

## Singer CQ turns actor

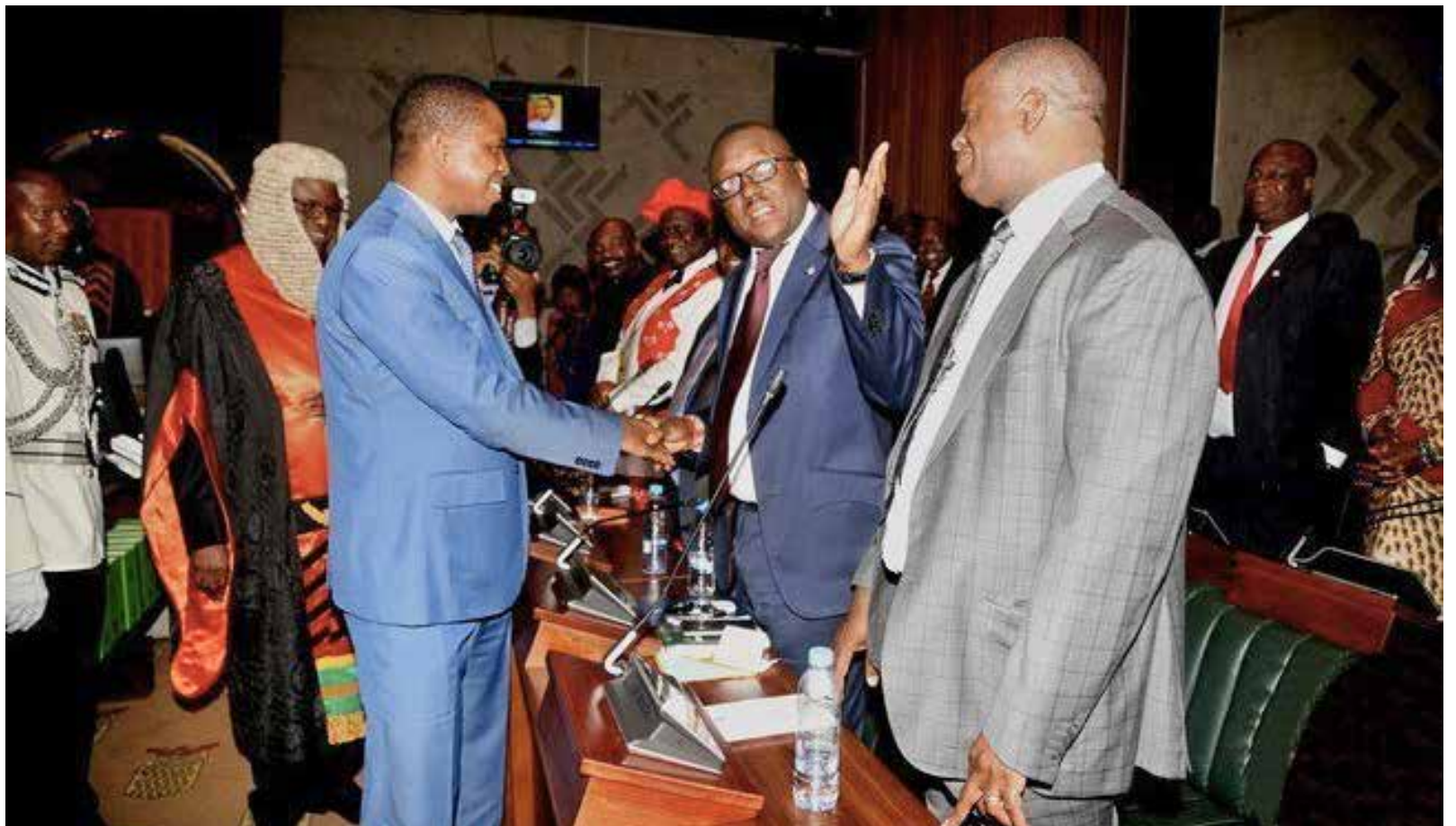
By Ruth Tembo

Musician CQ Muzukulu is set to release his debut film titled "Piyo" in which he is featuring renowned Nigerian actor Jim Iyke. Iyke is the star behind Nollywood blockbuster movies such as "Super player", "Mad Love" and "Faces of Love" among other hits on his catalogue. CQ started singing and acting almost at the same time back in the days, but it was his singing talent which got him into the spotlight from the Church choir.

But he feels it is now time for his other hidden talent to blossom.

"My first appearance as an actor on a commercial basis was in the last series of "Kabanana". [Although people don't seem to notice], acting has always been my passion because it is an elevation. I believe in the movie industry.

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President Lungu talks to UPND Whip Garry Nkombo (c) and Leader of the Opposition Jack Mwiimbu after opening the second session of the 12th National Assembly today - Picture courtesy of Lusaka Times

## No matter how much we quarrel, we are one - Lungu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

We may disagree and quarrel but we will remain one, says

President Edgar Lungu.

And President Lungu says

are still unacceptably high with 54.4 per cent of people living below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, President Lungu says the country will continue borrowing only for economically viable projects.

Speaking when he officially opened Parliament under the theme "Moving towards a prosperous smart Zambia in peace and tranquillity without leaving anyone behind", President Lungu called for unity among citizens.

He also condemned hate speech on social media.

"Mr Speaker, we may disagree and quarrel but we will remain one. The factors that

unite us are greater than those that seek to divide us. And that is fundamental. Therefore Mr Speaker, the acts of arson and sabotage, hate speech on social media and other injurious acts against each other are an assault on ourselves. No iota of an explanation Mr Speaker can justify what we have experienced in the recent past," President Lungu said. President Lungu urged those who sought public office to show love to the people.

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## Stick to the budget, spend what you have, Chibamba urges govt

By Mirriam Chabala

Former International Monetary Fund communications advisor Chibamba Kanyama says government must stick to the budget if it is to clear all outstanding debt.

And Economics Association of Zambia national secretary Herryman Moono says it seems government is no

longer interested in an IMF bailout package because they feel they have gotten out of a "coma".

Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk today, where he discussed 2018 budget expectations, Kanyama said it was necessary to review previous budgets before announcing new ones.

"We have experienced

over expenditure in the implementation of most of our budgets each single year. What we don't seem to understand is that we can only spend what we have as a country and the five pillars of government are quite emphatic that let us stick to the budget and spend only what we have. The Minister of Finance announces the budget for

2018 next week to explain government's expenditure for the next financial year.

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## PF wins 9 of 12 by-elections

By Diggers Correspondent

THE United Party for National Development (UPND) has retained the Council chairperson seat for Iteszi-Tezhi District with a landslide victory after

beating its closest rival, the Patriotic Front (PF) with a margin of 5,027.

But it is the ruling party that has scooped the majority of local government seats.

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# LUNGU RETIRES CHALABESA, KASANDA

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu is not renewing the contract for State House Principal Private Secretary Francis Chalabesa and deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Peter Kasanda. Chalabesa's contract ends on September 25, 2017 while

that of Ambassador Kasanda expires on September 17. According to News Diggers! findings, President Lungu has since replaced Chalabesa with Dr Simon Miti who was serving as Permanent Secretary Administration at Cabinet Office.

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# It is not Mambilima's duty to discipline lawyers - Munshya

By Mirriam Chabala

Canadian based lawyer Elias Munshya says Chief Justice Ireen Mambilima is not above the law to be disciplining lawyers and judges who are seen to be against the state without just cause.

And Munshya has threatened to sue Justice Mambilima if she does not respond to his letter within 60 days.

In a letter dated September 12, 2017 addressed to Justice Mambilima, Munshya said it was illegal for the Judiciary to suspend

Livingstone magistrate B. Mwelwa for simply referring an ambiguous matter to the Constitutional Court for determination.

"Zambians must unequivocally support your gallant effort to fight corruption within the judiciary. Be assured of my prayers and best wishes. However, any effort by the judiciary to fight corruption within its ranks must be done in a way that inspires confidence and follows the letter and spirit of the law. Abuse of the law while trying to enforce the law is

still abuse. As citizens, we have a duty to hold all arms of government accountable and I hope you will pay due attention to this letter," Barrister Munshya wrote.

"The Judiciary suspended honourable Mwelwa, a class 2 Magistrate from Livingstone for referring the matter he was hearing to the Constitutional Court for determination of what he believed to be a Constitutional question. The question was whether Constitution 2016 had changed the Director of Public Prosecution's

prerogative to enter a nolle prosequi. Apparently, your management did not take kindly to this and you suspended the magistrate while the matter was still being heard."

Munshya argued that adjudicators were not obliged to decide cases according to the wishes of the state.

"I register my strong disagreement with your management's illegal decision. If this suspension is tolerated, it will erode confidence in our Judiciary and magistrates will fear

administrative retaliation if they ruled in a manner that goes against the wishes of management. Zambian adjudicators do not owe duty to decide cases according to the wishes of the state, be it administrative, the legislature or the judiciary. They owe the duty to the people, to act fairly and reasonably," he wrote.

"To make it very clear, my lady, the Zambian Judiciary is not above the law and certainly, you are not above the law. The management of the Judiciary cannot be seen to be interfering in matters that are before the court. If Mr Mwelwa has committed a crime or has anything that deserves action, you would be justified in following appropriate legislation to discipline magistrates. When a magistrate gets a ruling wrong, correction can be done through appeal to a higher court and not suspension. The Constitutional Court seems to have vindicated the magistrate after ruling on the question."

Munshya also condemned the Judiciary's decision to bar Lusaka lawyer Gilbert Phiri from appearing before any court due to some Facebook postings about Hakainde Hichilema's treason case saying it was not its obligation to discipline lawyers.

"There is another matter of notorious concern. A few months ago, the judiciary in a statement from the honourable Charles Kafunda, claimed to suspend a lawyer from appearing before the courts of law until he had been disciplined. Lawyers in Zambia are not officers of the judiciary and they are not amendable to the judiciary. Lawyers are a self-governing and self-disciplining profession and all discipline must be channelled through the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) Act, the Legal Practitioners Act and appropriate regulations. Our common law does allow for a sitting judge to

discipline lawyers appearing before all courts in this manner," he stated.

"The rule of law is at stake here and a corrective action needs to be taken to redeem our judiciary in which all Zambians hold a stake. It would betray a fundamental character of our profession if lawyers will cease to be self-disciplining and become an extension of the state through the judiciary. The Judiciary has enough officers, clerks, magistrates, judges and other workers to worry about and should not spread its tentacles to direct disciplining of lawyers. Honourable Kafunda's letter purporting to suspend lawyer Gilbert Phiri from appearing before judges is illegal. Tolerating this letter will interfere with the profession's independence from the state."

And Munshya threatened to invoke the Constitution's public standing privilege and sue the Justice Mambilima if she did not respond to his letter within 60 days.

"In view of the above, I petition your office to, within 60 days forthwith rescind the suspension of the Magistrate Mwelwa as it is illegal and most probably unconstitutional; restore Mr Phiri's appearance privileges and have him disciplined through the channels established by the law and cleanse illegal and illogical acts that would betray the constitutional and legal order of our republic. If I do not hear from you within 60 days, I will invoke our constitution's public standing privilege, retain counsel and sue you and the judiciary. Considering the constitutional impact of these matters, both the Attorney General of Zambia and the Minister of Justice will be enjoined to the suit. It is my hope however, that you will govern rightly as you have always done and help restore confidence in the people's judiciary. I look forward to hearing from you," wrote Munshya.

## We may quarrel but we are still one - Lungu

From front page

"Zambia is bigger than us and therefore those of us that seek public office should advance much higher love for our people and including respecting our people. Sustainable development is for all, different disabled people as well as all who are able bodied," he said.

And President Lungu said poverty levels remained unacceptably high.

"Mr Speaker, poverty levels in the country remain unacceptably high with 54.4 percent of our people living below the poverty line. Poverty in our country is overwhelmingly a rural phenomenon with a rate almost three times the level observed in urban areas. More than half of the rural population at 55% is affected by poverty while in urban areas, the extreme poverty is at 13%. I want you to know what we are doing to reduce poverty and vulnerability in our country," President Lungu said.

"Our vulnerable people, Mr Speaker, include orphans, females and child headed households, different abled persons, the crippled, order persons. Our interventions therefore should give them hope for a better life and that of their children, and children's children. Climate change remains an obstacle to poverty and vulnerability reduction and has a potential to erode Zambia's strives to diversify the economy and attainment of sustainable development." Meanwhile, President Lungu said government would contract loans only for economically viable projects adding that Parliament would continue providing oversight on public debt contraction. "Government will continue

to put in place measures to ensure that our national debt remains within sustainable levels. Government will therefore contract loans only for economically viable projects. Further, in accordance with the constitution, this August house will continue providing oversight on public debt contraction as debt sustainability is pivotal in re-balancing the economy. Mr Speaker, the Minister responsible for Finance will soon present the 2018 national budget to this august house for consideration and approval. The budget is going to outline many revenue reforms aimed at increasing revenue collection to fund planned expenditures," he said.

He also said that there was need to diversify sources of energy from hydro to solar, wind, biomass, and nuclear so as to meet the demands of power supply to the people.

"Government is implementing a gradual migration towards cost reflective tariff regime, to this effect a 75% tariff adjustment has since been implemented. This I must say must appear as a hash decision on the part of government in the short term. However in the long term, the country will benefit from increased investment in the sector which will generate the much needed electricity for industrialization and diversification program. Thereby we will be able to create more jobs and improve the well being of our people," President Lungu said.

On the recently introduced HIV testing policy, President Lungu insisted that there was no room for controversy on the subject

because it was a matter of life and death.

"While HIV and AIDS still remain a challenge in the country, we have made significant strides in combating the pandemic. This is evidenced in the reduction of the HIV prevalence rate in adult production from 13.3% in 2014 to 11.6% in 2016. It is for this reason that my government has launched the test and treat towards ending HIV/AIDS policy. We are testing and treating. HIV testing and treatment in Zambia is now being undertaken on a routine basis. If you go there, they will examine you, they will treat you, what is wrong with that? Mr Speaker, there is no room for controversy on this one, it is a matter of life and death. We want all of you to be alive here," he said.

"Government is also developing a comprehensive policy that will address alcohol and other substance abuse to ensure wholesome development of our people especially the youth. In addition, rehabilitation programs have commenced at Chainama Hills College in Lusaka and will be rolled out to all provinces. Special emphasis is being placed on rehabilitation and reintegration into society of those affected with various substance addition including alcohol and tobacco."

President Lungu said government was streamlining the functions of the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) so as to make it effectively perform its original mandate of procuring strategic reserves.

"The functions of the food reserve agency are being streamlined to enable it to effectively perform

its original mandate of procuring strategic reserves. The review of the food reserve agency legislation is expected to be completed before the end of the year in readiness for consideration by this august house. Let me reiterate my call to Public Service Workers to actively engage in agricultural activities now and not wait until they are tired and retired. It includes my Ministers also. I am happy to inform the house that so far, 80 public workers have so far accessed agro-equipment through the public service micro-finance company that has an estimated value of K8.9 million. Out of this amount, a total of K6.8 million has been disbursed to female applicants," said President Lungu.

President Lungu also urged Members of Parliament to interrogate, debate, and eventually support the soon to be presented 2018 national budget.

After addressing the National Assembly, President Lungu greeted Cabinet Ministers and then proceeded to greet opposition UPND MPs who have shunned his addresses twice before.

The Head of State also shared a light moment with expelled Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili before being led out of the Chamber.

## PF wins 9 out of 12 by-elections

From front page

The Itezhi-tezhi Council chair seat fell vacant following the death of UPND's Gift Luyako, 34, in April this year.

Itezhi-Tezhi returning officer, Stanley Shikabona declared UPND's Steven

Shaloba winner at 12: 59 hours today after polling 7,215 votes.

The UPND also won the Libonda Ward in Kalabo district as well as Mpindi Kakonja in Zambezi.

The ruling party has scooped, Mabinga in

Chama South, Chililalila in Kabwe, Chitwi in Luanshya, Luansobe in Mufulira, Luntomfwe in Kaputa and Chimanja.

The PF also made its presence felt in Lunte, Kanchibiya and Lavushimanda.

**From front page**

However, before focusing on next year's budget, we can address the fundamentals of this year's budget in terms of how much we have diverted from what the budget said last year. Are we in line with what it said? And it's also pointless to announce a new budget when you have not stock edited how you managed the budget that is in existence right now. So let us see how far we have diverted from that before we can move on to the next budget. We need to establish if we are really on budget or not and what about the arrears? We should not build arrears anymore, we should halt them, otherwise we won't manage to settle all of our outstanding debts," Kanyama said.

# Stick to the budget, spend what you have, Chibamba urges govt

He also said that the country's economic growth would rise above the initial projection due to stability in the electricity supply and the significant rise in Copper prices on the international market. "The budget cycle has changed from end of March to beginning of January each year and that is why towards the end of the actual fiscal year, which used to be October and this year it

will be in September. This shows that we don't actually know how we shall change the year. But indications are that we might end positively on most of these indicators and I am very positive that economic growth will be above the planned repose for many reasons because firstly, we have had stability in electricity supply the whole of this year starting from March, we think significant stability has been made in

that area. We have also seen Copper prices going beyond what was projected initially, you may remember that most international organizations like the IMF and World Bank had actually projected much demand of Copper from China," said Kanyama. And Moono observed that government seemed reluctant about signing an IMF bailout package. "For me I would like to see that there is a continuity

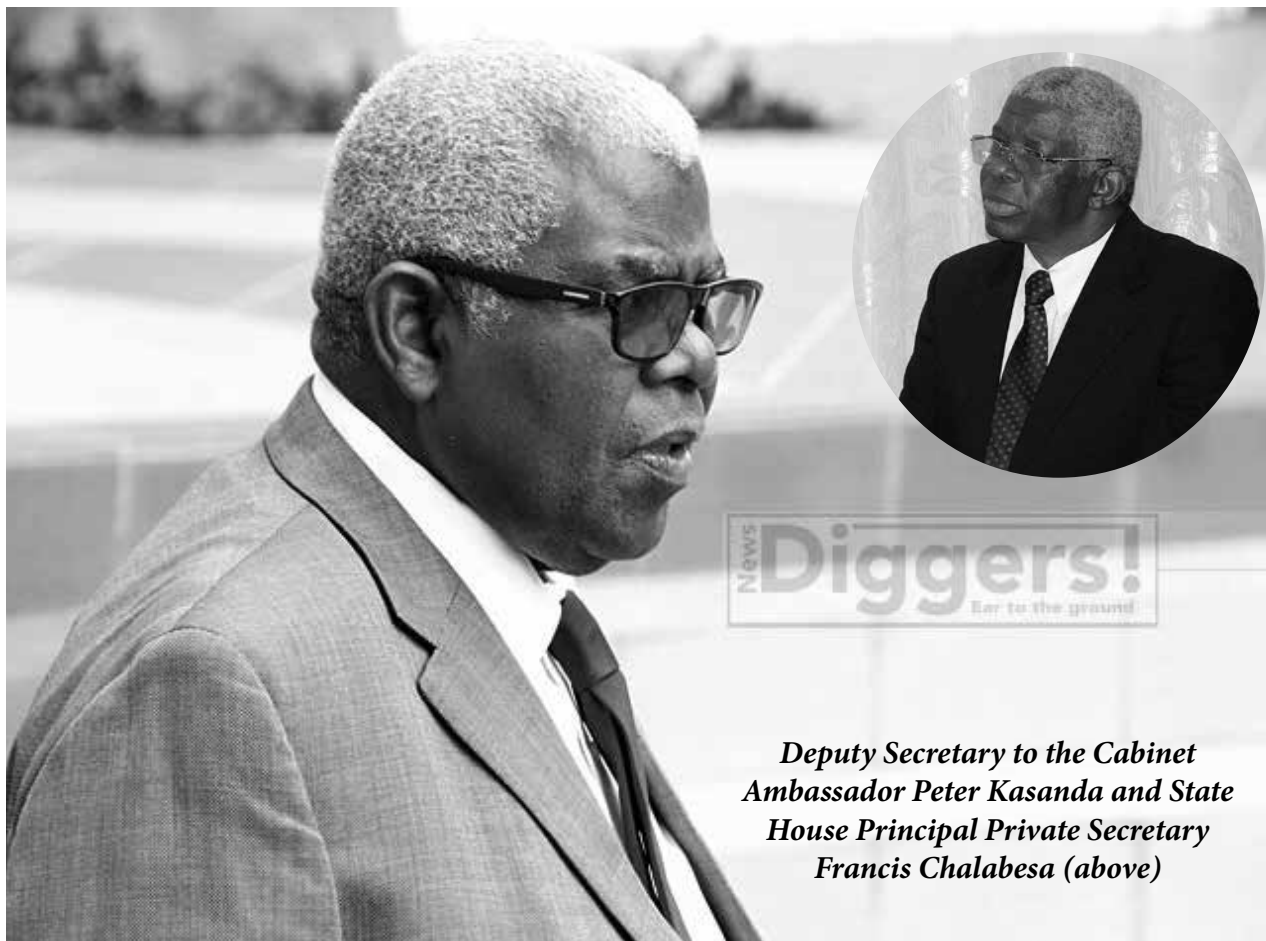
of economic stabilization and growth programme, this is just the first year of the programme and we have seen positive results for the programme to succeed. So we would like to see that the programme continues next year and the subsequent years as well. And then we also want to see that government sticks to its policy programme. For example, this year they projected that they wouldn't

go beyond two per cent of the GDP from the local market but as of June they already borrowed over K6 billion. So there is an issue of adhering to the target that they set. We want to see to it that they adhere to the target that they set. However, I am quite skeptical about the IMF deal right now and this because government thinks they are out of the coma and no longer need the fund. Of course that's just my assumption and I could be wrong but I am able to read the signs and how the statements are being structured. But I still ask government to consider going for a standby facility under IMF if they can't go for a full programme because you may never know," said Moono. Meanwhile, business consultant Dennis Wood he expected finance minister Felix Mutati to give a clear roadmap on debt repayment. "I think for me the most important thing is to look at fiscal sustainability and credibility measures, those are very key things and if that is not done, then we will have a very big problem in our hands because we will actually be carrying over the 2017 financial deficit to 2018. Then the other thing that I think we need to look at is the public debt, we need to dismantle it as soon as we can. Whatever happens once we dismantle it then we will generate some form of enthusiasm in the economy. So those are the two things that I want to see from the Minister's budget next week," said Wood.

## Lungu retires Chalabesa and Kasanda

**From front page**

Dr Miti has subsequently been elevated to the equivalent position of deputy Secretary to the Cabinet which is at the same level as Presidential assistants. President Lungu's Principal Private Secretary was appointed by late president Michael Sata on September 18, 2011. Chalabesa had previously served in the same capacity for a decade under late second Republican president Frederick Chiluba's reign. Ambassador Kasanda served as Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary until September 2012 before he was promoted to the position of deputy Secretary to the Cabinet by Sata, a position he holds until September 17, 2017 which is his last day of work.



*Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Ambassador Peter Kasanda and State House Principal Private Secretary Francis Chalabesa (above)*



*President Edgar Lungu greets Kambwili after addressing parliament, see story on page 2*

# Kambwili is bitter, other officials donate to Presidential fund - Kabwe

By Martha Chilasha

Presidential Empowerment Fund patron Chanda Kabwe says Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili is just a bitter man who is trying to nurse his expulsion by painting the Head of State black.

Recently, Kambwili questioned President Lungu's Presidential Empowerment Fund saying he did not want marketeers to be handling dirty money. "So Mr President, we love you, you are humble man, very humble, please tell us where you have gotten the K10 million that you have pushed in the market empowerment, very good project but where is the money coming from? We don't want our marketeers to be handling dirty money, we want our marketeers to be handling clean money and clean money can only be money that is explained, the source is explained correctly to the people of Zambia," said Kambwili. But in an interview with News Diggers! yesterday, Kabwe said the fund was sustained by other well



Chanda Kabwe hands over a K400 grant to some marketeers on August 27, 2017 - Picture courtesy of Smart Eagles

wishers and members of the PF. "Kambwili is now a bitter person who is all over planting seeds of bitterness and evil but his accusation that the presidential empowerment fund is dirty, I will wait for him to come back to his senses then I will find time to respond to him as I don't want to find myself

exchanging words with a bitter man. Honorable Kambwili is aware that his accusations are untrue and baseless and he's just acting out of frustration as his soul is deeply troubled by the spirit of bitterness from the shock of his expulsion from the party," Kabwe said. "Honorable Kambwili was a very senior member of

the party and him and me know how much President Lungu as well as many members of the party especially those who feel challenged such as my deputy who are saying that the President 10 percent donation to the fund needs to be complimented."

Kabwe claimed that Kambwili had refused to contribute to the fund before he was expelled from the ruling party.

"It is very sad that my big bother once upon a time saw the creation of the fund

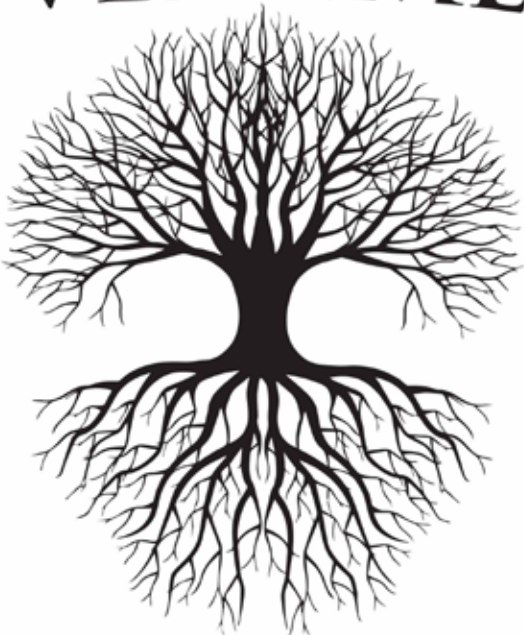
and how his colleagues from the party contributed to the President well wishers to the marketeers who lived in absolute poverty but even then he folded his hands and did not contribute to the growth of the fund," he said

Kabwe observed that Kambwili was trying to dent President Lungu's image for political expediency.

"Kambwili of course maybe is trying to discredit the President' image to the people on the Copperbelt by putting across insulting

accusations against the President so as to gain himself some political millage, but I would like to remind my big bother that the truth sets people free and no one has ever achieved victory through painting others black. Honorable Kambwili should be very careful in the way he is nursing his expulsion shock with a bitter heart and he should stop issuing baseless accusations against the President of the nation," said Kabwe.

GOVERNMENT



MONEY DOES NOT

GROW ON TREES

Alliance for community action

## Lungu must regularly meet opposition and CSOs - YALI

By Enesi Kaoma

YALI says President Edgar Lungu must consider holding talks with opposition political parties and various stake holders regularly in order to get honest views on governance issues.

And YALI says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema must drop the election petition and focus on dialogue.

In a statement availed to News Diggers! today, Young African Leaders Initiative Governance Advisor Isaac Mwanza said there was need for the President to hold bi-annual and quarterly meetings with different stake holders in order to exchange ideas and resolve the economic and governance challenges that the country was facing.

"We believe time has come for the Head of State to begin holding meetings with stake holders who include opposition political parties, civil society organisations, the church as a way of getting honest views on matters of national governance," Mwanza said.

Mwanza said he was sure that stakeholders would be willing to hold such talks.

"We don't think everyone must be in government for them to contribute to the governance of this country or to reforming

systems, for instance the media contributes to a country's governance by way of providing timely and balanced information which enables decision-makers to make right decisions" he said

He said stake holders who might not be willing to attend talks with the Head of State would have no one to blame when things went wrong in the country.

Mwanza said YALI appreciated mediation offered by the Commonwealth but noted that the resolution of differences laid on President Lungu's commitment to the dialogue process.

"We want to reiterate that YALI welcomes Professor Gambari as the Commonwealth representative to talk ahead of 2021 elections but we believe President Lungu must take up his rightful place in providing leadership," Mwanza said

And Mwanza asked HH to drop the petition and focus on the upcoming dialogue.

"Our destiny as a country will however depend on our collective resolve to move beyond the 2016 election that divided us and focus on the future. We thus appeal to the UPND leader to let go of the petition and begin to focus on this dialogue, 2021 and beyond," stated Mwanza.

By Enesi Kaoma

A United States-based PF Founder Henry Sakala says the Zambian Judicial system sometimes applies the law selectively depending on individuals involved.

Speaking when he featured on Straight Talk Africa on Wednesday, Sakala agreed with concerns raised by UPND president Hakainde Hichilema, who also featured on the programme, that those who were close to the system were breaking the law with impunity.

"If you look at certain people who have been arrested for minor crimes, they have been jailed for a number of years but others with big offences don't get jailed because they are well connected and they are in politics," Sakala said. He went further to question

# Judiciary applying law selectively, says US based PF founder

the treason charge that was slapped on Hichilema.

"Yes Hichilema committed a crime for not respecting the President but the charge given

did not march the offence he committed. Who sends a person who has committed a crime to a Maximum Prison apart from the court? But the

court did not send HH to a maximum Prison, the police did. Where did the Police get the powers to do that?" Sakala wondered.

"He also condemned the manner in which police raided Hichilema's house before arresting him. "They should have written

him a call out rather than storming his house as if he was a criminal," Sakala said, adding that HH needed to also show respect to President Edgar Lungu because of the seat he occupied.

"Hakainde Hichilema cannot say that he did not make a mistake, he made a mistake. One of the proverbs in my country says ubufumu buchindika abene (when somebody is a king, he deserves the respect that comes with the kingship. His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu is President of Zambia and he deserves the respect that comes with his position..." said Sakala.

Meanwhile, Hichilema said he was ready and eager to kick-start the dialogue process with ruling party for the sake of the country.

## Singer CQ turns actor

From front page

There is more to explore there and it is easier to get recognised when you work with big and famous actors like Jim Iyke who is already well established on the international market. My vision is to become an international actor and musician, CQ whose real names are Chansa Chisenga, told News Diggers! in an interview.

The movie "Piyo" depicts the lifestyle of a musician and the challenges they face to attain stardom.

"Piyo is simply a life transformation movie because it shows all the challenges that the public have to know that artists undergo not only when they are doing well but also those who are struggling," he said. "I am aiming to releasing more movies in the years to come, and ultimately, my dream is to one day feature in a Hollywood movie. It is still far-fetched, but I wouldn't be surprised finding myself acting with Professional Hollywood actors such as Jessie Washington because those are the actors I just dream of working with."

CQ said the movie will be broadcast all over Africa on channels such as Zambezi Magic and all the local television channels in Zambia. "The launch of the movie is

coming up very soon, most likely around November. But I won't stop the music business. I will continue juggling the two because when an artist is shooting a music video some acting needs to be done, without good skills of acting the music video will be pathetic. So that's the plan," said CQ. "I have nothing to prove to the Zambian people because I have already made a name in the music industry. I did my research and come up with some decisions that one can never go wrong with the movie industry because even if you are old you can still act and make it unlike music which limits you when you reach a certain age."



Information minister Kampamba Mulenga addresses journalists at her office in Lusaka on September 14, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

## Govt to switch off analogue TV signal on 1st October

By Sipilisiwe Ncube  
Government says it is set to migrate television signal from analogue to digital along the line of rail effective October 1 this year.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka today, Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Kampamba Mulenga said 500 000 decoders have been secured for distribution nationwide. Mulenga who is also Chief Government Spokesperson

said once analogue transmission was switched off on October 1, Topster dealers would introduce subscription fees for three different bouquets ranging from K30 to K89.

"The Digital Migration project is now in phase two and three, and we are set to switch off the analogue signal along the line of rail on October 1, 2017 as I announced weeks ago when I addressed you on the

progress made. 36 more sites are expected to be connected to Digital Television Transmission in the course of the year and government will announce when analogue TV signal will be switched off in these areas. In line with the International Telecommunication Union regulation, Zambia continues to make major strides in the implementation of digital TV Migration with an

additional 15 transmission sites to be connected by the end of the month of September," Mulenga said. She said if a subscriber was switched off due to non-payment of subscription fees, they would still be able to watch ZNBC TV1 and Parliament TV for free.

"Digital TV signal is now available in parts of Central, Eastern, and Luapula provinces, in line with government plans to ensure that all parts of the country are completely migrated from analogue to digital TV signal. I am proud to note that Pay TV players have equally responded to the digital migration drive. Government has secured over 500 000 decoders for national distribution in the past months and they are going at K99 only. Once analogue transmission is switched off on 1st October 2017, Topster, a joint venture between the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and Star Times of China will introduce affordable subscription fees,"

said Mulenga.

"The subscription fees have been segmented as follows (a) Nova with 30 channels at K30 per month, (b) Basic with about 43 channels at K59, and Classic with 56 channels at K89. However if a subscriber is switched off due to non payment of subscription fees, they will be able to watch the public broadcaster ZNBC TV1 and Parliament TV. Currently, in Central province; Mumbwa and Mkhushi have been connected to digital TV transmission while in Eastern province, Chama, Lundazi, Mfuwe, Mambwe, Chadiza, Katete, Sinda, Petauke and Nyimba are currently under test transmission. Serenje, Samfya and Mwense are also currently under test transmission."

And Mulenga urged all players in the public and private sector to abide by the regulations set by the Digital Migration Policy, further warning that the Ministry would not hesitate to bring to book any erring entity.

## National airline a waste of money - Kambwili

By Diggers Reporter

Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says the move by government to reintroduce Zambia Airways will be a waste of money and a hive of corruption.

Speaking at his residence in Luanshya, Kambwili said the PF government kuwayawayafye (was not serious) as it had its priorities misplaced.

"What we said when Mr Sata was alive is that let's find a flag carrier to run the whole thing and return shares. They can bring the aeroplanes and paint them in the Zambian colours as a flag carrier because creating a national airline will be a loss making venture under the

current circumstances," Kambwili said. "Isho indeke balefwaya ukushita [those planes they want to buy] money can go to immediate pressing needs but nici kuwayawayafye.

He said it was unwise for the government to be thinking about creating a national airline when airlines such as British Airways and South African Airways with bigger economies were struggling to survive.

Kambwili also said some government officials were eager to see the national airline project take off because they wanted to get commissions from the procurement process.

The former chief government

spokesperson also said the construction of the new Ndola airport was a misplaced priority.

"If I was president of this country, I will make agriculture my first priority with a bias towards value addition. Take a look at Mpongwe, it is a town today because of agriculture," said Kambwili.

"Imagine if you take the millions of dollars going into that airport construction and pump into more agricultural districts on the Copperbelt what will happen? It's lack of priorities. I land at Ndola airport each time I am flying from Addis Ababa, Nairobi or Johannesburg, there is nothing wrong with it."



President Lungu's motrocade arrives at Parliament for the official opening on September 15, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

## Parties with more MPs will get more govt campaign funds - Lubinda

By Mirriam Chabala

Justice Minister Given Lubinda says under the current Constitution, government will give more campaign funds to political parties with more members of parliament. Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme today, Lubinda said that political parties needed to be controlled on the amount of money to use during campaigns as they would have to account for every bit of it. "The Political Parties Bill intends to create mechanisms for political parties that receive funding from government to be held accountable for the funds that they receive from government. However, it goes further in that it also attempts to introduce mechanisms that make political parties accountable for all the funds that they have so that they can disclose their sources of funding. Political parties must be controlled on the amount of money they use during campaigns. So the bill is not only concerned about the funding they receive from government, it is concerned about the total management of political parties," Lubinda said.

"Funding a political party is not a problem and I am not saying it's a problem but the drafters of the bill have looked at various countries which have similar legislation and they have found that in those jurisdictions, political parties are bound by law to disclose their sources of funding. The reason for this is because you don't want to have people who are aspiring to government leadership whose funding is suspicious. Imagine if a political party was to be funded by terrorist groups, when that political party ascends to government then you are in trouble because those terrorist groups will start to govern through the people who they sponsored to those positions." Lubinda noted that the Bank

of Zambia recorded an unprecedented amounts of strange transactions of money believed to have been brought in the country to finance political campaigns in 2016.

"You may also want to take a look at the financial intelligence report of 2016 which was published early this year. In there you will see that unlike the years before, in 2016 just after elections, the financial intelligence unit of the Bank of Zambia recorded an unprecedented amounts of strange transactions. Money was moving from one account to another and a lot of it was coming into Zambia from outside during that period and obviously that gives you questions on the motive of the money coming into the country at that time, for me it was obviously for financing campaigns. I am not saying this is for a particular political party, I am just speaking generally. So it is in the interest of the state that such transactions are monitored so that political parties can, through the state explain to the people their sources of funding," Lubinda said.

And Lubinda said arguing whether the country had the capacity to finance political parties at the moment was out of question because it was provided for under the Constitution. "That question [of whether the

country has money to finance political parties], that should have been asked when people were still making their submissions to the Mung'omba review commission, not to ask those questions now. Remember what happened when there was that Constitution making process, I was one of those that did not take part in the Constitution making and the reason I did so was well explained. I am glad that I boycotted and I did not earn any money from that process and there are a lot of others who took part in it like faith based organisation, civil society organisations, and political parties all went and took part in the review of the Constitution and it is them who put in this article. So if you ask, are there any priorities that are better than funding political parties? In this day and age, all I can say is that it's in the Constitution and we are bound by what is in the Constitution," he said.

"Unless someone comes up and convinces everybody that they amend the constitution. In any case, I am afraid that we have it enshrined in our supreme law and if we don't follow it, some very active bodies will take us to the Constitutional Court and say government is not implementing the provisions of the Constitution, article

60. Sub Article 4A of Article 60 is very clear that 'there shall be established a political parties fund which shall be prescribed by an Act of Parliament' and it goes further unfortunately, the Constitution goes further to say that 'this fund shall be provided to political parties that have seats in Parliament'. So I am bound by that and government is bound by that until and unless the Constitution is amended."

Asked if it was true that political parties that did not have representatives in Parliament could not be catered for in the political parties fund, Lubinda admitted adding that the money would be released based on the number of seats a particular party had.

"To the extent that political funding is concerned yes they are right, for this sitting of Parliament, the 12th session yes it will only benefit those political parties that have got seats in Parliament and it's not a matter of argument. The political parties that have the largest number of seats in Parliament will benefit the largest because the law says that the funds should go to those political parties that have seats in Parliament. The money will be realised to political parties based on the number of seats that they have, so those parties

that have no seats in Parliament will benefit nothing because that's what the law says. So yes I understand the complaints of the political parties that have no seats in parliament but look at this from a bigger picture," Lubinda said.

Meanwhile, Lubinda asked stakeholders who were unhappy that the President was the appointing authority of members to seat on the political parties board, to include their complaints in their submissions. "You may have noticed that all the time I have been interviewed about the political parties bill, I have restricted myself to the principles that are provided in the Constitution. When it comes to the bill itself, I have resisted debating it because that is a draft. The Ministry of Justice wrote a draft and gave it to the people and it is now entirely up to the people of Zambia to say 'okay this we like and this we don't like'. So what we will present to Parliament is the outcome of the consultative process. I have heard people who have said they don't like the idea of the President being the appointing authority, fine! Please send your submission by all means and argue your case and if all the participants agree, we will amend it," said Lubinda.

## DEC nabs Lusaka woman for money laundering

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Drug Enforcement Commission has arrested a 28-year-old female administration officer in Lusaka for obtaining over K400,000 under false pretences and money laundering. Meanwhile, Drug Enforcement Commission has also arrested and charged two Lusaka residents for being in possession of \$10,000 counterfeit notes.

In a statement today, DEC public relations officer Theresa Katongo said that the female administration officer identified as Mwansa Carol Musaba,

while acting with other unknown people, attached already paid invoices to delivery notes claiming payments to a known mining company.

"DEC through its Anti-Money Laundering Investigations Unit in Lusaka has arrested 28 year old Mwansa Carol Musaba, an administration officer of 54 Chamba valley for obtaining money by false pretences, uttering of false documents and money laundering," Katongo said. "On dates unknown but between January 1, 2015 and April 30, 2017, Mwansa Carol Musaba whilst acting

together with other unknown persons, attached copies of invoices which were already paid to various delivery notes and submitted them to a known Mining Company claiming payments amounting to K402,000. The payments were made to her company account which were later withdrawn."

Katongo further said Musaba, who is currently on police bond, engaged in money laundering activities by procuring a motor vehicle using proceeds of crime and later sold it.

And Katongo stated that two people

had been nabbed for being in possession of counterfeit notes.

"And still in Lusaka, the Commission has arrested and jointly charged two (02) people for being in possession of \$10,000 United States Dollar counterfeit notes. Those arrested and jointly charged include Doreen Walubita, 40, of Matero East and Dieson Mukisi, 58, of Libala South for being in possession of \$10,000 United States Dollar counterfeit notes," stated Katongo.

She said all the suspects will appear in court soon.

By Mirriam Chabala

The Center for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) has observed that Zambia's national debt has continued to swell as it is carried forward from one budget circle to another.

In an interview with News Diggers! CTPD executive director Isaac Mwaipopo expressed concern over the amount of debt that the country had accrued overtime which he said was likely to graduate to 2024 if government did not stop borrowing.

He asked members of parliament to tighten the screws and avoid approving unnecessary loans.

"In terms of debt management, CTPD is concerned at the growing debt levels, we are aware that currently, we have loans that we are still financing, some of which will graduate by 2022, others by 2024. We need to fully pay the principle amount on the loan that we have accumulated as a country. Now the concern is that we have continued to borrow more funds and even as we are borrowing these funds, we are wondering if at all our key institutions like Parliament who are supposed to play an oversight role in ensuring that before acquisition of these loans, they actually give an approval. It will be important that Parliament steps up its role and helps to ensure that there is actually a proper channel in the acquisition of loans," said Mwaipopo.

"CTPD welcomes the publication of the 2018-2020 Green Paper which is aimed at linking government medium term development goals as tabulated in the 7th National Development Plan... If you look at the documents, you will realise that as a country we struggled in the first half of the year to raise resources domestically, actually one of the things that you will note in the document that has been shared is that expenditure outstripped

# Huge carryover national debt worries CTPD

revenue collection in terms of the resources that we were able to mobilise domestically. So what that means is that as a country we have continued to rely on grants and other options such as borrowing to finance development," Mwaipopo said.

"We have taken note that in terms of the total budget for 2018, it is actually standing on 65 per cent which is not so different from the budget for 2017 if you look at it in terms of the figures. When we look at 2018, I think there are certain lessons that we might need to carry forward from 2017 and key among them is the performance when you look at targets that are being set in terms of raising the resources domestically." He said the government will need to expand its revenue generation base.

"CTPD has a number of expectations that boarder on revenue generation and one of them is around the way our key sector like the exportation of scrap metals have been handled. The nation has to benefit revenue generation from some of these strategic sectors instead of just having a low per cent in some of these export duties that we gain from the export of scrap metals. Government can consider increasing the percentage so as to discourage the exportation of the commodity. As we do that it will be also important to consider some of the accompanying measures such as ensuring that the local market is in the position to consume the commodity, as in to process the scrap metals," Mwaipopo said.



CENTRE for Trade Policy and Development Executive Director Isaac Mwaipopo

Mwaipopo also expected government to consider scaling up funding towards key sectors like education and health to secure a healthy country.

"With regard to expenditure, some of the things that we have noted from the 2017 national

budget are that there was a considerable consideration towards spending on critical social sectors but if you look at it in terms of percentage, we think it still falls far below. So as we move towards 2018, it will be good for the government to still consider supporting

critical social sectors. It will be also important to consider scaling up spending towards the education and health sectors to secure a healthy country," Mwaipopo said. "We would also want to submit that as Parliament opens and begins to sit,

we also have expectations that they will consider prioritising the finalisation of the planning and budgeting Act as well as the revised Finance Act so as to strengthen our ability to manage the resources that we have in an efficient manner."

## Mumba Yachi gets bail

By Diggers Reporter

Singer Mumba Yachi has been granted K5,000 cash bail after obtaining a temporal residence permit from the Immigration

Department.

And Lusaka magistrate Ruth Kapulo has warned Mumba not to go out of the country without informing the court or risk being cited

for contempt of court.

This is in a matter in which the accused, whose real names are Shadrack Chite Mukenge alias Shadrack Mumba, is charged with unlawful stay in Zambia and giving false information to public officers.

When the matter came up today, magistrate Kapulo finally granted Mumba bail after reserving ruling on two occasions.

She said she had no objection to granting the accused bail as he had met the condition of obtaining a residence permit.

Magistrate Kapulo ordered Mumba to provide two working sureties from reputable organizations bound at K5000 in their own recognizance.

Details in this case are that Mumba, a Congolese national, did enter Zambia through Mokambo border post control and continued

to stay unlawfully in the country without a valid permit or authority from the Immigration Department which offence happened between January 1, 2007 and August 28, 2017.

The accused is in the second count between January 1, 2015 and March 6, 2015 alleged to have willfully and with intent to deceive for the purpose of obtaining a Zambian green national registration card no. 40573/10/1, did give false information to a public officer that his father and mother were Zambia citizens when in fact not.

He is also alleged to have willfully and with intent to deceive and for the purposes of obtaining a Zambian passport no. ZN550035 did make a false statement to a passport officer that his father and mother were Zambian citizens when in fact not.

## I found a gun hidden in Mukata's car - Witness

By Diggers Reporter

A detective inspector has told the Lusaka High Court that he discovered a fire arm hidden underneath some plates in Chilanga UPND member of parliament Keith Mukata's car.

In this case, Mukata and his co accused Charmaine Musonda are accused of murdering a security guard Namakabwa Kwenda who was manning Mukata's law firm AKM legal practitioners.

Marvin Chilufya testified that when he reached the crime scene, he found Kwenda lying unconscious at the gate of AKM Legal Practitioners.

Chilufya said when he walked towards the offices, he noticed an empty cartridge on the ground near a BMW that was parked 18 metres away from the deceased.

Chilufya told the court that upon discovering an empty cartridge on the ground he attempted to open the car but it was locked.

He said when he asked for the keys to the BMW, Mukata instead gave him keys for a Land Cruiser that was parked within the premises.

He said he followed some foot prints which he noticed on a pathway and they led him behind the offices where he discovered car keys in a flowerbed.

The detective inspector narrated that he used the keys to open Mukata's car and discovered a basket that contained plates and a fire arm hidden underneath.

Chilufya further narrates that among the items that were found in the car was a magazine with five rounds of ammunition and a hand bag that

contained passports belonging to Mukata and his lover Charmaine.

Earlier, Vincent Chibesa, a ballistic officer told justice Susan Wanjelani that the distance between Kwenda and his shooter was approximately twenty metres.

Chibesa said according to his findings, Kwenda and shooter faced each other during the incident.

Chibesa insisted that the perforation on the gate and Kwenda's body had similar characteristics.

He said the diameter of the perforation on the gate and Kwenda's wound were caused by a fire of the same calibre 0.4 centimetres.

When the case was stood down for 20 minutes, the murder suspects interacted with his ex wife Getrude.

Trial continues on September 18.

We agree with those who are condemning former chief government spokesperson Chishimba Kambwili for waiting until he was fired to start seeing the corruption that is going on in the Patriotic Front government. The Roan PF member of parliament claims that he could not expose the corruption or condemn the bad decisions made while he was Cabinet minister because he needed to abide by the “collective responsibility” rule. But that just shows the kind of politician he is – a leader who has no principles whatsoever. In other words, by failing to resign in the face of corruption, Mr Kambwili is telling us that if he became president, he would expect his ministers to embrace his theft of public resources in the name of “collective responsibility”. We do not support that criminally minded approach.

But much as we would like to close our ears and hear nothing more from this Michael Sata wannabe, it is difficult to run away from the dust he is raising. Mr Kambwili is questioning the motive behind the reestablishment of a national airline. He is concerned that the move will benefit a few corrupt hands which will be involved in the procurement process. Kambwili adds that Zambia does not have the capacity to operate a national airline.

“What we said when Mr Sata was alive is that ‘let’s find a flag carrier to run the whole thing and retain shares’. They can bring the aeroplanes and paint them in Zambian colours as a flag carrier, but creating a national airline will be a loss making venture under the

# Zambia Airways

## Taking corruption to the sky

current circumstances... The reason government is buying jets is because some people want to get commissions in the procurement process. Otherwise, it is unwise for the government to be thinking about creating a national airline when airlines such as British Airways and South African Airways, with bigger economies are struggling,” said Kambwili.

Hate him if you want, but the talkative man has a point.

“South Africa’s Treasury is considering a 13 billion rand (\$972 million) bailout to keep South African Airways (SAA) going as it battles liquidity challenges,” Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba said on Friday, August 4, 2017 – a month after the national carrier received state funds to help it recover from an operating loss of R533m (\$40.4 million),” reports the Business Day Newspaper.

The Airways Magazine adds: “The challenges that face South African Airways are the same that face almost any state owned airline in poorer countries with a more populist economic bent. Whenever governments own airlines, the temptation to step in and overrule potentially unpopular but necessary business decisions is simply too great.”

Indeed, just over a year ago, our next-door Air Zimbabwe flew with only one passenger

on a flight from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls. Nigel Short (@nigelshortchess), the world chess grandmaster, took pictures of himself on the plane and even tweeted about his experience: “I am not saying they are losing money, but I was the sole passenger on the Air Zimbabwe 737 from Jo’burg-Victoria Falls.”

So therefore, Kambwili is right to ask what the motive is behind the establishment of a national airline under such harsh economic times. What business opportunities are we seeing as a country that other airlines in the region are failing to tap? Which particular profit-making routes are we targeting to fly that others haven’t explored, and what unique incentives are we planning to offer passengers in order for them to chose Zambia Airways?

There are so many unanswered questions around this move and it raises a lot of speculations. Who is government working with on this deal? Which businessmen are these who want to partner with government in bringing back the national airline, regardless of the investment risks involved?

We ask this because some Cabinet ministers seem not to know much about what is going on around this issue or they are hiding something. On July 22, 2017, there was a news report from Russia indicating that that country’s Sukhoi Civil Aircraft company had concluded a contract with Zambian carriers to deliver four Superjet 100-passenger planes to Zambia in early 2018, including one VIP version for the President. When we asked Minister of Transport

and Communication Brian Mushimba about this report, he categorized it as fake news. He knew nothing about it.

“I think it’s fake. I have no clue what that story is talking about. It does not mention the local entity the Chinese are working with...it’s not correct,” said Mushimba.

Technocrats may argue with us that we are straying into an area that we do not understand, but we still have the right to demand transparency. It is very important for those in government to be thoroughly transparent when making these agreements with the private sector because darkroom deals always pave way for clever hands to swindle the government and leave the country bleeding. Let those from the private sector who are interested in this aviation business be

named, let us know their terms and conditions. Most importantly, let us record what they own now so that we can compare with what they will have gained after this business collapses again.

We are at pains to appreciate why Zambia needs a national carrier when the country is struggling to keep the locomotive industry afloat. Millions of Euro bond money have been pumped into the railway business, but what is there to point at as a milestone achievement in the sector? Nothing! But we still want to introduce a national carrier so that those in senior government positions and their families can abuse it properly – so that we make it easy for ministers to be globetrotting in business class. What a shame indeed.

Anyway, the criminality in this government has ceased to surprise. We are merely witnessing a looting competition. In fact, we might as well suggest to those who are bringing back the national airline to inscribe on our aircrafts the slogan: “Zambia Airways: Taking Corruption to the Air”

News

Diggers!

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**Ear to the ground**

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# Biko’s vision of freedom must be kept alive - especially now

What is the purpose of reflecting on the life of Black Consciousness leader Steve Bantu Biko 40 years after he was killed by the apartheid government?

The evil system, which evolved from colonial attitudes, laws and prejudice, was devised by the leaders of the National Party, a bunch of men supposedly learned in theology, philosophy, sociology, law and other professions. For some strange and illogical reasons, these men believed that black people were not entitled to the same education they had received and that, by God’s design, black people were predestined for a life of poverty and suffering.

Three months short of his 31st birthday, Biko’s life was cut short by the foot soldiers of the apartheid system, the Special Branch, a special unit of the South African Police (SAP) dedicated to harshly suppressing black political activism, which was perceived to undermine the apartheid system. And so, on September 12 1977, Biko lost his life at the hands of heartless men, joining a long list of other black people, including Ahmed Timol (1971), Abram Ongkopotse Tiro

(1974), Mapetla Mohapi (1976) and Mthuli ka Shezi (1972), perceived by the regime to be “terrorists” bent on destroying “onse vaderland”.

Biko was caught in an apartheid police dragnet in August 1977. For 25 days, he was held in detention and cruelly interrogated; he was manacled, badly beaten and tortured. He suffered extensive brain damage before succumbing to his wounds, in what the prominent international jurist Sydney Kentridge described as a “miserable and lonely death” in a prison cell in Pretoria.

Biko would become the 44th person to die in the custody of the apartheid police.

He was stripped naked by his torturers – not even allowed the dignity of wearing a pair of underpants in case, according to the inquest testimony, he might have been tempted to use the scanty garment to commit suicide. As if this was not enough, he had been loaded, naked and in a comatose state, into the back of a Land Rover and driven for more than 1000km from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria.

The warped, concocted

imaginings of the cruel policemen would be laughable if it was not so tragic – to believe that a man in a coma could commit suicide by self-strangulation.

Aelred Stubbs, an English monk of the Community of Resurrection, reflecting on the life of Biko after editing Martyr of Hope: A Personal Memoir, contained in the slain Black Consciousness leader’s book, I Write What I Like, writes: “Steve died to give an unbreakable substance to the hope he had already implanted in our breasts, the hope of freedom in South Africa. That is what he lived for; in fact one can truly say that is what he lived. He was himself a living embodiment of the hope he proclaimed by word and deed.”

Now is the right time to reflect on Biko’s life.

South Africans continue to march in places of darkness, in political spaces not materially different from places of oppression the country experienced during the oppressive apartheid years.

Biko urged in his writings that South Africans must be part of the process of “freeing” one

another from oppression and bad governance and causing “happiness of Africa”, so that all may look forward with confidence to the future, rather than be burdened by negative thoughts of uncertainty.

If he were alive, Biko would have turned 71 on December 18; he was born in 1946. The president of this country, Jacob Zuma, is 75. So, in a sense, he is Biko’s contemporary. But it does not seem that he has taken to heart Biko’s teachings. Zuma’s tenure as the president of this country has been marked by regression and bad governance and the purging of good men and women in his own party and the government, a view shared by many in the ANC.

Is he inclined to govern the country beyond the grave? Almost overtly, all his efforts seem to be expended on ensuring that, even in his years of retirement, his footprint, or spectre, will continue to loom large in the political space. There are many things Zuma should be concerned about, including the reinstated criminal charges by the high court in Pretoria. Zuma is at the mercy of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which is due to

hear his appeal this week, which is an endeavour on his part to overturn the decision handed down by the high court a year ago.

Also, what are South Africans to read from the decision to have presidential hopeful Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma sworn in as an MP?

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa says there is an attempt to undermine his campaign with dirty tricks. Recently a Sunday newspaper reported that Ramaphosa’s private life was marred by sex scandals. Could there be echoes of dirty tricks in this, even as we accept that it was clumsy of Ramaphosa to try to stop the publication of the story in a country that prides itself on a free press? This is assuming the article was truthful, accurate, fair and not motivated by the desire to slander, and that the old principle of audi alteram partem (let the other side be heard) applied.

Some critics, understandably, believe the author of the report could be a “Zuma man”. In one of the now scrapped New Age breakfast briefings, sponsored by the SABC with the co-operation

of its then chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng, the editor, Steven Motale, openly apologised to Zuma for the negative articles he had written about him.

Could this “revelation” about Ramaphosa be part of dirty tricks? We might never know fully.

But as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Biko’s death, let the country not subvert what his project for the future was all about, which was, in the words of Stubbs, the “purification” of a country “reborn out of the destruction of this racist society” – a society truly liberated and averse to dirty tricks.



**Jo-Mangaliso Mdhlela is a freelance journalist, who studied philosophy and is a priest**



Google's CEO Sundar Pichai criticised a memo written by an employee for being sexist



# Google sued over 'sex discrimination'

Three women who used to work at Google have filed a lawsuit against the technology giant, alleging it pays women less than men for comparable work.

The suit says Google is aware of the situation, but has not moved to fix it.

It comes as companies in Silicon Valley face growing scrutiny over gender relations.

Google is also under investigation by the US Department of Labor over its pay practices.

"It is time to stop ignoring these issues in tech," said Kelly Ellis, a former software engineer at Google and one of the women who filed the suit.

She posted on Twitter that she hopes the suit will force Google and other companies to change their practices.

The lawsuit, filed in a San Francisco court, says Google discriminates against female staff with lower pay, more limited promotion, and fewer advancement opportunities compared to men with comparable qualifications.

Ms Ellis, for example, was hired in 2010 at a level typically assigned to college graduates, although she had four years of experience, according to the lawsuit. A male colleague with similar levels of experience started on a higher rung.

She was also assigned to a less prestigious engineering role, the suit says.

Ms Ellis resigned from Google four years later "because of the sexist culture", the lawsuit said.

Previous allegations

The complaint is seeking class-action status that would cover women working at the company in California for the last four years. They are looking for unpaid wages, among other remedies.

Google said it would review the lawsuit but disagreed with the "central allegations". "Job levels and promotions are determined through rigorous hiring and promotion committees, and must pass multiple levels of review, including checks to make sure there is no gender

bias in these decisions," spokeswoman Gina Scigliano said in a statement. Like other companies in Silicon Valley, the company has faced questions about how it treats women before. About 70% of Google's workforce are men, according to the company. Men represent about 80% of staff in "tech" roles and 75% of leadership positions.

The Department of Labour found systematic pay disparities at the firm during a 2015 audit, according to the lawsuit. The government in

January sued Google to get access to more information to see if the patterns held true across a more extensive probe.

A spreadsheet with data from 1,200 employees also found disparities, the New York Times recently reported.

Google also made headlines earlier this summer, when a memo written by a senior Google employee that criticised diversity programmes and hiring practices became public.

**BBC News**

## Iran 'breaking the spirit of nuclear deal' - Trump

US president Donald Trump has said Iran is keeping to the spirit of the 2015 nuclear deal "atrociously".

The deal - between Iran, the US, and other world powers, including China and Russia - was designed to prevent Iran developing a nuclear weapon.

But Mr Trump has been a frequent critic and on Thursday again called it "one of the worst deals I've seen".

His words came as the US imposed fresh sanctions on people accused of supporting Iranian cyber attacks.

"Certainly at a minimum the spirit of the deal is atrociously kept," Mr Trump told reporters on Air Force One.

In April, Mr Trump ordered a review into whether a suspension of sanctions on Iran, linked to the deal curbing its nuclear activities, was in the US national interest.

He is due to decide by 15 October whether Iran has breached the deal, and could withdraw his approval.

"You'll see what I'm going to be doing very shortly in October," he said.

"The Iran deal is one of the worst deals I've ever seen, certainly at a minimum the spirit of the deal is atrociously kept. The Iran deal is not a fair deal to this country. It's a deal that should not have ever been made..."

"We are not going to stand what they are doing with our country. They've violated so many different elements and they've also violated the spirit of that deal."

Iran has always said it has the right to nuclear energy - and insists that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

On Monday, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran was implementing the nuclear-related commitments from the 2015 deal.

But speaking in London, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson cited the preface of the deal, which calls on Iran to contribute positively to regional security.

"In our view, Iran is clearly in default of these expectations... through their actions to prop up the Assad regime (in Syria), to engage in malicious activities in the region, including cyber activities, aggressively developing ballistic missiles.

"We have to consider the totality of Iran's activities and not let our view be defined solely by the nuclear agreement," he said.

Despite the criticism, the US has again extended some sanctions relief for Iran.

But state department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said: "Waiving some of those sanctions should not be seen as an indication of President Trump or his administration's position on the (Iran nuclear deal).

"Nor is the waiver giving the Iranian regime a pass on its broad range of malign behaviour."

At the same time, the US Treasury Department has announced sanctions on 11 individuals and entities, accused of supporting Iranian cyber attacks and other aggressive acts.

The move freezes any assets they may hold in the US and prohibits Americans from doing business with them.



Rohingya refugees disembark from a boat after crossing the border from Myanmar, on the Bangladeshi shores of the Naf river in Teknaf



Anwar Hadid, Gigi Hadid, Yolanda Hadid, and Bella Hadid

Former *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* star Yolanda had some very special guests at a New York City signing for her new book: her model kids, Anwar, Gigi, and Bella. Her tome, *Believe Me: My Battle with the Invisible Disability of Lyme Disease*, chronicles her experiences with the disease that has also plagued Anwar and Bella. [Yahoo](#)



Corinne and Jamie Foxx

There's a new Foxx in town! Jamie's model daughter, former Miss Golden Globe Corinne, worked it on the runway at the Sherri Hill fashion show in NYC, and, of course, her dad was there to wish her luck.

## Selena Gomez reveals she had a kidney transplant

Selena Gomez is sharing a big secret.

The actress and singer has been super busy the last few weeks — taking in New York Fashion Week, filming with Woody Allen, and stepping out with boyfriend The Weeknd. However, there was a period of time over the summer during which she was lying low, something noticed by her fans, and she now reveals it was because she secretly had a kidney transplant.

In a candid post shared on Instagram Thursday morning, the 25-year-old star we've watched grow up since *Wizards of Waverly Place* shared that she needed the transplant to combat the autoimmune disease she suffers from, lupus.

"I'm very aware some of my fans had noticed I was laying low for part of the summer and questioning why I wasn't promoting my new music, which I was extremely proud of," she wrote. "So I found out I needed to get a kidney transplant due to my Lupus and was recovering. It was what I needed to do for my overall health."

While she shared some photos of herself recovering in the hospital alongside her actress pal Francia Raisa,

who donated a kidney to her, she noted that when she's feeling ready, she'll share more.

"I honestly look forward to sharing with you, soon my journey through these past several months as I have always wanted to do with you," she wrote. "Until then I want to publicly thank my family and incredible team of doctors for everything they have done for me prior to and post-surgery."

She also included a message about her "beautiful friend Francia Raisa," writing, "She gave me the ultimate gift and sacrifice by donating her kidney to me. I am incredibly blessed. I love you so much sis."

Selena concluded by writing, "Lupus continues to be very misunderstood but progress is being made. For more information regarding Lupus please go to the Lupus Research Alliance website."

Gomez went public about having lupus in 2015. At the time, she canceled a tour to receive chemo treatments for the disease. Since then, she has said that lupus has caused her depression, anxiety, and panic attacks and has taken time for treatment.

[Yahoo](#)

# De Bruyne on the road to premier league greatness

After a testing adaptation period the Belgian has started the current campaign in fine form and is one of Pep Guardiola's key men

There was a sense last season that Kevin De Bruyne was struggling with Pep Guardiola's demands. The Belgium international had been earmarked as somebody who could spearhead the new-look Manchester City, but from the mid-point of the season he looked laboured, perhaps weighed down by his new, more industrious role in the Blues' engine room.

He was still putting up the numbers - compared to his debut season at the Etihad, he doubled his Premier League assists and scored one fewer league goal, thanks largely to an unfortunate knack for hitting the woodwork - but it still seemed to many onlookers that Guardiola was not getting the best out of him.

The former Barcelona playmaker decided to convert a thrilling playmaker into a box-to-box midfielder, somebody who would get involved in almost every aspect of City's game, to the benefit of the collective but to the detriment of the Belgian's own freedom on the pitch. But few behind the scenes at the City Football Academy were worried. While fans and pundits (this one included) concerned themselves with this new-look De Bruyne and whether he was suited to his deeper-lying role, the message from the training ground was that he completely grasped everything, both in theory and in practice. Though Guardiola and his coaching staff also noticed a slight dip while he adjusted to his new orders, particularly the amount of running he was asked to do, they were convinced he was the perfect player to carry out their positional play ideals.

Like David Silva, they saw somebody who had tactical intelligence and



the requisite technical ability to execute the moves asked of him, though unlike the Spaniard, he would be able to complement that by covering a huge amount of ground - he posted an average distance of 11.66km per game last season, up from 11.28km in 2015-16.

The two of them were also combining in a way which provided a new spin on Guardiola's positional play. The City boss always expected the two of them to control the tempo of City's play, but what he did not envisage was that they would be able to carry the team forward quite so quickly.

Something which most

impressed the Catalan and his team last season was that unless teams put 10 men behind the ball, De Bruyne and Silva would waste little time with horizontal passes and would instead drive forward the entire team with direct runs or passes. If it could be difficult to spot during the 2016-17 campaign, as the two got used to their new demands and City struggled in the crucial spring months, it has been obvious so far this term.

One of the best and most striking examples is probably City's first goal of the season, when De Bruyne won the ball in the Brighton half immediately charged towards goal.

Though it looked like he may have delayed his pass to Silva on first viewing, he found his team-mate in space on the edge of the opposition area. From there, the Spaniard played the perfect first-time pass to Sergio Aguero, who had what seemed like an age to weigh up and execute his finish.

Silva himself opened up the Bournemouth defence with a pinpoint pass a fortnight later, while last weekend De Bruyne registered his first assist of the season with a beautiful defence splitting through-ball against Liverpool. Against Feyenoord on Wednesday, Silva won the corner which led to the first goal by bursting

forward himself, De Bruyne-esque.

The examples are racking up just five games into the season and, after the game in Rotterdam, Guardiola was effusive in his praise for the Belgian: "Kevin is one of the best players I've ever seen in my life. "He can make absolutely everything. Everything. He's a top, top quality player. We are so proud and so happy he's with us." De Bruyne took over the captaincy from the substituted Silva on Wednesday, another sign that his efforts are being fully recognised.

Or at least an attempt to ensure he keeps those levels up, as De Bruyne himself suspects: "I think in one way it is maybe a way to keep me under pressure to try to play at a level that I'm trying to keep but it gives me good pleasure the way we are playing as a team and it makes me better also."

De Bruyne and City did indeed both offer glimpses of what they are capable of last season, but it seems as if everything is beginning to come together now. City have not looked as slick when they have come up against massed defences this season, but both De Bruyne and Silva have demonstrated enough times already that they can carve open

even the most defensive opposition if given the merest whiff of space in midfield.

Over the coming months and years, De Bruyne could even do one thing Silva has never managed to do; win widespread recognition as one of the Premier League's greatest ever.

If De Bruyne is not the best midfielder in England already, he is well on the way. With a season of adaptation behind him, he seems better equipped than ever to dominate Premier League midfields. Whereas Silva is adored by City fans and a crucial member of Spain's most successful teams, he does not always get the recognition he deserves.

De Bruyne, with a more physical and hard-working approach that is likelier to win him friends in British football, could eventually end up mentioned in the same breath as Roy Keane, Patrick Vieira, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard, the mainstays in any 'all-time Premier League XI' debate.

For that to happen, City will have to become the dominant European force Guardiola wants them to be. As long as De Bruyne is at the heart of the team, though, they have every chance of doing just that.

**Goal.com**

## Krmpotic eyes CAF Confederation Cup semi-final

By Diggers Reporter

Zesco United coach Zlatko Krmpotic has admitted destiny in the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup is now solely in their hands when they visit South African opponents SuperSport United in Friday's quarterfinal first leg.

SuperSport will host Zesco in a 19:00 hours kickoff at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria in the two sides quarterfinal first leg match.

Krmpotic has demanded that his players show a better quality and character in the knockout round after struggling though the group stages with three wins.

One of those victories was a walkover

result against Al Hilal Obeid after the final Group C match in July in Ndola against the latter was cancelled due to Sudan's ban by FIFA that was announced on the same day they arrived in Zambia for the match.

"We must go into these two games at 100 percent. This quarterfinal is a one-off. We play one away game and one at home. We will not have any other chances and we should ensure we give 100 percent to win," Krmpotic said.

"The first game is very important and we have a good chance of making it to the semifinals."

He added that he was also aware that SuperSport was unbeaten at home in

this year's competition with four wins and two draws but that should not be an excuse.

"We are playing with one good team in South Africa who are in the top five of their league and must respect this. But we know our target and we have been successful to reach this far and still we have good chance to continue to the semifinals but we must improve from our form in the league phase," said Krmpotic.

Zesco have no injury worries but will miss influential midfielder Anthony Akumu who is suspended for the away match after picking up two yellows in their 3-0 away loss against Angolan club CRD Libolo in June.

# FIFA RANKS ZAMBIA 18 PLACES BETTER

**By Diggers Reporter**  
Chipolopolo has leapt 18 places on the September, 2017 FIFA World rankings.

Wedson Nyirenda's side rose from 96th to 78th in the world on the latest rankings released on September 14 by FIFA.

The gain follows Zambia's home and away wins over Algeria this month in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifiers.

Zambia beat Algeria 3-1 on September 2 in Lusaka and 1-0 away in Constantine on September 5.

Algeria's woes have seen them tumbled 14 places following from 48th to 62nd in September.

And this is Zambia's strongest gain this year after spending most of the year hovering between number 88 and 98.

Zambia is now the 16th best ranked in Africa.

In the Cosafa zone, Zambia lead followed by South Africa at 80th in the World while

Zimbabwe are 3rd at number 105.

Nyirenda's is also

unbeaten in its last seven matches with five wins.

Meanwhile, Africa's top

10 sides on the FIFA rankings for September are Egypt (30), Tunisia

(31), Senegal (33), DR Congo (42), Nigeria (44), Cameroon (45), Burkina

Faso (49), Ghana (52), Cote d'Ivoire (54) and Morocco (56).

## Courtois would be a good signing for PSG - Meunier

The Belgium defender says his international team-mate has the profile to play for the Ligue 1 leaders but backs the keepers already on their books

Paris Saint-Germain right-back Thomas Meunier would back any move the club made for Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

There has been debate over whether Kevin Trapp or Alphonse Areola should be between the sticks for the Ligue 1 leaders, particularly after a blunder from the latter in Metz last week should have cost his side a goal.

Despite an assured performance from the former France Under-21 keeper in the 5-0 win at Celtic Park on Tuesday, it is an issue that is liable to rumble on, with Courtois, 25, one



of the names touted as a potential replacement. Meunier would be supportive of such a

move. "He's very strong, Courtois. He wouldn't be bad at PSG," the Belgium

international told Le Parisien. "We've already got two good goalkeepers but

Thibaut also has the profile, I think. He's very big - nearly two metres tall." *Goal.com*

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