



Zambia's representative at the 2017 Dubai International cooking competition Alina Karima during the launch of a Dstv cooking show in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

PF are a bunch of criminals, Kambwili tells Parliament

By Mukosha Funga

Chishimba Kambwili yesterday ambushed the Patriotic Front in Parliament, saying they were a bunch of criminals who have become rich from stolen wealth.

Contributing to debate on President Edgar Lungu's address to Parliament a fortnight ago, the Roan

member of parliament said the Head of State must be removed because he had allowed corruption to flourish in government.

Further Kambwili warned mining companies, that he would soon go for them after the PF is removed from power in 2021.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini kept on chastising the former chief government spokesperson every time he went astray in his debate, and at one point had to remind him that he was still in Parliament as a member of the ruling party.

But it was after a refreshment break when Kambwili went out of the way to outrightly call the ruling party a bunch of shameless criminals.

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Gap between rich, poor saddens British envoy

By Mukosha Funga

British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyett says it is disappointing that inequality has worsened in the country despite recording some economic growth.

And High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett says the UK will assist the Electoral Commission of Zambia in any potential electoral or constitutional reforms. Speaking to news editors today, High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett said it was sad that the gap between the rich and the poor kept widening.

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Budget will only accommodate 2,000 new teachers - Minister

By Mirriam Chabala

Minister of General Education Dennis Wanchinga says government will only recruit 2,000 teachers this year because that is all the budget can allow.

And Wanchinga says government will introduce a new recruitment policy of deploying teachers to their home towns in order to reduce challenges of resignations and unnecessary

transfers that the ministry has been facing.

During the question for oral answer session in Parliament yesterday, Wanchinga admitted that the number of teachers to be recruited countrywide this year was too small but that it was all the ministry could afford under the current budget.

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KING'S GIFT GOES BAD



President Edgar Lungu speaks to journalists on arrival in Angola - Picture by Salim Henry/State House

State House says Buffaloes donated by Lungu to King Mswati were not sick

By Joseph Mwenda

Agriculture Minister of Swaziland Moses Vilakati says a deadly foot and mouth disease has broken out in that country after King Mswati accepted a gift of buffaloes from President Edgar Lungu earlier this month.

Full story on page 4

...but Swaziland regrets accepting present from Zambia after animal disease breaks out



From front page

“Coming back to Zambia, I have been quite struck that things have changed, things changed in the time I was away, there has been development and improvement for the upper sections of society, middle class and the elite but I find it disappointing that there hasn't been more progress for 60 per cent who live in poverty and are in rural areas.

Since I have been here, I arrived in April and of course we very quickly went into the 2016 elections so an aspect of all of this which I have been quite preoccupied with has been the political tension and after elections and that has continued into 2017,” High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett.

“The UK and Zambia, we have a common aim of seeing a more prosperous Zambia, that of course is very good for Zambia and of course the UK. So

Gap between rich, poor saddens British envoy

the fewer the countries there are in the world where there are high levels of poverty, the better, that is better for moral humanitarian reasons but also it means that the more prosperity there is, the more options there are for trade investment and that is good for a global economy as a whole. I talked about the inequality aspect and you probably know that the coefficient for inequality in Zambia has actually got worse and Zambia is one of the least equal countries in the world. So we are working

with the government over the Zambia Plus Economic Reform programme, you will be familiar of course with the five pillars of the plan and there is UK and other cooperating partners in each of those five.”

He said the UK believed an IMF package would be good for Zambia.

“We welcome the progress which has been made for example over rolling back subsidies, it just wasn't sustainable for Zambia to continue to pay subsidies which were benefitting mainly the wealthy people in society and also the

wealthier people in the commercial people as well. But there is still much that needs to be done and you all know that Zambia's external debt is something which has come to the fore for example in the discussions with the IMF. And the UK's position is we believe an IMF programme will be good for Zambia,” High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett said.

And High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett said the UK would assist the ECZ in any potential reforms.

“Britain fully supports the initiative from the

Commonwealth Secretary General, Baroness

Scotland, for a dialogue process leading to a road map of reforms ahead of the 2021 elections. The recent visit to Lusaka by the Commonwealth Secretary General's Special Envoy to Zambia, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, a highly respected diplomat and statesman, marked a significant step forward. The UK commends HE President Edgar Lungu and Mr Hakainde Hichilema for their commitment to engage in this dialogue process in the interests of the Zambian people,” he said.

“I encourage all stakeholders to engage in an open, consultative, respectful and forward-looking dialogue process, to foster political tolerance and reconciliation in the proud tradition of the Republic of Zambia's ability to sustain harmony and peace over many decades. This process should be Zambian owned and led. The UK and other cooperating partners are considering ways we might support the process, for example the UK is looking at how it can assist the Electoral Commission of Zambia in any potential electoral and constitutional reforms.”

He also said the UK considered its relations with Zambia as mutually beneficial.

“Our relationship goes back a very long way and there are good aspects to that and some negative aspects. I have worked in a lot of Commonwealth countries and my first posting was in Nigeria so I understand that there is often a certain ambivalence in the relationship, there is warmth but also sometimes a bit of weariness sometimes and in the year I have been in Zambia, I have seen a number of times in publications and outlets that you represent amongst others mutterings about neo colonialism and this sort of thing which I find a bit frustrating because that is not how we see things from the UK perspective but I am also realistic and accept that that is just part of the background music. We see this as a mutually beneficial relationship. We all want to see Zambia become more free and much progress has been

made since 1991 but there is more to be done and of course crucially more prosperous and to see a reduction in poverty,” said High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett.

Meanwhile, Development for International Development (DFID) Head of Office Richardson said among the things which the UK development approach was focused on was to help in prudent economic management.

“My early impressions are that there is potential here in terms of development, natural resources, water and in terms of the opportunities to diversify the economy and exploit the opportunities that Zambia has at the heart of Southern Africa, and to use the revenue that is generated from copper to deliver services to the poor people in Zambia. So there is a real sense of potential but as we all know, there are challenges too, challenges around the stubborn levels of poverty despite the strong growth that we have seen in the economy for the last 10 years. And lastly, the challenge of climate change, it is already impacting Zambia and it will change the way agriculture is done. So the UK development approach seeks to respond to both these opportunities, the potential and the challenge,” said Richardson.

“We are working on economic development, we are working with the private sector, with the government to help diversify the economy to help grow small and medium size enterprises and create jobs, to invest in agriculture and work with small holder farmers to improve their productivity. We are also working closely with government to improve its capacity to deliver services to the poor people and use the available resources that there are to deliver services in health, nutrition and other sectors. We are also working to improve economic management, supporting public financial management and improving capacity in central government as a key part of the programme. So we have a range of programmes across those areas in economic development, in human development and in government.”



Magistrate Mwelwa's petition wrongly before ConCourt – Attorney General

By Mukosha Funga

The Attorney General says Livingstone magistrate Benjamin Mwelwa's petition against his suspension is wrongly before the Constitutional Court.

Last week, magistrate Mwelwa petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare his suspension illegal and unconstitutional, citing the Attorney General as the Respondent.

He also asked the ConCourt to allow him to leave the country and attend seminars, workshops, lectures and other events.

Magistrate Mwelwa is also seeking

damages for illegal suspension and embarrassment, damages for professional reputation damage, odium, anguish and torture.

But in an Affidavit in support of notice of intention to raise preliminary issues, Senior State Advocate Lwisha Shula said the issues which magistrate Mwelwa was challenging were not within the jurisdiction of the ConCourt.

“That it is apparent from the Petition that the Petitioner is attempting to challenge two specific issues. First, his suspension from employment by his employer or his employer's agent

and second, he is also attempting to enforce his rights under the Bill of Rights by claiming redress for the alleged restriction of his freedom of his employers. That I verily believe that these two issues are not within the jurisdiction of the ConCourt, which Court is clothed with very specific jurisdiction,” swore Shula.

Acting Chief Registrar Charles Kafunda suspended magistrate Mwelwa on August 9, 2017 for refusing to give effect to a nolle prosequi in a case of *The People v Milford Maambo, Ziwa Malilo and Chanda Chabala*.

From front page

Deputy Speaker Catherine Namugala tried to warn Kambwili to stop using the House to campaign but the outspoken MP went on saying “Nabawina! Nabanonka! Nibakabolala aba banthu (they have become rich, they have become fat, these people are criminals).”

This forced Namugala to terminate Kambwili’s debate.

Below is the verbatim of Kambwili’s debate in the House:

Kambwili: How can he come here and boast that my government is working? You need to leave it to the people of Zambia to leave it to the people of Zambia to decide whether you are working or not. How does a President come to Parliament and say his government is working when for four years, the civil servants have never had a salary increment and after four years, you give them 10 per cent and say ‘we are working’, I think we should be serious with ourselves and not to mock the poor.

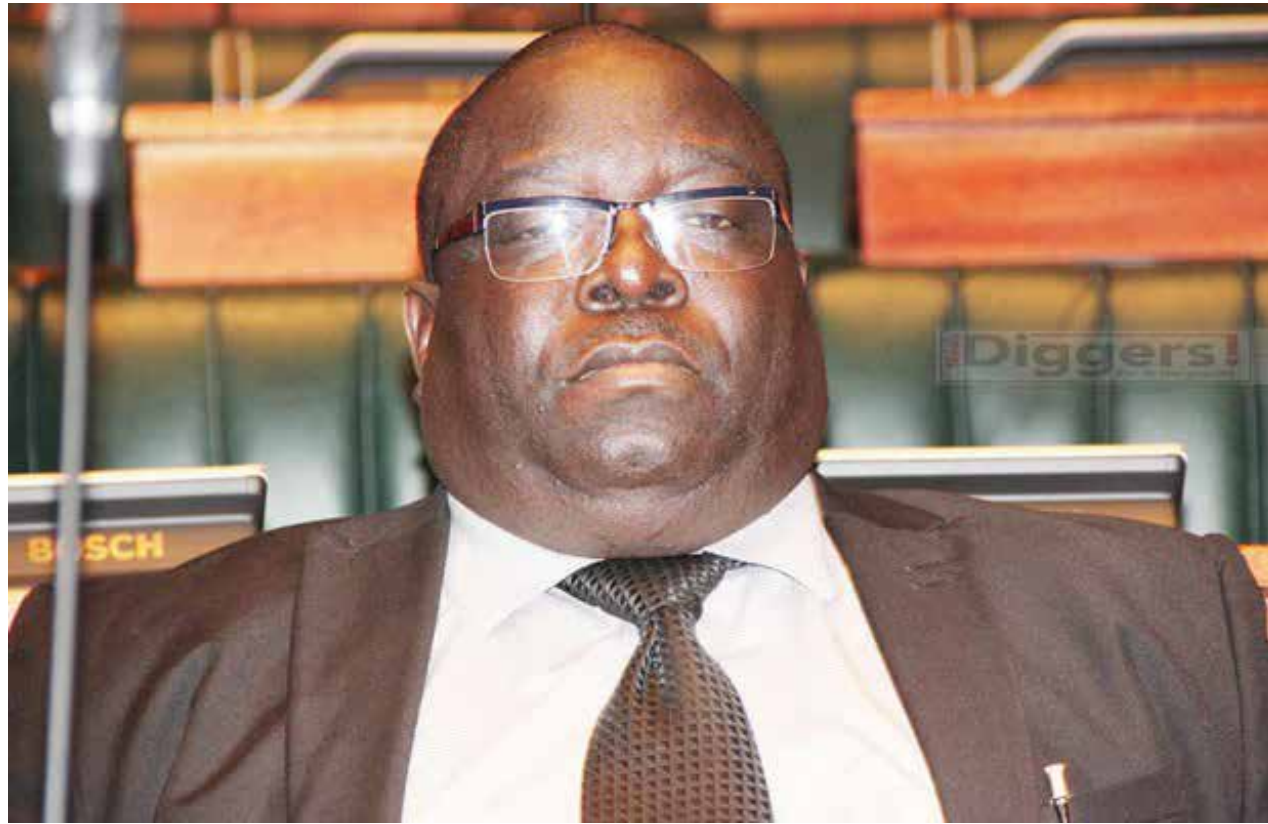
We should stop mocking the poor people. An average civil servant earns about K3,000 a month, give them 10 per cent, it is about K300 and yet within the same four years, you have removed subsidies on fuel, you have increased, in one year, the cost of electricity by 75 per cent and you are giving the civil servants this 10 per cent effective in January before the Minister of Finance gives the budget, we don’t know what new measures in terms of taxes will be contained in the Minister of Finance’s budget.

It is therefore very difficult... Ba [Labour Minister Joyce] Nonde please, can you behave? You are just near me

Speaker Matibini: Honorable member for Roan, take a seat. Order! Let’s have some order please. Honorable member for Roan, you are obviously a very senior member of the House and you cannot proceed in that fashion and for those honorable members who are in the habit of running commentaries are a source of disruption themselves. You see, in a democracy you need to be tolerant, you may not like what the other person is saying but still listen to that person and when the opportunity comes, counteract what they have said, that is the way you proceed in a democracy so honorable member do not be distracted, continue with your debate also.

Kambwili: Mr Speaker, at least for me, I belong to a government where we get 300 per cent salary increment in one calendar year. That is thinking of the poor. When PF came to power, we gave the civil servants 300 per cent salary

PF are a bunch of thieves, Kambwili tells Parliament



increment. Now this new PF, 10 per cent.

Speaker: honorable member, there is only one PF. And you belong to that PF (laughs). You belong to that PF as far as my record is concerned.

You are Roan member of parliament under PF ticket.

Kambwili: Mr Speaker, the era where people used to mock civil servants by giving them five per cent, 10 per cent was during the MMD government, now I am wondering whether PF has now gone back to MMD because you cannot move from 300 per cent to 10 per cent, that’s a big joke but I will forgive them because of the combination, because of the combination that is in this current PF government. Surely Mr Speaker, unless maybe I wasn’t listening, one of the things...

Speaker: honorable member, when you refer to combination, you are debate colleagues. We can read between the lines, continue.

Kambwili: Thank you Mr Speaker, one of the issues that I heard where the President even said, and I heard him very well where he said ‘Mr Speaker, your government is working, is on the social cash transfer’, this is another way of mocking the poor. The social cash transfer is K70 per month and here is a President who cares for the people who says ‘Mr Speaker there is a woman in Western Province in Kalomo who from social cash transfer is able to pay school fees, she has built a house, she is even able to pay for people to work in her field’, K70? Nangu kutumpika abantu, I think lets be serious with leadership. If we have nothing to talk about, you

better keep quiet. I mean, there are over 10 newspapers on the streets today and I am sure the President reads about seven of these newspapers at K10. So the cost of these newspapers per day is what you give to the poor and you come and say we are working (laughs), we will leave it to the people of Zambia to decide.

Economic diversification, ‘Mr Speaker, we are now going to give all the districts, we are now going to use e-vouchers, we are diversifying’, let’s be serious. This is the only country where when you grow a lot of maize, then the agricultural sector is doing well, there is no agriculture to talk about in Zambia and if we were serious about the agriculture sector, this country could have been a middle income country by now but because our priorities are wrong, because for us we only look at the bumper harvest of maize without even finding out where the bumper harvest is coming from and where it came from. If you remember very well Mr Speaker, before President [Levy] Mwanawasa came into power, the growing of maize was at a very small scale because the people did not have a market where to sell their produce. President Mwanawasa allowed the FRA to start buying maize beyond the 500,000 so that FRA can provide a market for the maize and because there was a ready market for the maize, people got interested knowing for sure that there would be FRA coming to buy our maize but today, this government has gone back to say that we are only going to buy for strategic food reserve

meaning therefore that they have killed the market for maize for the poor peasants will stop growing maize and I can assure you, there will be no bumper harvest next year because we have gone back to the old days where people used to go with salaula to go and exchange with maize. And people stopped growing maize because they were not getting any reasonable income from maize.

KCM, they just changed the name from outsourcing to secondment which is one and the same and the minister goes, ‘you can go ahead now’. People are being transferred without being paid their terminal benefits, the new people who have come will be responsible for everything including their terminal benefits, you call it secondment? Me what I know about secondment is that the company where you are coming from continues paying your salaries, terminal benefits and if you are found with a case, you have to go and answer to your employers but the miners have been told everything has been transferred to the new Chinese and we know that Chinese are able to do. K700 per month for a miner going underground and we have a government. Miners, we are coming to sort you out.

(Running comments) Kambwili (responding to running comments): you see, there is no government in perpetuity. The goodness about political power is that there is a period, five years, others come in so miners, don’t worry, it’s only four years, we are coming. (Laughter and cheers in the House)

Health, what is there to

talk about? What is there to talk about in terms of health facilities in Zambia that people can even come to this House and boast that we are working, go and look at the hospitals, you cannot believe it. UTH here just as you enter UTH, there is a pothole and everyone passes there directors, oh, ministers they say don’t mention them, and you can’t believe these things. You go to Roan, thanks to Steve Chungu and Chishimba Kambwili, our hospitals are very clean, porcelain tiles in all the wards. Look at the ceilings, rhino ceilings, that’s leadership, it’s not just to come here ‘we have hospitals’, very dirty hospitals, no linen, no blankets, no medicine at you have hospitals, please, stop mocking the poor, you go to good hospitals and then your friends are going to hospitals where when they arrive, they even become more sick and you come here and boast. Even where you come from, I went to Kasama with a committee on health, Mwandaba, you know that red polish, that’s what they paint in Kasama General Hospital, the honorable can say that. Surely, 53 years after independence you can allow such a thing? And then you say your government is working, working where? Education, the schools can’t even talk about [them], community schools that are manned by unqualified teachers are performing far much better than government schools. I feel sorry for my elder brother [General Education Minister Dennis] Wanchiga, he is very hard working but he found the system is already collapsed.

If you look at the results in government schools, the attitude of teachers, how many periods the children are taught, you would cry, and we have a government. You say you are working at the same time you say the poverty levels are very high, continue with your statistics, inflation six per cent, GDP growth 4.5, as long as it does not trickle down to the ordinary people to enjoy it, you are gone the way MMD went. MMD recorded excellent economic growth, seven per cent, eight, nine per cent, inflation was six per cent but it was not trickled down to the poor people, the civil servants enjoying their sweat, that’s where MMD lost elections. I love PF, can we change the way we do things so that we can maybe stay in power for another five years but change the President.

Namugala: Honorable member, honorable Kambwili you will not use this House to campaign. Let’s debate the President’s statement, there are enough issues in this speech honorable member for Roan to occupy you for the entire 20 minutes, there is enough. Let’s debate the speech.

Kambwili: Much obliged, infrastructure development, a standard two motor way means a duo carriageway, it is only in Zambia where a minister can say ‘to go to Ndola its 320, coming back 320, come on, they are saying standard two motor way meaning a duo carriageway. One million average the whole world per kilometer, here in Zambia, \$3.7 million. And you think the people are not watching? Insoni ebuntu, to have shame is being human but if you are stealing with impunity...

Namugala: Stealing is unparliamentary honorable and you know that, withdraw that. Please withdraw

Kambwili: I mean, if you are dipping, plundering the national coffers with impunity the way we are seeing in this government, you can come here and say no it’s 800km, you talk about hotels, who told you to build hotels? Is that the job of the RDA?

Namugala: Order! Honorable member, honorable minister for Luapula Province, order. Honorable member for Roan you may continue

Kambwili: The people of Zambia will have the last say, the corruption we are seeing in this government is more than the corruption that Chiluba did in 10 years. Nawina, nabanonka, nibakabolala aba!

Namugala: Honorable member, please sit down honorable Kambwili. Can the honorable member for Milenge debate. Honorable member for Milenge...

Budget will only accommodate 2,000 new teachers - Minister

From front page

“Mr Speaker the government indeed has plans to recruit teachers in 2017 and the total number of teachers to be recruited in 2017 is 2000. This number has been determined by the budget for 2017. The House may wish to know that the treasury authority granted an allocation of k111 000 000 for teacher recruitment this year so the 2000 teachers to be recruited is within the limitations of the budget,” Wanchinga said.

“The ministry takes note Mr Speaker that the number of 2000 that we have been given for 2017 is a very very small number when you look at the rate at which we have admission at the ministry and also the fact that in 2017 we have had that unfortunate phenomena of having some teachers being found with fake qualifications so once the process of cleaning up the data base for teachers in the ministry, we certainly will need to employ more than 2000 because space will be created within the existing budget to float in more teachers. But as at now and in the absence of that exercise being completed, the number we are dealing with is 2000.”

And Wanchinga said government has increased the number of years required for a teacher to a serve at a given school before asking for a transfer.

“It’s important Mr Speaker to also note that there are a number of factors that are used to determine the distribution of teachers in the provinces. One of the critical criteria used in distributing teachers is the issue of teacher-pupil ratio, we have 8,827 primary schools, we have 871 secondary schools and the numbers of these differ from province to province. But for the teachers who are being deployed in the 220 schools which we have promoted from basic to secondary schools, the numbers will be more or less uniform. Then this problem of having teachers moving from rural schools to urban areas is a subject of great



General Education minister Dennis Wanchinga

concern to us. So the first measure we have taken is to increase the number of years required for a teacher to serve in a particular area before they can ask for a transfer, we have increased from two years to four years.”

“The second measure which we are considering at least in this year when we start employing is some kind of positive discrimination, we think that perhaps in some cases we should be able to send teachers to areas where they come from so that these excuses of saying ‘no, where I have been sent there is a lot of witchcraft. No, we cannot sleep because of this and that’ can be minimised because if teachers were deployed to areas where they come from, they are more likely to stay longer in those areas. The other measure which is very important is the issue of decentralisation, you may wish to know that out the 104,000 teachers we have in the ministry, majority of these are primary school teachers and when we dissolve early childhood and primary schools to rural authorities, the rural authorities will take control of teachers so it’s most likely that they will be able to know which teacher is not staying at

their school and they will be able to replace that teacher who does not want to stay in that area,” Wanchinga said.

Meanwhile, the Minister said government would only start considering application for transfers during the teacher recruitment period because it was pressurising

for the ministry to be transferring teachers through out the year.

“Mr Speaker we have also been experiencing a lot of pressure from teachers who are transferred from rural to urban areas and I must say that members of this House also contribute to this problem. We receive almost on daily

basis teachers to be transferred, I move from this House with piles of notices from people asking for transfers of nieces and nephews. So we also contribute to this problem, but what we have decided now Mr Speaker is that we will not allow any teacher to be transferred to any school

anytime in the course of the year. We have a special period when the application for transfers can be considered and we are saying that we should be doing that at the time of recruitment, when we are recruiting teachers is when we shall decide who is to be transferred where,” said Wanchinga.

Buffaloes donated to King Mswati were not sick says State House

By Joseph Mwenda

Agriculture Minister of Swaziland Moses Vilakati says a deadly foot and mouth disease has broken out in that country after King Mswati accepted a gift of buffaloes from President Edgar Lungu earlier this month.

But State House press aide Amos Chanda says it is not possible that the buffaloes could have carried the disease because they were certified healthy before being transported to the Kingdom.

According to the Swaziland press, the European Union has banned beef imports from that country following a suspected foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, allegedly caused by the buffalo donation.

“When the buffaloes arrived into the country they were accompanied by documents certifying that they had tested negative for the disease. But we have since taken their blood samples for further tests to be

conducted in South Africa where we seek to confirm the initial test results,” the Agency Press Africa (APA) quoted minister Vilakati as saying.

“The buffaloes are being kept under quarantine in Malindza in the Lubombo region of Swaziland. The minister said all animals that utilise dip tanks located within a radius of 10 kilometres from where the three buffaloes are, have been quarantined too. Swaziland Meat Industries, the country’s major beef exporter, has meanwhile suspended all cattle purchases from farmers and the payments of export bonuses until further notice,” reported local press.

But in an interview with News Diggers! President Lungu’s spokesperson said it was highly unlikely that the animals could have transmitted the foot and mouth disease.

“They (buffaloes) were actually two

not three, and what we know is that the two animals were not sick. So they cannot transmit a disease that they don’t have. If they were sick, they could not have been accepted in that country. So I will check for the actual details from the people who moved the animals. But His Majesty’s government had to check the animals. They were actually scrutinised regardless of the fact that they were a gift to the King,” Chanda said.

He said the buffaloes were kept at the airport for a long time until the Swaziland wildlife authority was sure that the animals were healthy. “I remember they actually overstayed at the airport until they were sure that the animals were not sick. But I will still check with the department of wildlife here just to give you the paperwork. For now our position is that the animals cannot transmit a disease that they don’t have,” said Chanda.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

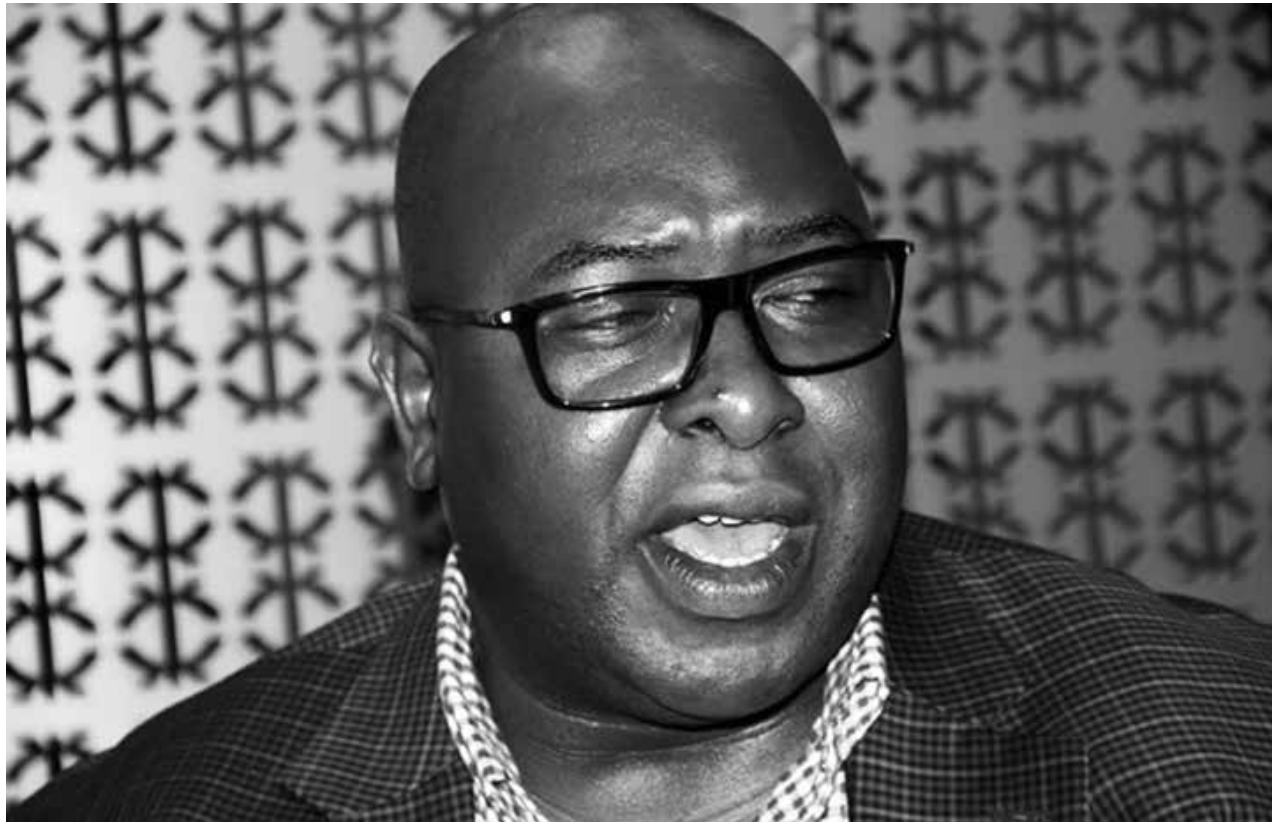
Kantanshi Independent member of parliament Anthony Mumba says Chishimba Kambwili should watch what he says about institutions of government which he is relying on for his politically survival.

And Mumba, the former trade secretary at the Zambian High Commission in the United Kingdom, says Kambwili's mouth is not coordinating properly with his actions.

Mumba told News Diggers in an interview today that Kambwili risked losing his followers with the manner he conducted himself in parliament on Tuesday when he stood to debate about President Edgar Lungu's speech.

"He is saying that I cant go to [report corruption at] ACC because ACC is not going to do anything. To the contrary, even him, politically he is surviving by having taken the matter to court, another institution of government. So he is saying that he is living in a country which does not respect laws but you are politically surviving on the platform that again you are saying is corrupt," Mumba observed.

Kambwili's mouth is not coordinating with his actions – Anthony Mumba



Kantanshi MP Anthony Mumba speaks to journalists in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

"He stood on the floor of the house saying 'I still love PF but remove the President', but it is the same PF which you are saying is corrupt.

So how do you now inspire those who are looking up to you? Leadership is not about you, it is about the masses. So how do the

masses follow you when you are losing them? One minute you are standing on this point, the next minute you are standing on

another, where do you leave your people?"

Mumba also questioned Kambwili why he challenged his expulsion in

court if he did not believe in the three wings of government.

"Am not getting Honorable Chishimba Kambwili, especially with the manner he conducted himself in parliament yesterday (Tuesday). He is saying that he is still PF and that he loves his party so dearly but at the same time he is saying that the party he loves is corrupt. What does he mean? So for me, my observation is that the man could be speaking out of bitterness," said Mumba.

"He brought out issue of President Lungu sleeping in a garage before becoming president and that he has now become reach out of nowhere. I cant really get him, is he saying that President Lungu should step aside then the corruption in the party will end? Really his thinking and what comes out of his mouth are not coordinating," said Mumba.

It's comforting that PF won't be in govt after 2021 – Wynter

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Opposition Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says the Political Parties Bill is a conduit for the ruling party to syphon money from the treasury, but added that the PF would not be in government after 2021.

Speaking on Prime TV's Oxygen of Democracy programme, Kabimba who is former justice minister said in Africa, there was no law that the ruling party would pass without first calculating the direct benefit from it.

"My reading of this bill and its provision is that there have been very little focus on what it is intended to achieve. There are a number of provisions there that actually conflict with the constitution especially the Constitution Amendment Act number 12, 2016. There are other provisions that are actually not practicable and realistic. There is lack of realism. You tend to arrive at this conclusion that this is work fundamentally of copy and paste from some other legislation in Africa. Look at the bill; to be honest with you up to now I don't know what it is intended to achieve except to use it as conduit by PF to channel money from the treasury to PF," Kabimba said.

"I tell you that I will come back here 5, 10 years down the road God willing and I will tell you that this is what I was saying and this is what is happening. Except that PF will not be there in 2021 is a

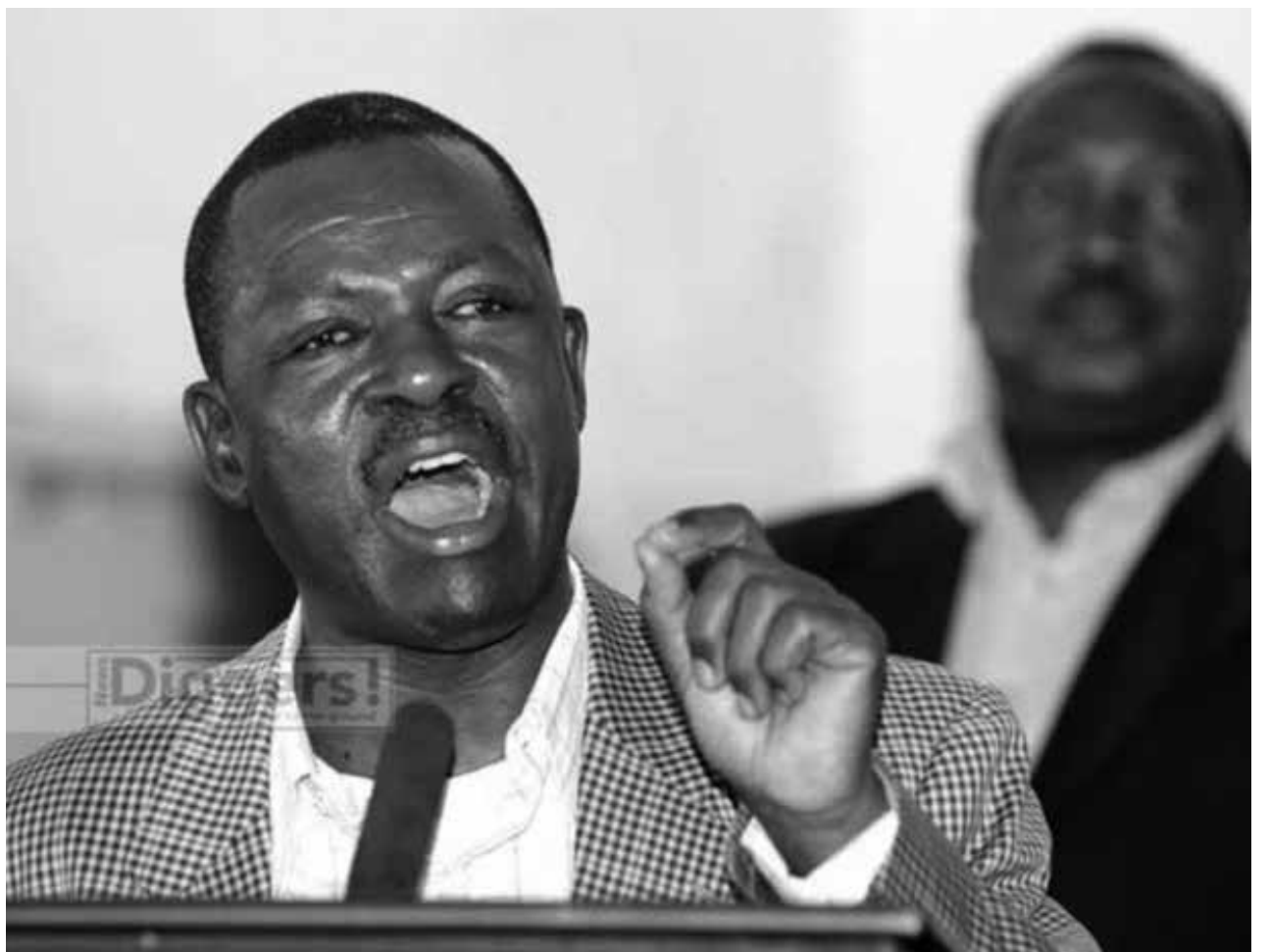
comfort. This is Africa, there is nothing that the ruling party will do that is not in their benefit or interest. We think that this is a bill in deceit and dishonest so that the PF can use us as treasury horses to ride on and get the money from the treasury then finance the activities."

He expressed concern that the Bill would not consider the views of stakeholders.

"We are participating in the so called stakeholders consultative meeting to just establish that intention. I want to see the end product to this. I see it taking the same route of the constitution where you convene meetings of stakeholders and end up with a product that is completely different from what stakeholders said. The minister of Justice tried to assure us about the bill but he is the last person to assure us. I think it is a bad intention," he said.

And Kabimba said President Edgar Lungu was blind to corruption.

"There is rampant corruption around and its only Edgar who doesn't see it. The man who has all the machinery to the state at hand, he said at the airport when he arrived that 'give me credible information on any of my ministers involved in corruption and if its credible I will act on it'. He is the only man in Jerusalem who doesn't know that Christ has risen. If you ask a marketeer about corruption they will answer you that its there because they see it. They see



how a man they lived with in Chawama is now MP or how a councilor is now affluent. The fact that ordinary people on the streets are silent does not mean that they don't see corruption," he said.

"...if you remember last year he made a similar statement. When the report of the auditor general came out and there were scandals and expenditure that was unjustified, Edgar said 'why are you coming to me? Let ACC, the police and law enforcement agencies get on with the work'. Today

one year later, there will be a budget that will be presented on Friday and another auditors general report will be presented. Nobody has been arrested meaning the Auditor General was wrong but if Edgar had said, 'go and arrest Wynter Kabimba' they would have been at my house even if they don't have fuel they would have found. But when he says 'go and arrest these criminals that are bleeding the treasure of this country' no one takes the step."

He said President Lungu

was repeating the mistake Frederick Chiluba made to dish out money when he wanted a third term of office, adding that Zambian politicians were dull students of history.

"Why are Zambian politicians such dull students in history? What the PF is doing today is what Chiluba did when he was anticipating to go for a third term. Whom didn't Chiluba give money in this country? But when the issue of third term came up they told him that 'no sir we don't want you'. Why cant

Edgar learn lessons from that. Who tells him that he can do whatever he wants to do in this country as long as he goes around dishing money he can be there up to infinity?" asked Kabimba.

"Who is accounting for that money that is going to marketeers? Under which budget is it provided. There are many poor people in this country including marketeers that need to be uplifted from poverty. What we need are economic programs"

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia Institute of Banking and Financial Services (ZIBFS) says there is need to empower institutions with financial education to eradicate the illiteracy that has been affecting the growth of many companies.

At a media briefing today, ZIBFS acting CEO Victoria Mumba disclosed that her organisation had partnered with the SME Accounting Services Ltd to hold a training programme for non finance executives to give insights on the financial management principles.

“Knowing that numbers are a part of everyone’s job, this finance for non-finance executives training programme is designed to sensitize non-finance senior executives/managers to the financial implications of their actions and also provide an understanding of financial management principles. The training which is practice oriented comprising lecturers, case studies and group discussions, is modelled at keeping non finance persons in mind. You may be an inspired engineer, journalist, a banker, marker or a doctor with a heart for the masses or even a great sales person that may be terrific with customers. But if you don’t know finance or numbers, then you are operating at a disadvantage in the word of business,” Mumba said.

She noted that there was an urgent need to equip organisations with financial intelligence in order for them and their staff to adequately

Financial illiteracy affecting growth of many companies - ZIBFS

manage their financial resources at different levels.

“There is a crying need for organisations to be financially intelligent. For sustainable growth, financial intelligence must percolate across all levels within the organisation. It is an established fact that financial mismanagement is the single biggest cause of business failures the world over. Ladies and gentlemen, we need to ask ourselves why so many businesses suffer on account of financial mismanagement, the answer is very simple; it is because very little management happens in the finance department and much of what happens there is financing,” Mumba said.

“Finance management or mismanagement is happening 24/7 in every action or individual so by the time the finance

person comes into picture, the good or damage has already been done. Therefore, it is important that everyone learns numbers, people might start to work in alignment with strategies and goals of their organisations because it is imperative that everyone in an organisation understands how their actions impact on the profitability and sustainability of an organization. Financial intelligence comes about as a result of experience and education, you can’t cram your way to financial intelligence without understanding the concepts.” Meanwhile, Mumba called on the Human Resource (HR) personnel in all types of organisations to encourage their staff to understand finance so that they could also work in line with the organisations’ goals

and strategies.

“In most organisations, skills and talent development is a responsibility of the Human Resource department so the HR has an important role to play in transforming companies into financially intelligent organisations. I therefore implore HR departments in all types of organisations to encourage their own staff to understand finance so that they too, are aligned with the organisations’ goals and strategy,” said Mumba.

And SME Accounting Services Ltd Chief Executive Officer Munkonki Mukonkela said she believed that the training would help in giving knowledge on finance management.

“Experience has shown that there is so much financial illiteracy in so many business including corporates and from my own personal

experience having worked with corporates, you would know this from management meetings. If you are part of the management team at a company you would find that the accountants will be presenting the financial report while everyone else is just quiet and they won’t ask questions but after the meetings they will start asking themselves what the accountant was talking about in their report, but why? It’s because they are afraid to ask in the meeting because they don’t want to come out ignorant in public when everyone knows that this person has a PHD or an MBA,” said Mukonkela.

“So we do believe that there is a lot of financial illiteracy in that line. We will have to conduct this training just to share knowledge on finance. It’s the basics, simple things like what a

balance sheet is and how you can read it. Things like why a company will be recording profits when their bank account is dry. People without finance or an accounting background struggle to understand and that is what this training will endeavour to address. But more importantly, we are trying to drive a lesson that your actions matters on the profitability of your company of whatever nature. So financial illiteracy is really out there and its what prompted us to conduct this training and we hope to make this an annual conference and training event,” said Mukonkela.

The training programme which will be delivered from October 12 to 14, 2017 will be facilitated by Indian practicing Chartered Accountant, Author and Lawyer Dr Anil Lamba.

Bull fetches K82,000 at Stanbic Livestock Auction

By Mirriam Chabala

The most expensive pedigree bull has fetched a lucrative K82,000 at the 2017 Stanbic Livestock Auction which was recently held in the Lusaka Showgrounds.

On offer were high quality

breeds such as Bonsmara, Angoni, Boran, Brahman, Santa Gertrudis and Tuli, as well some Boer goats and sheep.

The most expensive bull sold at this year’s auction was the Bonsmara breed; a South African breed, which

was auctioned for K82,000. The Santa Gertrudis breed was second at K62,000 while the Brahman breed occupied third and fourth position at K48,000 and K30,000.

But Chairman of the Herdbook Society of Zambia Quentin Cantlay said this year’s auction went very well despite recording lower average prices than those recorded last year. “The average prices were lower this year compared to last year. This year, prices were 30% lower, which doesn’t give a very good outlook,” said Cantlay.

“Farmers this year are grappling with so many things including higher costs of electricity, levies, feed and other inputs.”

Cantlay said, however, that despite the depressed prices, there was keen interest among buyers with 23 out of 28 bulls getting new owners at the auction while 12 out of 17 small ruminants (goats and sheep) were sold.

Stanbic Bank chairman Dr Austin Mwape said the bank was pleased to have been associated with the Livestock Auction for the past seven years.

“We have sponsored this event because of the strong belief we have in the potential of the agriculture sector in general – and the livestock sector in particular – to turn around the fortunes of this country,” Dr Mwape said.

“In the pursuit of food security, accelerated poverty reduction and a more diversified economy,

the country has targeted agriculture as a priority growth sector. Growth in the agriculture sector, which employs about 70% of the population, is the key to poverty reduction in Zambia.”

Dr Mwape said the livestock sector, which contributed about 42% of agriculture GDP in Zambia, made an important contribution to poverty reduction, household food security and nutrition, economic growth and exports.

“To us, agriculture remains one of the bank’s top priority sectors. Our purpose as a bank is to drive Zambia’s growth and we believe that we are achieving this by our investment in the agriculture sector, apart from other economic sectors,” said Dr Mwape.

“We remain committed to supporting the agriculture sector despite the challenges the sector faces. We have financed infrastructure projects in agriculture amounting to ZMW2 billion, which makes Stanbic the highest lender in the agriculture sector.”

Meanwhile, Fisheries and Livestock minister Michael Katambo, who graced the occasion, paid tribute to breeders of pedigree stock in Zambia and issued a stern warning to people who import and sell substandard animals.

“There are always dishonest traders who bring in animals that are below standard. Let me take this opportunity to warn such people that if they are caught in this criminal act,

they will be arrested and prosecuted,” he warned.

Katambo said the government had instituted several measures aimed at improving the livestock sector in Zambia, including constructing artificial insemination centres across the country and revamping the national artificial insemination centre in Mazabuka.

“The fisheries and livestock sector is a key economic sector that has been earmarked as the engine of Zambia’s economic growth, diversification and job creation. To realise the potential, government has put in place measures aimed at making the sector more productive, market and export oriented,” he said.

He said he was in support of the Herdbook Society on issues concerning the importation and sale of quality breeding stock from outside Zambia.

He however called on farmers to preserve local breeds which played a vital role in the rural economies. “Indigenous breeds play a vital role in the lives of poor rural populations. It’s important that these breeds are recognized for their special merits and promoted by policies and practices. It’s important to conserve indigenous livestock strains and develop appropriate livestock production technologies through applied livestock research and conservation strategies and value addition to benefit livestock farmers,” said Katambo.

LEGAL WASTE

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Alliance for
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action ▶▶

ICAO recognises Zambia's desire to transform aviation sector

By Joseph Mwenda

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) bestowed Zambia with its president's recognition certificate award in honour of the country's strides towards transforming its aviation sector.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Transport and Communications head of public relations, Maimbolwa Mulikelela minister Brian Mushimba told delegates at the ceremony in Montreal, Canada that the recognition was an honour to Zambia.

"This badge of honor bestowed on Zambia is tremendous as we aspire to be a hub for transport, communications and metrological services in Southern Africa by 2030. And to achieve this we have put in place the best in terms of aviation infrastructure, aviation systems and aviation processes," Eng. Mushimba said.

He said coming from a background where the aviation standards, processes, systems, safety and security were a challenge, the ICAO president's recognition certificate award was a clear demonstration that Zambia's civil aviation was of international standards.

"As a country we are on the right trajectory and we have installed the latest model of automated radar systems and monitoring systems for our airspace," he said.

The minister said CAA was put in place by Government to quickly respond to the gaps and to build a sustainable civil aviation of international standards.

Eng. Mushimba informed delates that the Zambian

Government was in the process of establishing a national airline for easy accessibility of various businesses and tourism aimed at contributing to Zambia's economic growth.

The award comes nearly 14 months after the European Union (EU) lifted its suspension of Zambian registered aircrafts from entering the European airspace.

In 2009, Zambia was one of the countries that was put on the list of aircrafts that did not meet international safety standards, and was therefore subjected to an operating ban within the European Union.

In 2016, a renowned audit conducted by EU removed Zambia from the list after seven years.

Subsequently, a new Aviation Act was put in place which saw the creation of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), an independent body responsible for regulating of the aviation sector.



Brian Mushimba (r) at ICAO event in Canada

New bank policies have forced people to keep money at home - Sinkamba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Green party president Peter Sinkamba says the fanatical monetary and currency tools have created a crisis at the Bank of Zambia and are rapidly shrinking the country's economy, as more people resolve to keep money in their homes.

In his statement to the media today, Sinkamba stated that as Finance Minister Felix Mutati presents the 2018 national

budget this Friday, he should consider an overhaul on the policies, saying a sharp shrink on the economy had direct consequences on the tools relied upon by the Central Bank.

"We the Greens are extremely alarmed that fanatical monetary and currency tools have triggered a crisis in the banking sector and subsequently shrinking the economy rapidly. We urge

Minister of Finance Felix Mutati to rethink these policies and consider an overhaul as he presents the 2018 budget, because they are driving the country into an economic crisis. This is evident from the statistics which show that the economy has shrunk from about US\$28 billion in 2013 to US\$19 billion in 2017. The rapid and sharp shrink is a direct consequence of fanatical monetary and currency tools

relied upon by Bank of Zambia since 2013 to stabilise the Kwacha. If the PF Government is serious about growing the economy, and reducing the budget deficit, and reversing the banking sector crisis, there is no two ways about it but to overhaul the policy tools," Sinkamba stated.

"The worst of all is the extortionate monetary policy of revised Item Value Limits on Cheque and Electronic Transfer Policy which limits cheque transactions to K25,000, electronic transfers to K75,000 and direct debits to K500,000. People have now resorted to keeping their money in homes instead of banking it. This and other monetary and currency measures have triggered a crisis in the banking sector. Day-in-day-out, banks are closing outlets; banking halls at Arcades, Levy Mall, and elsewhere in the country are becoming emptier. Banks are literary surviving on salaried loans and treasury bills. They are declining project financing for SMEs because loan defaults are becoming endemic as contractors and suppliers are not paid on time. Foreclosures and repossessions are at their peak. If this is not a banking sector crisis, then what is it?"

He charged that government had failed to find an investor to take over the closed Inter-Market bank due to financial institutions surviving on hand-to-mouth kind of banking. "Put simply, it is nauseating to see banks surviving on hand-to-mouth when Bank of Zambia has reduced

statutory liquid rations. It is no wonder that one year on, Government has failed to find an investor to take-over the closed Inter-market Bank. What is happening currently in the banking sector is actually a harbinger of an economic crisis. Anywhere in the world, the barometer for a healthy economy is the thriving banking sector. It is for this reason that banks, elsewhere in the world, are bailed out through stimulus packages when they are performing badly to stimulate the economy," Sinkamba stated. He however questioned how the country was going to service the US\$17 billion external debt when the economy was on free-fall mode.

"The road ahead is extremely bleak. First, as an export-dependent country, at the moment, the export portfolio is doing badly. Largely, this is because of incoherent policies in mining sector which have harmed this traditional major foreign exchange earner. Second, the foreign debt is ballooning by the day. According to the finance minister, the external debt has reached US\$17 billion from US\$7 billion four years ago. The nation heavily relies on foreign inflows to balance our trade and to repay its loans. How then do we manage to service the external debt when, in dollar terms, when our economy is on free-fall mode? How do we diversify economy if the SME sector has been rendered dysfunctional?" asked Sinkamba.

Unused e-voucher cards from last season won't work this year - Siliya

By Mirriam Chabala

Agriculture minister Dora Silya says farmers who experienced problems with swiping their e-voucher cards last year will not be compensated this season because they still found other means of collecting farming inputs from Agro dealers.

Responding to a question from Chikakanta member of parliament Kabwe Mwiinga, Siliya told the House yesterday that farmers whose e-voucher cards were not activated would still pay their contribution this season because they somehow managed to get inputs last season.

"Mr Speaker, I did mention by the end of the 2016/17 farming season that the Ministry of Agriculture was carrying over a debt of K275 000 000 from inactivated e-voucher cards and these were where the farmers had paid their K400 but the government did not meet it's contribution and we do know that for these cards, inputs were supplied by the Agro-dealers as the original questioner in this question stated and this is why

we felt that Agro dealers were owing the farmers. So it is that there is a debt to Agro dealers and there is a debt to suppliers because most of the farmers actually got the inputs and this is why we have committed to liquidate this debt from K275 million which is now standing at K96 million and we hope that with the disbursement for this agricultural season, we can properly liquidate this debt," Siliya said.

"And Mr Speaker, the situation is that even though the cards were not activated because of governments' lack of disbursement on those particular cards, the farmers actually got inputs from the Agro dealers. So when this debt is liquidated, the Agro dealers and the supplier to the Agro dealers are entitled to that money. Meaning that if the farmers are going to participate in this year's farming season and have their cards re-activated, they will have to pay their next contribution of K400 because otherwise, they will have no access to new inputs since the K400 they paid last year they got the inputs. So it's actually

the Agro dealers and the suppliers who are owed."

Meanwhile, Siliya said input suppliers and agro-dealers had already been selected in readiness for the 2017/18 farming season.

"Last week, the treasury released K8 million in an effort to liquidate the approximately K275 million carry-over debt from inactivation of e-voucher cards, and at the moment, that debt stands at K96 million. the ministry has also planned to start implementing the 2017/18 farming season early in order to provide a long transaction window in which to deal with the unforeseen challenges. You may recall that in the 2016/17 farming season, banks begun to distribute the cards in late November 2016 and January 2017 but for the coming season, it is hoped that by 1st October 2017, those farmers who will be ready can be begin to deposit farmers contributions into the banks. As of today, input suppliers and Agro-dealers have been selected in readiness for this important exercise," said Siliya.

Unions sleeping while govt rapes civil servants

The outcome of salary negotiations between the government and labour unions has broken the hearts of many civil servants who had so much faith in their representatives.

The PF government has raped the poor government employees because union leaders failed to show their determination and aggression in demanding cost reflective salaries at the negotiation table.

People may choose to condemn the PF government for being heartless, for showing no compassion, but the truth is that civil servants' representatives did a pathetic job, for which they deserve to be criticised.

Accepting a seven per cent salary increment after four years of back-to-back upward adjustments in all commodities is a sign that our trade unions in Zambia have lost value.

There is no government, anywhere in the world, that goes to the negotiation table, offering too much so that the trade unions can decide how much to take. That is why it is called a negotiation; a bargaining process, where government presents an offer they are comfortable with and the civil servants state what they can survive with.

But listening to the Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union (CSAWU)'s justification for accepting a seven to nine per cent pay rise for workers, makes ones heart bleed.

"We had no choice but to agree because if we entered into a dispute, we would have lost everything. If our workers

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Ear to the ground

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remember what happened in 2014 after we entered into a dispute with government we ended up losing everything. Our members will complain, but we made the move in the best interest of the workforce. We suspect that government came into this meeting with the insinuation that we will refuse the offer and enter into a dispute which might take years to resolve, so that we lose out," stated the CSAWU.

"Otherwise, as a labour movement, we have nothing to write home about this increment. But we also had to look at our country's economic situation which is not doing well and as such we had to be patriotic and help government reach its benchmark as required by the International Monetary Fund."

How can a labour movement be so smart to recognise the fact that government deliberately offered them a ridiculous pay rise so as to create a dispute, but at the

same time accept the meaningless adjustment? What is the essence of taking what you don't desire, and giving political mileage to an inconsiderate government? What Patriotism are they talking about? Doesn't anyone in the CSAWU recall that that the Republican President increased his salary during a wage freeze for government workers?

This is failure to bargain. This is being toothless and there is no better way to put it other than stating that the union leaders have killed the poor workers. They have played an accomplice role in ensuring that the civil servants are devastated to death at the hands of an insensitive government; a government that has its priorities upside down.

They can claim that they did everything they possibly could, but as citizens who have previously seen results achieved by action oriented unions, we can safely say that those who

negotiated a seven per cent pay rise for the struggling civil servants were not any less than cowards.

Being a union leader calls for a lot of sacrifice. Unionised workers expect more from their union leaders than they expect from a Republican President. This is because politicians never look back at who was holding the ladder while they climbed to the top. So the responsibility to demand what is due to the poor worker lies in the hands of those who speak for them.

This government understands what words like "cost reflective" and "sustainable income" mean. Those are the words they used when increasing the cost of electricity, that is the language they used when explaining the removal of fuel subsidies. How can they come today and say 'the IMF has given us conditions not to overspend'? Has the IMF said 'kill your civil servants if you

want our money'? Governments will always have reasons against spending on its workers, that is why we join the poor civil servants in condemning their union representatives for allowing the PF to hide behind the IMF.

The Zambian labour movement has accepted intimidation for way too long. They have lost the zeal. There is nothing they can get from the government if those in the system don't want to give. We know that the PF government has been victimising vocal union leaders, but there is undisputed power in unity. We saw how Peter Mwale led his judiciary workers to a nationwide strike in the face of threats from Fackson Shamenda. We also recall how Martin Maseko at ZNBC told Chishimba Kambwili that he was talking nonsense and further countered the minister's threats with a legal suit. That is how it ought to be. Union leaders must be ready to

be victimised. They should be ready to lose their jobs if that is what it takes to stand for the people.

But our current labour movement is led by people who don't appreciate the power that lies in unity. They don't understand that they are the government. They are in charge of the system. If they put their feet down, all government operations grind to a halt. That is the ultimate bargaining chip they could have invoked. But they went to the negotiation table, shared tea and biscuits, and left with nothing but full stomachs, a few coins to mask their shame and a rich vocabulary of IMF English.

Our advice to the civil servants is that they must check the quality of those who represent their interests. They must not be gullible over this issue and take any nonsense that comes from their leaders. Trade unions must not be allowed to go into such deep sleep that they even start bed wetting while claiming to be representing millions of miserable lives.

The same way that citizens demand a change of government when those in leadership start snoring is the same way that civil servants must call it off on their representatives and find people who can get the job done.

When a village warrior claiming to be brave offers to climb a tree to fetch fruits on behalf of others, but decides to satisfy his stomach first, the village people have the right to stone the glutton off the branches.

Towards a Liberalised Global E-Commerce System and its Implications for Developing Countries

The 21st Century technological advancements have revolutionized the traditional ways of life. In the past few decades, humanity has witnessed the advent of Personal Computers, Mobile Phones and the Internet. The latter has in more ways than not redefined social and economic rules of the game as social interactions have become more and more virtual while commerce continues to seamlessly become more electronic based. The extent to which these technologies will continue to redefine human life as we know it cannot be underestimated and taking a none-proactive stance in the politics of technology and innovation by developing economies is a choice to remain on the fringes of the technology frontier and suffer the after-effects thereof - like more unemployment and poverty.

The West is moving at a pace which developing countries are barely seen to be keeping up with. As a result, the worldwide digital gap between the developed and developing countries (DCs) is widening by the moment and Africa remains the biggest victim. According to the 2016 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) report, 3.9 billion people, representing two-third of the population are not connected to the internet. In Africa alone, 74.9 percent of the population is offline compared to 58.4 percent of the Arab States, 58.1 percent

of the Asia and Pacific, 35 percent of the Americas, 33.4 percent of the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) and only 20.9 percent in Europe. In Zambia, like most of the Sub-Saharan countries, more than 76 percent of the population is offline. Africa is still the only region where mobile broadband penetration rate remains below 20 percent and is the region with the fewest fixed-broadband subscriptions at less than one percent. Africa is lagging in all areas! Only 15.4 percent of households in Africa have internet access compared to 81.3 percent in developed countries, prices of fixed broadband remain the highest and mostly unaffordable for the majority of the world's poorest countries, while broadband speeds still remain the slowest. But the picture is totally different in the United States and Europe where most of the revolutionary technologies are emanating from. If the digital gap is to be bridged, developing countries should heavily invest in access to and usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) equipment and services.

The rising momentum in innovation and technology is transforming trade and business models in ways we never imagined. From mobile money and drone-delivery services to the "Uberification" of services and the industrial internet of things, these technologies are cutting

across every aspect of society. The implications on the development prospects of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and DCs in the face of these realities are huge but challenging in the presence of giant tech-oligopolies - now being referred to as the GAFAM (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon & Microsoft). The GAFAM have not only monopolized the internet economy but have also amassed so much power and influence that any country that dares to regulate them risks a backlash from within. They are the gateways to the internet economy and are collecting enormous amounts of data which they are using to position themselves as leaders in the data intelligence business model of the 4th industrial revolution.

Africa has no option but to accept this global transformation reality powered by technology and innovation so that she does not remain on the peripheries of the agenda. But acknowledging this digital reality is but only the first step in the quest for a balanced and inclusive global information system which is biased towards the development objectives of LDCs and DCs alike. This will not be an easy undertaking because of the many challenges developing countries are facing - chief among them being financing - and will require stability and visionary leadership to realize. Therefore, there is need to develop innovative

financial mechanisms by national governments in DCs and LDCs aimed at promoting the use and access to ICTs. This would grow the domestic internet economies by bridging the within-country digital divide and facilitate the active participation of the rural population into the economies - thereby increasing the market horizon of local firms engaged in e-commerce.

The major economic powers are already seeking access to markets in DCs and are urging member countries through the WTO to relax trade flow barriers in e-commerce. They are asking for free flow of data across borders, removal of localisation requirements, and protecting critical source code among others. In particular, they are asking for a completely liberalised trade route without prohibiting digital customs duties, but with secure basic non-discriminatory principles that allow the principles of national treatment and Most Favored Nations (MFN) apply to digital products. This would mean opening up domestic markets and leaving local manufacturers and service providers to compete with cheap online traded goods and services on their own. In a prohibitive business environment as the case is in most DCs and LDCs, local firms take long to build competences and capabilities to be able to upgrade their product lines and services

and competitively compete on the international market. Developing countries must appreciate that it is no longer just about engaging in international trade but is about how to engage that ensures successful insertion into international trade system. It is also important to note that most of these firms are limited in scale and the unit cost of production of their products and services is quite high. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the authorities in developing countries not to be rushed into consenting to these kind of proposals but instead give chance to their infant industries to tap into the growing domestic internet economy over time even as they allow these complex technologies to diffuse into their local economies.

It has been envisaged that not long from now, the Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) sectors will be severely impacted by these revolutionary technologies and the removal of tariff lines through these rules would only make it worse for developing countries. For example, the 3-D printing technology will make it possible for a shoe customer in Zambia to order a customised shoe from Amazon.com, receive the digital file and take it to a local printing shop to have it 3-D printed. Such technologies have the potential to disrupt local industries and severely distort the domestic distribution networks

resulting in the loss of business, unemployment and poverty. The complete liberalisation of the domestic internet economy would also require the full integration of the local financial institutions into the global financial system which would render developing economies vulnerable to global financial distortions. This means that economic and financial stability of developing countries would be stymied by every imbalance in the global system.

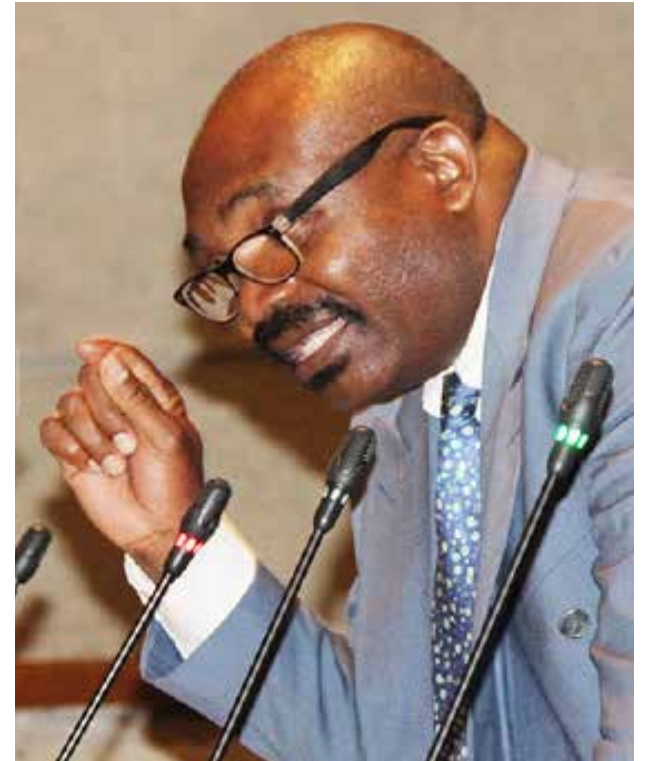
In view of the ongoing debates in international fora, developing countries should be reminded that the safer option is the incremental removal of trade tariffs in the context of bridging the growing digital divide to aid the full realization of economic, social and cultural development in developing countries as reaffirmed in the 2005 Tunis Agenda for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). While establishing an OPEN, secure and reliable global e-commerce environment is indispensable, it is important for developing countries not to be blinded by the lofty promises of "a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society" as encapsulated in paragraph 2 of the 2003 WSIS Geneva Declaration but is not possible in the present digital imbalances.

David Kapya is a Senior Consultant and Co-Founder at Tanoconomics

MPs debate Lungu's speech

Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

Agriculture minister Dora Siliya (left), Kabompo UPND MP Ambrose Lufuma (below)



Below L-R: General Education minister Dennis Wanchinga, Kabwe PF MP Tutwa Ngulube, Kalabo UPND MP Chinga Miyutu



Eastern Province minister Makebi Zulu (l), Kasama PF MP Kelvin Sampa (above) and Chipili Independent MP Jewis Chabi (below)



Kasempa UPND MP Brenda Tambatamba (above), Health Minister with Higher Education minister Prof Nkandu Luo (below left) and rebel PF MP for Roan Chishimba Kambwili





Parliament in Pictures *By Tenson Mkhala*

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini (l), Katuba UPND MP Patricia Mwashingwele (above), Nalikwanda UPND MP Prof. Geoffrey Lungwangwa (below)



Isoka PF MP Malozo Sichone (above), Commerce minister Margaret Mwanakatwe with Lands minister Jean Kapata (below)



Monze UPND MP Jack Mwiimbu (above)



Real and Potential Economic Implications of Invocation of Article 31 of the Zambian Constitution

By Oliver Saasa, Professor of International Economic Relations
Premier Consult Limited

1. Introduction

1. On 5 July 2017 and citing “events such as fires in public places and the previous day’s burning down of the Lusaka City Market,” the President of Zambia invoked Article 31 of the Constitution that facilitated the Declaration relating to threatened emergency. Parliament subsequently adopted a motion to confirm and extend for a period of 90 days the President’s Declaration of a State of Threatened Public Emergency.¹ This parliamentary support for the Declaration was given legal effect through the passing of Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2017. Under the Declaration, the following actions were invoked with powers of their enforcement being extended to both the police and defence forces (the army, air force, Zambia National Service, and state security agents):

- (a) Imposing of curfews (i.e. restrictions on freedom of movement).
- (b) Imposing blackouts.
- (c) Controlling of electricity supply.
- (d) Closing of public premises when considered necessary by Government.
- (e) Prohibiting certain activities at dwelling and in public places.
- (f) Losing passports.
- (g) Being held up to seven days in police custody instead of the constitutionally-allowed 48 hours.

2. This Paper aims to establish potential economic implications of the invocation of Article 31 of the Zambian Constitution. By way of background, the polarized and hardened feelings in Zambia, particularly between the Government and the main opposition (UPND), following the disputed election of 2016 seemed to have ignited the acrimony that culminated in the arrest and subsequent detention of the leader of the main opposition party. The Declaration was made after the leader of the opposition was arrested and imprisoned. He was subsequently released from detention after four months.

2. Potential Impact of the Declaration on the Broader Economy

2.1 Overview

3. What are the real and

potential economic/productivity risks of the invocation of Article 31 of the Constitution? It is important at the outset to state that Zambia is only about two months into the declared State of Threatened Public Emergency and, thus, the full economic implications of this decision by the President are yet to be determined. Similarly, a post-mortem of the extent to which the State has operationalised the extra powers given to the police, the army and other security wings is yet to be established. Similarly, the attribution, positive or negative, to the Declaration of any economic developments that have evolved since 5 July can be problematic in the light of the reality that (a) the time has been too short to pass such judgement with sufficient degree of reliability; and (b) attribution would require more detailed information about the reactions to this singular action from local citizens/investors; from the donor community; from the investor community; and from those multilateral bodies/institutions whose support to the country is traditionally influenced by the country’s policy environment, that includes political stability. Suffice to state that there is little evidence suggesting that serious economic and/or political upheavals have emerged following the invocation of Article 31. Nor has there been signs of significant curtailment of freedom of movement of the citizenry since, for example, no curfews or blackouts have been imposed. There also is no tangible evidence, at least for now, of economic players in the market being unduly restrained by the effects of the invocation of Article 31 at the level of conducting their business, including their uptake of government treasury bills/bonds.

4. Notwithstanding the above, this Paper attempts to identify and analyse potential implications of the Declaration and how, based on Zambia’s past experience and what has obtained in comparator countries, the invocation of actions under a State of Emergency or similar pronouncements could affect a country’s economic activity. What is clear is that, in recent years and prior

to the recent triggering of Article 31, the country had faced a multitude of economic challenges. The effort to recover from these challenges has remained fragile in part due to both external and internal factors. It is yet to be determined whether the triggering of Article 31 of the Constitution could contribute towards the perceived erosion of confidence in Zambian governance and how this could potentially introduce significant risks to the much needed economic recovery.

5. The appreciation of the magnitude of Zambia’s economic malaise in the immediate past prior to the Declaration does help in measuring the potential challenges or opportunities vis-à-vis the Declaration of threatened emergency. This is because the level of resilience of the economy to withstand potential threats to recovery, to a significant degree, is influenced by the severity of economic adversity and the institutional capacity to cope with the situation. Similarly, the extent to which factors external to the country may influence the depth of stress post-declaration is hypothetically influenced, to a considerable degree, by how such external factors have in the past influenced Zambia’s economic fortunes. In the analysis below, the potential economic implications of the invocation of Article 31 of the Constitution are grouped into those effects that are derived from external responses to the Declaration and those that are intrinsically internal in origin.

2.2 External Implications
Zambia is intimately link to the global economy...

6. Without doubt, the structure of the Zambian economy is fundamentally linked to the global economic system in ways that have in the past positively or negatively affected the country’s economic options and opportunities. In this regard, any global adverse reaction to Zambia’s political stability (such as the curtailing of human freedoms) could have far-reaching negative economic consequences. Firstly, Zambia’s growth is intimately linked to the global economy, in general, and to the behaviour of

global commodity markets, in particular. This is because of the country’s dependence on copper, which accounts for over 70 percent of export receipts. Thus, any significant disruption at the international level, particularly with respect to the price of copper, could have (and has had) far-reaching implications for the wider Zambian economy. As an illustration, from 2004 to 2011, Zambia posted positive GDP growth rates not seen since the earlier years after the country’s independence in 1964. Much of that growth was driven by external factors, particularly the rising copper prices on the global market.

7. Secondly, to the extent that literally all the investors in the strategic copper mining industry are of foreign origin, any instability, real or perceived, that is triggered by curtailment of human liberties as under the declared threatened emergency has the potential to reduce capital inflow into the country. To the extent that political stability secures policy consistency and predictability, any changes in the country’s governance style that threaten such stability possess the potential to scare away foreign investors. When this happens in a country that is overly dependent on external investment resources and one that is going through fiscal stress as is the case in Zambia currently, the stability of the wider economy is potentially threatened. The absence of resilience of the Zambian economy principally due to significant external dependence was revealed more explicitly when the country’s growth was adversely affected in 2008 by the world economic crisis, which resulted in a sharp decline in commodity prices, including that of copper. This, in turn, resulted in, inter alia, government failure to meet its growth targets; huge current account fiscal deficit; reduced capacity to carry on with infrastructure and social investment programmes; heightened external and domestic borrowing; a sharp depreciation of the Zambian currency; large numbers of workers being laid off; and, perhaps more importantly, worsening poverty levels.

...and growth prospects are complimented by positive investment outlook

8. The goodwill of the international community has an overbearing influence on the country’s macroeconomic stability and any disruption of the positive perception of the country could potentially enlist negative undertones. From a historical perspective, the positive image of Zambia was rewarded with the international debt relief programmes in the 2004–2005 period that, through cancellations by cooperation partners, eliminated the country’s public external debt overhang and, consequently, provided the needed fiscal space for the country’s growth. Added to this, the privatization of the copper mines brought in significant foreign capital, which resulted in the much needed rehabilitation and production expansion, again revealing external investor confidence in Zambia’s investment climate. The subsequent growth that the country posted was rewarded by the reclassification of Zambia in 2012 as a lower-middle-income country, from the Least Development Country (LDC) status.

But negative perceptions still linger on...

9. One of the potential adverse effects of perceived poor governance record that could be prompted by the Declaration of threatened emergency relates to the credit rating of Zambia. The sovereign outlook for Zambia in 2016 was changed by the international rating agencies from Stable to Negative and a number of external factors contributed to this, including the country’s highly-skewed export base and the high sovereign arrears to external creditors, which have continued to reflect Zambia’s current fiscal liquidity challenges. The country’s credit rating has been influenced by domestic happenings that include political stability. This largely reflects the international perceptions about the country in relation to the required macroeconomic and political stability. In this sense, if and when the Declaration of threatened emergency creates the impression that the

needed political stability is threatened, the country’s credit rating would suffer more.

...and ODA flow could be under threat

10. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is increasingly being linked to countries’ political stability as aid donors are becoming more aware of the need to make development assistance more effective as measured by the degree to which it is positively transformative. The Post-Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the subsequent global effort in Accra, Busan and Mexico all spoke to the importance of how to improve development cooperation towards ‘Development Effectiveness.’ The current discourse around ODA has, therefore, refocused its attention on good governance issues (including economic governance that include aspects of accountability and transparency in the use of public resources), including aspects of human rights and the concerns about the Rule of Law. Upon attaining the Lower Middle Income Country status, Zambia lost many of development partners in terms of physical presence. To the extent that the Declaration of threatened emergency could potentially affect the very foundations and principles of human rights and freedoms under a democratic dispensation, there is potential threat to more harmonious relations with development partners, which could result in reduced ODA. While it is too early to conclude that the stalled conclusion on the IMF economic recovery package for Zambia could partially be explained by the political impasse in the country, not excluding the Declaration on threatened emergency, the exhibition of tolerance and accommodation of diverse political views, complimented by a strong adherence to the Rule of Law, should undoubtedly enhance the country’s image. There are indications that the IMF package would not be available to Zambia before 2018,¹ if at all it will be concluded, which is contrary to Government announced expectation that it should have been forthcoming by August 2016.

11. The overall conclusion that could be drawn from above analysis on Zambia's intimate link with the global economy is that the positive image about Zambia at the international level and the existence of a supportive global market where copper exports go have had a significant effect on the country's growth opportunities. A positive image of the country also enhances the goodwill of the country's development partners going forward. Conversely, a dampened image of the country as a result of real or perceived inappropriate policy/political stances could adversely affect the country's growth trajectory. The potential implications at the global/external level of the Declaration of a State of threatened public emergency, thus, ought to be seen in this context.

2.2 Internal Implications Hospitable business environment and Rule of Law at the centre of positive change...

12. One of the general expectations for good economic governance relates to the facilitation of an enabling environment that allows for easier operations of business in a country. Investor confidence (both foreign and local) is important for growing an economy, generally, and for enhanced productivity, in particular. In particular, a stable and predictable political environment is considered key with respect, for example, to property rights; contract enforcement; and the creation of a legislative and regulatory environment that is conducive to well-functioning and predictable national markets. To the extent that the existence of the Rule of law is assumed to instil investor confidence in the polity, such a climate is considered critical in the facilitation of functioning markets.

Still, challenges remain...

13. In the context of the above, has the Declaration of threatened emergency compromised the preservation of the above tenets? Clear evidence on the 'real world' effect of the Declaration is yet to come about. The Declaration is still under enforcement for several more weeks with a possibility of its extension. Notwithstanding this, to the extent that the Zambian economy is currently stressed,² the average investor operating in the country is presently stressed and generally unsure of growth opportunities and prospects. There has been an upsurge in the cost of borrowing in the country, which has negatively affected the

country's investment attractiveness. Interest rates on borrowing had risen from about 16 percent in 2011 to around 40 percent in 2016. It has since come down significantly during 2017 but still too high for the average local investor to meaningfully access finance. Zambia's ranking in the World Bank's 2016 Ease of Doing Business Survey has, consequently, been unsatisfactory, at 98th out of 189 countries; dropping a few places since its 2015 ranking. The country scored relatively well for getting credit (19th) and paying taxes (47th), but scored particularly poorly for factors such as enforcing contracts (134th), trading across borders (152nd) and registering property (157th). (table below).

14. Under condition described above, the last thing that the average investor wants to see in the country's recovery process is the emergence of an acrimonious political environment that includes the curtailment of human and political freedoms as implied in the Declaration of threatened emergency. ...but positive progress has been recorded

15. Notwithstanding the relatively low global ranking of the country, Zambia competes quite favourably within Africa, being the fifth most attractive economy for investments flowing into the Continent, according to the latest Africa Investment Index 2016.¹ The Index shows that Botswana tops the rankings, followed by Morocco, Egypt, South Africa, and Zambia, in that order. For a very long time, Zambia has been perceived as a politically stable country and has had a phenomenal growth for over a decade at above 5% GDP growth annually (up to two years ago). Much of the country's economic growth during that period was attributed to good and stable macroeconomic policies, which included the privatisation of the mining sector that attracted significant foreign investment. Challenges, however, still remain to doing business in the country, which include corruption and nepotism as well as significant obstacles to economic diversifications due, in part, to unsupportive policy regime in many cases as well as underdeveloped infrastructure, particularly roads in rural and peri-urban areas. Simpler and more friendly regulations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are particularly required given the fact that the informal sector still accounts for a significant proportion of Zambia's

economic activities. The current Minister of Finance is particularly forthright in the Government's current drive to reverse the trend, which makes the Declaration of threatened emergency appear to many as a distraction to the emerging positive trends. The widespread poverty in the country, at the average of around 60% of the population, has, nevertheless, continued to negatively affect growth prospects to the extent that it constrains the expansion of the consumer market. The Declaration has potential to reverse the positive trends...

16. In the light of the above, it is clear that the posted positive improvements in the ease of doing business could potentially be disrupted when the struggling informal sector and the MSMEs are confronted by the restrictions brought about by the Declaration of threatened emergency, which have included the possible imposition of curfews that limit the free movement of people; imposing blackouts; controlling of electricity supply; the closure of public premises; and prolonged detentions of people (without charge). Restrictions on people's movement under curfew conditions does constrain productivity in terms of person-hours lost as people have shorter working time for fear of being caught up under conditions of movement restrictions. Any declaration that curtails free movement of people, even when this is not routinely effected as seems to be the case currently, has the potential to bringing nervousness in the market. Such restrictions and impositions also possess the potential to discourage business houses from upscaling their business activities as the needed political stability for such action is not assured irrespective of what politicians in Government may say to assure investors. Furthermore, considering that the Declaration has been made at a time when

Zambia: Ease of Doing Business Index

	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Dealing with Construction Permits - DTF	68.53	69.78	65.34	66.29
2. Enforcing Contracts - DTF	57.53	57.53	49.89	49.89
3. Getting Credit - DTF	87.50	87.50	70.00	75.00
4. Getting Electricity - DTF	64.42	65.05	58.53	59.13
5. Paying Taxes - DTF	73.65	73.65	74.52	81.66
6. Protecting Minority Investors - DTF	56.67	56.67	53.33	53.33
7. Registering Property - DTF	63.65	62.84	45.06	45.08
8. Resolving Insolvency - DTF	32.09	39.91	39.88	38.96
9. Starting a Business - DTF	83.52	86.80	86.91	86.69
10. Trading Across Borders - DTF	20.38	21.77	63.49	49.01

the cost of electricity has sky-rocketed following the Government's decision to introduce cost-reflective tariffs, it has remained a real threat to productivity and the ease of conducting business activities. The situation is made worse when the list of curtailments under the Declaration includes "controlling of electricity supply."

17. Another dimension to the economic impact of the Declaration of threatened emergency relates to the potential reduction in government revenue if and when productivity of businesses declines under the weight of Declaration-induced restrictions. The release from prison of the leader of the main opposition and the toned down of political rhetoric on both sides of the political divide and as prospects for dialogue is in the horizon collectively seem to have brought about some level of calming effect over the political impasse.

18. Lastly, one of the restrictions of the Declaration relates to the withholding of passports from people that the State considers to be a threat to national security. Current laws in Zambia have ample provisions that could check this. The inclusion of this provision under the Declaration suggests that there were envisaged confiscations of passports, which could potentially slow down business for those that depend on foreign travel. Retail trade in Zambia accounts for a large proportion of economic activity and is relied upon for livelihood particularly for those in the informal sector. Zambia is presently a net importer of a variety of goods and also exports merchandise across its borders. The economy is actually import-intensive. Thus, any threat to the free movement of persons through the withdrawal of passports possesses the potential to limit business activities of a significantly large group of Zambians. The ultimate consequence of the Declaration could,

thus, be reduced earnings from cross-border formal and informal merchandise trading, which would result in worsened poverty levels. If and when this situation is complimented by prolonged detentions of workers/managers of business entities, the effect on the larger economy would become more adverse.

3. Findings and Conclusions

19. While it is still too early to come up with clear real world impact of the revocation of Article 31, the potential threats/risks to smoother return to economic stability are evident. Firstly, the voices from business houses, cooperating partners/donors and civil society organisations calling for dialogue among political rivals over issues that have divided the country speak to the perceived recognition of political stability/harmony as an important ingredient for the needed growth and development. This position seems to be motivated by the worsening development conditions in Zambia and the rather slow and fragile economic recovery record thus far posted. Hence, the triggering of Article 31 of the Constitution is perceived to possess the potential to worsen the erosion of confidence in the country's governance. Based on this finding, secondly, there seems to be an urgent need to address external risks that potentially threaten the smooth economic recovery effort that the country has embarked upon. The analysis in this Paper suggests that the invocation of Article 31 possesses the potential to reduce the long-standing positive image of the country as a democratic and politically stable one and one that has, over the past decades, generally enjoyed international goodwill. The perception of Zambia as occupying an enviable position on the ease of doing business barometer, for example, could be under threat with the

declaration of the state of threatened emergency. The country's intimate link with the global economy mainly on account of the heavy dependence on copper for export receipts and as the main source of investment skills and capital further speaks to the importance of nurturing and sustaining a positive political image of the country for enhanced economic and social development. The invocation of Article 31 seems to potentially run counter to this understanding.

20. Thirdly, at the internal level, the relatively fair rating, by sub-Saharan standards, of the ease of doing business in Zambia is a positive sign that should not be disturbed by the effects of the Declaration on threatened emergency, which include the curtailment of human freedoms and suspension of the Rule of Law. The positive effort by the Government towards economic recovery would, therefore, be enhanced when political risk factors are maintained to the barest minimum.

21. Against these findings, finally, it could be concluded that, in order to circumvent the greatest risks to the economic health of the country following the triggering of Article 31, the restoration and consolidation of investor confidence is key. Given the Zambian economy's dependence on the goodwill of the international community, not least because it is the main source of development and investment finance, the consolidation of pro-growth strategies, supported by the enhancement of the Rule of Law, are pivotal. The solicitation of an IMF economic recovery package, for example, ought to be seen in this context. It is for these reasons that the President and Parliament are dissuaded from considering the extension of the State of threatened emergency beyond the current 90 days.

Saudi Arabia to lift driving ban on women

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has issued a decree allowing women to drive for the first time, to the joy of activists. The Gulf kingdom is the only country in the world that bans women from driving. Until now, only men were allowed licences and women who drove in public risked being arrested and fined. Praise for the move has been pouring in from inside the Saudi kingdom, as well as around the world. US President Donald Trump said it was a "positive step" towards promoting women's rights. Campaigner Sahar Nassif told the BBC from Jeddah that she was "very, very excited - jumping up and down and laughing". "I'm going to buy my dream car, a convertible Mustang, and it's going to be black and yellow!" What happens now? The country's US ambassador, Prince Khaled bin Salman, confirmed that

women would not have to get male permission to take driving lessons, and would be able to drive anywhere they liked. He said it was "an historic and big day" and "the right decision at the right time". What has the road to reform been like? Rights groups in the kingdom have campaigned for years to allow women to drive, and some women have been imprisoned for defying the rule. Because of the law, many families have had to employ private drivers to help transport female relatives. Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul, who was detained for 73 days in 2014 for flouting the ban, tweeted "thank God" following the announcement. What was the reaction? The move was welcomed by the US state department, which called it "a great step in the right direction". UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres echoed

that sentiment. Manal al-Sharif, an organiser of the Women2Drive campaign who has also been imprisoned for driving, said on Twitter that Saudi Arabia would "never be the same again". The hashtags "I am my own guardian" and "Saudi Women Can Drive" quickly gained traction on social media. Not everyone reacted positively, however, with conservative voices accusing the government of "bending the verses of Sharia". "As far as I remember, Sharia scholars have said it was haram (forbidden) for women to drive. How come it has suddenly become halal

(permissible)?" one critic tweeted. Others emphasised that despite the latest development, Saudi Arabia remains a long way off gender equality. Amnesty International's Philip Luther said it was "just one step", adding: "We also need to see a whole range of discriminatory laws and practices swept away in Saudi Arabia." Analysis: A massive change for Saudi society By Frank Gardner, BBC security correspondent This decree is huge for Saudi Arabia. For decades now, Saudi women, many of whom are extremely well-educated and ambitious,

have been waiting for their chance to participate fully in their country's economy. For all this time families have had to stretch their budgets to the limit, as they have had to hire in imported chauffeurs from south and south-east Asia, house them, feed them and insure them. An estimated 800,000 imported chauffeurs currently ferry Saudi women around. The reason it has taken so long is the long-standing opposition from religious conservatives, who have expressed views varying from "they are too stupid to drive" to "it will lead to intolerable mingling of the sexes". Yet this decree is in line with

a programme called Vision 2030, promoted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, to modernise Saudi society and bring it more into line with the rest of the world. Lifestyle limits remain for Saudi women Saudi law enforces a strict form of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism and is known for its gender segregation rules. Women have to adhere to strict dress codes, must not associate with unrelated men, and if they want to travel, work or access healthcare they must be accompanied by - or receive written permission from - a male guardian. **BBC News**

US-Mexico border wall prototype construction starts

The US government has announced the start of construction on eight prototype barriers for the border with Mexico, a campaign promise of

President Donald Trump. The Customs and Border Protection says four of the prototypes will be made from concrete, while the others are from "alternate

or other materials". Its plan is to try out several sections of wall near San Diego. Mr Trump had promised to build a "big beautiful wall"

between the countries. With a heavy federal and local law enforcement presence, workers have broken ground in an area surrounded by chain link fencing at Otay Mesa, one of three ports of entry in the San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan region. The prototypes will be up to 30ft (9m) high and 30ft long and are expected to be completed within 30 days. Officials will then spend up to three months evaluating the designs for their effectiveness, including gauging their resistance to penetration with small hand tools. Cameras and sensors will be incorporated into the final wall plan. Each wall will cost up to \$450,000 (£334,000) and will be paid for by federal funds which have already been sanctioned. There is, however, no agreement on the initial \$1.5bn (£1.1bn) Mr Trump has requested from Congress to start construction of the final wall. During his campaign, Mr Trump insisted that Mexico would pay for the structure. "We are committed to securing our border and that includes constructing border walls," said Ronald Vitiello, acting deputy commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection agency. "Our multi-pronged strategy to ensure the safety and security of the American people includes barriers, infrastructure, technology and people." Four companies have been chosen to build the prototypes but the final wall is likely to be based on an amalgamation of design features. The border agency says the prototypes "will inform future design standards which will likely continue to evolve to meet the US Border Patrol's requirements". **BBC News**



Ugandan lawmakers involved in a fight in parliament ahead of proposed age limit amendment bill debate to move to change the constitution to extend the president's rule on 26 September 2017

Ugandan MPs brawl during presidential age-limit debate

Chaotic scenes broke out in Uganda's parliament as MPs debated the contentious removal of the presidential age limit. Tempers flared and lawmakers were filmed brawling after it was alleged an MP had brought a gun into the chamber. The speaker ordered a search but no gun was found, local media reported. The age-limit issue is controversial because long-standing President

Yoweri Museveni is 73 years old and the limit for re-election is capped at 75. President Museveni has been in power since 1986 and democratically elected as president since 1996. But the current constitutional age limit would prevent him from standing for a sixth term in the 2021 elections. His governing party, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), has

been involved in a contentious bill to revise the country's constitution. A previous two-term limit was scrapped in 2005 to allow President Museveni to stand for a third term. The scuffles broke out on Tuesday during a plenary session after the parliament speaker allowed the constitutional amendment to be presented to MPs. Local media reported that it took 20 minutes for the commotion to calm

down. Earlier, police had fired tear gas at some protesters in the capital Kampala before the debate began. A leading opposition figure was also reportedly arrested trying to mobilise protesters, a police spokesperson said. Last week, parliament had to be adjourned after opposition MPs chanted, heckled and whistled over the age-limit issue. **BBC News**

Zambia's Karima aims high at Dubai cooking competition

By Tenson Mkhala

Zambia's representative at a cooking competition to be held in Dubai says youths can empower themselves by making use of their God-given talents.

Alina Karima, who is the first Zambian to showcase at the International Essence Festival this year said cooking is her passion.

"I want to show the world that youths have the ability to change and empower themselves by making use of God's given talent," Karima said at the launch of a health tip show in Lusaka. The 20-year-old food entrepreneur also said women need to start empowering themselves economically and stop depending on men.

"As women, it is high time for us to start empowering ourselves and stop depending on others especially men. We can move mountains by making use of our God given talent. To me cooking is not my talent but a passion," Karima said.

"We need to have confidence and believe in ourselves as women that we can make a difference. Let us stop degrading ourselves

because we have the ability to change the world. We have the power to make a difference."

Karima, who is also a food writer for Response Magazine and Sunday Times of Zambia urged youths to come up with positive ideas which can benefit the county.

"We have a huge responsibility as youths. We need to take part in the development of this country. We can do it by positive thinking," said Karima.

Zambia is among the 44 countries that will participate in this year's food cooking competition in Abu Dhabi.

Meanwhile, DSTV Zambia operations manager Rachel Kalima urged women to believe in themselves.

"A real woman is one who believes in herself and be focused. A woman who can make a difference and become an entrepreneur by not depending on men. It is time for young women in the country to raise up and show that they have power to change the world through participating in developing this nation," said Kalima.



DSTV Zambia operations manager Rachel Kalima (r) with Zambia's food entrepreneur Alina Karima speaking to journalists in Lusaka on September 25, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Boots with a cocaine pocket for sale

Online retailer Dolls Kill is known for expressing a reckless approach to fashion, addressing their customers as "riot girls" who like to raise hell and go against the norm. In an effort to encourage shoppers to embrace

their individuality, the site uses graphic images and language to appeal to their stylish "dolls," pulling inspiration from "the digital Tumblr girl world, bad acid trips, underground counterculture and stylized gutter punks." Their latest

shoes are surely all that and more.

"Our dolls portray a mood of effortlessness in any style they possess," the website reads. "They aren't confined to one style — they like to test the boundaries of today's society just to keep

things interesting." And test boundaries they do.

Actress Jenny McCarthy recently came across the website when shopping for boots online. Instead of finding something practical for herself, she found a pair of Jane Doe boots by the brand Current Mood. The below-the-knee black tie-up boots feature buckle and zipper detailing, as well as one little secretive pocket that the website says is for hiding your "stash."

The product description on Dolls Kill reads: "These sikk boots feature a sleek matte black vegan leather construction, rounded toe, buckled details wrapped around the calf, thick cutout treaded soles, small snap pockets on the sides for concealing yer stash, full length grommet 'N wraparound style lace-ups, and side zip closures in case ya need to make a quick getaway." Just in case you were wondering what the stash part is all about, they provide an image of the model tucking away a little baggie of what resembles cocaine.

"Hey, fashionistas! Checking out some boots to buy online and scrolled past these. Cocaine pouches are officially vogue," McCarthy wrote in a Facebook post, in reaction to the Current Mood boots. "Finally, no need to hide drugs in your vagina anymore. Thank God for advances in fashion. The younger generation is so blessed." *Yahoo News*

Groom saves drowning boy during wedding photo shoot



Brittany and Clayton Cook were taking full advantage of the warm September weather on their wedding day, posing for pictures at Victoria Park in London, Ontario, after their ceremony. As often happens,

the spectacle of the bride and groom drew the attention of three children, who excitedly watched the photo shoot. But while Brittany posed for a couple of solo pics, Clay suddenly noticed something

was wrong.

"I saw the kids around, and there were three of them, and then there were two, so I thought, 'I better just double-check to make sure all the kids were OK,'" he recounts

to *Yahoo Lifestyle*. "When I went over there, he was struggling a bit, so I tried to just get him out of there. I jumped down, reached as far as I could and plucked him out."

Clay's casual retelling doesn't quite match up to what it looked like to Brittany and their photographer Darren Hatt, who were rather startled to see the groom jump into action. *Yahoo News*

Ronaldo noncommittal about potential Madrid extension

The Portugal captain was wary of pledging himself to the Spanish capital club for even longer, though his current deal runs until 2021. Cristiano Ronaldo insists he is happy at Real Madrid, but the star forward was noncommittal about a potential contract extension. Ronaldo scored a double on his 400th Madrid appearance to guide the Liga giants to a 3-1 Champions League win

over Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday. The Portugal star is contracted until mid-2021, but seemingly may consider a renewal. However, Ronaldo said any questions about his contract should be directed to Madrid president Florentino Perez, although the former Manchester United man said he was happy in the Spanish capital. "If I will renew? It's a

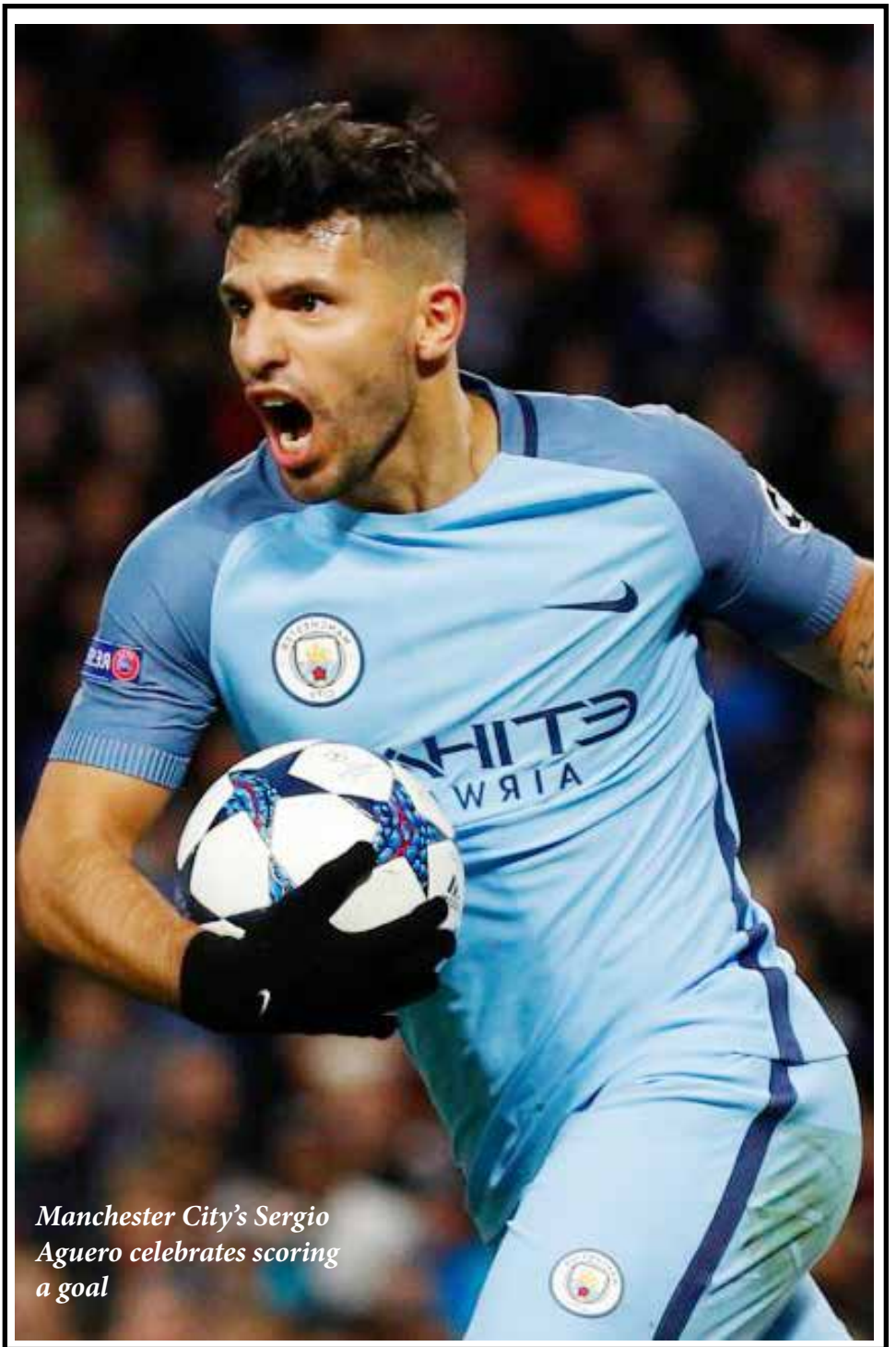
good question," he told Atresmedia. "I am glad. Things happen naturally, but it is a question that the president can answer best. "I'm happy, I do what I like and I'm happy." Ronaldo joined Madrid from United in 2009 and has won three Champions League crowns and two La Liga titles alongside numerous individual honours at the Santiago Bernabeu. *Goal.com*

Mkhitarian backs Mourinho over 'Playstation football' dig

The Armenian is in full agreement with his manager, stressing the importance of full concentration until the final whistle is blown. Henrikh Mkhitarian has backed boss Jose Mourinho after the Manchester United boss accused his players of playing 'PlayStation football' in their opening Champions League group clash with Basel. While the Red Devils appeared to wrap up a comfortable 3-0 victory on paper, Mourinho felt his side relaxed too much after going two goals up and insisted there is no time to gamble in any match. United play, regardless of the scoreline. The manager's comments could have been taken the wrong way by some players, but Mkhitarian is in agreement with the Portuguese and highlighted the importance of full concentration for 90 minutes. "Everyone knows Mourinho is very demanding and what he

said is right," the Armenian told a press conference ahead of Wednesday's UCL clash with CSKA Moscow. "He didn't exactly say names, but everyone thinks: 'I've done something bad, I've made mistakes.' "We are trying to improve that aspect and be more focused for the whole game and not play some PlayStation in the last 20 or 25 minutes." Mkhitarian has been a key figure in United's impressive early season form, scoring once and racking up five assists throughout a series of consistent displays, with

a number of those assists coming later in matches. As such, the 28-year-old believes staying focused for the duration has been pivotal to his contributions. "Everyone knows that football is not only 90 minutes," he said. "I try to stay focused as at the end the opponent gets tired and you have to use that as a chance to cause them trouble." A win on Wednesday would see Man Utd go three points clear at the top of Champions League Group A, with CSKA currently behind the Old Trafford side on goal difference alone. *Goal.com*



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrates scoring a goal

Diego Costa not the monster he is portrayed to be

The departing Blues striker has been misunderstood - and nowhere more so than in England - as he finally completes his move to Atletico Madrid. As he finally completes his move from Chelsea to Atletico Madrid, it's worth re-examining the reputation

Diego Costa developed in England. Yes, he could be a bit emotional and erratic during matches, but away from the pitch, Costa is no villain. The 28-year-old was a popular figure in the Chelsea dressing room

and he was loved by his colleagues, whether they were English, Spanish, Belgian or Brazilian. Costa was known for his pranks at Chelsea. He used to steal the training ground staff's tractors and cause carnage whenever they left the keys in them, was often spotted wrestling his teammates to the ground, and once put Eden Hazard in a cardboard box. On the pitch, Costa came across as aggressive, immature and mean-spirited but the people around him always dispute these assessments. Costa's image comes from his obsession with winning, which eventually made him the heir to Luiz Suarez's "most hated" title after the Uruguayan left Liverpool for Barcelona. However, away from the pitch, Costa was often one of the most involved players when meeting the club's fans and enjoyed getting involved

in charitable activities in London through the Chelsea Foundation. His Instagram stories in Legarto, Brazil were ridiculed over the summer as he played football and partied with friends as his future remained up in the air. He was rightly criticised as he made the foolish mistake of filming himself in an Atletico Madrid shirt, but he has been refreshingly open about his desire to return to his old club. The Brazil-born Spain international mostly spends his time off in his hometown with his friends and his family. His mother Josileide revealed in an interview that Costa makes generous donations to charitable causes in his impoverished hometown. "He gives loads of donations," Costa's mother told Bleacher Report. "Diego doesn't want to make a big deal of it. The people I give them to keep asking: 'Is it a politician?'

and I tell them just pray for whoever sent them." There are many other stories along these lines, too. Most notably, Costa is funding the football school in Legarto that gave him his first chance of playing the sport. It is free for local children. Costa is a more complex character than he has been portrayed, but he will remain a supremely rich footballer after his £58 million move to Atletico Madrid. However, he could have earned much more had his January move to Chinese club Tianjin Quanjian gone through. Tianjin were willing to pay Costa £600,000-a-week to make him the second-highest paid player in the world. The deal fell through and so did Costa's dreams to increase his ability to ease the poverty in his hometown of Legarto, where he was planning to invest much of his surplus money to transform the area. *Goal.com*

Victorious Darcis sets up Zverev clash in Shenzhen

Steve Darcis will face top seed Alexander Zverev in the second round of the Shenzhen Open after edging past Zhang Ze 7-5 7-6 (7-3) on Monday. Darcis was in action for the first time since helping Belgium secure a place in the Davis Cup final this month and needed an hour and 53 minutes to get past Zhang. He can now expect to face a significantly more difficult challenge from world number four Zverev, who was part of the triumphant Team Europe at the inaugural Laver Cup on Sunday. Dudi Sela bagelled Matthew Ebden before coming out on top in a tense tie-break

to clinch a 6-0 7-6 (10-8) victory and progress to a meeting with third seed Mischa Zverev, while Jeremy Chardy overcame Alessandro Giannessi 7-6 (8-6) 6-4. Yuichi Sugita only needed one set to progress to the second round of the Chengdu Open, the fifth seed granted an early passage as Mate Pavic retired after losing the first set 6-1. Sugita will take on Thiago Monteiro after he came from behind to beat Wu Yibing. There were also victories on Monday for American prospects Jared Donaldson and Taylor Fritz. *Yahoo Sport*

'My numbers speak for themselves' - Ronaldo

The Madrid star is tired of the constant criticism of his performances after stepping up again with a double for the Blancos.

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo hit back at his critics and is surprised he continually has to prove himself.

Ronaldo scored a brace to help Madrid to a 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Portuguese star's domestic return has not gone to plan, unable to net in two La Liga games since coming back from suspension.

But Ronaldo, 32, is growing tired of the constant criticism, saying he had already proven himself.

"It seems that I have to keep showing exactly who I am in every match," he told Atresmedia after his 400th Madrid appearance.

"I am surprised by what the public thinks of me, my numbers speak for themselves, I am an exemplary professional and I always have a clear mind.

"The criticism is getting worse."

Gareth Bale opened the scoring with a stunning volley for Madrid at Signal Iduna Park before Ronaldo's second-half double.

Ronaldo said Zinedine Zidane's men stepped up, as the La Liga giants won at Dortmund for the first time.

"Before the game we spoke about how much we wanted to win in Dortmund," he said.

"We did what the coach told us, the team has been phenomenal, creating opportunities and it isn't easy to score three goals here.

"We played well." *Goal.com*



My players believe we can beat Nigeria - Wada

By Joseph Mwenda

Chipolopolo coach Wedson Nyirenda says next months away showdown against Nigeria will be more of a psychological game than a tactical duel.

"This will be a highly psychological game. We are working on the players mental strength," Nyirenda journalists from the local selection's training camp.

IT'S OUR TIME

"I think my players and the bench believe this is our time. God can only show you the fish but it is up to you to fish it."

Leaders Nigeria hosts 2nd placed Zambia in

their penultimate 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier on October 7 in Uyo.

Three points separate the top two sides who are now the only sides still in

contention from Group B for the Moscow finals.

Zambia have 7 points while Nigeria have 10 points.

Cameroon are 3rd on 3 points and Algeria last on

one point.

After losing one and drawing another from the opening games against Nigeria and Cameroon, Zambia woke up from slumber to punish Algeria

with two successive defeats at home and away.

It is the under-20 youngsters who jazzed up the senior team with goals from Enock Mwepu and Patson Daka adding up to the Brian Mwila brace from the two encounters.

Zambia has never qualified to the World Cup, and the technical bench sees this as opportunity to make a debut appearance at the Russia 2018 meet.

International Press Institute (IPI) logo on the left and WAN IFRA logo on the right.

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