

Lungu congratulates Paul Kagame on his 3rd term re-election
By Mukosha Funga
President Edgar Lungu has congratulated his Rwandese counterpart Paul Kagame for his election victory. According to a statement issued by Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda, President Lungu said President Kagame's victory was as a result of the confidence that people had in him.
Continues on on P3

MY THOUGHTS FROM PRISON

Story on page 3

No hard feelings for those in govt, but time is coming for them to go to jail and face the conditions, says Mwaliteta



Obvious Mwaliteta reacts after being freed from one year detention in prison. Right are his daughters and wife (above) - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Kambwili meets Tonga chiefs, says sorry for bad language P3 | **PF charges Kennedy Kamba for campaigning, dividing youths** P4

PF already campaigning for 2021 - VJ

By *Miriam Chabala*

Vernon Mwaanga says it is unprecedented for a party that has just formed government to start campaigning 4 years ahead of the next election.

And VJ says only the courts of law can make someone accept election results.

Speaking when he featured on Prime TV's Oxygen of Democracy programme on Monday, VJ observed that Ministers were already campaigning for an election which was four years away.

"Well, 2021 is four years away and it's coming whether we like it or not. You can see from what is happening that the ruling party; they have already started campaigning but the others are not allowed to campaign because of the Threatened State of Emergency or because of the misapplication of the Public Order Act by police. So there are already issues which are coming out as a result of that. You know I was watching before I came on the programme, campaign is being done by PF Ministers and officials with a view to 2021 which is four years away and this is unprecedented in the history of this country," VJ said.

He said it was only fair that the opposition be allowed to campaign as well.

"So these are the issues which need to be discussed through a process of dialogue as to how to level the playing field for all political parties in this country so that if one party is campaigning then all parties must be allowed to campaign freely without interference so that we don't have accusations being labeled of unfair application of laws which are only intended for certain sections of the community or certain political parties with an exclusion of the ruling party and whoever is in office should not use the advantages of incumbency to disadvantage the others," VJ said.

And when asked if the 2016 elections were free and fair, VJ said he did not really know since the election petition was not heard but noted that it was not up to an individual to force someone to accept results.

"I don't really know if the elections were free and fair because I was not involved in the elections of 2016 but the people who were involved raised issues which should have been heard in Court and unfortunately those issues were not heard and so, we will never know what those issues are until or unless the petition is reopened and heard by the Constitutional Court. I have been involved in elections for a very long time as you can very well imagine and believe that no one goes into elections believing that they are going to lose," Mwaanga said.

"If you go in an election that you are going to lose then don't go into it in the first place. You go into an election believing that you are going to win and that if you fail to win as a result of certain irregularities which you may have observed, there is a Court process to deal with these irregularities where you can present evidence before a court of law for it to decide whether you have a valid point or not. So it is not up to your opponent in that race to tell you to accept the results of an election, no! That is a function of the courts, to be able to decide based on the evidence provided."

VJ also said PF and UPND were responsible for the tension in the country because of their different feelings about the 2016 election results.

"We have two issues to deal with here, on the part of President [Edgar] Lungu and PF, they believe that UPND should recognise the outcome of the elections of 2016 and that HH should recognise Lungu as the President of the Republic of Zambia then the case of



PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri during a press briefing at the party Secretariat in Lusaka-picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPND they also have issues namely; they believe that their petition was not heard and because of that, it has raised substantial doubts about the illegibility of the electoral process which has even made it difficult for them to recognise the President," VJ observed.

"So I believe that both sides have got issues and my argument has always been that those arguments

should be put on a table for dialogue by both sides so that they dialogue without any preconditions because preconditions are never good for dialogue and they dilute the concept of dialogue. Dialogue means putting everything on the table and in a spirit of give and take for the sake of peace in the country. I am convinced myself that the solution is for both parties to reach a

compromise because of one, it's one year now since the last election was held and the next election is four years away so there is need for both PF and UPND to make compromises for the sake of peace in country by putting the country first rather than their interests."

VJ further observed that Zambian politicians were selfish.

"The other problem we have

is that Zambian politicians do not understand what a democratic election is all about and they are selfish. They look at themselves at the expense of the country and for me, that is selfishness. Perhaps it is a combination of immaturity and selfishness which produces a danger. And how I hope that this culture of arrests can be brought to an end for God's sake!" exclaimed VJ.

Police must acquire bulletproof vests – HRC

By *Sipilisiwe Ncube*

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has called on government to procure bullet proof jackets for law enforcement officers, particularly those working in sensitive operations like the anti-robbery squad.

Commenting on the Ndola incident where two police

officers from the flying squad were killed by criminals in an exchange of fire yesterday, Commission Spokesperson Mweelwa Muleya said it was a grave violation of human rights of the deceased officers. "The Human Rights Commission (HRC) strongly condemns the killing of two police officers and the

wounding of a civilian by suspected criminals yesterday in Ndola on the Copperbelt as the act is criminal and a grave violation of the right to life of the deceased officers. The Commission calls upon members of the public to help the Zambia Police Service in tracking down the suspected criminals who are still on the run so that they are brought to book in accordance with the law," Mweelwa said.

"The Commission also wishes to appeal to the Government to consider prioritizing the procurement of adequate bullet proof jackets or any form of such protective device for law enforcement officers, particularly those working in sensitive operations such as the anti-robbery squad in order to protect them from criminals."

Mweelwa said it was regrettable for officers to lose their lives whilst trying to secure the lives of others.

"Police Officers are law enforcement officers who tirelessly work to protect property and life of others on a daily basis under difficult and risky situations and must therefore be protected from any form of interference or harm during the course of their duty," he said.

"Police Officers are primary

human rights defenders in line with their constitutional mandate and it is deeply regrettable that they have to pay with their own lives in the course of securing the rights of others. The Commission deeply commiserates with the Zambia Police Service and the families of the deceased officers. The deprivation of the right to life constitutes terminal violation of human rights and must at all cost be prevented as life lost cannot be restored."

He also appealed to law enforcers to enhance community service policing and work towards identifying individuals in possession of military weapons.

"The Commission calls on everyone to collaborate with law enforcement officers in maintaining public security, law and order in order to promote a conducive environment for enjoyment of human rights such as conducting business without fear of being robbed," said Mweelwa.

"It is also important for law enforcement officers to enhance community service policing and work towards identifying individuals in possession of, and abusing, military weapons such as an AK47 assault rifle."



ZNS officers perform at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Mirriam Chabala
Traffic came to a standstill, friends and family couldn't stop cheering and dancing. Obvious Mwaliteta was returned to his hometown after spending 12 months in prison. The local people in Kafue remember him as their former hardworking member of parliament while others still refer to him as Honourable (former minister of Lusaka Province).

He was arrested on August 16, 2016, a day after President Edgar Lungu was declared winner of the hotly contested general elections, and charged with aggravated robbery – a non-bailable offence for which an offender could face as many as 30 years in prison. He was accused of robbing election officers and fleeing with election materials.

Mwaliteta, an opposition UPND member, had been detained at Lusaka Central Prison and he attended each court hearing with diminishing hope of ever walking to freedom – until Tuesday August 9, 2017 when a Lusaka High Court judge ruled that he had no case to answer.

In this exclusive interview with News Diggers!, Mwaliteta relives his prison experience, thanks his family and party officials and warns those in government that their time is coming.

Question: How was your experience in prison?

Answer: The experience was terrible; it was very bad. But today I am very excited to be free. I am excited that we have been vindicated with my colleagues. We never committed that offense, truly we never did. But the judiciary has done its part and I think the judge was very good, I am sure he followed that case decided to acquit us, so I am very excited. I know what prison is like today, but what is unfortunate is that there are a lot of people who are in prison who are innocent. We need to do a lot to help them. Maybe we need some judicial reforms. But unfortunately, we don't see things like that happening maybe because those in government haven't been to prison. But time will come when they will go to prison and they will realise that prison conditions need to change. The correctional facility they talk about is not yet there, it's just by name. A lot has to be done but all the same, I am very happy that I am out, I am excited though my heart is back in prison because I have left my president there.

Q: How hard was it for you to survive in prison?

A: I know the experience in prison and I feel for those people I have left there. I know what it is, I know what they are going through even right now when I am giving you the interview. I know what is happening inside there, it was not easy. That place is not a good place for someone to be, but it was God. People thought it was Mwaliteta who was detained or put in prison, but there was another person whom they didn't see and it was God. God was with me, he was ever looking and watching over me when I was sleeping.”

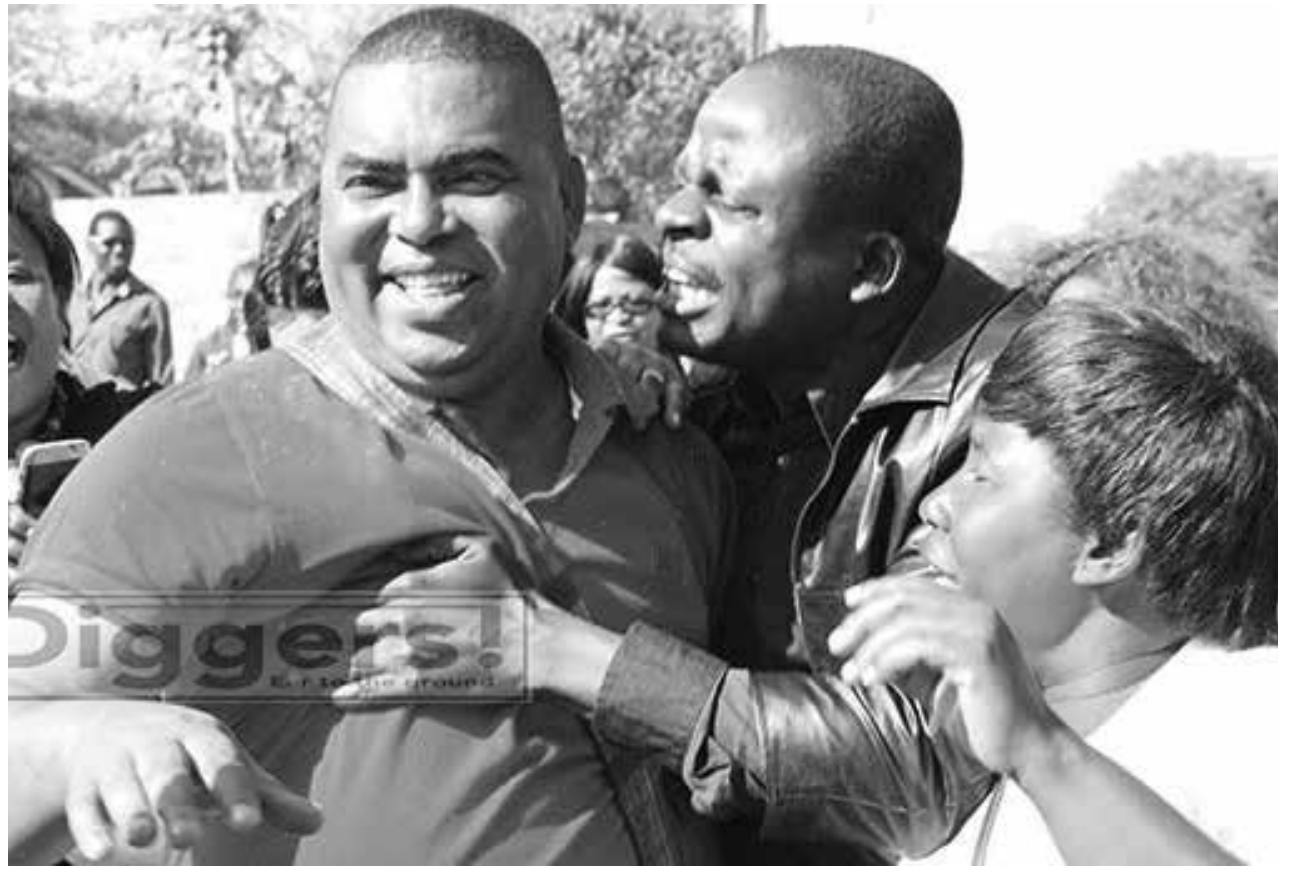
Q: How is your health now after leaving prison?

A: I am very healthy, I have no complaints and up to date I am very humbled that the Zambian people also did their part, they have been praying for us. They prayed and we could feel their prayers coming to prison. Even if we were inside, we could feel the prayers and I want to thank them. My lawyers also have done a very good job and I want to thank them, Keith Mweemba and the group, honourable Keith Mukata though he is detained and his group, they did a very good job. I also want to thank the party. The party supported us through the president and his vice-president. Even when the president was in prison, he still wanted to support us and we said 'but Mr president we are in the same situation, why are you concerned about us? We are concerned about you' he said 'no I am concerned about you people'. So we received very big support from the party and also from my family. I can assure you that all my family members came to visit me. All my party members from Kafue constituency came to visit me, so I am very humbled. It's only now that I am realising the gap I left, people felt it. That's why they followed me to prison to come and see me and I am doing fine.

Q: Do you feel Hichilema will be free soon?

A: We are looking forward to this dialogue that is going on, but unfortunately, how do you dialogue when the other colleague is in prison? We were hoping that they would bring HH out then let him consult with his colleagues so that as they discuss this thing of dialogue, he will also have people to consult. But it's like you put a boxer in the ring and then one of them has got groves but the other

Mwaliteta: My thoughts from prison



Obvious Mwaliteta at Lusaka Central Prison shortly after being released on August 8, 2017-picture by Tenson Mkhala

boxer is tied then you say can you fight, honestly you can't win a fight like that. We want a win-win situation. We are very happy that the Catholics have taken this issue of dialogue with others and we are very ready to dialogue.
Q: Do you intend to sue the state for wrongful detention?
A: Well, not now. I need first of all to sit down and consult my lawyers. What is important for me now is my freedom, that I am out and if there is anything I think it won't come now maybe later. What is important is that I have come to join my family so I need to reflect and I think. For me to be in prison also it was another experience I was getting, so I am a new person, I am a very different person after coming out of this prison. And when you come out of prison, it is a blessing somehow. You can see today how people are celebrating seeing me after a year. I

know it's very painful, I have lost a lot and I have been out for a long time, but I think we have learned a lot.

Q: What is the way forward for you? Will you continue with politics or you are quitting?

A: This is our country. Zambia is our country and the struggle continues. If things are wrong we need to correct them, so who is going to correct them if we are going to fold our arms? If we say 'because I have been in prison so let me see things going wrong and fold my arms, who is going to correct them? We need to correct the situation in this country, we need to keep on pushing our colleagues to do the right thing in government for those who are still in government. I am not going to quit politics, actually this is just the beginning of my political career, I have just started.

Q: What message do you have for President

Edgar Lungu and those in government?

A: What we need to do now is to continue with the liberation of this country economically and politically because everything is wrong. That's a fact. My colleagues in government, my advice to them is that they should reflect. I was part of them and I know what I am talking about. There is something wrong in the governance system of this country. This country cannot be misled by a few individuals who are misleading the President. That presidency is big and the President cannot be getting advice from small small boys who are commen. We want this country to be peaceful because we have been peaceful ever since we got our independence and there is no way all of a sudden there are all these problems like this in the country. So I am asking the President of this country Edgar Chagwa Lungu to reflect. What

direction does he want the country to go? If he thinks what is happening now in the country is comfortable, then it is only him who is comfortable [because] the rest of the Zambians are not comfortable. So if the rest of Zambians are not comfortable and they are not happy with the way things are happening in the country, I think as a leader, he should reflect and try to find a way of doing the right thing. But we are not going to complain. I have no hard feelings for anyone, I harbour no hurt for my colleagues in government, I wish them the best as they try to govern this country. I am only saying please, let them open their ears not only their eyes. They need to listen, people are crying and if people are crying then you pretend that they are not crying but laughing, you will be shocked one day. I wish them all the best.”

Kambwili meets Tonga chiefs, says sorry for bad language

By Mirriam Chabala
Roan Patriotic Front (PF) Member of Parliament Chishimba Chimbwili has apologised to the people of Southern Province for mocking them through a statement he made while he was Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services.

In 2015 while serving as chief government spokesperson in PF, Kambwili said when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview programme that the people of Southern Province would still vote for a fellow Tonga even if Jesus Christ was to contest that

election, because they were tribalists.

But today, Kambwili was in Monze where he met Southern Province chiefs and physically apologise for the hurt he caused them through his bad language.

“I sincerely thank you for accepting my apology, I came here to basically unreservedly apologise to the Tonga speaking people before the people of southern province and the Zambians for the unfortunate statement that I made on ZNBC to the effect that 'even if Jesus Christ was to come, the people of Southern province would vote for a fellow Tonga'. This I have reflected and

I want to say that I have withdrawn the statement and unreservedly apologise to the people of Southern province. My first apology was through my Radio interview but I felt it was important that I come to the custodians of Southern province who the Chiefs so that I can physically apologise to them,” submitted kambwili.

And Southern Province chiefs assured Kambwili that they had forgiven him. The Roan member of parliament was accompanied by former Copperbelt minister Mwenya Musenge and Former Kabushi member of parliament Lombe Musishili.

Lungu congratulates Kagame on his re-election

From front page

“His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has congratulated Rwandan President Paul Kagame following his resounding victory in last week's Presidential election. The President has said Mr Kagame's re-election is a demonstration of the confidence

the people of Rwanda have in his leadership and vision for that country. In a congratulatory message to Mr Kagame, the President said, the Zambian Government looked forward to continued cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda in addressing issues of mutual interest at bilateral and multilateral levels,” stated

Chanda.

“The President also said the Zambian Government was keen to enhancing cooperation between Zambia and Rwanda in key sectors of the two countries' economies for their mutual benefit, as well as for the advancement of the regional and African developmental agendas.”

PF charges Kennedy Kamba for campaigning, dividing youths



PF's provincial youth chairman Kennedy Kamba

By Mukosha Funga

Patriotic Front Lusaka Province Chairman Horace Longwe has written to the party's provincial youth chairman Kennedy Kamba asking him to exculpate himself on three charges including trying to take over his position. In a letter dated August 5, 2017, Longwe charged that Kamba was destabilizing the party with his insatiable appetite for the position of Provincial Chairman. "I refer you to the report by the Lusaka District Youth on the perpetration of violence in Chawama Constituency on Saturday, 30 July, 2017 where a branch party official by the name of Ngoma Thomas was beaten up by named party officials from intercity branch. The provincial committee

sat on 05/08/2017 and studied the report and it has come to the knowledge of the committee that you are to blame and the following are the charges the committee has placed on you. 1. Misleading the National Youth Chairman Hon Stephen Kampyongo against all evidence available that intercity branch officials beat up Ngoma Thomas. 2. From [1] above you were deliberately protecting the perpetrators of violence who are well known to have committed the offense," Longwe charged. "3. Failure to control youths affairs in the province but you have decided to scale up your campaign for the position of Provincial Chairman when you know there is no vacancy. Your behavior has been undermining the incumbent Provincial Chairman because your unnecessary early campaigns are dividing the party, and you have been using the same intercity bus branch officials to intimidate those resisting your maneuvers." Longwe asked Kamba to exculpate himself within seven days and show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against him. "In addition to the above three charges, you have been encouraging the spirit of divisions among youths through your insatiable appetite for the position of Provincial Chairman. I am therefore asking you to exculpate yourself within seven days of this letter explaining why disciplinary action should not be taken against you," stated Longwe.

Govt finally pays some election registration officers

By Mirriam Chabala

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says government has set aside K18 million out of the K36 million it owes officers who participated in phase three of the mobile insurance of National Registration Cards conducted prior to the August 2016 elections. Speaking at a media briefing today, Kampyongo said government, through the department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship would soon make arrangements to pay the remaining amount to the affected officers. "You may be aware that my Ministry through the National Registration, Passports and Citizenship department conducted the mobile issuance of registration cards in the run up to August 2016 Presidential and general elections. This exercise was conducted in three phases. The first phase was conducted from 1st May to 31st July 2015 and covered Muchinga, Central and Northern Provinces. All allowances for our officers who participated in this phase were paid in full. Phase two was conducted from the 4th of September to 4th December, 2015 and covered Lusaka, Southern, Eastern and Western Provinces and allowances for our officers

who participated in this phase were paid in full," Kampyongo said. "Phase three was conducted from 1st November, 2015 to 31st January, 2016. This phase covered Luapula, Copperbelt and North Western Provinces and like other phases, it lasted for a period of 90 days. Our officers who participated in phase three of the exercise where only paid for a period of 30 days in the year 2015 out of the total 90 days which they had worked and this means that at the end of the exercise my Ministry was owing a total of 60 days to each of the officers who participated in the last phase. As you may recall, due to budget constraints as was announced in Parliament last year, my Ministry was unable to meet the cost of paying outstanding allowances for the remaining 60 days to the officers who participated in phase three. I am therefore pleased to announce that my Ministry has set aside funds amounting to K18 million to pay officers who participated in this phase for a total of 30 days out of the 60 days owed to them." Kampyongo assured the rest of the affected officers that government would soon clear the debt. "I wish to reiterate the commitment to paying

the remaining 30 days we still owe our hard working officers as soon as funds were set aside for this purpose and this will be soon. The department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship shall therefore immediately begin making arrangements to pay the remaining allowances for the remaining 30 days to all our officers who participated in phase three of the mobile issuance of National registration cards. May also take this opportunity to dispel speculations that government will not pay the outstanding allowances to the officers, our officers worked for this money and indeed it belongs to them. I would therefore like to assure our officers that the money due to them shall be paid in full as soon as possible," he said. Meanwhile, Kampyongo said the lives of the two police officers from the flying squad (C5) who were gunned down by criminals in Ndola yesterday after an exchange of fire would not go in vain. "It's a sad day for us as a Ministry and I would like you to allow me on behalf of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to extend our heartfelt condolences

to the families of our two gallant detective Sergeants, Ben Chilubula and Francis Kunda. These our officers who lost their lives in course of duty yesterday in Ndola. We pray for God's guidance and comfort at this difficult time for the families and indeed the Zambia police service as a whole. Our slain officers shall never be forgotten and their lives will not go in vain," Kampyong said. "What is unfortunate is that these officers who died on course of duty were responding to robbery, aggravated robbery where huge sums of money was stolen from a business entity which had done sales throughout the long weekend and I don't want to go so much into those details because police are investigating these matters but our general view is just

to show you how much our officers stake up their lives just protect you and your property and therefore they deserve support from all of us as citizens." And the Minister also urged police officers to support one another regardless of their different portfolios. "May I also take this opportunity to call on our officers to close ranks and support each other both on and off duty. As security officers, we know that you are always on duty. I must also categorically say that the Zambia Police Service must win this battle that the criminals have waged and I would just like to say that we are not going to allow a situation where criminal elements become victors, they will certainly not be victors," said Kampyongo.

N/Western Police arrest driver for causing death of pedestrian

By Mukosha Funga

Police in North Western Province have arrested a 51-year-old man for causing death by dangerous driving. According to a statement issued by North Western Province police commissioner Auxensio

Daka said Chate Chisenga was over speeding on a dusty road. "Whilst driving a Hilux Reg AGB 5430 from east to west was trying to avoid hitting a pedestrian who was standing in the road and lost control and he

overturned and in the process, a passenger aged 68, Christine Chisola sustained fatal injuries and died on the spot," stated Daka. "The body has since been deposited to Solwezi General Hospital mortuary."



JOB DISCRIPTION

Title: Head of Programmes and Research

Reports to: Executive Director

Overall Purpose of the Job:

Research, Policy analysis and Programme Coordination

Key areas of responsibilities	Tasks
Research and Policy Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research and policy analysis around the key thematic focus areas under CTPDs new strategic plan • Development of research tools, Terms of Reference for studies, baselines and surveys • Contribute towards strengthening the capacity of staff and network members in research • Contribute towards the planning and budgeting for research and advocacy interventions • Prepare research reports, policy briefing papers • Carry out independent primary and secondary research that would help strengthen advocacy initiatives • Analyze and interpret results of studies and prepare reports detailing findings, recommendations, or conclusions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates preparation of the annual work plans for all the Programmes • Ensures timely preparation of Programme reports (monthly, quarterly, and specified donor reports as per grant agreements • Review report input data submitted by all programmes officers and uses this to compile comprehensive Programme reports for CTPD • Work with Executive Director to identify funding opportunities for CTPD and takes a lead in coordinating project proposal input from relevant programmes officers • Provides appropriate support to stakeholder engagement processes from a Programmes perspective (preparation on the status of Programme implementation for CTPD, OUTCOMES being achieved, documenting lessons and challenges for implementation
Organization and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides support for improved implementations of programmes for CTPD • Participates in Management meetings , Project monitoring and provides technical Programme advice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports grant compliance for all programmes activity implementation processes
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the executive Director in designing and implementing capacity building programmes for the secretariat and network
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform other relevant tasks as may be assigned by the Executive Director

Minimum Qualifications Required

Master's degree in a relevant field (Economics, Development Studies, Trade Policy or an equivalent post graduate diploma is preferred. A degree in Social sciences or equivalent may be considered where a candidate has wide relevant experience in research.

Minimum work experience required

- Experience in Programme designing and implementation
- 3 years relevant experience, with traceable record in undertaking research
- Skills in monitoring and evaluation will be an added advantage

Competencies

Research skills, familiar with various research tools, planning and organizing skills, capacity building, Project management skills, analytical skills and Communication skills

Application Instructions:

To apply send your CV with a cover letter. This letter must clearly show how your present qualifications and work experience makes you suitable for this position.

Send by e-mail to info@ctpd.org.zm or henrymalifwa@ctpd.org.zm with 'job application –Head of Programmes and Research- ". Please note that all submissions should be submitted to CTPD no later than Friday, 11th August 2017 and that only applications received through the appropriate channels will be considered. Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted for interviews.

UNSTOPPABLE PRAISE
TICKETS SALE POINTS

13TH AUGUST 2017
AT WOODLANDS STADIUM
IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

MT. ZION CHRISTIAN CENTRE
MORE HOUSE, OFF KUDU ROAD, KABULONGA,

BLESSING CENTRE
CORNER OF VUBU ROAD ALONG LUMUMBA ROAD

MIRACLE LIFE FAMILY CHURCH
PLOT 256 FOXDALE, ZAMBEZI ROAD ROMA

RADIO CHRISTIAN VOICE
PLOT 35210-35203 ALICK NKHATA ROAD,

ABEVE
SHOP 65A PROTEA LUSAKA TOWER ANNEX, ARCADES,

CHARGES:
ORD. K100 | VIP K500

Reduction in fuel pump prices too minimal to affect bus fares - PPDA

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Public and Private Drivers Association of Zambia president Josiah Majuri says the reduction in fuel pump prices is very minimal such that it cannot result in a reduction of bus fares.

In an interview with News Diggers! yesterday, Majuri commended government for the reduction in fuel pump prices but called for further reductions so that drivers could feel the difference.

“As Public and Private Drivers Association of Zambia, we are very happy and very excited about the reduction and we are encouraging government to work extra hard so that there are further reductions so that we enjoy the benefit of being in the transport business. You know business has been very tricky because of fuel and other commodities which went up in the recent past,” Majuri said.

“The commodities am talking about are spares, ZRA, road toll fees, user fees, etc. So now if you look at the way they went up, we did not call for any increment and if you look at the adjustment in pump price, it’s very minimal such that if we are to reduce on bus fares only, it would be a bit unfair because spares are still maintained at the same price, tyres the same price, these other fees we are paying are at the same price.”

Majuri wondered whether the prices would remain stable for long.

“So the reduction will help in cushioning the upward adjustment in other commodities that went up recently. And as you

know there was no bus fare increment after those upward adjustments. The trickledown effect which is supposed to be enjoyed by everyone is where we see all the commodities

that are transported from point A-B going down, then it will be very fair and all the players would be very happy,” said Majuri.

“For now the cause of the

reduction according to ERB is because of the appreciation of the Kwacha. Now we are not sure that this strength will be sustained for how long? So for now we cannot say we are

reducing or we are increasing because we are still observing, there may be further reductions. So we observe a bit and make thorough consultations. For now, things

remain the way they are as we make observations and thorough consultations. The reduction is very minimal such that it cannot call for a reduction of bus fares.”



Lubinda pushes for Bill to regulate campaign financing

By Mirriam Chabala

Minister of Justice Given Lubinda has launched consultations into the stakeholder engagement on the development of a Political Parties Bill which he says will provide for the regulation of campaign financing.

And Lubinda says preference

for private training institutions by law scholars is one of the reasons why the Zambia institute of Advanced Legal Education (ZIALE) has continued to record poor figures of lawyers admitted to the bar.

At a media briefing in Lusaka yesterday, Lubinda said the

Political Parties Bill would also promote dialogue among politicians.

“These efforts are being in order to promote democracy, multi-partism, dialogue and improve the management of political parties in this country. It should be noted that currently Zambia does

not have a specific law that prescribes the establishment of public funding of political parties or the regulation of campaign financing. This gap calls for the need to introduce a bill in Parliament to provide for these matters and those connected to or coincidental thereto,” he said.

“Considering that the proposed Political Parties Bill, 2017 is a new law that is being introduced and will regulate the freedom to form political parties and their sources of financing, it is therefore pertinent that the draft Bill is widely and thoroughly discussed with key stakeholders, before it is finalized and introduced in Parliament for approval.”

He said consultations would also demystify the political process. “The consultative process is very important for the promotion of dialogue among political parties and for improved understanding of the articles of the Constitution that need to be legislated. This will also demystify any uncertainties that maybe currently harboured by some stakeholders in the political process. In order to ensure wide range consultations with key stakeholders, my Ministry has already identified key stakeholders among them, registered political parties, faith based organisations, Civil Society Organisations and individual citizens to help with

circulation of the draft bill,” Lubinda said.

“These consultations start now and I want to assure the public through you that there won’t be an extension for this. Following the successful completion of the consultative process with stakeholders, the Ministry of Justice intends to have the bill ready for the introduction in Parliament in the September to December of 2017. In order to ensure that stakeholders have timely access to the draft Political Parties Bill, 2017, I am pleased to inform you that the bill will be available on the websites for; the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Home Affairs; Zambia Development Commission; and Law Association of Zambia. Stakeholders may also collect hard copies of the draft bill from the Ministry of Justice, office of the Permanent Secretary.”

And Lubinda said there were a lot of challenges that had led to the poor performance by ZIALE. “I cannot pre-empt this yet but one of the reasons according to the submissions I have received so far that has led to the poor performance at ZIALE is the preference of private colleges and Universities as opposed to Public Universities. But I am yet to issue a full report to this effect because right now I am still receiving submissions,” said Lubinda.



Majorettes from different parts of the country perform during the 91st Agriculture and Commercial show - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Vernon Mwaanga says it is unprecedented for a party that has just formed government to start campaigning four years ahead of the next election. The veteran politician also says it is unfair for the PF to swing into campaign mode while fronting the police to arrest anyone else who wants to mobilise and join the race for 2021.

We know that Vernon Mwaanga is yet to succeed in cleansing his name from past accusations of election rigging in Zambia, but we have difficulties disagreeing with his observation about what the ruling party is doing. It is true that the move by PF to start campaigning four years ahead of the next election is unprecedented. But of course, so many things happening in the PF government are unprecedented and this doesn't shock us at all. In fact, we are not even surprised with the unfairness of campaigning in the absence of competitors because the PF is used to bullying. When they enter the ring, they first tie down their boxing opponent and then start knocking out their rival's teeth. Since taking over power, those in PF have always enjoyed an unfair advantage in their political battles – closing down pro-opposition media houses and opening up their own 'private' media houses.

Our question, however, is: why has President Lungu declared himself eligible to contest the 2021 elections before the court rules in his eligibility case? As a lawyer who does not want to interfere in the judicial process of political cases, such as the treason matter involving Hakainde Hichilema, why is he pre-empting the court's decision in this matter? Is this not judicial interference by the

Lungu is talking to himself about 2021

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+26077122344 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

Executive arm of government? Is this not threatening a judge who might find the President on the wrong side of the law?

We don't know if those who are competing with President Lungu on the political arena are realising how serious this matter is and the bad precedence it will leave if President Lungu illegally succeeds to retain power in 2021. For us, we have been following statements from the Head of State and we know that he means business.

On 27 July, 2017, President Lungu urged PF officials to hit the ground running in recruiting new members ahead of the 2021 general elections.

"If we do not prepare now, 2021 will be very difficult for us. We must prepare for what's coming and what's coming are elections in 2021. So we need

to consolidate our strongholds and make them better so that we are able to garner more votes than we did last time. If we don't have the mandate to come back in 2021, the developments we are seeing now will be lost," President Lungu told the people of Luapula.

On July 12, 2017, President Lungu told Livingstone residents that he was looking forward to 2021 so that voters could give him a renewed term of office. He said, "I am not here for politics, I am here to see development and I will be here up to tomorrow to interact with the party and government officials both at district and provincial level. That's my job until 2021 when we will ask the people of Zambia to give us another mandate." Again on August 4, 2017, the

Head of State told a business community during a function saying, "I can't fire anyone for being ambitious. Those of you who are ambitious, I am also ambitious, that is why I am President, and I am ambitious to come back in 2021."

There have been several other cases where President Lungu has brought up his desire to retain the presidency in 2021. He has been going round telling people to vote for him again four years from now in order to protect the development that he is about to give them. This doesn't make sense. Like Nason Msoni once said, the normal way of eating is finishing the food on the plate first, before demanding for more. But our President is shouting for bevalabefore even settling down in a restaurant. It's like President Lungu is so

worried about losing power in 2021. It seems as though whenever the President remembers that his mandate ends in four years, he gets migraine headache, he loses sleep to imagine that it could be over for him in just four years' time. That is why he is 'disputing' the court's ruling on his eligibility to recontest the presidency even before the judge pronounces it.

But why is our humble, hardworking, God-fearing President so worried about losing power? What has he done in the past two and half years that is making him shiver at the sound of 2021? Has he been ruthless to those who are likely to take over power from him? Has he been merciless to media houses that could have kept a grudge against him? Has he been creating enemies within

the police by abusing the men and women in uniform? Has he lost friends in the Church by issuing threats to Church leaders? If this is President Lungu's worry, then now is the time to make things right – not campaigning. We say this because if President Lungu has injured all the government stakeholders above, campaigning to retain power in 2021 is definitely not the best way to come out of his quagmire. He will continue to injure more and more people and create more and more enemies; especially within PF because there are people inside and outside the PF Central Committee who feel he must go because he has sold the party to strangers.

Our advice to President Lungu is that he must find his lost humbleness and start making peace with everyone – politicians, civil servants, Civil Society Organisations, and of course journalists who view him as an enemy. In so doing, Zambians may fall back in love with him and give his party that desperately desired third term. If the court says Wynter Kabimba was wrong to state that Lungu doesn't qualify to stand again, then at that moment, Zambians will be happy to hear his campaign message. Right now, the President of the Republic of Zambia is talking to himself about 2021.

No confidence vote: A victory for Zuma, but a defeat for the ANC

Jacob Zuma is a natural born political survivor. Yesterday the president overcame an eighth no confidence vote, despite the mountain of evidence of corrupt conduct that has emerged in recent months.

But it may prove to be a Pyrrhic victory – for him and most certainly for his party, the African National Congress (ANC). "Hollow" was the word that one opposition leader, Bantu Holomisa, used afterwards, while the Economic Freedom Fighter's leader Julius Malema employed a well-known Africa proverb: "When you want to eat an elephant you do it bit by bit".

Zuma's political death is proving to be a protracted affair. There was an air of expectation yesterday that recent allegations of "state capture" – attested to by a welter of evidence from the so-called #guptaleaks – would be enough to persuade a sufficient number of the members of the ruling ANC to support an opposition-sponsored no confidence vote.

In the event, after a fractious two-hour debate scarred by ugly banter across the floor of the National Assembly, the motion fell short of the 201 votes required to remove Zuma and his cabinet. But yesterday was remarkably different. On the previous seven occasions that the opposition have tabled no confidence votes since Zuma's power began in 2009, the ANC has remained steadfast in its support for its beleaguered president. Yesterday's vote was a watershed for the liberation movement that brought an end to apartheid in 1994: around 30 of the 223 ANC MPs who voted yesterday sided with the opposition.

As the ANC's chief whip, Jackson Mthembu, ruefully observed afterwards, this is true pause for reflection for the ruling party. Never before has such a significant number of the parliamentary caucus rebelled and defied the party whip.

Zuma's streetwise political skills are well-known. So too is his adeptness at using executive patronage to secure

the loyalty of party members as has been made clear in the revelations arising from his links to the Gupta family.

The secret ballot saga But the back story to the unprecedented rebellion within his own party was the method of voting as much as Zuma's political skullduggery. For the first time, parliament was compelled to allow MPs to vote in secret. This followed a legal challenge to the rules by Holomisa's United Democratic Movement.

In its 22 June judgment, the Constitutional Court – an institutional beacon of excellence and integrity in the context of the "capture" of other state bodies – had held that the speaker of the National Assembly had the discretion to order a secret ballot in exceptional circumstances.

Since the ruling, a number of ANC MPs have gone public with testimony of intimidation and even death threats in the case of Makhosi Khoza. In turn, the ANC shot itself in the foot when one region of Zuma's home province, KwaZulu-Natal, demanded

that disciplinary proceedings be brought against Khoza after she had called for Zuma to go. The intervention served to underline the need to depart from the generally established principle of open voting.

Accordingly, speaker Baleka Mbete had little legal choice but to opt for a secret ballot, even though it would encourage dissenting voices among the ranks of the ANC caucus. Politically, she had probably done the political mathematics and, as the national chairperson of the ANC, was confident that regardless of the shield that she said was necessary to protect ANC MPs so that they could vote with their conscience, the numbers would still work out in Zuma's favour.

And so it proved: 177 MPs voted for the motion, and 198 against (with 9 abstentions). Since the opposition has 151 MPs, at least three of whom were absent through illness, it means that that at least 29 and possibly as many as 35 ANC MPs jumped ship.

Win-win for the opposition But it was a win-win situation

for the opposition. Afterwards, in the unseasonably balmy winter's evening outside the parliament in Cape Town, one after another of the leaders of the opposition spoke cheerfully about the political future and of the health of South Africa's democracy.

They may have lost the battle, but they feel confident that they will win the war. After all, it is clear that Zuma is now their greatest electoral asset, with several polls (including the respected Afrobarometer), showing that across race and class, trust in Zuma has collapsed since he was returned to power for a second term in 2014.

Last year, the ANC suffered its first major electoral setbacks since the advent of democracy in 1994 when it lost control of three major city governments in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth. Now, its political management skills appear to be in disarray as factionalism and deep, painful divisions dominate internal party politics. This is all unfolding in the run-up to what is likely to be a bloody

five-yearly national elective conference in December, at which the ANC will elect a new President of the party to succeed Zuma.

That may or may not mark the start of a new era of renewal for the ANC. But Zuma's term as President of the country is only due to end in 2019. A lot more damage could be done to the country's economy and its prospects for growth.

The consequence of that, however, is that the ANC will face the prospect of losing its majority at the national polls for the first time since Nelson Mandela's historic victory in 1994.

Yesterday may have been a victory for Zuma. But in the longer term it is likely to come to be seen as a major defeat for the ANC.



Richard Calland, Associate Professor in Public Law, University of Cape Town
This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

Kenya's opposition disputes 'fake' results

Kenya opposition presidential candidate Raila Odinga has rejected early results indicating a strong lead for his rival, President Uhuru Kenyatta. Mr Odinga told journalists the details were "fake", because the authorities had failed to present documents verifying the results. Electoral officials say that with 91% of results in Mr Kenyatta is leading with about 54.5%, to Mr Odinga's 44.6%. Many fear a repeat of the violence after a disputed election 10 years ago. More than 1,100 Kenyans died and 600,000 were displaced following the 2007 vote.

Mr Kenyatta's lead could mean that he is elected outright. There were eight candidates in all, but apart from Mr Kenyatta and Mr Odinga none polled more than 0.3% of the vote.

What is Mr Odinga's complaint about the vote?

The opposition has described the results being released online as a "fraud" because they were not accompanied by original result forms 34A and 34B from the polling stations.

"They are fictitious, they are fake," said Mr Odinga.

Electoral officials count votes for the presidential poll at a polling station near Isinya, Kajiado County, some 60km south of the capital Nairobi, Kenya, 08 August 2017. Image copyright EPA

Image caption Election officials have been busy through the night counting the votes

He said that the results were "the work of a computer" and did not reflect the will of voters.

"We have our projections from our agents which show we are ahead by far," he added.

Opposition officials have said that, despite assurances from the electoral commission, they still have not received the result forms.

Polling day as it happened

Kenyatta: The digital president

Odinga: Love him or loathe him

Full election coverage
What does the electoral commission say?

The electoral commission has been urging people to wait calmly for the full results of Tuesday's vote.

"During this critical phase, we urge all Kenyans to exercise restraint as we await official results from the polling stations and indeed as they start trickling in," the commission said.

However, it admitted that a lack of mobile data coverage had delayed the delivery of the supporting documents, forms 34A and 34B. *BBC News*



Maasai voters queue before voting at a polling station in Saikeri, Kajiado West County

Zuma survives no-confidence vote



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma has survived his latest vote of no confidence - despite the ballot being held in secret.

Opposition parties had hoped the secret ballot would mean some MPs from the governing ANC party might side with them against

the president.

But the motion, called amid repeated allegations of corruption, was defeated by 198 votes to 177.

This news was greeted with cheers and singing by ANC MPs.

Speaking afterwards, Mr Zuma said he had come to thank his supporters and "those in parliament who had voted correctly".

"They believe they could use technicalities in parliament to take over the the majority from the ANC," he told the assembled crowd.

"It is impossible: they cannot. We represent the majority."

Mr Zuma has found himself embroiled in a number of scandals since taking office in 2009, including using taxpayer money for upgrades on his private home, and becoming too close to the wealthy Gupta family, who are accused of trying to influence politician decisions.

Both Mr Zuma and the Gupta family deny wrongdoing.

Criticism increased following the sacking of the widely-respected finance minister, Pravin Gordhan, in March.

But the ANC parliamentary party did not address these criticisms in a statement following the vote, which it called a "soft coup".

The statement also accused the opposition of attempting "to collapse government, deter service delivery and sow seeds of chaos in society to ultimately grab power".

However, the vote was not a rousing success for the governing party. The result means at least 26 ANC MPs rebelled, while another nine MPs abstained from voting.

In order for the no-confidence motion to pass, at least 50 out of the ANC's 249 MPs would have had to vote against the president.

BBC News

'El Chapo' Guzman hires top defence legal team

Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman has hired a team of top defence lawyers in his fight against a US criminal case.

They include Jeffrey Lichtman and Marc Fernich, best known for their successful defence of the son of New York mafia boss John Gotti.

Guzman has pleaded not guilty to charges that he ran the world's largest drug-trafficking organisation.

He faces life in a US prison if convicted.

Guzman, 60, escaped twice from prison in Mexico, once in a laundry basket and later through a tunnel in a prison cell.

He was extradited to the US in January

and is being held in a maximum security prison in New York.

Mr Lichtman confirmed in an email on Tuesday that Guzman had hired him along with Mr Fernich, William Purpura and Eduardo Balarezo. 'Zealous defence'

He said it was too early to speculate on a defence strategy.

"We simply hope to have the chance to give Mr Guzman a zealous defence and the chance to challenge the numerous co-operating criminals who will all be seeking to use him as their Get Out of Jail Free cards," he said.

The new lawyers are reported to be seeking assurances that prosecutors

would not try to seize their legal fees as part of a \$14bn (£11bn) forfeiture they are seeking from Guzman's alleged profits from the drugs trade.

Guzman is due to go on trial next April accused of running the notorious Sinaloa cartel.

Mr Lichtman and Mr Fernich successfully defended John Gotti Junior - son of the so-called "Dapper Don".

Over the course of five years, juries in four trials failed to reach a verdict against John Gotti Junior on charges of murder and racketeering. Prosecutors gave up their case against him in 2010.

BBC News

Taylor Swift's trial lawyer accuses Denver DJ of seeking money, fame

Taylor Swift's attorney accused a Colorado DJ of seeking money and fame by targeting his client

with a lawsuit, as the pop star sat in the Denver courtroom watching the proceedings.

Swift, 27, has said that David Mueller, 55, fondled her four years ago during a photo shoot

before a concert in Denver. Mueller sued Swift, claiming she had falsely accused him

and cost him his job at Denver radio station KYGO-FM. Swift countersued for assault and battery.

The litigation centers on her allegations that Mueller slipped his hand under her dress and grabbed her bare buttocks as the two posed during a meet-and-greet session before a June 2013 concert in Denver.

"It was not an accident, it was completely intentional, and I have never been so sure of anything in my life," Swift said in a deposition.

Swift's attorney, J. Douglas Baldrige, said in U.S. District Court on Tuesday that Mueller committed an assault and that he had told at least six versions of what happened.

"He wants to make the victim pay the price," Baldrige said of Mueller.

While Baldrige described to the jury of six women and two men how Swift told her mother that day about the photo shoot, Andrea Swift got teary eyed in the chair next to her daughter.

Baldrige said Mueller, who often looked pensive and clasped his hands, was seeking 15 times what his contract was worth in damages, while the singer was seeking \$1 on her counterclaim to show women "you can say no."

Following the opening statements, Mueller, who made \$150,000 a year at the radio station, denied in his testimony that he was seeking that much money. He said he only sued "to clear his name and for lost earnings."

During Mueller's testimony, Swift listened with her chin resting in her hand.

Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, showed the eight-

member jury a picture from the photo shoot and said Mueller's hand was not under Swift's skirt. "Let's be clear, inappropriate touching is offensive. It's wrong and it should not be tolerated Falsely accusing is equally offensive and it's equally wrong," he said.

About two dozen fans were in the courtroom, where Swift occasionally whispered to her mother and jotted down notes to her lawyers.

Three teenaged girls from Denver were first in line to get seats in the courtroom, arriving at 4:15 am local time. "It's better than a concert," said Dani Kuta, 17, who attended.

Swift, one of America's top-selling recording stars, is expected to take the witness stand during the trial.

Mueller sued first, saying Swift fabricated the story and pressured station management to oust him from his job. His case cites tort claims of interference with contractual obligations and prospective business relations.

His lawsuit denies anything inappropriate occurred during the brief backstage encounter in which he and his girlfriend stood on either side of the pop star.

Swift countersued and the two civil complaints were merged for trial. In court filings, Swift said her representatives informed KYGO management about the incident, but she did not demand Mueller be fired.

Swift, one of the most successful contemporary music artists, earned \$170 million between June 2015 and June 2016, following a world tour and her best-selling "1989" album, Forbes Magazine said. **Yahoo News**



More herpes lawsuits for Usher

If Usher was still in the honeymoon phase of his marriage to Grace Miguel, whom he married less than two years ago, it's presumably over now as the "Rivals" singer finds himself at the center of a very personal scandal surrounding his sex life.

Three new people, who claim to be past sexual partners of the hit maker, have come forward to say that when they had oral or vaginal sex with him, he concealed his alleged herpes diagnosis from them. The accusers — two women and one man — are suing for a series of things, including sexual battery, fraud, negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligent infliction of emotional distress. While two of the accusers are currently unknown (they are listed as

Jane Doe and John Doe in the lawsuit), the third is Quantasia Sharpton, who appeared at a press conference on Monday with celebrity attorney Lisa Bloom.

Sharpton, who does not have the herpes virus (though one of the other new accusers does), detailed how she met the eight-time Grammy winner two years ago at one of his concerts. She was wearing a crown, because she was celebrating her birthday, and she was singled out to go backstage by security. After the show, she claims Usher called her and they met up in her hotel room and "engaged in sexual contact." During their hookup, "He never warned me about any STDs," she said.

Since going public, Sharpton found herself the target of fat-shamers. Additionally, her

social media accounts have been combed through (she goes by the name Angel Valentino) and she has been criticized for some recent posts, including one last week in which she wrote, "I need some money." A second one just before the press conference said, "Enjoying my last hours as a regular girl."

This lawsuit filed by Bloom, who also represents Kathy Griffin and Blac Chyna, comes on the heels of another lawsuit filed by another Jane Doe (are you following this?), who claims she slept with Usher twice this year and was recently diagnosed with herpes. According to TMZ, that woman — who was reportedly friends with Usher's ex-wife, Tameka Foster — is seeking \$20 million.

So why are these people — and potentially more, according to Bloom — coming forward now? Well, last month Radar Online reported that Usher quietly settled a lawsuit with a celebrity stylist for \$1.1 million in 2012. According to court documents obtained by the site, the star was allegedly diagnosed with herpes simplex II around 2009 or 2010. (In June 2009, he filed for divorce from Foster.) However, he "consciously and purposefully" withheld his diagnosis from the woman and "continued to have unprotected sex" with her. The woman was diagnosed with herpes after suffering from vaginal sores, fevers, and chills, according to court papers, and evidence showed the singer paid \$2,754.40 of the victim's medical bills in 2012.

As Bloom noted in her press conference, California law states that it is illegal to knowingly or recklessly transmit an STD. And all the encounters in the lawsuits occurred after the original settlement.

Usher has not yet publicly commented on the allegations.

While you'd think this would crack the foundation of Usher's young marriage, according to TMZ, he and Grace are solid. After news of the \$20 million lawsuit broke last month — with the woman claiming she's had sex with the star on more than one occasion this year — sources told TMZ Grace "isn't giving the lawsuit any weight."

No word on whether her mood changed after yesterday's press conference.

On Monday, Bloom urged Usher to come forward to declare that the reports are untrue, saying, "We hope that Mr. Raymond is negative and that this can all be cleared up quickly. We hope that he has not knowingly endangered his sex partners, fans who revered him and who were thrilled to receive his personal attention."

But if the reports are true, he's going to be in a big mess financially. On Tuesday, the star's insurance company, New York Marine and General Insurance Company, filed documents in reference to the \$20 million Georgia case — saying that it will not pay for the lawsuit against him if he loses, because his policy doesn't cover STDs, according to TMZ. The legal docs noted that Usher's policy excludes coverage for "bodily injury ... arising out of the transmission of any communicable diseases by [Usher]." It also referenced the lawsuit filed by Bloom and stated the same thing, adding that they expect a refund for any money forked out if he loses the cases.

While all of this is making major waves right now, genital herpes is actually common in the United States. About one out of every six people aged 14 to 49 years has the sexually transmitted disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control. **Yahoo News**



Zendaya Shuts Down Tom Holland Dating Rumors

Just your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man -- emphasis on friend.

Zendaya is one of the cover stars for Variety's "Young Hollywood" issue, where the Spider-Man: Homecoming actress continues to address those persistent dating rumors about her and co-star Tom Holland.

"We are friends," the 20-year-old affirmed, unequivocally saying "No" when asked if the dating reports are true. "He's a great dude. He's literally one of my best friends. This past how many months we've had to do press tours together. There's very few people that will understand what that's like at 20 years old."

Last month, the superhero BFFs laughed off the romance speculation on Twitter. Zendaya tweeted Holland, saying, "My favorite is when it says we go on vacations together HA! I haven't been on a vacation in years! hbu @TomHolland1996 ???"

"@Zendaya Does the press tour count," Holland replied as Zendaya declared, "I'm done."

Sorry, shippers! This is purely platonic. **Yahoo News**

No £109M Coutinho to Barca deal



The La Liga giants have not improved on their £72m bid for the playmaker, and there have been no proposed sit downs scheduled with Barca

officials Liverpool have not agreed a £109 million deal with Barcelona for Philippe Coutinho, nor have they held a meeting to

negotiate with a delegation from the Catalan club, as they maintain the Brazil international is not for sale this summer. Reports in Spain and

Brazil suggesting a transfer for the 25-year-old is entering its final stages have been entirely refuted by the Anfield side, who slapped down the only

formal offer received for their highest-paid player without hesitation.

Barca have not improved their £72m bid, tabled and rejected 20 days ago, having been told Coutinho is unavailable - at any price - and that they would only be wasting their energy. Talk of Barca officials Raul Sanllehi, Oscar Grau and Javier Bordas arriving on Merseyside for a meeting to wrap up negotiations with Liverpool on Tuesday has been rubbish, as no forum was held or even proposed.

The Reds insist they do not need a face-to-face sit down to reiterate that Coutinho is not on the market, a stance they've already made abundantly clear.

Claims that the playmaker has prepared poorly in pre-season falls flat in the face of evidence to the contrary.

He was excellent in Liverpool's 2-1 Asia Cup final victory over Leicester City, supplying Mohamed Salah with a clever lofted pass for the opener before applying his trademark cut-in-and-curl-into-far-corner finish.

In the 3-0 victory against Hertha Berlin, Coutinho again assisted the Egyptian.

He was rested as Liverpool suffered a penalty shootout defeat to Atletico Madrid in the Audi Cup, before a sore back kept him out

of their final game of pre-season against Athletic Bilbao.

Coutinho received treatment for the issue at Melwood on Tuesday and there have been no complaints about his professionalism as the coverage around him intensifies.

Liverpool's two-time Player of the Season, who signed a new five-year deal without a release clause in January, is receptive to a switch to Camp Nou if an exit can be agreed on good terms.

However, with Jurgen Klopp informing Coutinho the Reds will not sanction a move in this window, there is no chance of that.

The Rio-born virtuoso has repeatedly stated his gratitude to Liverpool for giving him the platform to become key for both club and country, and as such, there is no expectation that will he agitate to leave. Barca, desperate to compensate for the loss of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record fee of £198m, are unlikely to accept defeat easily especially given the media offensive over the past two weeks.

The Liga giants also have designs on recruiting Ousmane Dembele from Borussia Dortmund as they attempt to overturn a debilitating summer so far. **Goal.com**

Nadal eyes world number one ranking in Montreal

Rafael Nadal will return to the top of the ATP world rankings for the first time in three years if he reaches the semi-finals at this week's Rogers Cup in Montreal.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, top seed in Canada in the absence of current world number one Andy Murray, ended last year ranked nine after taking time off to recover from a wrist injury.

While the return of the Mallorcan to the summit would be an incredible turnaround, the French Open champion is refusing to get carried away as he seeks a fourth Rogers Cup title.

"I don't even think about that now. I'm trying to have the right preparation now and that's it," Nadal told the ATP's website.

"I'm going to keep trying to play the way I did in the first part of the season, so if I'm able to make that happen, I hope to have a chance to do well," said Nadal, who is preparing for his first action since losing an

epic contest to Gilles Muller in the fourth round of Wimbledon. Fifteen-times grand slam champion Nadal has spent a career total of 141 weeks as world number one -- seventh on the list.

Murray, who is missing from Montreal as he treats a hip problem,

has been ranked number one since last November having claimed five successive titles.

Nadal opens in Montreal against either Croatia's Borna Coric or Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

Second seed Roger Federer also returns

to action in Montreal having won his eighth Wimbledon title last month.

The 35-year-old Swiss is also challenging to return to the world number one spot he has occupied for a record total of 302 weeks during his career. **Yahoo Sports**





ALEX NGONGA SET FOR CHIPOLOPOLO RETURN



By Diggers Reporter

Power Dynamos striker Alex Ngonga has been handed a Zambia recall for this weekend's 2018 CHAN final round, first leg away qualifier against South Africa on August 12 in East London.

The fiery strikers' great form since his return to Power last month has not gone unnoticed by Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda.

"Yes Wedson has asked about him. He is supposed to join the camp today (Monday) but he is attending to a personal issue in Kitwe today before he joins the squad," a source familiar with the development told Diggers News.

Ngonga's call-up comes after an impressive display by the striker in Sunday's dramatic 3-2 away win over Napsa Stars in which he scored one goal that ended the former leader's 14 game

unbeaten run.

Ngonga has three goals so far since he rejoined Power two seasons after he left the Kitwe club for Gabon champions CS Mounana.

His recall is meant to fill the gap left by ex-Green Buffaloes striker Brian Mwila following his move to Platinum Stars of South Africa on August 1.

Mwila, who has two CHAN goals, is now ineligible for the qualifiers.

CHAN is exclusively for home-based players.

Furthermore, Ngonga's recall has also been accelerated after Nyirenda witnessed strikers blunt display in Saturday's 0-0 friendly draw at home against Ethiopia on August 5 at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka.

Ngonga's last Zambia call-up was in 2014 in a 1-1 home draw against Cote d'Ivoire on October 25 in Lusaka.

Nadal eyes world number one ranking in Montreal ^{P11}

No €109M Coutinho to Barcelona deal agreed ^{P11}

!Diggers!

