



WATER BLUES: Mtendere compound residents return from drawing water in Kabulonga as the announced 5-day interruption of water supply in several residential areas in Lusaka takes effect - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Minister to explain fire tenders in Parliament

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Minister of Local Government Vincent Mwale says he was not involved in the US\$42 million fire tender contract, but says he has been informed that those who were aggrieved with the tender process reported the matter to ACC.

And Mwale says it is not accurate to say the 42 controversial fire tenders cost US\$1 million each, because there were other costs involved.

Meanwhile the Minister who is also Chipangali member of parliament says he will issue a comprehensive statement in Parliament to give a detailed break down of how the US\$42 million was spent.

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UPND laments lack of CDF in N/W Province

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SOON, PF WILL BE GONE



...and their selfish Constitution will follow to haunt them on the street, says Mulongoti

By Zondiwe Mbewe

People Party president Mike Mulongoti says the PF are creating bad laws that will soon come back to haunt them when they leave government.

Reacting to the Constitution provisions which mandates government to provide more campaign funds to political parties with more members of parliament, Mulongoti said that was a selfish approach.

“The way the Constitution was framed, it was tilted towards their interest. The beneficiaries of this law are those who have MPs in Parliament, so you can see the selfishness on their part. But looking at the way they have performed, they don’t have a future. Because of that they must be mindful of the fact that it won’t be long before they are on the street,” Mulongoti said.

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Police started the fight, slapped my boy - Munir

By Mukosha Funga

PF cadre Munir Zulu says a police officer started the fight by slapping one of his “boys”.

In an interview with Muvi TV yesterday, Zulu claimed he would never fight with

police because he respected them.

“Yes, I am the one in the video. If there are people who have a lot of respect for Zambia Police or men in uniform is myself and my friends

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Judiciary intimidating court officials - CiSCA

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Regulating campaign funds won't work because of theft in govt - Milupi

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ADD president Charles Milupi says Justice Minister Given Lubinda is mistaken to think that the Political Parties Bill will control how much funds go into campaigns because the ruling party will always get money from government deals.

And Milupi has asked Lubinda to give NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and the church ample time to thoroughly debate the Political Parties Bill before it is presented to Parliament so that more views can be heard on the matter.

The Alliance for Development and Democracy president was reacting to Lubinda's interview on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme on which he said under the current Constitution, government would give more campaign funds to political parties with more members of parliament. The justice minister said political parties needed to be controlled on the amount of money to use during campaigns, adding that they will have to account for every bit of it.

But Milupi said although the intention was good, it would be difficult for the ruling party to account.

"If you are going to build political parties it must be everybody including those who are in Parliament and those who are not. If they think that by funding political parties, they will control how much money they use in campaigns, he's totally mistaken. Because of the theft that takes place in government, we find that political parties spend a lot more than any amount that can be given out through the national budget," Milupi observed.

"Look at the said PF, in 2011 when they stood for elections they hardly had any chitenge material, and the quality was

very poor including their t-shirts. ADD had a better chitenge and t-shirts when I stood as president but since they went into government, you will find that in rural areas almost everyone is wearing PF vintenges. The supply of these materials comes from people who opt to do things with government costing vast amount of money that can never be taken out of government through the support funds for political parties."

He said the PF would not afford to rely on government funds for campaigns because it would be disadvantaged.

"He is now saying because parties will be funded, no political parties will be required to raise money from anywhere else. If that's what he is saying, the party which will be more affected is the PF itself because they are raising a lot more through contractors, those looking for business and through all the corruption being seen. If Mr Lubinda says they are now going to control that, a party like ourselves will not suffer because we don't raise that much money. We wait for our members to raise for campaign materials and so on," Milupi said.

"If they are going to control the money the parties spend, how are they going to do it and how will they control the party in government which is PF when they are the ones spending a lot of money?"

And Milupi asked Lubinda to allow thorough debate on the issue.

"Mr Lubinda must allow the full process of consultation to take place and let the views expressed by the church, NGOs, Civil Society and political parties to meet before the final bill is presented to Parliament and let parliamentarians debate it thoroughly so that a law



ADD leader Charles Milupi speaks at a UPND press conference in Lusaka-picture by Tenson Mkhala

is made that will improve democracy in Zambia instead of pushing it through the

back door so that they control opposition parties," said Milupi.

"I don't know whether he has rejected the views from the Zambia Centre for Interparty

Dialogue. Because that view came from ZCID which is representing all parties."

UPND showed desirable maturity in Parliament - Ndoyi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Zambia National Students Union vice president Prince Ndoyi has commended the opposition UPND for not disrupting President Edgar Lungu's speech during the opening of Parliament, saying it was a sign of great maturity.

And Ndoyi has urged the Patriotic Front (PF) not to politicise the attendance of President Edgar Lungu's address to parliament by opposition UPND Members of Parliament.

In a statement, Ndoyi who is

also a Felix Mutati-led MMD faction member said the action by UPND Members of Parliament sets a tone for the much talked about dialogue and reconciliation.

"I want to unreservedly commend the UPND members of parliament for rising above partisan interests and attending the occasion of the opening of Parliament by President Edgar Lungu. Further more, we commend their behaviour and attitude during the address as one would have expected them to

be very disruptive as evidenced from their friendship with Cde Julius Malema. This indeed shows maturity and must be commended by all well meaning Zambians. And I want to urge the Patriotic Front not to politicise this action. This is neither a gift to President Lungu nor the Patriotic Front but it sets a tone for the much talked about dialogue and reconciliation. It is up to President Lungu to facilitate and provide a platform for the same, as he is better placed being Head of State," Ndoyi said.

He however said although the UPND claims that the move did not signify recognising President Lungu as Head of State, the opposition party needed to move on and rest the post-election issues.

"The UPND MPs have now recognised President Lungu and their actions set the tone for dialogue between the two parties. And it is hoped that recognising President Lungu also implies putting the retrogressive electoral dispute of 2016 to rest. Hakainde Hichilema also must desist taking to the media as his actions and statements recently have threatened the possibility of a sustainable dialogue and reconciliation. The soul of the nation has been held hostage for far too long. It is also worth noting that the much condemned punishment by the Speaker Hon. Matibini has arguably yielded results," Ndoyi said.

"My advise to the UPND

is that they must avoid portraying their attendance of the opening of Parliament as doing President Lungu and the Zambian people a favour. In fact the UPND MPs have done themselves a favour as the people they represent were getting fatigued by this persistent indifference at the expense of development. In fact it is suffice to further conclude that their actions threatened their victory in future elections in those constituencies."

And Ndoyi urged political parties to use a sober approach towards political dialogue in order to resolve all the disputes.

"As a young political activist and democrat, I believe dialogue is an integral component of democracy and is the best method of resolving disputes between or among people or political opponents. Dialogue is an engine for renewed friendship. When successful, it gives birth to consensus, reconciliation, peace, unity and cooperation. When dialogue fails, acrimony, hatred, division and disrespect persist or worsen as we have experienced," said Ndoyi.

"Finally, for dialogue to be successful and sustainable, both the UPND and PF must be committed to the process. They must be sober in their approach. There should be no politicking or subjectivity but objectivity. Each of the concerned parties should be willing to trade-off by letting go as opposed to maintaining arrogance."

Govt releases K10m for rehabilitation of Lusaka's National Assembly Motel

By Mukosha Funga

Government has released K10 million for the rehabilitation of National Assembly Motel.

According to a statement posted on the Ministry of Finance website, Minister of Finance assured Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini when the duo toured the motel on Thursday that members of parliament would get conducive lodging facilities.

"K10 million has been financed by the government to facilitate the PARTIAL rehabilitation and replacement of aging infrastructure, fixtures, and fittings at the National Assembly Motel in Lusaka. This came to light when the Minister of Finance Felix Mutati briefed the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini on the measures taken by the

Treasury to ensure that Members of Parliament who do not have residencies in Lusaka had conducive lodging facilities during their stay in the Capital City when on Parliamentary and other related business," read the statement.

"Dr Matibini and Mr Mutati conducted a joint inspection of the facilities last Thursday; the day before the official opening of the second session of twelfth National Assembly by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. An initial joint inspection of the facilities by the Speaker and the Minister was conducted in June, 2017. Speaking after the tour of the motel last Thursday, Dr Matibini noted the tremendous progress made in rehabilitating the facilities 'over a short period of time', and added that, 'time has come to relook at the situation and begin

fashioning long-term improvements with the ultimate goal of rebuilding"

Mutati said the release of K10 million for the rehabilitation project at Parliament Motel was in line with government's policy and President Edgar Lungu's vision to ensure the provision of a conducive working environment for the discharge of public services.

Parliament Motel was commissioned in 1967 but has undergone negligible maintenance over the decades resulting in inadequacy and deterioration of boarding and lodging facilities such as rooms, the kitchen, and the dining.

The Speaker was accompanied on the tour of Parliament Motel by Acting Clerk of the National Assembly, Cecilia Mbewe, while Mutati was accompanied by Accountant General Dr Dick Sichembe.

Lusaka-Ndola Rd will raise K3.5bn in 17 yrs - Minister

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says government will raise at least K1.3 billion as net profit from the K3.5 billion income on the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway 17 years after it becomes operational. Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Chitotela also said that the Lusaka-Ndola road project once completed will not only improve economic activities of the country but that it will also make a mark as President Edgar Lungu's signature project. "And this road alone, we are going to raise over K300 million beginning January. This road alone has three toll plazas but with the coming one if we finish will have four, and we will be making another one as you are coming into Mpongwe because we are aware that out people will be diverting as they are going to Luanshya and then Kitwe. Our projection according to analysis that has been done by the professionals, we are investing 1.2 billion and the payment period is 17 years. Our projection is that by 17th year, this road will have raise 3.5 billion kwacha, just on this road. So if you subtract 1.2 billion out of the 3.5 billion, we will still remain with over 1.3 billion as net profit. And that many will be invested in other road projects," Chitotela said. He said that his government would focus on delivering to

the Zambian people despite efforts by others to frustrate the project. "I know why people are very bitter about this road, it's because this road is on the double sword, it will improve economic activities of Zambia and it is a signature project for His Excellency President Lungu. And I know people who have are bent politicking who think that they would come and rule on the misfortune that maybe this government would fail to deliver, then they would come and say they have failed. They may want to do everything possible to frustrate the project but I want to assure the Zambian people that we are determined to deliver development that is of quality and cost effective," he said. "You know a contract is a public document and anybody can go to RDA and say 'can I look at the contract.' I feel as a Minister that this is a better deal the Zambian government has gotten because we are not just making the road, we are also creating communities, we are also creating satellite cities. The road that we are building must also come with facilities that will support growth, facilities that will bring economic activities and what this road will do is it will reduce the transit time." Chitotela disclosed that the road project was negotiated by a team of three independent men who were not part of government. "I am a Minister and I can



President Edgar Lungu greets Zambia's staff at the country's Embassy in New York after arriving for the 72nd UN General Assembly - Picture courtesy of State House

tell you that this project was negotiated by a team of independent men who are not even part of government. Government constituted a team of three people, eminent private Zambians headed by a lawyer, an engineer and an economist, they are the ones who composed the team of negotiators, who negotiated with the contractor. And when people say 'we need to invite people to investigate this with a forensic audit...' I just said maybe the difference then and now maybe our friends then were there to enrich themselves and they are thinking the way they

were doing is the way we are doing. We have come in to serve the Zambian people; ours is service above self and that's why this road is not just a road but a road that is building the community," Chitotela said. "Every successful government has politicked about this road. The previous successful government promised people that they would do but for us through the leadership of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his government we have said 'ours is not for us to talk but for us to deliver so that Zambian people will see' because this

project is a demand driven project, this is what Zambian people want. And this road is coming with a number of important components, it is coming with a weigh bridge, it is coming with a toll plaza, its coming with three service stations and it will be run by this government. It is coming with two areas as satellite cities, it is coming also with to build the office space for road development agency, it's not building for Chitotela, it's a government projects." He said all legal processes were followed when awarding the contract. "There are three procedures of identifying a contractor; one, there is a contract that will go through advertisement, there is also a contract which can go into a selective bidding and [there is] single-sourcing. But what is important, I want to assure the Zambian people, every bit of legal procedure was followed from A to Z. Authority to procure from the national Treasury was obtained, Secretary to the Treasury gave authority for RDA to procure, ZPPA (Zambia Public Procurement Authority) also gave authority to RDA to go into a contract with this contractor, the Office of Attorney General cleared the contract and said all the parameters have been met government can sign the contract with this contractor," Chitotela said.

International Airport was expected to be completed in 2019. I was passing through there and the contractor was assuring me by the end of next year, they are going to handover the new Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, the second terminal, and then the contractor will move to rehabilitate the old one. That is the same zeal and that is the same commitment the contractor has given to this road project and we've told the contractor that we want this road project to be completed and handed over to government before the end of 2021," he said. Chitotela also urged Zambian contractors to take road projects as a business of creating wealth among themselves. "Even when I was speaking about taking road projects as a business, my fellow citizens, this is an opportunity for the private entities to make money, how many people are responding? I am the vice Chairperson of the PPU council of Ministers. If we are evaluating ten projects, can all the participants in ten projects be foreigners? We stopped awarding them because it's the same people who are participating. The question I want to ask Zambians is have we had Zambians who had participated or other companies who have participated and then have been disqualified would have met all the criterion and then they are not awarded, not under my leadership," said Chitotela. "We need to create wealth amongst ourselves, we need to create wealth among Zambians. We need to promote Zambians to participate in these contracts. Right now there are adverts running, ask how many Zambians have participated? I have told Hon Mutati that it may not be deliberate that Zambians are failing to participate in these big infrastructure development projects, maybe it is because they may lack financial capacity."

Minister to explain controversial fire tenders in Parliament



Vice president Inonge Wina and Local government minister Vincent Mwale cuts a ribbon during the hand over of 42 fire fighters to the council in Lusaka September 13, 2017 pictuer by Tenson Mkhala

From front page

In an interview with News Diggers, Mwale said he was concerned with the public outcry on the matter. "I think I issue a statement to Parliament so that it can be comprehensive. It would be good if I just gathered all the information, everything and then go to Parliament because I know in this session, parliament will not go without discussing this matter. Am avoiding giving information in bits and pieces but I know definitely that then I can address everything, what happened," Mwale said. "I understand that those

who were aggrieved with the tender process had gone to the Anti Corruption to report the matter, later went to court. So there are all those things that I need to put together and give details because some of the things I also need to study as well and find out as to what happened in the past and so on." He said it was wrong for people to deduce that because the amount involved was US\$42 million, then the each of the fire tenders cost US\$1 million. "I am aware of those concerns which people are raising, I have seen them on social

media and so forth. That issue of the price, of one million [each]; people have just simply divided the amount by the number of fire tenders which is 42. That is why am saying that it is better to get a comprehensive statement. You see there are other things such as communication issues, the clothing, the training so you cant actually say that it has costed one million per fire tender," Mwale said. "But that is why am saying that, that can come out in a very nice comprehensive statement. After that, that is when people can now be able to ascertain what the cost of

each one was and where the other costs went to. Because what people are doing now are assumptions. So it is better when it comes out on the statement that I intend to issue to Parliament." And Mwale explained to his Twitter followers that he was not involved in the tender procedure because he was at the Ministry of Sports at the time. Singer Pilato asked the minister if the \$42 million was budgeted for. "If the last budget didnt have the 42 fire fighting trucks for \$42m....do we need a new budget to buy whats not budgeted for?" asked Pilato. But Mwale said Cabinet is never involved in the tender processes. "Maybe I ask you a question? How did you think I was going to know while I was serving at Ministry of Youth & Sport? At what point? ...Cabinet doesn't get involved in procurement of any project no matter the size, such things are not tabled. ZPPA is the authority. Ask Kambwili," said Mwale. Last week, GrandView director Ntindi Kandeta justified the cost for the trucks, claiming the money covered "other accompanying equipment. Kandeta claimed that the fire tenders were specifically designed for Zambia according to the specifications requested by the ministry.

We expected Lungu to address lacunas in Constitution - NGOCC

By Mirriam Chabala
NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale says it is disappointing that President Edgar Lungu did not address how the lacunas in the Constitution would be dealt with in his address to Parliament.

In an interview News Diggers! today, Mwale also said she was disappointed that President Lungu did not address the need for a Referendum to pass the Bill of Rights which the Non Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council had been pushing for.

“NGOCC has noted pronouncements made by President Edgar Lungu during the official opening of the second session of the 12th National Assembly last week. With regard to the Constitutional process and the national referendum, we are disappointed that the President did not give a clear direction in terms of lacunas in the 2016 Amended Constitution. We are disappointed that the President did not address himself to holding the National referendum for the inclusion of the expanded bill of rights in the Constitution. This

remains a critical area of concern for the country's democratic dispensation. We have said this before and I wish to repeat that the socio-economic rights are critical for the wellbeing of women and children, we therefore urge government to prioritise the holding of the National Referendum soon,” Mwale said.

Mwale however welcomed government's decision to diversify the country's economy by moving away from over dependence on copper to agricultural activities.

“Over the years, successive governments have talked about the diversification of the economy from reliance on Copper to Agriculture and the President has also reiterated the urgent need to diversify the economy, it is our expectation that government will immediately move to put in place measures that will accurate the diversification programme. The need for government to allocate adequate resources to the agriculture sector is critical for diversification to be realized and these resources must be channeled through rural areas,” she said.

“It is a fact that most



NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale speaks to journalists during the civil society resolution on the threatened state of public emergency in Lusaka on September 1, 2017 - picture by Tenson Mkhala

peasant farmers are women and directing resources to rural areas will produce a win win situation in the fight against poverty. It is important for the country to address itself to deliberate measures and policies that will be

targeted at addressing rural poverty which bears the face of a woman. As an organisation, we welcome government's ambitious programme to develop the livestock sector and specifically the growing of goats. The measure to address inequalities is

welcome but we however expect that there will be deliberate policies put in place to narrow these inequalities.” Meanwhile, Mwale wondered why some of the pronouncements which were made in 2016 like distributing sanitary

towels in schools had not been implemented.

“On education, we welcome the keeping girls in school programme that targets to reach out to 14,000 girls from vulnerable families. However, we note that this initiative has been in 2017 budget but no clear criteria has been prescribed in the Presidential address on how it went about. In the 2017 national budget, government also proposed the distribution of sanitary towels to girls in peri-urban and rural areas but this hasn't been actualized and hence our appeal is for government to address this issue and I also want to call upon the Minister of Finance to address himself to this important aspect in the 2018 budget formulation,” said Mwale.

Police started the fight, slapped my friend – Munir Zulu

By Mukosha Funga
PF cadre Munir Zulu says a police officer started the fight by slapping one of his “boys”.

In an interview with Muvi TV yesterday, Zulu claimed he would never fight with police because he respected them.

“Yes, I am the one in the video. If there are people who have a lot of respect for Zambia Police or men in uniform is myself and my friends because we run our own security company and we work hand in hand with the police. There is no way that I would fight the police, especially on the road. Yes there was a serious misunderstanding between the police and my friends in the car. The police had requested for my driving licence, which I showed them, and I have it here. This is my driving licence and I gave it to them, I said here it is. On the screen, the insurance disc was not in the disc holder as it had

fallen off. After falling off, I didn't even notice myself. The officers requested that I park off the road and come out of the car. I said ‘officer sorry my insurance disc has fallen off and it's here’. It was at that point that the officer on the road said wait for me I deal with other motorists on the road,” narrated Zulu.

“I said ‘officer, I am in a hurry, is it possible that I go and meet you at your police station but keep my driving licence’. I made that request but instead, that officer came out and said you are being stupid. I then said but officer I am asking you because you have my driving licence and I can go and come to the police station and get my driving licence. He said you are not going anywhere you are being stupid. The guy behind, the back seat on the right side opened the window and said ba officer ninshi, but the officer said ‘I am not talking to you, I am

talking to the driver’. I then said ‘officer then permit me to go because I am going for a meeting’, because I was going for a meeting at Golden Peacock Hotel. This officer just comes to the window and slaps the guy behind, not me.”

On Friday, Zulu and his boys identified as Wayo and George exchanged punches with traffic officers

in Lusaka's Roma area on Kasangula road.

Witnesses told News Diggers! that Zulu got incensed when the officers confiscated his drivers licence on grounds that he was speaking on the phone. “So Munir Zulu was stopped by traffic police because he was speaking on the phone. Munir was driving a Mercedes Benz

ML with a South African number plate. When he stopped, the police officer got the driving licence from him and told him to park. Munir told the police officer that ‘I can fire you myself’. He then instructed the thugs that he was driving with and they got out of the car and started beating the traffic officer,” said the witness.

It won't be long before PF is on the street to face their bad Constitution - Mulongoti

From frony page

“So if you are going to put laws that benefit you while you are in Parliament, what happens when you are out?

You cannot say there is nothing for you because you are not in Parliament, it happens to everybody and next time the PF may not have MPs there. Our cry is that if you are going to empower people who are already strong, that is a selfish approach. That is what we are

against. The PF knew about this provision in the draft constitution but they did not remove it because it benefits them.”

He stressed that it was undemocratic for government to fund only political parties with representation in Parliament.

“Why should they empower those who are already in government when they are the ones in power, having all the pleasure? Is that the kind of thinking for someone who

wants to promote democracy in the country?” wondered Mulongoti.

“We are not worried about what they are saying because they think that by being members of Parliament they will sway money in their direction and keeping it to themselves. These are on their way out so its not a thing to worry about. We should instead worry about those of us looking towards the future so that we are more equitable in our approach.”

By Joseph Mwenda

The Zambia Daily Mail has asked all willing employees across the board to consider leaving the company on voluntary separation basis.

According to a memo circulated to employees, Human Resource and Administration director Lutato Nyendwa said the move was meant to cut down on staff related payments, thereby enabling the State owned and government funded media house to start making profit.

"Kindly be informed that the company wishes to reduce numbers of staff working for it. The reduction of staff members if meant to reduce the cost of staff related payments from about 70 per cent to about 30 per cent of revenue in order for it to become profitable," Nyendwa stated.

"The company is therefore requesting staff who may be interested in leaving, under the current conditions of service, to apply. Please note that applications will be subject to approval by senior management. This means that senior management reserves the right to accept or reject any applications without advancing reasons."

He advised employees to apply before September 29, 2017.

"All applications should be made to the director Human Resource and Administration before September 29, 2017. Until the application is approved and employee separated with, they will still be considered part of the establishment of the company," said Nyendwa.

Daily Mail moves to retrench workers



Only 4 constituencies in N/Western have received CDF since 2015, says Kambita

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambezi East UPND Member of Parliament Brian Kambita says only four out of 12 constituencies in North Western province have received Constituency Development Fund (CDF) since 2015.

And Kambita says the party will not substitute its leader Hakainde Hichilema because he is their most lethal striker.

Speaking when he featured on Muvi TV's The Assignment programme yesterday, Kambita lamented that even those constituencies that got CDF, did not get the full amount.

"My constituency, it will be very interesting to know viewers that Zambezi East has never received Constituency Development Fund (CDF) ever since I became Member of Parliament, I have been Member of Parliament for more than a year now. We have never received a single coin since 2015 I think, CDF has never come. There are only four constituencies in North Western out of the 12 that have received Constituency Development Fund. And even those that received, they only received half of what is allocated per year. They only received K700 thousand. My constituency has never received that funding. We have a lot of projects that are still pending, some projects were financed by CDF, others were earmarked to be financed by CDF and this is making my work very difficult," Kambita said.

And Kambita said HH was the party's most lethal striker.

"The perception of saying there is an overstay of the HH leadership is yours. We are a democratic party so if we choose what is best for us, I think let it stay the way it is. The reason to why you are seeing all those insinuations saying that we are not democratic and we have a president who has overstayed is because they have seen the weight of the president, that is the best we have, and we don't want to lose our best. Who substitutes a player in a football game who is the most lethal striker at the moment? HH is our best and shouldn't be replaced," he said.

"The president's position has never become void ever since president Hakainde became elected into that position. And there has not been any need arising to replace him. We have had positions of a vice president which were replaced, and we have systems, it's not just the convention that ushers in members in positions, we have also got certain management committees which can sit down and probably replace a member who has left, that's a cheaper way. And through our structures as well, we do recommendations to say replace this one."

Kambita also said the state's decision to arrest HH had boomeranged.

"The incarceration of our leader has actually boosted us. We are ten times stronger than we were because we have even this sympathetic voice. I don't even know who advised the powers that be, that arresting HH

would destroy UPND, that is not the way. We would think that there was such advice looking at the vigor in which they arrested HH, and the manner in which they brutalized the people who work for him at his residence and even the comments from fellow politicians which were coming forth. We saw that people were motivated to doing harm to this individual who is a member of the UPND, he is a leader and thinking that by doing so, they would destroy the party, they wouldn't because they are many other people in the party and the party remained functioning. We believe that up to today, the Patriotic Front did not win the elections. That is the reason to why we went to court. We are now 10 times stronger," he said.

Meanwhile, Kambita, who is also Chairman for the Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation, said the suspension of opposition UPND MPs for a month affected the quality of bills which were passed during that period.

"Out absence from parliament it didn't really affect our performance down there in as far as the people we represent are concerned, we were available to the people and we went back to the constituencies to visit the constituencies. Except of course in terms of our role in what we participate in terms of being part of the law making process, of course that affected us and there are very important bills that were passed during that period and you will

agree with me that it was the time when committee reports were being presented and debates as regard to these were ongoing," Kambita said.

"Me being the seating chairman for the committee on delegated legislation, I was key actually in that area especially that we were looking at several statutory instruments. There is no statutory instrument that is passed by parliament without passing through my committee and therefore it was cardinal that I was supposed to be part of it. In as far as me performing my duties as Member of Parliament, I think it did not significantly affect me. I think government lost out in that our contributions could not be accessed on key issues. Of course our colleagues who were able to hastily pass laws in our absence and a lot of other things could have been affected."

He explained that the opposition MPs had stayed away from President Lungu's addresses as a way of demonstrating their rights to protest.

"The issue is not about us not knowing the consequences, the issue here is about us demonstrating our rights. We do and up to today, we still we have the right to protest and that was a show of our protest. It was nothing to do with show of disrespect or anything, the way it was taken. And up today we are still arguing it and that is the reason we had gone to court because we feel that we have the right to actually present our feelings. There were major issues that

we were protesting against and that is the reason why we boycotted the opening speech by the President on that date. So it's not really a question of walking away because of certain issues that people have taken out of it. Ours of more of a protest, there are many other issues. And especially the fact that there seems to be a trend of ignoring the issues that we presented as reasons to why we decided to stay away. Many of our supporters were incarcerated, up to today, I can attest to the fact that we have we have so many people more than 300 people, UPND members who are still incarcerated," Kambita said.

He claimed that when he attended President Lungu's address to Parliament on Friday, he was only interested in what was being presented and not who was presenting it.

"My role is to sit in parliament and listening to whoever is debating. The President is a member of parliament by virtue of his position and me sitting in there, I was of course listening to one of the Members of Parliament addressing parliament. And therefore I was listening and I am yet to read this speech in full, to comprehend it and be ready to debate it. Of course the issues that I was not interested in who is presenting it but on what is being presented because that is what is going to help our people. Of course I wouldn't say anything good about the speech because of the environment that we are living in," said Kambita.

VJ salutes Lungu for sharing smily handshake with Garry, Kambwili

By Joseph Mwenda

In matters of state or political relations, a smiling handshake speaks much louder than any written words, says veteran politician Vernon Mwaanga.

In a statement, the former chief government spokesperson said there was nothing new from President Edgar Lungu's speech during the opening of the second session of the 12 National Assembly, but saluted the Head of State for extending a handshake to the opposition and his critics in the House.

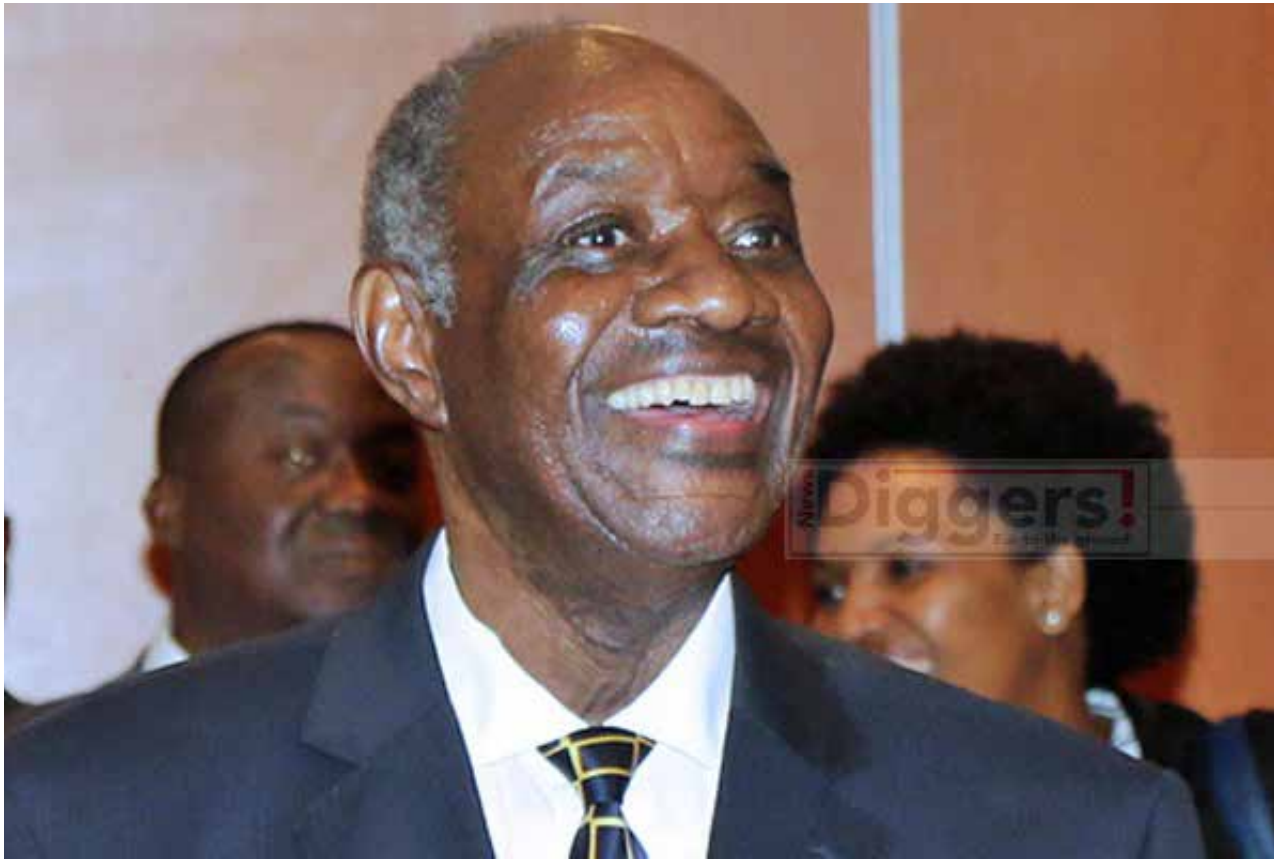
"This is the kind of human relations Zambia needs at this time as we try to treat and heal wounds of deep divisions caused by divisive elections and a flawed judicial system which left bitterness and tension in our country. In matters of state or political relations, a smiling handshake speaks much louder than any written words," Mwaanga said. Our political leaders must learn the humility and efficacy of talking to each other and not at each other through the media. I would have preferred to see an African dialogue process at a higher level

between President Lungu and the main opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, but the reality is that there was no credible or serious African peace initiative on the table."

After addressing the National Assembly, President Lungu greeted members of his Cabinet on the right and went further to shake hands with the UPND members of parliament on the left who shunned his previous address. The Head of State also interacted with his former information minister who has turned the heat on the ruling party with a barrage of criticisms.

And VJ said it was unfortunate that the Commonwealth negotiated dialogue was painfully slow.

"The Commonwealth moved in and negotiated a dialogue process, which led to the release from prison of UPND President Hakainde Hichilema and is now being headed by a distinguished african diplomat Prof Ibrahim Gambari who has just completed his first round of talks and inclusive consultations. From what he is reported to have said, this process will be painfully



slow and could only start in December, 2017," he observed. "There are a lot of urgent and pressing issues which require serious attention, such

as police reforms; judicial reforms and reconstitution of the Constitutional Court; Reconstitution of the Electoral Commission and implementation of the recommendations of the Electoral Reforms Technical Committee to make our electoral process more open and transparent; Further amendments to the Constitution to include additional special seats for women in the National Assembly and in local councils with a view to moving closer to gender equality; Giving autonomy to the National Assembly to elect its own presiding officers and not to rely on executive nominations."

Meanwhile VJ urged political party leaders to avoid hate speech, adding that violence had no place in a democracy. "Political leaders at all levels must refrain from making incendiary or hate speeches against others and leaders of all political parties must be seen to be punishing those who do so. The media, must also play its part by refraining from making inflammatory, irresponsible and insulting statements against other political leaders. The state print and electronic media which is owned by all taxpayers, must play an exemplary role by making sure that they don't just give publicity to ruling party and government officials, but also to those in the opposition, so

that all views are heard," said VJ.

"The country must move to created conditions of zero tolerance to violence of whatever form and by whoever commits it and the police must be non partisan in dealing firmly with it. Violence has no place in a democratic society. There will always be differences of opinion on many issues, but these differences should not degenerate into violence or enmity. There will be irresponsible loud mouths in all parties, but these should be caged for the sake of building a just society for all Zambians. President Lungu and UPND leader have set the tone and their followers should now take a leaf."

WE VOTE EVERY FEW YEARS BUT



WE CAN BE HEARD EVERY DAY.

Alliance for
community
action ►►

PF retracts announced death of their cadre

By Mukosha Funga

The Patriotic Front has retracted a statement in which it announced the death of its supporter identified as Teacher Kalaluka, whom they yesterday said was murdered by UPND cadres in Chilanga

And Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo has also said Kalaluka who was reported to have died from the by-election political violence was not even among those who were affected.

Yesterday, PF media director Sunday Chanda issued a statement on behalf of party Secretary General Davies Mwila claiming that Kalaluka had died after being hacked by UPND cadres. When contacted to confirm the death, Lusaka police commissioner Nelson Phiri told News Diggers! that police were investigating the cause of Kalaluka's death.

"Of course it is true that last week there was a clash between PF and UPND cadres and some of those who sustained injuries were rushed to UTH, but still we need to confirm if the deceased was among those. We instituted investigations to find out if he died from the beatings or from an illness," said Phiri, moments before Katongo issued a contradicting statement.

"We would like to dispel reports published in some quarters of the media purporting that a member of the Patriotic Front assaulted during the just ended by-election campaigns in Kalundu area in Chilanga has died. The correct position is that during the said by

- election, Police received seven reports of Assault OABH from various complainants and Teacher Kalaluka said to have died is not among the complainants. Only one person among the seven injured identified as Siamutumwa Sikapa aged 37 was admitted to University Teaching Hospital (UTH) and is still receiving medical treatment. UTH Management through its Public Relations Office has confirmed that the victim's condition is improving," said Katongo. Chanda also apologised or the misleading statement he issued.

"Yesterday, 17th September 2017, my Office received information from the Party Provincial Officials to the effect that a PF member who was attacked in Chilanga during the by-election campaigns had passed on. Upon receiving this information, we had it verified with two other Provincial Officials who confirmed the reports. It has come to our attention that the Provincial Officials information was not accurate. The victim is still hospitalised in University Teaching Hospital and remains in our prayers," stated Chanda.

"We apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused on the victim and the bereaved family. Further, we wish to advise our officials to verify information with the Provincial Party Chairperson before transmitting any such information to the Party Secretariat. Lastly, we continue to call for investigations into the violence to ensure the perpetrators of this violence are brought to book"

CiSCA warns Judiciary against intimidating court officers

By Mirriam Chabala

The Civil Society Constitutional Agenda (CiSCA) says the suspension of Livingstone Magistrate Benjamin Mwelwa and lawyer Gilbert Phiri, was meant to intimidate court officers from demanding fairness in their operations as they dispense justice.

And CiSCA has asked the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) to emulate President Edgar Lungu's willingness to commit to the process of reconciliation and dialogue.

At a Non Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) organised press briefing today, CiSCA Co-Chairperson Nicholas Phiri said the decision by the judiciary to suspend Mwelwa and Phiri was against the Zambian laws and was aimed at intimidating judicial officers in dispensing justice in an impartial, competent and independent manner.

"CiSCA received the news of the suspension of Livingstone Magistrate by the Registra of the High Court, Charles Kafunda with shock. It is disturbing that the judicial officer in question was suspended for upholding the Constitution of Zambia when he appropriately referred an application for interpretation for the extent of powers of the DPP in exercise of the Nolle Prosequi. We believe that the High Court has no powers to suspend judicial officers and hence this action goes against the Zambian laws including section three of the judicial code of conduct of 1999, and 55 of the subordinate court Act, chapter 28 of the Laws of Zambia among others," Phiri said.

"CiSCA believes that there is a systematic scheme aimed at intimidating judicial officers in dispensing justice in an impartial, competent and independent manner. Not long ago, lawyer Gilbert Phiri, an officer in the justice system was suspended from appearing before any court in Zambia for allegedly questioning the operations of the judiciary through a Facebook posting before being reported to the

Law Association of Zambia disciplinary committee. Council Phiri has already been charged and sentenced by the complaint which in this case is the judiciary. One wonders what else remains to be done when his case has been determined by the complainant. Is this the new order of the rule of law in our country?"

And Phiri expressed concern over the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Lillian Siyunyi's discontinuation of Court cases involving those who are close to the government of the day.

"CiSCA is deeply concerned and troubled with the manner in which some Constitution office bearers such as the Director of Public Prosecutions have been discharging public functions. Notwithstanding the power vested in the DPP by the Constitution to discontinue a criminal case at any stage before judgment is delivered. It is worrying that the DPP is entering nolle prosequi indiscriminately and almost exclusively with cases that involve those in power or connected to the ruling class with no regard to public interest, administration of justice and judicial integrity as provided for in the Constitution. We would like to remind the DPP that allegiance is to Constitution and not to any authority or individual because the DPP is not above the law," he said.

Meanwhile, Phiri asked the



Civil Society Constitutional Agenda (CiSCA) chairperson Bishop John Mambo listens to mobilisation chairperson Nicholas Phiri as he speaks to journalists during a press briefing in Lusaka on September 18, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPND to move on from their differences with the PF and embrace reconciliation.

"I think the dialogue we are talking about is between PF and UPND and for the good of the country, the two parties must put their political differences aside and see eye to eye because they have no other option but to reconcile in the interest of moving the country forward. They have both been claiming that they have the interests of Zambians at heart and that the country is bigger than every single one of them, so they must come together and iron out the

issues that has brought about this tension which has resulted in violence and hate speech," Phiri said.

"By now I want to believe that you all are aware of the root cause of what we are experiencing today. The divisions and the seemingly partisan political atmosphere in the country is clearly the 2016 general election results but also most importantly, the violence that was witnessed prior to the elections and after elections. So as a country, we need to see this dialogue taking place and not just as a political

process but as a people process by embracing the divergent political adversities so that we can be able to move on as a country if we are to the Zambia that we envision."

He commended President Edgar Lungu for taking a bold step of interacting with members of the opposition parties in Parliament.

"I must state here that it was a very bold decision that President Edgar Lungu took at the opening of the 12th National Assembly in Parliament last Friday to go and shake hands

with Hon Chishimba Kambwili and other UPND members. Whether that was part of political expedience or not, at least that's just how it should be. Despite the differences that political leaders may be facing and the differences of opinion, those in power should be the first ones to reach out to those that are not in power and what the President did should be extended to other political parties like the UPND and they should also welcome that and move on as a nation, they just have to get along for the sake of this country," said Phiri.

Open Intermarket Bank without further delay, demands ZUFIAW

By Joseph Mwenda

The Zambia Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers, ZUFIAW has challenged government and the Central Bank to say the truth about the status of Intermarket Bank for the sake of employees and depositors. And ZUFIAW has observed that the rate at which people default on their loan repayments was not improving because there was an information gap about the existence of the Credit Reference Bureau and its mandate.

In a statement, ZUFIAW president Ackim Mweemba wondered what was keeping Intermarket Bank closed after the numerous assurances from finance Minister Felix Mutati.

"We would like to air our concerns on the status of Intermarket Banking Corporation. Since the bank was closed in November 2016, the nation has been treated to several assurances from the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Zambia that the institution was going to be re-opened within a short time.

However, it is now close to a year since the bank closure but there are still no visible signs that these assurances are going to materialise," Mweemba observed.

"ZUFIAW has on several occasions appealed to authorities to give a definite timeframe within which the bank shall be re-opened, but to no avail. We therefore reiterate our appeal to the authorities to open the bank without delay for the good of the workers, customers and the general public. Intermarket Banking

Corporation still holds money belonging to workers in form of accrued benefits and depositors. Therefore, we believe that it is their right to have the right information about the status of the institution and when they shall be able to access their funds."

And Mweemba expressed concern that commercial banks were being impacted by people's failure to service their loans.

"ZUFIAW is appalled by revelations from the Bank of Zambia that incidences of non-performing loans were still very high in the country. As a financial sector trade Union, we were optimistic that since the introduction of licensing for Credit Reference Services by the Bank of Zambia in 2006 which led to the establishment of Credit Reference Bureau (CRB), there would be a marked improvement in honouring loan obligations by borrowers in view of the possibility of being blacklisted from obtaining any further credit from any financial institution in the event of one defaulting on previous obligations," he said.

"Whilst we are saddened

by this development, we are however compelled to believe that there must be a big information gap about the existence of the CRB. In this regard, we are calling on CRB and the central bank to embark on a public sensitisation programme to ensure that people understand about the implications of defaulting on their loan obligations."

He said the culture of non-repayment of loans was inimical to the growth of the financing sector.

"We are cognisant of the fact that the financial system should be credible, effective and efficient, and non-performing loans are inimical to that. But as a country we need to remind ourselves that one of the reasons the Central Bank introduced credit referencing was to curb the culture of not paying back loans. However, now that it is apparent that the trend has barely improved and crippling the operations of commercial banks, it means a lot more, other than mere introduction of credit referencing need to be done. We are confident that once the public is fully sensitised, the desired change shall be attained," said Mweemba.

State enters nolle in case where Somali wife allegedly murdered her husband

By Diggers Reporter

The state has entered a nolle prosequi in a matter in which a Somali woman was accused of murdering her husband.

23-year-old Amina Muhammed of Lusaka's Emmasdale area, was accused of poisoning her husband Osman Mohammed in March.

When the matter was called, deputy chief state Marriam Bah Matandala discontinued the case by way of a nolle prosequi.

Lusaka High Court judge Susan Wanjelani

has since discharged the accused who had been in custody since March 2, 2017.

The court however warned Amina of a possible re-arrest should the state decide to do so.

Since pleading not guilty on September 4, trial never commenced in the matter as the state failed to locate witnesses who are said to have shifted to other residential areas.

Details in this case are that Amina told police officers that her husband committed suicide using a chitenge material which

he tied to a window following a marital dispute.

However officers who rushed to the scene found that the deceased's neck was intact and his body was found on the floor in their matrimonial bedroom.

During postmortem, a pesticide was detected in the stomach contents.

But Amina had informed the police officers that her husband refused to eat the food that she prepared for breakfast and that he threw the bread, baked beans and bananas through the window.

We are concerned that today is when the nation seems to be awakening to the issues around the US\$42 million fire tenders, when the matter was brought to public attention two years ago.

To us, this is testimony that many Zambians don't enjoy reading and those who read remain in their comfort zones, waiting for politicians to speak for them. People expect Mike Mulongoti, Hakainde Hichilema, Charles Milupi, Nevers Mumba e.t.c to press decision makers in government until they do the right thing. What Zambians don't realise is that when politicians raise the red flag, those in government rubbish the alerts as mere politics. It's rare that government reverses its decisions because "politicians have spoken too much".

This is exactly what happened on this issue of fire tenders. The FDD and UPND brought it out in 2015. The two political parties expressed concern that a company called GrandView was in the process of being awarded a US\$42 million dollar contract. At that time, Nawakwi (wherever she is, enjoying her peace), tried to alert citizens that the money was too much for this undertaking and she further alluded to the fact that directors of this company had close business ties with State House. No one jumped on board to support FDD and UPND because at that time, Nawakwi and the UPND whistleblowers were seen as simply trying to gain

Who is the man in the fire tender 'adultery'?

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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political mileage ahead of the 2016 polls.

The fire tender saga then died a natural death until it was resurrected a week ago when the government handed over the fire engines to councils. We are happy that Zambians have taken decision makers to task over this matter. They want answers. Unlike in 2015 when nobody in government bothered about what the politicians were saying, ministers this time around are jumping all over the place and throwing blame at one another. Officials at GrandView are also running out of saliva trying to explain this scandal. Those involved have realised that Zambians are angry. Not the politicians, but ordinary citizens have ganged up against them. Netizens have flooded social media with memes and mockery statements.

In 2014, a similar public outcry yielded interesting results when the Examination Council of Zambia was forced to raze a statue, built from their own money, but despised by ordinary citizens. No politician was involved in that Mubita Nawa-driven campaign, but ECZ acted and further issued an apology "in public interest".

This is similar to that campaign. We applaud Zambians who have poured their hearts on various platforms, registering their displeasure over the fire tender issue. Sadly, we have to inform them that it's too little too late. There was an opportunity in 2015 to stop this tender from being awarded, But it's too late now because in a government such as the Patriotic Front, very little can be done to reverse this transaction. The Minister

of Local Government will answer a few questions from one or two MPs in Parliament, drink some mineral water and call it a day. Meanwhile, the supplier and the government official who awarded the contract are shaking hands somewhere and telling each other "it was business doing pleasure with you".

While we are joining Zambians in naming and shaming the supplier of these fire tenders, we would like to draw people's attention to the missing piece of the puzzle. Adultery is always committed by two people and therefore, this alleged fire-tender corruption cannot be blamed on one side. So far we know the 'woman' who delivered, but where is the 'man' who whipped out the contract? What is their explanation?"

We ask this because Mr

Bokani Soko, the owner of GrandView International - no matter how corrupt he may be labelled - did not award the contract to himself. We have heard the Minister of Local Government denying any involvement; firstly on the ground that he was Minister of Sports at the time and secondly because Cabinet ministers are not involved in tender procedures, regardless of the money involved. The minister, however, agrees that someone in government made that call, so why is this procurement officer at Local Government so difficult to name? Why are we hiding them? If they received money to award this tender, why are they not being prosecuted? If they were given instructions to award the contract, who instructed them? Why are they quiet? Who is threatening them?

We are concerned that Zambia's corruption fight lacks action. In Zambia, it is only corruption when you are not involved. When you are involved, it changes name to "pushing". "I am pushing someone I know in government to help us get this and that." Those in government would say "give us something so that we facilitate" or "for logistics". It is not corruption because you are involved.

This is a country where whistleblowers are mostly those who have been sidelined. When you have been cut off the deal, that's when it becomes corruption. That's when you rush to the media to report with all the proof documents. It suddenly becomes corruption because you will not benefit from it. Unfortunately, this is the Zambia we have built for ourselves - a country where corruption is the key to success.

We have created a society where those who embezzle public funds don't feel accountable to the people they govern. Anyway, like Pilato put it, we can only hope that the people involved in this fire tender corruption will be able to put out the fire in hell too.

Pulmonary embolism and pregnancy

When I was young, I was always wondered why elders will greet a new mother "mwapusukeni" literally meaning "you have survived". This did not make sense then until my early days in medical school when I learnt about embryogenesis and physiological changes of pregnancy. Recently the country woke up to a rude shock on the passing of a mother after giving birth via a caesarian section. So much has been said about the incidence and its regrettable that we could lose a life. But what is Pulmonary embolism (PE) and why should a pregnant woman develop it? Are health

workers competent to handle such cases?

Pulmonary refers to the lungs. Embolism is the process of blood clotting within the blood vessels. Simply put pulmonary embolism is a blood clot in the blood vessels located in the lungs. Depending on the site and size, most PE are fatal even in most advanced hospitals on earth.

What causes PE?

On clinical grounds, a high index of suspicion is maintained by using what is called the Virchow's triad. 1. Stasis of blood. 2. Increased tendency of blood to clot (hypercoagulability) 3. Injury to blood vessels.

What are the risk factors?

1. Surgery in the last 4 weeks
 2. Pregnancy
 3. Prolonged immobilization. I.e air travel, long distance travel, bed rest...
 4. Certain cancers
 5. Genetic predisposition
 6. Use of oral contraceptives
- The list goes on. Pregnancy is a very unique risk for embolism. The pregnancy itself causes blood to have increased tendency to clot (whether this is evolutionary to prevent excessive exsanguination after child birth is still speculative). Injury to blood vessels during delivery is also unavoidable. In advanced pregnancies, most women

tend to become less active (immobile) putting them at I creases risk of embolism.

Surgery also poses a unique risk of embolism. How can a health worker predict risk of embolism? Doctors are trained to categorise patients into low, moderate and high risk based on what is called the Well's score. This risk stratification is important to guide what tests to do, what treatment to give and how fast should these intervention be carried out. About 1.3% patients considered low risk by wells score ends up having embolism and only about 40% high risk patients have embolism. We can

still appreciated that even this score can not 100% predict embolism.

How fatal is PE?

PE accounts for about 25% of all sudden deaths. Meaning a patient can be pretty fine and the next minute they are gone! Studies have shown that there are 70-80% chance of dies from severe PE. Meaning patients who suddenly deteriorates requiring resuscitation are more likely to die than those who are stable whose risk is only 1-2%.

This incident should give us an opportunity to work together with the community to raise awareness about maternity issues and what possibility

could go wrong. It should be seen as a window of opportunity to campaign for improved healthcare for all people in Zambian. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve as a nation to reduce maternal mortality. Let's all build a health care system that responds to our needs."



Dr Francis Mupeta

Britain lowers threat level after second arrest over London attack

Police stepped up their investigation Monday into the bombing of a packed London Underground train during rush hour after officers made a second arrest in their probe. The bomb went off on Friday's morning in a crowded carriage and although the device is thought to have malfunctioned, it still wounded 30 people. Britain downgraded on Sunday the nation's terrorism threat from its highest level following the arrest.

It was the country's fifth terror attack in six months, a series that has claimed 35 lives.

Police said earlier Sunday that a 21-year-old man, who has not been identified, was detained late Saturday in Hounslow, on the western rim of the capital. "The Joint Terrorist Analysis Centre, which reviews the threat level that the UK is under, have decided to lower that level from critical to severe," interior minister Amber Rudd said in a televised statement.

A critical threat level means another attack is "expected imminently" while a severe

threat indicates an assault is highly likely.

A search was underway on Sunday in Stanwell, a few miles west of Hounslow, in connection with the 21-year-old's arrest, police said.

After taking into custody an 18-year-old man earlier on Saturday over the "bucket bomb" attack at the Parsons Green Underground station, police said they they were hunting for more suspects.

Rudd said the police were trying to find out how the first man arrested was "radicalised" The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Friday's explosion.

The first arrest on Saturday took place at the Dover ferry terminal, a main link to Europe. A "number of items" were recovered during the operation and the man is now in custody in London, officers said.

Police also raided a home in Sunbury, a town west of London on Saturday. Local residents quoted in British media said the owners of the house were elderly foster parents.

CCTV footage obtained by



The "bucket bomb" went off in a packed carriage on a London Underground train, and although the device is thought to have malfunctioned it still caused a large explosion followed by what witnesses said was a fireball

British media on Sunday appeared to show a man walking from the property on Friday morning, carrying a bag similar to the one containing the failed device.

- Passengers flee in panic - Now that the terror threat has been downgraded, soldiers deployed to guard key sites across the country "will return to their original positions"

during the next few days, Rudd said.

The critical warning had last been used after the deadly suicide bombing at a pop concert in the northwestern

city of Manchester in May, for which IS also claimed responsibility.

But Rudd voiced doubt over the IS claim that it was behind Friday's bombing.

"It is inevitable that so-called Islamic State or Daesh will try to claim responsibility but we have no evidence to suggest that yet," she told the BBC.

Rudd had earlier dismissed as "pure speculation" US President Donald Trump's claim, made Friday on Twitter, that a "loser terrorist" behind the attack was known to Scotland Yard.

The tweet had already drawn a terse rebuke from Prime Minister Theresa May, who said: "I never think it's helpful for anybody to speculate on what is an ongoing investigation."

In another security scare on Sunday, a London-bound British Airways flight was evacuated at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport after a false bomb alert.

The improvised device at Parsons Green, a quiet and well-off residential district, failed to detonate fully.

But the blast inflicted flash burns on passengers, and prompted dozens of others to flee in panic.

'Fireball flew down carriage' Twitter user @Rrigrs posted pictures of a white bucket smouldering on the train and described how a "fireball flew down carriage and we just jumped out open door".

The bucket, which was inside a frozen food bag, looked like the type used by builders, and there appeared to be wires coming from it.

Louis Hather, 21, had been travelling to work and was three carriages down from where the explosion took place. "I could smell the burning. Like when you burn plastic," he told AFP.

He was trampled on as panicking passengers stampeded out of the station, leaving him with a bad cut and bruised leg.

The bomb's remnants were examined by forensic scientists but no further details were released.

Several victims were taken to hospital, though health authorities said none were in a life-threatening condition.

AFP

BBC launches Horn of Africa services

The BBC World Service has launched three websites for Ethiopia and neighbouring Eritrea as part of its biggest expansion since the 1940s.

The sites would be a "source of truth" in a region with limited independent media, said BBC editor Will Ross.

The Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrinya sites' launch will be followed in a few months by the launch of radio programmes in the three languages.

The UK government announced a funding boost for the World Service in 2015.

It paved the way for the expansion drive in Africa and Asia.

"We know that there is a great deal of hunger for audiences in Ethiopia and Eritrea to access a broad range of high quality content in Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrinya," said Ross, head of the new services.

Eritrea won independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after a 30-year war.

Tensions with Ethiopia remain high across a closed and heavily fortified border. An estimated 80,000 people died during a 1998-2000 border war between the two states.

Ross said he believed that the potential audience in the two countries - which have

a combined population of more than 100 million - was huge, and social media would play a key role in helping to target a younger audience.

"There is also a significant diaspora, which retains strong links with 'home'. The political situation in both countries has triggered the development of a large

vocal, activist presence in the diaspora," he said.

"The current news choice for many in Ethiopia is either a pro-government platform at home or a vehemently anti-government offer from the diaspora."

The new Facebook pages in the three languages have already generated a lot of

interest. The Afaan Oromo site had more than 30,000 likes after just three days.

However, internet penetration is currently very low in both states, and the planned launch of radio programmes would be a vital part of the BBC's "rich mix of content" for Ethiopians and Eritreans, Ross said.

"A major aim of the output will be to help Ethiopians and Eritreans better understand their place in the world. The new language services will also provide the BBC's global audience with a far better perspective and understanding of the Horn of Africa," he added. **BBC News**



A young Rohingya refugee is held up in her makeshift shelter in New Delhi



Michelle Rodriguez throws serious shade at 'Fast and Furious' franchise: 'Evolve or die'

Michelle Rodriguez, who portrays the badass Letty Ortiz in the Fast & Furious

films, has never been afraid to speak her mind even in regards to the beloved

franchise that has spanned over a decade. Back in June, when

announcing the release of F8 on digital platforms, the actress criticized the

franchise for lack of female representation and she threatened to quit. "I hope they decide to show some love to the women of the franchise on the next one," she wrote on an Instagram post. "Or I just might have to say goodbye to a loved franchise. It's been a good ride & I'm grateful for the opportunity the fans & studio have provided over the years... One Love."

Rodriguez is now reaffirming her point of view, telling TMZ that she still plans to quit if they don't progress. "My path is about female empowerment, and if I'm feeling a little stagnant in that area in what I'm doing for a

living, then I'm gonna have to move on. Evolve or die, baby," she said.

She added, "I hope they show some love to the women in the franchise. I'd like to see that. I'd like to see them talk to each other for a change, you know what I mean? I can count with one hand the times I've talked to the female actresses in the franchise, and I think that's kinda sad."

Fellow female characters that have formed part of the cast, but got little screen time interacting outside their relationships to men, include Jordana Brewster, Charlize Theron and Gal Gadot. **Yahoo News**

Kevin Hart apologizes to his wife, children

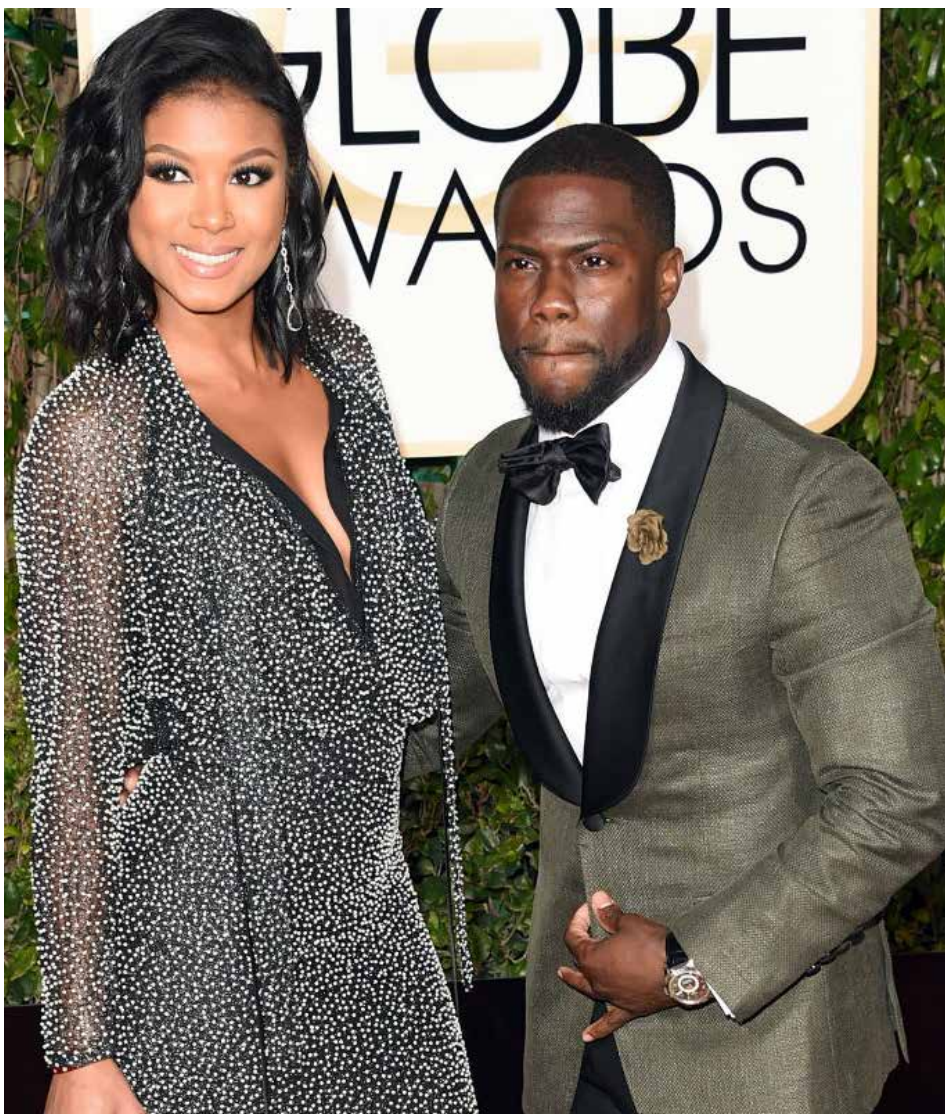
"Someone tried to set Kevin up in a failed extortion attempt. As law enforcement is involved, we cannot comment further as it could

affect the investigation," his rep tells PEOPLE in a statement.

"I'm at a place in my life where I feel like I have a

target on my back," Hart, 38, said. "And because of that I should make smart decisions. And recently, I didn't. You know, I'm not perfect. I'm

not going to sit up here and say that I am or claim to be in any way shape or form. And I made a bad error in judgement and I put myself in a bad environment where only bad things can happen and they did. And in doing that I know that I'm going to hurt the people closest to me, who've I talked to and apologized to, that would be my wife and my kids. **Yahoo News**



Barack invites B'flow to launch Obama foundation

By Ruth Tembo

Immediate past United States President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have launched The Obama Foundation in their hometown of Chicago. And guess who is invited to the launch next month? Yep, B'flow a.k.a Brian Bwembya. "I'm thrilled to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Obama have invited me to Chicago. I thank God that since 2015, our partnership has grown and the Obamas are still supporting my work in various ways. During my time in Chicago, I will attend the first ever Obama Summit and the launch of Obama foundation which was recently established," B'flow said.

"I'm always happy to

represent the African continent on a global scale. In 2015, President Obama ended his YALI Presidential Summit speech by saying 'So Brian, we are proud to be your partner!' I say yes indeed, the partnership is amazing", Brian said.

The event is likely to take place month end of October in Chicago but B'flows says he will go earlier by the first week of October in order to gather out few things before the event.

"I don't take the privilege of receiving an invitation from Obama for granted, it shows that there is really something am doing right. I'am a very open person, those who are interested in learning some things know that am an open person. I interact with pretty

much everybody including those who are not in the music industry. Those people who would want to work with me or get advice from me on how I do some of these things are free to walk into music for change were I am found and I can mentor them," B'flow said. Asked if he had found a life partner himself after all the support he was rendering to women through his music.

"I'am not married but I'am communicating with someone at the moment and hopefully things will turn up well. I encourage all my fellow artists to realize that we are role models and leaders, let us not only look at music as entertainment but we are leaders and influencers because we influence what people do," said B'flow

By Diggers Reporter
Zanaco on Sunday suffered a major setback in their league title defence after losing 2-0 away to Green Buffaloes in a top two Lusaka derby showdown at Nkoloma Stadium. The 2016 champions defeat comes just four days after they lost 1-0 at Nkwazi in another away game on September 13 across town at Edwin Emboela Stadium. Zanaco struggled to find any rhythm as Buffaloes took command of proceedings. Friday Samu fired in the opening goal in the 24th minute off an Oyster Mwakatambala cross. This was Samu's first

Zanaco suffers title defence setback

game back in three matches following his recent recovery from a toe infection and took his tally to 9 goals this season. So modest were Zanaco that even the 36th minute

substitute of midfielder Richard Kasonde who was replaced by veteran Isaac Chansa failed to see them make any impact in the middle of the park. Buffaloes extended their

lead on the stroke of halftime after Zanaco goalkeeper Racha Kola palmed Malan Gondwe over his head and Mike Katiba who was behind him headed in the gift from the

former. Zanaco's desperation for a face saver say striker Heritier Nkonko guided the ball in with his hand in the 72nd minute that earned him a yellow card.

Buffaloes are now three points clear at the top on 53 points, Zanaco stay 2nd while Nkana are 3rd on 48 points from 28 games played with eleven left to play.

'Kolasinac fear caused Luiz to wet himself' - Wilkins slams Chelsea man for red card

The Brazilian defender was dismissed during a goalless draw at Stamford Bridge on Sunday for a reckless lunge on the Arsenal defender David Luiz saw red against Arsenal as the thought of tangling with Sead Kolasinac led him to "wet himself", says Ray Wilkins. The Brazilian defender was dismissed three minutes from the end of Sunday's goalless draw at Stamford Bridge. A wild lunge at Kolasinac saw him ordered from the field, with the 30-year-old reacting petulantly to the attention being shown to him by Alexis Sanchez and a heavy touch. Former Chelsea coach Wilkins believes Luiz meant his London rival no harm, despite catching the Gunners defender with a high boot, and has instead accused the South America of fearing a physical tussle with an imposing opponent. He told talkSPORT: "It was an atrocious tackle. He either wants to hurt Kolasinac, or he's afraid. I'll go for the latter. "He saw him coming towards him and thought, 'wow, this fella is a giant' and he basically wet himself. "Kolasinac went to the floor, his boots never came off the ground, he just went for the ball. If Luiz had done that there would have been



nothing wrong. It's on the halfway line for goodness sake." While Luiz's moment of madness did not cost Chelsea on the day, with there little time remaining for Arsenal to snatch a winner, his actions could come back to haunt the Blues. He is now facing up to a three-match ban for being shown a straight red card. If Chelsea decide against appealing the decision, then

Luiz will sit out a League Cup clash with Nottingham Forest and Premier League

meetings with Stoke and Manchester City. Antonio Conte's side are set

to welcome title-chasing City to Stamford Bridge on September 30, in what could

be a crucial clash in the battle for top-flight supremacy. Goal.com

Zesco's Jesse out on injury

From back page
Were sustained a knee injury in South Africa on September 15 in Zesco's 0-0 away draw against SuperSport United in a 2017 CAF Confederation Cup first leg, quarterfinal game at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria. Zesco media officer Chengo Katebe could not say if Were will be fit in time for this Saturday's final leg decider against SuperSport at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola. Also out for Tuesday's date is midfielder Kondwani Mtonga who lost his father on Friday while away on Confederation Cup duty. Meanwhile, a win for Zesco against 10th placed Lumwana will lift them from 6th to 3rd on 49 points and within one and four points of 2nd placed Zanaco and leaders Green Buffaloes respectively. Zesco are chasing their first competitive win since August 20 when they beat Napsa Stars 2-1 at Levy. Since then, the 2016 runners-up have collected three scoreless draws and a 3-2 away loss at defending champions Zanaco on September 9 in Lusaka.



JESSE OUT ON INJURY



By Diggers Reporter
Zesco United striker Jesse Were is set to miss Tuesday's league date

against Lumwana Radiants due to injury. The Kenyan international is Zesco's top scorer with

11 league goals and second behind Chris Mugalu of Lusaka Dynamos. *Continues on page 11*

Rooney gets driving ban after drunk driving arrest

The former England captain pleaded guilty at Stockport Magistrates court after being arrested in the early hours of September 1

Everton striker Wayne Rooney has been given a two-year driving ban and a 12-month community order after admitting a charge of drink-driving.

The former England captain pleaded guilty at Stockport Magistrates court on Monday.

Rooney, who reportedly expects to be fined two weeks' wages by his club, must complete 100 hours of unpaid work as part of his community order.

The driving ban will be reduced by 24 weeks if he undergoes a specialist driving course by February 2, 2019.

The 31-year-old was arrested in the early hours of September 1 after being pulled over by police seven and a half miles from his home in Prestbury, Cheshire. *Goal.com*



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