

ASK PROJECT
**Alliance for
community
action**



**PF donates
K60,000
towards
rebuilding
City Market**

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Patriotic Front (PF) has donated K60,000 towards the reconstruction of City Market which was burnt down last month.

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**VJ questions
SADC and AU
silence on HH
persecution**

By Mukosha Funga

Veteran Politician Vernon Johnson Mwaanga says he is disappointed with SADC and the African Union for being absent during Hakainde Hichilema's incarceration. In a statement yesterday, VJ said their silence raised questions of relevance during difficult times.

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Zambians make fun of mandatory HIV testing

By Joseph Mwenda

Following President Edgar Lungu's declaration of mandatory HIV testing for

all citizens who seek any form of medical treatment, Zambians have turned to social media to make fun of

the government policy. Announcing the decision when he launched the HIV Testing, Counseling and

Treatment Day (HTCT) on August 16, 2017, President Lungu said the move was meant to end AIDS in

Zambia by 2030.

"The Patriotic Front government under my leadership has embarked on a transformative shift from emphasizing HIV voluntary counseling and testing to HIV testing and treatment.

Continues on page4

**DPP enters nolle in the
IG case against Tayali**

By Mukosha Funga

The Director of Public Prosecutions has entered a nolle prosequi in a case where the Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja sued Chilufya Tayali for Libel.

When the case came up for continuation of trial, the defence said it was ready to continue cross examining the Inspector General, but magistrate Felix Kaoma said the DPP had filed a nolle.

"We are ready to continue, however I don't seem to see the witness currently on the stand before court. Perhaps the state has an explanation; but may the record show that the defense team is ready,"

lawyer Haimbe said. Magistrate Kaoma said the case had been discontinued.

"I have noted on record that the DPP yesterday filed in a nolle and in line with the CPC, I hereby

dismiss the accused. You are a free man in the meantime," Magistrate Kaoma told Tayali.

**Mopani warns workers
of possible shutdown**

By Mukosha Funga

Mopani Copper Mines management has warned workers of a possible shutdown if the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) does not compromise on tariffs.

Some of the employers who attended a meeting said the miners were told to prepare their minds for what was to come.

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**CHIEF KAINDU TOO
DRUNK TO REASON
...he is a dreamer, says Jean Kapata**

story on page 5

WHO, UNAIDS support mandatory HIV testing

By Sipilisiwe Ncube The World Health Organization (WHO) and the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has commended government policy for implementing the compulsory HIV testing

Dr Lastone Chitembo and UNAIDS representative Narmada Acharya today, the two health bodies said the proclamation of the policy was in line with the key principles of consent, confidentiality, counselling, correct results, and connection to HIV prevention, treatment and care (5Cs principles).

"We commend the government of the Republic of Zambia for its commitment to ensuring that people in Zambia know their status, have universal access to Antiretroviral therapy and are virally suppressed in line with the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target by 2020; and achieve the overall goal to ending AIDS by 2030 as a public health threat," the statement read. "Zambia has adapted the WHO consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services (HTS) in line with the key principles of Consent, Confidentiality, Counselling, Correct results, and Connection to HIV prevention, treatment and care (5Cs principles)." WHO and UNAIDS have also pledged continued collaboration with government and other stakeholders to provide

technical support and guidance in the review and dissemination of HIV testing services and protocols among others.

"Zambia has been implementing Provider Initiated Testing and Counseling (PITC) since 2008. WHO and UNAIDS welcome government's call to reinforce the implementation of universal routine HIV testing in line with the above 5C principles. In this regard, WHO and UNAIDS will continue collaborating with the government and other stakeholders to provide technical support and guidance in the review and dissemination of HIV testing services protocols and standard operating procedures to ensure that they are in line with the global recommendations of human rights-based approaches," further read the statement.

"Of the estimated 1.2 million people living with HIV in Zambia, only 69 percent know their status. There are therefore approximately 400 000 people who do not know that they are living with HIV. The situation calls for intensive, innovative, and effective HIV testing strategies that are in line with WHO and UNAIDS global guidance. WHO and UNAIDS call upon all Zambians to access HIV testing services, know their HIV status; and those tested positive should start and adhere to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in order to achieve sustained viral suppression."

Freeing HH proves Judiciary is independent – PF



By Mukosha Funga Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the ruling party welcomes the dropping of the charges against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema as it proves that the Judiciary is independent.

In a statement issued by PF media director Sunday Chanda today, Mwila said the independence of the DPP and the Judiciary has been demonstrated.

"We welcome the decision as it is a show of independence of our institutions such as the Directorate of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and Judiciary. We must never lose sight of the rule of law which emphasizes that no one is above the law. We further wish to remind that a Nolle Prosequi is not an acquittal. It is a Nolle. But most importantly for us in the PF is the independence of the DDP and Judiciary demonstrated" Mwila noted. "This would never have happened in a dictatorship. We are not a dictatorship. We do not aspire to be one. We'll never be one. We are democrats in word and deed."

Mwila hailed the church and other stakeholders who had shown genuine concern about the state of the nation. "Let me thank all those like the Church and Commonwealth Secretary General, among others, who genuinely took keen interest in Zambia's peace and stability. PF will always be committed to uniting Zambia beyond partisan,

religious, tribal, gender lines," he said. Mwila urged HH to remain committed to the call for talks and promotion of peace and unity in the country. "On a political level, people expect that the UPND leader will not abandon the commitment to democracy,

but accept defeat and recognize the election and authority of President Edgar Lungu without reservations. We hope beyond this development, UPND will not fall for the agenda of anti-Zambia elements whose objective is to auction Zambia to the

highest bidder. We expect the Opposition Party to engage us in development politics as we march towards 2021 elections. No Zambian wants to live in the past. We have a future to collectively build and protect," said Mwila.

PF donates K60,000 towards rebuilding City Market



Vice President Inonge Wina after receiving a cheque worth K 60,000 towards the reconstruction of City Market from Patriotic Front General Secretary Davies Mwila on behalf of the ruling Party today at DMMU Offices. Picture by ROYD SIBAJENE/ZANIS

From front page PF Secretary General Davies Mwila presented the cheque to Vice-President Inonge Wina yesterday, and called

for the business community to join hands by making contributions.

"With this K60,000 cash donation, the Patriotic Front

seeks to demonstrate that it stands with those traders who were affected by the acts of arson and sabotage. We stand for and with the traders whose

livelihood was affected by those fires. We are a pro-poor party and in a hurry to ensure city market is rebuilt as soon as possible," said Mwila.

FORMER LATE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT
OF ZAMBIA

**LEVY PATRICK
MWANAWASA**

3rd September 1948 – 19th August 2008

9TH
MEMORIAL

Memories never die, as years roll on and days pass by.
In our hearts, a memory is kept of ones we loved and will never forget.

May Your Soul Continue to Rest In Peace

**The laying of wreaths is open to Family, Friends
and the General Public from 08:00 hrs - 17:00 hrs.**

Saturday 19th August 2017 | 08:00 hours – 17:00 hrs | Embassy Park - Lusaka



Zambia misses you We miss you.

Minister explains mandatory HIV testing policy

By Mukosha Funga

Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya says 81 per cent of admissions at the University Teaching Hospital which result in death are HIV related because of allowing voluntarism to take precedence over the need to know ones status to be protected from ill health.

And President Edgar Lungu's press aide Amos Chanda says compulsory HIV testing policy is final and shall not be rescinded.

At a joint media briefing yesterday, Dr Chilufya said the Patriotic Front government wanted to ensure the health of citizens.

"81 per cent of admissions at UTH which result in mortality are HIV related, why? Because we allow voluntarism to take precedence over the need for us to know our status and be protected from ill health. So there are people who repeatedly come to UTH with optimistic infections and because they have said they will not test for HIV, they are not started on ART and the health systems have a burden, we create orphans and widows," Dr Chilufya said.

"And very important to emphasis that the UNAIDS Global Fast Track strategy to ensure that everybody accesses HIV health services requires that we test all citizens, we test 90 per cent of citizens. We ensure that 90 per cent of those tested are on therapy so what we are doing is in alignment to the UNAIDS Global Fast Track strategy and that is how we are going to proceed and we already have adequate support from partners and all the people we will test will be on ART and will sustainably continue on ARTs."

He revealed that infections in females aged between 15 and 24 had doubled.

"New infections in the age group 15 years to 24 years, females has doubled, that is a big threat to the development of this country and to the very existence of this country because if the females 15 to 24 years old have doubled new infections, then what we are going to see is a generation of older individuals who will be positive in the next five to ten years, that means that the nation will not have the healthy and productive citizens that are required to drive the social and economic agenda," he said.

"The young man 35 to 45 years, infections have doubled. So government had to take decisions to protect the adolescents, to protect the youths and young adults to ensure that the very existence of this nation is assured. So for those awho are worried about our human rights 'I don't want to know, I don't want to know', your partner also has a right not to get infected, your child also has a right not to get infected. And this responsible government will not allow smoldering guns on the streets just infecting innocent people. There are people who know their status today and they will go ahead and infect others and in other countries, that is a criminal offense."

He insisted that President Lungu was determined to

build a healthy nation.

"The shift from voluntary counseling and testing has been informed from the shift that we have gathered over the years. National building involves investment in the health of your people, protecting the people from ill health. The Patriotic Front party, and His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu is determined to build a nation of productive people from diseases including HIV. We have had HIV for many years and we have lost one million Zambians, celebrities, professionals, our fathers and mothers. We cannot continue doing the same things and expect different results so it is a responsible decision that government has made to ensure that we protect the lives of our citizens," Dr Chilufya said.

"If you think it is your right not to know your status, how about the right of the partner you are going to infect? That partner doesn't have the right to remain negative? How about the rights of a child who is not born? Doesn't that child have a right not to be born positive? We cannot be selfish and focus on ourselves. So as a responsible government, we are going to protect all citizens. In our countries, infecting another person with HIV is a criminal offense. All we are saying is that know your status and if you are positive, we will start you on treatment. If we start you on treatment, we will reduce your viral load through that treatment and when it is reduced, the capacity to infect the next person is significantly reduced if not zeroed."

He also said mandatory testing was not new as it had applied to pregnant women for some years.

"This is not even new, when we introduced the option B Plus programme for pregnant women in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, what did we do? All pregnant women who were coming to antenatal clinics were tested for HIV and those who were positive were started on ART. Today, the infection rates from mother to child have plummeted to a level where we are saying we are in the elimination phase. So there is evidence to back the decision to enroll all who are positive on ART. Furthermore, if you look at other infectious diseases such as measles, way back, at the University Teaching Hospital we used to have an isolation ward where we used to admit children with measles, we used to certify not less than 30, 40 children every day from measles, we made a decision as a country to vaccinate children at a particular age to protect them from measles and today that ward is closed," said Dr Chilufya.

"So these are public health decisions that must be taken. The testing that shall be done will be routine testing. If you get into a facility and you have pneumonia, and we think that that pneumonia is associated with HIV, we will test you for HIV. And if we find you positive, we will counsel you on the need and we will start you on ART. And we will

reduce your viral load to a level where your partner is safe if your partner is not yet infected, we will reduce your viral load to a level where the pregnant woman will not have the capacity to transmit it to their child. So the hope in an HIV free generation lies in stopping new infections."

Dr Chilufya also said government would place HIV test kits in public places to allow people to test themselves

in the privacy of their homes. And Chanda said the policy was final.

"This morning the President was going through the texts and reactions and he was saying, if we hear that in the next room you are preparing to commit suicide in the comfort of your home, we shall violate your right of privacy and independence of your home because suicide is an offense, it is one of those offenses where

you are punished for not succeeding, it is like treason... so the President takes this AIDS thing in that context that if the age group 15-24 when the AIDS infection rates are going down and it is doubling, matters of public policy require that a democratically elected president like him will declare public policy measures that he deems suitable. Those people who will come and grant a democratic right for people to

die will come then, for now, he has said that this is a matter of public policy and that's what will happen," said Chanda.

"It is a closed chapter, the policy has been proclaimed, we are now in the implementation phase and I think that very soon, the minister will be announcing to you the results of this. I thought I should say that because there are people who think that they can create a debate around that."

Zambians make fun of mandatory HIV testing



Nurse (in suit): Ba honourable come back and get your HIV results.
Musenge: I am coming young man, let me just lock the car.

From front page

Just yesterday when we sat in Cabinet, we had this subject HIV testing and treatment, I must confess that there are some colleagues who felt that this is contrary to Human Rights and rights to privacy. My position was that 'no one has got a right to take his own life,' said President Lungu.

"So just like we test for malaria, we don't consult you to consent whether you should be tested for malaria or not, we will do the same with HIV and AIDS. We will counsel you and tell you that you have got this problem, you need to embark on treatment. That is the position of Zambia and its official, no debate about it." While civil society organisations and government stakeholders joined the Human Rights Commission in condemning the declaration, Zambians circulated various memes, poking fun at the announcement.

"The Ministry of health has partnered with the National Road Fund Agency to conduct mandatory HIV testing at toll gates #NowhereToRun," posted one Facebook user.

Another one posted: "Govt has also partnered with Hungry Lion, while you wait for your Chicken Big Bite, Tipima".

Other Social media posts included pictures of politicians being mocked as well as the portrait of Dr Ludwig Sondashi (who claims his herbal medicine cures AIDS) as the most searched name on google.

Olo waimilila che Ku
Bed side- Tipima,
Olo waleta che
nsima-Tipima
Olo ni gulu yaku
church yabwela Ku
ma pemepelo-
Tipima



Dawood Salim

5 mins · 22

Alert members of the public help police apprehend a patient who fled a mandatory HIV test at a hospital in Lusaka...



Hichilema's release first step towards restoring democracy in Zambia - Maimane



South Africa's Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane



Ndola Police stop "HH freedom" celebrations

By Mirriam Chabala

Police in Ndola have stopped a group of United Party for National Development supporters from conducting a procession to celebrate the release of party president Hakainde Hichilema.

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga confirmed this development to News Diggers! in interview saying the supporters did not get a permit.

"Yes it's true, it's true we instructed them to be stopped because the law has not been followed and we have been warning them to say let them comply with the law if they intend to conduct any demonstrations. Let them follow the law, they shouldn't allow themselves to go into conflict with the law because it would be applied if people do that," said Katanga.

"We have always said that if people want to conduct a procession, there is a Public Order Act and that is the procedure which everyone should follow. The Public order Act is very clear that if you want to conduct a possession you should notify the police about your intention to conduct a procession just like anyone else but they didn't do that, they didn't tell us about it so we stopped them. But no one has been arrested, we just moved in and stopped that procession because every procession has to be regulated as the law requires."

By Mukosha Funga
South Africa's Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane says Hakainde Hichilema's release is the first step towards restoring democracy and ensuring maintenance of the rule of law and entrenchment of human rights not only in Zambia but across the African continent.

In a statement issued to News Diggers! yesterday, Maimane observed that the treason charge was trumped up.

"The Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes the release of Zambian opposition leader, Hakainde Hichilema, from prison

this morning following a decision by the State to drop the baseless treason charges brought against him in April this year. The DA has said from the beginning that the charges of treason against Mr Hichilema were trumped up and clearly motivated by a government intent on eliminating a political opponent. Hichilema was arrested back in April for allegedly failing to give way to President Lungu's motorcade," Maimane stated.

"The violent nature of his arrest, and the inhumane treatment that Hichilema received in detention, confirms the political motives behind these charges. The arbitrary arrest of political opponents is a hallmark of authoritarian regimes, which seek to systematically eliminate any potential threat to their rule. The release of Hichilema is the first

step towards restoring democracy in Zambia, and ensuring that the rule of law and the entrenchment of human rights and free speech are entrenched not just in Zambia, but across the African continent."

He noted that there was still a lot to do to restore true democracy in Zambia.

"There is still much more to be done to restore true democracy to Zambia. The country is still under a state of emergency, characterised by 'increased security measures' and the suppression of free speech and press

freedom. Opposition party members have been arrested en masse, and opposition members are still not present in Parliament. Democracy cannot survive without an effect opposition, holding those in power to account," Maimane stated.

He pledged to continue working with HH to deepen democracy in the Southern African region.

"The party Mr Hichilema leads, the United Party for National Development (UPND), is a sister party to the DA and a co-member of Southern African Partnership for

Democratic Change (SAPDC) – a body which I chair. As such, the DA will continue to work with Mr Hichilema and the UPND to deepen democracy in the Southern African region and advance values such as freedom of speech and human rights," stated Maimane.

"We call on the African Union (AU), the South African Development Community (SADC), and all other regional bodies, political parties, and civil society to join us in the fight for democratic change on the African continent."

Chief Kaindu too drunk to reason - Kapata

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lands Minister Jean Kapata says she failed to reason with Chief Kaindu of the Kaonde speaking people in Mumbwa, Central province over his alleged illegal sale of land in the chiefdom because he was too drunk for a sober discussion.

Reacting to earlier threats by Chief Kaindu and the Kaindu Natural Resources Trust that they would take legal action against her and the Times of Zambia for accusing the traditional leader of illegally selling land in his chiefdom, Kapata told News Diggers! in an interview that the traditional leader was a dreamer.

The minister said she had travelled to visit Chief Kaindu to verify reports that he was selling land illegally, but found the traditional too drunk for a sober discussion.

(Take a listen to the audio on: www.diggers.news)

"We went to verify, how could I know that the chief has sold land? I don't know, let him go to court because first of all, I went

their with the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, and the Minister for Central province to verify that the chief was selling land, it was coming, we were getting this news from you the journalists, it was headlines everyday in the papers where the journalists were saying that the chief has even sold his palace. Is it Jean Kapata who said that? No! I went there to verify and when we went there, we found the chief was too drunk to reason. So we didn't do anything and we left," said Kapata.

"So am not anywhere in the picture, these are allegations that were coming through the media. He is a dreamer, that's all. We have been reading about his chiefdom and when we went, we went there to verify, to find out whether he had really sold his palace. But we found him very very, extremely drunk and we could not reason with him. As you heard recently that his subjects were very worried, some two vehicles had picked him. You didn't read

where it was saying the chief was abducted? And it went on to say that they took him because they wanted to make him drunk so that he could sign papers. So is it Jean Kapata who is making him to sign those papers?"

In May 2017, Chief Kaindu issued a statement through the chairperson for the Kaindu Royal Establishment, Robert Chikumbi Shibuyunji that he felt insulted by Kapata and the Times of Zambia newspaper for accusing him of illegally selling land in his chiefdom.

"HIS Royal Highness Chief Kaindu and Kaindu Natural Resources Trust (KNRT) are greatly aggrieved by a press report and statement published in Sunday Times of 21st May 2017 entitled 'His Royal Greediness' and the condemning of His Royal Highness by Honorable Minister of Lands Honorable Jean Kapata and the Zambia Land Alliance Executive Director Eugen Kabilika. His Royal Highness Chief Kaindu and KNRT demand for an apology

from both the Times of Zambia and the Minister of Lands, failure to which, legal action will be taken. The dual further demands that in the manner that the statement was published, so should the apology be published," read the KNRT statement.

"KNRT and his Royal Highness Chief Kaindu consider the front page stories of Sunday 21st May 2017, and Monday 22nd May 2017 to be insults. The statement by the Minister of Lands and the Executive Director at ZLA are also a clear indication that respect for the Royal Highnesses and traditional leaders by those holding higher offices in Zambia is slowly degenerating. It is inconceivable that Times of Zambia and Honorable Minister in a sensitive Ministry like the Ministry of lands would respectively write and speak carelessly."

From front page

"It would be amiss for me not to express my disappointment with SADC for having become part of the conspiracy of silence when Zambians needed to hear its voices. The African Union (AU) is equally guilty. The AU created a Department of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, while SADC created the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security (also known as the TROIKA), with the active participation of Zambia. The two institutions were supposed to monitor possible areas of conflict in member states and apply preventive diplomacy through mediation

VJ questions SADC, AU silence over Hichilema's persecution

dialogue. This was visibly absent during Zambia's time of need and this is a serious indictment against both SADC and the African Union. This is unlike the proactive approach of organization such as ECOWAS and raises serious questions of relevance to the people during difficult times," VJ said.

"It had to take a post colonial organization in the name of the Commonwealth to play a mediation role, after the ground work which was laid by the catholic bishops. In any meaningful dialogue, there must be a spirit of give and take or what is also known as quid pro quo. It is my hope and prayer that both sides will embrace this

spirit today, tomorrow and always."

He however thanked all individuals and organizations which showed courage and commitment to fostering unity.

"Now that UPND President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema has been released from detention, I would like to pay tribute to his wife

Mutinta and their children for remaining strong and enduring during his absence. May I also pay tribute to HH for his resilience and strength during his painful incarceration, which lasted 126 days in very filthy prison conditions at Chimbokaila and Mukobeko Maximum Prisons. Let me also pay glowing tribute to the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, the Commonwealth Secretary General for brokering dialogue between Mr Hakainde Hichilema and President Edgar Lungu. The role played by former Nigerian Head of State General Olesegun Obasanjo should not be underestimated. It is an open secret that President Lungu faced many dissenting voices in his own party PF, who would have preferred the stalemate to continue. He also deserves my tribute and respect for putting the bigger interest of our country first. Tribute must also go to the UPND Leadership, general membership and their Alliance Partners locally and abroad, traditional leaders for the unflinching support rendered to HH and his 5 co-accused during this difficult ordeal. The role played by the catholic bishops led by Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu deserves high commendation. They laid down the foundation for what subsequently happened," VJ said.

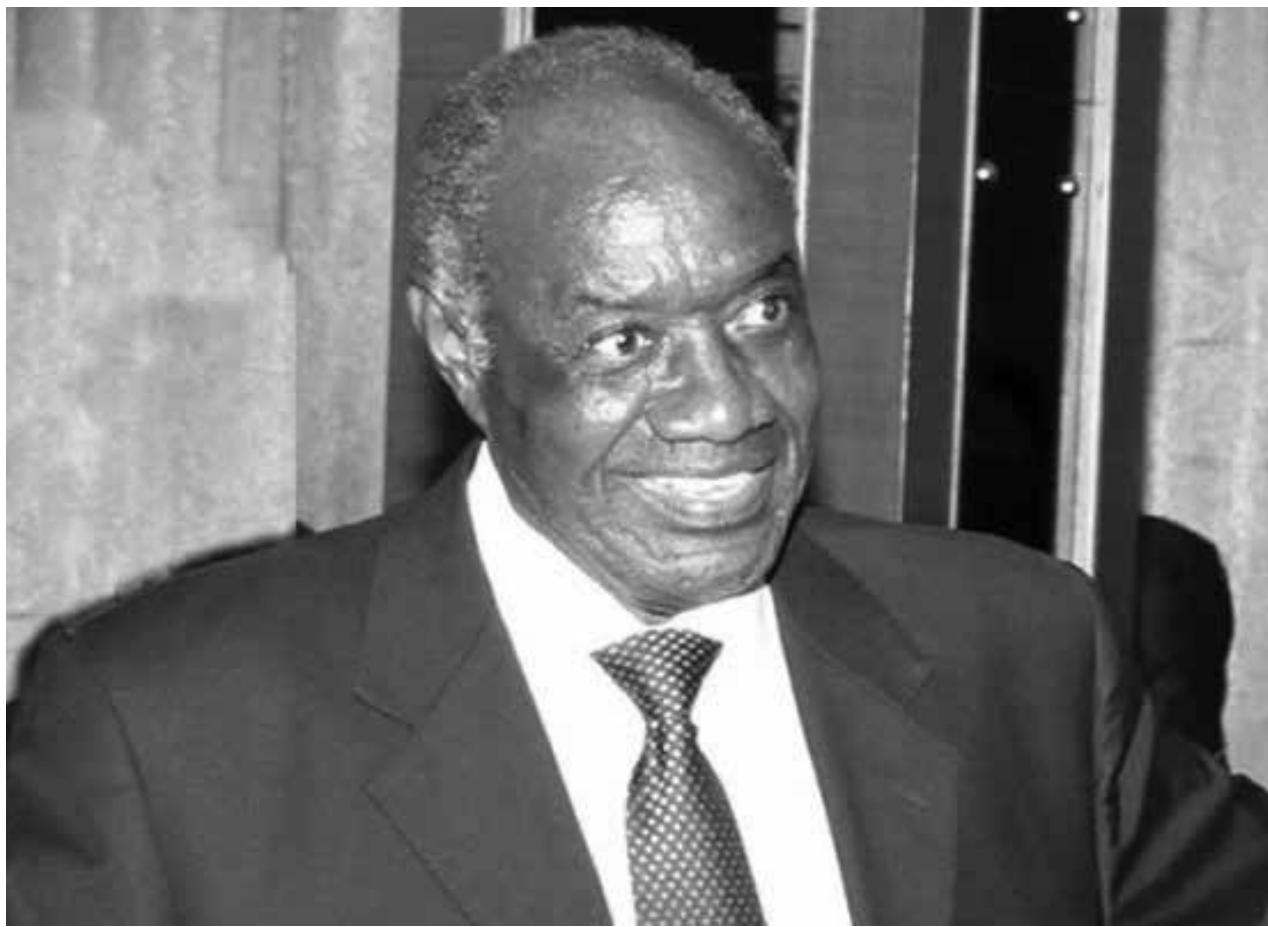
"The Commonwealth Secretary General moved swiftly to appoint a seasoned Nigerian Scholar and accomplished diplomat Professor Ibrahim Gambari as her dialogue envoy for Zambia. It is important for meaningful dialogue to start immediately so that the momentum gained is not lost. Reforms of governance institutions and laws such as the police service, the electoral commission of Zambia, the judiciary and

particularly the Constitution Court, the Public Order Act and its application, freedom of the media and even handed coverage of all political players before, during and after elections are critical in a democracy."

He advised politicians not to treat themselves as enemies but mere competitors in a contest.

"Our Country has in the past been regarded as a beacon of peace, political tolerance, constitutionalism, good governance and equality before the law. It goes without saying that a lot of this shine evaporated in the recent past. We must now interrogate what has gone wrong and why and get together as Zambians to make our country great again by embracing our cherished national motto of 'one Zambia, one nation' which has served us well in the past. Admittedly a lot has been said and done by politicians and their supporters on both sides of the divide but we should now put all this behind us and move forward for the sake of mother Zambia. Politics has been described as the art of the possible, where nothing is impossible," said VJ.

"There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies in politics, only permanent interests. Yesterday's enemies become tomorrow's friends and vice versa. Politics is a mere contest for power and contenders should not treat each other as enemies, but mere opponents in the contest. I look forward to a day when our political leaders will be able to dine together as members of one happy family. I also look forward to a day when Zambians will be able to love one another and live in peace and harmony. Admittedly, peace always comes with justice and fair play."



Dr. Vernon J Mwaanga

Lusaka Pastor gets 8yrs for defrauding residents

By Diggers Reporter

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a clergyman to eight years for swindling over 300 Kabanana compound residents out of their money using President Edgar Lungu's name.

Magistrate Alice Walusiku sentenced Apostle Paul Mulenga in his absence for obtaining over K3,000 by false pretenses.

However, Apostle Mulenga's whereabouts are unknown and the court has issued a bench warrant for the authorities to take him to prison upon his arrest.

The man of God was charged with 39 counts of theft but the prosecution only managed to prove eight of them.

He was jointly charged with five people whom he recruited to be collecting money from the members of the public.

However all the five accused have been acquitted as there is no evidence linking them to the commissioning of the offence.

According to the victims, the Apostle promised to contract them as polling agents and some were told that they would be carrying out sensitisation programmes on the Referendum ahead of the 2016 general elections after making some payments towards the fake deal.

The victims were issued with acceptance letters which were bearing the forged signatures of the President after which they were then given indentify cards.

According to the witnesses, the convict assured them that he was connected to government.

Another group of people was promised to be offered loans after paying a certain amount of money.

In her judgement, the court stated that the convict had no capacity to offer loans to people after he got thier money. Magistrate Walusiku said the evidence presented by the state was sufficient to warrant a conviction and subsequent sentencing.

She also said the state had proved that, apostle Mulenga received the said money through his organisation after collecting from unsuspecting residents.

None of the victims was refunded the money and the sensitisation programme of the Referendum was not conducted best known to the convict.

The court further noted that the man of God intended to defraud the people as he lied to them about things he knew he could not fulfill.

The judgement further states that the Apostle used the loan issue to attract people.

Those who were jointly charged with the clergyman include Robert Mushili, Nicholas Mutenda, Steven Mulenga, Nelson Zulu and Martin Dube.

ZANASU drags Luo to court over threats to ban students unions

By Mukosha Funga

The Zambia National Students Union has asked the Constitutional Court to declare Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo's intentions to disband students unions illegal, null and void.

In his petition in which Prof Luo and the Attorney General were cited as first and second respondents, ZANASU secretary general Wickson Mwenya students had not taken kindly to Prof Luo's pronouncements.

"The entire membership of the Zambian National Students Union has taken issue with the 1st Respondents threats and declarations which have been widely publicized in both the print and electronic media, calling it unconstitutional as they view it to interfere with their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. The ZANASU membership regards the 1st Respondents threats and intended action as not only ill advised but

also gravely unconstitutional and hence the need to curtail it," read the statement of claim.

"ZANASU firmly believes that a ban on students unionism will not only be an illegality but also that it will irretrievably impair the proper links of stability between students on one hand and the administrations authorities at higher institutions of learning on the other hand and thereby affecting the goals of higher academic pursuit."

Cattle disease breaks out in Sinazongwe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

A cattle disease has broken out in Nakoba village of Sinazongwe District in Southern province claiming between 30 and 40 animals so far.

According to one of the farmers Chimuka Ngilazi, once an animal is attacked by the same disease, it gets weak, urinates blood and dies within three to four hours.

"The disease is very unknown. It is attacking cattle only and for five months now. Once the cattle is infected with the same disease, it gets weak, and starts urinating blood then it dies within three hours. We have tried to engage some stakeholders but it seems our cry has not been heard," said Ngilazi.

But in an interview, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Director for Animal Diseases, Dr Yona Sinkala explained that the disease was called Babesia and it was a result of farmers not dipping their animals.

"The entire area is called Kanchindu area, so Nakoba area is in Kanchindu. The area has got ticks and these ticks they carry diseases and normally this is where farmers are supposed to dip the animals to control those ticks. Now it looks like the farmers in that area have not been dipping their animals and there is a disease called Babesia which has been causing that problem. So it is a tick-bone disease which has been caused by farmers not adhering to dipping their animals. So it is not like a mysterious disease as was reported, it is a disease that the officers have been attending to there. It is a tick bone disease that is affecting the farmers there. And the farmers are supposed to dip their animals. That's the remedy for controlling the tick bone disease," Dr Sinkala said.

Dr Sinkala also disclosed that some officers had collected samples and taken them to Lusaka for testing while dip tanks had also been bought for farmers to regularly dip their animals. "Of course there is also treatment, it can be treated

but we are following up on the issue right now, so that is what am getting from the provincial officers, but it is not a mysterious disease per se. So like right now they are supposed to dip their animals twice in a month. Every two weeks, they are

supposed to dip once to get rid of the ticks because the ticks are like mosquitoes, when the tick feeds on the animals, they transmit those tick-bone diseases, so that is where the challenge is," said Dr Sinkala.

"So to help the farmer, my

officers have gone there and they have collected the samples to confirm the disease. And the samples have been sent to Lusaka but what we are giving is the initial diagnosis of the disease. So we are just waiting for conformation

but the farmers have been advised to dip the animals and the government is providing dip tanks in the area. The dip tanks have been provided, it is just the farmers to adhere to the dipping routine."



Hichilema's release not a result of international pressure - Kampamba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chief Government Spokesperson Kampamba Mulenga says the release of UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his co accused is not a sign that government bowed down to international pressure but it is symbolic of the independence of the Judiciary.

And Mulenga says government will reconstitute the University of Zambia into five university colleges. Speaking at a joint press briefing by State House Press Aide Amos Chanda, Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya, and her Ministry in Lusaka yesterday, Kampamba said government accepted the

decision of the DPP.

"Government has not bowed down to international pressure, it is because we have a good judicial system. And of course as government, we accept what has happened today and of course we accept the decision as government by the DPP and the country moves on, we have to move

forward. This just shows that government has no interference with the judicial system and as government we are very free to criticism," Kampamba said.

And Kampamba said there was need to restructure the University of Zambia because of its over population.

"Cabinet approved the restructuring of the University of Zambia to be reconstituted into five University of Zambia colleges namely: College of Medicine; College of Education; College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine; College of Engineering, Mines, and Minerals; and College of Humanities and Arts. Government has decided to restructure the University of Zambia in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the operations of the institution. This action is provided for under the Higher education act number 4 of 2013 (iii) section 13," she said.

"The University of Zambia has become inefficiency in its management due to its current size. This has resorted in operational problems that have manifested in huge debt burden. Inadequate staff,

infrastructure of teaching and learning as well as perennial strides to lecturers and students which have compromised the quality of education. In terms of students population, the University of Zambia has 23,000 students, Copperbelt University 12,041 and the Mulungushi University 4, 830 students."

She further disclosed that government would liquidate statutory and personal related debts owed by the three public universities namely the University of Zambia, Mulungushi University, and the Copperbelt University.

"Cabinet approved a new financing strategy of financing public universities which among other things government will liquidate statutory as well as personal related debt owed by the three public universities. It is noted that environment for the higher education in Zambia has changed significantly. The honorable Minister of higher education will soon publish a full paged paper and issue a comprehensive announcement on the university reforms which cabinet approved," said Kampamba.

Mopani warns employees of possible shutdown

From front page

"Things are don't seem to be getting any better even after the court case was adjourned today (yesterday). The Human Resource Manager Mr Maeya addressed the union at central office and told them that their members prepare themselves in mind and financials to accept whatever will come. That if CEC can't review the adjustments of tariffs, then Mopani will stop the all operations and put the mine on care and maintenance," one of the workers said.

"They are saying that only the new planning project, which will finish in 2021, will be functional. All the Mopani chiefs and acting company C.E.O Mr Barry (Hodgkinson) are in Lusaka to meet the Energy Minister (David Mabumba), Labour Minister (Joyce Simukoko) and Mines Minister (Christopher Yaluma). The managers also told the unions not to worry about the salaries and packages because the

company will do everything possible to prepare the money for all employees."

The workers begged government to intervene saying too many jobs were at stake.

"If Mopani closes the mining operations tomorrow or Monday for both Nkana and Mufulira, the Copperbelt Province will collapse because other companies like Ndola Lime, Ndola Cement and other suppliers who depend in the mine will be affected. If government won't try to stop this, over 8,000 people will be affected," said another employee.

There is a stand-off between Mopani and CEC over electricity tariffs and the energy company has since reduced supply from the required 190 MegaWatts to 94 MegaWatts.

The Energy Minister has vowed that the mines will not be subsidized.

"It does not make sense for these firms to fail to abide by the new tariffs when domestic users are paying. Mopani is not paying, Kalumbila is not paying,

Kansanshi is not paying, those mines that are not paying, we will give them the amount of power equivalent to the new tariff at 9.3 cents and it is as a result of that we have restricted, for example what I have here, Kalumbila, they are supposed to be getting 155 MegaWatts, Zesco has restricted to 110 Megawatts, Kansanshi they are supposed to be getting 187 MegaWatts, we have restricted to 133 MegaWatts. Mopaniare supposed to be getting 190 MegaWatts, they are getting 94 MegaWatts," said Mabumba.

"There is no one person who will be given special consideration. If the other customers are paying, why should we be subsidizing to the industry? I think it will be very unfair. The mines that are not paying, they want to blackmail government, our considered view is that we don't want this restriction of power to have an impact in the economy but obviously if this continues, it might have."

The decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions to enter a nolle prosequi in the treason case was not surprising. It was as certain as the sun rising tomorrow.

All alert Zambians expected the outcome; it was just the question of which method of humiliation the State was going to choose. And as if discontinuing the case was not enough embarrassment, DPP Lillian Siyunyi entered a 'nolle' but citing a wrong provision of the law – further confusing the judge in his explanation to the accused persons.

"The DPP has decided to terminate these proceedings by virtue of her constitutional powers. Therefore, you are hereby discharged from this offense. But this is not an acquittal as at any time, you can be rearrested for this [same] offense. But for now you are free to go home," said judge Charles Chanda, without even giving chance to the defence team to respond to the decision by the DPP.

Law experts, however, say judge Chanda was misled by the DPP because the law that Siyunyi cited covered "public interest" and did not leave an option for re-arresting the accused persons. But this is what happens when a choreographed plan goes astray – villains get exposed. The DPP somehow left the judge in an awkward position. It was as if he was aware of the nolle prosequi even before the case was called and prepared his response ahead of time, without taking time to appreciate the Article invoked.

Tribute to the 5 'co-abused'

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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Under this PF government, such abnormalities are no big deal. "It shows that the judiciary is independent", that's all you will hear from those in power. None of them will agree that there is something wrong within the system that needs fixing. In just one week, the State has 'lost' four political cases and counting... Obvious Mwaliteta was discharged, the UPND vice-president had no case to answer in Kitwe, the infamous treason case had no more legs to 'walk' on, and Chilufya Tayali has the last laugh. In the face of all this, the PF will still insist that their

hands are clean.

Anyway, the damage has already been caused; and like we said before, these political cases were not about the accused persons, they were not about UPND. They were about the rule of law in Zambia. These cases, especially the treason matter, damaged the country's democratic narrative. Zambia will never be the same again. The government may disagree with us, the ruling party may also claim to have the capacity to clean this mess, but it will take decades and probably another generation of politicians to return Zambia to

its original democratic DNA.

As citizens, what we can do for now is to console one another in the face of unprecedented political brutality. We have to find time to pray for the souls of those who have lost lives from political violence, those who have been tortured and harassed because of their political affiliation.

Our tribute goes to the five 'co-abused' who spent 127 days in incarceration along with the UPND leader.

They suffered the same punishment, if not worse. They lived in the same inhuman conditions, but they were

never in the limelight. Their pain was never heard; they endured in silence. All the headlines were about Hakainde Hichilema. "Police move HH to Kabwe", "Police stop family members from visiting HH", "Commonwealth envoy visits HH at Mukobeko", "HH, Edgar Lungu agree to reconcile", "State discontinues treason case against HH", and so on and so forth.

Wallace Chakawa, Hamusonde Hamaleka, Muleya Hachinda, Laston Mulilanduba and Pretorius Haloba are not names that many Zambians are familiar with, but these are

the men who have paid the greatest price from this bogus treason fiasco.

Wallace Chakawa, Hamusonde Hamaleka, Muleya Hachinda, Laston Mulilanduba and Pretorius Haloba are Zambia's unsung heroes. No one specifically spoke for them when they were in detention. Even when they were discharged, the "Treason 5" had no one following them to their houses to witness how their families welcomed them. No one seemed interested to hear their story; how they spent their tough nights in prison. All cameras followed Hichilema, because he was the man of the moment. But these names should not be forgotten. Our message to the "Treason 5" and indeed Mr Hakainde Hichilema himself is that they must heal, they must accept the punishment and realise that they may never even be compensated for the price they have had to pay for democracy. But should Zambians make the choice of rewarding them with power to govern this country in future, they must not fight hurt with hate, they must resist the revenge temptation.

Our country cannot afford to continue with a system of justice by vengeance. We urge Zambians to show bravery and to speak up, but avoid unnecessary exposure to the wrath of the oppressor. Rebuilding this country's democracy through peace may require us to accept a certain degree of impunity until it is the right time to pluck it out permanently.

Mandatory testing not feasible for Africa - WHO

Introduction

Global HIV incidence may have peaked but calls for scaling up prevention have not diminished. The number of new infections worldwide remains high (4.1 million in 2005) with some regions previously unscathed experiencing rising incidences of HIV. The number of patients presenting late at health facilities with advanced HIV/AIDS is also a cause of concern. In general, there is a growing sense of frustration that global efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS are being outpaced by the spread of the pandemic. Consequently, calls have been made for a more pragmatic approach to containing the disease, with routine and mandatory testing gaining increasing attention. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently proposed a new approach for HIV testing in adults, adolescents and pregnant women under which testing will be routinely offered in all health-care settings. No signed consent from patients would be required under this new proposal; the general consent for medical care would be considered sufficient to encompass consent for HIV testing. Former US President Bill Clinton has also lent support for mandatory HIV testing in countries where the prevalence rate is 5% or higher. Political support for mandatory testing has been seen in countries like India, where the state government of Goa has proposed mandatory premarital testing, and in China, which plans to test all workers in the tourism industry. But would routine or mandatory testing make any difference in preventing HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa?

Access to treatment

The unmet ARV needs of sub-Saharan Africa remain disproportionately high. About 4.2 million people in need of treatment were without access to ARV therapy in June 2005. In countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania, ARV therapy coverage was below 5%. In contrast, about 70% of the estimated 15 310 people living with HIV in Australia in 2005 were receiving antiretroviral treatment.

There is no denial that even without treatment, testing and knowledge of one's HIV status are important because a positive HIV test could activate behaviour modifications that may reduce the risk of onward transmission of the virus. However, while some individuals even without access to treatment may have incentives to know their HIV serostatus, the logic of undergoing testing when there is clear evidence of no access to treatment may seem perverted at best to many people. Whether routine or mandatory, the rationale behind avoiding HIV testing where there is no hope for treatment, if needed, is not hard to digest. Scaling up access to treatment therefore is a vital step towards encouraging testing in sub-Saharan Africa and dispelling the misconception that HIV/AIDS is a "death sentence" – a misconception that increases fear and obstructs testing.

Weak health systems

African health systems are abysmally weak; inadequate health workforces, poor management, and inefficient resource allocation and utilization have severely weakened the capacity of most

health systems on the continent. It is widely believed that even if sufficient antiretroviral drugs were to be available, distribution to all those in need of treatment would still be a problem in most countries. Inadequate health workforces are perhaps the most serious of all the challenges. Poor working conditions and low salaries have triggered a wave of migration of health professionals from sub-Saharan Africa to western countries. In Ghana, for example, about 61% of doctors trained locally between 1984 and 1995 have left the country; the public-sector medical vacancy rate was 47% in 2002 and even higher (57%) for registered nurses. Data from Zambia and Zimbabwe show a similar picture of attrition from public-sector health employment, with losses of 15–40% per annum. Of the 1200 physicians trained in Zimbabwe during the 1990s, only 360 were still practising in the country by 2001.

Given the weakness of health systems in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular the acute shortage of health personnel, it is incomprehensible that routine or mandatory testing per se would lead to any drastic improvements in HIV/AIDS prevention or treatment and care on the continent. Rather than calling for routine or mandatory testing, the limited access to health professionals which is seriously undermining HIV prevention, treatment and care in sub-Saharan Africa should be addressed. Chen and colleagues observed that sub-Saharan African countries must nearly triple their current number of health workers by adding the equivalent of one million workers through retention, recruitment and

training if they are to come close to approaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health. Sub-Saharan African countries surely cannot do this alone; they would need support from the countries who recruit health workers from the continent. A comprehensive approach that includes immediate measures to stop the migration of health workers is paramount. In addition, substantial investments are required in training more health professionals to make up the current shortfalls. This may seem a long-term solution but 25 years down the track in the battle against AIDS, nothing should be discarded on the basis of being long-term.

The culture of health service utilization

The culture of health service utilization in Africa raises concerns about the feasibility of routine or mandatory HIV testing. Africans in general, and particularly the poor, do not use health services unless they are very sick or there is a specific need. The concepts of preventive health care and health promotion do not appear to have caught up with most of the population. Even in times of infirmity, studies have shown that self-medication and the use of traditional medicine are usually the first line of action. This culture of poor health service utilization has been sustained by the high level of poverty in Africa and the limited access to health facilities often culminating in long and arduous hours of travel to see a doctor. A key consequence of this is the high incidence of late HIV/AIDS diagnosis across Africa and among African immigrants overseas. Routinely testing people

presenting at health facilities for HIV with or without their consent, in an environment of poor health service utilization, would have limited impact on preventing HIV/AIDS as significant numbers of non-regular users of health services will be missed. This is not to say that testing people routinely at health facilities may not have any positive effects; it could lead to an increase in the number of people tested for HIV on the African continent. However, for routine or mandatory testing or any other policy that focuses on health-care settings to have the maximum impact in Africa, a massive educational effort on health-care use is as essential as the removal of financial and other barriers to accessing health care.

Stigma and discrimination

HIV-related stigma and discrimination remain widespread in Africa. Despite having the highest number of HIV cases and AIDS-related deaths, people identified as living with HIV/AIDS still face serious discrimination from and together with their families. AIDS-related discrimination can manifest in different ways – from inappropriate comments to breaches of patients' confidentiality, delay and refusal of treatment and social isolation. Stigma and discrimination obstruct the uptake of HIV/AIDS interventions. A study done in Botswana and Zambia found that stigma against HIV-positive persons and fear of discrimination were the key reasons for the low uptake of voluntary counselling and testing to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus. It has been argued that routinely testing for HIV as part of health delivery would normalize

testing and make AIDS less stigmatized. However, it is hard to imagine how this will happen given the issues of confidentiality surrounding HIV testing and the low rate of disclosure by those testing positive. Unless the current stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS is seriously addressed, any policy of routine or mandatory testing could even be counter-productive by driving people away from health facilities if they know they will be tested.

Conclusion

Sub-Saharan Africa is contextually unique. The social, economic and cultural contexts within which HIV infects people and spreads across the continent differ considerably from those in other parts of the world. It is important that appropriate caution is exercised when prescribing policies that seem to have worked in other settings for use in Africa. Although HIV testing is crucial for effective prevention, making it routine or mandatory in sub-Saharan Africa may not be feasible in the short to medium term. What is important is the removal of the key barriers to HIV testing. In particular, the lack of access to ARV therapy, the inadequate health workforce that has incapacitated many health systems in Africa, the culture of poor use of health services and the widespread stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS must be tackled. HIV/AIDS, to a large extent, is a behaviour-induced epidemic, and like all such epidemics the object of prevention lies in individual behaviour changes, which cannot be brought about by a policy of routine or mandatory testing alone.

South African borders on red alert for Grace Mugabe

South African police have issued a "red alert" at the country's borders for Zimbabwe's First Lady Grace Mugabe, the police minister has said.

She is accused of hitting a 20-year-old woman over the head with an extension cord in a hotel room near Johannesburg.

Police expected Mrs Mugabe, 52, to turn herself in on Tuesday, but she failed to show up.

The first lady's whereabouts are not known but she is believed to still be in South Africa.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe is now also in the country ahead of a southern African heads of state meeting due to start on Friday.

Mrs Mugabe has not commented on the allegation.

Africa Live: Updates on this and other stories

Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said: "We, in terms of South African police, [have] already put tabs on the borders in relation to her leaving the country, so there is no question about that.

"So tabs have been put, a red alert has been put, so she is not somebody who has been running away."

On Wednesday, South Africa's police ministry said Zimbabwe's government had sought diplomatic immunity for Mrs Mugabe. Meanwhile, South African lawyer Gerrie Nel, who successfully prosecuted Paralympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, is supporting the woman making the allegation, Gabriella Engels. Mr Nel is now working with the Afriforum group, which mainly lobbies for the rights of Afrikaners in South Africa.

Afriforum said if the police failed to act in the case then it would take up a private prosecution.

It also said that it would fight any move to grant Mrs Mugabe diplomatic immunity.

'She cornered me'

Ms Engels told the BBC that she was attacked by Mrs Mugabe who believed she knew the whereabouts of her son, Bellarmine.

"We kept telling her 'we do not know where he is... we haven't seen him for the night'... She cornered me... and started beating the hell out of me.

"That's when she hit me

with the plug and the extension cord. And I just remember being curled down on the floor with blood rushing down my face and down my neck.

"She hit us with so much hate."

Ms Engels has now laid an assault charge and added that she wants Grace Mugabe to "go to jail".

South Africa's diplomatic dilemma

Farouk Chothia, BBC

Africa

South Africa's government risks a public backlash if it lets Mrs Mugabe go scot-free.

This happened in 2015, when it failed to execute an international arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir who was wanted by the International Criminal Court.

The government argued that he qualified for diplomatic immunity,

but the country's judges disagreed. The government was then strongly criticised for undermining the rule of law.

It seems that ministers want to avoid a similar backlash and are therefore insisting that Mrs Mugabe must appear in court.

But by taking such an approach it risks a diplomatic row with Zimbabwe's government - a staunch ally whom it

has resolutely defended over the years, despite international criticism of President Mugabe's human rights record.

So the two governments, including Mr Mugabe and his South African counterpart, Jacob Zuma, are bound to be in talks to resolve the crisis over the first lady.

One option being mentioned in the South African media is that Mrs

Mugabe should plead guilty during a short court appearance, and pay a fine.

But it is unclear whether Mr and Mrs Mugabe - known for their uncompromising nature - will agree to this, especially after Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party said in a tweet on Tuesday that the first lady had been "attacked", contradicting her accuser's version of events. *BBC News*

Mass burial for Sierra Leone mudslide victims



The graves were prepared at Waterloo, 30km from Freetown

A mass burial for about 300 people killed by a mudslide and flooding has taken place on the outskirts of the capital Freetown.

President Ernest Bai Koroma attended a multi-faith memorial service at the burial site in the city of Waterloo.

Some 600 people are still thought to be missing while more than 400 people are known to have died.

About 3,000 people are homeless in what is being described as a humanitarian emergency.

There is also growing concern about the risk to public health from water-borne diseases.

A disaster waiting to happen?

Gruesome clear-up to prevent health emergency Mortuaries have been overwhelmed by the number of bodies they have received - more than 100 of them are children.

Freetown's chief pathologist, Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma, said those buried were people who had been identified or whose bodies were badly decomposed.

Mr Koroma told the BBC that the number of bodies he had certified was "approaching the 350 marker. But we're still expecting more

coming, yes.... up to a month or two months, and I believe some are buried with the collapse of masonry, buildings".

The mass grave in Waterloo is known as the Ebola cemetery after the 2014 disease outbreak, which killed nearly 4,000 people in the country. Media caption People are angry, reports the BBC's Martin Patience from outside Freetown's mortuary

Homes in the hilltop community of Regent were covered after part of Sugar Loaf mountain collapsed following heavy rain early on Monday. Many victims were asleep in bed when disaster struck.

Bereaved families have been gathering outside the mortuaries - some carrying pictures of their relatives - in the hope of identifying their lost loved ones.

Sorrie Koroma is searching for his missing 12-year-old daughter, along with his sister and her five children who were staying with them for the school holidays. "I need to see my daughter's body just so my life can continue," he told the BBC.

President Koroma, who has visited the stricken

area, said "entire communities have been wiped out" and called on the international community to provide "urgent support".

Sierra Leone began a week of mourning on Wednesday.

Woman is comforted after learning she has lost her son, in Freetown, on 16 August 2017 Image copyright REUTERS

Image caption

A woman is comforted after learning she has lost her son

The EU has pledged 300,000 euros (£270,000), and Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela of the European Commission said the money would go to humanitarian organisations to ensure it reached those most in need.

The Red Cross has warned it is a race against time to find survivors. The search is taking place using diggers and makeshift tools.

Flooding is not unusual in Sierra Leone, where unsafe housing in makeshift settlements can be swept away by heavy rains.

The rains often hit areas in and around Freetown, an overcrowded coastal city of more than one million people. *BBC News*

Emma Stone tops Forbes' highest-paid actresses list

Emma Stone is making the big bucks in Hollywood! The 28-year-old actress was named 2017's highest-paid actress, earning an estimated \$26 million in the last 12 months, according to Forbes.

Stone's pretax income largely came from her role in *La La Land*, which grossed \$445.3 million at the global box office, as well as earning her a Best Actress Oscar.

Forbes editor Natalie Robehmed told ET that the publication believes Stone "took a lower upfront pay in order to get more compensation on the back end. The movie went on to do phenomenally well."

Jennifer Aniston is the second highest-paid actress, earning \$25.5 million. While some may be surprised to find Aniston at No. 2 on this year's list, Robehmed explained that the 48-year-old star "still makes millions from endorsements for Smart Water and Aveeno."

Jennifer Lawrence jumped from being No. 1 on the list for the past two years, to being No. 3 this year, bringing in \$24 million. Without the *Hunger Games* franchise, most of the 27-year-old's income came from her upcoming movies *Mother!* and *Red Sparrow* and endorsement with Dior.

Melissa McCarthy (\$18 million) and Mila Kunis (\$15.5 million) round out the top five.

According to Forbes, the

world's 10 highest-paid actresses tallied a combined \$172.5 million between June 1, 2016, and June 1, 2017, before fees and taxes.

"We rank our highest-paid actresses list by looking at upfront fees and back-end profits for movies," Robehmed told ET. "As well

as endorsement paychecks and any other earnings that the actresses might have gotten within our 12-month scoring period,

which is from June 2016 to June 2017. All our estimates are before taxes and fees." Up next for Stone is *Battle of the Sexes*, opposite Steve

Carell. The film, out Sept. 22, tells the true story of the 1973 tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. *Yahoo News*



Emma Stone (l) with Jennifer Lawrence

DeMario Jackson Says Bachelor in Paradise Scandal Was Fueled by Racism

In a new interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, DeMario Jackson reflects on the now-infamous *Bachelor in Paradise* scandal that

temporarily shut down production of the show's fourth season. Allegations of misconduct swirled around a sexual encounter he had with

fellow contestant Corinne Olympios, accusations he feels were fueled by racism (Olympios is white) and a rush to judgement. "I just

told my truth. Unfortunately, we live in a society where the whole world is going to side with the woman. Even when the story doesn't make sense," Jackson told THR.

Footage leading up to the encounter aired on BIP, but not the encounter itself. Jackson scoffs at the idea that anything untoward could have happened while the cast was constantly being monitored, pointing to the show's omnipresent production staff: "You're on a multi-million-dollar set with 50 to 100-plus cameras, 300 workers and an entire production. I love how [castmate] Alex [Woytkiw] was giving the play-by-play with what was going on with me and Corinne when we were in the pool, because it showed all the production, all the people and the castmates watching." Warner Bros. TV subsequently reviewed the footage in question and declared that no wrongdoing had occurred.

According to Jackson, the producer who reported the possible misconduct was, in his words, "Corinne's best friend," someone known to him and the cast. Jackson says he remains baffled about

the incident, one that he maintains was consensual. "It was 100-percent consensual. She hopped in my arms, she pulled me into the pool. You've seen that with your own eyes," he says. "I think people wanted it to be something different. They wanted the angry black guy and this little, innocent white girl. But it wasn't." In Jackson's opinion, a racist interpretation of their interracial sexual encounter led outside observers, and eventually the public, to stereotype him as a villain. "If I would have been Alex or Derek [Peth, two white contestants], we wouldn't even be having this conversation," he says. "If anyone argues, tell them to Google 'Charlottesville.' That's the world we live in. Look who our president is. Just tell them to look up what Trump said. It's always the white guy who says race didn't play a factor." Explains Jackson, "I would hate for my biggest enemy to go through what I've been through this summer," a sentiment that has not stopped the show from using the controversy as entertainment in the new season. *Yahoo News*



Palestinian mourners attend the funeral of Nidal al-Jaafari, a 28-year-old Hamas field commander who was killed overnight in a suicide attack that targeted Hamas forces near the Baza Strip's crossing with Egypt

Best FIFA men's player nominees revealed



The 2016 FIFA mens team of the year at the Ballon d'Or gala

Real Madrid have dominated the shortlist, with over 20 players vying for the personal accolade after impressive seasons. Andres Iniesta is one of the more surprising names on the 24-man shortlist for the Best FIFA Men's Player award for 2017.

The Barcelona captain has been included despite having been restricted to just 13 starts in La Liga last season, largely due to injury problems.

Holder Cristiano Ronaldo, Barca star Lionel Messi and new Paris Saint-Germain signing Neymar are on the list, while Juventus duo Paulo Dybala and Gianluigi Buffon are named after impressing en route to the Champions League final.

Tottenham striker Harry Kane is on the list, having finished top of the Premier League goalscoring charts for the second campaign in a row, although Spurs' season ended in disappointment, as they failed to win a trophy.

Real Madrid full-backs Dani Carvajal and Marcelo have been included after consistently strong displays in their side's league and Champions League double in 2016-17.

Alexis Sanchez, N'Golo Kante, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Eden Hazard are the other nominees who played for Premier League clubs last term.

The list was compiled by a panel of former football greats including Diego Maradona, Cafu, Carles Puyol, Edwin van der Sar and Jay Jay Okocha.

A final trio of nominees will now be decided by a combination of a public vote, which runs between August 21 and September 7, as well as input from

national team captains, coaches, and a panel of media representatives.

BEST FIFA MEN'S PLAYER NOMINEES

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Borussia Dortmund)

Leonardo Bonucci (AC Milan, Juventus in 2016-17)
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus)
Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid)
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
Paulo Dybala (Juventus)

Antoine Griezmann (Atletico Madrid)
Eden Hazard (Chelsea)
Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Free agent, Manchester United in 2016-17)
Andres Iniesta (Barcelona)
Harry Kane (Tottenham)
N'Golo Kante (Chelsea)

Toni Kroos (Real Madrid)
Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich)
Marcelo (Real Madrid)
Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
Luka Modric (Real Madrid)
Keylor Navas (Real Madrid)
Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich)

Neymar (Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona in 2016-17)
Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid)
Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal)
Luis Suarez (Barcelona)
Arturo Vidal (Bayern Munich)

Zambia will miss retired Jacob Mulenga – Coach



By Diggers Reporter

Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda has paid tribute to striker Jacob Mulenga who has announced his retirement from Chipolopolo duty.

Jacob, 33, officially announced his decision not to be considered for Chipolopolo duty on Monday.

Speculation is Nyirenda was considering drafting the Chinese-based striker for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B doubleheader qualifier against Algeria at home September 2 and away September 5.

"He has done a great work for the nation and has represented us very well at home and abroad. He is a big beacon for Zambian football and very disciplined," Nyirenda said.

"I have monitored his performance in China, it is unfortunate I will not have him in the future. We will just respect his decision it may be a loss but I want to applaud his decision. He is legend for the country."

Jacob's Chipolopolo career spans from 2004 when he made his senior debut and scored in a 1-0 home win over Togo in Lusaka.

His last Zambia match was in September, 2014 in a 2-1 away loss to Cape Verde.

Jacob has been at Chinese club Chinese side Shijiazhuang Ever Bright since 2015 after spending 10 years in Europe that has seen him play in France, Holland and Turkey.

Tennis: Nishikori to miss rest of season with wrist injury

Japan's Kei Nishikori will miss the rest of the 2017 season after tearing a tendon in his right wrist, his manager said on Wednesday. The 27-year-old world number nine becomes the latest of a clutch of high-ranked players to take time out from the sport due to injury.

Fourth-ranked Stan Wawrinka and number five Novak Djokovic have in recent weeks called a halt to

their seasons to recover from knee and elbow injuries respectively. Nishikori was scheduled to play at this week's Cincinnati Masters, a warm-up event for the U.S. Open, but withdrew when he felt a sharp pain in his wrist during practice on Sunday.

"Kei hit a serve and heard a 'pop' in his wrist," his manager said in a statement. "It has become clear that Kei has a tear in one of the

tendons in the right wrist.

"At this stage, we have elected not to do surgery and Kei is in a cast. After the swelling comes down in the next weeks, we will evaluate next steps. Kei will withdraw from all the 2017 tournaments and work hard to be ready for next year."

The Japanese reached his only grand slam final at the U.S. Open in 2014, losing to Croatia's Marin Cilic. *Yahoo Sports*



Bafana warn Chipolopolo

By Diggers Reporter

Bafana Bafana have indicated that they are expecting a tough 2018 CHAN last leg decider against Zambia this on Saturday but are determined to deny their hosts' qualification to the Kenya finals.

Bafana arrived at lunchtime on Thursday in Ndola for the August 19 final leg qualifying clash at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

The two sides are tied at 2-2 after Zambia rallied from two-down in the first leg on August 12 in East London to dash Bafana's hopes of taking a healthy home lead to Ndola.

"Zambia has done well to score two away goals that will obviously be a disturbance for us," Bafana assistant coach and

Under-20 trainer Thabo Senong said.

Senong is standing in for Stuart Baxter who will miss the final leg to prepare for Bafana's 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier programme in September.

Zambia need a scoreless draw this weekend to qualify on away goals rule.

"Whatever happens, if they defend, they will be in a panic mode, if they attack, it will be open for us," Senong said.

"We still believe that it's going to be a nice encounter.

"We have not given up yet, we still believe our team can still score goals so we just need to manage a few things.

"We need to work on how to deal with set-plays, Zambia's direct football and pacy attackers."

Senong added that the recalling of over 10 players by their respective clubs from CHAN duty was a

challenge his bench had to overcome.

"We are used to it, thankfully we have brought

in players that are used to such challenges," Senong said.

"It is the nature and beauty

of this game that you combine a team quickly and make sure that they can play well on Saturday."



Bolt reveals injury details and rounds on doubters

Usain Bolt delivered a rebuke to those who questioned whether he really suffered an injury in his farewell race at the World Athletics Championships by revealing details of his hamstring tear on Thursday.

The Jamaican, stung by speculation that he had pulled up in the anchor leg of the 4 x 100 meters relay final in London on Saturday because he was too far behind to win the race, said the injury would need three months of rehabilitation. Accompanied by an x-ray of the injury to his left hamstring, the eight-times Olympics gold medalist was also adamant in social media posts that he never cheated his fans.

The 30-year-old explained on Twitter: "Sadly I have a tear of the proximal myotendinous junction of biceps femoris in my left hamstring with partial retraction. 3 months rehab. I don't usually release my medical report to the public but sadly I have sat and listened to people questioning if I was really injured. *Yahoo Sports*

Zambia will miss retired Jacob Mulenga — Coach P11

Best FIFA men's player nominees revealed P11

