amount to ZWS36.059 billion. Grain delivered to date is valued at ZWL$ 40.574 billion, giving an outstanding balance of ZWS4.51 billion.”
‘Patient Overtreatment rules authorities’

By Wellington Zimbowa

The Health Professional Authority of Zimbabwe (HPAZ) is concerned by the growing trend of patient overtreatment, saying despite unnecessarily spiking the medical bill, it can also put the patient at risk.

This is allegedly common in private medical practices, where ethical conduct obligations are increasingly coming under financial strain due to the harsh operational environment as the profit motive takes precedence.

In the strict sense, overtreatment may refer to unnecessary medical interventions, but also in his ability to drive home socially helpful and that can weave that this medical practitioner’s conduct is questionable on this aspect,” she said.

She was speaking on a side-line interview at the recently ended Zimbabwe Agriculture Show held in the capital. The authority was birthed in 2001 through the Health Professions Act (2001) to coordinate the functions and operations of all registered medical professional councils in the country for efficient and quality health care among other key functions.

Hence, HPAZ has registered concern over the ‘overtreatment’ of patients by some unscrupulous medical practitioners with the greedy aim of milking patients.

Some of the key medical councils under HPA are Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe, Nurses Council of Zimbabwe, Allied Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe, Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe, Medical Rehabilitation Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe, Nurses Council of Zimbabwe, Allied Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe and Environmental Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe.

‘Music for an upright society’

By Wellington Zimbowa

Tracing his origin and musical inspiration from the famous Tokwe Mukosi area in Masvingo Province, Hon Tawaz says he sings to unify and create a self-limited condition, through requiring unnecessary treatments, medical tests, and procedures among others, according to online sources.

It’s a global phenomenon caused by an array of issues that include “fear of malpractice” (84.7%), “patient pressure/request” (59.0%), and “difficulty accessing prior medical records” (38.2), being the major reasons.

But according to HPAZ, in the Zimbabwean context, this would be a hidden motive to increase the medical bill for patients through unnecessary medical interventions.

“We have noted some increasing cases of patient overtreatment with the objective of milking unsuspecting patients. In this light, the medical professional will be acting outside ethical parameters. “We urge people to come to us and make formal reports or to go to respective professional medical councils as this can also cause health complications for the patient,” HPAZ spokesperson, Tariro Mamike said.

Investigations by this paper revealed that a number of private medical doctors operate private medical centres that have a consulting room, pharmacies, laboratories and radiology services.

According to one professional observer who requested anonymity of patients by medical malpractice trend in a country whose public health systems’ two-decades long-strained capacity has been exacerbated by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mamike said a quality health index is critical in the country’s quest to achieve a middle-class economy by 2030. She urged patients and the general public to make formal reports to the apex medical regulatory body and particular councils for any complaints relating to shoddy or unethical practices as relevant.

“We are mainly concerned with the ethical conduct of registered medical practitioners as well as registered institutions. “For queries, it is important that public deals with respective councils first, but we can always be available when a remedy is not achieved. “We urge disgruntled patients and members of the public to make formal complaints though informing us on issues that concern us.

“Come and tell us that at this medical institution this and this is happening or this medical practitioner’s conduct is questionable on this aspect,” she said.

She was speaking on a side-line interview at the recently ended Zimbabwe Agriculture Show held in the capital. The authority was birthed in 2001 through the Health Professions Act (2001) to coordinate the functions and operations of all registered medical professional councils in the country for efficient and quality health care among other key functions. Hence, HPAZ has registered concern over the ‘overtreatment’ of patients by some unscrupulous medical practitioners with the greedy aim of milking patients.

Some of the key medical councils under HPA are Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe, Nurses Council of Zimbabwe, Allied Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe and Environmental Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe.

By Wellington Zimbowa

To him, he is on a quest to rescue the younger generation that is currently the most affected by the wave of drug-induced mental health issues and even deaths.

A deeply-rooted patriotic Zimbabwean, Hon Tawaz is also very keen not only to put the nation on the global map, but also to promote natural affinity between his fellow countrymen and their nation.

“A people without their own history are like dead people,” he says, adding that he wants to promote all local historic heritages around the country in a bid to attract domestic tourism, while also correcting skewed historical narratives through music.

His inspiration is to take this crusade across the country. Some of his tracks such as Tokwe Mukosi, Guka Nombanje are already enjoying favourable airplay on the country’s radio stations.
Italy, Zim relations hailed

THE Zimbabwe Investment Development Authority (ZIDA) has been encouraged by the various inquiries made by investors on the country’s mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors - at the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai – and is hopeful of sealing mega deals in the first quarter of next year.

Speaking in an interview, an official from ZIDA expressed optimism about the country’s ability to lure investment.

“Our attendance at the Expo 2020 Dubai – and hope to sign deals and secure investment by March 2022,” said the official.

The official paid homage to the ties between Zimbabwe and Italy, citing that the Africa-UAE-Italy has given a huge insight to opportunities that can be derived from the association with the European nation.

“Our attendance at the Africa-UAE-Italy meeting gave us valuable insights into the level of interest that Italy has in investing in Africa. We managed to network and exchange contacts with potential investors who we are following up as we speak. We greatly appreciate our relationship with the Italian Embassy in Harare and hope to welcome Italian Investors soon,” he said.

Commenting on the burgeoning relations between Italy and Zimbabwe, as witnessed at the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai, the Italian Embassy in Harare expressed optimism at the business relations between the two countries.

“The Embassy of Italy in Harare has learned through Zimita (Zimbabwe/Italy Friendship Association) that a delegation from the Italian Embassy in Dubai, visited the Zimbabwe Pavilion at the Dubai EXPO 2020.

“We are very grateful to those who have contributed to the realization of this event of particular importance for trade relations between Italy and Zimbabwe,” said the embassy.

ZimTrade export promotion officer, Renwick Wachenyuka, concurred with his ZIDA counterpart praising the nation’s relations with the Italian business community and complementing ZIMITA’s efforts in opening new markets for Zimbabwean commodities in Italy.

“The Africa-UAE-Italy seminar highlighted the commitment of Italian business people and investors to do business with African countries like Zimbabwe. As ZimTrade, we appreciate the good business relationship that exists between ourselves and the Italian embassy in Zimbabwe.

“Through the embassy and ZIMITA, we have managed to facilitate local companies in the horticulture sector to exhibit their product offering at McFruit trade show in Italy, where they managed to clinch an export deal on the synergies that exist in Italy, as the country bids to increase exports of Zimbabwean produce such as mange tout peas, avocado’s, blueberries and organic pineapples,” said Wachenyuka.

He added that the nation would continue leveraging on the synergies that exist in Italy, as the country bids to increase exports of Zimbabwean products into Italy.

The E4Impact Alliance at Expo 2020 Dubai

The E4Impact Alliance has a vision to be the largest Pan-African community of universities with a recognised brand that promotes impact entrepreneurship across the Continent and beyond. Participation in the EXPO 2020 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) was an ideal goal to achieve this vision. EXPO 2020 is the World’s largest event where countries showcase their culture, innovations, and vision of the future. In this framework, the Italian Government invited E4Impact to host an event at the Italian Pavilion. They took this occasion to display the work of Alliance and to look for partners. They hosted an event that took place on October 14, 2021. The delegation composed of Prof. Wondwosen Tamrat, President of St. Mary’s University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as Co-Chair of the Alliance; Fabio Petroni, E4Impact Director of Programmes, representing the team in Milan; David Chebo-ryot, E4Impact East Africa Area Manager, in his capacity as the leading person for the E4Impact Entrepreneurship Centres. The event was a success as the Italian Commissioner to EXPO 2020 was greatly impressed by the Alliance and extended an invitation to them to join the flagship project of the Italian Government for EXPO 2020: the establishment of a new digital campus where students can find innovative courses and content and universities can connect globally. This is a great occasion for Alliance Members to enter the digital education space as well as to acquire a leadership position in this space.
Xavi ‘agrees deal to become Barcelona manager’ just hours after Ronald Koeman sacking with legend set return.

BARCELONA have reportedly reached an agreement with legendary midfielder Xavi to become their new manager.

Dutchman Ronald Koeman was dismissed late on Wednesday night following the Catalan side’s 1-0 defeat to Rayo Vallecano.

The result leaves Barcelona ninth in LaLiga following an awful start to the season, a run of form which brought an end to Koeman’s 14-month stint as head coach.

The frontrunner to replace him is unquestionably ex-Barca player Xavi who is currently managing Qatari side Al-Sadd. And now Sport are reporting that he has already reached an agreement with his former side.

They are now working on the termination of his contract at Al-Sadd, something which would cost the Spanish club around £840,000.

Xavi has enjoyed a sensational start to the season with the Middle Eastern team, winning all seven of his opening league games and topping the table as a result.

But, according to Goal, he is open to assuming office at Barcelona immediately, with talks already underway. Journalist Fabrizio Romano has said: “Barcelona board started contacts with Xavi weeks ago. “Talks will continue today [Thursday] to check the situation with Al-Sadd and resolve issues. Announcement not imminent yet - process just started.”

“Xavi wants Barça job.” And Spanish reporter Ferran Correas believes Barca’s plan is for Xavi to take over after the next international break in three weeks time. Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has stunningly been linked with the job but Xavi now looks set to assume the role.

Barcelona’s form has continued to spiral downwards since their financial crisis leading to the departure of Lionel Messi in the summer. They have struggled to move beyond mid-table in LaLiga so far this season and are in danger of failing to qualify out of the Champions League group stages for the first time in 20 years.

KOEMAN AXE

The mess has led to the club taking action, with Koeman’s sacking announced late on Wednesday.

A short statement read: “FC Barcelona has relieved Ronald Koeman of his duties as first team coach. “The president of the club, Joan Laporta, informed him of the decision after the defeat against Rayo Vallecano. “Ronald Koeman will say goodbye to the squad on Thursday at the Ciutat Esportiva. “FC Barcelona wishes to thank him for his service to the Club and wishes him all the best in his professional career.”

The Sun