

Muvi TV unveils ex-sex workers in new R4M series

Linda Jere

Zambia National Women's Lobby chairperson Beauty Katebe has urged government to broaden its women empowerment programmes to capture commercial sex workers.

And Muvi TV's Ready for Marriage (R4M) Extraordinary Beyond host Master Chimbala says the programme will help transform lives.

R4M is a Muvi TV reality show which features men and women competing for a wedding sponsorship package.

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NAPSA gets Intermarket Bank shares

Miriam Chabala

Finance minister Felix Mutati today told Parliament that the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA), has acquired a significant stake in Intermarket Bank, which is expected to resume operations under the name "Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited"

Mutati said the Authority decided to convert its K50 million credit in Intermarket Bank after the institution failed to pay the Authority its deposits.

Earlier, Mutati rendered a ministerial statement to the House without specifying the shareholding structure of the bank.

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Mumbi Phiri warns unruly PF members

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MUKULA SCAM

...goes bad, partners turn on each other

Story page 4



A truck loaded with Mukula logs parked at Lusaka's Garden Compound Police this morning - Picture by Mukosha Funga



Zambia will manufacture own ARVs - Minister

Martha Chilasha

Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Zambia will start manufacturing ARVs locally starting next year.

And Dr Chilufya has directed health facilities across the country to stop allocating specific days to ART related services in a bid to fight stigma.

Responding to a question from Luena UPND member of parliament David Kundoti who wanted to know when government was planning to start manufacturing ARVs locally, Dr Chilufya said government had already identified companies that would produce ARVs and other drugs locally. "Madam Speaker, the President had put it in his address to Parliament, directing the Ministry of Health together with the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry to

ensure that local manufacturing of drugs including ARVs was enhanced. So what will happen is that in conjunction with relevant ministries, we are going to look at measures that will help reduce taxes on raw material that are used in the production of ARVs and other drugs so that the cost of production is lowered. Already there are companies that have built infrastructure and are ready to start manufacturing these drugs by next year." Dr Chilufya said. **Story P4**

Fire Bowman, Kapata - TIZ

By Mukosha Funga

TIZ says President Edgar Lungu must fire Copperbelt minister Bowman Lusambo and his lands counterpart Jean Kapata because maintaining them will erode the public's confidence in his Cabinet. And TIZ has challenged Chishimba Kambwili to report all cases of corruption to relevant authorities if he is genuinely concerned about the fight against the vice.

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Lusaka man shoots girlfriend dead

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AGC must stop sleeping, Tutwa Ngulube tells new DG

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Zambia didn't benefit from Lungu's trip to Swaziland where he went to watch naked girls, says Kabimba

By Patricia Mbewe

Rainbow Party leader Wynter Kabimba says there is no economic benefit in President Edgar Lungu's decision to go and walk around naked and watch naked girls in Swaziland.

And Kabimba says he cannot take expelled Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili's crusade against corruption seriously because even he himself is corrupt.

Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk today, Kabimba said it did not make any economic sense for President Lungu to go and watch King Mswati marry his 15th wife.

"This is about leadership, if you have a leadership that is nationalistic and that is patriotic and realises that this country is poor they will try to save resources. For example, we have heard this argument from ministers in the PF government that 'don't criticise the President for travelling because his travels are important for the economic development of the country'. Yes the argument maybe correct



President Edgar Lungu with national planning minister Lucky Mulusa in Swaziland

but the question is what is the economic advantage of Edgar Lungu going to witness Mswati going to marry his fifteenth wife how does that benefit the economy from that?" Kabimba asked.

When show host Luchi suggested that he could have gone for tourism purposes, Kambimba

asked, "What tourism? To go and see the naked girls and to go and walk naked because you are trying to pretend that you have become a Tswana?"

"What is the economic advantage to Zambia for Edgar Lungu to go and witness the inauguration of President [João] Lourenço in Angola? What is the

economic reason of that trip to Zambia? The answer is nothing! Why it is that Angela Merkel has just won an election in Germany why isn't [Donald] Trump going to witness her inauguration? When Trump was being inaugurated which foreign leader, Germany didn't go, Angela Merkel didn't

go she went there much later and yet Germany is the strongest economy in Europe with the EU."

He observed that African leaders were wasteful.

"So why is it that African leaders that are in charge of poor countries are so inconsiderate about wasting little monies in their countries when the

people that are rich are not doing it. So all these are questions and the answer is simple we have the wrong crop of fellows in leadership that is why we are so wasteful," he said.

And Kabimba said people like Kambwili could never be his heroes.

"If I had not worked with Chishimba Kambwili, he would be my hero. I worked with the man. I wrote him a letter in 2013 to say stop collecting money from the mines under the guise of sponsoring youth day celebrations. This is what MMD was doing we opposed we thought this was corruption and you are trying to do the same and I copied and I wrote to all the mining companies don't give the man the money and I have got those documents. Now today he is the biggest crusader of corruption I can't believe him, I just cannot believe him," he said.

"What I have advised Chishimba Kambwili is that maybe what you are saying sir is correct. Get your evidence and your documents, take those to ACC I will be the first one to join his crusade that I can assure you. But I will not join his approach where every day he is holding a media briefing and all that is coming out are allegations, there is not even a single day when I have seen him wave a document during his media briefing."

He recalled that Kambwili was one of the reasons late president Michael Sata fired him.

"I don't believe in what Bowman Lusambo said just as much as I don't believe in what Chishimba Kambwili says but the point that am making is that experience is the best teacher and for me who was a victim in PF with this type of propaganda orchestrated by the group to which Kambwili belonged and the likes of [UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba] GBM, 'we have a dossier on Wynter', telling Michael Sata 'no he wants to kill you', paying boys and girls, you know, youths in the streets of Lusaka carrying coffins written Wynter. I was being buried alive all in the hope that when they get me out of the way, either GBM or Chishimba Kambwili or their godfather whom I can't name, one of them would be president," said Kabimba.

"But you see God is very nice, wherever he is seated drinking tea, none of them became president. What has happened is that all of them with their wicked propaganda are out."

ACC must stop sleeping, MPs tell new DG

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Kabwe central member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says ACC must stop sleeping and dozing or risk being labeled a political organ.

And Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says the ACC must clean up corruption in government and investigate how someone made K21 million in one year.

Meanwhile, Kafue UPND member of parliament Mirriam Chonya says institutions which deal with law and order must put the interest of the people first rather than the interests of their appointing authorities.

Debating a motion to ratify Zachariah Phiri as ACC Director General and Cecilia Mbewe as Clerk of the National Assembly yesterday, Ngulube asked him to take the ACC back to the old days when it was a powerful institution.

"We want ACC to get back to its old golden days, where when ACC stands up, people will know that they will produce a report. Of late, Mr Speaker, ACC has been silent on a lot of issues. We do not know maybe it is because they did not have a Director General. We have also seen the trend where they are quick to announce the arrest of individuals and do not announce to the nation when people are acquitted. So we want the ACC to stand firm and to report to the nation what their findings are in most of these allegations. In the event that ACC does not prove to the nation that they are independent, this institution risks being labeled a political organ," Ngulube said.

He also said the ACC should clear the air on the procurement of fire

tenders instead leaving it to people who were not supposed to answer questions related to it.

"We have heard people alleging that there was corruption in the procurement of fire tenders, awarding contracts for the Ndola-Lusaka dual carriage way. We want the ACC to come out and clear the air. Because the people answering on behalf of ACC are non ACC people. So we leave it to ACC to answer those issues. People are coming to say the ACC cleared this deal when the ACC is dozing and sleeping, they are not telling the nation what their position is," he said.

Ngulube said Phiri must be impartial in the discharge of his duties.

"Mr Speaker, it is important that those appointed to serve at the Anti Corruption Commission can bear in mind that that institution is not just for politicians. There is a perception in Zambia that people serving in government cannot be investigated. This is why Mr Zachariah Phiri has the mandate to prove that the ACC is independent. The Director General must prove that the ACC is impartial and does not dance to the tunes of politicians as it has been put in perception. It is very clear now that there are too many allegations of corruption against government and individuals," said Ngulube.

And Kambwili told Phiri not to be afraid of politicians.

"I hope and trust the man we going to ratify today, we will ratify you, but I can tell you that I will be the first one to come after three years if you don't do anything, to tell you that I wasted my vote. Do not be afraid of politicians. If I have stolen, I should be called a thief and corrupt. It is

ACC that can give comfort to the people of Zambia. We do not want an Anti Corruption where you have to wait for people to leave office. Mr Zachariah, wherever you are, I know you are listening because this is of your interest. My brother, go and clean up this corruption where people can declare 2.5 million in 2015 at a portfolio, one year later, 2016 they declare 23 million. Ndiwe magician? Is that magic? Go and clean up corruption more especially in this current administration of government," Kambwili said.

He said that ACC must not just be a 'useless and toothless' organization but be professional in their conduct. "Let us be professional in the way we conduct ourselves and not to allow these institutions to be used by politicians to demean and insult others. It is very disappointing Mr Speaker, people are complaining that there was corruption in the procurement of the fire engines, the first people to say there was no corruption is the ACC. And then they go with a statement that 'if people wants us to revisit we will revisit'. Automatically you are telling us, you are a useless, toothless organization because if you cleared, would you would not say 'but if people want we can revisit'. Then you are automatically telling us that the report you are giving is not correct," said Kambwili.

He however recommended Mbewe for the position of Clerk of the National Assembly saying she had exhibited quality leadership skills. Meanwhile Chonya said institutions must outlive their individual interest and instead protect the interest of the people.

"Once these nominees are in their

job, they must put the interest of Zambians first rather than the interest of their appointing authority. This is the only time in the history of Zambia that all institutions have come out compromised. An example is how the police is operating, how Constitutional Court is operating, Office of the DPP and indeed somebody said 'even the National Assembly of Zambia is no longer doing an effective oversight role that they are supposed to play'. This, Mr Speaker, is very regrettable because these institutions are supposed to outlive our individual interest as stakeholders. Tomorrow when we leave office, we will need these offices to protect our interest and the general public as they are supposed to be," said Chonya.

And contributing to the debate, Lupososhi member of parliament Chungu Bwalya said Phiri must ensure that ACC moves within the confines of the law and must not be weakened by the pressure and interferences of other parties.

"I want to believe that Mr Zachariah Phiri is going to use his usefulness and energy that he has to ensure that that institution is going to be moving within the confines of the law and within the aspirations of Zambians. Mr Phiri, you are being elevated to a position of no friend. This position is a very lonely position. It is true that not only will you get interference and pressure from all angles that will be asking you to deal with certain matters regarding corruption. It is true that corruption is a cancer that needs to be addressed so you must ensure that ACC is seen to be meaningfully," said Bwalya.

Bowman fits in the PF leadership picked from the street – Mumba

By Zondiwe Mbewe
MMD leader Nevers Mumba says Copperbelt Minister Bowman Lusamba is not material that can be trusted with such a high position, but fits in the PF leadership which is picked up from the street.

In an interview with News Diggers! Mumba who is Zambia's former High Commissioner to Canada, charged that President Edgar Lungu appointed Lusamba because he was satisfied with the minister's thuggery behaviour.

"Bowman is a product of MMD and we know Bowman very well. And they gave him a position that they shouldn't have given him. He never had that kind of position even when MMD was in power. But PF thinks that he can be minister. He is just being Bowman, he hasn't changed for them and he should not change for them because when they appointed him they knew Bowman. They knew his attitude. So basically they made that choice, the President made that choice which means he is happy with it," Mumba said.

"I hold very strong views on the current governance

system of the PF. We can go all the way to the late president Michael Sata in terms of the quality of leaders that he picked up from the streets, placed like that and left them in power, not knowing their capacity, not knowing their qualifications not knowing their expenditure level. So when you take them to Parliament they take the same behaviour to the sacred House."

He said there was no solution to the leadership crisis that the country was facing apart from removing the PF from power.

"We will continue to see this until the PF is removed from government. Unfortunately except from very few, the Patriotic Front is full of people that are really not supposed to be holding public offices because of their levels of integrity. They can be serving in lower positions were they can be helpful but not the positions they have been given," said Mumba.

"This crisis we face will continue, and that type of behaviour at Parliament will continue until we get another quality of leadership which Zambians are going to have to decide. If this issue of fighting in Parliament

is allowed, then it's the nature of the PF. Because we understand that the PF

Secretary General said that these issues are going to continue and people like

Chishimba Kambwili will constantly be beaten. So its not an individual in PF per

say, but basically the spirit of the particular political party."

Lusaka man kills girlfriend, injures child after dispute

By Diggers Reporter

A 34-year-old Lusaka man has shot dead his 26-year-old girlfriend after a dispute. Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo confirmed this in a statement today, adding that the couple's baby also sustained a bullet wound in the neck.

"We received a report of murder which happened in Lusaka Province yesterday, 05th October, 2017 at about 20:00 hours in Meanwood Ibex Hill area in which Shinka Kaputo aged 34 of unknown house number in Mean wood is alleged to have shot dead his girlfriend, Precious Manganasa aged 26 of unknown house number, Lusaka West using a Pistol," Katongo stated.

"The victim went to the accused person's residence to pick her daughter aged two years seven months



who was at her father's residence in Meanwood. She (Mangesana) sustained a bullet wound on the neck. The scene was visited and a pistol with 10 rounds of ammunition was recovered."

She stated that Kaputo was in police custody whilst

Mangesana's body was lying in UTH mortuary awaiting postmortem. Asked about the baby's wellbeing, Katongo said, "We have just established that the baby was also shot in the neck and the orojectile was stuck in the neck. It has been extracted

by medical personnel at Fairview Hospital." In her last Facebook post yesterday, Mangesana wrote; "I honestly think Moody People are Retarded! Literally Psychopaths!Y'all just wake up Angry at the world Like who Upset you?"



Do you think this fire tender is worth \$1 million???

If not, join the PeP Protest

**Wednesday
11th October 2017**

**From Woodlands
Shopping Mall to
State House & Back**

This is a lawful protest as Police have already been given the 7-day notice required by law
For details: Contact Sean Tembo on 0971195870

By Joseph Mwenda

A container loaded with illegally cultivated Mukula logs is packed at Lusaka's Garden Compound Police Station.

According to a News Diggers! investigation, however, the truck carrying the timber has not been impounded for transporting illegal goods, but there is an ownership dispute among the powers that be, while the dealers have turned against each other.

In the audio (on the website), a Zambian businessman alleged to be the owner of the truck gets agitated after getting a call from a reporter demanding an explanation on why his truck is packed at the police carrying Mukula logs.

In another audio, another businessman explains how he was crooked into transporting illegal Mukula and ended up being arrested by police who further (allegedly) stole US\$4,500 from him before demanding a K10,000 bribe for his release.

But first, we recorded a thrilling encounter of how the whole scam was done in Serenje, Central Province, by a witnesses who took part in the scam.

Sikazwe (not real name) narrates that the alleged mastermind of the business identified as Emmanuel Simangolwa hired a truck from Alex Tembo, through a third party, to transport Mukula from Serenje to Lusaka on the pretext that it was ordinary timber with export documents.

"What happened is that, about a month ago, Mr Simangolwa sent one of his business partners, a Mr Joseph Simwanza to find a truck that could transport the logs from Serenje to Lusaka. Simwanza approached

Mukula deal goes bad partners turn against each other

Tembo with the story that they had mukula 'trees' in Serenje with clean papers. They told him that the mukula had been impounded a long time ago, but then it was discharged through the court process and was supposed to be taken to Lusaka. And that is how Tembo released his truck with an agreement that he would be paid his money in Lusaka, upon delivery," the witnesses explained.

"But when the logs came to Lusaka, Simangolwa and Simwanza had a dispute over some payment and they differed. So Simwanza disappeared with the container so that he could sell and probably get his cut from there.

Sikazwe narrated that Tembo got angry after discovering that the Mukula was illegally obtained from some villagers in Serenje.

"Apparently, these people got the Mukula from some villagers in Serenje and left secretly, forcing the village people to chase after them. They caught up with them in Kapiri Mposhi but they lied to the village people that they would pay them when the logs get to Lusaka where some Chinese businessmen were waiting for the goods with ready payment. But in Lusaka, the deal went bad when Simwanza sold the logs to some Chinese without involving Simangolwa," the witness narrated.

"Now it got bad after police started hunting for Tembo because he was

talking too much about this illegal Mukula and the bigger people at ministerial level heard that the deal had gone bad. So when Police finally found Tembo trying to get his payment from Simwanza, arrested and detained him at Garden Police Station. The witnesses narrated that police also arrested Simwanza, while Simangolwa, the owner of the truck parked at Garden Police, was free.

"As we speak, Joseph Simwanza is in police custody right now at Central Police. I believe he was picked up at Cosmopolitan Mall last night (Thursday). The challenge that is there is that the senior government officials involved, the ministers, want to move the truck tonight. But the task force [on Mukula] wants to secure the truck today anytime, but there is a dispute. If you go there now, you will still find the truck at the police station," narrated the witness.

"It is a red container on a truck labeled SEMMANUEL TRADING LTD, registration number AJD 8466 and Trailer registration number BAF 128 T. It belongs to his trucking business company."

A check at Garden Police found the truck as described, but when contacted, Simangolwa claimed the story was not true.

"Aaa.. no no no! there is nothing like that. I will get back to you, thank you," said Simangolwa.

When asked if he was denying the fact that the truck

parked at Garden Police was his, Simangolwa cut the line.

The investigation then turned to Tembo who also denied having any connection to the illegal mukula trade, but admitted that "Simangolwa hired him through Simwanza on false pretences and later refused to pay him after using his truck.

He complained that he was kept in police detention and charged for "stealing goods in transit", when the Mukula was illegal.

"I have nothing to do with the Mukula business, they told me that the timber they were transporting had all the documents. The agreement was that they would just put fuel, go to Serenje get timber and within two days they were supposed to return to Lusaka and pay me," he explained.

"So the truck went there and stayed in Serenje for over a week, of which when I returned from South Africa, I pushed them until the truck came to Lusaka. Somewhere in... I think Katuba area, they said they had a problem with the truck. Not knowing that it was carrying illegal Mukula, I told them to come and park it at my yard in Lusaka where I said I would give them an alternative truck. So they came and parked it where I park my other trucks. I think that was last Wednesday, but they got the truck imagine on the 16th of September.

He narrated that the deal went bad after the business partners differed over some

payment.

"Initially, they were supposed to move the timber to South Africa on their own, but since my truck is South African registered, they asked me to go and discharge it in Johannesburg. So I insisted that I give them an alternative truck, but they said 'no wait a bit'. So on Thursday I was told they had an issue. It's like there was an issue between the same boss Mr Simangolwa and Mr Joseph Simwanza who had initially approached me. On Friday, this Joseph comes to tell me that 'no I am having an issue with Mr Simangolwa it's like he wants to swindle me he wants to get this truck the whole truckload and he won't pay me anything so I need to move this container to somewhere where it is safe because here at your yard am sure he is going to send people they will come and find it and they will get it'. So reluctantly, after realising that there was something fishy, I told Joseph to go and remove the container from my truck, and I started demanding for my money. On Saturday I called Simangolwa I asked him 'what is the problem between the two of you?' He said 'I cannot talk to you, find Joseph and come to me'. I told him 'I am not your employee, find your employee and pay me, otherwise, I am going to dump that container and get my trailer," Tembo explained in a winding interview.

"Somehow, Joseph found another horse, pulled the trailer and took it to a yard just behind Novatek in the industrial area, belonging to some Chinese. They offloaded the logs and asked me to go and get my trailer, which I did. But I also demanded for my money, so Joseph told me to go back to the same place by Monday 08:00 hours for my payment. On Monday on my way there, a group of police officers came to my car, told my driver to stop. They pulled me out by force, searched my car, from which they stole \$4,500."

Tembo explained that he was then detained at Garden Police Station.

"So I am told what they

did in the night whilst I was locked up at Garden, some police officers and the same Mr Simangolwa got another truck, went back to Fly Dragon and loaded the timber to take it away. But on their way, the Mukula task force squad got wind of it and started trailing them. That is how they U-turned and brought the truck to Garden. They lied to the task force that it was my truck and I was the owner of the Mukula when the truck is clearly written Simangolwa Emmanuel, he narrated.

He explained that he denied owning the track and he was later released on police bond around 16:00 hours.

"I lost US\$4,500 which the police took from me and before coming out, my arresting officers asked me to give him K10,000. But I reported that to another office and they started threatening that they were going to make me suffer for jeopardising the Mukula deal and for reporting the K10,000 demand. They said 'why did you allow your truck to offload', I said 'because later on I came to realise that the mukula was illegal, it had no paper'. As I am talking to you, they got all my phone, the money and all the things I had in the car. But I am not involved in their business. If you want, the same way you have reached me, you can also call Mr Simangolwa and ask him. If he is innocent, he will tell you, the way I have told you. You can also call Joseph and You can ask the police what happened. Let them tell you the truth [about] who the owner of that Mukula is, it's not mine."

He said he had been warned to stay in doors.

"What I know is that mukula is banned, so I don't know why they are threatening me as if I am involved. As I am talking to you, I have been warned not to come out of the house. I can't even take my children to school. So ask the people who gave you this story to tell the whole truth and the true owner of that Mukula which is at Garden," said Tembo.

Zambia to start manufacturing own ARVs in 2018 – Minister

By Martha Chilasha

Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Zambia will start manufacturing ARVs locally starting next year.

And Dr Chilufya has directed health facilities across the country to stop allocating specific days to ART related services in a bid to fight stigma. Responding to a question from Luena UPND member of parliament David Kundoti who wanted to know when government was planning to start manufacturing ARVs locally, Dr Chilufya said that government had already identified companies that would produce ARVs and other drugs locally.

"Madam Speaker, the President had put it in his address to Parliament directing the Ministry of Health together with the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry to ensure that local manufacturing of drugs including ARVs was enhanced. So what will happen is that in conjunction with relevant ministries, we are going to look at measures that will help reduce taxes on raw material that are used in the production of ARVs and other drugs so that the cost of production is lowered. Already there are companies that have built

infrastructure and are ready to start manufacturing these drugs by next year." Dr Chilufya said.

"So the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, ZAMRA, has received some dossiers from certain companies that are interested in taking up the challenge of manufacturing ARVs locally and so government is already putting in measures that will ensure that the production of ARVs and other drugs start as soon as possible."

And Dr Chilufya said he had directed health facilities across the country to stop allocating specific days to ART related services in a bid to fight stigma. He was responding to a question from Moomba member of parliament Fred Chaatila who wanted to find out what government was doing to ensure that it fought stigma that came about as a result of having a specific day allocated to ART.

"Madam Speaker we have started fighting stigma in the way we deliver health care service in our facilities as much as possible so as to try and ensure that stigma is cut off completely. And we have introduced integrated services in the health sector. What I mean Madam Speaker is that services in all our health facilities will be offered in an integrated manner, meaning

that we do not want days to be allocated to specific services where a day will be labeled as an ARV day or this is an antenatal day, so what I meant by saying we will fight stigma by introducing integrated service is that members of the public can go to the clinic at any time of the day and access whatever service be it ARVs, antenatal or indeed for anything other service," said Dr Chilufya.

"In this way, Madam Speaker,

we will be providing services like what we would call a super market approach where you can walk in and pick whatever you want so this is one way we are fighting stigma."

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya told parliament that government had acquired an additional \$12 million from the Indian government to help complete the 650 health post in Muchinga, Northern, Luapula and Eastern provinces.

NAPSA 'buys' Intermarket Bank shares

From front page

"Sir, I would like to reiterate that government has successfully restructured Inter market banking corporation Zambia Ltd in possession. Further, the shareholders agreement for the restructured bank has been concluded and the capital requirement has been made. The new bank will operate under the name 'Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited' and will take over the assets and deposits of Inter market Banking Corporation Zambia Limited in possession. Management for the restructured bank has been appointed and will soon commence operations," Mutati said.

"Mr Speaker, the Bank of Zambia will next week conduct public hearings on Intermarket Banking Corporation Zambia limited in Lusaka and Kitwe. These hearings target people who have an interest in the Bank which include depositors, creditors, shareholders and employees. The objective is to ensure that the interest of all stakeholders are taken into account during the restructuring process, Mr Speaker, I thank you." However, Nkombo rose to ask the minister to state the names of the shareholders. Mutati hesitated to reveal the new shareholders until the Speaker intervened.

"For removal of doubt, I can confirm Mr Speaker that at the time the Bank was repossessed, NAPSA had deposits with the bank of close to K50 million. Mr Speaker, if the Bank was to go under, NAPSA was going to lose the entire K50 million so what has happened Mr Speaker is that in the restructuring, NAPSA has converted that K50 million into shares of which they are going to earn dividends and I think it's a prudent way of undertaking, restructuring and protecting the interests of the workers. Who appointed management [for the upcoming Bank]? It is the share holders. I thank you," said Mutati.

My ministers are paralysed because of corruption allegations - Lungu

By Martha Chilasha
I cannot take it anymore, some of my ministers and permanent secretaries are

now paralyzed on account of corruption allegations, says President Edgar Lungu. Speaking when he swore

in some diplomats at State House yesterday, the Head of State challenged expelled PF member of Parliament

Chishimba Kambwili and others to provide evidence of their corruption claims. "I cannot take it anymore

some of my ministers and permanent secretaries are now paralyzed on account of corruption allegations.

"You are corrupt, you are corrupt, you are corrupt, c'mon, give us the evidence and the courts will deal with it," President Lungu said.

President Lungu insisted that he would not fire anyone based on unfounded corruption allegations.

"Especially in the aftermath of the much talked about fire tenders, people have been telling me to drop some one or two even four guys to kill this but I do not fire anybody, transfer anybody or promote anybody like that but on merit," said President Lungu.

He urged his ministers and permanent secretaries not to be intimidated but continue working as long as they were not involved in illegal dealings.

And in apparent reference to Kambwili, President Lungu said he was disappointed that the ACC had not given feedback on their investigations, which he allowed after a hint from the institution, on one of his ministers up to now.

The head of state said this when he swore Anthony Mukwita as Ambassador to Germany, Alfridah Kansembe as Ambassador to Brazil, Dr Ngosa Simbyakula as Zambia's Ambassador to United States of America and retired Major General Toplyn Lubaya as Zambia's Ambassador to Egypt.

Others sworn in were Dr Simon Miti as principle private secretary at State House, Patrick Kangwa as Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet for Administration, Mabvuto Sakala as higher education permanent secretary and Yande Mwape as National Coordinator for DMMU.



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT: President Edgar Chagwa Lungu talks to National Governing Council of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Chairperson Reuben Lifuka and his Vice Brig. Gen. Dr. Timothy Kazembe and Minister of Justice Given Lubinda during a consultative meeting at State House in Lusaka on Friday, October 6, 2017. PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE ©2017

Govt must do more to rehabilitate sex workers - ZNWL

From front page

This year, R4M features 12 sex workers from all over Zambia will compete for a K250,000 prize, whilst learning various income generating skills to help transform their lives.

Speaking at the R4M march past launch under the theme 'Transformation and Empowerment' today, Katebe said government must help sex workers and put in place mechanisms to monitor their progress and transformation.

"It is therefore imperative that government broadens its women empowerment program to capture commercial sex workers, there should be empowerment for those women who wish to take a different course in life. Government must help them do so and mechanisms should be in place to monitor their progress and transformation," Katebe said.

She said poverty in Zambia bore the face of women adding that there was need for women to have a say on issues of sexuality and be able to protect themselves against any risk behaviour. "We are also aware that poverty is another factor, and poverty in this country bears the face of a woman. It therefore goes without saying that a country we

need to double our efforts in programmes targeted women empowerment. Women must have a say in issues of sex and sexuality which include deciding to protect themselves against any risk behaviour which may expose them to diseases including HIV/AIDS," Katebe said.

"I wish to further implore everyone to act differently; we cannot expect to achieve different results whilst we have continued to do things the same old way."

Katebe advised sex workers to venture in other gainful activities.

"However this should not be an excuse because there are other gainful activities that women and indeed men can engage in other than resorting to commercial sex work. I want to believe that as a country the HIV/AIDS statistics of 64,000 new infections annually are a source of concern and any interventions like this Television reality show is bringing on board must be supported because commercial sex work is among factors pushing HIV/AIDS statistics to alarming levels," said Katebe.

And Chimbala said the purpose of the R4M Extraordinary Beyond was to help people transform

and better their lives.

"Ready for Marriage Extra Ordinary is featuring 12 contestants from across the country and these are sex workers who are transitioning to becoming people who can sustain their lives using healthy, safe ways of raising income, ways of running their families, ways of running their enterprises and pursuing their aspirations. We believe in people and their talents and their hopes and aspirations,"

said Chimbala.

"We believe that given a chance, people can walk away from things that are illicit, illegal or ill to do things that are healthy and worthwhile for their lives. And so in pursuing this programme, we hope that we are due to run for about 90 days with this programme, or so to say 12 to 13 weeks with this programme. We have different forms and variations of content. Remember that Ready for Marriage

Extraordinary is mainly about transformation and empowerment meaning that there are creating a journey through which the ladies get worth will lead their life and experience change for their mind sets, their behaviors and that is what defines what is expected in the programme."

The 12 contestants were veiled like brides during the march past and they will be officially revealed when the programme airs soon.

Mumbi Phiri warns unruly PF cadres

By Anastasia Kasongo

Patriotic Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says party cadres who are fond of fanning disorder and insulting people will be dealt with.

Speaking when she featured on 5FM's Burning Issue on Thursday, Phiri said she got embarrassed every time she witnessed PF cadres being unruly on the roads whenever they went to see off President Edgar Lungu at the airport.

"Those [PF cadres] at intercity and those who insult people in the street are going to be dealt with and I am telling you we were all listening to Millenium Radio and I wish the woman who called can come to our offices and identify the people who were misbehaving we don't agree, we have to make a difference. What you have said about commotion among PF cadres is very true. We actually had a meeting with the provincial youth chair Kennedy Kamba on Tuesday over this same issue in the secretary general's office," Phiri said.

"I have witnessed the commotion the time

I was going to the airport, politics will only change if a wrong is being committed and us as leaders we acknowledge and do something about it. This is the 21st century we cannot continue in doing the politics of savagery. As leaders let us learn to come out and condemn the violence, the way our youth have been moving on the road it is very embarrassing, they even insult people. People are abused verbally."

And Phiri said she had learnt self-restraint from the time she was suspended from Parliament for three months after fighting with Elizabeth Chitika.

"Let me take you back, president Michael Sata himself fought in parliament in case you don't know...it's not new me myself I fought in that house with Honorable Elizabeth Chitika and these things have been happening there was another honorable member who was killed by a fellow member of parliament who used a stool to hit his friend so it depends and you know these politics is a learning process like now me I can't fight because I learnt from that," Phiri

said.

"Yes sometimes you can be provoked but you have as a leader you have to be calm that's what I learnt and you have to learn to tolerate even those who are violent for me now if someone followed me they wanted to fight with me I would run away and I would not lose anything from that."

She said it was laughable that both Copperbelt minister Bowman Lusambo and expelled Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili reported each other to police when the matter would be handled by Parliament.

"And you know it is laughable for Honorable member who has been in the House for a long time to even take this matter to the police you start wondering are they politicking or they want to draw public sympathy because remember parliament is an entity on its own that forms three parts of government that is the legislature they have their own rules when you fight at Parliament, police has nothing to do with it. They will deal with it at Parliament," said Phiri.

Mushimba explains RTSA/Lamise tender: Govt wont spend anything

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba says the concession agreement

which the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) and Intelligent Mobility Solutions Limited has entered into to provide

traffic management solutions and services at a \$500 million will not require government to spend money.

Mushimba said this at a press briefing in Lusaka today. He said the partnership with Intelligent Mobility

Solutions Limited would introduce the use of electronic systems to enforce road traffic regulations.

“The procurement process for this project was in line with the dictates of the public private partnership Act of 2009 where the unsolicited bids are subject to an open tender in accordance with section 42 (6) of the Act. The project was advertised in the print media for a period of one month, and five competing bids were received and evaluated where Intelligent Mobility Solutions Limited which is a consortium of Kapsch of Australia and Lamise Trading was awarded the concession to implement the advanced Road Safety Management Solution and services,” Mushimba said.

“The project will invest in excess of \$500 million over the next few years and for that amount of investment from the private sector, he has to be given enough time to recoup and recover that. And then the financial model that we did, that is what took us to the 17 years concession, that the 15 percent fees they will be getting on the value added services over 17 years. They will be able to recover this investment and its a build operator transfer

type of model which means whatever infrastructure will be put up including these inspection centres across the country for RTSA, for vehicle fitness and many other things, all these things become government property when the 17 years end and without government putting in any money. I think thats a very good deal and very beneficial.”

He said that the concession would not take away any core responsibilities from RTSA.

“RTSA retain its core mandate of regulations, education, collection of road tax, driver licensing fees and carbon tax. While the concessionaire will enforce road safety and collect fines from traffic offences such as overloading, speeding and road user charges for vehicle inspection and registration,” said Mushimba.

“The partnership is intended to reduce the rising incidences of road crashes and fatalities to improve the road safety record of our country and improve the provision of services to the public. This partnership will help improve the performance of RTSA on its core mandate and build capacity in RTSA to use modern methods of law enforcement using electronic systems.”



Road Transport and Safety and Agency (RTSA) director Zindaba Soko at the ministry of Transport and Communication press briefing in Lusaka's Pamodzi hotel on October 5, 2017. Picture by - Tenson Mkhala

2018 budget an ulcer - Dundumwezi MP

By Mirriam Chabala
Dundumwenzi UPND member of parliament Edgar Sing'ombe says the 2018 national budget is a “topical ulcer which Zambians will be nursing the entire year”. And Mongu central UPND member of parliament Dr Mwilola Imakando says the 2018 budget has not created favourable conditions for the creation of new jobs. Debating Minister of Finance Felix Mutati's budget speech yesterday, Sing'ombe said the 2018 budget was the worst he had seen since he became a member of parliament. “Mr Speaker it's quite hard to define this budget but if you allow me, I would simply call it dondamwaka. In my native language, dondamwaka, Mr Speaker means a topical ulcer. Mr Speaker if you allowed me to just give you how a brief of what the people of Dundumwenzi says when they look at this budget, it's a budget that has not changed their livelihood in many years. I want to state that this is my 11th year sitting here listening to a national budget being presented by various Ministers of Finance and what I have noticed is that this budget is actually worse than I have heard in the previous years. And I am going to illustrate,” said Sing'ombe.

“Mr Speaker before MMD left, as a constituency we had more than 15 satellite depots but as I stand here, Dundumwezi has less than 10 satellite depots and this is a constituency that produces tons and tons of our staple

food. Just last week, I was in the constituency and I toured a number of depots. I discovered that more than 150 farmers had supplied their maize to FRA yet only three people been paid. This is why the people of Dundumwezi are saying this is a topical ulcer of a budget and they shall spend the whole of 2018 just nursing it.” And in his debate, Dr Imakando lamented that the budget did not provide opportunities for job creation. “Mr Speaker, the people of Mongu are not inspired by the 2018 national budget. There are no jobs which will be created. They [PF] have admitted by saying that GDP growth will only be about 4%, with a 4% GDP growth there will be no new firms coming on the scene and therefore Mr Speaker, there is no hope,” Dr Imakando said. He also observed that so many projects had been abandoned.

“Let me refer to the promise made by the PF government. Mr Speaker, the PF government unsolicited for, promised the people of Mongu that they will build Lewanika University. Mr Speaker in Western Province we value education and when we heard that a university was going to be built for us, we were very excited. Mr Speaker, as they have abandoned many projects, Lewanika University has been abandoned too. I took time during the suspension just to walk around and what I saw Mr Speaker were abandoned structures. There

was nothing that looked like a university but Mr Speaker I do hope that as the President said that the construction at Lewanika University will commence, I hope that it will commence and I must add Mr Speaker that there is a stadium when you go to the site, you will only find shrubs but the people of Mongu are waiting to see if even the little that in this budget will be given to them,” said Dr Imakando.

Meanwhile, Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta said the 2018 national budget was too expensive for Zambians to survive.

“Mr Speaker, I have always wondered what the Zambia National Service is doing, we want to bring foreigners to come and do farming here in our country when we have people who can actually be trained under ZNS to do these things? Because other countries are doing just that. Why would we bring somebody to come and grow Cassava as an investor? When in Luapula especially in Chiengi people grow Cassava and these are youths just empower them. I would want to further speak about these same farm blocks that PF is talking about, I see that they are talking about taking these farm blocks to Muchinga and other provinces but what about Luapula? Because Luapula has got vast land, is it because in Chiengi people have got an opposition MP? But this is a democracy. Then also I also want the government to please give us the statistics of your achievements for the

2017 budget because I didn't hear any achievement and it all looks like theory to me. In any case, this budget is just so expensive for Zambians especially the poor people of Chiengi,” said Katuta.

waste of public money = no medicine no water bad schools dead babies

maybe citizens should demand accountability?

Alliance for community action ►►

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says Chishimba Kambwili is playing childish politics. And Kabimba says Kambwili must take proof of President Edgar Lungu's corruption to the ACC because there is no law which shields a Head of State from being investigated.

Speaking when he featured on Pan African Radio's 'People's Debate Forum', Kabimba said it was childish for Kambwili to hold a briefing and disclose that he used to buy toilet tissue for PF secretary general Mumbi Phiri.

"It is a shame that we can have people that have held high positions, former member of the central committee in the PF, former minister in the PF government but do not know how to debate. The only language you have in terms of debate is by insulting others. That is not the way to play politics. The correct way is to be intellect and put forward an argument. But to go on Prime TV, and this is where I disagree with ba Kambwili, with due respect to him. To go on radio, on Prime TV and to start saying that he is the one who was buying Mumbi Phiri toilet paper? It is childish to say the least. It's not leadership. And you hear people saying 'no Kambwili is right'. Is that the kind of leader really, that can resolve the problems of Zambia? I don't think so myself. So let's learn to debate and debate in the most polite way," Kabimba said.

He said even though Kambwili wanted to be popular, it was important to sound reasonable.

"That is why you see as Rainbow Party, our approach is completely different. We want to get to the bottom of these fire engines using facts. Once we have got these facts we shall come to the people and say 'these are the facts that we have'. If it means going to court, we shall go to court to make sure that this matter is adjudicated upon by an impartial tribunal, by a court and get to the bottom of this. We must avoid anarchy, we must avoid populism. I know that populism is supposed to be part of politics but even

Kambwili is childish - Wynter

if you want to be popular at least sound reasonable and not deliberate towards others," Kabimba said.

Kabimba also said there was no doubt in anyone's mind that there was corruption in government as the PF has even forgotten how to spell the word corruption.

"Look, there is no doubt in anyone's mind including those of us in Rainbow Party that there is corruption in our society today under the PF government. A government that in 2010 and 2011 stood on the pedestal of fighting corruption, today has stopped. They have even forgotten how to spell the word corruption. And the way you tell corruption is the accumulation of unaccounted for wealth by those that are in power. If tomorrow you became

a minister in the PF government and within six months you are packing five, six vehicles in front of your house, surely in a normal society you must explain the source of that wealth. Because you cannot buy so many vehicles in six months as a minister. I have been a minister myself. If you had one property and by the end of one year you have built three properties, surely society demands that you explain to it where you got that money. If you cannot account for what you have then the conclusion is that you must be involved in corruption," he said.

He said it was surprising for President Edgar Lungu to call for evidence when it was all over the streets.

"I get surprised when President Edgar Lungu says 'give me the evidence'

because the evidence is there, out there on the streets. Amongst his ministers and his government officials. I liked somebody who argued saying that 'this is what we heard from [Fredrick] Chiluba'. When people said to him Chiluba that 'your government is corrupt' he said 'no give me the evidence'. How can he see corruption when he himself is corrupt? Until he got out of power that's when we discovered the extent of his corruption. So, yes there is corruption. And you can see it by the affluence that people are swimming in starting from State House, ministers and government officials. We see it. We live with them," Kabimba said.

And Kabimba encouraged Kambwili to produce proof that President Lungu was

corrupt.

"With all the information that Chishimba Kambwili seems to have, if I were him, I would go with my document and file a complaint with ACC and I would take my documents to the police. There is no law in this country which says the President cannot be investigated for criminal acts. The law that exists is that the President cannot be prosecuted. But the President can be investigated," said Kabimba. "There is no disorder that Kambwili is causing. People are just ignoring him because they have heard the same story from the day he was fired. What he is supposed to do, let him do what I have done. Let him show us the evidence that even when he was in government, he was against

corruption. Show us. I have posted letters myself on the Rainbow website to prove that I was against corruption even when I was in PF getting a salary as a minister. I challenge him to come up with that evidence. Now, he is just sounding bitter that Edgar Lungu dismissed him. That's how some of us take him. He is a bitter man. The people that he is fighting with, bena Jean Kapata and them, were his allies in PF. I tell you, if I open my mouth and told you what I know about some of the things going on in PF, you would be shocked. And the country will be shocked. For me I can produce evidence. What I'm saying to ba Kambwili is to do the same. You can't reason that just because you were in government, so whatever you say is true even without evidence. That is shocking in terms of logic."

Lungu must fire Bowman, Kapata, demands TIZ

TIZ says President Edgar Lungu must fire Copperbelt minister Bowman Lusambo and his lands counterpart Jean Kapata because maintaining them will erode the public's confidence in his Cabinet.

And TIZ has challenged Chishimba Kambwili to report all cases of corruption to relevant authorities if he is genuinely concerned about the fight against the vice.

Meanwhile, TIZ has asked Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to conclude investigations and pass a verdict on the fight that happened at Parliament on Tuesday at the earliest possible time.

On Tuesday, expelled Roan PF member of parliament reported to Speaker Matibini that Lusambo had slapped him twice, whilst Kapata poured water on him outside the House.

In a counter point of order, Kapata told Speaker Matibini that everything that had happened outside had started from somewhere.

"Is the honorable member of parliament for Roan, Mr Speaker in order to go round every radio station, whatever the point of order he has raised has where its coming from, going on all the radio stations and calling me Jean

Kapata that am a thief, I have stolen through Mukuba? I have been a member of parliament for this house for 15 years to build one house, 'you are a thief' honorable Kambwili, I don't have time to be going to court to waste time, this is why Mr Speaker when he walk out of the house after honorable Chitotela's answers, he started insulting us and calling us names outside and you wanted us to keep quiet and watch him?" asked Kapata.

Speaker Matibini reserved his ruling on both points of order saying investigations were required.

But in an interview with News Diggers! yesterday, TIZ president Rueben Lifuka said the incident was a reminder of the leadership deficiency which Zambians were slowly being subjected to.

"Transparency International Zambia is totally dismayed with the unfortunate physical altercation involving Hon. Bowman Lusambo, Hon Chishimba Kambwili and Hon Jean Kapata within the precinct of Parliament. This incident is not only sad but a stark reminder of the leadership deficiency that this country is slowly being subjected to. Parliament should serve

as a citadel of leadership and the wellspring of laws. Parliament is the utmost governance body in the land which gathers all our elected leaders in their diversity to perform noble tasks of law making and representation of the people from all walks of life," Lifuka said.

"Notwithstanding the decision of the Speaker on this matter, we strongly believe that President Lungu should relieve Hon Jean Kapata and Hon Lusambo of their duties for their unbecoming conduct. There is no justification whatsoever for this conduct. Hon Kapata confirmed her action on the floor of the house when she raised a point of order. President Lungu should demonstrate his desire for Cabinet Ministers to be models in their conduct and what happened at Parliament, does little to project the right image of the Cabinet that we have as a country. President Lungu could ignore this incident but he should know that this will serve to erode public confidence in his Cabinet. Discipline cannot be sacrificed for political expediency."

And Lifuka urged Speaker Matibini to make a ruling at an earliest possible time, reminding him that

his predecessor Amusaa Mwanamwambwa had suspended two members of parliament over a similar incident.

"On the enforcement of Parliamentary Standing Orders and standards, we appreciate that the Honourable Mr Speaker has indicated that he will investigate this incident before rendering a ruling. We understand this is his prerogative and we will earnestly wait for his verdict. However, we can only appeal that this matter is investigated and the verdict passed at the earliest opportunity. We are sure that Mr Speaker is fully alive to the interest that this case has generated and it will be in the best interest of all parties and the nation to bring closure to this matter. We need not remind Honourable Mr Speaker, who is an astute jurist that there is a precedent how Parliament has handled similar cases in the past and we have in the mind the 2009 incident involving Mrs Mumbi Phiri and Mrs Elizabeth Chitika Mulobeka- who were suspended from Parliament for three months," he said.

Meanwhile, Lifuka said while TIZ appreciated the role of whistleblowers, it was not right for Kambwili to demean and insult his colleagues in the ruling party.

"In recent times, we have heard of different revelations of corruption and unsavoury dealings of serving Cabinet Ministers mainly made by Hon Chishimba Kambwili. While we welcome whistleblowers and advocate for the protection of such people we are concerned that Hon Kambwili is using this as platform to insult and demean his colleagues in the ruling party. Our advice is that Hon Kambwili, should do the honourable thing

and report these cases of corruption to the relevant authorities. In this way, Hon Kambwili will be considered to be genuinely concerned about the corruption that he has witnessed or knows about. Hon Kambwili has every right to hold the executive accountable but we urge him to do so in a respectful manner," he said. "Of course, we are concerned that Hon Kambwili did not have the moral courage to blow the whistle on these wrong doings during the time that he served in Cabinet. We want to urge all people in the corridors of power who encounter any form of corruption, to report this to the relevant authorities. Similarly, we want to urge Hon Lusambo and Hon Kapata and any other person who has information on the allegations of corruptions against Hon Kambwili to approach the authorities at the earliest opportunity. That is a civilised way of resolving this conflict and not to resorting to physical altercations."

He also advised all members of parliament to tone down and keep their emotions in check.

"All Honourable Members of Parliament including Ministers, should tone down and keep their emotions in check. The rough and tumble of politics can be challenging and at times stretch one's patience. However, our leaders should have the emotional intelligence to address any challenges or misunderstandings in an amicable manner. These are leaders in our society who should ideally command the respect and obedience of each and every person. Loss of trust in Parliament will render this important governance body irrelevant and trust lost is not easily regained," said Lifuka.

UNZA lecturers' salaries delayed again

By Martha Chilasha

The University of Zambia Lecturers and Research's Union (UNZALARU) has directed its members to relax on processing examinations until salaries are paid.

In a letter to the Registrar dated October 5, 2017, UNZALARU president Evans Lampi said the union was very disappointed with the way things were currently being run at the institution.

"We are very disappointed with the way things are being run at the University of Zambia. We are particularly very

upset with the continued trend of delaying salaries for our members. As you may be well aware, a salary is paid at the end of every month based on one's monthly input, thus, any disruption in this agreed arrangement entails disruption of the day to day activities. To this end we are hereby instructing all our members to relax the examination process until the last member of UNZALARU with an account at NATSAVE is paid," Lampi stated.

Lampi explained that no UNZALARU member was expected to attend any

scheduled departmental/school board of examiners/sentate meetings or any related activity starting this week, even if other members were paid.

"This means that no UNZALARU member will be expected to attend any scheduled departmental/school board of examiners/sentate meetings or any related activity starting this week even if ZANACO or Barclays were to pay today. UNZALARU shall never allow itself to be reduced to the status of beggars, give us our dues on time or face similar labour interruptions every month," wrote Lampi.

On Wednesday October 4, 2017, Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II invited President Edgar Lungu to grace this year's Chakwela Makumbi traditional ceremony of the Soli people in Chongwe, but the Head of State turned down the invitation. Not only did he turn down the invitation, the President also vowed never to attend traditional ceremonies anywhere else in the country for a very simple reason.

"I am finding it difficult to attend traditional ceremonies because they are now dividing us. My failure to attend the Kulamba ceremony of the Chewa [people] has raised a lot of issues because in February I attended Nc'wala [of the Ngoni people]. They are now saying I am inclined to Ngonis when it was just last year when I attended the Kulamba ceremony. I don't understand why it becomes a problem if I delegate a representative... So, I made a declaration before my colleagues in Cabinet on Monday that I would no longer be attending traditional ceremonies because, it's like, my presence is causing more divisions on tribal lines than unity," President Lungu said.

"I received an invitation from Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta [of Western Province] for his coronation. But I will phone him this afternoon and I will tell him that I am in a dilemma."

We are afraid that our President has made a very irrational and unpatriotic decision. Our opinion as News Diggers! is that the move is in bad taste, it is more divisive and a recipe for regional uprising.

It is a well-known secret that President Lungu and Paramount Chief Gawa Undi do not enjoy cordial relations. It is a fact that, Gawa Undi, the ruler of the Chewa people of Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique is not a fan of President Lungu, but it's also a fact that the Head of State is not in love with the traditional leader.

Next, Lungu will stop going to Church

On the other hand, there is no doubt that chiefs in Southern Province dislike President Lungu and his Patriotic Front government for obvious political reasons.

If Zambia was ruled by one chief who was not in good standing with the President, this would be a very simple dispute to resolve, but there are more than 250 chiefs in this country, most of whom do not care about politics. How can our President choose to condemn all of them because of his differences with a few selected traditional leaders? What if the traditional leaders decide to stop attending all government functions for fear of being perceived as PF cadres? How does President Lungu expect the chiefs to work with the government of the day when he does not want to work with the traditional leaders of the day?

We wonder if President Lungu understands that traditional ceremonies are for the people of Zambia and not the 288 chiefs. Traditional ceremonies provide a platform where ordinary citizens of Zambia get to have a glimpse of their Head of State. If President Lungu resolved to stop travelling abroad and diverted that money and time towards officiating at as many traditional ceremonies as he could, Zambians would be happy. That would also provide the President a chance to see and hear the real struggles that his people are facing in little-known traditional settlements around the country.

The tribal divisions in this country have not been caused by President Lungu's failure to attend some traditional ceremonies. It is the political statements that the President himself, his ministers and



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ruling party officials make against those who don't vote for them. When PF officials, made derogatory remarks against the chiefs of Southern Province and their subjects, President Lungu did not act. He said he could not be pressured into firing anybody "without a good reason". The people of Southern Province and those who support the UPND were hurt. These differences culminated into electoral violence and there has been no efforts from President Lungu to resolve this. This is a political problem and requires political solutions; it has nothing to do with his absence at the Kulamba ceremony.

Zambia has been celebrating traditional ceremonies way before President Lungu was born and the celebrations will continue long after he leaves office and the earth. A responsible government cannot separate itself from traditional ceremonies on such flimsy grounds. A sensible government would be proposing means in which it could get involved in financing traditional ceremonies. Staying away will make traditional leaders

and their subjects feel abandoned. If President Lungu wanted to attend the traditional ceremony in Southern Province because he cared for the people in that region, he could have ignored the negative talk. He could have gone there and sat in between Chief Mukuni and Hakainde Hichilema for the people of Zambia to see that their leaders have truly reconciled. So we don't buy the justification by the Head of State.

With that statement, President Lungu was practically withdrawing his recognition of all our chiefs and traditional leaders. He does not like the fact that some of them are too powerful for his government. They are an impediment to his certain endeavours and he wants the people of Zambia to hear less and less of them. He cannot claim that by boycotting traditional ceremonies he will resolve the tribal divisions that have engulfed the country. Most of Lusaka Province is in Chieftainess Nkomeshya's land; and there are certain projects in the outskirts which government cannot implement without

her consent. That is how unproductive it is for President Lungu to frustrate traditional leaders.

But we can see that President Lungu is now able to confidently snub Chieftainess Nkomeshya and Chief Inyambo Yeta because the elections are over, they have nothing to offer him, and so he needed to come up with an excuse for dumping them. It's like the President used to attend traditional ceremonies to please the chiefs and not the people. That is why, since the chiefs have become 'arrogant' to him, he will stay away from their special events without a sense of guilt that he will miss interacting with the people.

The time is ripe for us to remind the people of Zambia that President Lungu cares more about those who are close to him than those who put him in power. What the President has done to the chiefs, he will do to the church. Just like he has disappointed the chiefs whom he worked with to retain political power, he will disappoint the church leaders, if he has not done so already. Zambians should not be surprised when they hear that President Lungu has

resolved to stop attending all church services on grounds that the Catholics are accusing him of favoring Pentecostals.

President Lungu should realise that he is a President for all tribes, including those in Southern Province who did not vote for him. He is a President for all Christians including the Jehovah's Witnesses who don't vote at all.

We insist that the President made an irrational decision, which is against the government's agenda to preserve and promote culture and traditional inheritance. President Lungu knows that it is practically impossible for him to attend all traditional ceremonies because of the many other responsibilities that fall under his office. Even president Rupiah Banda who only served this country for three years, did not choose to stay away from traditional ceremonies for fear of causing tribal divisions.

Anyway, we hope that President Lungu will also stop taking alcohol all together, when those who brew Mosi complain that he prefers Jameson.

For the first time, we have a Government in Zambia whose sole purpose or agenda is self-preservation and enrichment.

We elected a leadership that has no political ideology or philosophy. Correct me if I'm wrong but what does the Patriotic Front stand on or for?

With respect to policy, it's become abundantly clear that the Patriotic Front as the party in Government holds no policy positions (save for its wishy washy populist pronouncements).

I could even go further and state that the PF Government does not even hold any substantive views on any position (of national interest) or subject.

Besides the rhetoric that we are subjected to our Government hasn't achieved any of its 2011, 2015, 2016 election promises (insert the "More money in your pockets" slogan here).

Recent allegations by an ex inner circle Minister confirms what we all know

What does the PF stand for?

and are undoubtedly thinking. This Government is the most corrupt ever.

Maybe I exaggerate so I would like to challenge anyone to share any story of honorable conduct by the current ruling PF Party and or its Government.

Instead we are inundated with stories about in-fighting, lies, office abuse, deception, graft, corruption, propaganda and questionable electoral practices.

How can we even proudly claim that we are a Democracy? How can any (seemingly sober) person preside over such injustice, chaos and manage to sleep at night?

How can a leader (I use this liberally because he is far from one) systematically and willfully terrorize his own citizens?

President Lungus despotic leadership style is intended to keep us distracted, anxious

and scared.

"Fear" has become all too familiar in Zambia and I am shitting in my pants even if I appear to be momentarily enjoying my right to express myself.

His presidency is a financially excessive enterprise designed to enrich him and the people that are closest to him.

This might explain why he is so passive in effectively addressing corruption which ironically was one of the promises the PF was voted on in 2011.

What is baffling however is that peaceful protests and traffic offenses are handled swiftly but ask where our \$42 million went and our leaders "call" for investigations but remain suspiciously quiet about the proliferation of corrupt practices.

Why do we accept to presided over by people with no beliefs, no national ambition, no morals, no principles?

Why do we accept to presided over by people with no leadership code or guidelines (anyone can bark), no plans, no expectations?

With accountability on public resources and expenditure at zero how or why do we even continue to trust them with our money?

The PF Government is toxic and a poison to the promise of 1964 as well as the spirit of the Republic of Zambia.

President Lungus reign must be recorded in our history as the worst post '91 presidential tenure because of its unashamed cruelty.

Cruel because they care less that we have been turned into animals. Anxious, angry, fearful, confused, doubtful animals. Our humanity is lost.

By animals I mean that as Citizens, we have absurdly resorted to taking out our frustrations on each other while "they" thrive and

prosper.

As a people and a nation, we are under attack. A deliberate, unprovoked, systematic and evil attack from within and we are losing.

Every institution we used to trust, the Patriotic Front Government has undermined if not exhaustively decimated.

The Anti -Corruption Commission, The Police, The Media, The Electoral Commission of Zambia, The Judiciary, The National Assembly, The Civil Service, Unions, The Opposition, The Church all reduced to nothing, noisy gongs or clanging cymbals.

We are all collectively stupid to have allowed this. We continue to and that is why they will rob ourselves of our own sovereignty.

Zambia is now a Country for sale. Just ask the Chinese who now own most of it.

We are now even losing our

will to "hope." We do not have hope that future elections will be fair. We do not have hope that our government is working in our interests.

We do not have hope that we will have leaders that will put their interests before their own.

As a people we do not trust each other, rely on each other and don't even love each other. Our national, patriotic spirit is eroded under their tyrannical rule.

Only a foolish, selfish, complacent citizen fails to see all the pain and suffering around him or her. We have to get to a point where we should be able to say "Enough is Enough!" in one voice and as one nation.

Things are NOT going to get very bad. They already are! We need to have an honest conversation about this. Rock bottom is already here. My point: there is only one fight in Zambia today that matters. The Patriotic Front and its entire leadership must go. Chalo chesu!

By Muchemwa Sichone

Children set on fire in Brazil

Four children and a teacher have been killed in Brazil after a security guard threw flammable

liquid on them and set them on fire, officials say. The man also set himself alight at the childcare

centre in the remote town of Janauba in Minas Gerais state. Video footage showed

chaotic scenes outside, as parents cried and panicked as the news broke. Twenty-five people, mostly

children aged four and five, are being treated for burns in local hospitals. Some of the patients may still need to be airlifted to a specialised burns unit in the state capital, Belo Horizonte.

The mother of one of the victims, four-year-old Juan Miguel Soares Silva, told O Globo newspaper that she had been considering enrolling him in another nursery prior to the attack. "We are about to move to a different neighbourhood," Jane Kelly da Silva Soares said.

"I woke up early to drop him at the nursery. When I saw him again he was already dead in hospital."

'Security guard sacked' The security guard has been identified by police as Damiao Soares dos Santos,

50. He died in hospital of his wounds.

The reasons for the attack are still being investigated. Local media has reported that he was dismissed after returning from annual leave last month with an alleged health condition.

He went to the Gente Inocente childcare centre to hand in his medical certificate and then started the fire, O Globo newspaper reported.

President Michel Temer tweeted: "I'm very sorry about this tragedy involving children in Janauba. I want to express my sympathy to the families."

"This must be a very, very painful loss," he added.

The mayor of Janauba has declared seven days of mourning. **BBC News**

Catalan police chief in Madrid court in 'sedition' probe

The Catalan chief of police, Josep Lluís Trapero, is appearing before a judge in Madrid on suspicion of sedition against the state.

His Mossos d'Esquadra force is accused of failing to protect Spanish national police from protesters ahead of the 1 October independence referendum.

Another Catalan police officer and two leading independence activists are also being questioned as suspects.

The Catalan vote last Sunday was declared illegal under Spanish law.

The hearing is taking place at the national criminal court in Madrid. The defendants are accused of failing to help Guardia Civil police tackle thousands of pro-independence protesters outside the Catalan Economy Department in Barcelona on 20 September.

Leading newspaper El País says the accusation against the Mossos is extraordinary in post-Franco democratic Spain.

The crime of sedition has been in every Spanish penal code since 1822 and carries a potential prison term of up to 15 years. It amounts to rebellion against state decisions or national security forces.

As recently as August the Mossos was being widely praised for quickly tackling the Islamist cell that carried out the Barcelona terror attack in that month.

The Catalan regional government says it might unilaterally declare independence within days.

Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will chair a cabinet meeting to discuss the next moves in the confrontation with Catalonia.

Organisers of Sunday's vote put the turnout at 42%, with 2.2 million people taking part. They say 90% voted for independence, but have not published final results. There have been several claims of irregularities. **BBC News**



Ex-warlord Charles Taylor pulling Liberia's election strings from prison

Liberia's former President Charles Taylor is currently serving a 50-year sentence for war crimes in a prison in the British city of Durham. But is he using that as a base to interfere in the elections in his homeland next Tuesday?

"If he was to come back today, I'd roll out the red carpet," said Justin Luther Cassell, a 32-year-old man sitting outside the Pray for Peace Business Centre in Gbartala, central Liberia.

Gathered round on plastic chairs, drinking beer and discussing the forthcoming Liberian elections, the men here are clearly frustrated.

This was Charles Taylor's rebel headquarters in the 1990s.

The former military base may be crumbling, with buildings almost completely engulfed by the jungle,

but Taylor's name is still as strong as ever in Bong county.

More than five years since the former president was sentenced for war crimes committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone, people in his heartland are still harking back to the old days.

"Even with the sound of the gun, life was better," said one frustrated young man, bemoaning the lack of basic necessities in the country.

Football and politics In an unlikely alliance, former world footballer of the year George Weah, who is running on the presidential ballot for the third time, has chosen Taylor's ex-wife, Jewel Howard Taylor, as his deputy.

Having historically been a staunch critic of Taylor and his National Patriotic Party (NPP), questions are being

asked of the motives.

The union between Mr Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) and the NPP came just before a phone call from the former warlord was broadcast to a gathering of his supporters on his birthday in January this year.

The call was made from inside a high-security prison in Durham.

He is heard saying that "this revolution is his life", he advises his people not to betray the party: "Go back to base and everything will be fine."

A map of Liberia, showing the capital, Monrovia, and Bong county

Rodney Sieh, editor of Front Page Africa - the Liberian paper that published the call - said he was sure that Taylor knew that "he was speaking to an audience".

Taylor wanted his people to know that he was still relevant, according to Mr Sieh.

"He still wants his voice heard" in the Liberian political scene, he said.

'I'll be back'

Mrs Howard Taylor has made her allegiance to her ex-husband clear.

In an interview with local journalists outside a campaign rally, she said that the country needed to get back to the "agenda" outlined by Taylor when he was president.

But she denied that he was influencing the 2017 elections.

Speaking to the BBC after a friendly football game just outside the capital, Mr Weah admitted to taking a call from prison.

But he rejected the idea that strings were being pulled.

"Charles Taylor is not running the campaign for us," he said.

Defending his choice of running mate he said simply: "People love her, she was the mother of this nation.

"If Charles Taylor was campaigning for me, I think the world would be aware."

But the world is aware of the alleged interference and it is concerned.

Since news broke of the phone call, the US Congress passed a resolution that condemned any "external interference" in the poll and specifically any attempt by the convicted war criminal "to influence the elections from prison".

The EU mission in Liberia has also made it clear that "Charles Taylor is serving a 50 year jail sentence and he is not coming back to

Liberia".

But if Taylor himself was to be believed when he left Liberia to be exiled in Nigeria on 11 August 2003, his intentions were clear.

"God willing, I will be back," he said at a resignation ceremony in the capital.

'Sleepy Joe' Observers are concerned about meddling that could go beyond election day itself.

Mr Sieh told the BBC that Mr Weah now has some of Taylor's closest aides around him.

"He may not be here physically but he could influence a lot of things if one of these people are elected," the editor said.

Mr Weah and Mrs Howard Taylor's main opponent is considered to be Vice-President Joseph Boakai - or "Sleepy Joe" as he is commonly known - because he is often caught napping at public events.

The 73-year-old has served as vice-president under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president, for the past 12 years. But rumours of a rift between the two are rife.

"A lot more needs to be achieved," he told us when we caught up with him on the campaign trail.

"The Liberian people want to see development and someone who can unify them."

Asked about his nickname he smiled and said he is "a dreamer", but whether he has the charisma and dynamism to captivate Liberia's youthful population, only the vote on 10 October will prove.

They have 20 candidates to choose from. **BBC News**



Rohingya Muslim refugees walk to a camp for refugees after they crossed the border from Myanmar in Teknaf

The sale and export of almost all ivory items would be banned in the UK under plans set out by the government.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced a consultation to end the trade in ivory of all ages - previous attempts at a ban would have excluded antique ivory produced before 1947.

The government says there will be some exemptions, for musical instruments and items of cultural importance.

Conservation groups have given a guarded welcome to the plan.

Growing market

While the UK has had a ban on the trade in raw ivory tusks, it has become

UK to ban Ivory trade to protect elephants

the world's leading exporter of legal ivory carvings and antiques in recent years.

According to an Environmental Investigation Agency report, there were more than 36,000 items exported from the UK between 2010 and 2015, more than three times that of the next biggest exporter, the US.

Conservationists argue that these sales stimulate the

demand for the product, and are linked to increased elephant poaching across Africa.

Prince William has long been a campaigner against ivory trade and in 2016 urged the UK to pass a total ban on domestic sales. At a wildlife conference in Vietnam, he said: "Ivory is not something to be desired and when removed from an elephant it is not beautiful.

"So, the question is: why are we still trading it? We need governments to send a clear signal that trading in ivory is abhorrent."

Previous attempts in the UK by the Conservative Party to limit sales of ivory have failed to get off the ground.

A ban on sales of ivory produced after 1947 was announced by then Environment Secretary

Andrea Leadsom in 2016 but a follow-up consultation never materialised.

However, a 12-week consultation on Mr Gove's proposals is due to start immediately, and draft legislation covering a ban on sales and exports is likely in the new year.

The government says that the proposals are being driven by concern for the 20,000 elephants that are killed by poachers every year.

"The decline in the elephant population fuelled by poaching for ivory shames our generation," said Mr Gove in a statement.

"The need for radical and robust action to protect one of the world's most iconic and treasured species is beyond dispute."

He said the proposals will put the "UK front and centre of global efforts to end the insidious trade in ivory".

While the government says the plans are driven by concerns over elephants, there are other factors at play.

Britain will host a major illegal wildlife conference in 2018 and it would be embarrassing if the UK was continuing to allow a domestic market in ivory while countries like China were moving to close theirs as they have promised to do by the end of this year.

"The key thing is, we hope, they will have committed to the ban before this conference," said Heather Sohl from WWF UK.

She said it would allow the UK to have a greater standing in how China enforces its own ban and also strengthen its hand in

dealing with countries with legal markets.

While environmental groups have welcomed the government's new stand, there are concerns over the size and scale of exemptions to the ban.

Mr Gove says there should be four categories of ivory items allowed for sale:

Musical instruments
Items with only a small proportion of ivory
Items of significant historic, artistic or cultural value

Sales between museums
Some conservationists are worried that if these exemptions are too broad, they could become loopholes and undermine attempts at a ban.

Others, though, believe that clear and strong restrictions can be put in place.

But those involved in the antiques business are not happy about the proposed ban.

Noelle McElhatton from the Antiques Trade Gazette said those involved in the trade abhor poaching and are disgusted by what is happening to the African elephant.

However, she said she expected art and antique sellers to argue that a ban on trade in objects made pre-1947 - which she said could include Georgian chests of drawers, Victorian pianos or Art Deco figures - "will not save a single living elephant".

"We feel strongly that an outright ban would be an over-reaction and would be very detrimental to the honest and legitimate trade of pre-1947 ivory."

The consultation will run until 29 December. **BBC News**



'Remains of the Day' author wins Nobel Literature Prize

British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel "The Remains of the Day" and whose emotional uprooting from his native Japan has left an indelible stamp on his work, won the 2017 Nobel Literature Prize on Thursday.

The 62-year-old "in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world," the Academy wrote in its citation.

Contacted by the BBC, Ishiguro said he was "flabbergastingly flattered" by the award.

"It's a magnificent honour, mainly because it means that I'm in the footsteps of the greatest authors that have lived. So that's a terrific commendation," he said.

Ishiguro said he was writing an email at his desk when he received the "totally unexpected" news.

"I thought it was a hoax in this time of fake news, I didn't believe it for a long time," he told journalists.

Ishiguro has written eight books as well as scripts for film and television.

In 1989, he won the Man Booker Prize for "The Remains of the Day", which was published the same year,

and in 1995, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his services to literature.

An exquisite novelist'

"This year's laureate is a brilliant and even exquisite novelist," Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, told the TT news agency after the

announcement.

She called "The Remains of the Day" a "masterpiece", and described the author as a "writer of great integrity" who developed his own "aesthetic universe".

Born in Nagasaki in 1954, nine years after the US dropped a nuclear bomb on the city, Ishiguro moved to

Britain with his family when he was five years old. He only returned to visit Japan as an adult some three decades later.

Both his first novel "A Pale View of Hills" from 1982 and the subsequent one, "An Artist of the Floating World" from 1986, take place in Nagasaki a few years after World War II. **AFP**

Trump weighs 'decertifying' Iran nuclear deal

President Donald Trump has railed against a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program, but officials say that far from scrapping it, he is considering kicking the decision to Congress.

Ahead of an October 15 deadline, several officials familiar with White House deliberations told AFP Trump has made it clear he does not want to certify Iran's compliance with the accord.

The 2015-era Obama agreement offered Tehran relief from punitive economic sanctions, in return for limits to uranium enrichment and intrusive inspections.

Every 90 days Trump must decide whether the Iran is living up to its end of the bargain, something that has already caused him political pain on two occasions.

The Trump administration has publicly accused Iran of violating the "spirit" of

the accord -- known as the JCPOA -- although some officials privately admit there is a thin line between testing the limits and a material breach.

Trump's top military advisor, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General James Dunford, has told Congress the briefings he has received "indicate that Iran is adhering to its JCPOA obligations."

But Republicans are under domestic political pressure to fulfil campaign and donor promises to scrap the accord.

The case against

Trump has called the deal an "embarrassment to the United States" and had urged allies and fellow signatories in London, Paris and Berlin to renegotiate it, something they are unwilling to do.

But now a middle path is being explored, which would make Trump's

opposition clear, but stop short of scrapping the deal outright and perhaps clear the 90-day-review off his desk.

Under the plan, Trump could find Iran in breach or -- less provocatively -- refuse to certify Tehran's compliance, giving Congress 60 days to decide whether to impose sanctions.

The issue has prompted fierce debate inside the administration, and with this mercurial president, anything is still possible between now and the deadline.

But "it seems like he was leaning that way," said one official, echoing the accounts of others who refused to speak on the record, because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Hawks are urging confrontation with Iran, while others warn of inflaming the Middle East and seriously damage ties with European allies who consider

the agreement in their vital national interest.

Some aides are also warning against escalating tensions at a time when an analogous nuclear stand-off with North Korea worsens.

'Yes, senator, I do'

The debate appeared to spill out into the open on Tuesday when Defense Secretary Jim Mattis contradicted Trump's claim that the deal "poses a direct national-security threat."

Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "at this point in time, absent indication to the contrary, it is something that the president should consider staying with."

Asked whether he believed the Iran deal was in the national interest, Mattis replied: "Yes, senator, I do."

In kicking the ball to Congress, Trump could still open the door to rupturing the deal. **AFP**

Argentina on brink of missing World Cup

Argentina is one game away from missing the 2018 World Cup after a third consecutive draw on a wild penultimate day of South American qualifying.

The latest, 0-0 at home against Peru on Thursday, left Lionel Messi and company in sixth place in the CONMEBOL table with one game to play. Only the top five can qualify for Russia.

Four hundred and fifty minutes of soccer across the continent on Thursday yielded little excitement until the day's final three games sprung into life late. Colombia was minutes away from qualifying before conceding two late goals to Paraguay that left it clinging to the final automatic qualification spot.

Chile, meanwhile, looked to have thrown away two massive points by conceding a late goal to Ecuador, but Alexis Sanchez hit back a minute later and sent the Chileans, previously on the outside looking in, shooting up into third place.

But somehow, 90 minutes in Buenos Aires yielded no goals. And those 90 left Argentina on the brink. Somehow.

Nobody is quite sure how Messi didn't puncture Peru's net in a 0-0 draw that, solely in terms of chances, looked more like a 5-0 rout. Nobody is quite sure how Peruvian keeper Pedro Gallese kept Messi, Dario Benedetto, Alejandro Gomez and Emiliano Rigoni at bay time and time again. Shot after shot flew right at Gallese or just by his posts, but never into the corners of his net. Somehow.

Gallese's heroics, and Argentina's misfortune and misfiring, kept Peru in fifth place. The top four qualify automatically. The fifth-place finisher heads to a playoff against New Zealand.

With 15 minutes remaining in Thursday's three simultaneous games, only one goal had been scored the entire day. Brazil and Bolivia had played to a meaningless 0-0 draw. Uruguay-Venezuela had also ended in stalemate, a result that, combined with others, essentially secures qualification for the Uruguayans.

In the late games, Eduardo Vargas, set up by the legendary Jorge Valdivia, had given Chile the lead in the first half of its home match against Ecuador.

Colombia then took a lead in the 79th minute of its match against Paraguay. Falcao had the Colombians on the verge of securing qualification. *Yahoo Sport*

Bayern bring Heynckes back as Ancelotti's successor



Having led the Bundesliga giants to a historic treble during his last stint in Bavaria, the experienced coach is to take in a fourth spell at the helm

Bayern Munich have announced that Jupp Heynckes is to succeed Carlo Ancelotti at the Allianz Arena and take in a fourth spell at the helm. The Bundesliga champions

opted to part with their Italian coach on the back of a slow start to the 2017-18 campaign, which culminated in a 3-0 Champions League defeat at Paris Saint-Germain.

Willy Sagnol was handed the reins on an interim basis, but Bayern have moved quickly to acquire the services of a more experienced tactician to see them through until the end of the season.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told the club's official website on the appointment of Heynckes: "There is a great deal of trust between Jupp Heynckes and Bayern. The conversations that Uli Hoeness, Hasan Salihamidzic and I have shown this again. We are very grateful to Jupp for being taking a caretaker role. He is currently the ideal coach for Bayern."

Heynckes added: "I wouldn't have returned to any other club in the world, but Bayern Munich is a love affair for me.

"My coaching staff and I will now do everything to make sure the team give the fans successful football. I am very much looking forward to this task."

Heynckes first took the

reins at Bayern in 1987.

He guided them to two Bundesliga titles before being relieved of his duties in 1991.

A second stint also saw

him fill a caretaker post in Bavaria, as he replaced the axed Jurgen Klinsmann in April 2009.

Bayern came calling again in 2011, and enjoyed a

trophy-laden two seasons under Heynckes.

He led the club to a historic treble in 2012-13, with Bundesliga, DFB Pokal and Champions League

crowns secured.

Heynckes was then moved out to make way for the arrival of Pep Guardiola, but is now back in familiar surroundings. *Goal.com*

Italy ignoring the best midfielder in Serie A

Even amidst a midfield injury crisis there is no room for Napoli's metronome, Jorginho, who could now decide to play for Brazil instead

On Monday, Daniele De Rossi and Roma team-mate Lorenzo Pellegrini pulled out of the Italy squad due to injuries sustained during the weekend win at AC Milan.

They joined Paris Saint-Germain's Marco Verratti on the Azzurri midfield scrapheap for the World Cup qualification double-header against Macedonia and Albania, while longer-term casualty Claudio Marchisio is also absent.

Finally, there appeared to be no reason for the Italian coach Gian Piero Ventura to ignore the most important component in Serie A's best team. Apparently not.

Instead of Napoli's Jorginho, in came Bryan Cristante of Atalanta and Inter's Roberto Gagliardini.

That Ventura continues to overlook the league's most influential player is a source of unending frustration for Italian fans, not to mention the player himself.

That the coach could move so far down Italy's list of eligible midfielders and still fail to find space for Jorginho is not only surprising, it's downright ignorant.

In case you'd missed it, Napoli are leading the Scudetto race after seven matches. They've won all seven and scored 25 goals in the process.

While top scorer Dries Mertens and striking partners Lorenzo Insigne and Jose Callejon tend to hog the headlines, there is a substantial and growing realisation that Jorginho is the man holding it all together.

Maurizio Sarri's side are winning admirers all over the continent for their brand of football, perfected over the past couple of seasons. Their total dominance of the ball and their relentless commitment to positive attacking play has marked them out as Serie A winners-in-waiting this season – at a time when

champions Juventus do not appear to be at their best.

Most of it would be impossible without Jorginho, the 25-year-old signed from Verona in 2014. He fulfils much the same role in this team as Xavi did for Pep Guardiola's Barcelona.

Since Opta started gathering data for Serie A in time for the 2004-05 season, Jorginho occupies all nine of the top spots for most touches in any match.

He also holds nine of the top 10 places for most successful passes played in any given match, with the 160 he hit against Benevento this season ranking third on the list.

Following his latest international snub, Jorginho was reported to be ready to throw his lot back in with his native Brazil, with coach Tite considering adding the midfielder to his World Cup plans.

He has been capped twice for Italy under Antonio Conte – playing a measly 24 minutes in total – but remains eligible for his homeland as he is yet to feature in a competitive fixture.

"If he doesn't need a playmaker, he won't call him up," Jorginho's agent, Joao Santos, said a couple of weeks ago when the Italy squad first convened.

"I always hope that something will change. I think like the coach, that in this period there's no reason to call him up. If that should change, then he'll take him into consideration.

"As a Brazilian, I hope that he will play for Brazil. If Italy do not call him up, I hope that my national team will. Should a call arrive, it will be the player who decides."

Indeed there is an argument that the system currently favoured by Ventura – namely a 4-2-4 – does not suit the strengths of Jorginho, who excels in a three-man midfield for his club alongside Marek Hamsik and Allan.

The Ventura formation, however, has its limitations. Even accounting for a poor

generation, Italy are always going to have enough power to overcome qualification also-rans like Macedonia, Albania and Liechtenstein. But against bigger teams – and particularly in the defeat against Spain – Italy simply get overrun.

There is no great willingness on the part of the coach to get his team on the ball and compete against the top countries, preferring to sit back and perform a rear-guard action instead.

That might well have worked when Fabio Cannavaro and Alessandro Nesta were around but Italy are simply not in possession of the same kind of individual defensive talent these days.

An alteration to the way they play – utilising Jorginho, Marco Verratti and a screener such as De Rossi might help Italy get on the front foot possession-wise and create more chances through attackers Insigne and – when fit – Andrea Belotti.

Besides, there is simply no excuse for failing to incorporate a talent as red-hot as Jorginho.

Napoli are by far the most exciting, most intrepid Italian team this season and Jorginho is fundamental to the way they play. If there's no way he can play in a system – especially one so lacklustre – then it should be changed to accommodate him.

The sense in Italy is that Ventura is out of his depth and that he won't last longer than the World Cup finals next summer – if his side even make it that far. After picking up only one point in the matches against Spain, a play-off berth is now the best they can hope for.

Whoever replaces Ventura must surely look to Napoli and the way they do business as a template for the national team going forward. They have pace, panache, an identifiable philosophy and a midfielder who can stitch it all together. That is unless Brazil can get him first. *Goal.com*

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zambia brace themselves for their biggest game against Nigeria since the 1994 Africa Cup final, when they meet in a crucial penultimate 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier in Uyo tomorrow.

The match is a make-or-break affair for both sides on Saturday as the business end on the road to Russia reaches its climax.

A win for Nigeria this weekend will see them qualify from Group B with a match to spare and earn them their sixth World Cup qualification.

But victory for Zambia will deny Nigeria that objective

CHIPOLOPOLO FACE EAGLES

and see Group B decided on November 7 when they face Cameroon at home and Algeria away respectively.

Nigeria have 10 points, three more than 2nd placed Zambia. Cameroon is 3rd on 3 points

two more than bottom placed Algeria and are both out of contention. Zambia head into the match

seeking revenge for their only Group B loss to date after Nigeria beat those 2-1 in Ndola on match-day-one

on October 9, 2016 at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

Since then, Zambia are unbeaten at home and away in Group B after drawing 1-1 in Limbe with Cameroon and beating Algeria 3-1 in Lusaka and 1-0 on the road in Constantine.

Importantly, the back-to-back triumphs over Algeria have given Zambia the momentum heading this weekend's game.

But Zambia head into the match limping with goalkeeper and Captain Kennedy Mweene and striker Patson Daka restricted to light training after arriving in camp with injuries.

The development is not good news for coach Wedson Nyirenda who is already without key striker Brian Mwila who will miss the match due to a knee injury he sustained on September 2 in Zambia's home victory over Algeria in a match he scored a brace.

Mwila is also Zambia's top scorer in 2017 with 7 goals from eight games, one goal more than Justin Shonga could slot in for Daka.

And another attacking option Fashion Sakala returns after serving a one-match suspension to ease the setbacks.

Meanwhile, emotions are high heading into this match with Zambia seeking a significant win over Nigeria who beat them to the 1994 AFCON title.

Denting Nigeria's qualification hopes this weekend will be a double revenge against Nigeria who has yet to lose at home to Zambia in four meetings since 1973.

Zambia's best result away in Nigeria has been a 0-0 draw in the 1986 qualifiers.

Nigeria's record over Zambia currently stands at seven wins, five draws and as many losses.



Bayern bring Heynckes back as Ancelotti's successor P11

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