

‘Let’s end hopelessness and despair, let’s end inequality’ This is one chance in a generation

Socialist staff reporter

NEXT year’s elections will offer Zambians a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring about revolutionary change, Socialist Party president Fred M’membe says.

“We will have a chance to end despair. We will have a chance to end hopelessness.

“The situation today is difficult at all levels, but let’s not give up, let’s not lose hope. It gets dark sometimes, but the morning comes.”

Speaking on the “Let The People Talk” radio programme on Phoenix FM recently, Dr M’membe asked how it was possible for a Christian country like Zambia to have such a huge gap between the haves and have nots.

“If we are One Zambia, One Nation, we should live similar lives, our conditions should not be so different,” he said.

“We have left other people behind and yet they are telling you there will be nobody left behind. No! The capitalist system leaves people behind. It’s designed to leave people behind, wherever it is in the world.”

Dr M’membe told listeners that a Socialist Party government would make sure “we all travel at the same rate, we are all at the same spot, going to the same destination and as one country and one people”.

“You can’t be one people when some are eating and others are not, and some are living well while others are not.

Triumph

“Can you have peace under such conditions? No! The Zambia we grew up under had no walls, but today you must build big walls around your house to have security.”

Dr M’membe says victory for the Socialist Party is vital to end the glaring inequalities.

“With some great effort on our part, and watch and guidance of the spirits of our ancestors – of that Ngoni commander warrior Nsingu – we will triumph and make Zambia what it was meant to be, our paradise here on earth.

“What remains to realise this great vision is your vote. Your vote is more powerful to realise our collective dream of a better Zambia.

“For those of you who haven’t registered to vote, we urge you to get your national registration cards and register to vote to end despair and hopelessness.

“Register to vote for yourself. Register to vote for your future. Register to vote for your country. Register to vote for the Socialist Party,” Dr M’membe said.

CANDIDATES ON THE FRONT LINE – Page 8



The Socialist Party’s latest parliamentary candidates with party national spokesperson Rehoboth Kafwabulula (second left, back row)

Socialism isn’t complicated, it’s all about human dignity

SOCIALIST Party president Fred M’membe says socialism is not a complicated concept.

Speaking on Hot FM radio’s “Red Hot” breakfast show, he explained socialism was simply about giving citizens a dignified life.

“Socialism is not as complicated a thing as people try to make out. It’s not about bombastic words, bombastic concepts,” he told listeners. “Socialism is simply giving a dignified life to our people, by providing them with services that make life dignified.

“Our priority will be to give our children the education they need. So, we’ll socialise education and make it free from nursery, at the age of three all the way to university,” he said, adding that a better society in the modern world could not be



Fred M’membe: education and literacy are priorities

built with uneducated people. “It’s not possible,” Dr M’membe said. “The more women get educated, the lower infant mortality rates you have because they are better able to look after children.”

Dr M’membe said that under a socialist government, “adults who are illiterate today, within two years, we’ll make them literate”. He said there were plans to expand the literacy campaign, which was already under way.

He said Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) had been on the current capitalist path since 1891 when Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Company colonised the territory.

“We have been on that path to this very day from 1891. We know what capitalism has done to our country. If capitalism had succeeded, there would be no need for any other system. There would be no need for socialism,” Dr M’membe said, “But capitalism has not only impoverished our people, it has also killed them.”

● THE SOCIALIST Party has named its latest parliamentary candidates in the fight for justice, equity and peace.

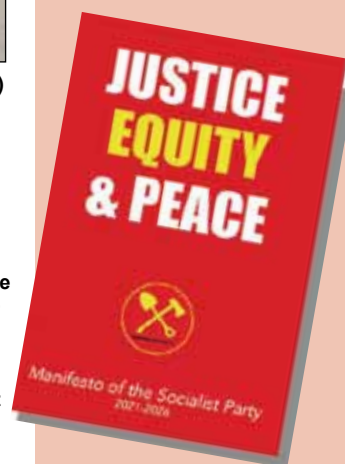
Speaking at a briefing to announce the candidates, the party’s second vice-president, Chris Ngenda Mwikisa, said those adopted, “clearly understand the values and principles of socialism and the Socialist Party”.

The candidates chosen to stand as members of parliament in Western, Eastern and Lusaka provinces, are: Chiteo Singongi (Kalabo), Matakala (Nkeyema), Sitali Likubangu (Sikongo), Preston Chinyama (Nalolo), Ntazana Musukuma (Chawama), John Zulu (Kasenengwa), Martin Phiri (Mkaika) and Kenani Kalala (Chipangali).

Dr Mwikisa said it was common knowledge that Zambia was one of the poorest countries, and, “these comrades will work hard to ensure there is equity in their constituencies”.

“Today we have one Zambia but two nations,” he said. “A nation of the well-off and a nation of the poor. That is what the Socialist Party is trying to change, to ensure there is equity.”

The 2021 manifesto gives us a chance to change everything and build a more just and caring society



The manifesto is a document of revolutionary changes to our country and lives. Download details, and info about how to join the Socialist Party, are on our back page

– Page 12

‘Inept PF facing a brick wall next year’

Leaders ‘like soaked cats’ as reality dawns

Socialist staff reporter

THE PF government is arguably the most inept and poorly visioned squad of opportunists ever reckoned in the country’s political history and its days are numbered, says Faston Mwale, a member of the Socialist Party central committee and Copperbelt spokespersons’ bureau.

“The party faces a brick wall in next year’s general elections,” he said.

“Since 2016 poverty has been on the rise attended by a simultaneous decline in economic governance.

“Under the PF, the masses of our people have been subjected to the most atrocious forms of poverty, hunger, inequality and extreme injustice.

“Against this backdrop, citizens across the country have intensified the search for a leadership that is endowed with egalitarian ideas for justice, equity and peace to take over state power.

“Within the framework of this preoccupation, Socialist Party president Fred M’membe is progressively becoming the people’s ultimate choice for the republican presidency in the upcoming general election,” Mwale said.

He said that with a mix of steadfastness, courage, a principled stand for justice, kindness, incorruptibility and a robust passion for the marginalised, Dr M’membe, “fits pretty well with the people’s growing aspirations for a credible leadership to take over the reigns of government next year”.

Humdrum

He described Dr M’membe as “a leader who is neither motivated by material goods nor driven by a lust for power and prestige”.

“While other prospective contenders schooled in the traditions of neoliberal politics are patently unimaginative, save for recycling old humdrum statements baited with promises that have mystified people for more than three decades, Fred M’membe’s clear message of revolutionary politics that guarantees the highest possibility for all-round development, resonates well with the masses,” he said.

“The Socialist Party’s manifesto is an added value. In comparative terms, it is the most advanced document ever produced in Zambia’s political history. It is the most sought-after social contract today.”

Mwale said next year’s general election presented a rare and historic chance for Zambians to transform the country into a socialist state in which justice, equity and



Faston Mwale: days of know-it-all leadership are numbered

peace, were fundamental cornerstones of a just, fair and humane society for all without exception. For more than three decades, Zambia had persistently suffered a serious plague of unbridled corruption, cronyism, bad governance and general failure of leadership.

“A small, greedy, parasitic elite, who assumed state power after the unfortunate demise of the late Micheal Sata, is directly responsible for the long list of irreparable calamities that have afflicted the masses of our people across the country,” Mwale said.

“The crippling debt that has submerged us under a crisis is a consequence of the sheer arrogance of know-it-all leadership.

“Today, reality has dawned upon the leadership, the pomposity is gone and they are like soaked cats. As of 2018, Zambia’s external debt had reached close to 40 percent of GDP, while domestic debt and arrears represented some 23 percent.

“If there is any lesson at all to be learnt from the governance style of the Patriotic Front, it is that bequeathing state power to big-headed neoliberal capitalist elements is no cheap mistake,” Mwale said.

“We ought to learn that capitalism is capitalism. It is not a system for the poor. No matter how much we grovel before it, it is a system that ‘soaks’ the poor to enrich the rich. For the struggling masses, there is only one road open to them – socialism.”



Zingalume compound residents with the hand sanitisers provided by the Socialist Party

‘Few political parties think of the poor’

Kelvin Phiri

ZINGALUME compound residents in Lusaka have praised the Socialist Party for continuing to donate hand sanitisers to the most vulnerable people.

Speaking during the donation, resident Gift Banda said the majority of the people, especially in compounds, couldn’t afford to buy hand sanitisers and masks used as preventative measures against COVID-19.

Banda expressed concern that with the opening of schools, children from compounds were in great danger of contracting the virus due to lack of protective equipment.

“Most of us did not have these hand sanitisers, so we really appreciate Dr Fred M’membe and the Socialist Party for coming to our aid,” he said.

Banda urged the people of Zingalume to vote for the Socialist Party because it was empathetic.

And Socialist Party Mpulungu ward aspiring candidate Avelesi Banda has also commended the party for answering the call from the community to help in the donation of hand sanitisers.

Banda said many people couldn’t afford sanitisers or facemasks, which the party has donated to the people of Mpulungu ward in Mandevu constituency.

“We thank the party for the donation . . . we are very grateful,” Banda said.

Meanwhile, Ruth Tembo from Kanyama compound has also praised the leadership of Dr M’membe and the Socialist Party. Tembo said the party had shown great commitment by helping the people of Zambia in different sectors through its donations.

“We just have to give a vote to Dr Fred M’membe and the party as they have already shown that they really are for the poor,” Tembo said.

“Very few political parties think of the poor people in the compounds but with the Socialist Party it’s a different story, it is working even before being voted into office.”

Nothing is permanent, even our cells change

NO GOVERNMENT is permanent, says Socialist Party president Fred M’membe.

He was speaking on Hot FM radio’s “Red Hot” breakfast show, where programme co-host Mutale Mwanza asked him if he thought there was currently “any wind of change”.

“Nothing is permanent in life, everything changes,” Dr M’membe answered. “Even our bodies are changing every second, the cells are replicating themselves. No government is permanent, no system is permanent.”

He told listeners that capitalism, like colonialism, would crumble.

“Humanity started living under primitive communalism where we were just hunters and gatherers. Then we came to slave-owning society, which lasted thousands of years, then we came to feudal society, and then entered the capitalist society,” he said.

“Capitalist society is not permanent, it’s just about 600 or 700 years old. It will go away and be replaced with another system.

“There was colonialism in this country and we never thought it

would end, but it ended. There was the one-party state, which was so powerful and we never thought it would end, but it ended. Nothing is permanent, everything is in motion, everything is undergoing change.”

Dr M’membe told socially and economically distraught Zambians, “It gets dark sometimes, but the morning comes. Don’t give up. Don’t despair. A better society is possible but we have to struggle for it.”

Dr M’membe, who was Post Newspapers editor-in-chief and managing director for more than two decades, refused to accept credit for catapulting the Patriotic Front under Michael Sata into power in 2011.

“I did not create PF and it is an over credit to give me all the credit for Michael’s victory in 2011,” Dr M’membe said in reply to a caller who claimed a monster (the PF) he helped create had now turned against him.

“If I could put Michael into government in 2011, then it would be very easy to put the Socialist Party in government next year,” he said.

Electoral consensus is vital to avoid problems

THE ELECTORAL Commission of Zambia (ECZ) will breed problems if it does not build consensus on the electoral process, Socialist Party president Fred M’membe told Hot FM radio’s “Red Hot” breakfast show listeners.

Asked about divisive electoral issues by programme co-host Mutale Mwanza, Dr M’membe cautioned that without building sufficient consensus on what the ECZ was doing, “we’ll have problems”.

“Firstly, the way ECZ is composed – the people who are appointed to be the commissioners, the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, others of the ECZ are appointed by our competitors in elections. Our law is such that the President appoints all those people single-handedly, without consulting other stakeholders,” he said.

“Yes, there is ratification in Parliament but that’s a Parliament they dominate as well, and they just need a simple majority to do that. The other stakeholders have no say in who the referees, the match commissioners are.”

Dr M’membe said it was for that reason that whatever ECZ officials

did, “no matter how good it is”, it was viewed with suspicion.

“The amount of work that they need to bring consensus and acceptability to, is much higher than they are doing right now. They are not approaching issues in a manner that will result in maximum consensus.

“Some of the schemes they are coming up with are questionable. I don’t know how they will manage to register nine million people in 30 days. And what does the law say? It requires continuous voter registration. Every citizen who is 18 years old should not be denied the chance to vote.”

Dr M’membe warned that the ECZ would have many problems in 2021.

“The resources available to ECZ to conduct next year’s elections are limited. The government is broke. We don’t know if there will be donors to fund our elections next year.

“There will be challenges. We are used to expensive elections, but money will not be available next year. It’s not easy to build consensus,” he said.



● **RESIDENTS** of Itezhi-tezhi district in Central Province have pledged their full support for the Socialist Party.

Stallone Mukungu Nawa of Masasabi area in Itezhi-tezhi district said it was encouraging to see how the party was practising socialist values in the area.

Nawa said the party had exhibited its allegiance to the majority poor of Zambia and would fight hard to make sure the gap between the rich and poor was narrowed.

He said the party had already demonstrated equity in the way it mobilised.

“We want to say that we have welcomed the party in Itezhi-

tezhi district because of its socialist values,” he said.

Nawa called on Zambians to identify themselves with the Socialist Party, as its agenda and development programme resonated with the aspirations of the suffering masses.

Resident Field Lweendo, of Namaula area, said the people of Itezhi-tezhi were ready to work with the party, while assuring that the constituency would deliver a member of parliament, council chairperson and councillors for the 2021 elections.

She called on people in the area to help the party in the fight for justice, equity and peace in the country by giving it an electoral mandate in 2021.

Harassment and intimidation a threat to multiparty society

Democracy needs freedom of speech, assembly to survive

Socialist staff reporter

ZAMBIA'S multiparty political system can't be sustained if the country doesn't guarantee freedom of speech, expression and assembly, Socialist Party president Fred M'membe says.

"Today's Zambian government is taking harsh actions to criminalise peaceful expression and assembly," he said in a statement from Mwika Royal Village, Chinsali.

"The government is using the police and ruling party cadres to silence opposition and civil society voices and to stop their political mobilisation efforts.

"People are being harassed, beaten and arrested every day for simply trying to exercise their fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly.

"While some prosecutions, in the end, have been dismissed or abandoned, many people who have engaged in nothing more than peaceful small political meetings have been arrested, held in detention, and subjected to unnecessary legal expenses."

Dr M'membe said fear of harassment and intimidation, and uncertainty over how the law would be applied, had led to many people staying away from politics and political gatherings.

"Increasingly, the police are misusing or allowing the misuse of the Public Order Act and COVID-19 restrictions to silence critical voices and stop opposition political mobilisation efforts," he said.

Inconsistent

"While some magistrates and judges have protected freedom of expression and assembly, their record is uneven. Some continue to issue poorly reasoned, inconsistent freedom-limiting decisions.

"This lack of consistency has contributed to an inconsistent terrain of expression and assembly rights, and left the door open to continue the abuse of the Public Order Act to harass and intimidate the opposition and others.

"Our problem in Zambia today is not that the constitution does not guarantee us freedoms of expression and assembly, but that it is easy to silence and stop their exercise because of a combination of overbroad laws, an inefficient criminal justice system, and the aforementioned lack of jurisprudential consistency.

"This can discourage many people from exercising, and fighting for, their right to freedoms of expression and assembly."

Dr M'membe said the government's fear of losing power was the cause of its actions.

"It wants to win next year's elections at any cost – even at the cost of destroying our multiparty party political dispensation and

stifling our freedoms of expression and assembly.

"Pope Francis aptly warns that thirst for power at any price leads to abuses and injustice, 'Good politics is at the service of peace. Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalisation and even destruction'."

Dr M'membe said charity and human virtues should be the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace.

"This is something on which, regardless of our political affiliations, outlooks or persuasions we can all agree, if we wish to work together for the good of our country and our people and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.

"Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, should be seen as an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law," he said.

"One thing is certain, good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.

"Unfortunately and sadly, together with its virtues, politics also has its share of vices, whether due to personal incompetence or to flaws in the system and its institutions.

"Clearly, these vices detract from the credibility of political life overall, as well as the authority, decisions and actions of those engaged in it. These vices, which undermine the ideal of an authentic multiparty political dispensation in our country, bring disgrace to public life and threaten social harmony."

Dr M'membe said corruption took many and varied forms, including the misappropriation of public resources, exploitation of individuals, denial of rights, flouting of community rules, dishonest gain, justification of power by force, and the refusal to relinquish power.

"When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of those in power to remain in power, the future is compromised and people can be tempted to lose confidence, since they are relegated to the margins of society without the possibility of helping to build the future. But when politics concretely fosters the freedoms of people and their aspirations, peace grows in their outlook and on their faces.

"In this spirit, I appeal to our brothers and sisters in government to deeply reflect and meditate on this very dangerous course they are taking. It will certainly not lead to peace and stability in our country," he said.



Solidarity in colours and symbols: the clenched left fist expresses support, unity, strength, defiance and resistance

Red alert over colours and symbols

THE SOCIALIST Party is not offending or imitating any political party by using the colour red and the clenched left fist as its symbol and salute.

The party went through a rigorous process of getting its name and symbols cleared and approved by both the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Registrar of Societies, it said in a statement.

The clarification follows accusations by other parties that the SP was using their "trademark" colours or symbols.

"There's no political party, organisation or individual that holds a patent to the colour red in this country or the world at large. There's no political party in Zambia that owns the colour red.

"It's trite patent law that a single colour

cannot be patented, but colour as part of a complete design can be patented. For example, if you want to patent the colour red, you won't be able to do so. However, if you have a design that includes the colour red, you can obtain a patent protecting the entire design," the statement said.

"By using the colour red the Socialist Party is not violating the rights of any political party. The Electoral Commission of Zambia wouldn't have allowed its emblem or symbol to have the colour red if it was conflicting with that of any registered political party."

Red is traditionally associated with socialism and left-wing political parties. The oldest symbol of socialism is the Red Flag, which dates back to the French Revolution in the 18th century, and the revolutions of

1848. Before that the colour red was generally associated with monarchy or the Church due to the symbolism and association of Christ's blood.

Similarly, the use by the Socialist Party of the clenched left fist salute is not an infringement or imitation of any political party's symbol. While others are using the right hand, the Socialist Party – a leftist party – uses the left hand.

The raised left fist, or the clenched left fist, is a universal socialist symbol of solidarity and support. It is also used as a salute to express unity, strength, defiance, or resistance.

"We hope this will clear the air about the Socialist Party's use of the colour red and the clenched left fist salute," the statement said.

M'membe: Let the best among us win next year's elections

Socialist staff reporter

LET THE best among us win next year's elections, says Socialist Party president Fred M'membe.

Speaking on "Let the people talk" on Phoenix FM radio, Dr M'membe told Zambians their choice of quality political leadership was paramount.

"We may not like the PF but if the PF emerges to be the most supported, the most trusted next year, let them continue to rule," Dr M'membe said, in response to callers who proposed political mergers

ahead of the August 2021 elections. "If the UPND next year emerges to be the most supported, let them rule. If any other party – including the Socialist Party – emerges to be the winners, let them rule."

Dr M'membe rejected suggestions that the Socialist Party should form any kind of alliance or pact. He said the party was not about winning power for the sake of it.

Referring to abortive past political alliances, Dr M'membe said, "We have seen these alliances before. The UPND that you are saying we should join... had an alliance called UDA (United Democratic Alliance).

"In 2009, there was a pact initiated by the UPND with PF, but that alliance collapsed over who should become president and who should get how many seats in Parliament."

He said pacts had been seen before and people knew very well what the arrangements were about.

Dr M'membe said those with common aims – "whose agenda is to remove the PF at any cost – let them band together".

"We are not against them. But our agenda goes beyond that. It is to build socialism in Zambia. We are not out to replace one group of bandits with another," he said.

Don't resist political change, says bishop

BISHOP Chisala says it doesn't take an economist or man of God to explain that Zambians are suffering because the economy has failed.

The bishop's comments follow Socialist Party president Fred M'membe's observation that the Zambian economy had all but collapsed but that "our rulers want to pretend all is well and it is business as usual".

"They don't even want to talk about it. They are occupying themselves with petty things that really don't matter. They can try to evade this reality, but they will not be able to evade the consequences of evading this reality," Dr M'membe said.

"They are busy trying to crush their opponents 'like a ton of bricks'. A sensible leader is not motivated by the desire to annihilate opponents, but by the desire

to solve problems and make life better for his people. It's very clear that our rulers are failing to reason, to think. Probably we are expecting too much from them. Reason is not automatic. We have no alternative but to push them aside and usher in a new leadership – a revolutionary leadership – next year."

Bishop Chisala said Zambia had no leadership in government that "could redeem the people from the shackles of poverty", and that people should not resist change next year. He said arrogance was at play with PF government leaders because they could "dish out money".

"Money is not everything. Even if they dish out money to try to silence the opponents, it won't work, because their time is up," he said.

Pact 'lies' an attack on SP integrity, and misleading

THE SOCIALIST Party has rejected as "lies" claims that it would be prepared to join forces with the Patriotic Front.

"The SP and PF could never work together," Western Province SP spokesperson Preston Chinyama said.

He was responding to "lies" peddled by Situmbeko Musokotwane, Liyuwa member of parliament, that the SP could form an alliance with the PF.

"It is not only misleading the electorate, but is also an attack on the integrity of the party," he said.

"As the Socialist Party in Western Province, we are aggrieved by the conduct of the Liyuwa member of parliament.

"We wish to state from the outset that at no time in history – and it shall never be the case – can the two parties work together. We belong to two different worlds, two different ideological presentations. Capitalism and socialism will never congregate together."

He said Dr Musokotwane, who served as minister of finance in the MMD government, had failed to develop the constituency since being elected.

Liyuwa constituency had 15,888 registered voters at the last count in 2016.

A tribute to our unsung heroes

Burton Ng'oma was just one of many who fought behind the scenes

Fred M'membe recalls the ordinary men and women who suffered and struggled to help Zambia defeat its colonial oppressors 56 years ago

HISTORY is usually unfair to ordinary men and women, attributing too much importance to outstanding figures, and giving them too much merit. It practically ignores the ordinary men and women who made possible the circumstances that exalted one person over others, making them important in national and world public opinion.

As we commemorate the 56th anniversary of our country's independence we should pay special tribute to the ordinary men and women who suffered and struggled without respite for our freedom.

Rather than being forgotten with the passing of the years, their names, their exemplary lives, their unselfishness, their heroism, should be remembered by all of us. We should see them live again. Above all, they should remain alive in our consciousness and in our hearts.

On days such as this we should remember all those who gave their lives for our country's independence.

Today my attention turns to an unsung hero of the independence struggle, Burton Ng'oma Chisashi.

Burton was born on May 5, 1913, at Mundu village in Chinsali. He started school at Mundu in 1925, a school which opened in 1910 with standards one to four. He managed to get his early education there and was later selected to go to Lubwa Mission, which offered standards five and six.

He used to travel as a weekly boarder from his village, Mundu, which was 39.5 kilometres from Lubwa Mission, a distance he used to walk every Friday back home, and every Sunday back to school from 04:00hrs to 15:45hrs.

Burton was a very intelligent student. Noticing this, a British school principal, Dr Brown, requested him to get his parents to accompany him to school one day.

When Burton delivered the message, the information was not well received by his parents, who suspected he had committed a serious offence at school. His father beat him before he even met the principal to hear why he was summoned.

He continued to beat his son throughout the journey to meet the principal, to try to force a confession from him about what he had done. This didn't get him anywhere because even Burton didn't know why his parents were summoned.

When they reached Lubwa Mission, Dr Brown was surprised to see Burton's body showing marks of the severe beatings and his eyes swollen due to crying.

He asked why the boy had been beaten, and the father said he suspected his son had committed an offence at school, and that was the reason he had been summoned.

The principal explained that it was not an offence he had committed, instead he had discovered that the boy



A digitally restored photograph of Burton Ng'oma Chisashi with his wife Mercy Mukuka Tembwe

was very intelligent and wanted to ask for permission from his parents to allow him to relocate to his home so he could stay with him.

The principal explained that because of the intelligence and good behaviour he had seen in the boy, he wanted him to move from the boarding house he was staying in with his friends. He offered to pay all school fees and provide every support until he finished his education.

His father happily agreed, but before leaving he warned the principal not to steal his son, threatening that the whole of Mundu village would walk to Lubwa Mission and kill the principal if anything bad happened to him. Dr Brown was further warned that the entire Mundu village would travel to UK and destroy the area Dr Brown came from if young Burton was harmed in any way. Happily, Burton lived with Dr Brown until he finished his standard six.

The principal had a typewriter in his home and Burton used to play with it, eventually mastering typing skills. He developed an interest in typing because he used to see Dr Brown typing documents for the mission every evening and at weekends.

In 1935, Burton was the only student from 300 Bemba colleagues who managed to qualify to go on to standard six from those who sat the exams in the whole region now called Muchinga Province. In Namwanga 190 students sat the exams and six passed. In Tumbuka 145 students passed, and no one passed from 115 students in Mambwe.

Burton continued with his education in standard six and had a busy time helping to translate information from English to Ibibemba language, working with the Rev Paul Mushindo, a prominent preacher, who was also a specialist in Ibibemba.

Burton became a devout Christian in the Church of Free Church of Scotland, now known as The United Church of Zambia.

While at the mission, he admired a girl by the name of Mercy Mukuka Tembwe, whom he later married. She was the daughter of Lucy Bwalya Chimutukule, a maid who was working at the home of the Rev David Kaunda. Unfortunately,

her mother died at the hands of criminals in Kampemba village in 1981 at the age of 92 and her body was never found. Villagers searched for her and found only a walking stick at the junction of Muganda farms and Mundu Road, from where she was taken.

In the years 1937, 1939, and 1941, God blessed Burton and his wife Mercy with three sons; Wallace Chilufya Wafita, Chilufya Wakashika and Daniel Chewe. Two of them have since died with Wallace the only survivor.

In 1943, Burton went to East Africa Tanzania with his wife Mercy to hide from the colonial rulers who wanted to kill him because of his involvement in the independence struggle.

There he worked for Tanzania Railways and was elevated to the position of foreman, eventually reaching the position of station manager. He worked in the towns of Dodoma, Dar-es-Salam, Itigi, Kigoma, and Mbeya, from 1945 to 1959.

Along the way he managed to acquire two shotguns, a rifle and a motor vehicle called Bedford.

“He was a freedom fighter who was very brave and put his country first before anything. He risked his life in the quest to gain freedom from the hands of the colonial rulers and was fearless, the epitome of a great leadership

Burton retired in 1959 and returned to Mundu village, Chinsali, where he opened a grocery store in 1961. He re-joined politics, and during the Cha Cha Cha period, provided leadership for the mobilisation of the freedom fighters in Chinsali area using his own resources. His home was a sanctuary for all those who fought for independence.

During the period 1961 to 1963, members of UNIP asked him to help them with his car and his driver Mackson Chilakuka, to be used in the independence struggle. He willingly offered the vehicle to the party, as well as the driver, who continued to draw a salary from Burton. He also provided fuel.

Burton fought a lot, being the only person in the area who had two guns at that time. He used them during Cha Cha Cha in areas

where there was serious fighting; in Kamimbi, Musanya, Ilondola, Kambyoshi and Mwalule villages.

He was a freedom fighter who was very brave and put his country first before anything. He risked his life in the quest to gain freedom from the hands of the colonial rulers and was fearless, the epitome of a great leadership. He was such an enormous figure in this country in his own right that he gained recognition from many people.

It was as a result of his generosity towards freedom fighters that he was arrested. He was suspected of providing the fuel that was used to burn bridges in the area simply because he was the only person who owned a vehicle.

On a memorable day in July 1961, the white district commissioner Mr Hanar and mobile police, as they used to call them, visited the village at around 10:00hrs and found Burton. They beat him in full view of his two sons – Chilufya and Chewe – and burnt his shop.

Upon hearing that the police had beaten Burton, his nephews, Andala Munwe, Nashon Shimulunda

and Lameck Shauli, rushed to try to rescue him and were equally and brutally beaten.

After Burton lost consciousness, they threw him in their vehicle together with his son and nephews and took them to Chinsali remand prison cells. Burton was straight away taken to Lubwa Mission Hospital where he was admitted and remained unconscious for a month.

Luckily, he was attended to by a Scottish doctor, Dr Wilson, who was from the clan of Dr David Livingstone. Wilson said he would not rest until he saved Burton because he had been working with the missionaries to spread the gospel. Dr Wilson worked tirelessly to give Burton the best treatment possible, and he eventually regained consciousness.

Dr Wilson supported the blacks'

struggle for their freedom. He was one of the Scottish missionaries who preached in favour of the liberation of Africans at the time. He encouraged the blacks to fight for their freedom and taught them to be fearless in the struggle. He left for Scotland immediately after curing Burton, saying he could no longer live with the bloodshed.

Burton was remanded at Milima prison for three years with two colleagues; Shichinda Ifitayi, and Chisashi. After that they were taken to Mukobeko maximum prison in Kabwe, where they were meant to be sentenced to death. They stayed at Mukobeko for four days.

When word went round that Burton had been badly beaten, other colleagues, who were also targeted to be arrested, ran away in the bush. These included Broughtwell Kalulu, who married Burton's niece. He was a wanted man but, luckily, when the police arrived he was ploughing in the bush.

Upon hearing what had happened, he ran away rather than returning home for fear of being arrested. He continued to fight for the liberation while in the bush, however, resulting in the villagers calling him as ba Fyanifyani.

The police searched for Broughtwell everywhere in the Musanya, Mundu, Chipanga and Chinsali areas. He narrowly escaped death when they finally tracked him down to Musanya village. They attacked his small thatched shelter and burnt it, only to discover that he was not there, having been tipped off by a teacher, Mr Levison.

While at Mukobeko, Burton used to sing his favourite UCU hymn, No 234, Lesa ekachema wandi, meaning God is my shepherd I will not fear, to strengthen himself while on remand. On the third day, which was the day before they were due to be sentenced, they sung the whole night. The following morning, one of them, Shichinda Ifitayi, decided to commit suicide using his belt, and died in the cell rather than waiting for the judgement and sentence the following day. It was from this experience that, from that time on, the authorities ensured they collected belts from inmates as soon as they were detained.

The following night, the prison

experienced its first load shedding, which scared the white prison warders. When this was reported to the judges, they concluded that the prisoners were innocent and this was why they had experienced the load shedding, after one of them had committed suicide. They considered it to be a signal that they should not go ahead with sentencing the remaining two, in case it resulted in something worse.

It was as a result of this that Burton and Chisashi were acquitted and set free after denying the charges against them. They were the first prisoners at that time to be set free from Mukobeko maximum prison.

After his release, Burton continued to help the struggle until Zambia gained independence. After independence, he worked as a ward councillor in Chipanga in Chinsali constituency, and at one time worked under Dr Waza Kaunda, who was a member of parliament for Chinsali.

It was during this period that he was visited by a grandson of Dr Brown's, Mr Ipenberg, a history teacher in the Netherlands, who travelled to gather information about his grandfather. He wanted to find out where Chinsali was, and specifically, Lubwa Mission, where his grandfather was a principal. When he reached the mission he was quick to ask where he could find Burton Ng'oma and was directed to Watson Mpanduka, Burton's nephew.

Watson tried to talk him out of going to Mundu village by telling him that Burton had grown very old and could neither remember anything nor speak. Despite being told this, Mr Ipenberg insisted it would defeat the purpose of his travelling to Zambia if he could not see Burton, even in his old age. He explained that he was writing a book about his grandfather.

When they reached Mundu village, Mr Ipenberg refused to wait for Burton to return from working in the fields, following him on foot instead. When they reached the farm, Mr Ipenberg spotted Burton right away, without even having him pointed out, and spent nine hours interviewing him about how he lived with Dr Brown.

Burton also worked under the then governor of Chinsali, Daniel Mukosa, following a vacancy after the untimely death of Kenneth Mulenga Nongo, who collapsed and died while addressing a political meeting. The death scared the people of Chinsali, with people reluctant to apply for the job.

President Kaunda decided that his son, Dr Waza Kaunda, be "sacrificed" and stand as member of parliament amid allegations of witchcraft. As a result he started mobilising the party in the area with Burton.

Burton died on May 13, 1991, and having come from a loyal family, was buried at a location far away from his village, Mundu, as per tradition.

Burton died with scars on his body, which he treasured. He showed them to his grandchildren as a mark of his struggle and triumph against the colonial oppressors.

He used to boast that the scars from the beatings he and his fellow freedom fighters suffered at the hands of the whites while in jail were indelible marks of the love for Zambia he showed during the Welensky rule.

Eternal glory to men and women like Burton and his comrades!



Socialist Party president Fred M'membe . . . in tune with the Zambian people

I love music and can't imagine life without it

AS LONG as I live, I shall be with music. I love music. I started listening to music at an early age on radio and a record player. And I made my own musical instruments – a banjo from tin and nylon strings, a drum set from tins and plastic covers.

When I was in Form 1 at St John's Secondary School, in Mongu in 1972, I joined the school band. There I was taught to play the cornet trumpet and French horn. Then I moved to St Francis Secondary School, Malole, Kasama, for Forms 4 and 5. I joined the school band there, which was more advanced than the one at St John's. I continued playing the trumpet and French horn, but I also added the mellophone and baritone horn. At St Francis, in addition to the brass band, we had a pop group called The Comets. It was great fun. We played all sorts of music – songs of The Witch, Musi-O-Tunya, The Tinkles, Five Revolution, Rikki Ililonga, Paul Ngozi, grand funk, Deep Purple, Doobie Brothers, James Brown, the Jackson 5, Osibisa, etc.

I also play the harmonica, also known as a French harp or mouthorgan. This is a free reed wind instrument used worldwide in many musical genres, notably blues, American folk music, classical music, jazz, country, and rock. Bo Rikki has creatively used it in his music. And this brother of mine borrowed my Harmonica and I don't know if I will ever get it back.

We studied for music exams with the London School of Music and Drama.

I am not playing musical instruments now but I have stayed with the music. I have a Trumpet which my daughters bought me for my fiftieth birthday.

I love music. I can't imagine life without music. As Bob Marley aptly put it in a reggae rhythm, "One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain."

Choosing to play an instrument is the beginning of a journey, one that is exciting, but often filled with struggle and hard work. It will require you to take in new information and master new skills.

Playing a musical instrument is really worthwhile. I find playing music relaxing. It thus reduces stress. If you are like me and find it easy to get stressed out, listening to music could help lower your stress levels. Listening to your own instrument gives the benefit of taking your mind off your day.

Playing a musical instrument also helps you develop patience and perseverance.

The process of learning to play an instrument is not always easy. It involves not only your mind, but also your body. You will have to learn fingerings and/or chord shapes, develop technique, and memorise new information.

Slowly, with consistent practice, you will find yourself getting better. With each new milestone, you gain a small reward for your efforts and this will keep you motivated. Making music requires patience. Instead of getting immediate results, you will have to persevere. Keep at it, you will achieve the results you desire.

You don't have to become a virtuoso to reap the benefits of music. You can gain many of these benefits by just learning the basics. You will develop a taste for the different composers, styles, and genres of music. Not only does this cause you to be more well-versed in music, but it also leads to a higher appreciation of the skill.

According to Aristotle in his Politics, book eight, unless you have taken part in music education, or in learning an instrument, you have no real basis for assessing the quality of a piece of music. Interestingly, he also says that you should not dedicate yourself to learning a difficult instrument, because it is a waste of time. Just learn enough to enjoy playing a bit, and to judge the quality of music.

Playing a musical instrument cultivates creativity. At its core, music is art.

Music is a language, and the more "words" you learn the more you will be able to say. You will soon find yourself wanting to apply the information you've learned to create music of your own and express your own voice. Music is not just about knowing how to play specific songs, it is about expressing emotion through sound. Whether it is just playing your own version of a song, or creating an entirely new one, learning how to play an instrument

enables you to use your creativity to say something original.

Playing a musical instrument uses almost every part of the brain, and it increases memory capability and helps to better detect vocal emotions. This makes sense because there are many emotions conveyed through music. Apparently, being exposed to this tonal variance in music can help you not just detect the emotions of music, but the emotions behind people's words.

No one – unless you are insanely gifted – can effectively learn to play an instrument overnight. Making music requires work and a consistent investment of time and effort. As they say, practice makes perfect. Discipline is necessary to go through the process of consistent, focused practice, especially when you would rather watch that new movie or a soccer match. This discipline can carry over into other aspects of your life, elevating the quality of the life you live.

Playing a musical instrument breeds confidence. The process of learning music leads to you playing in front of other people. This fosters the valuable expertise and grit necessary to confidently hold it together when other people are watching.

Remake the world, starting at home

THE SITUATION in our country today is such that a few enjoy the right to an adequate standard of living, while the majority are deprived of such an enjoyment.

The minority have everything and the majority have nothing, and there's a widening gap between the rich and the poor. In the interests of adequate standard of living as a human right, such a status quo needs to be addressed.

Many of our fellow citizens still live in circumstances that are hardly compatible with their dignity as sons and daughters of God. Their life is a struggle for survival. At the same time, a minority enjoy the fruits of development and can afford to live in luxury and wealth. We appeal for a more just, fair, equal and humane distribution of the nation's wealth.

It may be argued, of course, that those who enjoy the highest standards of living have achieved this through hard work and that they deserve the benefits of their efforts, regardless of the poverty affecting others. There are many reasons for rejecting this argument.

Firstly, it is sinful to keep for oneself an overabundance of wealth when one's brothers and sisters are suffering and even dying for want of simple necessities. In such a situation, it is of no consequence how and why some people come to be excessively wealthy while others starve. Christian justice demands that sufficient sharing takes place to ensure that the basic needs of all are met. Secondly, the rich are rich because the poor are poor. Thirdly, even if the demands of charity are rejected, and even if it were possible to argue that those enjoying excessive wealth are fully justified in doing so, commonsense dictates that our society cannot prosper under these conditions.

The good of each of us in the long term is secured and promoted by the common good of all. Glaring inequalities can only precipitate social instability and threaten the wellbeing of all, rich and poor. History abounds with instances where the rich and the powerful have brought about their own downfall by refusing to recognise in good time the legitimate demands of the poor.

As Jimmy Cliff sang in a reggae rhythm – Remake the World – a revolutionary transformation of our country is urgently needed:

Too many people are suffering
Too many people are sad
Too likeable people got everything
While too many people got nothing
Remake the world
With love and happiness
Remake the world
Put your conscience in the test
Remake the world
North, south, east and west
Remake the world
Gotta prove that are the best, yeah
Too many people are suffering
Too many people are sad
Too likeable people got everything
While too many people got nothing
Remake the world
Come on human dignity
Remake the world
Wipe strife and poverty
Remake the world . . .

Reckless loans have caused budget crisis

Debts will hit social services, but SP will renegotiate repayments

Socialist staff reporter

ZAMBIA is in deep crisis because of reckless government borrowing, which requires about a 119 percent of the country's income to repay debts in 2021, Socialist Party general treasurer Chris Ngenda Mwikisa has said.

Speaking on 5FM's "Burning Issue" radio programme party, Dr Mwikisa expressed concern that the country's debt situation would compromise the social service sector.

"If you pay all your debts, how are you going to manage your social sector requirements? How are you going to meet your health requirements?"

"You must buy the medicine, you must buy the equipment that require, you must buy all that is required for hospitals. If you are paying all your money, how are you going to meet your education requirements. It means you are drying up, you are not able to meet your requirements," he said.

Anxiety

Dr Mwikisa said the country was failing to utilise the resources it had borrowed, effectively and prudently.

And he said the 2021 national budget failed to address people's expectations.

"If you look at the allocations of some of the key sectors, let's take the social sectors, the allocations have declined over time, how are they going to resuscitate the economy," he said.

He said that once the Socialist Party formed a government it would address the question of debt that had caused so much distress and anxiety in the country.

Dr Mwikisa said that once in



Chris Ngenda Mwikisa: Zambia a copper mono-economy

power, the SP would renegotiate loan repayments and ensure that the working class did not continue to be the most affected by the current government's poor decisions and inconsistent policies, as it is now.

He added that the country needed to reduce unnecessary costs, such as international meetings.

There were many areas, such as the procurement of expensive cars for government officials, that were wasteful.

The government needed to raise revenue from the mines by introducing policies that would bolster efficiency and productivity, he said.

And he expressed concern that Zambia still remained a mono-economy, highly dependent on copper for its exports.

He said the situation was affecting the trade balance as Zambia continued importing most of its basic requirements from other productive countries.

"For how many years now have we been talking about copper? Governments have come and gone and everyone is just talking about copper. Look at the kind of resources that we have; we have water, we have fertile land, we have valleys, yet if you go to a number of our shops, you will find imported rice.

"Would you say Zambia needs to import rice with the vast land we have? With the amount of water we have? We can produce enough rice in this country to feed the whole region, so it's not that we don't have that potential. We have," Dr Mwikisa said.

He added that maize production should be supported and increased for the export market and livestock feed.

Dr Mwikisa called for a complete shift in priority areas for growth and sustainability of the economy.

"For so many years we have been depending on copper, and when the prices go up, we dance a bit, and when the prices go down, we blame the price of copper, so really, it's not a question of whether we cannot export, whether we can't cut our imports. Yes, we can. There is so much that we can cut, it's just a lack of willingness to do it," he said.

Dr Mwikisa said the country needed to industrialise, improve agriculture and modernise the education system in order to compete with other countries internationally.

He called on Zambians to rally behind the Socialist Party and its president Fred M'membe in the 2021 elections as they offered genuine and sustainable change based on the socialist ideological grounding.

"Why should you trust the Socialist Party? It's singing a different song, it is talking about equity while the others are not bothered about equity, it is talking about solidarity, working together. The current system doesn't think of others."

Zambia and the rest of the world needed to move away from capitalism, which was inherently corrupt, greedy and promoted consumerism for profits, he said.

China is in 'friendly discussions' with Zambia over restructuring

CHINA is expected to come under pressure to restructure loans it has advanced to Zambia after the government asked bondholders for a six-month moratorium on interest payments on US\$3 billion worth of Eurobonds.

The country is seeking US\$1.3 billion in financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund and has applied to the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), of which China is a member, for a moratorium on debt repayments.

China's foreign ministry said the two countries were in talks. "We are now engaged in friendly discussions with Zambia and we will do our best to assist it to overcome the difficulties brought by the coronavirus," a spokesperson said.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious trade and infrastructure development plan, Beijing has funded the construction of roads, hydropower plants and railways across Africa, but is now facing multiple requests for debt relief from a number of host nations.

Simon Quijano-Evans, chief economist for emerging markets at Gemcorp Capital in London, said that given Beijing was one of the largest lenders to Sub-Saharan Africa, "it is very important for countries in the region to be able to reach an agreement with China on debt payments".

"Financial market participants have been waiting for many years for Zambia to approach the International Monetary Fund for a loan programme to help secure debt sustainability and increase transparency with regards to external debt exposure," he said.

Mark Bohlund, a senior credit research analyst at Redd Intelligence, New York, said China holds about half Zambia's US\$11.2 billion worth of external debt.

According to the China Africa Research Initiative at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, between 2000 and 2018, Zambia borrowed US\$9.7 billion – most of it from Beijing – to pay for infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, power dams and airports.

South China Morning Post



Kwa education a class apart

Mafundi Community School caters to 63 impoverished pupils in Western Province

Cosmas Musumali

THESE are the appalling conditions that children in rural Lukulu, Nthongwe (Dongwe) ward in Western Province have to suffer in order to enjoy a basic human right . . . education.

Mafundi Community School is an example of what happens when rural poverty levels stand at an average of 76.6 percent, with Western Province sitting at the highest poverty levels of 82.2 percent.

Every child is special and has a right to quality education, a safe and clean

environment. As such, no child should be subjected to learning in dilapidated, inhumane and degrading conditions.

It is about time the Zambian masses took the economy and political power into their own hands in order to provide decent education, public services and standards of living for all – a society in which all can enjoy the full benefits of economic development.

Capitalism, by its very nature, cannot provide this. It is only a socialist transformation of society that holds a brighter future for our children, and our people.

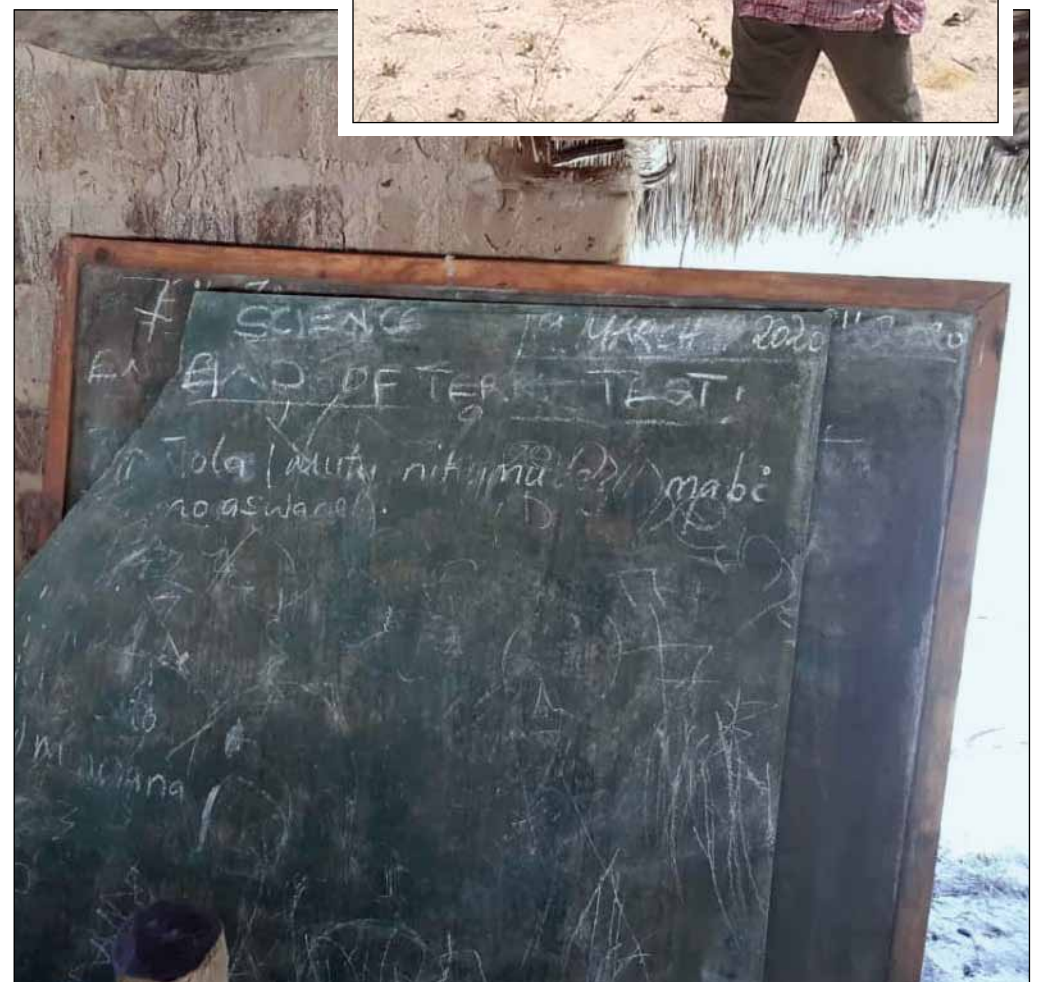
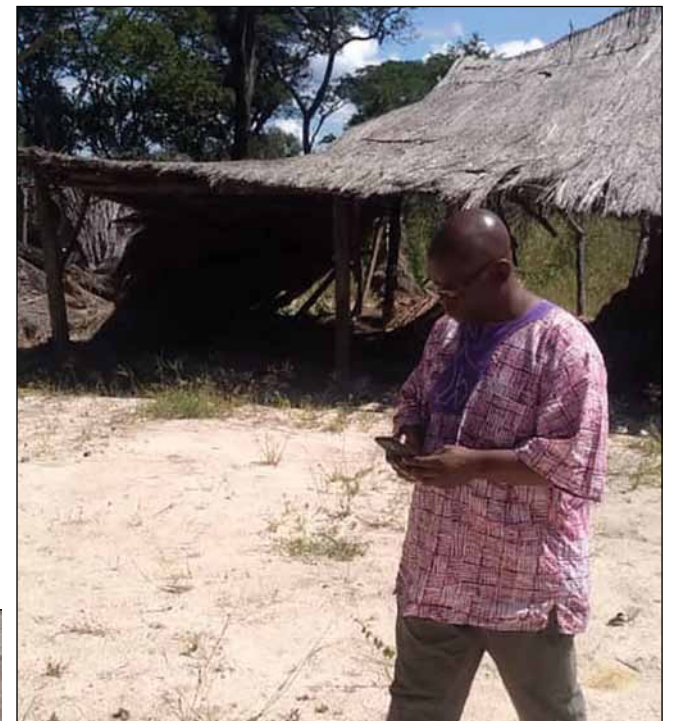
A free education policy is therefore necessary to ensure access for all, despite a citizen's wealth.

The Socialist Party in government will provide compulsory, quality, free education from nursery to Grade 12.

College and university education will also be free for all Zambians.

There will be no fees; uniforms, books, pens, pencils, and school meals will be provided.

We will put an end to the degrading conditions that so many of our children have to suffer at school.



Lessons are for all, not just SP members

Word's on the street: everyone is welcome

Socialist staff reporter

TEACHERS in Kapiri Mposhi have called on members of the public to feel free to attend the countrywide Fred M'membe literacy classes.

Speaking during a three-day training workshop in Kapiri, teacher Henry Mwewa said the programme was meant for everyone and not just Socialist Party members.

"Every Zambian is welcome, regardless of their political affiliation. The literacy campaign is meant to benefit the community."

Mwewa said many people, mostly in the rural parts of the country, had no opportunity to go to school, and the Socialist Party through its Fred M'membe literacy campaign had given them an opportunity to learn how to read and write.

"This is one of the greatest things the party can offer the people of this country," he said. "As we know, most people in rural areas have not been to school for different reasons, and now people countrywide have an opportunity to learn how to read and write through the Socialist Party. Many have been swindled because they do things that they don't understand and don't know," Mwewa said.

He has called on programme teachers to show leadership and allow everyone to participate in the classes regardless of their political affiliation.

Community

Another teacher, Jaswell Malunga, from Lwansulu ward, commended the party for offering training free of charge.

"We are very grateful to receive training from the literacy team through the Socialist Party, and we want to assure you that the training will not only benefit teachers, but will also benefit the community, and the materials given to us will be put to good use."

Socialist Party Central Province spokesperson Claudius Musoma urged teachers not to keep materials to themselves but to make sure they work for their intended purpose, to benefit the community.

Musoma said the Fred M'membe literacy team's aim was for every Zambian to become literate.

"Please comrades, let us not

personalise these materials. Let us make sure they are used for their intended purpose. If we personalise them they will become a waste of time, resources and energy. Remember they are for the community."

Musoma urged Zambians to support the programme. "The programme has shown Zambians that the party values education so much, and the target should be adults, our mothers and fathers, who are willing to know how to read and write."

Programme facilitator Hilton Sibote challenged teachers to take a leading role and dedicate their services to the community, expressing gratitude to those who showed commitment by attending the training.

"Go out there and teach the community, and please don't stop anyone who wants to attend the classes. We have trained you because we want the community to be literate," Sibote said.

Speaking when handing over the teaching and learning materials, national coordinator Sipiwé Nikisi called on members of the community to take a leading role by putting them to good use.

The campaign team conducted a three-day training workshop in Kapiri Mposhi district of Central Province, donating materials, including exercise books, black boards, chalk boards, paper, pens, and pencils.



High praise from Kapiri Mposhi traditional leader

A TRADITIONAL leader in Kapiri Mposhi district, Central Province, has commended the Socialist Party for offering the Fred M'membe literacy campaign in his area and in Kapiri Mposhi generally.

Headman Tetu (inset, left) said the party was showing Zambians that it really is a party for the poor and ready to liberate Zambians.

"This is a wonderful programme which our community should support, that is if we are to liberate ourselves from poverty. We did not even know that you could visit us here in Tetu village as many people have neglected us. Many have promised but never fulfilled anything," he said.

The traditional leader added that most of the people in his village were not educated

and the literacy programme would greatly benefit them.

"Many of our people have never been to school, so the Fred M'membe Literacy Programme gives them a greater opportunity to know how to read and write."

Meanwhile, Kantwite Community School Parents' Teachers' Association chairperson Boyd Mutambo urged parents to take a leading role and start attending the classes. He said education was key to every successful development agenda of a country.

"Thank you to the Socialist Party for bringing the literacy classes to this area, this school will benefit our parents in this area and the entire Central Province as learning is important regardless of your age," Mutambo said.

Meet the women who will lead the fight for fairness

They join Rehoboth Kafwabulula and Christine Musole

Socialist Party president Fred M'membe has pledged that SP is committed to fielding not less than 50 percent women in next year's elections. As part of that pledge, the party recently adopted three women candidates for the Malole, Chitambo, and Mbala constituencies. They join the party's national spokesperson Rehoboth Kafwabulula, and Christine Musole, candidate for Mongu. **Cecilia Lwiindi Nedziwe** talks to them about their beliefs, hopes and aspirations

Margaret Kangwa Pikiti

MARGARET Kangwa Pikiti is the Socialist Party's parliamentary candidate for Malole constituency.

Pikiti was born in Malole, Mungwi, Northern Province. She went to Ituna Primary School in Kasama and attended Lwitikila Girls Secondary School in Mpika, finishing form five in 1978.

In December 1978, Margaret went for compulsory military training with Zambia National Service. This was followed by training in Physiotherapy at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka.

Then in 1993, she obtained a bachelor of science degree in occupational therapy in the United Kingdom. Later, she completed a master's in business administration with a dissertation that focused on poultry farming in Zambia and Brazil.

Pikiti is now settled back in Malole where she is working hard to revamp farmland, working and interacting with local people, sharing their anxieties, sorrows, hopelessness and desperation on a daily basis.

Malole is a constituency in a province with a poverty level of 79.7 per cent. This is reflected in people's daily struggles, and lacking the basics in education, health, food, and all the other services required in an organised society.

Pikiti says: "I was not seeking political office when I joined the Socialist Party. I joined the Socialist Party because the issues close to my heart are core to the party. The plight of the poor being at the centre of it.

"Also, after scrutinising the party's manifesto, programme, and the leadership under Dr Fred M'membe, I happily joined this party that makes one feel at home. And when my name came up for adoption, and then I was approached by the party leadership to stand as a member of parliament for Malole constituency, I accepted with anticipation and excitement.

"As an individual, what captivates me is seeing joy on the faces of the elderly and children. The kind of transformation I envision for my constituency is accessible health for all, education for all from pre-school, for people to regain their pride and provide jobs.

"Zambia is most definitely ready



Women on the front line: (left to right) Moddy Nonde Chisha, Naome Nanyangwe, and Margaret Kangwa Pikiti

for socialism. In fact, it is long overdue. A change is needed in aspects of life and governance. Capitalism has failed our people. Suffering is unbearable and it is hard for one to look and do nothing. The values of socialism are what can lift Zambia out of the current pit.

"I am also a writer and my book begins in the Malole village I used to imagine, not the impoverished one today. So here we are. I am now the adopted candidate for Socialist Party Malole constituency."

Moddy Nonde Chisha

MODDY Nonde Chisha is Socialist Party's parliamentary candidate for Chitambo Constituency.

Chisha is Zambian. She attended Chimwemwe Primary School, junior secondary at Hellen Kaunda Secondary, and her upper classes at Mindolo Secondary School.

Chisha is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science and a certificate in fashion and design. She holds a diploma in theology, a certificate of psychosocial counseling, and a certificate in literacy teaching and in community work.

Her previous leadership roles include that of being a reverend. Since 2000, she has been pastoring a church.

In terms of what motivated Chisha to join the Socialist Party, she says: "I was attracted to the party's progressive policy on women and youth. We have a voice in the party and as a member of the Socialist

Party Women's League, we do appreciate that the recommendations emerging from the women's league have been taken on board by the central committee.

"In 2021, not less than 50 percent women will stand on the Socialist Party ticket, both at local and parliamentary elections. This is progressive.

"I also joined because I was inspired by the honesty, humility and wisdom of its leadership. I knew with my background in the church that if we joined hands together we could transform Zambia. I was also inspired deeply by our president, Dr Fred M'membe, a patriotic leader who wouldn't love to see citizens being subjected to the an oppressive capitalist system and ideologies that perpetuates suffering among Zambians.

"The Socialist Party is the answer to Zambia's problems. Under the socialist government, we will work hard to strive for justice, equity and peace in distribution of the natural resources and the national wealth of our country as outlined in our manifesto."

Asked what transformation she envisions for Chitambo Constituency, Chisha says:

"I envision a Chitambo constituency in which all our people have access to healthcare, education, roads and bridges, as well as an improved agricultural sector. At the moment, the situation is bad. There are serious issues around access to education, bad roads, and lack of decent clinics.

"In my constituency, health officers meet the people in makeshift clinics in the bush. There are further no bridges to make life bearable during the rainy season. Those are just some of the huge challenges that people of Chitambo face on a day-to-day basis."

She says the Zambian people are ready for socialism, "Yes, the Zambian people are ready for a socialist government, for a party that has leaders who lead, and allow the people to govern."

Naome Nanyangwe

NAOMI Nanyangwe, is the Socialist Party's parliamentary candidate for Mbala.

Nanyangwe is Zambian by nationality. Her home languages are Mambwe and Bemba. In terms of her religion, she is a Seventh Day Adventist, and has previously served in various church leadership positions; as a Dorcas leader, a superintendent and choir leader. She has served her community as the savings chairperson.

Nanyangwe attended Munyezi Primary School, completed tertiary level at Mbala High School and studied early childhood education at the University of Zambia. She has worked as a teacher at Mayanga and at Mbala primary schools.

Asked about what captivates her, Nanyangwe says, "The inner peace I feel when I help others, when I am of service to others, the joy of being useful to others, to the people in my community."

And asked why she joined the Socialist Party, she says, "I joined because of its unique vision and language: the 'Justice, Equity, Peace' language.

"It was the first time I heard of a party that was concerned about transforming Zambia, about pushing for not less than 50 percent of women's participation in the party structures, and leadership outside the structures.

"I could also relate to the Socialist Party values of honesty, humility, equity and solidarity that align very well with those of my convictions.

"I equally desire to see a transformed Zambia, a land where everyone feels they belong in all senses in terms of access to education, health, decent sanitation and housing, and a life free from poverty and extreme hunger."

In terms of the changes she desires for her constituency, she says, "Job creation for a number of youths through embarking on serious industrialisation programmes such as industries for processing goods, building milling plantations, a better system of developing agriculture and building the capacities for our farmers, as well as the roads that are currently bad or non-existent."

On Zambia and socialism, Nanyangwe says, "Zambia is ready for socialism because it is the only system that guarantees us real change, real transformation, and this can only come from our party, the Socialist Party."

Pride and thanks in the battle for 2021

Socialist staff reporter

SOCIALIST Party Lubasenshi parliamentary candidate Francis Chanda Chileshe has commended the party's central committee for adopting him to contest the 2021 general election.

Chileshe said he was excited that the party leadership had placed trust in him to be part of the winning revolutionary team.

He said he was grateful to party president Fred M'membe for exhibiting unequalled leadership qualities that were inspiring to the general members, particularly those who had already been adopted.

"I also give thanks to all the amazing people of Lubasenshi who encouraged, and supported me to stand as the Socialist Party member of parliament in the coming general election. I will not let you down."

Chileshe said he would make sure that he worked with the people of Lubasenshi in order for the constituency to develop.

And Mulenga Chiluba Mutamba, who has been adopted for Nkanchibiya constituency, also expressed happiness to be associated with Dr M'membe.

"He worked together with the late president Michael Sata," he said. Mutamba expressed regret that some of the projects initiated by Sata, such as the construction of John Mubanga Day School, Kopa Day School, and Chalabesa Day School, had stalled since his death in 2014.

He said a good leader should be humble and relate to the challenges faced by the people, while searching for solutions to their problems.

"For people of Nkanchibiya, we are convinced that Dr M'membe is grounded about the challenges faced by the people because he interacts with them all the time," Mutamba said.

He urged the people of Nkanchibiya to unite and expand the party in order to win the 2021 general election.

Meanwhile, Mbala constituency Socialist Party candidate Naomi Nanyangwe has pledged to work with Dr M'membe for the betterment of the country.

Nanyangwe described Dr M'membe as a humble leader with a vision for Zambia she had never witnessed before.

She said Mbala had great potential to develop the agricultural sector by enhancing productivity in line with the party's manifesto.

The Socialist Party adopted nine parliamentary candidates for the 2021 general election in September.

The task ahead of us 'cannot be left to trial and error'

Kelvin Phiri

ADOPTED Socialist Party parliamentary candidates for Senga Hill and Mpika Central constituencies have pledged to work closely with their communities to foster sustainable development.

Senga Hill candidate Maximo Mutambo Sikonde said it was disappointing that schools in the constituency were falling apart because teachers were not motivated.

A shortage of medicines in hospitals was also a major challenge.

"Lack of medicines . . . must change, I will make sure that I continue struggling for a better Zambia with the people in my constituency. The youths have no jobs and they are in suffering communities."

Sikonde also called for a shift in the agriculture policy in order to increase productivity while empowering the farmers.

Mpika Central constituency candidate Andrew Kalonde, from Muchinga Prov-

ince, thanked the party leadership for having the confidence to adopt him to contest next year's election on the party ticket.

He said it was disappointing that after 50 years of independence, people still faced the challenges of unsafe drinking water, dangerous roads and poor nutrition.

Kalonde said the country was falling apart because of capitalism with its inherent greed, corruption, theft and selfishness.

"The Socialist Party has this very arduous task of revisiting the past in order to

transform the future. I shall therefore support programmes and motions that promote national unity and equal distribution of development throughout the country, irrespective of which party sponsors such programmes.

"The task ahead of us cannot be left to trial and error or in the hands of test-tube politicians . . . but to tried-and tested patriots, in the hands of our dear comrade and party president Dr Fred M'membe," he said.

Bolivia socialists' election win 'reclaims democracy and hope'

Resounding victory comes a year after Morales was ousted from power

BOLIVIA'S socialist party is celebrating a stunning political comeback after Luis Arce, its candidate in the presidential election, secured 55.1 per cent of the vote.

His closest rival, the centrist former president Carlos Mesa, Civic Community party, received 28.8 percent.

Arce, a former finance minister under Evo Morales, said, "We have reclaimed democracy and above all we have reclaimed hope."

The 57-year-old UK-educated economist, who is widely known as Lucho, pledged to end the uncertainty that has divided Bolivia since October 2019, when disputed claims of vote rigging against his

party, Movimiento al Socialismo (Mas), resulted in mass street protests, the presidential election being scrapped, and Morales being forced from the country in what his supporters describe as a racist, rightwing coup.

"We will govern for all Bolivians. We will bring unity to our country," Arce said.

Morales, who has towered over the election rerun despite living in exile in Argentina, hailed "a resounding victory" for his party.

"Sisters and brothers, the will of the people has prevailed," he tweeted.

Morales was Bolivia's first indigenous president and governed from January 2006 until he was ousted last year.

Rightwing interim president Jeanine Áñez congratulated Arce and Mas, and asked them "to gov-

ern thinking of Bolivia and of democracy".

Leading members of the Latin American left, who hope Arce's election triumph may help revive their own fortunes, celebrated the result. "Viva the Bolivian people! Viva democracy!" tweeted Gleisi Hoffmann, the president of the Brazilian Workers' Party.

Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro tweeted: "A great victory! United and aware, the Bolivian people have used votes to defeat the coup they carried out against our brother Evo."

The result is a sensational political fightback for Mas, which was left reeling last year when its leader was forced to flee the country after trying to secure an unprecedented fourth term as president.

"It's a return to the kind of man-



Luis Arce: we will bring unity

date they had when Evo was first elected in 2005," said Jim Shultz, founder of the Bolivia-focused Democracy Centre.

For Áñez's outgoing conservative interim government, which

took power after Morales's banishment, it was a stinging rebuke.

"It tells us the rightwing in Bolivia has no broad political support – not even close," Shultz said.

"The rightwing was given a chance to govern and proved that it is only interested in its own power and in itself, and has contempt for the indigenous and poor of the country.

"It demonstrated that by pretending it had legitimacy that it didn't, by overseeing real human rights abuses and impunity, and by being incompetent and corrupt in its governance, and people weren't going to have it."

In Washington, a state department spokesperson said: "President Trump and the United States look forward to working with whom-ever the Bolivians elect. We will continue to promote democracy,

human rights and prosperity in Bolivia and throughout the region."

Opponents of Mas claim Arce is little more than a puppet for Bolivia's exiled former president, who they suspect will now seek to return home. But Arce sought publicly to distance himself from Morales during the campaign, and allies said the man poised to become Bolivia's next president was beholden to no one.

"Categorically, Evo will not interfere in the government of brother Luis Arce," said David Apaza, a Mas leader in El Alto, a high plateau city above La Paz.

"Comrade Evo Morales in his time was the vital element, the principal protagonist, but now we believe our comrade should rest, while our brother Luis Arce takes the lead."

Agencies

The language of fascism, dictatorship, and civil war

Joseph Kishore and David North

THE UNITED States presidential campaign is being transformed into a coup d'état by Donald Trump, who has declared that he may not accept the results of any vote that goes against him.

Speaking at a White House press conference before his hospitalisation with COVID-19, Trump was asked whether he would "commit here today for a peaceful transfer of power after the election?" He replied, "We're going to have to see what happens. You know I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots. And the ballots are a disaster."

When his questioner persisted, Trump said, "You'll have a very peaceful transfer. There won't be a transfer frankly. There will be a continuation."

Trump's determination to rapidly appoint a new Supreme Court justice to fill the seat left by Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death is a critical element of the unfolding criminal conspiracy. Trump intends to stack the Supreme Court with lackeys who will rubber-stamp his repudiation of the election results.

"I think this [the election] will end up in the Supreme Court, and I think it's very important that we have nine justices," Trump said at the news conference.

That the preparations for an overthrow of the constitution are well advanced is now widely acknowledged. A column published in *The Atlantic*, headlined "The election that could break America", outlines what it called a nightmare scenario involving the mobilisation of right-wing vigilantes and the seizure of uncounted ballots.

The *Atlantic* references discussions within the White House over how to overturn the election results if they go against Trump.

According to sources in the Republican Party at both state and national levels, the Trump campaign is discussing contingency plans to bypass election results and appoint loyal electors in battleground states where Republicans hold the legislative majority.



SP condemns racism and repression in the US

THE SOCIALIST Party Zambia has expressed solidarity with the anti-racism movement in the United States against a growing wave of repression.

"We earnestly beseech the international community to raise its collective voice to denounce the racially inspired attacks that today define the order of events across the

US," a spokesperson said. "We are aware of the fact that the escalating racial crackdowns are direct spin-offs from the deeply fractured capitalist system.

"We call upon the US government to without delay address all forms of structural aggression against the anti-racism protesters.

"The Socialist Party calls for solidarity with the victims of systemic violence, and implores all organisations of good will to unify and concretise the struggles against racial injustice and physical attacks, especially against individuals and civil organisations that seek to defend justice, promote equity and

peaceful coexistence. We deplore the senseless assault by the US establishment on those agitating for a more humane and fair society.

"We demand the immediate and unconditional release of the Party of Socialism and Liberation activists and many others from incarceration across the US."

With a justification based on claims of rampant fraud, Trump would ask state legislators to set aside the popular vote and exercise their power to choose a slate of electors directly.

In doing so, Trump would be acting on the basis of Justice Antonin Scalia's argument in *Bush v Gore* 20 years ago, when the Supreme Court intervened to shut down vote-counting in Florida and hand the election to Bush.

Trump is not running an election campaign, he is setting into motion a plot to establish a presidential dictatorship. This is a continuation of the entire conspiracy initiated with his June 1 speech threatening to invoke the Insurrection Act and deploy the military against domestic protests.

There is a staggering contrast between the ruthlessness with which Trump and his co-conspirators are implementing their plans and the fecklessness and cowardice of the Democratic Party and its presidential candidate, Joe Biden. Even as Trump is planning to stack the Supreme Court to facilitate

his illegal seizure of power, the Democrats have declared that there is nothing that can be done to stop Trump's appointment of another justice before the November election.

After Republican Senator Mitt Romney announced he would support Trump filling the Ginsburg vacancy, the Democrats abandoned their "resistance" strategy, such as it was, of finding four Republicans who would break with Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and oppose a confirmation vote.

Senate minority leader Charles Schumer has declared that "all options are on the table", but only after the Supreme Court nominee is confirmed, and then only if the Democrats win control of both the Senate and the White House. But the Supreme Court pick is central to Trump's strategy of maintaining his position in the White House.

The pathetic response of the Democratic Party and its presidential candidate to Trump's conspiracy is determined, above all, by its fear that any call for resistance would trigger a mass movement from below

that would get out of control and threaten the capitalist oligarchy.

The Democrats fear such a development more than anything. Their entire focus over the past four years has been to divert popular opposition to Trump behind the conflicts within the ruling class over foreign policy, centred on the demand for more aggressive action against Russia.

To subordinate the fight against Trump to the Democratic Party can lead only to a political catastrophe.

Workers must recognise that American democracy is collapsing. The language of Trump is the language of fascism, dictatorship and civil war.

The critical issue now is the development of a mass movement of the working class. The growing wave of strikes, protests and demonstrations – including those sparked by the whitewashing of the police murder of Breonna Taylor in Louisville – must coalesce into a general strike, demanding Trump's removal from office.

wsws.org

The struggle for peace 'is our most sacred duty'

TO STRUGGLE for peace should be the most sacred duty of all human beings, whatever their religion, country of origin, skin colour, and however advanced or youthful their age may be.

Those were the words in a statement by the Socialist Party Zambia to mark this year's International Day of Peace.

Each year, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The 2020 theme was "Shaping Peace Together".

The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire.

"This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life," the statement said, issued by Socialist Party president Fred M'membe on behalf of the politburo.

"COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

"In March, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on all warring parties to lay down their weapons and focus on the battle against this unprecedented global pandemic.

"While the message was intended for armed parties, solidarity and cooperation across borders, sectors and generations, are also needed to win this new fight against the worst public health crisis of our time.

"In these difficult times of physical distancing, even though we may not be able to stand next to each other, we can still dream together about a world full of justice, equity and peace.

"Let's celebrate this day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic. Let's stand together against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred," the party statement said.

Gangster bankers, capitalist criminals

Leaked files expose role of dirty money in the world economy

Barry Grey

AN EXPLOSIVE report published by BuzzFeed News documents the role that major US and international banks knowingly play in laundering and circulating trillions of dollars in dirty money from terrorist organisations, drug cartels and assorted international financial criminals.

The report is an unanswerable indictment not only of the banks, but also of western governments and regulatory agencies, which are fully aware of the banks' illegal but highly lucrative activities, and tacitly sanction them.

BuzzFeed writes that its investigation demonstrates "an underlying truth of the modern era: the networks through which dirty money traverses the world have become vital arteries of the global economy. They enable a shadow financial system so wide-ranging and so unchecked that it has become inextricable from the so-called legitimate economy. Banks with household names have helped to make it so".

The report continues: "Profits from deadly drug wars, fortunes embezzled from developing countries, and hard-earned savings stolen in a Ponzi scheme were all allowed to flow into and out of these financial institutions, despite warnings from the banks' own employees."

"Money laundering is a crime that makes other crimes possible. It can accelerate economic inequality, drain public funds, undermine democracy, and destabilise nations – and the banks play a key role. 'Some of these people in crisp white shirts in their sharp suits are feeding off the tragedy of people dying all over the world,' said Martin Woods, a former suspicious transactions investigator for Wachovia."

The report goes on to explain that "even after they were prosecuted or fined for financial misconduct, banks such as JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon continued to move money for suspected criminals".

The extensive report is based on more than 21,000 "suspicious activity reports" (SARs) filed by some of the world's biggest banks with the US Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement

Network, or FinCEN, between 1999 and 2017.

FinCEN makes its database of SARs available to more than 450 law enforcement and regulatory agencies across the United States.

What BuzzFeed calls the "FinCEN Files" were leaked to the news outlet more than a year ago. It has since been combing through them, in collaboration with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which co-authored the report.

BuzzFeed News notes that it also shared the SARs with more than 100 other news organisations in 88 countries. The report, titled "Dirty Money Pours Into The World's Most Powerful Banks," includes only a small and redacted sample of the news outlet's hoard of suspicious activity reports.

The US government maintains a policy of total secrecy in relation to the SARs, refusing to release them even in response to Freedom of Information requests. Earlier this year, the Treasury Department issued a statement declaring that the unauthorised disclosure of SARs is a crime. In an obvious attempt at intimidation and threat of prosecution, the statement added that the matter was being referred to the Department of Justice and the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General.

Corporate

The initial response of the American corporate media has been to bury or entirely ignore the BuzzFeed revelations. A recent print edition of the *New York Times* carried a report on page eight of its business section. The print editions of the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* made no mention of the exposé.

The report is based on more than 22,000 pages of documents concerning over 10,000 subjects and involving more than 170 countries and territories. Nearly 90 banks and other financial institutions are included in the institutions that submitted the SARs.

JPMorgan Chase, the biggest US bank, recorded the highest total value of transactions listed in the FinCEN Files: US\$514 billion, based on 107 suspicious activity reports. (Its CEO, Jamie Dimon, was at one time known as "Obama's favourite banker").

Deutsche Bank accounts for the highest number of SARs, 982, with a total value of US\$1.3 trillion.

The other banks on the top 10 list are Bank of New York Mellon,



Money laundering is a crime that makes other crimes possible. It can accelerate economic inequality, drain public funds, undermine democracy, and destabilise nations

British-based Standard Chartered, Barclays, HSBC, Bank of China, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citibank.

One report, filed by JPMorgan in August, 2014, lists over US\$355 billion in suspicious activity relating to more than 100,000 wire transfers "sent, received or transferred" over the course of a decade by MKS, a Swiss-based company that trades in precious metals.

At least 25 of the people named as subjects in the SARs have appeared on Forbes' list of billionaires in 2018, 2019 or 2020.

The findings featured in the BuzzFeed report include:

- Standard Chartered moved money on behalf of Al Zarooni Exchange, a Dubai-based business that was later accused of laundering cash on behalf of the Taliban.
- HSBC's Hong Kong branch allowed WCM777, a Ponzi scheme, to move more than US\$15 million even as the business was being barred from operating in three states. Authorities say the scheme stole some US\$80 million from investors, mainly Latino and Asian immigrants. The firm's owner used the funds to buy two golf courses, a mansion, a 39.8-carat diamond and mining rights in Sierra Leone.
- Bank of America, Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, American Express, and other financial firms, processed millions of dollars in transactions for Viktor Khrapunov, the former mayor of Kazakhstan's most populous city, even after Interpol issued an order for his arrest. Khrapunov fled to Switzerland and was later convicted in absentia on charges, including bribe-taking and defrauding the city.

A separate piece by NBC News presents evidence that JPMorgan, Bank of New York Mellon and other banks helped move more than US\$150 million for companies tied to the North Korean regime.

In other words, the biggest US and international banks have made countless millions in profits serving as money launderers for terror outfits such as the Taliban and governments of so-called "rogue countries" such as North Korea – with the knowledge and tacit approval of the governments of the US and other major powers, even as these same governments were waging or threatening war against the targeted terrorist organisations and overseas regimes.

The BuzzFeed report describes the cynical rationale behind the formality of banks filing SARs, which, for the most part, are never even read by the staff of FinCEN. Over the past decade, the number of SARs filed by major banks has sharply increased, indicating a growth of money laundering and other illegal activities on behalf of criminal clients. Over the same period, the staff of FinCEN has shrunk by 10 percent.

Banks are legally required to file an SAR with FinCEN if they suspect a transaction might be linked to illegal activity. Large banks file tens of thousands of such reports every year. In 2017, 19 large banks filed a total of 640,000 suspicious activity reports, according to a study by the Bank Policy Institute, a lobbying group.

Executives

But as the BuzzFeed report explains, "So long as a bank files a notice that it may be facilitating criminal activity, it all but immunises itself and its executives from criminal prosecution. The suspicious activity alert effectively gives them a free pass to keep moving the money and collecting the fees."

In its article on the FinCEN Files report, the *New York Times* noted that JPMorgan wired money to banks in Switzerland, Lebanon and Nigeria on behalf of a convicted

money launderer, reported the transactions to British and American authorities, and continued doing business with the client. The Nigerian government is now suing the bank in a British court.

This collusion between gangster bankers and capitalist government regulators is a continuation of longstanding policy. In 2012, the Obama administration refused to criminally prosecute Britain's biggest bank, HSBC, after it acknowledged laundering billions of dollars for Mexican and Colombian drug cartels. Among the bank's major clients was the Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico, which is known for dismembering its victims and publicly displaying their body parts.

That was in keeping with the policy of the US government of shielding top bankers from any accountability for illegal activities, including those that led to the collapse of the financial system in 2008, and ushered in what at that time was the deepest slump since the Great Depression. To this day, not a single leading executive of a major bank has been prosecuted, let alone jailed, for fraudulent activities that led to the destruction of millions of jobs and the decimation of working-class living standards in the US and around the world.

As the World Socialist Website wrote at the time, "Here, in a nutshell, is the modern-day aristocratic principle that prevails behind the threadbare trappings of 'democracy'."

"The financial robber barons of today are a law unto themselves. They can steal, plunder, even murder at will, without fear of being called to account. They devote a portion of their fabulous wealth to bribing politicians, regulators, judges and police – from the heights of power in Washington down to the local police precinct – to make sure their wealth is protected and they remain immune from criminal prosecution."

wsws.org



The front page of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network – FinCEN – website

CHINA WATCH

INTEREST in China is growing, yet most news and analysis outside the country is produced by mainstream media from the global north. To provide access to Chinese perspectives, the *Dong Feng Collective* – researchers from various countries – offers a China digest of news. This is an edited selection.

Socialist Shenzhen

CHINA says it plans to transform Shenzhen into a "socialist model" by 2025, leading growth and innovation in the Greater Bay Area. The project will allow the city to advance in the technology, energy, telecommunications, transportation, education and land management sectors.

Global Times

China joins COVAX

CHINA has joined COVAX, the US\$2 billion global distribution agreement on COVID-19 vaccines, prioritising developing countries. More than 170 countries have joined the WHO-backed scheme, although the US has refused to. It aims to produce two billion doses by end of next year.

Reuters

Action on loans

CHINA is participating in the global Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) as a lender of US\$28 billion, maturing in 2020. According to a study, China has never seized assets from debtor countries, and has already agreed to renegotiate a quarter (US\$94 billion) of its total loans.

Rhodium Group

Asia on a roll

DEVELOPING countries, mostly in Asia, will account for 95 percent of global growth in 2020-2021, with China accounting for 51 percent, according to the IMF. The GDP of advanced economies is expected to fall 3.6 percent below their 2019 level in 2021.

Asia Times

COVID-19 efficiency

AFTER discovering 13 new COVID-19 cases, the coastal city of Qingdao tested nearly 11 million residents in five days using an efficient batch-testing method. More than 10,000 medical workers were mobilised, with a single lab testing 400,000 samples per day.

Xinhua

Firms sue US govt

MORE than 3,500 US companies are suing their government for economic losses due to tariffs imposed on Chinese imports. The trade war against China has seen US companies' share value fall by US\$1.7 trillion and is expected to cost the US economy around US\$316 billion by end of this year.

Financial Times

Boost for women

BETWEEN 1995 and 2018, China made important improvements in women's education, health and poverty, but discrimination remains a challenge. Women's illiteracy (24.1-7.5 percent) and maternal mortality were reduced (61.9-18.3/100,000).

CGTN

Vocational training

THE Government has invested US\$14.7 billion in vocational education reform, prioritising access by peasants and migrant workers. At least one new technical college will be built in 14 poor areas, with the goal of training a million new skilled workers over a five-year period.

Sixth Tone

War fears as US trades blows over China's economic might

US President Donald Trump and his “war council” led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have amplified their aggression against China. What began as a trade dispute in the 1990s has now escalated into the United States making an existential challenge against China following its emergence as a major economic and technological power. What most rankles the US ruling class is that the various hybrid war techniques to weaken or overthrow governments are simply not available. The only means at the disposal of the United States to hold on to its power – chillingly – is armed force

Vijay Prashad

The US-imposed hybrid war on China

IS THE United States trying to impose a war on China? For the past several decades, the US has conducted a trade war against China. There are two key issues that worry the US; first, a trade imbalance that benefits China, and, second, the growth of the Chinese technology sector.

Techniques that the US has used against China include; pressuring China to revalue its currency against the dollar, pressuring China to prevent “piracy” on intellectual property in order to slow down its domestic intellectual property developments, and pressuring China to slow down or cease its Belt and Road Initiative.

The US has now begun a war against the Chinese economy. The attempt to isolate Huawei and ZTE from their suppliers and markets will have a debilitating impact on the growth potential of the Chinese economy.

The US has sanctioned roughly 152 companies that make chips and other products for Huawei and ZTE. Increased bans – through the US government’s Clean Network initiative – would prevent US companies from using Chinese cloud services and undersea cables, and it would ban Chinese apps from appearing on app stores. The US government has increased pressure on other countries to join in this campaign.

The US government has increased its military pressure along the eastern rim of China. This includes the 2017 revival of the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, and the US), the creation of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy (its key document from 2020 is called “Regain the Advantage”), and the development of a range of new weaponry, including cyber weapons.

This military power has come alongside hostile rhetoric against China, with attention focused on



War and peace: Liu Bolin, China, *Guernica*, 2016 (above), and Zhong Biao, China, *Paradise*, 2007 (below)

Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Taiwan, and the depiction of the coronavirus pandemic as a “China virus”.

Evidence is not as important here as the use of older racist and anti-Communist ideas to demonise China.

Why is the US increasing its pressure on China?

CHINA’S technological advances could result in a generational advantage over the West. Its scientific and technological developments came about because of the country’s investment in higher education and its ability to transfer technology from firms that entered the country to manufacture goods.

In 2018, Chinese scholars for the first time published more scientific articles than their colleagues in the US, and Chinese firms filed more patent applications than US firms. Chinese tech firms have now produced products that appear to be ahead of US, European, and Japanese products. Examples of this include 5G, BeiDou (a better mapping technology than GPS), high-speed trains, and robots.

Faced with US pressure, China has crafted an independent trade and development agenda.

Since the world financial crisis, China began diversifying its economy from reliance upon the US and European markets to build up its own internal market and to increase engagement with the Global South.

The immediate projects that developed included the Belt and Road Initiative, the String of Pearls Initiative, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the China-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Forum. The Chinese government has also begun to pay more attention to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). These moves come alongside a remarkable poverty eradication programme.

Currently, China is highly dependent on imported energy, such as gas from ASEAN nations, Australia, and Qatar. The China-Russia 6000km “Power of Siberia” pipeline will provide 38 billion cubic metres of natural gas, a substantial increase to meet the demands for

the 90 billion cubic metres consumed by China. In 2014, Russia’s multinational energy corporation Gazprom and the China National Petroleum Corporation signed a US\$400 billion, 30-year deal.

Increasingly, China has attempted to build institutions outside of Western-controlled trade and development architecture, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (founded in 2014). As part of this, China has committed to de-dollarisation – it has proposed to hold its reserves and to conduct trade in currencies other than the US dollar. This is a long-term but inevitable development, and one that threatens the overall role of the Wall Street-dollar complex.

China’s cooperation with Russia is most advanced in this arena, with about 50 percent of Russia-China trade conducted in roubles and yuan (Russia owns about 25 percent of the global yuan reserves). Both Russia and China are divesting themselves of their dollar reserves. In January 2020, Russia sold US\$101 billion – or 50 percent – of its dollar reserves, and moved US\$44 billion into Euros and US\$44 billion into yuan. The yuan, however, represents only about 2 percent of global currency reserves.

Against the eastward expansion of NATO and the emergence of the

THE eighth century Chinese poet Li Bai wrote of the ugliness of war – as far as war is concerned, nothing has changed over the centuries

Soldiers smear their blood on the dry grass

While generals map the next campaign

Wise people know winning a war

Is no better than losing one

Quad, China and Russia have crafted a military and diplomatic Eurasian security bloc. This is evident in the arms deals and the military exercises, but also in diplomatic coordination. For example, Russian and Chinese foreign ministry spokespersons Maria Zakharova and Hua Chunying said in late July that they would join efforts in combatting the information war against China and Russia.

Chinese diplomats have taken a more forthright attitude in their statements. They have been dubbed the “wolf warrior diplomats”, an allusion to a popular film where a Chinese soldier from an elite Wolf Warrior troop defeats a group of terrorists led by an ex-US Navy Seal.

Clearly, the US has found that Chinese leadership has been un-

willing to go the Gorbachev road – namely, to surrender the Chinese model to the will of the United States. There is no possibility that the Communist Party of China will dissolve itself. The Chinese middle class – possible fodder for a “colour revolution” – does not have any appetite to overthrow the government. It is content with the direction of the government and sees that its government has improved living standards and has been able – unlike Western governments – to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic.

A Harvard University study shows that the government led by the Communist Party of China has increased its approval from 2003 to 2016, largely because of the social welfare programmes, and the fight against corruption pushed by both the Communist Party of China and by the Chinese government. The overall approval stands at 93 percent.

What contradictions do the US war project face?

CHINESE economic developments – such as the country’s capacity to outspend the US in development aid to outbid Western firms in trade deals – has produced alliances between China and key capitalist sectors in countries that have otherwise been secure US allies. Ex-

amples of this are among sections of the capitalist class in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, where Chinese investment has been welcomed.

The Chinese state has intensified its intervention in the tech sector inside China, with a US\$14 billion private and public fund to support tech developments. Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC) – China’s top chip company – had an initial public offering (IPO) in Shanghai which netted US\$7.5 billion. As a consequence of such funds and its own scientific developments, China will soon be able to bypass the US chip firms.

China’s economic capacity continues to exert pressure on fragments of capital in different countries. For instance, Australian mining companies rely upon China to buy iron ore from Australia. These companies lobby Canberra not to take too hostile a position against China. Roughly one third of Australia’s total exports go to China; these include soy, barley, meat, fruits, gas, and the raw minerals.

The Australian government is forced to acknowledge these concerns, even though it has a longer-term perspective than the short-term profit concerns of the mining conglomerates. China has already hedged its bets, increasing purchases of soy and meat from Argentina and Brazil, and it is likely to buy more mined goods from Brazil (Brazil’s Vale is using massive ships to carry mined goods to China).

The US military is stretched thin between the conflicts in Venezuela and Iran, and now in China. The US Navy has had four secretaries in a year, part of the chaos in the Trump administration. As a consequence, the US Navy has complained about the lack of ability to handle so many theatres of war at the same time.

China has developed sophisticated defence mechanisms, such as cyber warfare techniques that have the ability to shut down US communications, starting with their satellites, and such as their Dongfeng missiles, which are capable of hitting the US naval ships that are in the South China Sea.

Tricontinental





EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND AGRICULTURE

The masses of our people are engaging themselves in these struggles to gain material benefits, to live better lives and in peace, to have **free education, quality healthcare, clean water, decent sanitation, a solid roof over their heads,** and all the services required in an organised society

JUSTICE EQUITY & PEACE



*Manifesto of the Socialist Party
2021-2026*

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