

## PF says Kambwili was a cancer

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Patriotic Front (PF) Deputy Spokesperson Frank Bwalya says former information minister Chishimba Kambwili will soon rot like any part of the body does after being amputated.

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## HH, Lungu conciliation has its ups and downs - Mpundu

By Joseph Mwenda

Lusaka Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu says the reconciliation process that Catholic bishops are spearheading between President Edgar Lungu and UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema may take time to yield positive results because it has its own ups and downs.

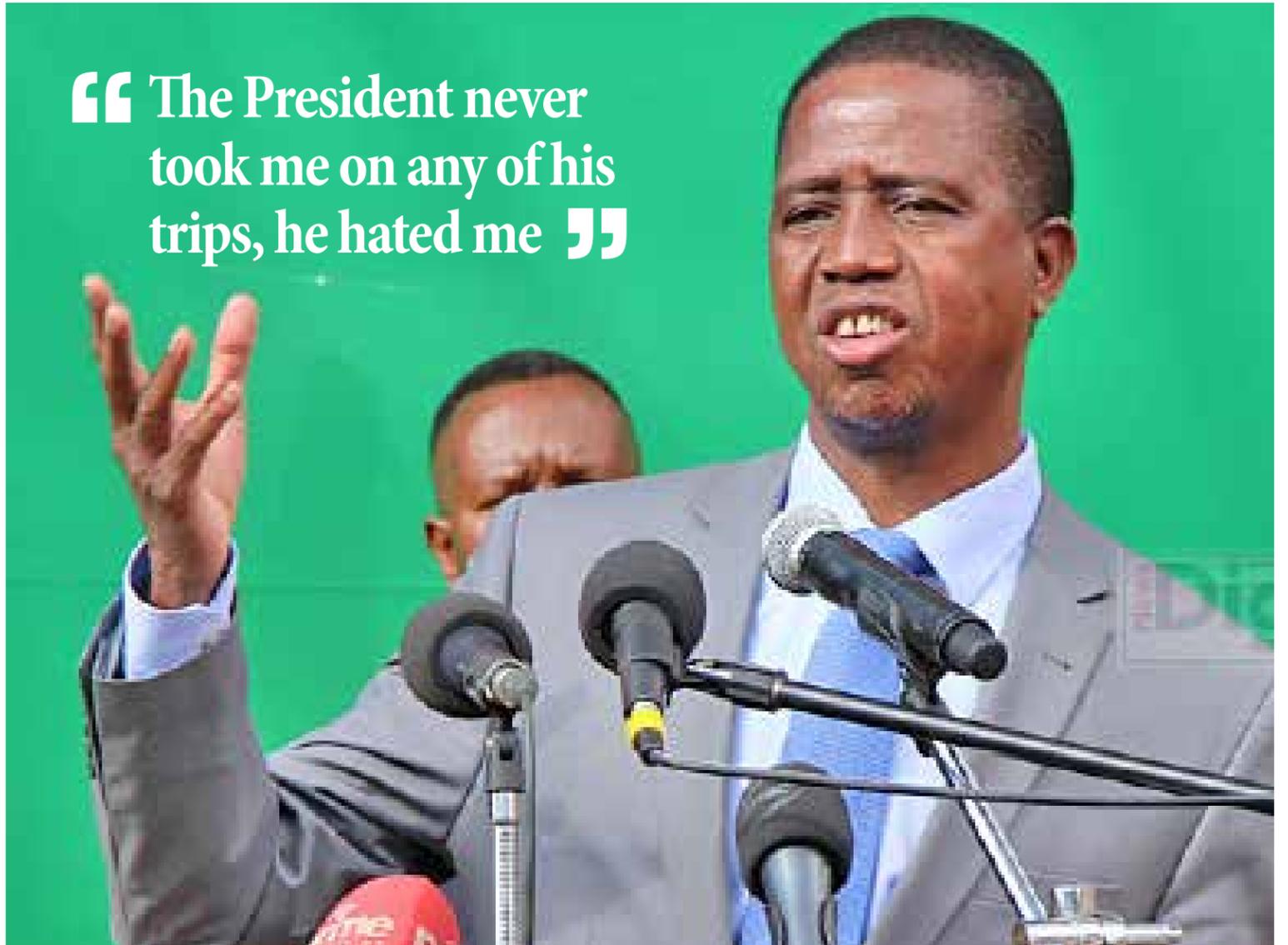
...continues on P3

## Domestic debt up by K10bn in 6 months - Mutati

P7

# Questions arise over digital migration...

“The President never took me on any of his trips, he hated me”



# WHO GOT THE \$273M?

## Lungu worked with ZNBC DG and PS, I washed my hands against single sourcing - Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga

Former information minister Chishimba Kambwili says government will spend \$273 million on digital migration in six provinces when it only spent \$9 million in four provinces.

On a special edition of Muvi TV's The Assignment programme yesterday,

Kambwili said he washed his hands when government

decided to single source Top Star.

“I did not play a role in

the digital migration.

In fact, when a decision was made to single

source, that's the time I washed my hands.

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## UPND MPS not working - Hamukale

Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale says he is disappointed with Southern Province members of parliament because they are not working.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Government Forum, Hamukale said most of the MPs were being overshadowed by Councillors.WW

“My disappointment is really, I would say with some of my fellow MPs

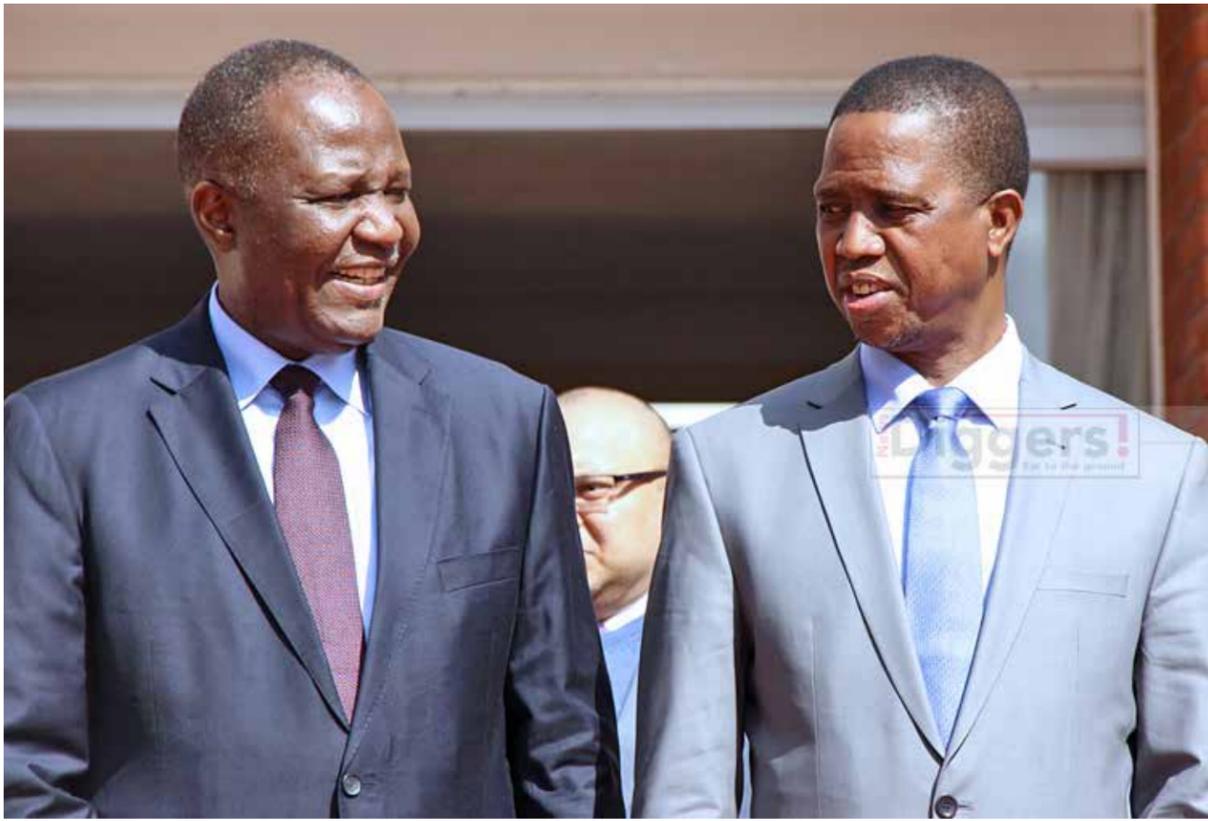
who never go to visit the people.

...continues on P3

**Kampyongo was nothing, he will be nothing after govt - Kabimba**

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# We're too poor to choose who should help us, says Finance Minister Felix Mutati



Felix Mutati with President Lungu

**By Karen Mwelwa** Finance Minister Felix Mutati has warned government officials against engaging in idle and aimless debates on the country's engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying some negative statements were unprogressive. Speaking when he featured on

a ZNBC special programme, Mutati said Zambia was too poor to select who could help its fiscal position.

"Let's bring ideas to the table than engaging in premature debates about the programme. The debates should be how can they help and think together with government's collective wisdom? how can we enhance this performance so that it is much more solid, much more injective, much more inclusive for the people of Zambia? This is a critical point, that should be the debate," Mutati said.

"You can't begin to say that we don't need it, how are you going to grow the economy? You don't need China, how are you going to grow the economy? You don't need EU, how are you going to grow the economy? Our economy is so small, so the issue is not selecting A, B, C, D or E. It the combination of everybody for us to grow the economy, so the debate shouldn't be aimless about selecting, how can you select when you are so poor? We are not yet there," he said.

"Until we get there the choices are limited so let's not have this idle debate, do we need them? that's not the debate, the debate should be how do we grow, stabilize and grow the economy? How do we create the jobs, how do

we bring in investments that should be the argument?"

Mutati said government was in control of negotiations with the IMF on an economic bailout package.

"Our engagement with IMF as Zambia has been on the basis of home grown Zambia Plus programme. And the reason we are bringing in IMF is to support our external sector, the balance of payment support. So the programme with IMF is under control, we have shifted from the pre-conditionality of doing things saying 'you must, you must' to benchmarking and all we are saying in that programme is, for example, 'you are going to maintain your fiscal deficit of not more than 7.4% of GDP for 2017, is the answer yes or no?' We said yes. So all they are doing is monitoring the things that we said ourselves we will do, so don't worry, we are in control. We are the masters of our program, we are the masters of the implementation, we are the masters of driving that programme, we are in charge," said Mutati.

"We will remain in charge and in control because we are the ones that are accountable to the people of Zambia. If we fail, its government that is going to be held responsible. We are the ones that must take the decisions on everything that we do. And that's why we have our own home grown program as the basis of engagement, as the basis of telling IMF that this is what we are able to do in 2017,2018 ,2019 and going forward."

## Cancer prevention and control measures are a matter of urgency - Esther Lungu

**By Mukosha Funga** First Lady Esther Lungu has called on

She said the cancer fight was expected to be costly as the HIV fight was since the estimated cost of cervical cancer was expected to double from 2.7 billion dollars pay year in 2010 to 4.7 billion dollars pay year in 2030.

Mrs Lungu said Zambia like other African countries



the global governments and the private sector to increase investments in cancer prevention and control as a matter of urgency.

According to a statement issued by Zambia's First Secretary for Press to South Africa Naomi Nyawali, Esther said delaying investments in the prevention of cancer would be too costly to comprehend in a speech read on her behalf by former first lady Dr Christine Kaseba Sata at the 11th Stop Cervical, breast and prostate cancer in Africa Conference held at the Hilton Hotel in Johannesburg.

Esther said cancer prevention and control was a moral imperative and critical investment in the future of societies.

was not able to afford another pandemic in the form of cancer on the heels of its relentless fight against HIV and other infectious diseases.

She disclosed that about 70 per cent of the diagnosed cancer patients in Zambia die making the cancer related mortality very high. She said high mortality was what had triggered all efforts and programmes to ensure that cancer related mortality was reduced.

Esther said Zambia would be the first country to be supported by the Global Fund for Cervical Cancer Screening in Zambia, in conjunction with organizations such as PEPFAR, CDC, CIDRZ and PRRR.

She said the next ten years would demand

sustained and tireless efforts in ensuring that the objective of reducing

cancer mortality rate by two thirds by the year 2030 was achieved.

## IPI raises new alert on political situation in Zambia

**By Joseph Mwenda** The International Press Institute (IPI) today expressed concern over the imposition of emergency powers in Zambia and recent comments made by Inspector General of police Kakoma Kanganja that some publications could be closed while the 90-day [Threatened] State of Emergency is in place.

In a statement, IPI Director of Advocacy and Communications Steven Ellis raised a new international alert on the political situation in Zambia and the narrowing space for private media.

He said the imposition of emergency powers by President Edgar Lungu was politically motivated.

"Given developments in Zambia in the last year, the partial state of emergency would seem to be part of a broader effort that we have observed to silence critical voices, including the country's remaining independent media outlets, and to step up the crackdown on the main opposition party, while at the same time fending off challenges from within the President's own party," he commented.

"We fear that emergency rule could facilitate human rights violations and we call on Zambia's government to respect the vital role of media freedom in a democracy and to refrain from exerting political pressure on the country's media outlets. Zambia was

until recently regarded a model for stability, democracy and human rights in Africa, but events leading up to and since disputed August 2016 general elections that saw President Lungu narrowly re-elected to a second term have raised serious concerns about the state of democracy and media freedom in Zambia."

He noted that UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema was arrested and detained on trumped up charges.

"UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema, who narrowly lost the 2016 presidential election to Lungu, is currently behind bars, arrested on trumped up treason charges after his motorcade allegedly blocked Lungu's presidential motorcade in April," said Ellis. And the IPI went further to highlight recent events in Zambia.

On July 5, President Edgar Lungu initiated a 'State of threatened public emergency' and indicated that he might declare a full state of emergency if the "existing situation" in the country is 'allowed to continue', a procedure set out in the country's Constitution. The move came amid a string of apparent arson attacks, including one that burnt down the capital Lusaka's main market. Lungu alleged that supporters of the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) were behind the attacks, which he



IPI director for advocacy Steven Ellis

said were intended to 'make the country ungovernable,' IPI stated.

"Zambia's National Assembly approved the emergency powers invoked by Lungu on July 11 and extended the state of threatened emergency for a period of 90 days. The vote was held without the participation of 48 UPND members of parliament, who were suspended for 30 days without pay by the speaker of the National Assembly after they boycotted an address by Lungu to the house."

IPI expressed fear that the situation could worsen in the country.

"Invocation of Art. 31 of Zambia's Constitution allows the president to invoke the Preservation of Public Security Act, which enables the president to prohibit public gatherings, impose curfews and restrict the media, among other actions. It also gives

the police increased powers of arrest and detention," IPI stated, with added concern over threats from the police.

"Speaking to journalists at Zambia police headquarters in Lusaka on Saturday, police Inspector General Kakoma Kanganja suggested that some "publications" could be shut down while the emergency powers were in place. 'During this period, police will regulate and prohibit publication and dissemination of matters [that are] pre-judicial to public safety,' he said. Kanganja noted that the regulations in the Preservation of Public Security Act could be revised at any time. 'As we speak, there will be additions to what I have commented on,' he said. 'You will find [that] we'll limit some of these publications, social media and the rest where people are abusing, we might end up limiting on those publications,' stated IPI.

# Wynter invites Kambwili to join Rainbow

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says expelled Roan PF Member of Parliament Chishimba Kambwili must stop crying like a boy on social media and show the Patriotic Front that he's a man. Speaking on Prime TV's Oxygen of Democracy programme yesterday, Kabimba invited Kambwili to join the Rainbow Party because he did not perceive anyone from the PF to be his enemy.

"We expected PF to be a dignified political organization and that's what attracted some of us to PF. However, this situation which the honourable Member of Parliament for Roan constituency found himself in is a culture that was cultivated by him. For me I made a statement which I hope he doesn't take personal, I said that those who kill by the sword shall die by the sword. I had something as I was coming here for the interview after listening

to the news that there was a media briefing of PF district in Lusaka endorsing the Central Committee's decision to expel Kambwili and there was another briefing in Kaoma by PF members endorsing the Central Committee. For God's sake when are we going to come to the end with this culture?" Kabimba wondered. "You have heard me most of the time when I have appeared on Radio programmes, people have

been calling the phone line to tell me that no 'you have just become unpopular', so is Kambwili also unpopular? So the thing here is that this is a trend by those that remain behind to try to destroy you and I hope Kambwili, who is even bigger than me, can be more courageous. Fisanga abauwe boi, that's what I can say to him and don't cry on social media everyday like a boy, get up and walk and show them that you are a man. And he is free to come and join the

Rainbow Party because me I have always said that I don't treat anybody from PF as my enemy even those that think and know that they wronged me, I have forgiven them like Christ said on the cross that 'they did not know what they were doing'. That's my position with those in the Rainbow Party." And Kabimba said President Lungu's tendency of responding to questions from journalists at the airport was dangerous because it caused him to give inaccurate information.

"This culture by the President which I have not agreed to starting from the Chiluba era where you just disappear from the country for two days then you land at the airport and you run into journalists without being briefed properly and you are answering questions off the cuff, that's very dangerous. So the President must take time and this is why I liked about Michael Sata, I never saw Michael answering questions like that. Michael would come, alight from the plane and jump on the chopper and go straight to State House until he is briefed, he wouldn't speak. But this excitement of talking at the airport and having a media briefing at the airport where you just land and say 'forget about human rights now!' are they your human rights? No Sir!" Kabimba said.

Kabimba also noted that the PF leadership was using the Threatened State of Emergency to stifle divergent views. "So we take a position as Rainbow that this situation of a Threatened State of Emergency can only be used to victimize those that have got

divergent views from the government. This situation can only be used to try to muzzle divergent views. And is this what you call a Christian nation? No sir, I disagree. Is this a situation that can allow you to create the Ministry of Religious Affairs? No, I disagree. We are doing different things from what Christianity proclaims and this actually reminds me of what the Bible says that not all those that will say they are God's children are actually his children; that's what we see. The Bible is being used, the PF leadership is attending Church and yet when they get out of those buildings after the service, they go to do completely different things, so we disagree as Rainbow Party," said Kabimba.

Meanwhile, Mulongoti said the Chief Government Spokesperson Mulenga Kampamba had been overshadowed by State House officials who were fond of issuing statements on behalf of government. "It's a shame that the civil service has been turned into something else. We have seen Mr Amos Chanda taking government positions to explain to us the meaning of a State of Emergency and he is not even a lawyer himself. It's so surprising you know, to see that Mr Amos Chanda is behaving like a politician. I think he is a civil servant. The Chief Government Spokesperson has been overshadowed by civil servants from State House who are busy taking the position of government about things they don't even understand. However, our position is that we are not convinced at all by this declaration of this intended emergency," said Mulongoti.



## UPND MPs not working, observes Hamukale

**Form front page**  
They don't want to work. They don't want to work with government. But I am extremely happy with the mayors and councillors. I can assure you at the rate we are going, most of the MPs in Southern province will be replaced by councillors and mayors because mayors are working," Hamukale said. He said it is time for people of Southern Province to begin to take

to task MPs who had gone on holiday, waiting for campaign time. "So time is now upon the people of Southern Province to begin to take to task MPs who have gone on holiday and they only re-appear during elections. Some MPs don't even know the number of schools and clinics in their constituencies," he observed. And Hamukale said generally, the ordinary people of Southern

Province were peaceful and law abiding. "The ordinary people of Southern province are very peaceful. Just few individuals that want to create some imaginary tension by burning markets and target certain key and sensitive strategic

institution infrastructure by way of frustrating government. With article 31 that was debated and agreed upon in Parliament that it should come into effect, there is total peace in Southern Province and we have had that peace," said Dr Hamukale.

## Questions arise over digital migration

**From front page**  
So those who think I

have anything to do with digital migration, I have nothing to do with it. We spent \$9 million dollars but to migrate the remaining six provinces, we are going to spend \$273 million. That's all I know," Kambwili said. But when prodded further, Kambwili said he did not want to answer any questions on "an agenda he did not push". Kambwili also revealed that he was not part of President Edgar Lungu's entourage to China when the digital migration deal was hatched. "I will tell you something

for nothing, Minister of Information is also Chief Government Spokesperson. When the President is travelling, he usually travels with the Minister of Information, in the one year I was Minister of Information, I never travelled not even one trip with His Excellency the President. Not even one trip did I travel outside the borders of Zambia with the President. And to make matters worse, they went to discuss the digital migration in China and instead of taking me, he took the Director

General of ZNBC and the permanent secretary and they went to discuss many other issues concerning other ministries, he took the Ministry of Works, he took the Ministry of Agriculture, he took all the ministers that were involved in the sectors that they were going to discuss, I was the only person who was left and I didn't complain because I don't complain usually. So you can see that what has happened emanates from the fact that it is natural, you cannot force someone to like you," said Kambwili.

## HH, Lungu conciliation has its ups and downs - Mpundu

**From front page**  
The bishops have so far met both President Lungu and incarcerated Hichilema, and they were back at State House yesterday, as reported by Smart Eagles, to give feedback to the Head of State on their visit to Mukobeko Maximum prison. Speaking after a second meeting with President Lungu, Archbishop Mpundu said Zambians must not expect

immediate results from the winding process. "We went to [Hichilema to] hear one side and we brought what we heard from him to the President. We came to convey what we heard from him to the President," Archbishop Mpundu said. He told journalists that the seed had only been planted and that it was premature to expect immediate harvest.

"There is no conclusion, we are just beginning. The process has its own ups and downs but hopefully the ups and downs are going up so we will see after some time whether we have made progress or not. We can not pre-empt now when we have just started. You are being too impatient. We have just put seeds in the soil and you are waiting for it to be harvested," said Archbishop Mpundu.

# Kampyongo was nothing, he'll be nothing after govt – Kabimba

**By Mukosha Funga**

Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says he cannot lower himself to argue with Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo because he was nothing and he will be nothing after leaving government. Recently, Kampyongo mocked Wynter, who is a former justice minister for

calling the PF a chipante pante government and opposing to the invocation of Article 31 by President Edgar Lungu.

Kampyongo also described Kabimba as a political amateur adding that he only entered Parliament out of Michael Sata's mercy.

But in an interview, Kabimba said it was a waste of time to argue with Kampyongo

because he was nothing.

"To get into diatribes with a character like Kampyongo, to be honest with you is a waste of time. What am I supposed to say? That I am a good lawyer? What am I supposed to say? That is just to lower myself to his level. Am I the only lawyer who has disagreed with Lungu? No! LAZ has disagreed, so everybody in LAZ is

not a good lawyer? So you can see that that debate is cheap. That's my view. Can you line up my CV and Kampyongo's CV and compare the two? Are you sure they are comparable? Kampyongo is just a human being as long as he remains Minister of Home Affairs. Once he is out of that place, Kampyongo will be nothing. He was nothing before he

became minister, he will be nothing after he ceases to be minister. So to get into a debate with him in the press is really not a debate in my view," Kabimba said.

Kabimba said being in the National Assembly was not a huge achievement.

"I heard him say that 'oh Michael did him a favor by nominating him to Parliament', is being a member of parliament in a third world country the highest achievement that anybody can look forward to? In fact I am happy that I was member of parliament and if I told you what I think about that parliament, the Speaker can cite me for contempt. If I honestly expressed my opinion, what I think about the quality of our National Assembly, it is not something that one would be proud of," said

Kabimba.

"So there are better issues we can discuss instead of discussing Kampyongo, we will just be elevating him to some level where he shouldn't be. This is the man who thinks he can divorce his wife because now women who couldn't have said yes to him have said yes because he is minister. How can I argue with a human being like that? How many ministers have we seen who marry and immediately they are out, the women they married tells them 'you are just a useless character', they are many on the list you can put and I am sure Kampyongo will go the same route. So my view is that that should not be a debate that we should be pushing forward. I don't have a small mind myself, I have a big mind and I am very objective."



## Lungu swears in new Ambassadors

**By Diggers Reporter**

President Edgar Lungu has urged Zambian Ambassadors and High Commissioners to challenge people opposing Government in the diaspora.

President Lungu says Ambassadors and High Commissioners have a task to explain the development Zambia has achieved under the PF Government.

The President was speaking at State House when he swore in former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Rayford Mbulu as Zambian High Commissioner to Ghana and former Defense Permanent Secretary Rose Salukatula as Ambassador to Sweden.

Others are Andrew Chellah as Special Assistant to the President for Project Implementation and Monitoring, Boyd Chirwa as Public Policy specialist -Policy Analysis and Co-ordination division and Erick Wamundila as Documentalist-Policy Analysis and Co-ordination division.

And President Lungu has challenged the appointees to deliver for the betterment of the country.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mbulu has assured President Lungu that he will aim at improving on the records set by past High Commissioners.

And Ms Salukatula said she will continue from where her predecessor left to create stronger bilateral ties between Sweden and Zambia. ZNBC

## Premature presidential endorsements will lead to acrimonious campaigns - Lifuka

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**

Transparency International Zambia president Reuben Lifuka says 2021 presidential candidacy debates are premature and risk ushering the country into acrimonious election campaigns.

On Sunday, Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila announced that the party's Central Committee has adopted President Edgar Lungu as their preferred candidate for 2021 subject to approval by the general conference in 2020.

But in an interview with News Diggers!, Lifuka said the debates were a distraction to the problems affecting the Zambian people.

"It is our considered view that discussions and processes of selecting or naming sole candidates for the 2021 Presidential election is not only premature, but unnecessary

distraction from the current problems that affect the Zambian people. Premature nominations of presidential candidates will usher the nation into a premature and possibly acrimonious election campaign," Lifuka said.

Lifuka also urged the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) to focus on delivering on their campaign promises and work towards improving the well-being of Zambians.

"It is a pity that in Zambia, our political leaders are obsessed with politicking and campaigning for office instead of in vesting their time and energy in devising appropriate solutions to the myriad of problems and challenges that the people face," said Lifuka.

"We would like to urge the PF as a ruling party to focus on delivering on their campaign promises and generally work to

improve the well being of millions of Zambians, who yearn for development. We would like to urge the PF Government to get its

priorities right and provide leadership, mobilizing Zambians to unite and collectively work for the betterment of our nation."

## It's difficult to understand PF's intolerance of LAZ - Andyford

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says it is difficult to understand why those in the PF government react sharply whenever the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) issues a statement.

In an interview with News Diggers today, Banda accused the ruling party of being allergic to criticism.

"The Law Association of Zambia were very correct and they were very objective but most PF members were over reacting to that statement. I personally read the LAZ statement, I also read the full statement from

the minister of information. I don't understand why people would want to react like that. The point is that the PF are allergic to the views that they think are against them, they just want views that praises them," Banda said.

"Anything that does not praise them, they are against it, they are against divergent views and that is the reason why they were reacting like that. I don't know why this government over reacts when LAZ issues a statement."

And Banda observed that there was already a lot of abuse of powers by the police during the Threatened

State of Emergency.

"We have heard of a few reports of abuse of power by the police, they are not following the guidelines. We still believe that this situation could have been handled in another way as opposed to invoking Article 31. The apprehension is not just coming from the Zambian people but even the international community. They have also expressed concern with a number of happenings in Zambia. The truth of the matter is that all those things are politically motivated. I think there is no secret at the moment," said Banda.

# There's no need to worry about Lungu beyond 2021 – Msoni

**By Joseph Mwenda**  
All People's Congress Party President Nason Msoni says given Zambia's rapidly changing political dynamics, it is highly

unlikely that President Edgar Lungu will be a factor to worry with by 2021. And Msoni says it is illogical for President

Lungu to demand another term of office now before he finishes chewing what is already on his plate. In a statement yesterday, Msoni wondered why the

PF central Committee was excited to endorse President Lungu as candidate when he struggled to win the 2016 general election.

"It is highly unlikely that President Lungu is going to be a factor to worry about beyond his current term of office or beyond in 2021. The make a wish endorsement of President

Edgar Lungu by the PF central committee is a premature move and is of no political significance as it is just a PF thing," Mumba said.

"Worse still it is an unnecessary distraction to running government business. In the end it might well turn out to be a bridge-too-far going by the rapidly changing and developing political landscape and the anticipated twist and turn of events playing out in the country."

He recalled that it was not easy for President Lungu to win the last election.

"He struggled in the 2016 general election to snatch a win from the jaws of defeat, whose results have since been disputed. We think it is even prejudice to make such premature endorsement knowing too well that the matter is still subject to adjudication

by courts. This decision raises more questions than answers unless there is something that the PF is not openly declaring. Insofar as matters stand President Lungu remains constitutionally barred as a candidate to any future election," Msoni said.

And Msoni said President Lungu was looking for more food when his plate was still full.

"In all fairness the normal way of eating is that you need to first finish eating what has been offered on the plate before reaching out for another full plate whilst chewing," said Msoni.

"Our counsel to the head of state is that he should recognise that it's the highest privilege and honour for citizens of the country to give him the opportunity to be president and oversee their national affairs and its not a right neither is it a weakness. The opportunity he has does not entail that there are no other capable citizens who can effectively run the state."



Nurses during official launch of Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

# PF says Kambwili was a cancer

**From front page**

And Bwalya says Kambwili is good at producing lies as big as himself.

Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's 'Let the People Talk' programme today, Bwalya said Kambwili was a cancer to the PF.

He further described Kambwili's vocalism on the media as an amputated cancer which would soon rot.

"Look at how Chishimba Kambwili reacted to madam Dora Siliya joining us, he wanted to project himself as the one with the authority as to who joined the Patriotic Front and who cannot join saying that Dora needed to apologize as far as he was concerned. So it's this ego, it's about himself all the time. If I were him, I would have gone to the President and quietly and air my grievance to the President as the leader of the party who we have deposited the authority into in order to decide on certain decisions including refusing to accept certain members, the President can do that on our behalf," Bwalya said.

"But he wanted to project himself like he depended on who we accept to become a member of the Patriotic Front, that is an act of indiscipline. And that is why we describe him as a cancer,

he has been amputated and very soon alabola (he will rot) because that is what happens to every part of a body that is cut off. So he is going to talk like this yap and yap but very soon he is going to be flat battery."

And Bwalya said Kambwili was selfish and lacked respect for other people.

"Kambwili is a good liar and maybe one thing that he is good at is producing lies as big as himself. He is insisting that he wants to continue being part of PF, now imagine a child who has been told by the parents that you cannot belong to this family, you are kicked out. Then this child goes and looks for a bag of pebbles, stones, sits across the road and begins to throw stones at the house, shuttering windows and so on, punctuated with words like you can't send me away, I belong in this house and he is throwing stones, you can't believe that this child wants to belong to this house which he has started to destroy. So no one believes that Kambwili will not leave the Patriotic Front," Bwalya said.

Bwalya charged that Kambwili was only frustrated that the party never considered him as a presidential material.

"Why is Kambwili seemingly making it look like this is between him and President Edgar Chagwa Lungu? It's only because Kambwili is very frustrated that we have not looked at him as a presidential material to be a penalty taker for the Patriotic Front. But we have decided and am sure we are going to be discussing this, that President Edgar Lungu will be our penalty taker for 2021," he said.

"The problem with our brother in that area is his background. You know he was a scrap metal dealer mubukulu (he gained some of his knowledge in advanced age) not that am trying to look down upon people who acquire degrees when they are already advanced, but in terms of his exposure, we pity him. The only difference that makes him reasonable is that he has a big mouth, of course he speaks loudly and some people maybe misled to think that, that is intelligence. There is usually very little in terms of intellectual inside."

Bwalya said it was expected that Kambwili would not go down easily.

"If Chishimba Kambwili did not speak the manner he is speaking, that would have been the biggest

miracle in political history. This is what is expected of Chishimba Kambwili and maybe he is yet to say a lot of unreasonable things. It is expected, that is who he is. Those of us who have interacted with him closely, we know that he has got no respect for other people, he is too selfish," Bwalya added. "So when he talks about people having come from MMD to PF, it is not the concern, it is not about the ideals and so on, it's that he is threatened personally. He is trying to protect his position and you can see his

arrogance and ego, even in terms of respect and royalty to the President of our party, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, he doesn't have it. Above all, this man clearly lacks discernment...Those are kicks of a dying horse." Bwalya also said Kambwili's biggest mistake was to destabilize the party. "And in that meeting as he was speaking, he was not listening to himself, and he ended up being embarrassed. He stormed out of the meeting. The manner in which Chishimba Kambwili walked out of that

meeting in itself constituted a grave offense against the party. Yes he asked the President to leave, when he asked the president to leave, he was not allowed to leave. He used the word 'I don't want to be part of this illegality' he committed a grave offense," said Bwalya. "The problem with Kambwili is that he over rates himself. However the mistake he has made are not necessarily his wanting to become president but how he has been destabilizing the party trying to demolish anyone he thinks is in his way as he tries to become president. And if there is nothing that the President cannot stand is people who are too full of themselves."

## Musenge contemplates forming own party

**By Mirriam Chabala**

Former Copperbelt Province Minister Mwenya Musenge says he is contemplating forming his own political party.

In an interview today, Musenge, who was expelled from the ruling Patriotic Front along with former information minister Chishimba Kambwili on Saturday, said he was still consulting but forming a party was one was his options as he was a free citizen who could do whatever he wanted.

"You know, as a politician you are servant of the

people and you don't chat your destiny without the input of your masters who happen to be the people. So for now, I am making an effort to consult widely with the general populace more especially in Chimwemwe where I was a Member of Parliament. My wish is to go back to them and thank them for the support they gave me when I was their Member of Parliament and at the same time seek for guidance and advice on how I should proceed politically as an individual," said Musenge.

"So until such a time

that I have done wide consultations will I be in a position to make a final decision on what to do [as in] whether to retire from politics or to do a different angle altogether. So very soon I should be able to do that and I should be visiting a number of Churches where I shall be able to interact with the people of my former constituency. Forming a party is one of my options because as a Zambian I can always go along that route. But for now it is to try and cast my net wider and consult as much as possible on what to do next."

# Court adjourns Sumaili's contempt case to Aug 23

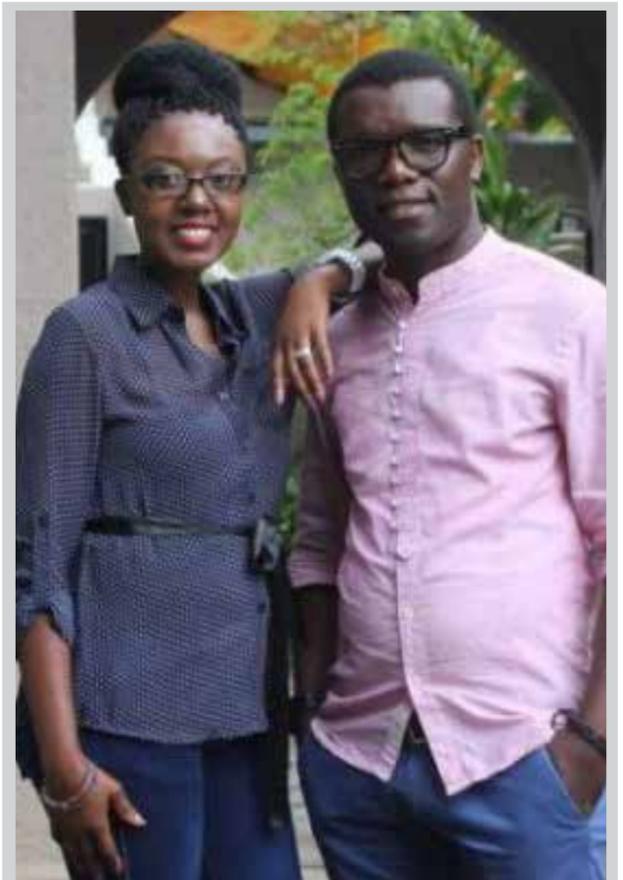


**By Mukosha Funga**  
The Lusaka Magistrates Court has adjourned a matter in which UPND president Hakainde Hichilema asked it to cite Religious Affairs Minister Godfridah Sumaili for contempt to August 23 2017. This is because senior

resident magistrate Ireen Wishimanga is indisposed as she is attending a workshop. Hichilema and five others were also not brought to court from Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison where they are remanded whilst the minister was also not available.

In this matter, Hichilema wants the court to cite Sumaili for contempt of court over remarks attributed to her that "HH is in prison because he pushed Lungu to the wall by not recognising his presidency". Hichilema said such utterances had the

potential to prejudice him in his treason case which was criminal in nature. The matter was supposed to come up for arguments over the Director of Public Prosecution's intention to take over the proceedings which HH's lawyers strongly objected to.



## ZAM president's wife found with case to answer for assault on child

**By Diggers Reporter**

Zambia Association of Musicians president Njoya Tembo's wife Brenda has been found with a case to answer for assaulting her niece. Lusaka magistrate Greenwell Malumani placed Brenda on her defense yesterday after finding that the evidence adduced so far was sufficient to warrant her defend herself on a charge of assault on a child.

In this matter, Brenda is alleged to have beaten her niece with a cooking stick after which she allegedly burnt her with a pressing iron on her chest.

Earlier, the court dismissed an application by the defense to have the complainant who is the minor recalled to the stand as she was believed to have lied on which school she was attending. Magistrate Malumani said the witness could not be recalled as there was no piece of legislation which provided for recalling of witnesses who had already concluded their testimony to court. And an arresting officer, Elizabeth Nambela, testified that she decided to arrest Brenda on a charge of assault on the child after interviewing and examining the complainant in light of the medical report issued and signed on November 9, 2016 and November 11, 2016 respectively. Inspector Nambela testified that the victim told her that she was beaten by her aunt with a cooking stick who later burnt her with a pressing iron on the chest.

She said she saw the scars of the wounds on the hands but didn't see the blister on the chest as she saw the victim two weeks after the incident.

In cross examination, the officer denied the suggestion by the defense that the injuries would have been caused by anything else.

According to another witness, a teacher at Woodlands B primary school, the juvenile went to school with swollen hands and a blister on the chest saying she was burnt by her aunt Brenda after she was found using a pressing iron she was told not to be using on October 26 2016.

Trial continues.



Chilanga MP Keith Mukata at Lusaka's Magistrate Court -Picture by Tenson Mkhala

## Murder accused Mukata, lover to take plea on Sept 4

**By Mukosha Funga**  
Five murder accused are expected to appear in the High Court criminal session slated for September. Chilanga UPND member of parliament Keith Mukata and his lover Charmaine Musonda are set to take plea on September 4 before High Court judges Mathew Chisunka and Getrude Chawatama.

The duo allegedly shot dead a security guard at Mukata's lawfirm; AKM legal practitioners, in Lusaka's Rhodes Park area on May 6. Others on the cause list include Tshabu Benos who is accused of murdering her boyfriend Reeves Malambo and Meya Namfunkwe who allegedly killed her boyfriend Frankis, who was a Zambian musician.

Lastly, Amina Mohammed, the Somali woman who allegedly poisoned and killed her husband will also appear in the same month. Amina was arrested after investigations revealed that her husband, Osman Addan Mohammed, never committed suicide but a pesticide was detected in his blood during the postmortem.

# Domestic debt up by K10bn in six months - Felix Mutati

By Joseph Mwenda

Finance minister Felix Mutati has disclosed that the country's domestic debt has increased from K33 billion in December 2016 to over K42 billion this month due to "higher recourse to domestic borrowing" as guided by the government's medium term debt strategy.

And Mutati says government has put in place measure that would ensure that inflation remains within a medium-term range point of 6-8 per cent.

Meanwhile, the finance minister announced a fresh assurance to account holders at the closed Intermarket Bank, that the bank has been recapitalized and new shareholders would soon be announcing before operations resume.

In a statement today, Mutati said government had employed a higher recourse towards domestic borrowing.

"Regarding domestic debt, the stock was K42.01 billion in June, 2017, compared to K33 billion in December, 2016.

The rise is explained by a higher recourse to domestic borrowing; consistent with the government's medium term debt strategy. As at end of June 2017, foreign reserves amounted to US\$2.4 billion, which translated to 3.3 months of import cover. The government's objective is to attain four months of import cover over the medium term," Mutati said.

"The debt stock as at end June 2017 was US\$7.3 billion from US\$6.9 billion in December, 2016. The increase in the debt stock was on account of new disbursements from previously signed loans. I wish to point out that in order to address the problem of domestic arrears, the Government has designed a medium-term time-specific arrears-dismantling strategy. The government will gradually clear the arrears including through the use of budgetary provisions and restructuring of some of the debt into longer term debt instruments."

The finance minister was optimistic that inflation would remain south of 10 of cent.

"The inflation rate as at end June 2017 was 6.8 per cent down from 7.5 per cent in December 2016. Largely, this reflected stability in most food items and in the Kwacha against major currencies. The expectation is that inflation will remain within the range of the medium term target of 6-8 percent that has been set by the Government," he said.

He also projected that the kwacha would hold off against the greenbacks.

"The exchange rate of the Kwacha showed resilience over the first six months of the year. As at end June, 2017 the exchange rate of the Kwacha per US dollar was K9.25. Further, over the past few weeks, the Kwacha has appreciated and is currently

trading around K8.8 to the United States Dollar. The appreciation of the Kwacha is a reflection of increased supply of foreign exchange arising from among others, a higher participation of foreign portfolio investors in government Securities. Additionally, continued strong copper prices and market confidence has supported the Kwacha. Going forward, we expect the exchange rate to remain stable. Government is alive to the need for stability of the exchange rate as it is supportive of both exporters and importers. We will work hard to stay on this positive slate," Mutati said.

External Sector Developments The finance minister said merchandise trade balance had recorded a surplus.

"Zambia's trade during the first half of 2017, Zambia's external sector performance improved relative to the corresponding period in 2016. Preliminary data showed that Zambia's merchandise trade balance recorded surplus of US\$186.6 million compared to a deficit of US\$316.4 million in the first half of 2016. The positive external sector performance was due to a rebound in copper and cobalt export earnings as export volumes and realized prices recovered. However, non-traditional exports declined on account of a reduction in exports of maize, gemstones, cotton lint, and wheat," Mutati said.

"Imports grew by 15.4 per cent to US\$3.938 billion in the first half of 2017 from US\$3.412 billion in the first half of 2016. Higher imports of food items, fertilizer, chemicals, industrial boilers, and equipment accounted for the outturn.

An increase in plant area and fertilizer usage accounted for higher imports of fertilizer, whilst a rebound in mining activity partly explains the increase in imports of industrial boilers and equipment."

On GDP growth, Mutati said "I remain confident that given the developments in the first half of 2017, the projected growth rate of 4.3 per cent for 2017 remains feasible. This is mainly driven by observed growth in the major sectors of agriculture, mining, construction, transport and storage, and the wholesale and retail trade. Increased electricity generation will also contribute to this positive perspective and, hopefully, support growth in other sectors," he said.

He said the country's revenue collection record has shown significant improvement.

"Following enhanced tax collection efforts, the under-performance in terms of total revenue collection declined as at end June, 2017. Revenues and grants for the period totaled K20.4 billion, against the half-year target of K22.3 billion. During the

same period, the government maintained its commitment to collection of programmed revenues. For instance, as a result of the initiative to appoint agents to withhold VAT at source, the total VAT collection was above target by 22.6 percent," Mutati said.

"Further, the Government moved forward with other measures aimed at enhancing revenue collection by implementing initiatives such as: 1) Use of fiscal devices to further enhance VAT collections and reduce cheating particularly in the retail and wholesale sectors. The devices were expected to be installed on a pilot basis in Lusaka during this quarter to

enhance compliance by VAT suppliers; and, 2) Appointment of agents for withholding tax on rental income to enhance compliance."

He said the tax amnesty on interest and penalties had yielded positive results.

"In the period under review, the Zambia Revenue Authority offered the business community a tax amnesty on interest and penalties arising from late returns and non-payments on all tax liabilities. The amnesty ends this month end; 31st July, 2017. As at end of June, 2017, a total of 229,700 applications had been received, resulting in collections of K384.65 million. A further K448.5 million in

"time-to-pay-agreements" is expected to be paid before 31st December 2017. The total expected yield from the tax amnesty on interest and penalties is therefore K833.2 million, against the target of K750 million," Mutato disclosed.

"The total debt collection target for ZRA, including the amount expected from the amnesty was K2.25 billion. A total of K2.212 billion was collected between January and June, 2017. Given the revenue outturn and Government's efforts to restrain expenditure, the projection is that the budget deficit for 2017 will be maintained at budgeted levels of round 7 percent. Further,

in line with the overarching fiscal consolidation policy, the target is to gradually reduce the deficit to around 3 percent of GDP, by 2020."

Meanwhile, Mutati said Intermarket Bank would start operating soon.

"The shareholders of the Bank have made good progress and we expect the bank to soon be operational. Capitalization of the bank has been done and the shareholders will be announcing the new management team soon. The Government is closely monitoring developments at the bank to ensure that re-opening of the institution was done quickly," said Mutati.



## Maize price projects huge loss for farmers - ZNFU

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) says it is saddened with the maize price of K60 per 50kg bag announced by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) because farmers will make huge losses.

In a statement, ZNFU president Jarvis Zimba said the market price was a morale dampener for farmers.

"It is obvious that this price will not benefit the farmer in any way. With a breakeven price for a 50kg bag of maize estimated at K75, the K60 FRA market price leaves a farmer making a loss of K15 per 50kg bag. In reality, the FRA is offering farmers K1.20 per kg, way below full cost recovery price. This, really, is a morale dampener for farmers, coming from a season where they experienced Fall Army Worms (FAW), red locusts and flush floods, but withstood the odds," Zimba stated.

"Affected farmers had to replant, meaning more seed, more fertilisers, and more chemicals to spray farms against pestilences and hire labour. The cost of production has clearly been overlooked. Farmers have been on the bad receiving end of the value chain all the time as opposed to consumers. This development is disheartening to farmers that worked very hard to ensure the maize bumper harvest of 3.6 million metric tonnes was attained, even against the pestilences outbreaks and climate change vagaries."

He wondered if that was the best FRA could offer.

"Is this the best FRA could offer? What is the rationale behind this pricing mechanism? The Union is alive to the mechanisms of demand and supply. As ZNFU, we have since classified FRA as briefcase buyers for the 2016/2017 Marketing season as its decision is now going to inject more poverty in our farmers. In the past FRA could come to the aid of farmers when such times arose. But if the FRA does not want to buy maize from farmers, let them clearly state so than punishing the farmers with a lowly price. It is sad that farmers have once again been offered a pittance for their hard work, and the ZNFU will not shy away to state that this is discouraging. If this is the way to make agriculture the mainstay of the economy, then surely farmers must be looking at it from the wrong side of the fence," Zimba said.

"The Union has been left with more questions than answers as to how such a price would be a motivating factor to even produce more during the 2017/2018 farming season. If anything, the message is don't go out there and grow maize as farmers. This season, in spite of bumper production in several other crops other than maize such as soya beans, conditions are pointing towards disaster for farmers, marketing-wise. We have had the worst

market prices for soyabeans, which crushed from K5 to K1.50 per kg. The K60 for a 50kg bag of maize has just driven in the last nail to bury the farmer. All this comes against a backdrop of droughts experienced two seasons one after the other, astronomical interest rates and an increase in a host of costs that farmers have no control over."

He observed that it would be difficult for farmers to plant maize and soya beans again in future.

"Going into the 2017/2018 farming season, it will be difficult for farmers to gather courage to plant maize and soyabeans again, given the raw deal they have received for their sweat as the FRA is a market leader since it sets the parameters even for outlying areas. If not carefully handled, the coming season might give us the worst figures in maize production ever which could jeopardise the country's food security. What FRA has sown on the maize price, its impact will be felt in 2019. The indicators of this price show that farmers that are not on FISP will go bankrupt," stated Zimba.

"We should not forget what has happened to the cotton industry. What has happened to the cotton industry will surely happen to the maize sector. It is self destruction. We again, wish to implore government to consider engaging farmers every time they plan to make an important decision that impacts their businesses and lives."

We agree with Mike Mulongoti who says Zambians must pay attention to the corrupt deals that Chishimba Kambwili is exposing, now that he has been kicked out of government. It is possible that when his BP calms down, Kambwili may not be able to say all the things that he is saying about the PF government. Therefore, we as Zambians must take interest in the information that he is volunteering. As Kambwili comes to us seeking comfort in his predicament, let's listen to his cries with one ear while the other focuses on the dossiers he seems to have on those he has left in government.

Barely two days after he was expelled from the ruling party, the Roan member of parliament was already dishing out incriminating information on some of the deals that took place while he was a full Cabinet minister. There are several issues that Kambwili has raised so far, but one has caught our attention and we feel his claims deserves a detailed explanation from those he is accusing.

On Monday July 25, 2017, Chishimba Kambwili made the following claim:

"We spent \$9 million dollars for phase one of the digital migration programme, but to migrate the remaining six provinces, we are going to spend \$273 million. I did not play a role in the digital migration. In fact, when a decision was made to single source, that's the time that I washed my hands. So those who think I have anything to do with digital migration, I have nothing to do with it. I will tell you something for nothing; the Minister of Information is also Chief Government Spokesperson. When the President is travelling, he usually

# Kambwili is knocking, give him the answers

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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travels with the Minister of Information, but in the one year that I was Minister of Information, I never travelled not even one trip with His Excellency the President. Not even one trip did I travel outside the borders of Zambia with the President. And to make matters worse, they went to discuss that digital migration [deal] in China and instead of taking me, he took the Director General of ZNBC and the Permanent Secretary." As a country, we have the right to question Kambwili why he did not raise this issue while he was still chewing with those that he is now accusing. We could ask him why his wisdom did not direct him to the Zambian people when this was happening. But we all know this is Africa and we will be wasting time on that path. We are aware that not only was Kambwili scared of his appointing authority at that time, but truth be told, the fat minister was busy getting

fatter from his own deals at the time and he had no time for reporting any corruption. Well, they say Karma is always watching, and once again there is no need of kicking a man who is already on the ground. Instead we would like to turn our attention to those that are still getting fat inside government, those that Kambwili is accusing of pushing the Digital Migration agenda. In the claim above, Kambwili says he washed his hands on the deal when he heard that it was going to be single sourced. He further says President Lungu went to discuss the Top Star deal in China with the director general of the Zambia National Broadcasting Cooperation and the Permanent Secretary, leaving him behind. Here is what we know about this Digital Migration deal. Mr Kambwili says it was single sourced, but when signing it, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

PS Godfrey Malama said, "the contract comes as a result of all the tender processes and procedures that the Ministry satisfied and the deal has been cleared by the Attorney General."

Who is saying the truth? We will not be surprised if another government official stands up to defend those who are being accused, by saying government sought clearance from the Zambia Public Procurement Authority to single-source. In this government certain things seem to happen in reverse; it is possible that the single sourcing was already done and the ZPPA is now about to issue the authority to do so after Kambwili has blown the whistle.

Kambwili further says phase one of the digital migration programme cost about US\$9 million, but the country will spend US\$273,154,281 for the remaining six provinces. Why? How?

Again here is what we know about Phase one of the Digital Migration programme, according to the information given by the ministry to Parliament: "It was completed by November 2015 and it is running along the line of rail from Chililabombwe to Livingstone."

When contracting a loan for phase two and three of the programme in China, Mr Malama said the US\$273,154,281 would be spend on "the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of digital terrestrial broadcasting equipment. Supply, delivery, and installation of studio equipment for Zambia National Broadcasting Co-operation (ZNBC) and Zambia National Information Services (ZANIS). This will also include the supply of 1, 250, 000 customer receiving units (decoders, antennas and dishes) and ten (10) new provincial

broadcasting stations that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services (MIBS) is establishing." We may not be qualified enough to argue whether this was a ZNBC and ZANIS upgrade loan or it was a digital migration deal, however we would like to ask why phase one of the same programme was done without needing all this money to buy all this digital broadcasting equipment. Phase one is up and running, people are watching digital ZNBC in areas along the line of rail; how was this made possible without all this equipment? This is simple mathematics. The difference between US\$9 million and US\$273 million is US\$264. Even if there were ten more phases to migrate the remaining parts of the country. That would only cost about US\$100 million. Where is the rest of the US\$100 million plus going to go? What is it going to be spent on? Perhaps the Ministry of Information must publish the breakdown of how this money will be spent. We insist because this is a loan, and Zambian taxpayers will pay for it, one way or another. Who is the true beneficiary of this loan which is coming to construct customer care centers for ZNBC and Top Star? The people Kambwili is accusing of pushing this agenda are not dead. They are actually still holding the same offices. Can they explain to the Zambian people and the Auditor General in advance, who will pay for this loan, which stinks corruption. The challenge is on you President Lungu, Mr Malama and the ZNBC director general; the man you left behind on that flight to China is knocking on your door, he wants answers.

Strengthening and deepening democracy involves more than the holding of regular elections disputed or otherwise. There is a long list of other checklists and benchmarks which must be met continuously. Of more immediate importance, is the autonomy of the three arms of the state, namely the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, which must operate independent of each other and operate without interference from the other arms.

There has been a tendency by new political leaders to mix up the functions of the three arms and to think that the legislature and judiciary are inferior to the executive and to threaten members of both the judiciary and legislature with punitive actions if and when they don't tow certain lines on given issues.

It is disappointing to see certain political leaders and their cheer leaders who were walking or getting on to public transport only a few months ago, amass so many private motor vehicles in their yards and have such hefty bank accounts, which their salaries and allowances cannot possibly justify. Public service is not about amassing personal wealth. It is about service to the people and not about me, myself and I.

It is also evident that internal

## The culture of me, myself and I in leadership

democracy in many of our political parties has literally collapsed. This has resulted in a culture of personal loyalty to leaders, even when they are doing the wrong things or manipulate constitutions of their political parties. Their support base comprises vuvuzelas of praise singers who benefit personally from these leaders. Loyalty to the country and the people has taken a back seat. Leaders are suddenly not drawing a distinction between disagreement and disloyalty. It is this element of praise singers who wage public wars against their opponents be the real or imagined, in order to ingratiate themselves in the eyes of their leaders, which in turn, blinds the leaders to many of their vices, shortcomings and even crimes in the name of enlightened self-interest.

While all this goes on,

ordinary people continue to suffer in dignified silence as they watch from a long distance. We have reached a stage where ordinary people fear their leaders and not the leaders fearing the people, who put them in power.

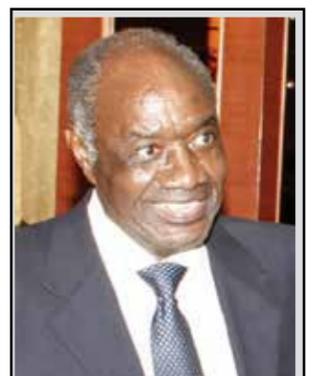
This culture of fear and intolerance has moved into the very fabric of our society, where the fear of exposure and accountability has led to silencing of the private independent media partially or in totality. There is an erosion of human rights and other individual freedoms which I and many others fought for before independence and in the late eighties, when we wanted the country to return to multiparty politics and give our people the freedom and right to make political choices, which are essential in any democracy.

We now have a threatened state of emergency declared

under Article 31 of the Constitution of Zambia, which gives security forces even more draconian powers to restrict and suspend certain human rights of citizens. In the late eighties and in 1990, a number of us campaigned vigorously against the state of emergency, which we had lived under for so many years and pledged that we would remove the permanent state of emergency once elected into office. This message among many others, resonated well with the people and is partly why the MMD was given an overwhelming mandate by the electorate in the general elections of October, 1991. We honoured our promise to the people and revoked the permanent state of emergency, which had become so unpopular with the people of Zambia.

Leadership is not about being feared by the people. It is about earning their respect

through deeds and not through threats. Respect is always mutual. When leaders respect the people, the people will always reciprocate and respect the leaders. Great nations always allow free debate about national issues, because it is through this type of debates that lasting solutions are found based on consensus and a desire to make our country prosperous. The efforts by the catholic bishops and other church bodies to try and promote and facilitate meaningful dialogue between President Edgar Lungu and UPND President Hakainde Hichilema - who sadly remains in prison- are commendable and must continue for the sake of peace in our motherland. There is no alternative to dialogue and our leaders must know and understand that they are servants of the people and not their masters.



**Dr. Vernon J Mwaanga** is an accomplished diplomat who served as Ambassador of Zambia to Russia and as Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He served twice as Foreign Affairs minister and four times as Information and Broadcasting Minister under various regimes.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry optimistically discussed expanding American coal exports to Ukraine and other energy matters during a lengthy phone call this month with a Russian prankster who Perry thought was Ukraine's prime minister. Perry actually was talking with comedians known in Russia for targeting celebrities and politicians with audacious stunts,

# U.S. energy secretary duped into fake interview with Russian comedians

Energy Department spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said in a written statement.

Pranksters Vladimir Krasnov and Alexei Stolyarov are sometimes called the "Jerky Boys of Russia," after an American duo who put out recordings of their prank phone calls in the 1990s. They have made faux calls to British

singer Elton John, who thought he was speaking to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and others.

"These individuals are known for pranking high-level officials and celebrities, particularly those who are supportive of an agenda that is not in line with their governments. In this case, the energy security of Ukraine," Hynes said.

During the 22-minute call on July 19, Perry, whose department oversees the U.S. nuclear weapons program, discussed a range of topics in a business-like tone, including sanctions against Russia and helping Ukraine develop oil and gas.

Perry said the Trump administration opposes Nord Stream 2, a Russian project to bring natural

gas to Europe across the Baltic and that U.S. technology could help Ukraine develop gas.

"Giving Ukraine more options with some of our technology is, I think, in everyone's best interest with the exception of the Russians, but that's OK," he said.

Perry also discussed the Paris climate accord and coal exports on the call.

The call, first reported by E&E news, was recorded and posted online. (bit.ly/2eMg35v)

It happened about a month after Perry met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and his delegation at the Energy Department.

President Donald Trump said last month that Washington plans to offer Ukraine more coal exports from the United States because

the eastern European nation's industrial sector has difficulty securing coal from separatist-held regions.

It is unclear how the United States would bring more coal to Ukraine but Perry hinted on the call that the Commerce Department was working on it.

"The coal conversation at this particular point in time is with (Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross) and I full well suspect it will go forward," he said on the call.

News of the call came the same day the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to impose new sanctions on Russia.



## UGANDA: Chinese firm fires employee for testing HIV positive

KAMPALA (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - When Kato was called into his manager's office, the Ugandan driver assumed he would be sent on an errand, not be ordered to take an HIV test and lose his job when it came back positive, leading him to sue his Chinese employer for unfair dismissal.

Kato, 45, is one of two HIV-positive workers who went to court in June to demand compensation from their former employer, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), in Uganda's second high-profile AIDS discrimination case in two years.

"(My manager) said: 'If you

don't go for this test, you'll be fired'" said Kato, a father of three who declined to give his full name for fear of stigma.

"We had to go along with it because we were afraid of losing our jobs," he said, describing how half a dozen employees were ferried to a clinic in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, to have their blood tested.

Uganda's high court will hear the case on Aug. 16, in which the two plaintiffs are asking for 400 million Uganda shillings (\$110,000) in compensation, after efforts to reach an out-of-court settlement failed.

The day after his results came back in March 2016, Kato said, his manager asked him to sign a resignation letter.

## Pothole plagued Harare seeks to build climate-resilient roads

HARARE (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Heavy traffic snakes through downtown Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, maneuvering along the

potholed roads as impatient motorists hoot at one other, while pedestrians try to cross the congested streets, weaving through slow-moving cars.

The city's asphalt road network is in dire straits, and will only get worse as damage from flooding and freak weather increases due to the impact of climate change.

The solution - say engineers, city planners and campaigners - is concrete roads.

The city council has already decided to replace high-maintenance asphalt with concrete, but there is no clear timeframe or budget.

"It's a project that we want to see take off as soon as possible," said Michael Chideme, spokesman for Harare City Council. "We view these (concrete) roads as strong roads - roads that are resilient in terms of the vagaries of weather, so once we have these roads, they will not be susceptible to being washed away by storms."

Some other African countries have already embraced concrete roads, shifting away from asphalt - including Malawi, Ethiopia and South Africa.

Chideme said all roads around Harare would be rebuilt using concrete, starting with the Arcturus Road, a main artery that connects the capital to Mashonaland East Province.

### Low Maintenance

"Research studies that have been done already by our team of quantity surveyors and civil engineers show that well-designed cement roads require little or no maintenance that lasts a 40-year lifespan," Chideme told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Many Harare drivers, like Luckmore Mhike, welcomed the prospect of concrete roads.

"I have endured driving my only car amid potholes for over a decade, and surely if the state of our roads could be improved by building concrete roads, I tell you I will be the happiest motorist," Mhike said.

Climate change experts think concrete will be more robust in the face of worsening floods

and heat, as global warming brings more extreme weather such as Cyclone Dineo which pummeled Zimbabwe earlier this year.

The storm washed away some roads, tore gullies into others and washed away tar surfacing.

"Take into consideration the way our roads countrywide were wiped out by Cyclone Dineo, and imagine if the roads were concreted. Surely, they would have withstood the caprices of the cyclone," said Happpison Chikova, an independent environment and climate change expert.

Civil engineering consultant Gilbert Motsi said concrete roads better withstand changes in temperature and humidity.

"The surface of a concrete road is solid, and it keeps its properties over time, free from climate change effects," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Without being concreted, our roads will continue to suffer various stresses as a result of climate change impacts - flooding, erosion of their edges and foundations, and loss of road structure uprightness."

### Invest Once

Zimbabwe last year launched a national road survey to determine the cost of replacing asphalt roads with concrete.

Harare city council's director of works, engineer Phillip Pfuakwa, said putting in a concrete road would be four to five times more expensive than an asphalt tar road.

As a result, the capital's rate-payers worry they will end up forking out more money on tax bills.

"Whether or not concrete roads will be the answer to climate-induced destruction, I am afraid the burden of paying more will fall on us," said Douglas Mbalekwa, a resident in Harare's Mabelreign middle-income suburb.

# Italian bank robbers wear Trump masks



ROME (Reuters) - Italian police said on Monday they had arrested two brothers suspected of robbing dozens of cash machines while wearing masks of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The stunt evokes the 1991 film "Point Break" starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze, in which a gang of surfers don masks of ex-U.S. presidents while robbing banks. But in a statement police said the brothers had been inspired by a different film.

"Inspired by the (1997) film 'The Jackal', whose protagonist - played by Bruce Willis - changes the color of his car because police are in pursuit, the two brothers painted their (white) Mercedes black," the police statement said. The brothers, aged 26 and 30, targeted cash machines near the northern Italian city of Turin.

In closed circuit footage of one of the robberies, one of the brothers in a Trump mask is seen covering the surveillance cameras in the lobby of a bank and planting an explosive in the cash dispenser. He then ducks around a corner after lighting the fuse, just before a violent blast.

## China steps up warning to Botswana over the Dalai Lama visit next month

BEIJING (Reuters) - China stepped up its warning to Botswana on Wednesday over a planned visit by exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama next month, demanding the African nation respect China's core interests.

The Dalai Lama, reviled by Beijing as a dangerous separatist, is expected to address a human rights conference in the capital, Gaborone, on Aug. 17-19 and will also meet Botswana's president. China is a major investor in Botswana's economy.

China has already "clearly" expressed its point of view about the Dalai Lama's visit, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a daily news briefing.

"Issues relating to Tibet concern China's sovereignty and territory integrity. We demand the relevant country earnestly respect China's core interests and make the correct political decision on this matter," Lu said, using stronger language than before on the issue.

"China will not interfere in other countries' internal affairs, but will certainly not tolerate another country doing anything that harms China's core interests," he added, without elaborating.

The Dalai Lama, who fled from Tibet into exile in India in 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule, has long been at loggerheads with China, which sent its troops into Tibet in 1950.

The Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, denies he is seeking independence for his Himalayan homeland. He says he is merely seeking greater rights, including religious freedom and genuine autonomy.

Visits by the Dalai Lama to foreign countries infuriate China.

It often retaliates by stopping high-level meetings or taking economic steps, like last year when it imposed new border fees following a visit by the Dalai Lama to Mongolia.

Botswana's neighbor, South Africa, has denied a visa to the Buddhist monk three times since 2009 in what opposition parties there, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, say shows the extent of Beijing's influence over Pretoria.

China's fast-growing demand for raw materials has made it one of the biggest investors in Africa and its largest trade partner. Chinese state-owned companies have been awarded contracts to build roads, dams, power stations and airports in Botswana.

# You won't believe how much the Game of Thrones cast has changed



## Shocking Tour Cancellation: Is Bieber's really OK?

As Beliebers already know, the 23-year-old singer abruptly cancelled his "Purpose" world tour yesterday, shocking fans who were still excited to catch one of Bieber's final 14 shows. The surprising cancellation news had many wondering if Bieber was headed in a bad direction or if he just needs some rest and relaxation. Even Bieber's manager Scooter Braun even spoke out to fans, writing on social media, "We are sorry...But a man's soul and well being I truly care about came first and we must all respect and honor that." So what is Justin saying about the whole thing?



## Venus Williams claims fatal car crash victim was not wearing belt

In a response to the wrongful death lawsuit filed against her following a fatal vehicle crash in June, tennis star Venus Williams claiming the victim was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, according to court documents obtained by PEOPLE. Williams also claimed that Linda and Jerome Barson — the latter of whom died following a June 9 crash in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida — failed to adequately maintain and repair their vehicle. "Defendant states that the injuries and/or damages to the Plaintiff were solely and/or proximately caused by the unreasonable failure of the Plaintiff to use an available and operational seat belt and the time of the accident," Williams' response, filed July 21, states.

-Yahoo News



## Next James Bond film set for 2019, but no word on 007 star

LOS ANGELES | Bond is returning in November 2019, (Reuters) - James to movie theaters producers said on



## Jessica jokes about divorcing Timberlake

The star of USA's *The Sinner* (premiering Aug. 2 at 10 p.m.) popped by NBC's *The Tonight Show* Tuesday, where she joined the host for a competitive game of charades against Kelsea Ballerini and Matt Bomer. Given Fallon's longtime friendship with Biel's husband Justin Timberlake, they had a small advantage over the *Last Tycoon* actor and the "Legends" singer. Biel went first and had to act out a song title—"I Love Rock 'N' Roll"—in 30 seconds or less; it only took Fallon nine seconds to come up with the right answer. "Dude, come on!" the host said. "Did you see that?!" Bomer had little luck with his song

title: "Genie in a Bottle."

As Ballerini shouted out words—"Washing!" "Record!" "Baby!"—she grew increasingly frustrated. "Wait, are you joking?" she asked. After the buzzer sounded, Bomer broke it down for her. "It was 'Genie in a Bottle,'" he said. "I was Aladdin rubbing the lamp, then I was the genie and I wanted to grant your wish." His partner replied, "When you say it, it makes sense!"

It was then Fallon's turn to mime a film title: *Dances With Wolves*. Before he even began, Biel said, "I'm here with you—give me an inside joke." It only took 12 seconds for her to get it right.

Monday, but they did not say who will play Britain's most famous fictional spy.

Eon Productions and MGM studios said in a statement that the 25th Bond film will be released in U.S. theaters on Nov. 8, 2019, with a slightly earlier release in Britain.

They gave no title, casting or other details.

Britain's Daniel Craig has played Bond in the last four films, including 2012's "Skyfall" and 2015's "Spectre." The 2015 film took some \$880 million at the global box office, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

His reprisal of the role for a fifth time has been the subject of much speculation after the actor said in 2015 that he would rather slash his wrists than play Bond again. Callum McDougall, the executive producer of the Bond

film franchise, told Britain's BBC Radio last year that Craig, 49, was "absolutely the first choice ... We would love Daniel to return as Bond."

Meanwhile, actors such as Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Tom Hardy have all been named as potential candidates to step into the fast cars and sharply tailored suits of Bond, MI6's secret agent 007.

With its futuristic gadgets, menacing super villains and larger-than-life explosions, the Bond series is the longest-running film franchise in history, with actors such as Sean Connery, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan inhabiting the role of the leading man.

The new film will be written by Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, who wrote the last four movies in the franchise.

# Mourinho: Dangerous fees a threat to football

The world transfer record could be broken in the coming days, with Kylian Mbappe and Neymar touted with €180m and €222m moves respectively. Jose Mourinho has warned the level of spending on players is reaching a "dangerous" level, but defended Manchester United's own big-money transfers.

The Red Devils reportedly forked out more than £120 million to sign Romelu Lukaku and Victor Lindelof this window, while United smashed the transfer record to sign Paul Pogba from Juventus last August.

Mourinho says it is normal the world's top talent should demand such excessive fees, highlighting Paris Saint-Germain's pursuit of Barcelona star Neymar for £196m as an example. But the Portuguese believes it is a problem that clubs are willing to sign off on huge transfers that do not reflect the true value of players.

"I always thought the problem is not what you pay for this kind of player, I don't think the problem is what you pay for Pogba, I don't think the problem is going to pay crazy for Neymar," Mourinho told reporters in Washington DC, where United are preparing for to face Barcelona in their pre-season tour of the United States.

"I think the problem is with the other group, which is a big group

because players like Pogba, there are one or two [big] transfers [like that] per transfer window. The other ones are where you have 100 transfers, and for me that is the dangerous area of the market.

"Some clubs are paying or they don't buy because they don't accept the numbers that are now ruling the market, or to do it they have to go the same levels and for me that's what worries me a little bit because now we speak about £30m, £40m, £50m in such an easy way. "I don't think it will ever kill the big clubs because the big clubs will always have the potential and conditions to produce this kind of money and not to be in problems.

"I think [for] some other clubs, there will be problems when they realise that the money that is coming in and is going out and I also think that the Financial Fair Play authorities, they have big work to do.

"Big work to do because probably there are some strategies of disguise but I have to believe that the FFP is going to have difficult work to do."

While United shelled out on the move for Lukaku, they have thus far refused to yield to the apparent £50m and £45m valuations of Tottenham's Eric Dier and Inter's Ivan Perisic.

And Mourinho believes the best approach taken in the current window



has come from Spurs, who have yet to make a signing and received a reported £50m from Manchester City for Kyle Walker.

"Everybody speaks about

the dimension of the investment at Man City, but there is another team that I feel the dimension of their investment is also phenomenal – Tottenham," he added.

"I think until now they spent zero pounds, right? For me the dimension of their investment is amazing. They keep everybody they want to keep.

"They keep Dele Alli, Harry Kane and Toby Alderweireld, they keep Eric Dier, they keep everyone they want to keep."

-Goal.com

## Luchanga cleared to play for Dynamos

*By Diggers Reporter*

Conlyde Luchanga has been cleared to play MTN FAZ Super League side Lusaka Dynamos following the arrival of his international transfer certificate (ITC) on Monday, 24 July 2017.

The 19-year old rejoined Lusaka Dynamos at the start of the 2017 season, after a loan spell

with Israeli side Hapoel Raanana, but was unable to play due to the unavailability of his ITC. Luchanga is now cleared to play in Lusaka Dynamos next match away to Napsa Stars on Wednesday.

His tally of league goals for Lusaka Dynamos stands at eleven – nine in the 2015 league season

and two in 2016 – as well as a single goal in the Samuel Zoom Ndhlovu Charity Shield which he scored in the only match he played for Power Dynamos at the start of the 2016 season.

The 2015 Young Player of the Year has a tally of two goals for the Zambia senior men's national football team and was a key member of Beston Chambeshi's 2017 U20 Africa Cup of Nations and FIFA U20 World Cup squads.

He rejoins a much changed side from the

one he left last year and will have to compete for a place in the starting line up with leading and accomplished scorers in Chrispine Mugalu and Fwayo Tembo, who have already scored nine and seven league goals respectively in the current campaign.

Other notable forwards on the books of Lusaka Dynamos include Herman Wasswa, Marvin Jere, Jacob Mupeta, Aubrey Funga, Mwansa Nsofwa and Simon Mulenga. SuperSport

## Numba confident of Zambia U17's momentum despite loss

*By Diggers Reporter*

Zambia Under-17 coach Mumamba Numba says his team's momentum heading into the 2017 COSAFA U17 Cup semifinals has not been hit by their final Group B loss to Mozambique.

Mozambique ended Zambia's 100 percent start at the competition on Tuesday when they beat Numba's side 1-0.

The result was inconsequential as Zambia already through to the semifinals after winning their opening two games and Numba fielded his second string side for the formality match.

"I don't think that will

affect our momentum. It is just that we were trying to give a chances to a few players. We shall field our strongest team in our next game," numba said.

"We needed to give everyone a chance so that we see where we are in terms of readiness.

"I think from what I have seen, they are a lot of areas we need to work on especially those that played against Mozambique, they have a lot of work to do."

Zambia head into the semifinals on July 29 awaiting the outcome from Group A where Malawi and hosts Mauritius who are tied

on 6 points meet on Wednesday in a battle for first and second place.

Zambia finished second

in Group B, tied on 10 points with South Africa who finished top on goal difference.

## CAF changes Zesco vs SuperSport clash dates

*By Diggers Reporter*

Zesco United's 2017 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal dates against SuperSport United have been adjusted by a week.

The decision was made during a CAF executive committee meeting held on July 20 in Morocco at which both home and away quarterfinal dates in the 2017 CAF Champions League and 2017 CAF Confederation Cup were amended.

"For the quarter-finals of the two competitions, the first leg will take place on the weekend of 15-17 September 2017 with second leg

on the weekend 22-24 September 2017," CAF stated.

"Previously, the quarters were fixed for 8-10 September 2017 (first leg) and 15-17 September 2017 (second leg)."

Zesco was due to visit Pretoria on September 9 and will instead travel to South Africa on September 16. The return leg will be played on September 23 at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola to decide who goes through to the semifinals. But all semifinal and final dates remain unchanged.

The semifinals first leg dates will be during the weekend of

September 29-October 1 and the final legs will be played over the weekend of October 20-22.

The Confederation Cup final first leg will be played November 17-19 and the final leg November 24-26.

This will be a week after the two-legged CAF Champions League final October 27-29 and November 3-5.

Zesco are Zambia's sole representatives in the final knockout rounds in this years continental action after Zanaco failed to make it out of the CAF Champions League group stage.



## James denies saying Bayern could be bigger than Madrid

The midfielder was quoted by German media as saying his new side are of the same level as the European champions, but has denied making the statements James Rodriguez has denied saying Bayern Munich are as big a club as parent team Real Madrid. The Colombia international joined the Bundesliga side from Madrid this summer on a two-year loan deal with an option to make it permanent after falling down the pecking order under Zinedine Zidane.

-Goal.com



Conlyde Luchanga (L) during a training session

# FAZ EYES 2021 AFCON BID

**By Joseph Mwenda**  
FAZ says it will consider bidding for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations despite its recent

decision to withdraw as hosts of the 2019 Under-23 AFCON. Zambia withdrew as hosts of the Africa Zone

Olympic qualifying tournament due to financial reasons. "In light of this development, FAZ

wishes to inform all stakeholders and the public that despite withdrawing from hosting the 2019

Africa Cup edition, the country still stands on firm ground to host future Africa Cup tournaments," FAZ spokesperson Desmond Katongo said. "FAZ together with its major stakeholder, the

Zambian Government will consider bidding for the 2021 senior Africa Cup of Nations. The Association is further encouraged by CAF's decision to increase the Africa Cup participating countries from 16 to 24 teams."

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