

Truck ferrying football fans overturns in N/W Province

By Anastasia Kasongo

One person has died while 34 others have been seriously injured in a road traffic accident that occurred along Chingola-Solwezi road around 17:30 hours yesterday.

In a statement today, North Western province police commissioner Auxensio Daka explained that the victims were on their way back from watching a local soccer match. *To page 2*

2018 budget has not given relief to taxpayers - KPMG

Zondiwe Mbewe

KPMG chief executive officer Jason Kazilimani says the 2018 budget has not given any relief to taxpayers.

Kazilimani was speaking to ZNBC on Friday after Minister of Finance Felix Mutati presented the budget. "Some of the measures that the Minister announced were contrary to what all of us were expecting and hoping for," he said. *To page 4*



Hichilema addresses a press conference at the UPND secretariat in Lusaka today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

I have not been threatened - HH

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he is not afraid of anyone because he has served the highest offense in the country. And Hichilema says the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should be dissolved

because it has no value to the people of Zambia. Speaking at a joint press conference with other alliance partners in Lusaka today, Hichilema said he had not been intimidated after leaving prison. "People are saying no, HH is

afraid after being jailed, someone who was taking care of cattle when he was young can be afraid? No we are doing our job and you better do your job as well. We better do our work together that's the message. I was incarcerated for the highest offense (treason)

what can I fear now? They will arrest me just for one day on a bailable offense, the following day I will be home. Again

I start working, they arrest me and again I come out, just like that. So what are you afraid of?" he asked. *To page 2*

LAZ deputy withdraws from representing Yachi

By Diggers Reporter

Lusaka lawyer Eddie Mwitwa has stopped representing folk musician Mumba Yachi in his immigration case. Mwitwa, who is also Law Association of Zambia vice president, did not however file an application to formally withdraw from representing the accused, a decision which angered the court. But Mumba has explained to the court that Mwitwa had stopped

representing him due to financial constraints. When the matter came up for trial today, a lawyer who came to Mumba's aid on probono basis applied for an adjournment saying she only received instructions on Friday last week. Kasumpa Kabalata asked for seven days in which to explore all the possible options and to liaise with relevant offices regarding the matter. *To page 4*

Keeping quiet will be seen as confirmation that you are guilty...

By Mukosha Funga

Patriotic Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says those who are being accused of stealing must come out and defend themselves because keeping quiet will only confirm the allegations.

And Phiri says the only person who was genuine in the fight against corruption was Levy Mwanawasa.

Speaking on Joy FM's The Platform program today, Phiri advised senior members of the ruling party like home affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo and his lands counterpart Jean Kapata to explain their wealth to the Zambian people to quench allegations of corruption. *Continues on page 4*

DEFEND

YOURSELVES

...Mumbi Phiri challenges PF members accused of stealing

We are the reason PF is in power - MMD

Zondiwe Mbewe

The Felix Mutati MMD faction says no one should demonise them because the ruling party retained power by riding on Rupiah Banda's back in 2015.

Speaking when he featured on Radio Christian Voice's Chat Back today, MMD national secretary Rapheal Nacacinda said it was hypocritical for expelled Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili to take a swipe at the MMD just because he was frustrated with PF.

"People should not demonstrate the working relationship between MMD and the Patriotic Front. We should actually celebrate. The society must realize that we are not enemies. We are Zambians who hold different views but there is a possibility for us to harmonize our different opportunities and policies for a greater good. And its hypocritical, the highest level of it for honorable Kambwili to try and take a swipe on MMD for his frustrations in PF," Nacacinda said. *To page 2*



Drop charges against fire tender protesters, demands NGOCC

By Mukosha Funga

NGOCC says the charges against the fire tender protesters must be dropped immediately because their arrest was unwarranted and unconstitutional. In a statement today, NGOCC board chairperson Serah Longwe stated that Alliance for Community Action executive director Laura Miti and others had a right to protest the purchase of 42 fire tenders for \$42 million which pointed to corruption. "The Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) condemns in the strongest terms the arrest of the six members of the Joint Action for Accountability in Zambia that were arraigned on Friday September 29th, 2017 for peacefully protesting against corruption and Government's purchase of 42 fire truck tenders at US\$42 million. We henceforth demand that the charges against the six protesters be immediately dropped. The arrest is not only unwarranted but totally unconstitutional given that citizens have the right to protest and question the decisions of those that are in Government. Without doubt the transaction involving the 42 Fire Tenders points to corruption and must be investigated," Longwe stated. Longwe joined those calling for the Head of State to constitute an independent Commission of Inquiry on the matter.

"NGOCC in collaboration with other Civil Society Organisations are petitioning the Head of State to immediately constitute an Independent Commission of Inquiry. NGOCC and other organizations are of the view that constituting an Independent Commission of Inquiry will help to settle this matter since it was already dealt with by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Zambia

Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA), who cleared the tender process. It is important, therefore, that an Independent Commission of Inquiry is constituted to, among others things, provide the following: 1. An independent and expert opinion over the transparency and integrity of the tender processes, 2. Comparative cost findings of the 42 Fire Tenders at \$42 million, taking into account the specifications, 3. Where wrong-doing is found, recommend prosecutions of those found wanting, 4. Any other recommendations that may arise therefrom," she stated.

"It is NGOCC's contention that any reckless expenditure of public resources and more so reports of corruption, precludes meaningful women's and girls' empowerment programs. It is also a fact that resources sipping through Government treasury into private corrupt hands are robbing the nation of the needed resources to invest in empowering social services like sexual reproductive health, curbing of gender based violence. Other critical empowerment interventions like building of educational boarding hostels for girls, broadening access to agricultural inputs for female farmers all lay in jeopardy when corruption is left to reign. Therefore, on behalf of the women's movement, we join other progressive voices in demanding for action against this

particular transaction by the named suppliers and all other entities involved."

She stated that it was irresponsible to intimidate citizens with arrests.

"The Zambian people are demanding answers on this transaction and it is insensitive and irresponsible for the State to seek to intimidate citizens with arrests. The intimidation will not wash away the anger of the citizens on this indiscriminate expenditure at a critical moment when the country is expected to be implementing

a stringent economic recovery plan and exercising highest levels of financial prudence. We, therefore, reiterate our call for the law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint and allow the citizenry to exercise their right to holding Government to account. As the focal point of the women's movement we expect Government to rise to the occasion and show leadership on this matter," stated Longwe. Others who have called for an independent inquiry are Young African Leaders Initiative and NAREP leader Elias Chipimo.

Solwezi accident kills one, injures 34 soccer fans

From front page

He stated that the accident involved a Mitsubishi Canter that was driven by Musaka Macnel, aged 34 of Swift Construction Site.

"Whilst driving a motor vehicle Mitsubishi Canter reg contained truck reg number ADD 2674 on the said road with over 50 soccer fans on board after watching a local match, Musaka lost control causing the container to blow off forcing the said passengers to fall off the said vehicle. Due to impact, 34 male passengers sustained serious injuries and are admitted to

St Dorothy awaiting to transferred to Solwezi," Daka stated. He stated that the driver would be charged with causing death by dangerous driving as one of the passengers had died.

"The accident happened when the driver was driving at high speed and lost control as he was trying to make a turn to the left and careered off road. He will be charged for causing death by dangerous driving following the death of one m/passenger Kenny Shefilundi aged 26 today 02/10/17 while 19 others still in Solwezi hospital," Daka stated.



Information minister Kampamba Mulenga talks to journalists at Parliament on Friday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We are the reason PF is in power, says MMD

From front page

"First of all, it is very clear and every Zambian knows that in 2015, PF and President Edgar Lungu would not have won that election without the input of MMD although the input came as a result of unfortunate circumstances within

MMD. Ultimately, it is very clear that the victory was secured at the back of MMD supporters through the former president. And the members who held a view at that particular time for the former president to be given an opportunity to stand, opted to support President Edgar Lungu after

not being successful."

And Nakacinda said thorough investigations must be done if the allegations of corruption in the purchase of fire tenders are valid.

"And if there is indeed validity to the allegations of corruption [in the purchase

of fire tenders], there must be thorough investigations. What I know is that there are indications that ACC had undertaken preliminary investigations and announced that the procedure was clean. But if there is further engagement and people have information, it is the duty for those who are alleging to furnish the security agencies with the necessary information that will bring to book the culprits and any form of corruption. Moving forward, there is a clear road map that has been pronounced by the Minister of Finance to fix the law so that we are able to put measures not only to do with fire tenders but across the board that when government is seeking for goods and services, there will be a defined way through which the goods and services will be undertaken and put a benchmark in terms of pricing," he said.

Meanwhile, Nakacinda said the 2018 budget, which was presented by their president Mutati, was promising.

"The 2018 budget seems to be promising now that we are going to begin a stabilization and growth program for our economy. More money has been allocated to social services, social cash transfer, agriculture, health and education. We are now getting in the direction where we are going to undertake economic activities that will be beneficial in the day to day livelihood of Zambians," said Nakacinda.

I have not been threatened - HH

From front page

"Now that we have identified where the corruption is, the first thing is to come together as citizens and say no to corruption. We should not fear, there is too much fear in you people, I don't know why God gave us such a nice country but then put a bunch of cowards in it. You will achieve nothing through cowardice, you will achieve everything through courage," said Hichilema.

And Hichilema said his party was already drawing papers to go to court to challenge corruption deals happening in government.

"The message is that ACC you are incompetent, you can't say 'the procedures were followed' even if the price was too high, \$1 million dollars when we should have paid US\$150,000 to US\$300,000 thousand dollars. Who is pocketing US\$700,000? ACC must be dissolved because there is no value. You can't say because the procedure was followed, a tender was issued when information was being shared that three, four companies are owned by the same people tendering for the same tender, then you say there was competition. The last bid, its the same person, the middle one its the same person, still the first bid its the same person, then you write that 'procedures were followed' procedure

yabanyoko yebo (is is your mother's procedure)? a charged Hichilema said.

He described Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela as a knowledge-limited minister for defending the \$1.2 billion-dollar Ndola-Lusaka dual carriageway project.

"I think today we have contextualized this debate on how much money is being stolen from your pockets because the debt that they are acquiring, nindalama zanu (its your money). So I think we have made the point loud and clear, at minimum they are stealing \$3 million, at maximum they are stealing \$3.350 million dollars on the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway road project," Hichilema said.

"The other day I was watching Chitotela on news and I said 'how can this guy be so limited in knowledge?' and he was arguing that what they were saying is true because they were constructing curves, now am told they are building hotels along the road between Lusaka and Ndola. Who tells you that hotels are constructed by government while doing a road? Its a private sector job, they are the ones who identify the opportunities and in the tourism business. We operate the largest tourism business in this country in case you don't know with the

largest employer in the sector, single employer. We know what we are talking about. There is no business to construct a hotel between Lusaka and Ndola, it doesn't exist. There is no business along that road to justify that expenditure."

He said that his party would also conduct some peaceful demonstrations when need arise.

"We shall be going to court, we are already drawing out court papers now, to stop certain things. If the Judiciary stands in our way, we will ask for those elements of the judiciary to be removed from the judiciary. If they don't get removed, we will remove them sooner or later. Because it means they are supportive of the PF corruption isn't it? We should demonstrate peacefully when we think its necessary the way Laura Miti and our other colleagues did it," Hichilema said.

He further commended the 57 UPND and independent members of parliament for petitioning Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to appoint a select committee to investigate the procurement of fire.

"Our Members of parliament have put a request to the speaker of the national assembly to constitute a select committee, they did this on the 29th of September. We asked them to do

it, we have asked them to petition the speaker to set up a select committee to investigate the scourge, the cancer of corruption one amongst others, on the fire tenders, and on the Lusaka, Ndola road. And we expect that the speaker will act correctly, he should act correctly," said HH.

Meanwhile People's party president Mike Mulongoti said the former Minister of Local Government [Stephen Kampyongo] escaped the fire tender deal after realizing that it was going to hurt his integrity.

"If you see what is going on, on the procurement of these fire tenders, the current Minister of Local government is more on the quiet side. Its the former Minister who is being asked questions to explain what happened. I saw the current minister cultivate diplomatic tactics, trying to defend the thing but he realized how he was going to hurt himself, I think he escaped because he knows that it will injure his integrity. I can assure you that something went wrong in this fire tender. But along the way, you will discover that many other people have benefited from this deal. So there is a lot more that we are going to discover, it's not panic, the matter is going very well. Am sure we will get to the bottom of this and am sure we will all be happy in the end," said Mulongoti.

Suspend Kampyongo and set up fire-tender inquiry YALI tells President Lungu

Mukosha Funga

The Young African Leaders Initiative says President Edgar Lungu must suspend Stephen Kampyongo from Cabinet and set up an inquiry to probe the purchase of fire tenders.

In a statement issued today, YALI president Andrew Ntewewe stated that President Lungu's lukewarm approach to addressing the fraudulent transaction was worrisome.

"We urge President Lungu to take firm action now and demonstrate his willingness to take on the very real challenge posed by corruption. YALI no longer considers it sufficient for the President to refer the matter to his failing 'investigative wings'; the president himself must take the first steps by: 1. Suspending Mr Stephen Kampyongo from Cabinet. Mr Kampyongo was minister responsible for this procurement as minister of Local Government and Housing at the time; 2. Suspending the Permanent Secretary at the ministry of Local Government and Housing at the material time; 3. Suspending the CEO of the Zambia Public Procurement Authority at the time; and 4. Appoint

the Honourable Chief Justice to head a time-bound Commission of Inquiry with a clear mandate to get to the bottom of this scandal

YALI will take other steps if the President fails to act," Ntewewe stated.

"YALI is challenging the President, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to establish the facts in the obviously corrupt procurement of 42 fire engines by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing in 2016. YALI further calls upon the President to set up a commission of inquiry to be headed by the Chief Justice since it appears that our own Anti-Corruption Commission is lacking in terms of both the will and expertise to follow the financial trail and inform the public as to who the beneficiaries were in the US\$42 million fire engine scandal. It is quite obvious that the claimed purchase price of US\$1 million per truck is patently false, fraudulent and calls for those involved in this corrupt transaction, to face the law."

He stated that the ACC had left many questions unanswered.

"The revelation by Anti-Corruption Commis-

sion that it closed its investigations after they arrived at a conclusion that processes and procedures were followed in the award of the tender for the 42 fire trucks, does not answer the question as to whether the claimed purchase price was genuine, and if not, whether the Commission had financial investigators competent enough to follow the money trail and establish culpability. One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to understand that the ACC is either incapacitated or compromised to follow the money trail in this \$42m fire trucks scandal," Ntewewe stated.

"YALI calls on President Lungu to move out of his comfort zone and show loyalty to the citizens of this country, who put him in office, instead of a few individuals to whom he may feel indebted in his position as PF party president. The President must therefore establish the facts and bring the culprits to book regardless of what they may have done for him within PF; His lukewarm attitude and approach in addressing this very serious matter, is a matter of grave concern to YALI and to all Zambians con-



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cerned about corruption. It is our view that if the President is genuinely concerned about this particular matter, of the procurement of these 42 fire engines, he should by now have taken steps to ask for assistance from cooperating partners to help our investigative wings unveil the financial trail which would lead to the truth of what happened, to the recovery of the resources fraudulently taken and to appropriate action being taken against the culprits."

He described the ACC's call for evidence as a mockery.

"YALI stands firm in asserting that President Lungu has an unshrinkable duty to protect our nation's resources and

therefore has a duty to get to the bottom of this fire engine scandal, deal with those found culpable and recover the money so wantonly wasted in this obviously fraudulent procurement. Zambians will not allow the President to escape this issue by referring it to the obviously compromised investigative wings. In the meantime, YALI calls upon all Zambians to dismiss with contempt, the call by the Anti-Corruption Commission for citizens to make available to it (ACC) 'any new information' with regard to this fraud," stated Ntewewe.

"This matter was previously referred to the ACC before the procurement was finalised, but the ACC did not see fit

to investigate any further than the procedures. YALI therefore considers the ACC call for public co-operation, a mockery. One former minister is on the airwaves daily, stating unequivocally, that he has solid evidence of this fraud; why hasn't the ACC invited him to make that evidence available to them for action? Further, we remind the ACC that the president of the Forum for Democracy and Development, Madam Edith Nawakwi, as far back as 20th January 2016, raised this issue in which she accused a certain party of "pocketing US\$30m" from this transaction. The ACC took its usual lukewarm approach and the matter went unattended."

Arresting critics will not end poverty - HH

Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says arresting those with divergent views cannot bring about

development.

According to a statement issued by his deputy press secretary Brian Mwiinga, HH was speaking

when he graced the Gonde Lwiindi ceremony in Monze.

"Arresting Hakainde or any one else unlawfully in the country is

not development, because the country will always side with progressive and development focused not those oppressing others, our people have no food, medicine, education and all and surely you can't keep suppressing them because they have rights," said HH.

He also called for unity. "We are one people, as country we must remain united and work towards alleviating poverty, no arrests on those with dissent will shape our country's development agenda, even when hate and hurt speech, arrests are done on any of us in the country by those who do not value

oneness, we must not be shaken because we outnumber them," said HH. HH also bemoaned the state of the agriculture sector.

"The UPND President sympathises with the farmers but calls on them across the country not to relent but remain hopeful. Mr Hichilema is also of a strong view that the country must continue joining hands in celebrating various traditional ceremonies as this will help shape the future," stated Mwiinga.



From front page

"I am encouraging my colleagues because when a lie is told, you decide to keep quiet, others will think it is true and I am glad that you asked me what was presumably said by Kambwili, I am glad that you called me and the way I am responding, it is not bragging but I want to clarify because I am not a thief so if they mention you that you stole, or you built a house and you remain quiet, it is like you are confirming but if you know you are innocent, challenge those who are telling lies," Phiri said.

Phiri, who was reacting to allegations that she built an eight bed roomed mansion within three months, said she could only speak for herself.

"Those allegations [of corruption] started some time back. Have you ever heard me come and defend anybody? No. I have come because today I have been mentioned and I know myself, I cannot speak for others umutwe uwamunobe chalo cimbi (your friend's mind is another world)," she said.

"For the President, I understand he is not like Mumbi Phiri, Mumbi Phiri has no immunity, I can take you Kunda Kunda to the courts of law, there cannot be qualms about it, for the President, what surrounds the Presidency, it is difficult for him to defend himself. Even if his character is assassinated, he cannot take you as a citizen to court. But as for me, if anyone says something which is not true, I have resolved I will take them to court so that they can substantiate what they are talking about.

I was talking to honorable Kapata just last night and I told her that 'I would encourage you honorable Kapata, me I know you, when people want to smear dirt on you, take them on and explain yourself because I know you are not a thief'."

And Phiri said the only person who was genuine about the fight against corruption was Mwanawasa.

Those being called thieves must defend themselves - Mumbi Phiri

"The only person who was genuine over corruption was Levy Mwanawasa because when he saw the rot which was in MMD, he didn't want to be fired. You know, it is very wrong, even the way I am speaking, and then tomorrow you hear that Mumbi Phiri is fired then I start talking that there is corruption, that is immoral. I need to speak now, if I see anything wrong, if I have integrity I should resign and then talk about corruption otherwise that is why I am encouraging everybody, *bamunyina, imweh bale lum-bula muli* (my brother, you who is being mentioned in) corruption, Kampyongo, ev-

erybody, please, come and clear yourselves," Phiri said. "You know, people like Kampyongo, people don't know, baleba ati iyo ni kaponya, so muleba ati ifwe twafuma ku kamchanga, panthu twa kulila ku Kamchanga, we cannot be at the helm of this country? Because tuli baku komboni? Kampyongo nga ali mu street aleshitisha because ninchushi, tafwile ukuba mu leadership? What a shame. *Kano fye abana ba mu ma yadi?* Eh ba fwile ukuba mu leadership? Ba Kambwili ba fumine kumayadi? (they were saying that Kampyongo is a street vendor, so you are saying that us who come

from Kamuchanga, us from the compounds cannot be in leadership? Only those from posh areas?) It is very unfortunate. And despising poor people is not right, in that Parliament when I was a parliamentarian, when I looked, there were very few, in fact there was none of a politician or those in the limelight in Parliament, twalifye amafonteen from Kamuchanga, *ba Lungwanga ba kulile kumunshi, ba Simbao ba kulile ku munshi, bonse*, villagers...don't despise the poor."

She said she had built some houses because she was married to a wealthy man who

managed to fend for her.

"I am not married to a kawayaya waya. I am married to a professional aeronautic engineer. He worked in the foreign service as a diplomat in his own rights, being paid in dollars outside the country. An aeronautic engineer, not *kawayaya waya* engineer, no! He buys my clothes, he pays for his children's school fees son even the salary that I was getting as a diplomat, you can go and check, I can bring a printout from Indo Zambia Bank, they will show you...I am ready to give you my documentation because I don't want to be scandalized," said Phiri.



Mike Mulongoti speaks at the UPND press briefing in Lusaka today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mwitwa withdraws from representing Mumba Yachi

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But the Public prosecutor Brian Sianyengo objected to the application to adjourn

the matter saying a witness had travelled all the way from Mokambo border post to Lusaka and that the accused had

ample time in which to engage counsel of his choice.

At that point magistrate Ruth Kapulo asked Mumba why Mwitwa and Mwape Bwalya from Mwenye and Mwitwa advocates have stopped representing him.

The court wondered why the lawyers were not before court asking whether their interest was to help him out of prison. She said the court had not received formal application from Mwitwa.

Mumba told then explained to the court that Mwitwa had stopped representing him due to financial constraints.

In her ruling the magistrate expressed disappointment with the manner in which Mwitwa and his co counsel behaved by deciding not to come to court without any notification.

The magistrate said if the lawyers were not interested, they were supposed to file a notice to withdraw or file verbally.

The court has since given the new lawyer seven days in which to get full instructions. After Mumba was arrested, Zambia Association of Musicians Njoya Tee issued a state-

ment saying ZAM lawyers would represent him.

Details in this case are that Mumba, a Congolese national, did enter Zambia through Mokambo border post control and continued to stay unlawfully in the country without a valid permit or authority from the immigration department which offence happened between January 1, 2007 and August 28, 2017.

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

He is also alleged to have willfully and with intent to deceive and for the purposes of obtaining a Zambian passport no. ZN550035 did make a false statement to a passport officer that his father and mother were Zambian citizens when in fact not which incident happened between March 2015 August 3 201

2018 budget hasn't given any relief to the taxpayers

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"There has been no drop in the personal income tax rate, there has been no drop in the corporate tax rates, but instead a number of few taxes have been increased. Some excise duty has increased, some custom duties have increased but I suppose that is in line with the fact that the minister announced that he would like debts to be contained and there will be less expenditure, less borrowing. I suppose he had no option than to increase the amount of taxes and not give too much tax relief to you and me," Kazilimani said.

"I think as a firm, for our clients, we noted a few things that will affect a number of our clients. One is the scrapping of the five-year tax holiday. So some companies that got that exemption from Zambia Development Agency will probably suffer. However, there is some capital allowances which will sort of help them. Then as a nation when you look at the issue of debts, the major pronouncement made today by the minister, is that going forward he is going to introduce legislation to repeal the existing laws and guarantees Act and introduce a legislature which will compel parliament to approve any further borrowings. This will strengthen financial managements because before any borrowing is done, it has to go through parliament. That will help the country in that, it will put a stop and more checks and balances in terms of debt management."

Kazilimani said the creation of infrastructure development fund was key in implementing various projects in the country.

"The creation of the infrastructure development fund as announced by the minister is very key. The downside is that, in order to fund that infrastructure development fund some materials will go up. For example the minister said he is going to introduce a K2 excise duty for every 50kg bag of cement which means that the cost of construction will go up. In the long run, creating an infrastructure development fund can only be good for the country and will help support various infrastructure projects that he was talking about," he said.

Kazilimani further said making the income tax Act, the custom excise Act and VAT more efficient would broaden the revenue base for government.

"He (Minister of Finance) talked about making changes to the income tax Act, the custom excise Act and the VAT Act to make them more efficient; that will help in collecting more taxes, Kazilimani added.

He said that ZICA members must control the finances and help controlling officers keep track of the expenditure.

"I expect that the ZICA members who control the finances would make sure that they do their accounting properly and help the controlling officers to keep track of the expenditure. It is really for everyone who has been affected and is a recipient of this budget to make sure that they stick to their budget."

Lungu will benefit from phasing out mini buses - Charles Milupi

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Alliance for Democracy and Development president Charles Milupi has charged that President Edgar Lungu and some senior PF officials have already bought big buses waiting to maximise in the phasing out of mini buses in 2019.

Speaking at the joint press conference with UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema today, Milupi said he had information that the Head of State had already bought 57 buses.

"I have said there is nothing small for these looters to steal from a mini bus driver, someone who drives a minibus, someone who owns a minibus, wakes up so early to transport our citizens to and from. To steal from them that rely on that business is appalling. I don't know how these people will fare when the time comes and we cross over into the higher realm. Our information is that not only do they want to phase out these buses and bring bigger ones, our information is already even as we speak, senior members of the PF have purchased these buses. They are just waiting for the implementation of this policy. The looting that we are seeing on the fire tenders and on so many other things is not enough, they must now go and grab the businesses that so many of our people are involved in," Milupi said.

"There is an allegation, and President Lungu please you are in a public office, when allegat-

tions are made, do not brush your things aside address them. You are probably the only president in the whole world who chickens from addressing press conferences to explain, to allow these good people of the press to ask you questions. There is already an allegation that you have bought 57 buses, big buses just waiting for this to be implemented so that you can now be ploughing these roads.

He observed that there were more people dying in big buses than mini buses.

"PF government, Mr Lungu don't care, as long as they have the opportunity, get the money out of these poor people's pockets. This is why we are saying that this is our country and we will not tolerate this kind of thuggery and looting of our resources. The other point we are trying to make is that they have advanced reasons for doing away with the small buses that these are causing a lot more death than the big buses. Again going back to my profession as an engineer is that you cannot make a statement like that, that is unsupported by substantive research, that tells you exactly what is happening. Those of you who read newspapers and the online media, I think in Zambia there are more people who die on these big buses 65 seater buses than on the small ones. Go in every country, go in South Africa, go into Kenya east Africa, the concept of the Matatoos, they are the same buses," said Milupi.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former State House press aide George Chellah yesterday led several members of a WhatsApp group in grilling Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa, Emmanuel Mwamba after the diplomat posted what they described as a shameless defense of the Public Order Act.

Mwamba angers WhatsApp group members for defending police action against Laura Miti, fire tender protesters

Mwamba who was late President Frederick Chiluba's spokesperson, posted a BBC article in which Swedish police violently clashed with a neo-Nazi group.

The article was posted with an attached comment, justifying the necessity of the Public Order Act in democratic countries, as evidenced by police action

when they arrested Alliance for Community Action Executive Director Laura Miti and five other fire tender protesters.

"Public Order Act is important to keep peace in Sweden. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-41454708>' In this footage police violently clashes with protesters who refused police orders not change the route allows to them to stage their demo. 20 protesters have been detained. In Zambia Laura Miti and co refused police orders to hold her protest on a day other Friday. She was detained just like those neo-Nazis in Sweden. Sweden is a First World democracy and one most liberal societies by any standard. Yet the public order act is an important instrument to regulate public processions," Mwamba posted.

But Chellah who has taken up political social commentary lately, did not hesitate to differ with the High Commissioner.

"HE (High Commissioner) Mwamba, is that a comparative argument you can ably and convincingly sustain from this stage onwards? You are satisfied beyond measure that the administration of the POA in Zambia and Sweden is comparable? Really? And when I mention Zambia, I'm in no way attaching my reasoning to any specific regime or period, but since Welensky days. Let's agree that just like defamation of the President, the POA is an archaic piece of legislation and must either be repealed or done away with all together," Chellah argued.

Others joined in with a barrage of attacks on Mwamba and among them was Zambia council for Social Development Executive Director Lewis Mwape.

Mwape who was among those who were arrested during the fire tender protest said President Lungu had a team of people who were patriotic to defending wrong things.

"This is the problem President Lungu has. It is having a team that is honest, bold and Patriotic not only to the party but also to the people. Not only patriotic to defend wrong things but also to advise him on progressive ideals! It is important sometimes your Excellency @ Emmanuel Mwamba to side with the people! It is a good principle even for the presidency. Presidents who take sides of the majority citizens are more popular than those who are slaves of their Political Parties," Mwape reacted. Wesley Chibamba of the Transparent International Zambia, expressed disappointment with the reasoning from a diplomat he respected.

"Mr Mwamba, I personally have great respect for you. You have a very [sharp] mind, you are extremely brilliant. But I think

you need to start carefully choosing some things you support. Sweden has a long standing democracy with strong institutions! That's not a comparison you can bring here. We are all well read," Chibamba said.

"This High Commissioner is shameless; the crush was between Neo-Nazis and Ant-fascists. Violence was escalating, how then can you compared that to a peaceful Laura Miti Demo?" posted another group members.

Meanwhile Mwamba who remained silent as group members reacted to his posting, resurfaced early this morning defending the POA.

"I shared a forwarded link yesterday with attached comments. The link was not mine neither were the comments. But my views on the Public Order Act is that; it's totally necessary for maintenance of law and public Order. In South Africa, you require to deposit a notice of 3-7days prior to the picket, procession or demonstration. Although our POA is a colonial legacy enacted in 1935, with amendments in 1958 and others, our POA underwent fundamental changes in the Christine Mulundika Supreme Court ruling that relegated the issue of permission to a mere Notice. But be aware that it also requires that the event be policed (by Police or Marshals or both). It also has an internal appeal process upto the Minister, a process that was not available before," High Commissioner Mwamba responded. Mwamba further charged that police did not deny Miti's request to demonstrate but they simply had no man power to manage the procession.

"In the case of Laura's procession or picket, when Police said they had no man power to manage the procession, she had options, (1) To appeal the decision, (2) To propose her own marshals, (3) Stage the picket on any other proposed day as advised by the Police. The Police DID NOT deny the request for her demo She did none of the above but her and her group chose to ignore or defy the law or instructions . (Someone even praised her that bad laws should be disobeyed quoting Nelson Mandela). The presence of the POA is not anachronistic or the absence of Freedoms, or the erosion of democracy. To my knowledge all countries have a law or regulations that maintains public order and balances freedoms with public order and responsibilities. Show me a democratic country that does NOT have a POA (by whatever name!) debated Mwamba.

Green Party condemns police raid in Chibolya



Sipilisiwe Ncube

Officers from the Drug Enforcement Commission and Zambia Police on Saturday raided Chibolya compound, beat up some youths and destroyed structures believed to be smoking joints.

But Green Party leader Peter Sinkamba says police must stop abusing people's rights with impunity.

In a statement, Sinkamba, who is a proponent for the legalisation of marijuana, condemned the raid on Chibolya saying that police were being unfair on Chibolya residents.

"We, as the Green Party, would like to caution the Police and other security agencies involved in the on-going brutal operation in Chibolya to desist exposing innocent people of Chibolya to brute force under the guise of State of Threatened Emergency. It is now clear that the State is abusing the emergency powers. There is no situation of threatened emergency in Chibolya to warrant such abuse of human rights of residents with impunity. It is really a pity that the State of Threatened Emergency has given a free hand to unbridled use of brute force and as a result, young people are falling prey to Police brutality almost every passing day since the operation began. The abuse of emergency powers in Chibolya actually proves right those of us who opposed the invocation," Sinkamba said.

Sinkamba said it was sickening to note that Chibolya residents were

passing through some difficult times. "As everyone who followed the genesis of the invocation of the State of Threatened Emergency will recall, it had nothing to do with the state of affairs in Chibolya. Rather, it had to do with burning of markets and sabotage of other public infrastructure, neither of which are Chibolya issues. It is sickening that the residents of Chibolya are passing through most difficult times economically and socially. The increase in poverty and inequity in that society is unacceptable. This can be overcome not by use of brute force by State agencies against the people of that community but by demonstrating unity of purpose to address their socio-economic challenges. They too are Zambians who deserve social justice and protection of the law," Sinkamba said.

He cautioned government not to test the patience and resilience of the people of Chibolya.

"We salute the residents for their resilience in meeting the challenges and braving the brunt of excesses being committed by the coalition security agencies. We would however like to caution government not to test the patience and resilience of people of Chibolya for far too long. It is imperative that government realises that this is a complicated world. There are times that government security agencies may be called to arms but we maintain that violence is almost always self-defeating. It breeds more violence

from the victims. Therefore, government focus should not be use of brute force against its citizens but work towards ending poverty, and eliminating the root causes of petty crimes in that neighbourhood," Sinkamba added.

"We urge President Lungu to immediately cease fire in Chibolya. We also urge him to revoke the State of Threatened Emergency so as to end the spree of arrests and use of brute force that has characterized Chibolya and created anguish, fear and uncertainty across the township. Perpetrating atrocities under the guise of the State of Threatened Emergency and trampling people's rights is wrong and must end."

And Sinkamba urged the people of Chibolya compound to remain peaceful and united despite the force of the law.

"Further, we call upon the people of Chibolya to remain peaceful and united despite the brute force which has unfairly been unleashed against them by the State. We assure them that the day is not far when this era of repression will end. Those of us who share their anguish are bleeding. There is no justification whatsoever for the State to commit such atrocities. There is also no justification for President Lungu to leave residents at the mercy of brute forces. He is under Constitutional duty to protect every Zambian, including residents of Chibolya, from unjustified repression," Sinkamba said.

Watch video on www.diggers.news

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Minister of Information Kampamba Mulenga says the K2 increment in TV levy will go into content improvement and promoting local artists.

But Mulenga dodges a question about why the national broadcaster does not cover opposition leaders.

Mulenga, who is also Chief Government Spokesperson, told journalists after the budget was presented on Friday that the extra in-

Increased TV levy excites Kampamba

come would help maintain digital equipment.

"Government has actually lost colossal sums of money to bring in digital equipment, to build state of the

art equipment and obviously this equipment has not come in cheap. There must be a maintenance cost, we don't want to go digital for just one month, obviously if

you pay it will show and obviously to everything there is a cost attached and obviously we are moving from analogue to digital and you know the kind of infra-

structure that comes with a digital and the price has to go up," Mulenga said.

But when asked to react to opposition leaders who felt it was unfair to pay TV levy when they were not covered by the national broadcaster, Mulenga dodged the question.

"First and foremost the up of the K3 to K5 will also, this is a component and I think when this money is paid, we will obviously look at, that is why it is uh, well now you are making me spill the beans, but anyway, I will say it as it is. The K5 once it is gotten, obviously now ZNBC has to account, we have to account for the money and obviously part of it will go into content production. Obviously we know we have got this digital migration and most of our local artists do not have the kind of money. So we are putting up this infrastructure and now the onus lies definitely on ZNBC as they collect these monies, they must begin to promote

the local artists in line with promoting local content," she said.

"Yes we have not in the past the national broadcaster promoted local content because of constrained funds. The K3 was not adequate and of course it is an open secret that one of the avenues is that the TV levy is to service the wage bill. So now the upping of this the K3 to K5 will look also at other avenues. The troubles that ZNBC has had for a long time. Obviously we want the national broadcaster to improve. Also to help our local artists to produce as much of the local content. Actually for us right now, you head honorable [Felix] Mutati saying 'the only foreign content that will land without that tax is education' because you can't take education away from the people. So we as government are trying as much as possible to ensure, look we have bought this state of the art equipment, how do we obviously help our local artists? Some of them do not have the capacity but the talent is there and we don't want to start borrowing money to start feeding into our local artists. And this is the only way possible, the maintenance, the content fund and it is all in K5 and the increment is only K2."



Agriculture minister Dora Siliya gives a ministerial statement on the implementation of the e-voucher system in the 2016/2017 farming season in parliament on September 26, 2017 - Picture by - Tenson Mkhala

Cost of living expected to rise in 2018, says Nkombo

Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Garry Nkombo says the cost of living will rise in 2018.

Speaking to journalists shortly after finance minister presented the budget on Friday, Nkombo said small things such as TV levy amount to big things.

"The presentation requires to be studied in detail, from the face of it, we think that the cost of living is going to go up. You heard the minister speak about small things that amount to big things such as TV levy such as the excise duties, he spoke about the increasing the price of cement. What that means is that the rentals in this country are going to go up. The minister didn't say much regarding the Lusaka-Copperbelt road. According to him, PPP does not quite include government but to our understanding, the public is government," said Nkombo.

"So it also goes without saying that that cost of building that road and the recovery period and the players in there, we are told that NAPSA are part of the players are going to establish toll gates. If they are going to establish toll gates, the return on the investment must come as quickly as possible. It goes without saying that the toll gate fee will not be as it is with the toll gates that are run by RDA. They will be a bit more expensive. So generally I think our general comment is that this budget is going to increase the cost of living."

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Government has allocated about K87million to set up an infrastructure Fund which will be used for financing projects.

Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary Mukuli Chikuba said the Infrastructure fund will be used to finance projects with financing from the infrastructure bonds, development banks and private funds such as shares. This is according to a press statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambia High Commission in South Africa Naomi Nyawali.

Nyawali stated that Chikuba was speaking at the Zambia Mission in Preto-

Govt to set up K87m infrastructure fund

ria South Africa When he paid a Courtesy call with his delegation on Zambia's High Commissioner to that country Emmanuel Mwamba.

The Permanent Secretary said the the introduction of the Fund in Zambia was important adding that financing projects such as roads and rails would be easily done without any challenges.

He added that during their meetings with the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and the Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC), and Landbank, it was agreed that the South African and Zambian governments would co-invest in the fund and advised how the infrastructure Fund could be operated.

Chikuba stated that the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the operationalization of the Cooperation were expected to be signed during President Jacob Zuma's the state visit to Zambia in October 2017.

The Permanent Secretary further stated that projects to benefit from the fund would be appraised

for investors to express interest depending on the their area of interest.

Meanwhile Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba said infrastructure development was key in every developing country.

He said the African union and SADC agenda of industrialization would only be realized when Infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports and airports were built.

He said about 70% of Zambia's Foreign Direct Investment comes from South Africa adding that the bilateral relations between the two countries cannot be ignored.

The Zambian delegation in South Africa was led by Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Infrastructure and housing ,Zambia Railways ,Zambia Revenue Authority and Industrial Development Cooperation.

15 badly injured as bus overturns in high speed traffic police chase

Mukosha Funga

Over 15 people have been seriously injured after a bus which was being chased by a traffic officer on a motorbike overturned in Lusaka's Villa Elizabetha area.

Some of the victims told News Diggers! at the University Teaching hospital that the accident happened around 11:00 hours.

A victim who only wanted to be identified as Ann, said the traffic officer ran away when the accident happened.

"The small bus was coming from Villa Elizabetha with a honda for the police chasing them. So instead of giving way at a junction, the small bus ended up hitting into the big bus and

over turned. The Rosa bus hit into a wall fence but at least not too many people from the big bus have serious injuries. I saw the officer just turned around and ran away very fast," Ann, a victim, narrated.

Another victim said she feared that some of the victims would not make it.

"That other man I don't know if he will make it. There was just so much blood and I am very confused. For me it's just some bruises and some pains but my sister is in bad shape. I can't even look at her, blood all over the place. She is going into theater," said another victim.

Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo also confirmed the accident

in a statement but did not mention the traffic police officer.

"There was a serious RTA which occurred today at around 11:30 hrs at Chishango-Nchoncho road junction involving male Ivin Phiri aged 47 yrs who sustained serious driving a Mitsubishi Rosa ALF7498. Also involved was male Emmanuel Kawelele driving a Toyota Hiace reg ALZ 235. 19 people from the two vehicles sustained various injuries," stated Katongo.

"The accident occurred when the driver of the Toyota Hiace failed to give way to the Mitsubishi Rosa which later hit into a wall fence for NGOCC damaging it partially. No one has died in the accident."

Deadliest shooting in US history leaves over 58 dead, 500 injured at Las Vegas concert



A video showed the terrifying aftermath as the injured lay on stretchers or on the ground with responders and bystanders surrounding them to give aid.

More than 58 people were killed and over 500 injured when a lone gunman opened fire from a perch high up in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas Sunday night, police said, making it the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history.

The “nonstop gunfire,” according to one witness, sent bystanders outside the resort on the Vegas strip ducking for cover and scrambling for their lives. Tourists hid in their hotel rooms and flights headed into the McCarran International Airport were held elsewhere.

Bystanders sprang into action, caring for the wounded and at least one described someone dying in their arms. Police said a Las Vegas police officer who was off-duty attending the concert is among the dead.

One video showed the terrifying aftermath as the injured lay on stretchers or on the ground with responders and bystanders surrounding them to give aid. Bystanders made makeshift stretchers out of police barricades, plugged wounds with their hands and used their clothing to try to stanch the bleeding from the wounded.

Videos filmed by onlookers



Police officers advise people to take cover near the scene of a shooting near the Mandalay Bay resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Las Vegas.

gave a window into the chaos that ensued, with some thinking that fireworks were going off. The final night of the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival was taking place across the street from Mandalay Bay. Jason Aldean was the night’s headliner; other performers included country stars Jake Owen, Big & Rich, Luke Combs and Dylan Scott. In the wake of the shooting, the Las Vegas Police Depart-

ment said the suspected gunman, who was believed to be a local resident, was on 32nd floor of Mandalay Bay hotel. Police responded to the scene, engaged him and he is now dead. Law enforcement officials identified the suspect as 64-year-old Stephen Paddock.

Authorities were looking for a companion of the shooter, Marilou Danley, and authorities later said this morning,

“We’re confident -- but not 100 percent sure -- we have located the female person of interest.”

“We were just at the concert there, and Jason Aldean was playing,” one of the concertgoers, named Mike Cronk, 48, a retired teacher, told ABC News. “Kind of sounded like some fireworks going off. I think there was the first kind of volley, and then all of the sudden second volley. My

buddy’s like, ‘I just got hit, you know.’ He got hit three times. Then people started diving for the ground. And it just continued.

“It was pretty much chaotic,” Cronk continued. “Lots of people got hit. ... It took a while to get him out. We had to get him over the fence and hiding under the stage for a while, you know, to be safe. And, finally, we had to move him because he had three chest wounds.”

Cronk said his group were finally able to track down an ambulance “and basically the one guy ended up dying in my arms because he was bleeding,” he said. “And my buddy got in there. We got three more people in the ambulance. ... But I just got a message from my buddy -- and he’s going to be okay.”

As bursts of gunfire crackled in the air, people outside of the casino ducked and screamed, according to video filmed by witnesses.

“We’re going to get trampled if we don’t go,” a bystander could be heard saying in a dramatic video of the incident. Confusion appeared to abound as those outside fled the scene with another person saying, “it’s fireworks.”

Michelle Leonard, who was located in a booth near the main entrance of the arena, said the shooting just “kept going nonstop.”

Leonard said “mass confusion” unfolded as people tried to flee the scene. She said the shooting seemed like it went on for more than a minute.

“I had no idea of where it was coming from or where to run to,” Leonard said.

She said she injured her leg as she tried to escape.

Another witness, Jake Freeman, said he was standing on the rooftop of a nearby hotel when the shooting broke out. “I had a bird’s-eye view” of the shooting, Freeman said in a phone interview with ABC News. He said he saw “crowds of people running” as people “dropped to the ground.”

“At the moment we didn’t realize that they were being shot,” he said.

Aldean, who performed at the country concert Sunday night, wrote on Instagram, “Tonight has been beyond horrific. I still don’t know what to say but wanted to let everyone know that Me and my Crew are safe. My Thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved tonight. It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night.”

An official with McCarran International Airport said “an airport perimeter fence near the concert venue was breached by people fleeing the scene of the incident.”

“Airport staff responded and have transported those people to the designated evacuation site,” the officials said. “The fence line is once again secured.”

Flights in and out of the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas were temporarily halted due to the incident. ATF agents have responded to the scene and the FBI is assisting with the investigation. The FBI is also supporting local law enforcement efforts in Las Vegas.

Mandalay Bay Resort tweeted, “Our thoughts & prayers are with the victims of last night’s tragic events. We’re grateful for the immediate actions of our first responders.” The resort said in a statement that “law enforcement requested that we put hotels in the vicinity on lockdown to ensure guest safety.”

President Donald Trump tweeted, “My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!”

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval tweeted, “A tragic & heinous act of violence has shaken the #Nevada family. Our prayers are w/ the victims & all affected by this act of cowardice.” **ABC News.**



Victims lie dead after the shooting incident in Las Vegas

The brutal force which our police service has continued to use in their clampdown on drugs in Lusaka's Chibolya compound is a source of concern. Yes, Chibolya is a drug haven and many youths there smoke marijuana for pleasure and whatever other Rastafarian reasons. But there are also a lot of innocent citizens who reside in Chibolya who have never smoked a joint before. They reside in Chibolya by nature of the fact that their parents and forefathers lived in that compound, and their families have not been fortunate enough to migrate to Kabulonga.

That is why we find the mechanism which our police is using to clean the township of drugs, very inconsiderate and against human rights. We have witnessed these night raids which police conduct in Chibolya and the destruction that they leave behind. The operation is done in a manner that you would expect if our security wings were ambushing a terrorist territory, and in a foreign country.

During our coverage of these joint operations, we have seen that when police arrive in Chibolya (usually in the middle of the night) they break into people's homes, shops, bars, shebeens, churches, schools, name it; and they leave unjustifiable collateral damage. During these operations, police officers use the judgment of their eyes to determine if the person they meet is suspicious looking and make a split-second decision to pounce and

Many police officers smoke weed, drink beer on duty

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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apprehend. They don't care if the poor young man is from taking a dump in a pit latrine behind a tavern, they catch. You might be innocently returning home late from selling *michopo* at Stanly's Bar in town, police won't buy that explanation. What is worse is that when the poor residents of Chibolya see these rag-dressed paramilitary officers, they start running - guilty or not - because of fear. Meanwhile, in the eyes of the officer, if you are running you are guilty, so they chase, catch and arrest. Ironically, if you don't run, it means you don't know what is happening because you are probably too high on weed, so they still arrest. In fact, during these raids po-

lice don't arrest, they beat. They brutalise suspects and throw them into their vans like logs without any regard for their human rights. By the time the operation ends in the morning, police would have burnt down several structures believed to be smoking joints, and arrested hundreds of youths. Sadly, only 10 or 20 would end up in court. The rest would be released after days in torturous detention. It is not a crime to be born in Chibolya. Those who live in shanty compounds cannot be perceived guilty by circumstance. It cannot be denied that there are stacks and piles of various narcotics in Chibolya, including illegal arms. But there has got to be a much more ef-

fective and civil way of policing the crimes in the township than this indiscriminate harassment of citizens. Chibolya is not the only township where crimes are rampant. Matero compound is even notoriously nicknamed a city within a city because of its association with fraudulent activities. We were not as surprised as the Teaching Service Commission was when they discovered hundreds of teachers with fake degrees because they say there is no qualification you can fail to buy in Matero. We have never heard of any police raids in Matero to clean the township and apprehend the perpetrators of these crimes. You can find any type of common illicit drugs

on Devil Street in Emmasdale, sold by teenage boys, but there has never been a joint operation to stop this. And even if police raided all these townships in search of drugs, the traders would not stop because they are jobless and that's their source of livelihood. They will continue throwing Seven Spirits in prison, but once he comes out, he will go back to drugs because his family has to eat. We agree with the Police and the Drug Enforcement Commission that the illegal drug trade in Chibolya has to come to an end, but we would like to remind Inspector General Kakoma Kanganja and DEC director general Alita Mbawhe that bigger crimes are happening at

Plot 1, Independence Avenue. The major crimes which affect millions of Zambians are those happening along Brentwood Road where Cabinet ministers reside. If you can be bold enough to raid those houses and search, you would realise that what you are doing in Chibolya is a waste of time. Chibolya does not produce cocaine and there are no cannabis fields in that shanty township. It is merely a transit hub. So if you cannot shutdown the source of these drugs, then you are being hypocritical. We say this because Chibolya residents do not consume all the drugs in their possession. They supply to the rest of Lusaka; Woodlands, Rhodespark, Kabulonga, Roma and all the other affluent suburbs you can think of. In fact, we find it funny that our officers are forced to turn against their friends in Chibolya. There are Drug Enforcement Commission officers who smoke ganja supplied by Chibolya. Even the Inspector General knows that there are many high-ranking police officers who use the herb and they also source it from Chibolya. If Mr Kanganja thinks this is a barbaric allegation, we challenge him to invite the Medical Association of Zambia to conduct random tests on his police officers starting from Force Headquarters. Those results should be made public for all to see that *nayeve buju amabema dobo*, probably before that night operation in Chibolya!

We must be free to demonstrate

In about two weeks, our President has been to South Africa, Swaziland, USA, Angola and now Botswana and some more I have forgotten. Are we safe, is he the only person who can travel?

Zambians you have yourselves to blame, the man told you I have no vision. *Eve nyandule salipila ma laiti, uyu nyandule salipilako na TV levy, izi nyandule zilindila chambe tigone zibe.*

How can Ndola council be complaining that they don't have money to pay workers.

A single fire engine will solve all their problems, they can actually sell theirs at \$800,000 kaili li sampo. If they don't want to sell it, but nabapya the fire tender can help them quench. Sean Smith

Boss this too much? U can't attend all your neighbors birthday parties including funerals leaving work. There are serious issues in your house that need your attention Mr president. 90% of tax payers whose money is spent carelessly have never seen the inside of a plane. African leadership and Zambia to be specific is not inspiring to the general citizenry.

Dear Editor
Again...an affront to democracy...freedom of speech and assembly violated. We must be free to demand accountability and transparency from those we have entrusted to administer public resources.... our resources. There is no crime here...

Dear Editor
People in zambia like talking too much, whats wrong with president visiting Botswana, u see before u produce your silly comments, first u need to think, wat u know is just opposing. Mr President dont pay attention to these fools they are just useless idiots. Who doesnt know about them, in fact wen u talk too much u loose energy, they has been KK, Chiluba, Mwanawasa, Rupiah, Sata and u all condemed them. Now it's Lungu haaa! But anyway they say nothing gud comes from a man's mouth, umuntu ni lungu. John Lungu Paul

Dear Editor
Today in Zambia we have more foolish and ignorant people. Surely, how can you complain over a K5 Tv levy? Thats total stupidity. How many TV channels will we likely watch after paying those foreign tv bouquets? You pay alot and maybe at your house you just watch 3 channels in that bouquet S/ Sport, Bakadoli and Zeeworld but you pay over \$9 without a problem. ZNBC is your company like Zamtel this is the time to help it fund.

this is a justifiable cause... one which i would have gladly joined. It is our money... you cannot honestly justify that \$42 million on

those worthless fire trucks. It pains me even to think that, that is how my 37.5 PAYE is utilized. Hospitals do not have medicines...or do not exist in other areas. ...schools are either ill equipped or

non existent. Simple proper salary increment for public service workers yakanga.. so many things we could have done but no...others who think they are more clever than the 16 million Zambians bafuno tidyela masuku pamutu. Lets work up Zambians and demand for accountabil-

ity. We only have on Mother land... let us be patriotic. And the police should stop over stretching their authority..they make this country and government look so bad. THIS IS MY RIGHT!

Leonard Mangani Zulu

Why increase TV levy when we don't watch ZNBC?

Dear Editor
The only good thing here is the abolishing of that 5yr tax holiday..... the rest is crap.. as poor as we are.. why should they increase tv levy when that station is absolutely useless and its just a personal to order for politicians in power.. lets

be honest here guys.. what happened to more money in your pockets? Lower taxes is what the PF promised the pipo of Zambia when they were in opposition. Pro poor gvment is what they call themselves. Why are Zambians so docile?

They have made TV license subscription based instead of how everyone just used to pay (through buying electricity units). So if u subscribe for TopStar (not sure about DsTV) u pay thru that subscription. But already people that don't even buy electricity. Now you are busy bwataling like they know something. Complain about what u know. Joseph mwanza

Dear Editor
Zambians are not fools they will have their last laugh. ACC as a political bulldog is a useless and toothless organisation. Here the question is why were those fire tenders worth \$1m each when other bidders were offering much lower price with similar specifications. Yotam Mtayachalo.

We can't hold these liars accountable for what they promised. Comfort zone is not comfortable, because someone else determines for you how long you will stay there. Woke up! Zambians.

Baldwin Michael

Dear Editor
What we want is an independent inquiry not those bogus investigations by such a highly discredited organisation. ACC will not save this government in the ballot box. mulandu siwuola

Dear Editor
share the national cake equally from the top most servant who is the president to the lowest who is a CE or CDE thing would be very OK.

For me there is no much need to increase the salaries of civil servants all that much becoz we don't have resources as a nation. But again when u see how funds are being spent by others and those who get 10 or more times yo salary with numerous allowances.. U would still feel something can be done. Areas that need to looked at are housing allowance, rural hardship, and transport allowances. For a middle income a norma and acceptable house is at 1500 to 2000. And for the sacrifices pipo in rural areas have made give them something to support there stay in the bush with no power no clean water and no good accommodation.



Antonio Banderas joins AIDS fight in South Africa

Actor Antonio Banderas is proving that there is more to him than his on-screen skills and good looks with his visit to South Africa. Renowned for his roles in *Desperado* and *The Mask of Zorro*, Banderas is in the country for four days to raise funds for Nkosi's Haven. Launched in 1999 and named after Aids activist Nkosi Johnson, the charity offers care and support to mothers and children affected by HIV/Aids. Nkosi's Haven was founded by Gail Johnson, Nkosi Johnson's foster mother. Johnson revealed at a press conference with Banderas yesterday that the organi-

sation currently offers care and support to 112 children - 81 of those are orphaned and others live with their mothers. She added that 37 are HIV-positive. "My running costs are about R480000 a month because we believe in a nutritional diet and we send our kids to school," Johnson explained. "We have seven different schools that the kids attend, because some have special needs. We have two kids in university. We have a resident therapist and social worker. "So in the immediacy, any financial help we get goes towards paying off school fees. It means so much,"

she added. Banderas will be launching a photographic exhibition called *Women in Gold*. The exhibition features a series of 22 photographs taken by the 57-year-old actor. On Thursday night, Banderas will host a gala event in Johannesburg. Photos from *Women in Gold* will be auctioned off to raise funds for Nkosi's Haven. "The inspiration behind the exhibition is what I want for my daughter - to be free and independent." Banderas is also in the country to launch a new fragrance, *Secret Temptation*. Asked about what he finds attractive in a woman, Banderas replied:

"The most sensual part of a woman for me is the mouth. I can fall in love with a smile. Eyes also because in a way they reflect the soul."

Sowetan Live

Rihanna, Boyfriend on London date

Fortune cookie fortune says, "You may get lucky tonight, Rihanna." The R&B singer and her Saudi billionaire beau Hassan Jameel were photographed at the upscale Park Chinois Chinese restaurant in London late on Thursday, marking a rare joint public appearance for the two in weeks. Rihanna wore a black sweater, and a matching jacket, mini skirt and stiletto ankle boots, while he wore a black jacket over a black shirt, blue jeans and olive sneakers. The two stayed at the eatery past 2 a.m. and exited separately, with her leaving first and him departing 30 minutes later. She waited in a

car for him and they drove away together, a source told E! News. The two had sparked romance rumors in June after Rihanna was photographed getting hot and heavy with her beau in Spain. The two were also spotted in August, leaving the Chiltern Firehouse restaurant in London. They have not commented about their relationship. Hassan is a billionaire businessman who serves as the deputy president and vice chairman of the family business Abdul Latif Jameel, which owns Toyota distribution rights in Saudi Arabia. He is also the owner of a pro soccer league in the country. **E! Entertainment**

Zahara to marry boyfriend Sibiyah

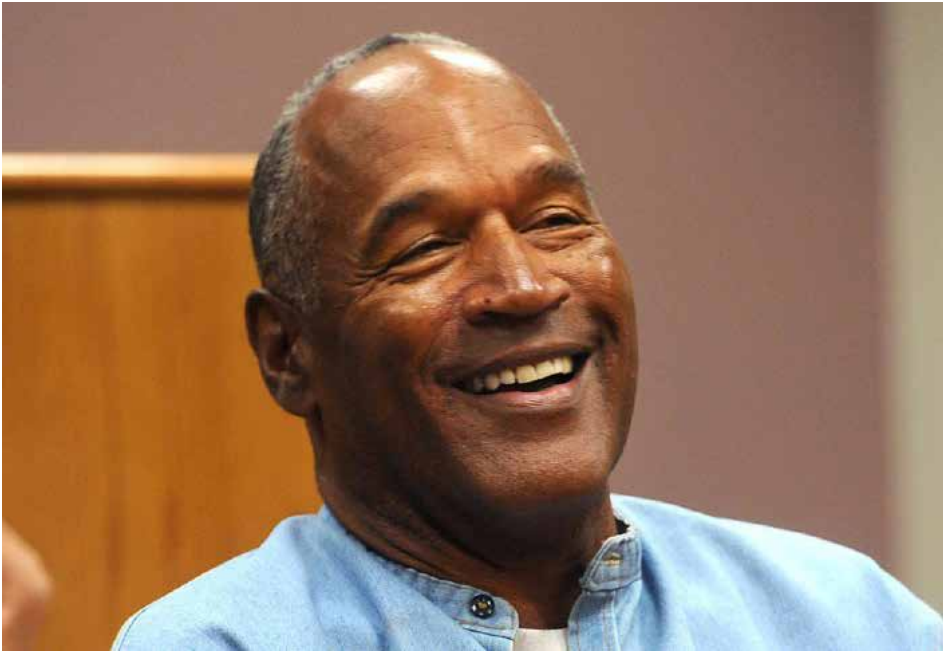
The couple, who confirmed their romance in June this year, have been dating for several months and Ian Sibiyah said he couldn't be happier. "Zahara is an incredible woman. She inspires me and I have learnt a lot from



her. She has helped me deal with so much in my life and I really appreciate all the support I get from her," he said. Ian said he knew from the moment he met Zahara that he wanted to build a future with her, and one day marry her. 'I won't be exploited' - Zahara explains gig no-show "I feel at peace with her. I see my future with her. I told her family that the next time they see me I will bring cows (to pay lobola) and I am serious about that. We are working towards that and it will be soon," he added. Zahara's private life has made headlines for several years, and Ian said that he stood by her through all the rumours because they were completely open with each other. "The secret to our relationship is communication. We speak about everything and I often tell her that there must be something special about her to always be spoken about. She is strong and focused so I am never worried about her," Ian added.



Socialite and dancer Zodwa Wabantu turned down photo with Skolopad saying: 'I am just cautious about my brand - not my level'



O.J. Simpson walks out of Nevada prison after 9 years

(Reuters) - O.J. Simpson, acquitted of the 1994 murder of his ex-wife and her friend after the "Trial of the Century," was released early on Sunday from a prison in Nevada, where he had been held since 2008 for a botched armed robbery at a Las Vegas casino hotel.

The state's Department of Corrections posted a seven-second video on Facebook showing the retired American football star and former actor being released at 12:08 a.m. local time (0708 GMT).

The midnight timing was "to ensure public safety and reduce the potential for incident," the department said in a brief statement that accompanied the video and a photo showing Simpson signing some papers.

Simpson's lawyer, Malcolm LaVergne, said by text message on Sunday morning: "All information related to Simpson's whereabouts is confidential until (Monday) at the earliest."

Simpson wore a blue baseball-style cap, blue denim pants and a jacket, and white sneakers as he walked through a door to freedom after prison guard said: "Here you go. Come on out."

Simpson, 70, was granted parole in July after nine years behind bars. At the parole board hearing, there was no mention of his 1990s trial for the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and a friend, Ron Goldman. Simpson was found not guilty in 1995 following the sensational,

13-month trial in Los Angeles, which was televised live daily and transfixed much of the country.

A civil court jury subsequently found him liable for the deaths and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million in damages to the victims' families, a judgment that remains largely unpaid.

Rocket to fly people from NY to London in 29min

People will soon be able to fly from city to city within minutes, rocket and car entrepreneur Elon Musk says. Mr Musk made the promise at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Adelaide, Australia.

A promotional video says the London-New York journey would take 29

N/Korea negotiations a waste of time - Trump

US President Donald Trump has told his secretary of state that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with North Korea over its nuclear programme.

"Save your energy Rex, we'll do what has to be done!" Mr Trump tweeted, after it emerged the US had lines of communication with Pyongyang.

Rex Tillerson disclosed the development on Saturday, saying North Korea had little interest in dialogue.

The two countries have engaged in heated rhetoric in recent months.

Inside the world's most secretive country: Where is the war of words heading?

The US wants North Korea to halt its weapons programme, which has seen it perform repeated missile tests, as well as claim to have successfully tested a miniaturised hydrogen bomb which could be loaded on to a long-range missile.

But attempts at dialogue seem to be at odds with President Trump's own attitude to the issue.

On Sunday, he tweeted, in reference

to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un: "I told Rex Tillerson, our wonderful Secretary of State, that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man..."

He did not elaborate on what he means by "we'll do what has to be done".

However a senior US official, asked for clarification later, told Reuters: "At a time when North Korea is continuing its provocations, the president does not think now is the time to negotiate with them."

The official also said the diplomatic channels were mainly used to discuss American citizens detained by Pyongyang.

'Stay tuned'

It is not the first time Donald Trump has sought to contradict top officials within his administration.

In August, he said the US military was "locked and loaded" ready to deal with North Korea, just hours after his defence secretary tried to cool tensions by saying that diplomatic efforts were succeeding.

Hundreds hurt as police try to stop Catalan referendum

Catalan emergency officials say 761 people have been injured as police used force to try to block voting in Catalonia's independence referendum.

The Spanish government had pledged to stop a poll that was declared illegal by the country's constitutional court.

Police officers prevented some people from voting, and seized ballot papers and boxes at polling stations.

In the regional capital Barcelona, police used batons and fired rubber bullets during pro-referendum protests.

Speaking soon after the polls closed at 20:00 local time (18:00 GMT), Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said Catalans had been fooled into taking part in an illegal vote. What is the latest?

The Spanish interior ministry said 12 police officers had been hurt and three people arrested. It added that 92 polling stations had been closed.

The national police and Guardia Civil - a paramilitary force charged with police du-

ties - were sent into Catalonia in large numbers to prevent the vote from taking place.

While Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau condemned police ac-

tions against what she called the region's "defenceless" population, Spain's Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said police had

"acted with professionalism and in a proportionate way".

One voter, Júlia Graell, told the BBC that "police started to kick people, young and

old", adding: "Today, I have seen the worst actions that a government can do to the people of its own country."

as the BFR - which could do all of the firm's current work and interplanetary travel.

Image copyright IAC

Image caption Elon Musk: "That's not a typo"

Mr Musk first laid out his Mars travel ambitions at the IAC in 2016. Twelve months on, he returned

with more detail.

His BFR, although still massive, is now a little smaller at 106m in height and 9m in width.

The major difference compared with the original version, however, was cost, the South African-born American said.

"I think we've figured out how to pay for it. This is very important."

Elon Musk and the hyperbolic hyperloop 'announcement'

Musk warns of 'killer robot' arms race

The route to affordability, he explained, was in refocusing all of the company's efforts into the one system - and then using that to meet all its customers' needs.

"Most of what people consider to be long-distance trips could be completed in less than half-an-hour," he told the Adelaide audience.

"Some of our customers are conservative and they want to see the BFR fly several times before they're comfortable launching [on it]," Mr Musk said.

"So what we plan to do is to build ahead and have a stock of Falcon 9 and Dragon vehicles, so that customers can be comfortable if they want to use the old rocket, the old spacecraft - they can do that because we'll have a bunch in stock.



Spanish police battles Catalonia referendum voters in Barcelona

Conte said to leave Chelsea in Summer

Antonio Conte is leaning towards leaving Chelsea at the end of the season because of a lack of support from the club, *The Times* reports. The former Juventus boss said this week that he wants to return to Italy at some point after reportedly coming close to departing before the start of this season.

However, Chelsea's summer transfer dealings have only exacerbated the Italian's frustration with the club and could prompt him to return to Serie A at the end of the current campaign.

Meanwhile the Blues are tracking the progress of 19-year-old Steaua Bucharest star Florinel Coman, according to *The Daily Mail*.

Chelsea technical director Michael Emano to Romania to scout the youngster and they could make a move for him in the near future. However, Coman is said to have an £88 million release clause in his contract.



Liverpool struggles to tick

Ex-Liverpool centre-back Jamie Carragher was critical of Daniel Sturridge's display on a rare outing in Sunday's 1-1 draw

away to Newcastle United.

Preferred to the out-of-form Roberto Firmino, Sturridge (above) joined Mohamed Salah

and Sadio Mane in a three-man forward line, with Philippe Coutinho providing the ammunition.

But the England inter-

national squandered a host of chances, and with Joselu cancelling out Coutinho's opener, Liverpool were left to rue their misfortune.

For Carragher, the decision to include Sturridge would have paid off—if he had scored following an error from Ciaran Clark in the second half.

“He should [have scored], that's what he's in the team for,” he explained on Sky Sports.

“He's not in the team to press, because he doesn't press, he's not in the team to penetrate in behind because he's not that player anymore.

But a defiant Jurgen Klopp is confident Liverpool will rediscover their killer touch after passing up a series of chances to see off Newcastle.

The Reds have now won only one of their last seven games in all

competition after their 1-1 draw on Tyneside and are currently seven points adrift of Premier League pacesetters Man City and Man United.

However, Klopp, whose team are struggling to score as well as to keep clean sheets, said: “There are different ways to get one win in seven.”

“You can play really badly and lose a lot of games, or you play in more than a few games really, really well,” he explained.

“In most of the games, actually, we have been the better side, but a few chances have been enough for the opponent to score and we need a lot more and have at the end the same number of goals.

“That has happened too often, of course, in the last few weeks, but the only alternative for us is to carry on. We have to do it like this.

“If we would stop doing this, then I would be concerned. As long as we do it like this, I am not concerned.”

Pique resigns from Spain national team



While Barca prevailed 3-0 on Sunday the win was a hollow one for the defender, who broke down while speaking to reporters after the game

An emotional Gerard Pique of-

fered his resignation from the Spain national team following a day in which the Catalunya region was engulfed by violence between referendum voters and police.

The world was shocked on Sun-

day by footage of Spanish national police striking out at protesters across the region, with some of the bloodiest clashes occurring in Catalan capital Barcelona.

Iwobi can become Arsenal's Jay-Jay Okocha

The Nigerian possesses an abundance of talent and appears to be taking Arsene Wenger's advice on board by adding goals to his game

Patience is a virtue in every walk of life and no-one knows that better than Alex Iwobi. The Nigerian youngster graduated from Arsenal's Hale End academy in

May 2014 and he has gone on to make 65 appearances for the Gunners' first team.

Iwobi is the kind of player every supporter dreams about having in their team – a youth product who has grown up with the values of the club and forged a place for himself in the senior squad.

The youngster's first season at Emirates

Stadium in 2015-16 surpassed all expectations, as he made 21 appearances at home and in Europe whilst still a teenager. Still just 21, he's never been fazed by the occasion whether it be playing away to Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena or scoring a goal on his first full Premier League start against Everton.

PROS JOIN CHIPOLOPOLO

By Nyambe Lubasi

Striker Patson Daka will miss Zambia's three-day training camp in Ghana and instead join the team in Nigeria on Wednesday.

Dakar is expected to join the team later after sustaining an unspecified minor injury while in action for his Austrian club RB Salzburg in Sunday's 2-1 home win over AC Wolfsberger.

"The Salzburg medical team have advised that he stays behind for at least two more days while they monitor his injury but he is still expected to join the team in Abuja on Wednesday," FAZ spokesperson Desmond Katongo said.

The news comes in the wake of two withdrawals already following injuries to striker Brian Mwila of Platinum Stars in South Africa and midfielder Emmanuel Banda of KV Oostende in Belgium. And Katongo said the Russian-based duo of defender Stopilla Sunzu (Arsenal Tula) and striker Fashion Sakala (Spartak Moscow) including Mamelodi Sun-

downs goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene and midfielder Chisamba Lungu of Alanyspor in Turkey are due to arrive on Monday.

Swedish-based midfielder Edwards Chilufya of Djurgardens and Daka's club mate in Austria, Enock Mwepu, are expected in Ghana on Wednesday.

Orlando Pirates striker Justin Shonga and Ajax Cape Town midfielder Roderick Kabwe were the first foreign-based players to link-up their 13 home-based counterparts in Johannesburg while in transit to Accra.

Katongo said the team will leave Accra for Abuja on Wednesday en route to Uyo for the October 7 date against Nigeria in the two sides penultimate 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier.

Nigeria and Zambia have 10 and 7 points respectively in Group B, Cameroon are 3rd on 3 points while bottom placed Algeria have a point with two rounds of games left to play.



Ngonga replaces injured Mwila

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zambia striker Brian Mwila has been ruled out of next weekends showdown against Nigeria. Mwila is still recovering from a knee injury he

sustained on September 2 in Zambia's 3-1 home win over Algeria in a match he scored a brace. "Brian (Mwila) will not be part of the team as he had a recurrence of the injury he suffered during the Algeria game. It is best to give him time to fully recover," Zambia team Doctor George Magwende said.

The striker from South African PSL club Platinum Stars has been replaced by Power Dynamos striker Alex Ngonga and John Chingandu of Zesco United.

Mwila is also Zambia's top scorer in 2017 with 8 goals from 9 matches.

Pique resigns from Spain national team

Story on Page 11

By Diggers Reporter

Zanaco have chickened out of Sunday's league game against bottom placed City of Lusaka.

The defending champions, who are 2nd on the table and three points behind Green Buffaloes cite the unavailability of four players who are away on Zambia duty and left on Sunday for West Africa.

Goalkeeper Toaster Nsabata, defender Ziyi Tembo including forwards Ernest Mbewe and Augustine Mulenga are in transit for the October 7 away 2018 FIFA

Zanaco chicken out of league game after key players join Chipolopolo

World Cup Group B qualifier away against Nigeria.

However, the absence of these players has never been a problem for Zanaco during Zambia's recent August engagements when the defending champions coped without them.

On August 12 when Zambia drew 2-2 away with Bafana Bafana in a 2018 CHAN qualifier, Zanaco drew 1-1

away to Mufulira Wanderers. They followed this up with a 3-2 win over Konkola Blades on August 16 when none of their players were released from camp.

And on the day Zambia were beating Bafana 2-0 in Ndola on August 20, Zanaco were drawing 1-1 away at Nakambala Leopards.

However, the problem is Zanaco have seemingly not

recovered from the 4-0 away loss they suffered at 4th placed Nkana on September 3 that was played 24 hours after Zambia beat Algeria 3-1 in Lusaka and immediately after the game left for North Africa with their Zanaco call-ups.

Meanwhile, City have picked up four draws from their last 23 games despite Zanaco chickening out on them.

News Diggers : The Face of Evidence Based Digital Journalism

