

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says government has not approved any budget proposal for the construction of a new State House and any minister who makes such a statement would be speculating.

There is no budget for new State House, says Chitotela

On Sunday, his Works and Supply counterpart Matthew Nkhuwa told a PF interactive forum that government would spend US\$20 million (around K200 million) to erect a new State House. **To page 2**

GOVT to abolish students' unions ^{P3}



PF members who want govt contracts shouldn't inform the media, says SG Davies Mwila

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
In an audio, Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says ruling party officials who want government contracts shouldn't rush to the media to discuss internal matters publicly. Mwila was talking to News Diggers! in an interview to express

his disappointment over a team of PF officials in the region that is pressing for the removal of Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo and his deputy Patrick Mwanawasa, on grounds that they were not giving them government contracts. **Continues on page 3**

NO DATE SET FOR TREASON YET

By Mukosha Funga
Hakainde Hichilema's lawyer Jack Mwiimbu says the High Court has not yet set any date of hearing for the treason case involving the UPND leader. **To page 3**

Kampyongo warns that police will soon arrest a chief funding political unrest



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

By Mukosha Funga

In this audio, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says people should not be shocked when police pounce on a traditional leader because he has been funding unrest and shall be treated as a local terrorist.

Speaking to journalists after seeing off President Edgar Lungu at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport today, Kampyongo said police would go further by not only arresting the youths who are being sent but the master minds as well.

"I want to take this opportunity and out of respect that we have as Zambians for our traditional leaders, and in this case our royal highnesses, but there is one of our traditional leaders who unfortunately is engaged in these clandestine activities and is behind the funding of some of these terrorist activities of destabilizing our public installations. My warning to him is that no one is above the law and my warning to him, out of respect, our advise to him is to stop what he is doing because we are monitoring his activities very closely and the public should not be surprised if they hear us pouncing on one of our traditional leaders who has opted to engage in these wrong activities," he said. "But he must also know that those youths he is sponsoring to do wrong doing are not his children and he should be mindful of the consequences that those youths might get to reap from what they are doing. We are going to be aggressive and I mean aggressive because all this that has been happening can only be described as acts of terror and so we are going to treat them as local terrorists and so they should know what it means to fight terrorism."

Asked to name the traditional leader, Kampyongo said; "Because of respect, this traditional leader knows himself and those that he is dealing with, they know. But he should know that we know what he is doing and like I have said, we shall move in on him. Now we are going to go beyond the actual culprits that are sent to do these activities, we know where they are meeting and we know what they have planned but I am warning them that this time we are ahead of them and we are not going to spare them. Terrorism is fought with all the force that it deserves and that's how it is going to be, no kid gloves, no arresting and playing around with people, it is going to be aggressive."

Kampyongo also advised members of the public to avoid alcohol abuse this holiday.

Ask court to put HH on house arrest, YALI begs Lungu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) president Andrew Ntewewe has asked President Edgar Lungu to consider asking the courts to put incarcerated UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema under house arrest as a gesture that he is willing to reconcile the nation. Speaking when he featured on Radio Christian Voice on Friday, Ntewewe said political bickering has put the country on stand still, therefore Hichilema must be put under house arrest in the spirit of reconciliation. "Hakainde Hichilema was not an ordinary citizen but a leader of the biggest opposition party in the country hence the need to be put under house arrest. Political bickering has put the country on stand still and the President should consider asking the courts to put HH under house

arrest as a gesture that he was willing to reconcile the nation," Ntewewe said.

Ntewewe said President Lungu was the most powerful individual in the country and that he must use the powers wisely.

"What my organization is calling for is for the opposition leader to go through the due process of the law but we as a country should also be cognizant of the fact that Mr Hichilema is a leader with followers. The opposition have an agenda to ensure that the President fails in most areas of governance so that they can use his failures as a campaign tool in 2021. But it is up to him to ensure that he moves away from politicking to delivering on the promises he made during the last campaign," Ntewewe said.

And Ntewewe said the President was living under the shadow of his late predecessor Michael

Chilufya Sata hence failing to admit the challenges he inherited.

"President Lungu found a crippled economy destroyed under the leadership of PF

founding father Michael Sata but he has failed to tell the nation the main challenges he found because he doesn't want to upset the PF support base," observed Ntewewe.

Wina defends Lungu's "I'm ready for violence" statement

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Vice-President Inonge Wina yesterday told the House that President Edgar Lungu's statement that "I am ready for violence" was taken out of context.

And Vice-President Wina says could not be part of her meeting with church mother bodies because he was extremely busy at the time.

Last week, the Head of State ordered police to man the premises where he met with Copperbelt Patriotic Front officials to iron out differences saying he was ready for

violence.

"Nali umfwa ati mwalikata ubwafya na mayor, mwali kwata ubwafya na minister, Chishimba Kambwili alikwata ubwafya, Mwenya Musenge alikwata ubwafya, mukesa njeba ku Lusaka bonse. Tuleya ku meeting muye mulande ifishinka. Bakapokola mu palame mupepi in case it becomes violent because I am ready for violence myself (I have heard that you have a problem with the mayor and the minister. Chishimba Kambwili has an issue, Mwenya Musenge has an issue,

you will come and tell me all this in Lusaka. Let us go to the meeting you tell me the truth. Police be on close by in case it becomes violent because I am ready for violence myself)," President Lungu said.

But responding to Kabompo UPND Member of Parliament Ambrose Lufuma, who wanted to know in what context the word was used, during Vice-President's question time, Wina accused him of making false insinuations.

"Mr Speaker I am surprised at the fact that the honorable member of parliament has been in the House for almost a week or so rather for the past three weeks but has not uttered a word until now. And the Honorable member has made a catalog of issues that are not factual, that are baseless, that do not reflect the state of affairs in Zambia today. We know very well that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu was meeting his party officials in Ndola. The reference to the word violence was perhaps said in a very different context than what the Honorable Member of Parliament is insinuating," Wina said.

Wina also said there was no breakdown of the rule of law in Zambia.

"On the issues that the honorable member of parliament is referring to lack of adherence to the rule of law and lack of tolerance of political views, lack of freedom of freedom of expression and association by the opposition, I am sure the honorable member of parliament knows very well that there is no such thing in Zambia. The opposition political parties in Zambia are allowed to hold meetings, to associate, to express themselves anywhere in this country. The member of parliament does not only enjoy immunity in the House but he can say anything outside this honorable House. So I don't know where this

feeling, this idea is coming from being a representative for a party whose members are not in the House. Perhaps that is why he is carrying the message from a list of the members who should have been here," Wina said.

And responding to another question from Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi who wanted to know why the three church mother bodies were denied an opportunity to meet President Lungu after several attempts to set an appointment, Vice-President Wina said President Lungu was busy.

"The President of this country has met several religious leaders, church leaders in the past one year or so. Including the church mother body members, and I don't know when that statement was given but when I met the church mother bodies and other religious leaders, it was explained that at the time that appointment was being sought from State House personnel, the President was extremely busy with other visitors but there are other channels through which appointments to State House can be made including going through the line ministries. And the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu has said State House is open to all that want to see him including the leaders of churches," said Wina.

About two weeks ago, three church mother bodies namely the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), The Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), and the Evangelical Fellowship in Zambia (EFZ) complained that State House had denied them access to the President, hence the resolve to issue a public statement and declare the country a dictatorship. However, Wina met the church mother bodies on June 27 and told them that government was ready to listen to their counsel.

There is no budget for new State House - Chitotela

From front page

"The first day that I was appointed as minister, I was taken round by the Secretary to Cabinet to look at the state of State House. I come from the construction industry and I understand construction and that State House has got serious cracks. If there was an earthquake, what will happen will be disastrous [because] that thing can just crumble and at the end of the day, we could be held responsible for killing the occupants of that place because it's our responsibility to make sure that the buildings are in a habitable state," Nkhuwa said.

He said the matter was an urgent one and he estimated that it would cost around \$20 million.

"But it's something that we must do now; we can't keep on postponing it because if anything happens, the people of Zambia are going to cry that what are we people doing in the Ministry of Works and Supply by allowing a building like that to collapse on the Head of State or the other occupants, indeed. So, it's a matter of urgency," said Nkhuwa.

"We didn't want to involve the President and if anything, the President was probably hearing it the first time that it came out of Parliament because we never involved him at all [because] we thought we are

duty bound to look at it and we made a decision. That State House is a danger to the people that are sitting there and I think that the value of a human being, regardless, is higher than the price we can pay to build another State House...It is a risk as it is to have that State House! It's going to be a modern State House and we are looking in the range of US\$20 million, according to the estimates that came from the parliamentary committee in the report. The location; we haven't come up with the location. [But] we have agreed and it's been passed it Parliament and so we are going to build."

But in an interview with News Diggers yesterday, Chitotela said government had not started looking at the cost that will be involved in the project.

"As you may be aware, the committee of parliament just recommended to Parliament last week and government has not started to look at the budget. Even when I debated in Parliament I said we agree and we have accepted the recommendation of the committee because it was urging government to build one and I said yes it is also a concern of government," Chitotela said.

"So it will be premature for any Minister to issue a statement regarding figures or

anything. And yes we have accepted the recommendation of the committee of parliament on works and the chairperson of that committee is Honorable Douglas Syakalima. So we have accepted, we will look at the pros and cons and then we shall revert back to the Zambian people through the parliamentary budget. We will once Cabinet adopts the report of the committee. But representing government as Minister for Housing and Infrastructure, we have accepted the recommendation. I have seen this circulating on sectors of the media and am wondering where people are getting such information."

Chitotela said that once the budget was agreed upon, it would be taken to Parliament for approval.

"You know people want to create politics just to start speculating. So it is not a secret, it is not a State House for President [Edgar] Lungu or a PF State House, it is a Zambian State House. You know the existing State House was built in 1938, so once the budget is agreed upon, we will go to Parliament and if Parliament approves as recommended by the committee for transport, works supply and communication, it will be a public thing for the Zambian people. So for now anybody giving statements they are just speculating," said Chitotela.

HH complains of a Dr. who has forcibly taken over his 'healthcare' in prison

By Joseph Mwenda

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has written to the Health Professions Council of Zambia, complaining about a Dr George Msipu Phiri whom he says is colluding with others to take over his healthcare in prison by force.

According to a letter dated June 28, addressed to the Council Registrar and signed by Hichilema, the UPND leader is worried that Dr is breaching his right to privacy, and that his life is in danger.

"I hereby write to complain against one of your members Dr Msipu Phiri director of medical and health services, who is also the deputy commissioner of police for unethical conduct and professional misconduct. Dr Phiri has shown serious professional misconduct, in the manner he is colluding and conspiring with certain known people handling my life affairs. I have every reason to fear for my health and my life and my complaint is based on the following. Dr Phiri has made maneuvers to invade and breach my right to privacy anchored on doctor patient confidentiality. Dr Phiri has, without consulting me, accepted unlawful instructions to be dealing with my health matters in a letter authored by a Mr Sikazwe who allegedly is equally a doctor," HH stated. "Dr Phiri is insisting on handling my medical welfare even though he has full knowledge that I have a personal physician and is also aware that there is a court order as regards to how my health aspects

should be handled. Dr Phiri has for some strange reason insisted that his involvement in my health issue is for my own good, and has told me in the presence of witnesses that he would continue taking care of me when I am taken back to Mukobeko correctional facility in Kabwe. I wonder what else Dr Phiri knows about my unjustified incarceration is being planned by the State for him to have prior knowledge that I will be taken back to Mukobeko from Lusaka Correctional Facility."

He complained that Dr Phiri is insisting to supervise his personal physician.

"Dr Phiri has engaged in professional misconduct by insisting that he will be supervising my personal doctor, the consultant physician, whenever I am being examined.

This conduct by Dr Phiri offends the medical profession in terms of professional rank as to how senior doctors and junior doctors should relate. In any case, I do not know in what capacity Dr Phiri who is from Zambia Police is getting involved in my health matters when the matter is in court and I am in custody of prison authorities. I am left wondering what Dr Phiri's true intentions are," said HH. "In view of the foregoing, I urge your humble disciplinary committee to discipline Dr Phiri. I am ready to attend the hearing with my legal representatives to substantiate my allegation. I have deliberately not included all relevant details in this letter for security purposes."



Govt to abolish university students' unions

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo says her Ministry will move Zambia away from the unionized leadership in colleges and universities, saying students unions "can take even your last bit of blood".

And Professor Luo says government is reviewing some higher learning institutions in the country and re-igniting their mandate, saying several of them had run away from their objectives and were making business out of education. Speaking in parliament today, Prof Luo said she does not think learning institutions need students unions.

"Even in the way that our students will be working. I don't think our institutions should have unions. Unions will take even your last bit of blood. What we need in our institutions is to introduce guild leadership. And this is some of the consultations I will be taking with the students themselves and stakeholders, and churches so that Zambia moves away from unionism in our institutions of higher learning to

another level of leadership known as guild leadership. So madam speaker I think we are on course," Prof Luo said.

"Madam speaker as a result of that, we are reviewing a lot of our institutions in this country and re-igniting their mandate and I think we will see a very big change by next year on what our mandate is and what we are supposed to do. Am also very surprised that a lot of our technical schools started promoting business courses. This is again because of an issue called attitude. An issue of not knowing your mandate. Our institutions of higher learning in this country have run away from their mandate, they think they are civil servants and they also think that they can make business out of education."

The Minister advised all academicians trying to get rich out of academia to move out of the career and work in the private sector.

"Madam speaker if anybody who is an academician thinks that they will get rich from academia, they are wasting their time. If you want money! you move out of academia and go and start working in the private sector. The wealth of an academic madam speaker is spoken by your deeds," said Prof Luo.

"As I am talking here madam speaker, maybe somebody is quoting my work in the united states or they are quoting my work in Japan. That is the wealth of an academician and this is what our people in institutions of higher learning should know because they have also started running from one institution to another to teach and make more money. And I think that our universities have gone astray. And from the time I got to this Ministry, I have been bringing them back to what academia is. The people that will remain in those institutions should be such."

PF members demanding government contracts shouldn't inform the media, says Davies Mwila

From front page

He said disciplinary action will be taken against the party provincial secretary Joseph Kolosa and his group because they reported their demands to the media instead of following established channels, privately.

"First and foremost they are not suppose to wash the dirty linen in public. And that matter the provincial Chairman is going to deal with that matter because they were not suppose to go to the media because that is indiscipline. And action will be taken by the provincial chairman," said Mwila.

"Disciplinary action will be taken against all those

who are involved. If they have any grievance they are suppose to follow the right procedure or channel. But for them to go to the media, then something is wrong with them and disciplinary action will be taken against them. And in future they have to refrain from going to the media because that is an internal matter, they are suppose to resolve this matter internally."

On June 18, Patriotic Front officials in Eastern Province rose against senior government officers, demanding their immediate transfer because they are giving government contracts to members of opposition political parties. "We are already poor,

so we are ready for any consequences of our demands. We joined PF so that tikazipezako pamimba. We are in the ruling party to eat but our stomachs are shrinking," Kolosa said at a highly charged gathering attended by PF supporters.

"We are demanding the removal of Chanda Kasolo, Deputy PS Patrick Mwanawasa and Chipata District Commissioner, Kalunga Zulu from their respective offices. Bayende, they must go! we need to eat. As a ruling party in the province, we are pleading with massive pain and sorrow that these must go. They have not been working and supporting the party in any way. This has pained

us, we are not happy, they are not working with us, but they have continued to occupy these offices."

For audio visit [diggers.news](#)

No date set for treason case yet

From front page

In an interview with News Diggers! Mwiimbu said his client hopped that there would be progress on the matter this week, considering that it should not take longer than a month for the matter to be allocated after the date of committal.

"It is our hope that by next week the date can be set but as for now we have not had

any feedback from court pertaining to the date. But the record is ready and I hope that it was sent to the High Court yesterday (Friday) to enable the court to set the date," Mwiimbu said.

Asked how long it would take for the case to be allocated from experience, Mwiimbu said; "well, it depends on the circumstances. It is

supposed to take not more than a month from the date of committal. So we are confident that maybe by next week (this week) that will be done."

And Mwiimbu said HH was physically fine but it was hard to tell what was going on internally.

"The physical appearance is okay, you never know what could be the internal problem," said Mwiimbu.

Those who are unhappy with dialogue are ranting like wild rabid dogs - Lungu

By Joseph Mwenda and Mukosha Funga

In this audio, President Edgar Lungu says those who are unhappy that he went to resolve the infighting in the PF on the Copperbelt are now ranting like wild rabid dogs, in apparent reference to Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili.

Kambwili yesterday said the only way that confusion would end among PF members on the Copperbelt was if the Head of State dismissed provincial minister Bowman Lusambo.

When the President Arrived in Ndola for the 2017 Trade Fair, this afternoon, Lusambo told him that he would soon be exposing the perpetrators of confusion on the province.

"When you came you sat us down and as provincial minister, I want to thank you, I want to salute you for that. I can assure you that this province will never be the same. We know the people who were behind those issues which you came to address and very soon, we will be exposing those people to the people of Zambia, the people who want to sabotage your efforts which you are giving to this country through development and uplifting the lives of our people," said Lusambo to President Lungu at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport.

In reaction President Lungu gave an analogy implying that some people were hopping that he could fire Lusambo so that they could take over.

"Let me emphasize that when you are divided, your enemies are very happy. When there is bickering in the family, you discover that your enemies enjoy and celebrate. When they see you uniting, they get sick. Those who are not happy as a result of the effort that we made of trying to dialogue are busy ranting like wild rabid dogs; you can tell and we can see them and you can know them. Chaba shani imwe? Abanenu balefwaya ukuteka nga imwe chinshi chashupa? Even pa ng'anda nga muleunfwana nabakashi, abengi tabatemwa. Nga mwapusana ninshi baunfwa bwino, ati limbi balamutamfya tupyaneke," President Lungu said. He said running a country was a difficult task.

"I want to make this very clear, to those of you who have never been in leadership, ala ukuteka kwalishupa pantu bengi bafwaya uku ingilapo. So ba chairman, ba provincial minister, whatever position you occupy in the province, be reminded that bengi bapafwaya. What they want is to dissolve the committees and bring new people hoping that they can plant their own people in these committees. That we know so when things are going wrong, they encourage that wrong thing. All I can say is that bane, ba provincial, ba district, ba constituency, kuno kumyensu ku Copperbelt you are under probation. We will guide you, we will advise you. Nga mwafilwa mweka pakati, you will have to go," said the President.

"But we know that when we separate, you have to be careful, the enemy within is more dangerous. Abantu abanaula umutende abantu muikala nabo. So let me warn you that we did not come to destroy, we came to build. So there is a point beyond which I can say I cannot take this anymore but for now, the Copperbelt, we are with you." For audio visit [diggers.news](#)



President Edgar Lungu with Copperbelt Province minister Bowman Lusambo - Picture by Thomas Nsama/State House

LAZ demands arrest of cadres involved in graveyard fight

By Mirriam Chabala

The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) has asked police to investigate and arrest the cadres who started the PF, UPND graveyard fight last week which left four badly injured.

In a statement today, LAZ President Linda Kasonde

described the attack of mourners at Leopards High memorial Park during a burial procession, as evidence of the intolerance and political polarization in the country.

"The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) is deeply saddened by reports in the

media and information circulating on social media on the clash between members of the Patriotic Front (PF) and United Party for National Development (UPND) that happened on Saturday 24 June, 2017 at Leopards Hill Memorial Park during the burial of the

late Clance Zulu," Kasonde stated.

"LAZ is disheartened that such violent activities took place at the graveyard during a solemn occasion which is supposed to be respected by all, regardless of political affiliation. Unfortunately, this violence is the latest in the string of worrisome events that evidence high levels of intolerance, disregard for the law and political polarization in our society."

Kasonde noted that the association welcomed the statement by the Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo in which he called for the arrest of the people behind the attack.

"LAZ condemns the attack in the strongest terms and welcomes the statement by the Minister of Home Affairs to ensure the arrest of all perpetrators of this violent attack. We encourage the police to quickly investigate and bring to book culprits of this shameful act," she stated. Kasondo also appealed to political players to tame their supporters.

"LAZ would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to political leaders to take strong action against their followers who are perpetrators of this violence and to take a stand against such violent actions. It is time for us as a nation to reflect on the recent events and take a stand against violence. We are Zambians before we are members of political parties or anything else. We owe it to ourselves as a nation to preserve peace and unity in the country," stated Kasonde.

Parliament summons Antonio over MPs' salaries comment

By Mirriam Chabala

The National Assembly of Zambia has summoned FDD Spokesperson Antonio Mwanza for allegedly giving misleading information to the public concerning parliamentarians' emoluments. This follows a point of order raised by Serenje MMD member of parliament Maxwell Kabanda on Thursday last week challenging the accuracy of Mwanza's claims in an article carried by the Daily Nation Newspaper.

In a letter signed by Doris Kapumba on behalf of the Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament asked Mwanza to explain whether or not remarks attributed to him in a Daily Nation article were correct.

"I am directed to inform you that a point of order was raised against you on the floor of the House on 22nd June, 2017 by Hon M Kabanda, Member of Parliament for Serenje Parliamentary Constituency. The point of order relates to an article attributed to you, Sir, which was published in the Daily Nation Newspaper on Thursday, 22nd June, 2017, entitled 'Suspended MPs challenge Speaker,'" Kapumba stated.

"In the point of order, the Hon Member essentially alleges that your statements in the Daily Nation newspaper were misleading and unsubstantiated were essentially in the breach of the provisions of the National Assembly (powers and privileges) Act, Cap.12 of the Laws of Zambia."

She advised Mwanza to state the side of his story regarding the point of order which was raised against him by Friday this week.

"The purpose of this letter is, therefore, to request you to state whether or not the statements complained of in the said article where correctly attributed to you and for you to state your side of the story. Enclosed herein is a verbatim of the point of order. It would be appreciated if your response would reach the office of the clerk of the National Assembly by Friday, 30th June, 2017," stated Kapumba.

Mwanza was quoted in the Daily Nation questioning the amount of money which MPs made per sitting saying there was a pure case of institutionalized theft.

"This is what your MPs get for dozing or shouting 'Hear Hear

Hear' in the House: Sitting allowance: K3, 000 per sitting. Multiply that by 4 sittings per week, it comes to K12, 000 per month per MP. And if an MP sits in two committees he walks away with K9, 000 per day. So in a month, one MP gets a whopping K48, 000 in allowances alone. Add a Salary of about K31, 000 to that, plus Accommodation allowance which is calculated at K500 per day plus upkeep allowance, plus tax free beer and food, the total amount we are spending to service one MP comes to a gigantic K100, 000 per month. Forget about the tax-free vehicle, traveling allowances, plus a staggering gratuity of about K500, 000 after five years of dozing and shouting 'Hear Hear!!!'" Mwanza said.

"In short we are spending over K250,000,000 per annum feting our MPs. Preposterous! What about Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Constitution Office Holders. Simply put, the poor are working for the politicians. Now check those amounts and look at the state of the constituencies these same MPs come from, look at the poverty of their people. How much does a qualified teacher, lecturer, nurse, police officer gets for



serving the community? Masese. The minimum qualification for being an MP is G12 or a certificate in knitting, photocopying and binding, plumbing etc but the minimum salary of an MP is K100, 000 per month. How? Why?" Mwanza wondered. Mwanza further charged that it was because Zambian politics had been commercialized that people were willing to do anything to stay in power.

"This commercialization of our

politics has largely contributed to the dirt in our politics. People are ready to kill, steal, fight just to be in power or to hold on to power because of the lucrative nature of our politics. Our politics is no longer about service, it's about money, deals, corruption and all sorts of negativity in man at the expense of the poor. This must change if we ever have to achieve sanity, decency and service to mankind," said Mwanza.

PF, UPND intolerance has reached shocking levels, says Kampyongo



Victims of the PF, UPND graveyard clash

By Mukosha Funga

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says intolerance among Patriotic Front and United Party for National Development cadres has reached shocking levels. And Kampyongo says there was no malice on the part of police officers who are accused of murdering Zambia Air Force Flight Sergeant Mark Choongwa. Responding to a point of order raised by Mwembeshi Independent member of parliament Machila Njamba on the persistent occurrence of violence between UPND and PF supporters yesterday, Kampyongo said intolerance between the two parties was disappointing. "It is extremely disappointing that intolerance among some

of the supporters of the two political parties have reached shocking levels of fighting each other even on solemn occasions such as funerals and at the cemeteries. Traditionally, funerals are sacred and bring all sections of our society to mourn the departed and out of respect for beloved ones. The reported violence that occurred at the cemetery and indeed elsewhere demonstrates the breakdown of morals in our society which His Excellency the President of Zambia Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu recently asked us to uphold and defend. Sir, we must arrest the moral decay in our midst," Kampyongo said. "It is for this reason that my government does not and shall not tolerate criminality regardless of who the

perpetrator might be. I am however delighted that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia and the top leadership of the PF has condemned political violence and called on all our people to refuse to engage in all forms of violence. I cannot help but call on all political party leaders without any exemption, including religious leaders to preach only peace. Violence only begets violence and has never resolved any problem." Kampyongo condemned the clash between UPND and PF cadres at Memorial Park but blamed it on "criminal elements operating under the guise of political violence". "Mr Speaker, the clash which took place at Memorial Park between the suspected UPND and PF supporters is uncalled

for. The clash which lasted for a short time however resulted in a number of people being injured and various items being stolen whilst an unregistered Toyota minibus was burnt down. Sir, criminal activities that unaccompanied the so-called political clashes simply suggest that criminal elements are increasingly taking advantage of criminal elements to commit crimes. The Zambia Police Service has instituted investigations into these criminal activities and shall in due course bring the criminals operating under the cover of political parties to book," he said. And Kampyongo said the joint inquiry by his ministry and the Ministry of Defense into the death of Flight Sergeant Choongwa revealed that there

was no malice on the part of the police officers involved. "...Also not in dispute is that some police officers at Woodlands Police Station used force to get him into the police station. The force used appeared to be excessive according to one of the inmates who was in the cells at the same time. This finding or observation is however in line with the postmortem report which attributed the death of Flight Sergeant Choongwa to trauma and stress. In the words of the report, 'the trauma he suffered on his back and the stress of being in police custody triggered the chain of events which led to his sudden death on 18th March 2017. The joint inquiry concluded that there was no malice or

afterthought on the part of the police officers involved. There was however, gross negligence on the part of the police officers in the manner they handled the whole matter up to the death of the late Flight Sergeant Choongwa," Kampyongo said. "A joint board of inquiry made three principle recommendations (i) that the police officers involved should be charged with manslaughter contrary to section 199 of chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia; (ii) that the relations between the Police service and defence forces should be harmonized and a spirit of comradeship amongst them cultivated and promoted and (iii) that the Zambia Police Service and defense forces should work together and ensure that an incident of similar nature does not ever occur in future. The government position on the findings of the joint board of inquiry, sir, my government has accepted the findings, conclusions of the joint board of inquiry into the death of Flight Sergeant Choongwa and to that end, four Zambia police officers who were involved in these sad events have since been arrested and charged with manslaughter. They are currently appearing before the courts of law."

The Minister bemoaned the animosity among police and other security wings saying there was need for unity among them.

"Sir, I must mention that it is disheartening that our defense and police personnel who play complementary roles in securing the territorial integrity of our nation, its peace and security have negative perceptions of one another. The negative perceptions appear to have prevented the officers in this heart wrecking incident from according each other due and mutual respect. Negative perceptions of one another amongst our defense and security personnel promote disunity and poor relations amongst them. This sad state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue forthwith," said Kampyongo.

"Our men and women in uniform regardless of the units or formations to which they belong must recognize and treat each other as comrades in securing the territorial integrity of our common heritage, Zambia; its peace, security and indeed prosperity. I am therefore compelled by duty to call upon all our commanders and in particular the Commander of the Zambia Army, Zambia Air Force, Zambia National Service and the Inspector General of Police to ensure that the unity, comradeship and decorum they accord each other as members of the Central Joint Committee must be extended to all men and women serving under them."

DEC arrests MoH employee, 3 others for K1.2m fake notes

By Mirriam Chabala

The Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) has arrested and jointly charged a Ministry of Health Records Officer and three others for being in possession of over K1.2 million counterfeit notes. This is according to a statement issued by DEC Public Relations Officer Theresa Katongo today. "Aaron Mwendafilumba, 36, a Records Officer at the Ministry of Health residing at House No. 60 off Kalomo Road in Chilenje has been arrested and jointly charged with Isaac Zulu, 41, of Garden compound, Frank Chila, 39, a businessman of Ngombe compound and Evans Mwangi, 48, a businessman of Mandevu compound for being in possession of K1, 240, 600 counterfeit notes," Katongo stated.

She also stated that the commission had also arrested

two people in Western Province for trafficking in loose cannabis weighing 58.6kg and "Meanwhile the Commission in Western Province has arrested two (02) people for trafficking in cannabis and those arrested include Mayamba Erick Mayamba,

46, a businessman of Senanga District for trafficking in loose cannabis weighing 58.6kg and Wamunyima Mwananyambe, 45, a small scale farmer of Kalangola area in Senanga District for trafficking in 20.6kg of cannabis. The four suspects were arrested in four (04)

different locations in Lusaka and will appear in court soon," Katongo stated. Katongo urged people to understand the features of the Zambian kwacha notes to avoid being duped by unscrupulous persons dealing in counterfeit notes.

"The Commission would like to urge members of the public especially peasant farmers and business entities to understand the features of the Zambian kwacha notes as they risk being duped by unscrupulous persons dealing in counterfeit notes," stated Katongo.

ACC nabs former minister for Corruption

By Diggers Reporter

The Anti-Corruption Commission has arrested and charged former North Western Province Minister Dawson Kafwaya for abuse of office involving K30,000. This is according to ACC public relations manager Timothy Moono. Kafwaya, 33, of plot no. 9834 Saviya Area in Solwezi was arrested and charged with one count of obtaining goods by false pretenses and one count of altering of a false document contrary to sections 309 and 352 of Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia.

"In the first count it is alleged that Mr

Kafwaya on dates unknown but between 1st January 2015 and 31st July 2015 in Solwezi, being a public officer namely Provincial Minister of North-Western Province, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, did by false pretenses obtain 6000 building blocks worth K30,000 from Mei Mei Co. Ltd by purporting that they were to be used as a donation for the construction of a classroom block for Mutanda High School when in fact the blocks were diverted and used to construct his house in Solwezi," Stated Moono.

"In the second count, it is alleged that Mr Kafwaya between 1st January 2015 and 31st July 2015 at Solwezi, being a public officer namely Provincial Minister of North Western Province, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, did alter a false document namely a receipt no 6 and uttered it to the Anti-Corruption Commission purporting that the receipt originated from the institution that is alleged to have issued it when in fact not." He added that Kafwaya had been released on Bond and would appear in the Solwezi Subordinate Court soon.

By Joseph Mwenda

In this video, President Edgar Lungu's spokesperson Amos Chanda says there are rampant cases of people going round private companies extorting money in his name and that of the Head of State.

And Chanda says if Zambia was not a democracy, he would have been beyond the reach of the judiciary; but because there is democracy he has been compelled to obey a court summon even when he does not know why he is wanted.

Chanda said this from the State House stand and the ongoing Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola today.

"The practice of people extorting money from private companies is rampant. The reason why we are talking about it is because some of this extortion is in the name of State House. Some of it is in the name of the Vice-President,

People extorting money in my name and the President - Amos

some of it, in the name of the First Lady. And I can tell you, in terms of abuse of the name, it's the President, the vice president, myself and the first lady," Chanda said.

He said people were using his name even more than they were using the name of Vice-President Inonge Wina.

"In that order the highest number of cases of using people in high positions it's the President, then my name is even more rampant, then the vice president, then the

first lady, then there is minister Chitotela in that order. It could be much more. These companies, some of them are so scared to refuse when they hear that it's in the name of Mr Chanda. I think I will be seen on TV to say I didn't send that person," Chanda said.

He said if he wants to beg for money from private companies, he will do it himself without asking a representative.

"So police are at liberty to investigate such cases which have already happened. But for

those who are not yet victims, we are stating here that if an incident like that were to occur, I would speak to them myself. If need was to arise for me to ask for money from private companies I would speak to them, but I cannot foresee that need arising. Unless if I am a member of a cancer foundation raising money," Chanda said.

"But I am not saying the act of kindness must be curtailed. There is no law here which stops funding of political parties, so if a company has a

relationship with a political party and they want to donate in a normal way, that is acceptable."

And Chanda said he does not know why he was summoned to appear in court for contempt, adding that if Zambia was not a democracy, he would have been beyond the reach of the court.

"I was in court myself; if you look at the definition of dictatorship, those in power are beyond the reach of any other system, but for us we

are obeying. When the court calls, even when I don't know why I was called, I will go and listen. If they say it's adjourned until fifth, I will go back on the fifth. The independence of the judiciary is in motion. I am a member of the executive myself but I don't know why I was called, I will hear when the day comes. So those are not the elements of a dictatorship," Chanda said.

"The affirmation of Zambia as a democracy does not lie in the notion of lawlessness. That people should throw stones at private property, must set fire to private property, must bring down power lines and when they are not arrested, then democracy exists, that's absurd. Democracy presupposes that there will be rule of law, protection of private property, guarantee and safety of life, that's when you can say there is space for democracy."

Our infighting is embarrassing PF – Kainga

By Mirriam Chabala

Copperbelt PF provincial Chairman Stephen Kainga has observed that the continued infighting among senior party members is embarrassing the ruling party and President Edgar Lungu.

In a statement, Kainga hailed President Edgar Lungu for intervening in the bickering that has rocked the province for months.

"On behalf of the Patriotic Front leadership on the Copperbelt, we would like to thank His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu for his timely intervention in helping resolve the squabbles that had engulfed the party. We acknowledge and deeply regret that the continued fights amongst members did not only reflect badly on the party but were embarrassing and further deterred us from our mission to foster development to the people that voted us into power," Kainga stated.

"We would like to apologize to our party President, members of the central committee and the people that voted us into power for the continued in fights that engulfed the province. We are grateful to his Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu for his intervention and as a province, we pledge to work together in harmony after the wise counsel given. We have taken the advise given to us by our leader to find better

ways of addressing issues in the party."

He observed that the continued fights within party members was putting the name of President Lungu in disrepute.

"As the provincial leadership, we understand that the fights within the party particularly Ndola district have brought the name of the President into disrepute. We therefore want to assure the Head of State that no amount of indiscipline will be tolerated in the party as no one is bigger than the party. It is time that all party members focus their energies on party mobilization and working for the people. Once more we want to assure His Excellency the President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu that we are a united force and ready to work with a common goal of helping the party and the President in delivering his promises to the Zambian people. We pledge our total support to the President and the party. Time for fighting is over and our duty to ensure that we help the President to deliver on his vision. The success of the President is dependent on the conduct of party leaders and members," Kainga stated.

"As Provincial chairperson, let me categorically state that our loyalty is to President Edgar Chagwa Lungu because we can only have one party leader and one Republican President

at a time. The leadership of the province will not hesitate to take disciplinary action on any persons that will bring the name of the party and President into disrepute. As the party in Government

we need to show exemplary behaviour that will attract other members to join us. We also want to take this opportunity to thank the President for the projects on the Copperbelt. We know

that the doors for many opportunities have opened now, and we will see a lot of our youths get employment opportunities. This is what the President is doing for the people on the Copperbelt."



UPND campaign bus

Lungu asks chiefs to unite the nation

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

President Edgar Lungu says traditional leaders must do more to unite the country.

The Head of State held a dinner meeting with 11 Lamba chiefs at Bank of Zambia guesthouse in Ndola yesterday on the sidelines of the 2017 Trade Fair.

He said traditional rulers were a vital part of the conscious of the Nation.

"Let me remind you that as traditional rulers, you have a vital part of the conscious in the Nation and therefore you must do more to unite this country," President Lungu urged.

President Lungu arrived in Ndola a day ahead of the official opening of the Zambia International Trade Fair.

And the chiefs thanked the President for what they described as his open door policy on national issues.

PF planned graveyard ambush on UPND – Katuka

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND Secretary General Stephen Katuka says what happened at Leopards Hill memorial park on Saturday during the burial of late Clance Zulu was a well planned ambush by PF thugs.

Speaking during a press conference at the UPND Secretariat in Lusaka yesterday, Katuka demanded that President Lungu and the PF apologise to the family of late Clance Zulu.

"We wish to place it on record that there was no clash but that we as UPND were victims of an aggressive ambush attack by the PF cadres who carried assorted weapons as opposed to various state controlled media statements deliberately quoting Zambia

Police and PF senior officials alleging there was a clash between the UPND and PF at the burial ground. Let me make this clear from the onset that what happened last Saturday was a pure planned ambush by the PF thugs on the UPND mourners and other different mourners who were at Memorial park at the time because they carried assorted weapons to the graveyard," Katuka said.

"What PF did on Saturday was shameful. It is unZambian to invade a cemetery and start beating mourners and lobbying mourners, actually PF and Edgar Lungu should apologise to the family of Clance Zulu and the nation. Edgar Lungu should also instruct the police to immediately arrest and not counsel the culprits. Late Levy Mwanawasa

set a precedence and did not tolerate any lawlessness even from his party MMD. That is the legacy he left behind and we shall always remember him. With all this, what legacy shall Edgar Lungu leave behind after he leaves office?"

Katuka also said he was disappointed with Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo's statement in Parliament where he failed to categorically blame his cadres for the attack. "We are very much disappointed with Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo's statement in parliament that the event was a clash. He failed to categorically blame his cadres for the attack. This just shows that the PF leadership is not in control of its own members," said Katuka.

Lungu summons Catholic leadership for talks

By Joseph Mwenda

State House says President Edgar Lungu today invited the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Julio Murat to a meeting where various issues were discussed including the current relationship between the Patriotic Front government and the Catholic Church.

“The meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio was open, cordial and fruitful,” State House Press aide Amos Chanda said in a statement released late Saturday.

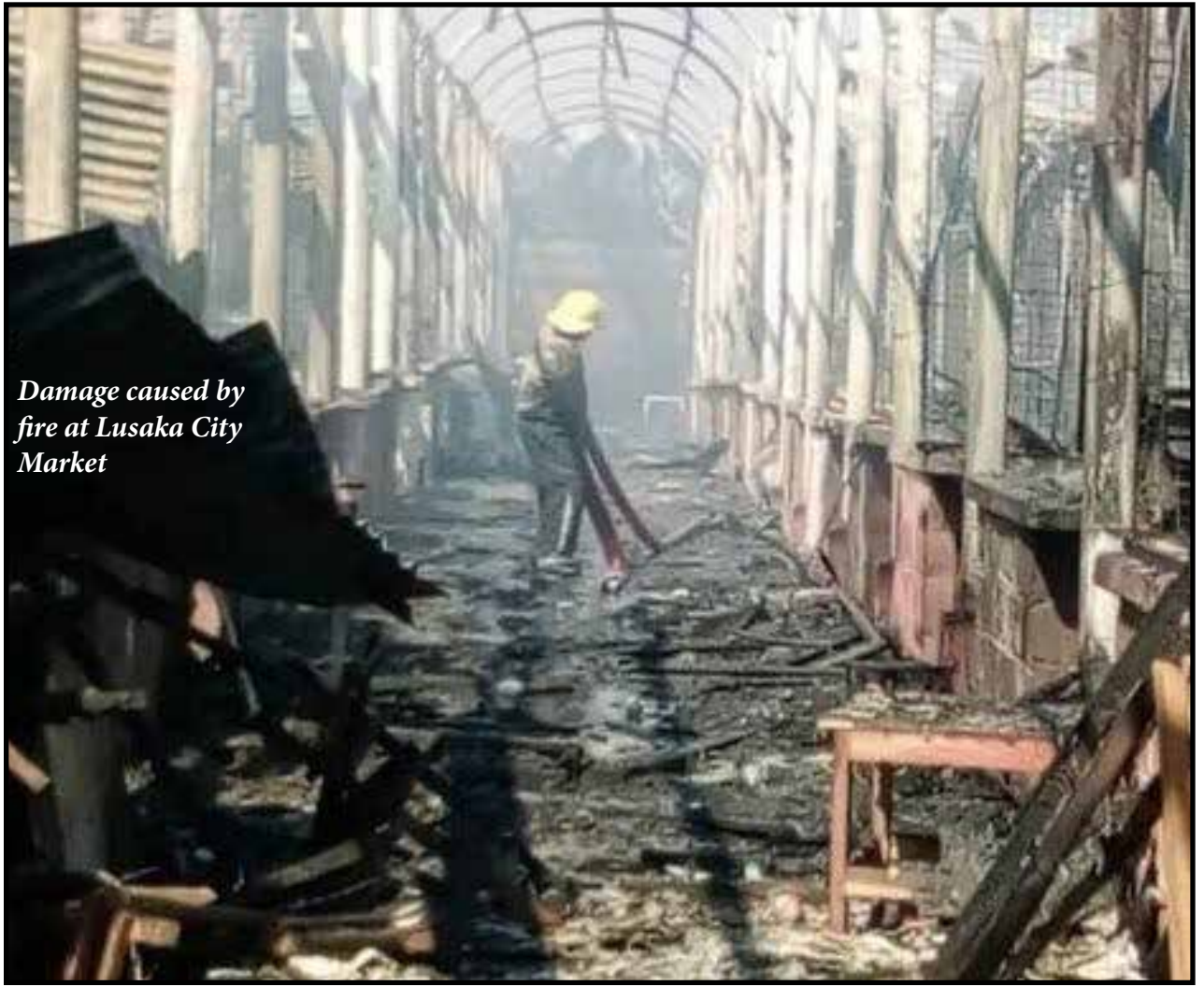
“The President and Nuncio discussed a broad range of issues including the relationship between Church and State and the role of the Church in promoting dialogue and National unity. The Church has a spiritual role to play by counselling us whenever the need arises.”

Chanda said President Lungu will soon meet Catholic Bishops who have been wanting to dialogue with him.

“In line with his continued dialogue with church the president will in coming days be meeting with Catholic Bishops to continue on the steps he authorized the Vice-President to undertake this

week,” Chanda said. “On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Zambia, we appreciate the Holy See’s commendation of government’s open door policy and the considerable access he has afforded the church since he ascended to power in 2015.”

He said President Lungu was grateful for the support his government was getting from the Catholic Church. “We deeply appreciate the support that the Catholic Church renders to the Zambian Government and indeed the people of Zambia and we therefore want to see a united body of Christ so that unity can cascade down to all sections of Zambian society,” Chanda quoted the President as saying.



Damage caused by fire at Lusaka City Market

Govt assures civil servants of new salary agreement this week

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Labour Minister Joyce Nonde Simukoko says the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions must be patient as government continues with negotiations for civil servants’ salaries through the Public Service Management Division (PSMD).

ZCTU has mounted pressure on the government

in the past week, accusing the Labour ministry of throwing away the negotiation process which was initiated months ago.

But Simukoko says government had no option but to put off the negotiations in order to assess the country’s financial status.

She added that negotiations for the 2017 improved

salaries and conditions of service are expected to be amicably concluded this week, stressing that labour movements must give the bargaining team space to operate.

“The government negotiating team led by the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) has given my Ministry information on the on-going negotiations

for 2017 improved salaries and conditions of service, whose position is as follows; negotiations are on-going and that all government unions, part to the bargaining unit are aware of the dates when the said Bargaining unit shall resume; and the adjournment to the negotiations was as a result of seeking accurate information on the economic performance of the country which information is important on the negotiations,” Simukoko said.

“The other position of the PSMD is that parties to the negotiations even applied for extensions of their current collective agreements and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security approved their requests. The Ministry

therefore expects our partners to the process and especially mother bodies such as the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to guide and mediate in the negotiating process of their affiliates and give the Bargaining Team space to conclude negotiations amicably” Simukoko advised all key players in the negotiations to follow the agreed process of Industrial and Labour Relations Act, in case of any disagreements.

“Should there be disagreements, we have a process we follow agreed by all parties as enshrined in the Industrial and Labour Relations Act. The Ministry looks forward to an amicable conclusion of the negotiations which are set for the first week of July 2017,” said Simukoko.

Kalaba asks AU to quicken relocation of ECOSOCC secretariat to Lusaka

By Joseph Mwenda

Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba has urged the African Union Executive Council to quickly finalize the logistics and financing for the relocation of the ECOSOCC secretariat to Lusaka.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) was established as an advisory organ of the AU to promote the African civil society in the integration and development agenda of the continent and implantation of programs such as peace, security, social and economic.

This is according to Zambia’s First Secretary for Press and Tourism at the Embassy in Ethiopia, Inutu Mwanza.

Speaking during the 31st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Kalaba urged the Executive Council to direct the African Union Commission to urgently appoint an interim ECOSOCC Director who would supervise the preparations of all logistics pertaining to the operations of the interim structure.

Kalaba said the Zambian Government has reaffirmed its Commitment to hosting

ECOSOCC by hosting an AU Evaluation Mission to Lusaka whose purpose was to establish Zambia’s readiness to host the ECOSOCC Secretariat.

He said the evaluation team from AU was taken on a tour of proposed office space for the interim secretariat including proposed accommodation for the executive secretary.

The Foreign Affairs Minister further said the evaluation mission was also shown a preliminary blue print design of the permanent ECOSOCC Secretariat and was requested to submit a check list of requirements to enable the finalization of the blue print design by the Zambian government.

He expressed concern that to date the recruitment of staff by the AU Commissions has not progressed and the absence of devoted staff to the organ has diminished the advisory role of the organ.

Kalaba observed that currently only staff from the Department of Citizen and Diaspora Organization are attached to the organ.

He also said the information requested by the government of Zambia regarding the establishment and staffing

of the interim secretariat has not been availed, a predicament which he said was hindering government’s efforts to support the execution.

ECOSOCC is currently hosted within the department of Citizens and diaspora organisation (SIDO) in the African Union Commission.

Dictators don’t tolerate critics like I do - Lungu

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu says he has tolerated so much criticism without hitting back, which he would not have allowed if he was a dictator.

The Head of State was speaking at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport before departure for Ethiopia where he has gone to attend the African Union Summit.

He said although Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu rebuked him in public, he will speak to the Catholic Bishops privately.

“I met Catholic representatives yesterday and I will meet the Catholic bishops and I will hear their voice, the Archbishop spoke publicly but I will speak to him quietly and you know that is not what a dictator does,” president Lungu said.

He bragged that he was not a dictator because he consults a lot.

“A dictator does not consult, a dictator does not take criticism. I have taken so much, I have been punched so much but I have not hit back. Obviously I can hit back and all fairness I am a human being. But I believe people should be given enough latitude to contribute, to criticise, to do checks and balances and that is what democracy calls for,” said President Lungu.

And the President said some politicians and civil leaders were in the habit of insulting him so as to ride on his name to gain media coverage.

“I will not be distracted from doing my job because you are calling me a dictator, when I am not one. They are enjoying the coverage you are giving them when

they say Edgar this. I am President so when you insult the President you get coverage and freedom of the press allows that,” President Lungu said.

“So for me those who are thinking they will get mileage or prominence by insulting me, humiliating me, they are just setting a bad precedence for the freedom of speech and opinion. However, I will not take them on because I will be elevating them to my level, I am too dignified for that,” he said.

President Lungu added that he was a very busy man to sit down for petty talk in the name of dialogue.

“..they should find more substantive matters when dealing with me because I am a very busy man,” said President Lungu.



An Al Jazeera News crew sets up camera equipment outside the Lusaka Magistrate's Court in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Accused murderers of ZAF soldier granted bail

By Diggers Reporter

Four people accused of murdering Flight Sergeant Mark Choongwa, a Zambia Air Force officer, have been granted K3,000 cash bail.

When the matter came up for mention today, Magistrate Nthandose Chabala granted the manslaughter-accused quarterent bail after their lawyer made an application arguing that they were of fixed abode.

"Manslaughter is not among the non bailable offenses so I will grant you bail...Until you meet such conditions you will be remanded in custody," said magistrate Chabala

The accused include two police officers; Veronica Lucy Shawa and Mike Kapale.

Others are Lyton Mwale a driver and James Ngulube an archives clerk.

The court said Kapale, Mwale and James were required to provide three working sureties bound at K10,000 each whilst for Veronica, though bound in the like sum, it would be in their own recognizance.

The three male accused persons made their bail application through their lawyer Grace Mukulamutiyo after the court granted Shawa bail as her lawyer applied for bail last week Friday when they made the first appearance in court.

On March 17, Flight Sergeant Choongwa was murdered in police custody at Woodlands Police Station where he was detained for a traffic offence.

Initially, police charged four inmates, Joseph Phiri, Andrew Kaoma a police officer from Kamfinsa mobile unit, Felix Kalube and Martin Chanda for the murder of Choongwa but these never appeared in court until the current suspects were presented to the court.

Some uniformed police officers came to follow the proceedings today.

Evidence in Munali petition goes missing

By Diggers Reporter

The video evidence which led to the nullification of Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo's Munali seat has allegedly gone missing. In November 2016, the High

Court nullified Luo's election on grounds that violence shrouded the polls.

This was after UPND's Munali candidate in the 2016 elections Doreen Mwamba challenged the election, hinging her

arguments on a video that had gone viral in which PF cadres attacked a UPND campaign bus in Mutendere.

But Prof Luo challenged the nullification in the Constitutional Court.

However, when the matter came up in the Constitutional Court, Prof Luo's lawyer Bonaventure Mutale swore affidavit verifying the non availability of the video clips. He swore that a search at the

High Court Principal Registry for the video clips did not yield any results as the same was never placed on the court record as confirmed by the Chief Marshal.

Mutale further said the

respondent's (Mwamba) witness, Joseph Chilekwa, played two video clips which were not given to them.

He said Judge Edward Musona's marshal also confirmed that no copy of the video clips was surrendered to the court by or on behalf of the witness.

Mutale further swore that Mwamba's counsel also told him that a copy of the video clips had never been surrendered to court.

He asked the court to proceed to hear the matter despite the missing video evidence.

But through her lawyers, Keith Mweemba and Gilbert Phiri, Mwamba refused to proceed with the case as there was nothing to determine following the absence of the video footage which caused the nullification of the seat.

Constitutional Court vice-president Annie Sitali has since adjourned the case to July 6, 2017 to rule on the missing footage.

Man sues HH's wife, demands K5bn for libel

By Mukosha Funga

A Lusaka man has sued Hakainde Hichilema's wife Mutinta for libel in the Lusaka High Court seeking K5 billion compensation.

According to a statement of claim filed in the High Court Principal Registry yesterday, Simon Bobo stated that Mutinta issued a fabricated story on April 30 that he blocked her vehicle, took pictures and insulted her at the Lusaka Central Prison after she visited her husband.

"The said press statement which was issued by the defendant on both print media and online publications were false, malicious and injured the plaintiff's reputation and compromised the safety of his family and the plaintiffs entire standing in the country and across the world in the way plaintiffs relatives, friends and business associates started looking badly and negatively at plaintiff," Bobo stated.

Bobo claimed that he had gone to visit his cousin at the prison

but Mutinta mistook him for the man who wanted to kill her.

"That the mission of the plaintiff was to visit his cousin who was an inmate at the central prison but they took the plaintiff as the person who wanted to kill the defendant because he was in PF labeled hat. That the plaintiff was taken to police headquarters which later revealed that there was no evidence to the claims made by the defendant and he was made to pay K54 which amount was for disturbances likely to cause a breach of peace. That during the stay of the plaintiff in cells, he was made to stay with four other people and one of them got a picture of the plaintiff purporting that it was a remembrance during the stay of the cell but to the surprise of the plaintiff, the same picture was cropped and used to publish a statement in Zambia Eagle online publication that as lead assassin and that they had sources that told them that the plaintiff is the same killer who

wanted to kill the defendant. That further according to the publication, plaintiff was one of the key men President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has entrusted with the mission," he stated.

"That they further claimed through these Zambia Eagle online publication that President Edgar Chagwa Lungu wanted by all means to kill UPND president Hakainde Hichilema through Kaizer Zulu, who they called his special advisor for stupidity and theft, who had organized seven assassins from Zimbabwe to kill HH and the top UPND officials. That the

said press statement further stated that this evil project was spearheaded by Mumbi Phiri and that Kennedy Kamba was busy delivering food to hotels which hosted the assassins and the said assassins were given K300,000 as first payment. That the said online publication were not only published in the Zambia Eagle alone but also in the print media called The Mast and Watchdog."

Bobo said he wished to solve the matter amicably but Mutinta refused to heed to his demands hence the law suit.

"The plaintiff wanted to solve the matter amicably and told

the defendant and all those who published the said defamatory statement to remove from all online publication and that the defendant should apologise which deadline date was 4th day of June 2017 but the defendant failed to do so hence the court suite," stated Bobo. Bobo also wants the court to grant him exemplary damages for "harassment and emotional turmoil suffered as a result of the slanderous statement", an injunction restraining Mutinta from making further injurious statements against him and any other relief the court might deem fit.

Parliament insists boycott was disrespectful

By Mukosha Funga

The National Assembly of Zambia says the Speaker acted within the law by suspending 47 UPND members of parliament because they exhibited intentional disrespect by boycotting President Edgar Lungu's State of the Nation address in March.

In an affidavit in opposition to summons for leave to apply for judicial review filed yesterday, acting National Assembly Deputy Clerk Cecilia Sikatele said whilst Speaker Patrick Matibini recognized the

MPs' right to boycott proceedings of the assembly, the President's addresses were an exception.

"That the conduct of the applicants was contemptuous because by their boycott of the State of the Nation address by the President of the Republic of Zambia on Friday 17th March 2017, they committed an act of intentional disrespect...we wish to state that the Speaker is (acting alone) empowered to discipline Members of the National Assembly," Sikatele stated.

She submitted that the 47 MPs were afforded an opportunity to be heard before being charged of which they replied through their advocates.

Sikatele further stated that the MPs were warned that boycotting President Lungu's address again would attract a stiffer punishment. And Sikatele availed that Namwala UPND member of parliament Moono Lubezhi was erroneously included amongst the suspended MPs because she had sought permission, forcing Speaker Matibini to remove her from the list of those suspended.

In their court action, the UPND MPs said they were exercising their democratic right to expression as such the suspension was a shock. Lusaka High Court judge Petronella Ngulube has reserved ruling to next week Thursday on whether or not grant the suspended MPs leave to apply for judicial review; which will stay the Speaker's decision or not.

Soldier gets 18 months for swindling 4 people

By Diggers Reporter

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a Zambia Army officer to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour for obtaining K3,900 from people on pretext of facilitating for their recruitment to the army when in fact not.

Clement Kanyembo, 40, a soldier from Arakan Barracks has been imprisoned by magistrate Prince Mwiinga.

In his judgment, the magistrate said the prosecution had proved its case beyond

reasonable doubt that Kanyembo had intent to defraud four people whom he collected money from.

He said despite knowing the fact that there was no recruitment, Kanyembo went ahead and collected money from the victims.

According to Kanyembo, the money was to be used for medicals as a first step to recruitment.

In his lengthy mitigation, the convict asked magistrate Mwiinga to impose a suspended sentence so that his TB treatment was not

disturbed.

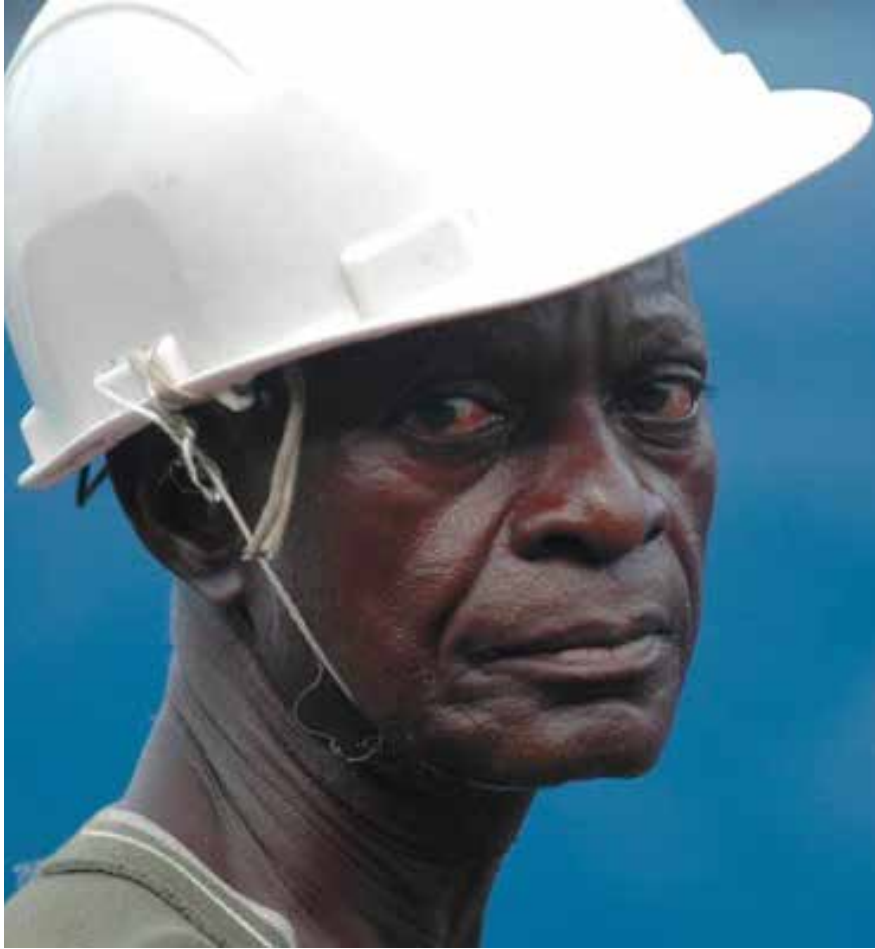
Kanyembo said if he was given a custodial sentence, his children would suffer.

But the court refused to heed to the issue of an illness saying it was not a mitigatory factor.

Magistrate Mwiinga said Kanyembo's pain was self inflicted and sentenced him to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour.

Those who were swindled are Lovemore Phiri, Lydia Chisempi, Roy Chilangwa and Richwell Sichinga.

Zambia's economy benefiting rich people – World Bank



By Charles Mafa

World Bank Country Manager Ina-Marlene Ruthenberg says Zambia's past decade of economic growth was not sufficiently pro-poor and the benefits have mainly benefited the richer segments of the population in urban areas.

Speaking at Southern Sun Hotel in Lusaka during the launch of a new World Bank Economic Brief titled Reaping Richer Returns from Public Expenditures in Agriculture released yesterday, Ruthenberg called for improvement of public spending in agriculture. "There remains a need to look closely at ways to improve public spending in agriculture to ensure the promotion of a non-copper economy and improved rural livelihoods. Low agriculture productivity is a key impediment to poverty reduction and has knock on effects in terms of gender disparities, land degradation and rapid deforestation," said Ruthenberg.

According to the brief, growth of the economy is expected to increase to 4.1 per cent in 2017 and further to 4.5 per cent in 2018 and 4.7 per cent in 2019, from 3.4 per cent in 2016. Inflation declined to 6.5 per cent in May 2017 (from a peak of above 20 per cent in February 2016) and, together with a stable kwacha, led the central bank to ease monetary policy, thereby reversing the pressure on credit growth. The brief notes that the government has been making progress with its economic recovery plan 'Zambia Plus'.

The forecast assumes that the government will continue to implement its economic recovery plan, the harvest and electricity production will be stronger because of the favourable weather, and copper production will

increase because of the new and recently refurbished mines.

The report highlights that Zambia has successfully increased the production of crops (mostly maize), largely thanks to the increased size of areas under cultivation as opposed to improved yields. While public expenditures on agriculture have been increased over the past 15 years, the report urges better targeting of agriculture subsidies.

"There are four key steps to reform the FISP (Farmers Input Support Programme). First, the roll-out of the electronic voucher to all districts has long been discussed as a means of improving the quality of FISP, and remains crucial. The 2017 budget promised a full roll-out for the 2017-18 season, but this based on current delivery challenges appears to be too ambitious. Instead, a realistic timeline for 2017-19 should be drawn up. Second, the targeting of the program should be enhanced to make it more efficient and to reduce the overall cost (freeing up resources for complementary agriculture expenditures)," said the report.

"Third, there is need for a clear exit strategy: farmers should not receive subsidies indefinitely. The program should sustainably raise productivity and incomes so that farmers can graduate from the subsidy program. Finally, there is a need to ensure that farmers can, in practice, select the inputs and the crops they grow. This is a crucial step for reversing the maize-centric status of Zambian agriculture. To improve the FRA (Food Reserve Agency), efforts are needed to ensure that the prescribed purchase limit is not exceeded. A monitoring system needs to be built to

ensure that purchases relative to the limit can be tracked accurately."

The report shows that government routinely spends 79% of the agriculture budget on FISP and the FRA. The ninth Zambia Economic Brief prepared by World Bank Senior Economist, Gregory Smith and

others calls for reform of the two programmes.

"As these programs are improved, savings will be realised. These should be invested back into the sector in high-return areas such as R&D (Research and Development), extension services, irrigation, livestock development,

infrastructure and technology.

A careful strategy will also be needed to guide such expenditure, while more predictable flows of resources to the sector will help ensure there is an incentive to plan," reads the report.

"... Since 2010, actual expenditure in agriculture

has averaged just 80% of what was planned in the Budget Speech. Further, the FISP and FRA often over-spend relative to their budget allocation, further depleting the actual expenditure in other important areas within the sector and often resulting in substantial expenditure arrears."

PF wasted Eurobond in corruption - Milupi

By Mukosha Funga and Sipilisiwe Ncube

Charles Milupi says he agrees with Finance Minister Felix Mutati that the country may not be able to repay the Eurobonds, saying the ruling party wasted the loans in corruption.

Addressing the media in Lusaka yesterday, Mutati said Zambia is currently facing major challenges among them; debt sustainability, domestic resource mobilization, and fiscal consolidation, adding that the country may default on the repayment of two Euro bonds it acquired at the time of their maturity

"One of the issues that we are still grappling with, is the whole issue of debt sustainability. How much more can we borrow as a country without risking the fundamentals of Zambia. We have employed as you know and have in place a medium term debt sustainability strategy which primarily focuses that the first call will be for this country to focus on securing public-private partnership. The second call will be issues around grants, and the third call will be concessionary financing before you go to the last one which is basically commercial borrowing. That is the pyramid of our borrowing strategy, including the work that the PS is doing to refinance the two Euro bonds that will be maturing; ecause quiet frankly at the point of maturity, we may not have the bottom cash to deal with that," Mutati said.

"Issue number two is the whole issue of domestic resource mobilization. Beyond just mere tax revenues, non tax revenues that are critically important to augment the efforts that ZRA is doing. We have had some drawbacks in terms of system

implementation such as fiscal devices which should have been implemented a lot earlier including tracking airtime, the single window. These are critical system issues that were part and parcel of our budget revenue issues."

The Finance Minister disclosed that government had so far paid off K4.2 billion out of the K17.2 billion total estimated arrears.

"The third challenge that we face is fiscal consolidation. You cannot spend money that you don't have neither can you borrow beyond your capacity to repay. We have attempted to break down and bring down the arrears as much as practically simple and PS will tell you that this year alone, we have paid off K4.2 billion of the arrears that were estimated to be at K17.2 billion, I repeat K17.2 billion and that is the arrears. We continue to clear arrears not only to contractors, pensioners, litigation and various other things including fuel. That is a major challenge," said Mutati.

But commenting on Mutati's fears, Milupi told News Diggers! that the PF government wasted Eurobond money on corruption.

"I agree with the Minister's statement 100 per cent because I do not see what capacity was created by the Eurobond to be able to pay it back. The Eurobonds were obtained at high interest rates and they were used on roads so most of the money really just went to feed corruption. These roads were put up for political reasons so they have not created capacity within the economy to generate extra funds within the economy to be able to pay back those loans. And as a matter of fact, from the time the loans were obtained, the economy has worsened," Milupi observed.

"There is no way a road in Zambia can cost over a million dollars per kilometer, but that is what we saw here. Now, when you look at the economy, we have run out of money and that is why there is desperation to borrow the \$1.6 billion from IMF to fill the gap in this year's budget."

He warned loans would not solve Zambia's financial deficits.

"Getting loans is premised on good governance, you have to have accountability by way of free press, and they have shot themselves in the foot by closing The Post, by also suppressing the opposition and so on, by incarcerating Hakainde Hichilema, they have demonstrated to the world that there is no good governance and they have put at risk their ability to get that loan from the IMF. So, in the near future, this economy will not generate sufficient funds to pay back. They are struggling now with interest but where will they find the money required to pay that debt?" asked Milupi.

"This government is very irresponsible. Look at what they are doing. Instead of focusing on the issues, they are busy now inviting so many presidents. Can they tell us how much it costs to host a visiting president? And what benefit are we getting from that? And what are they coming in Zambia to do? The point I am making is that it is pure expenditure and corruption has also continued. We are seeing houses that have been built and so on. We have no ability to pay back the money and for your own information, that is commercial money... I see harsh times ahead. The only thing that can change this is to have a government in place that understands the economy."

Why is Nawakwi hiding when Zambia needs her?

When we say that president Edith Nawakwi of the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) is turning into a political opportunist, we say it with all the respect she deserves considering the achievements she has made in her political careers.

We are alive to the fact that president Nawakwi is among the most experienced politicians we have, having served the Republic of Zambia as first female Minister of Finance; not to mention the roles she played as Minister of Energy, Agriculture, and Labour in the MMD government.

Nawakwi's bio cannot be summarised without mentioning the courageous, spirited fight she gave against Frederick Chiluba's third term bid – a debate which actually gave birth to FDD in 2001. In fact, without taking away anything from late Christon Tembo, this country may never get to know the great depth to which president Nawakwi went, risking her life in covert operations to defend Zambia's Constitution from being abused by Chiluba's administration.

But now, the fact that we are beginning to list her achievements when she is still alive and leading a political party, when she is still seeking to be President of Zambia, tells us that something is amiss. Indeed, something is definitely politically wrong with Ms Edith Nawakwi.

If we didn't know what she is capable of achieving, we probably wouldn't be holding this strong opinion against her. But we do, and the fact that Ms Nawakwi will come back to us seeking our votes not long from now, gives us the right to tell her what she needs to know when it really matters.

To start with, maybe those in FDD can help us understand;

where is Edith Zewelani Nawakwi? Why is the president of the Forum for Democracy and Development hiding when Zambia desperately craves her strong voice?

God forbid, if an election was called in Zambia tomorrow, we know that Ms Nawakwi would resurface, but we wonder what her campaign message would be. Would she be able to say with a straight face that those who wield political power in Zambia have assumed unprecedented totalitarianism, when she watched in silence as things degenerated? we wonder how Ms Nawakwi's silence is helping to protect the interests of the poor people of Namushakende whom she passionately peaks about during campaigns.

We are not calling on Ms Nawakwi to stand up and condemn the Patriotic Front or disagree with President Edgar Lungu. It is within her right to accept the political state of affairs in Zambia as totally democratic. Our call is that if that is what she thinks, let her gain the courage of standing up to say so. It is not a secret that Ms Nawakwi doesn't buy the politics of Mr Hakainde Hichilema (despite supporting his presidential bid in 2006) and she made it clear during the last campaign that the UPND would be worse than the PF in power. Our challenge remains that if the FDD president sees nothing wrong in the manner that the police under the PF is treating citizens, especially those affiliated to the UPND, at least let her declare that position so that Zambians can decide if that is a kind of president they would want to see take over State House after Mr Lungu.

Even Mr Wynter Kabimba, whose party is newer and quite frankly not as popular as FDD, has spoken and we know where he stands. With today's technology, you only have to Goggle "Kabimba's views on arrest of HH" and the answer

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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will be right at the top; "HH should face persecution alone like I did – Wynter Kabimba".

At least we can conclude that Mr Kabimba views Mr Hichilema's situation as persecution but he has also made it clear to the Zambian voters that he will not join the fight for the rights of the persecuted UPND leader because when he (Mr Kabimba) was facing persecution in the PF, he fought alone without calling on the UPND's assistance. That is the president (or General Secretary) of the Rainbow Party. The leader of the National Restoration Party Elias Chipimo has given his voice over the country's state of affairs. People's Party leader Mike Mulongoti and Alliance for Democracy and Development president Charles Milupi have also stated their positions, to mention but a few. And all these political parties above are new; they found the FDD already had members of parliament in the National Assembly.

Those who have spoken have not done so because they support UPND. They have spoken because they understand that what is happening to Mr Hichilema can happen to any of them tomorrow.

A famous quote by Adolf Hitler's foe Martin Niemöller can effectively help communicate

the message we are trying to pass to president Nawakwi.

Pastor Martin said: "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."

Again we ask the question; why is president Edith Nawakwi not speaking when the police are going for the UPND? Is it because she is not UPND? Why is Nawakwi not speaking when the PF is going for the Bishops? Is it because she is not a priest? Why didn't president Nawakwi speak when PF thugs went to hound out Linda Kasonde from the LAZ secretariat? Is it because she is not a lawyer? If police tomorrow arrested Nawakwi for whatever political reason, who will be left to speak for her? This is why we would like to know where president Nawakwi is standing on the matters that are affecting Zambia and her voters?

We may be wrong, but our view is that Zambians do not give the same measure of respect to the

FDD as they give to the Heritage Party. That is why Nawakwi's silence is, by and large, immoral for a political leader who speaks so strongly against corruption, dictatorship, human rights abuse and poor governance. Compared to Brigadier General Godfrey Miyanda, Ms Nawakwi's silence is damaging for a politician who has had so much going for her in the past decade.

How can president Nawakwi sit comfortably wherever she is, leaving the entire FDD in the hands of one Antonio Mwanza to run? Today when we hear that FDD will be featuring on a radio programme, we know it's not the party's president or its secretary general. If you see a political statement from FDD, know that it has been issued by Antonio Mwanza and not the party president – and the excuse is that Antonio is the spokesperson. Really? Antonio Mwanza whom president Nawakwi strangely denied the opportunity to serve as her running-mate is now the one taking on the PF, single handedly from the opposition party.

Anyway, that is not our issue because we are not politically experienced enough to guide the FDD on how to manage their party. However, we insist

that since Mr Mwanza has never been on the presidential ballot paper representing FDD, president Nawakwi should show leadership and the bravery we know her for, by standing up to speak now! – even if it is to sing praise for President Lungu.

This strategy of showing up during campaigns, making noise and money in the process from financiers, is sadly exposing Ms Nawakwi as a political opportunist who cares quite less about rule of law and good governance. If it bothered the FDD president that the police were abusing the public order Act during campaigns, it should also bother her now after the elections, when the police go to arrest UPND officials from their secretariat, for merely attempting to hold a press briefing.

We don't want to speculate about any possible silent alliances between her and the Head of State, considering the fact that her last public appearance was with President Lungu at State House during the 2016 Independence celebrations. However, we can only imagine how betrayed the villagers of Namushakende who voted for her in the last election are feeling with the fact that their leader is nowhere to be seen when Zambia needs her voice.

Dialogue before situation becomes irredeemable

On the occasion of Heroes and Unity Days

Our country has come a long way to get to where we are today. Our founding fathers and mothers sacrificed so much for all of us to be what we are. Every generation has got its own heroes and this has been so since time immemorial. These are men and women who should fill text books in our schools, colleges and universities. Sadly, very little has been written about these unsung heroes whose remains are scattered in graves all across the ten provinces of Zambia. Even our archives don't have their names and all the things they did. The few that remain are probably too old or too frail to tell their heroic deeds to our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and generations yet unborn.

They were ordinary people who loved our country and who had a noble vision for its future. They worked hard and hoped

for a better country, where all the 73 tribes would work and live together in unity, peace and harmony. They did not have money or care about the comforts and trappings of the 21st century. They were selfless and sweated blood and tears to arm their children with some form of education to face the vulgarities of their time. They put the country first.

Independence came in October, 1964 and these founding fathers and mothers consolidated this unity through imaginative and forward looking approaches like adopting a one Zambia, one nation, which were put in practice in so many ways through appointments to cabinet and the public service, where for the sake of our unity as a country, we all worked together as one people. Strong seeds of unity were planted by the founding fathers and mothers, which have enabled us to live together as brothers and sisters and to care for

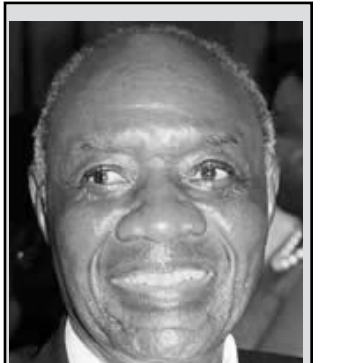
one another. No one should pretend that this approach to our national life, which won us the acclaim and admiration of the world, did not go through severe tests, twists and turns. It did, but we stood together as a people, proud and free to defend it and make it our national way of life. Whenever threats to our unity appeared, they stood together to stoutly defend it and won. Our leaders of that time led by Kenneth Kaunda, Harry Nkumbula, Simon Kapwepwe, Mainza Chona, Reuben Kamanga, Humphrey Mulemba, Grey Zulu, Arthur Wina, Nalumbo Munda, Elijah Mudenda, Peter Matoka, Sikota Wina, Munukayumbwa Sipalo, Solomon Kalulu, Julia Chikamoneka, Justin Chimba, Esther Banda, Lawrence Katilungu, Nalatindi Nganga, Samuel Mbilishi, Lewis Changufu, John Banda, Aaron Milner, Mungoni Liso, Mary Fulano, Jonathan Chivunga and many others too numerous to

mention were there to guide our nation and to make sure that we kept our unity. They provided leadership and direction in more ways than one. They were ably supported by the people in all the provinces, who ultimately were the true heroes and who made sure that the leaders did not deviate or compromise the unity of our country.

In recent times, there has been a weakening of this unity and cracks have appeared as a result of changes in the political leadership of our country. We have a growing and better educated population which is detribalised, but which is being led by an elite, which is more tribalised and which seems less committed to this unity, which has served us well before and after independence. It has not been uncommon in recent elections to political office to hear aspirants of political office or their supporters play the tribal card to seek election. It

is in fact very common to see political aspirants to office to retreat to their home areas to seek office and this applies to all political parties without exception. It is not unusual to see unbalanced tribal appointments to cabinet, civil service, diplomatic service, security services, public service commissions and parastatals. It has almost become an accepted norm and appears to be done without any sense of national shame. There was a time when this was a national taboo. Ethnic voting during elections to political office has become commonplace and one can safely redraw the map of Zambia. This is a shameful and dangerous development which does not augur well for the unity of our country. The absence of dialogue among our political leaders has created tension and left a dark cloud hanging over our country. For the sake of our heroes who worked tirelessly for our unity, let us as Zambians

sit down, seriously reflect and put measures to correct this situation before it becomes irredeemable.



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.



Stindl seals glory for Low's young hotshots

Germany's new generation confirmed their status as a future force to be reckoned with by beating a seasoned Chile 1-0 to win the Confederations Cup final in Russia on Sunday.

Lars Stindl's first-half goal following a costly error from Marcelo Diaz came against the run of play and proved decisive for the world champions at St Petersburg's Krestovsky Stadium, where Chile failed to force an equaliser during a tight second period.

A first triumph for Germany in the competition, which

traditionally serves as a dress rehearsal for the subsequent year's World Cup, is a testament to Joachim Low's ingenuity in selecting a team of hungry youngsters with something to prove, and may leave many members of the established first team facing a tough battle to retain their place in the squad at 2018's main event.

The result will come as a disappointment to Copa America holders Chile, who should have had enough guile and experience to come away with the trophy against a young team who struggled

to match them in a 1-1 group stage draw.

The attention of coach Juan Antonio Pizzi now turns to CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying, in which Chile are fourth, one point ahead of Argentina, as they seek to ensure they return to Russia on the big stage in 11 months' time.

A rampant Chile dominated the opening exchanges, with Antonio Rudiger required to deny Charles Aranguiz inside the area in the fifth minute and Marc-Andre ter Stegen keeping out Arturo Vidal's follow-up effort.

Eduardo Vargas and Mauricio Isla both had Ter Stegen and the Germany defence worried in the subsequent 15 minutes, while Alexis Sanchez narrowly failed to put away the rebound when the Barcelona goalkeeper could only parry a firm Vidal strike.

It was Germany, though, who broke the deadlock, benefiting from a Diaz mistake to open the scoring against the run of play in the 20th minute. Attempting to turn under pressure on the edge of his box, the Celta Vigo player inadvertently

gifted possession to Timo Werner, who forced goalkeeper Claudio Bravo to commit before squaring the ball for Stindl to pass into an unguarded net.

To their credit, Chile were undeterred by going behind and immediately resumed pressing Germany in advanced areas and at a furious tempo, albeit without creating clear scoring opportunities.

They were nearly punished again on the counter when Julian Draxler and Sebastian Rudy combined to play in Leon Goretzka down the right side of the area, the Schalke midfielder firing across Bravo and wide of the far post as Chile's all-action approach repeatedly left them exposed at the back.

Another defensive mishap could have proved fatal when Gonzalo Jara played a pass straight to Draxler on

the stroke of half-time, but Goretzka opted not to take a first-time shot with his left foot and Chile survived.

The frenetic pace of the opening half gave way to a cagey affair after the break, and it took until the 55th minute for a good chance to arrive, Isla's block preventing Draxler from getting a shot on target after the Paris Saint-Germain star drove powerfully into the area.

FIFA's new Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system, a contentious feature of the tournament due to its seemingly inconsistent application and the questionable decisions it has prompted, came under the spotlight again shortly after the hour mark. Jara's nasty elbow against the jaw of Werner, initially missed by match official Milorad Mazic, saw the Serbian somehow only produce a yellow card following a review of what appeared to be an incident warranting a straight red.

Having narrowly avoided going down to 10 men, Chile began to apply sustained pressure and missed a glorious chance to equalise in the 85th minute. Edson Puch snuck in to steal the ball from in front of Ter Stegen and cut it back to fellow substitute Anyelo Sagal, who blazed wildly over the bar.

Tempers flared in the 90th minute when Emre Can became embroiled in a confrontation with five Chile players after bowling over Sanchez, Bravo rushing from his goal to become involved, as did Low from the touchline.

Ter Stegen had to be alert five minutes into stoppage-time, parrying clear a 25-yard Sanchez free-kick to deny Chile from the game's last sight of goal and make sure of Die Mannschaft's unexpected triumph. - **Goal.**

com

Zanaco in touching distance of quarterfinal spot

By Diggers Reporter

Zanaco coach Mumamba Numba is upbeat they can get the desired result at home against Al Ahly this afternoon to book their 2017 CAF Champions League quarterfinal place with a game to spare.

The Bankers host the record 8-time African champions at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka in a penultimate Group D match.

The Zambian champions lead Group D on 10 points, three ahead of the Egyptian giants.

Wydad Casablanca of Morocco are 3rd on 6

points while Cotonsport of Cameroon are bottom on zero points.

"This game is very important to us because this is the game that holds our key to the quarterfinals," Numba said.

"We are taking it seriously because we are playing a team with a lot of experience and with quality players we need to be at our peak to beat a team like Al Ahly."

Zanaco head into the match unbeaten in Group D where they have collected 10 out of a possible 12 points from their last four games.

Furthermore, Zanaco have

won their last three games and trace their only Group D draw to May 13 on match day one when they held Al Ahly to a scoreless away draw in Alexandria.

A draw on Saturday for Zanaco will also be enough to see them make their debut qualification to the final knockout round of the CAF Champions League.

Eight battle in Metropolitan golf tourney

By Tenson Mkhala

Eighty golfers from three different African Countries today battled it out in a one day golf tournament organised by Metropolitan Health Zambia at Lusaka Golf Club.

Speaking to the News

Diggers! in an interview, Metropolitan Chief Executive Officer and Country Head Dr Lovemore Gomera said the tournament was aimed at improving vitality, wellness and to encourage health lifestyles among Zambians of all ages.

Dr Gomera said the event was part of the on-going the Metropolitan group commitment towards activities that support health and fitness as part of its overall corporate strategy to provide top quality health care solutions.

"Today we as Metropolitan Health Zambia decided to come up with this tournament in order to honor our clients and partners. We believe that we have a lot to offer in Zambia and also over solutions in terms of health," Dr Gomera said.

He said the tournament attracted golfers from Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Metropolitan Health Zambia markets a range of healthcare and insurance products aimed at enhancing the quality of life and well-being of Zambia.

COSAFA victory elates Chipolopolo coach

By Diggers Reporter

Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda has commended his charges for ending their four-year Cosafa Cup semifinal drought. Chipolopolo beat 2016 runners-up Botswana 2-1 in the quarterfinals on July 1 in Rustenburg to reach their first semifinals since 2013.

The four-time champions have been eliminated from the last two editions at the last 8 stage of the competition since winning the Cosafa Cup as hosts four years ago.

"It was a tough game but I must commend the boys for a job well done," Nyirenda said.

Green Buffaloes striker Brian Mwila scored the first goal in the 10th minute to put Zambia 1-0 into halftime.

It was Mwila's second successive Chipolopolo goal after scoring his debut goal on June 13 in a 2-1 away friendly victory over Bafana Bafana.

Nkwazi striker Justin Shonga added the final goal in the 70th minute.

But two minutes later, Botswana were

awarded a penalty but Power Dynamos goalkeeper Allan Chibwe parried Thabang Sesinyi's spot kick.

However, Botswana sneaked one in the 79th minute through Kabelo Seakanyeng to see the Zebras relegated to the plate category of the tournament South Africa is hosting from June 25 to July 9.

Zambia will face winner of Sunday's quarterfinal tie between hosts Bafana Bafana or Tanzania in the semifinals on July 5.



ZAMBIA READY FOR TANZANIA IN COSAFA SEMI

By Diggers Reporter
Zambia will play Tanzania in Wednesday's 2017 Cosafa Cup semifinals at the ongoing tournament in

South Africa. Tanzania on Sunday clinched their semifinal date against their Western neighbours when they eliminated hosts and defending champions Bafana Bafana 1-0 on Sunday at the Royal Bafokeng Palace Stadium in Rustenburg.

Elias Maguri scored the game's lone goal in the 18th minute with a right footed shot that beat goalkeeper Boalefa Pule. The July 5 date at Moruleng Stadium will be Zambia and Tanzania's first Cosafa Cup clash in 20 years.

The two sides played out to a 2-2 draw in Arusha when the inaugural 1997 tournament was played in a round-robin format. Zambia won the tournament that year when they finished top of the pool on 8 points from their allotted four games.

meanwhile, Chipolopolo secured their semifinal place in this year's tournament after a 2-1 win over 2016 runners-up Botswana on Saturday.

It was Zambia's first semifinal qualification since they win the tournament as hosts in 2013.



Zanaco in touching distance of CAF CL quarterfinal spot P11

Eight battle in Metropolitan one day golf tournament P11

