

Tanzanians buying Maize at K150 per bag from Zambia - Chief Zombe

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chief Zombe of the Lungu people in Northern Province says the K60 maize price in Zambia has forced farmers in his chiefdom to sell their grains to Tanzanian dealers who are purchasing the produce at between K150-K160 per 90kg bag.

In an interview with News Diggers! Chief Zombe said only farmers in areas away from the boarder sold their maize to the Zambia Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

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We'll repossess stolen wealth, says Kambwili

Miriam Chabala

Former chief government spokesperson Chishimba Kambwili says Jean Kapata and other corrupt PF ministers are wasting time building mansions from illegally acquired wealth because it will soon be repossessed by the next government.

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State House panicking, I never mentioned Higer Bus - Milupi P2

I HAVEN'T

STOLEN - AMOS

...but I can't be worth the same as before



Prime TV proprietor Gerald Shawa after appearing before the Independent Broadcasting Authority - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Prime TV under siege

By Mukosha Funga and Martha Chilosha

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has asked Prime TV to handover recordings of all news bulletins and discussion programs from August 7, 2016 to date.

Last week Thursday, Prime TV aired a story quoting a source who claimed that Mulenga, Rupiah Banda and others had paid off

electoral officials to rig the 2016 election in favour of President Edgar Lungu.

The said source went further to challenge the people he implicated to sue him if he was lying.

In a letter dated October

06, 2017, IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma asked Prime TV proprietor Gerald Shawa to present himself before the licensing and compliance committee at the IBA offices for abrogating the

conditions of section 29 (2) of the IBA Act.

But in an interview with News Diggers! today, Prime TV news analyst Mark Simuwe disclosed that the station was only served with the letter today.

He revealed that Mapoma and other IBA directors asked Prime TV to surrender recordings of news and discussion programmes from three months ago.

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Don't fear politicians, I am there to protect you, Kampyongo tells police

Betty Mwanza

Home Affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo says senior police officers should not be afraid of dealing with politicians because they have his support and that of the Commander-in-Chief.

Speaking when he opened the Zambia Commander's Police Conference in Ndola today, however, Kampyongo said the high levels of indiscipline in the service was shameful.

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Chengelo bullying worries General Education Minister

By Martha Chilosha

Minister of General Education Denis Wanchinga says Zambia is under extreme moral decay.

He was reacting to a disturbing video which was taken by one of the pupils at Chengelo Christian Boarding School in Mkushi, where two black boys were filmed taking turns punching, slapping and kicking their white hostel-mate, in a strange case of High School bullying.

In the video, the two boys are heard using "F" words as they warn the victim to stay away from their girlfriend and not to talk to any of the people they talk to at the campus.

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Don't be cowards, I will protect you from politicians, Kampyongo tells Police

By Betty Mwanza

Home Affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo says senior police officers should not be afraid of dealing with politicians because they have his support and that of the Commander-in-Chief. Speaking when he opened the Zambia Commander's Police Conference in Ndola today, however, Kampyongo said the high levels of indiscipline in the service was shameful. "Senior officers should not be cowards. I will protect you from abusive politicians. Don't look at faces and status. All decisions will be supported by myself and the Commander-In-Chief," Kampyongo said. He said the levels of indiscipline in the police were of serious concerns. "The recent events where many officers have shown low levels of discipline, leaves a lot to be desired. The police should feel ashamed if individuals disgracing the service are left free," said Kampyongo.

"I direct that 2018 should be dedicated to raising the disciplinary levels in the service. This should be a point of return and those that will be found ineligible, we

shall part company. No compromise to those that are indiscipline." And Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja said the police performed well in the 2016 general

elections.

"This conference will review the performance of the police in the 2016 sections and also discuss mechanisms aimed at improving

performance for future policing of elections. My commanders tried their best in maintaining peace, law and order in the country before, during and after the 2016 general

elections," said Kanganja. "I therefore wish to thank my commanders for their excellent performance and hard work they exhibited in ensuring that law and order prevailed."

State House is panicking, I never mentioned Higer Bus – Milupi



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ADD president Charles Milupi says he is wondering why Higer Bus has chosen to involve itself in the accusation he made against President Edgar Lungu over the phasing out of small buses in 2019.

Last week, Milupi charged that President Lungu was going to benefit from the government's move to phase out small busses because he had already bought himself 57 buses.

His remarks were followed by a warning from President Lungu's spokesperson Amos Chanda, who said Higer Bus asked for clearance from him to sue Milupi for linking the company to State House corruption.

"The President buying a Higer bus is not a crime, but for Milupi to say the boss has bought 57 buses corruptly is maligning the company. So Higer Bus has asked us if they can sue Milupi... I am eager for this company to sue so that we can expose the lies of this man," said Chanda in an interview with News Diggers!

However, Milupi expressed shock, saying he never mentioned Higer in his statement, and wondered why the company was panicking.

"The only statement I have made concerning buses is the one that I made at the press conference which was made at the UPND secretariat which you attended, am sure you recorded. That statement dealt with the proposed resolve to phase out small buses in this country. And the theme of that was to say that look at the number of people who are operating these buses, they support families. And I said 'there is an allegation that this is being done because people in leadership have already bought buses, I am sure that is what the recording that you got says, so where does Higer come in?' he asked

"The question is why

are they panicking? Why are they getting themselves involved in matters where a citizen is exercising their freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of discussing matters of national interest, why are they getting themselves involved? What I know is that Higer Bus is not a Zambian company, it is a foreign company, so why are they panicking?" Milupi said he was eager to go to court and cross examine the company's interest in the matter.

"So I think we are touching some very sensitive names, if they want to involve themselves in matters of Zambia, they are well at liberty to go ahead and they will have to go and state exactly what I said and how they are connected to it because I don't know how they are connected to it. Secondly, they have exposed themselves as being one of the favoured companies. For them to decide to sue me, they had to go to State House to get permission, that is what tells you what is going on here. How does an Indian company get involved?" Milupi asked.

At no time did I mention that company, at no time did I mention what they are saying. But if they want that to be proved in court, let them go ahead. We have a court system that listens to arguments and if they are the ones who are coming to give evidence, let them be. Am sure my lawyers will be very happy to cross-examine them, they will be extremely happy. They will have to explain why they have taken it upon themselves to be the defendants of President Lungu, President Lungu should be defended by the citizens of this country and not by foreigners. And That doesn't scare me, we shall not stop exposing what is wrong for this country just because of a foreign company that wants to scare people."

Lungu must produce evidence against Kambwili – Chipenzi

By Mirriam Chabala and Sipilisiwe Ncube

Political commentator Macdonald Chipenzi has challenged President Edgar Lungu to produce evidence of corruption against Chishimba Kambwili and other ministers whom he accused of being corrupt.

And Chipenzi says it is disappointing for justice minister Given Lubinda to petition the ACC to be summoning whistleblowers.

Recently, President Lungu challenged those with evidence of corruption against any of his ministers to produce evidence.

But in a statement sent to News Diggers! yesterday, Chipenzi challenged President Lungu to also produce evidence against Kambwili whom he allegedly fired based on corruption allegations.

"This time we expected that a commission of inquiry would have been instituted by the President. There is nothing for people to say 'give evidence' and yet the same people are refusing to institute a commission of inquiry. What an ironic approach to issues, when Kambwili was fired, they said there was evidence, can the President produce evidence to prove that Kambwili was corrupt when he was fired or," Chipenzi said.

"So, this Animal Farm way of operating by the President is really hurting and undermining Zambia's credibility in the fight against corruption."

And Chipenzi said he was disappointed by Lubinda's statement.

Debating a motion to ratify the new Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director General Zacharia Phiri on Thursday, Lubinda challenged him to subpoena anyone who accused or condemned others of corruption.

"There are people who continuously accuse others of corruption. I want to challenge Mr Phiri and the Anti Corruption Commission that those who have this appetite of condemning and accusing others of corruption must be subpoenaed by the anti corruption commission and let them make reports on oath because the Anti Corruption Commission Act is very clear," Lubinda said.

He said it was of no use accusing each other of corruption when accusers were not willing to pursue the matter in court.

"Those who accuse others of corruption without sufficient evidence must also be brought to book. It is no use for others to continue accusing each other and condemning ourselves when we are not willing to pursue the matter before the enforcement agency. You cannot actually blame the baker when you are not fueling the oven. You must also put energy in the oven. If you don't put energy in the oven, don't blame the baker. If you don't give the Anti Corruption Commission sufficient latitude of all the information they require to arrest corruption, don't condemn them," said Lubinda.

But Chipenzi, a former FODEP executive director, stated that Lubinda's statement was in bad taste.

"I am disappointed by the utterances from the Minister of Justice that the Anti-Corruption Commission should start summoning those who are alleging that some people, ministers and companies are involved in corruption. This statement is in very bad taste especially coming from somebody who was an ardent fighter of corruption. I don't know what has become of this government and what has become of men and women of integrity who used to fight corruption with their soul, blood and their emotions. Today they have become more and more less like they are not seeing what is happening. ACC must be compelled to follow these allegations, it is a very sad state of affairs where everything starts and ends at State House, everything starts and ends with ministers," said Chipenzi.

"Somebody has come and said some minister got three vehicles on bribe yet the Minister of Justice says 'can the anti-corruption summon the person who has alleged', why not following up the person who has received those three vehicles? Surely, we need to do more and we need to issue statements that give encouragement to the fight against corruption. Now that there is a new ACC director general, my hope is that this person will be so emotionally attached in the fight against corruption. Corruption had undermined our development and proper provision of services such as health and education."

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu's spokesperson Amos Chanda has disclosed that Higer is one of the three companies that asked State House for clearance to sue politicians accusing them of corruption. Last week, Chanda came under fire after he made a statement to the effect that some companies asked for State House permission to sue their accusers.

Readers took turns on the News Diggers' platforms attacking Chanda, saying his statement was testimony that State House was involved in corruption.

But Chanda called News Diggers yesterday to clarify his statement, adding that those who were not satisfied

Higer asked State House if they could sue Milupi - Amos

with his explanation should call the named company and demand answers.

"I gave a statement where I mentioned that three companies were asking to sue some people for linking State House and them in corruption allegations, which is true I gave that statement and it is true that those companies exist," Chanda said.

"What I want to find out is the argument where News

Diggers! is reported to be asking the question [of] 'why should the companies ask me?'. You should ask those companies why they asked me. I didn't call them; they called. One of them is Higer Bus."

He said the company asked for clearance from State House because they wanted witnesses from there.

"Higer Bus, for example, has asked us and we asked them why they were asking us and

they said their legal advisor said 'one of the witnesses we would have to call is from State House'. It's as simple as that," he explained.

"I don't know what is wrong with this society. People don't seem to like being told the truth. I have told you the truth, what you need to do is ask these companies why?"

He said opposition ADD leader Charles Milupi made a false claim against President Lungu, that the

Head of State had bought 57 buses in order to benefit after government bans small buses in 2019.

"The President buying a Higer bus is not a crime, but for Milupi to say the boss has bought 57 buses corruptly is maligning the company. So Higer Bus has not only asked verbally, they have written. So now me I am trying to say, in case some of you who are talking about corruption have any evidence and you doubt us who are in politics, here is a private company, irritated as we are, and they are contemplating legal action; not even against Kambwili, but against Milupi," Chanda said.

"I can confirm that there is no 57 buses that we have bought, and I sympathise with Higer for the malicious attack. We understand that the reason they were asking [before suing Milupi] was because they may want to drag one of us as a witness. I don't think that we are going to use our powers to stop them. I am very eager that they sue this man so that we can expose the malice."

Chanda declined to name the other two companies.

"The other two companies which came to ask are

very sensitive because they involve foreign companies which are parastatals, so you see why they had to ask State House? So how can they be asking why they were asking us?" he asked.

And Chanda charged that Zambians had allowed a few foolish politicians to manipulate them.

"So I am trying to say this discourse about corruption is totally nonsensical, it is not going anywhere. Here is a clear case of a population that is so dwanzy and that's why foolish people are manipulate them. How can you argue with a simple revelation. I have made a revelation, [which] I didn't have to, [that] 'a company has approached us' and that is the truth. Whether they are wrong in asking us or not, is neither here nor there. Let those stupid people who are asking why I am being asked go and ask Higer why they were asking," said Chanda.

"I know people were trying to create a situation that I was lying. I don't lie, there is no moment when I will get into the public relations of lying. It might sound unpalatable, but I say exactly the way things are."

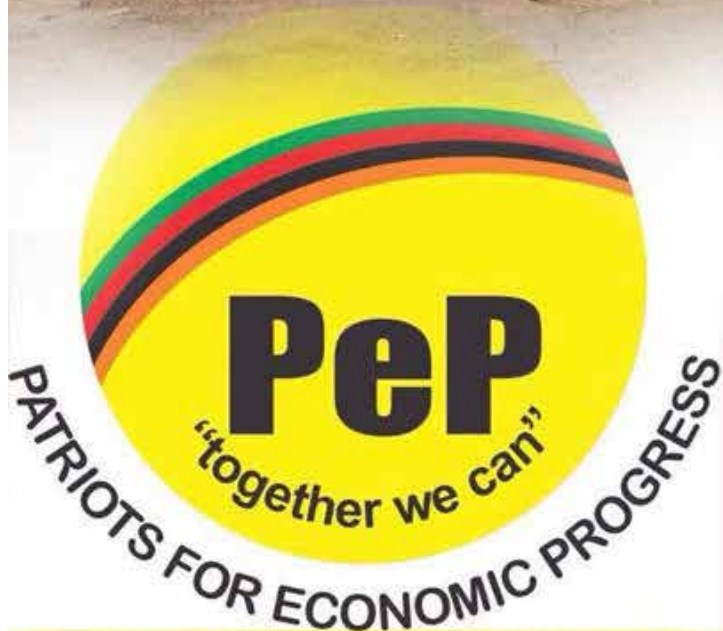


Do you think this fire tender is worth \$1 million???

If not, join the PeP Protest

**Wednesday
11th October 2017**

**From Main Post Office
to Ministry of Local Govt HQ
on Church Road
(opposite Pamodzi Hotel)
and back to Post Office**



Note that this is a lawful protest as police have given a go ahead
For details: Contact Sean Tembo on 0971195870

Police need intense training on enforcement of POA - JCTR

By **Miriam Chabala**

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflections says police officers need more training on human rights and in-depth Public Order Act knowledge to enhance good governance in Zambia.

According to a statement issued by JCTR media and information officer Tendai Posiana on Saturday, organisation executive director Father Emmanuel Mumba said enhanced awareness on the POA provisions would facilitate fairer enforcement of the law by the police.

Posiana stated that Father Mumba was speaking when he officially opened a meeting with Political Parties where he encouraged them to carefully study the Public Order Act in order for them to have a common understanding on October 05, 2017 in Lusaka.

“Father Mumba is preaching a need to conduct training of police officers on human rights and in depth Public Order Act (POA) knowledge. Father Mumba believes that engagement and enhanced awareness on POA provision will facilitate fairer enforcement [of the law]. He said building capacity among police officers will enhance democratic good governance in Zambia,” Posiana stated.

She stated that Father Mumba encouraged political parties and all concerned citizens to carefully study the POA to avoid crying foul once found wanting.

“Father Mumba implored

political parties and Civil Society Organizations (CSO’s) to diligently collaborate as shared ideas on the gaps that will strengthen the Public Order Act and invariably facilitate good democratic governance of Zambia.

“Political parties must have a driving force when it comes to review the Public Order Act and make meaningful submissions. We need to show willingness to facilitate amendments of the provision in the act.” The Public Order Act has been one of the most contentious topical piece of legislation both in its content and implementation in Zambia. Father Mumba said both the police, political parties and all concerned citizens must study the act to avoid crying foul once found wanting,” stated Posiana.

And the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) represented by party national secretary Nathan Mulonga commended JCTR for taking a lead in building political parties understanding on the submissions and provisions of the public order act.

“Mr Mulonga urged JCTR to intensify political ‘a just’ Zambia society guided by faith, where everyone enjoys fullness of life’ party’s engagement with Zambia Police Service in order to provide effective checks and balances and common interests,” stated Posiana.

Meanwhile, Movement for Multi-Party Democracy national secretary Rapheal Nakacinda pledged political

parties participation in the JCTR POA reform process through the Zambia Centre

for Inter-Party Dialogue. JCTR through its Faith and Justice Programmes

Officer Llyod Bwalya urged political parties to ensure that they mobilised

members to actively participate in the awareness meetings.



Police officers at Edwin Emboela Stadium during the screening process of suspected Chibolya drug dealers on September 29, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We'll repossess all stolen wealth - Kambwili

From front page

But Kapata has told Kambwili to shut his big, dirty mouth and wait for her to report his corruption to the Anti Corruption Commission.

In an interviews with News Diggers! Kambwili insisted that Kapata was involved in the illegal sale of Mukula timber.

“Before they became MPs, they were enrolled nurses. I am not undervaluing the nurses but what I am saying is that we all know what enrolled nurses get in terms of remuneration. Today look at this enrolled nurse, she is so rich! Today if you look at her house, she has over eight vehicles parked at her house because on this side she says they have suspended

the exportation of Mukula logs, but she is busy bringing Mukula logs because she is in charge of lands, with the Chinese,” charged Kambwili.

“That illegal money that you are making, that house you have built behind Manda Hill and other flats you have built elsewhere, just know that you are building for the civil servants because when a new government comes, all those things will be grabbed and you will be arrested, you will go to court... All those that are involved in the PF corruption, you are stealing from the poor and you will go to jail.”

He said it was a fact that Kapata was conniving with ZAFFICO and Chinese to export Mukula logs.

“Kapata went and announced to this country that she had banned the export of Mukula. The question that we are asking you Jean is that why are you still issuing export permits to the Chinese? You even give trading licenses to the poor people in the villages, batema Mukula but mwaya bapoka (they harvest the Mukula but you go and confiscate it) using the soldiers and take it to Lusaka then you start using the Chinese and ZAFFICO to export and then you are sharing the money. You are minister in charge of land and natural resources but when people say you are corrupt you want to start insulting them,” said Kambwili.

But Kapata said Kambwili was a political nonentity with a big, dirty mouth.

“Who is Kambwili? Who is Kambwili you people? If Kambwili has nothing to say, let him shut up his big dirty mouth. How do I even start dealing in Mukula? First of all, I am not ZAFFICO, ZAFFICO [are the ones] who have been given the mandate to sell the impounded Mukula. So this Kambwili has nothing to say about anyone, he has more cobwebs than anyone in this country,” Kapata said.

She went on to explain her wealth.

“How many houses do I have? I have one house here in Lusaka and I have been an MP since 2007, my first gratuity went into the construction of that house. I built this house for seven years. So what is Kambwili talking about? Let him shut his big dirty mouth, tell him,” Kapata said.

She urged Zambians not to treat Kambwili seriously, saying he was not presidential material.

“Kambwili is not even a Presidential material, we beat him in 2015. He was one of the 11 candidates who wanted to stand for PF Presidency, did people even vote for him? Can he even be President, is that a Presidential Material? If he wants to be President, let him just form his party and do whatever it is. And I am calling upon and challenging ACC to catch up with Kamwili because we have all this evidence and we are going to present it to the ACC if that’s what he wants,” warned Kapata.

Reverse TV levy increment - ZCSD

By **Zondiwe Mbewe**

Zambia Council for Social Development says government to reverse the K2 TV Levy increment because ZNBC is biased and only used to advance political interests of the ruling party.

In a statement yesterday, ZCSD executive director Lewis Mwape stated that ZNBC has contributed to hatred and divisions in the country as it did not embrace diversity in its coverage.

“The Zambia Council for Social Development is calling on government to reverse the recently pronounced increment of Television Levy from the previous K3 to K5. The increment which was made by Finance Minister Honorable Felix Mutati during his presentation of the 2018 National Budget, is not justifiable as no convincing reasons were given for the increment,”

Mwape stated.

“We have observed that TV levy has not for a long time helped to improve the operations of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, which was the main purpose of its establishment. ZNBC has continued being used to advance the political interests of any given Political Party in Power at the expense of representing the views of the masses. Today ZNBC cannot be referred to as a “Public Broadcaster” as majority members of the Public do not benefit from the biased programming of the institution. ZNBC has further contributed to the divisions and hatred in the country.”

Mwape stated that ZNBC had deliberately denied coverage of those with divergent views.

“We have for a long time noticed that ZNBC does not embrace

diversity in their coverage as they have deliberately denied coverage to individuals and organisations with divergent views from those in the ruling party. Freedom of Expression which ZNBC has not promoted is an ingredient of peace and unity building and could have been used as a motivation for public ownership through contribution of TV levies by a willing citizenry,” he stated.

Mwape demanded for parliament to do away with the law that empowers ZNBC to collect TV levy.

“We further demand that parliament considers to amend the ZNBC (Amendment) ACT No. 16 of 2010, specifically do away with Part IV, Section 25 which empowers ZNBC to collect TV levy. Laws that merely empower institutions and disempower citizens must be rejected. This law has NOT made any attempt to empower the public

to hold ZNBC accountable yet it is a crime for citizens not pay TV levy,” he stated.

Mwape stated that the increment was just a burden to majority Zambians struggling to earn a living.

“Digitalisation of TV communication requires new laws that goes with the cost of digital satellite communication and therefore this increment is unnecessary and a burden on the majority Zambians who have been struggling to access basic human needs such as food, clothes and clean drinking water. Furthermore, there is lack of sensitization on the new introduced mode of payment through subscription fee as it is not clear if people who are subscribed to more than one signal provider, will they have to pay TV levy to all? asked Mwape.

From page 5

“When we met, they just gave us the letter and requested that we give them recordings of news, Oxygen of Democracy (current affairs in-depth interview program) which airs every Monday. As at now, there is no charge. They are just hunting now for what will stand as non compliance. They want us to submit this by 11th October but we told them that the time frame in which to do this was too short because it is just three days from now. We were just served with the summon letter today,” said Simuwe.

“This is a serious attack on media freedom. It is also a demonstration of the collapse in the rule of law arising from some of the breaches that we have seen at face value as the matter is emerging. It is mere intimidation to cow down Prime Television and then we cannot preempt how the response is going to be as we have to sit down and look at what can be used as a defense. But you know, we can tell that this is a political battle and not a professional battle. We wish statutory bodies could be run by professionals. IBA is simply a pawn in the game. The people behind this are politicians.”

And Prime TV journalist Kalani Muchima claimed that information minister Kampamba Mulenga had told him that she would meet the IBA, ZICTA and State House to discuss the story after it aired.

“On the very day we aired the story, her line was off so we said there is no law which says that if I fail to get you I should not run a story and I knew this was a developing story and we were going to get hold of her. When the story ran, she called one of my colleagues to complain about why she wasn't given a chance to be heard. So when we called her back the following day, she refused to comment she just said there was no truth in what was being reported but the best person to get a reaction from was Mwalilino who was being accused of getting the money. She said let him comment then I will comment later. I said ‘but you are also accused of

Prime TV under siege

handing out the money so we need to get your side of the story’, she said, ‘I have got nothing to say and I am very busy, right now I am going to parliament,’” said Kalani.

“I said I could wait for her at Parliament but she said she wasn't interested she said ‘I am going to Parliament, from there I am going to have a meeting with the IBA, ZICTA and then State House’. We can only assume that all this is happening because she went to complain.”

But in a separate interview with News Diggers! today, Mulenga said it was malicious to insinuate that government was using the IBA to silence the private media.

“No no no! I have not even complained [to IBA]. You

asked me that are you able to complain and I said ‘I can complain in my capacity as an individual’ but nobody knows, me I am not part of IBA. Why they have been summoned, and the letter I have seen is circulating on social media, I don't know the content because I don't sit on IBA board...IBA did not summon them because of me, why would IBA summon them because of me?” Mulenga asked.

“IBA is a regulator, even you if you have a complaint, you can go and put it forward. IBA is a professional body and government will not muzzle the media in fact it has been this government that has been encouraging relations between the private media and government

itself, so how does PF use the IBA to intimidate the media. I do not understand.”

She said she could not respond to the allegations of vote buying because the source was questionable.

“My dear when you look at the contents of that letter, even what has been circulating on social media, already they are saying the votes were buried in Kalulushi, why haven't they gone to unbury those votes? The person who is complaining why hasn't he gone to the law enforcers to log in a formal complaint? And for us we are not in hiding, I am not in hiding. I am here! So are we going to be responding to everything on social media? They said ‘honorable minister has

stolen money for digital migration’, I go to the media and start [defending myself], no, I will be abusing the platform. It will be you people who will be saying you have a childish minister, she responds to everything. Let us be objective and report on things that people have said. I would never use my position to abuse the media, it is not true,” Mulenga said. She also condemned Prime TV for not getting her side of the story before airing it as she was always available to the media.

And Mulenga clarified that ZICTA did not go to shut down Prime TV when they visited their offices on Friday but to switch off their analogue transmitters.

“I read that ZICTA went to

shut them down, ZICTA did not go to shut them down my dear. We've been announcing that from the first of October, we are switching off analogue and we are going on into digital so people must comply. How does government come in and intimidate people? Were you not aware that we were going to switch off? And when we say we are switching off, and it was three months ago, they have been saying that ‘from 1st October, we will switch off, please comply’. And you know that the public signal distributors, or carrier today is Topstar isn't it? So if we are going to allow Prime TV to stay on analogue and continue airing like that then are we being fair as government? We switch off others, others remain, is it being fair?” asked Kampamba.

I have not stolen, but I can't be worth the same as before - Amos

From front page

In an interview with News Diggers, Chanda who is former Zambia Daily Mail news editor said it was shocking that Kambwili could be questioning his wealth as if he was not in employment.

“Kambwili is saying a person with such qualifications cannot acquire wealth. I am not saying I have acquired US\$10 million, I am simply saying the way I was when I had a diploma from Evelyne Hone College cannot be the same now. Even next year, I don't think I will be worth the same, if don't get distracted by anything,” Chanda said. He wondered if people expected a person who earns an income to acquire diseases instead of wealth. “I am not saying I will steal; even if I did not steal, I will earn some money and earning some money is acquiring wealth. So the point I am making is that, the allegations against me, unless you have heard anything, I have not heard

anyone who is saying... they are just saying ‘Amos has acquired wealth’, so what do they expect me to acquire, poverty and diseases? I am asking this question,” Chanda asked. “They are accusing me of corruption, they are saying I have bought Wayaya [Restaurant] and destroyed houses. There is actually no house that has been

destroyed there. This is just a season of malice.”

And Chanda charged that Kambwili was a metal thief. “People have been poisoned by a poisonous elite, people who are accustomed to lies like Kambwili, a scrap metal dealer, a downright straight thief. He can question about me and say ‘a simple journalist’ [has acquired

wealth] lets assume I am a simple journalist but I am qualified, more qualified than he is, but he goes and says a simple journalist. A scrap metal dealer, and you have a population clapping in the context like that one. Kambwili is talking nonsense and the population is clapping for him, he goes to malign an innocent person and the

population is cheering on. He is a metal thief, well documented. He is not even a scrap metal dealer, he is a thief,” charged Chanda.

“And even you journalists, if he tells me simple, what about the rest of you? Can you imagine what he says about you. That is why people are discouraged to go into public office.”

Chengelo bullying worries General Education Minister

From front page

The victim is heard pleading innocent and begging for forgiveness, but the aggressors continue punching and insulting the victim in full view of other pupils.

A source at Chengelo school told News Diggers! that the bullies were identified as Mwila Hara and Jabulani Nhliziyo, while the victim was named as Gawen Powell.

Commenting on the incident in an interview today, Dr Wanchinga observed that morality was supposed to begin in

homes. “Of course the Chengelo bullying of a pupil by two other pupils and the gang raping of a 16-year-old pupil by other male pupils are school issues as they happened at school premises, however these are incidents that have symptoms and the sooner we locate their root cause, the better for our country. In as much as these children are in school, they are coming from homes as well as churches were morality should be center stage.”

Asked if government

would heed to calls by some stakeholders to reintroduce corporal punishment in schools, Dr Wanchinga asked Minister of Religious Affairs and National Guidance Godfridah Sumaili to study the causes of moral decay before a decision could be arrived at.

“Let government put up a study to understand these sudden changes in our country's moral standard, through the Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Guidance. Only then will my ministry take a mandate and find a way forward on how on whether to introduce corporal punishment for unruly pupils or not, because some of these incidents that our pupils are manifesting now go beyond corporal punishment,” Dr Wanchinga said.

He observed that Zambia was going through a phase of moral decay that needed a collective approach to handle.

“It is not about what is happening in schools but what is happening in the country at large. Let us

first of all establish where the problem is then from there, we can address the issues because you remember some time ago, there was a report of a sex party involving over 70 children that incident did not happen in school or during school time and just yesterday there was a story in the Zambia Daily Mail about sex rings that were happening within Lusaka involving students from Evelyn Hone College. These incidents are not happening in schools, so how do people expect authorities to take charge?” wondered Dr Wanchinga.

“The sex rings involving young girls from Evelyn Hone College, who among them are girls as young as 19, maybe a case of poverty which is a responsibility of the Ministry of Community Development while the bigger part is of course the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Affairs who are supposed to ensure that these children conduct themselves in a morally upright manner even before they can come to school.”

Zambians shouldn't trust political dropouts - Ng'ambi

By Martha Chilosh

Patriotic Front Chifubu member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi says Zambians should not be deceived by political dropouts who are pretending to be pioneers of the party. Speaking when he featured on the PF Interactive Forum in Ndola on Sunday, Ng'ambi said that it was a pity that some politicians were dragging President Edgar Lungu into their frustrations.

“I have also seen people who have fallen out of the favor of the PF and were now carrying themselves as pioneers of the PF. Let me tell Zambians not to be deceived by these

political drop outs who are suffering from the stigma of been dropped. Those who were there in our time do remember the stigma that was attached to falling grade seven exams and that exactly what these political drop outs are facing, stigma of being irrelevant,” Ng'ambi said.

“I do not think ,there is anyone who would want to follow a political drop out because those people have a stigma that does not allow them to fit inside the politics that were set by late president (Michael)Sata, that why they find it difficult to work with President Lungu.”

He said President Lungu would

not lose focus because he had development to deliver.

“I want to tell the people of Zambia, that these people you see were once in president Sata's government, and you know what he never at one point kept them in one particular ministerial position because he knew their level of instability which they now want to attach to president Lungu government. But I want to encourage President Lungu not to lose focus because Zambians were able to see his developmental ideas that he has planted through the many developmental projects across the country,” said Ng'ambi.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ADD leader Charles Milupi says it is frustrating that President Edgar Lungu has failed to honour his promise of revising the maize flow prices, after raising farmers expectations.

Milupi said in an interview with News Diggers! that farmers do not have the money to prepare their fields because they held on to their maize in anticipation of a better offer from President Lungu's intervention.

"When he [President Edgar Lungu] made that pronouncement that he is going to adjust [maize

Milupi questions Lungu's promise to adjust maize price

floor prices], it raised the expectations in the minds of these very hard working farmers. The fact that they have taken so long and have not bothered to do anything is adding further frustrations and concerns from the farming community. What is happening is that because people are keeping their

maize in hope that prices will go up, farmers have not had the money which they normally get from paying their crop, to prepare their land," he said.

Milupi said the coming farming season would be challenging to farmers because of lack of funds and delayed inputs.

"People normally think

that when you are a farmer you just plant maize and get your whatever. There is a lot of things that you do. You repair and replace your equipment, you repair your roads that were damaged by the rains and so on. All these things have not been done. Even making plans as to how many hectares you are going to do has not been

done. You need to make plans to buy fertilizer, to buy seed, to buy input and so on. This has not been done. By this lack of action on announcing a proper price, the President and the PF government have acted very negatively to this year's farming season. Let him [the President] just ask the people who sell fertilizer,

who sell seed and who sell chemicals. Their businesses have been very badly hit because farmers are not happy because of the incompetence and lack of force by this government," Milupi said.

He said in Nkeyema district, maize was being bought at K45 which was too low for farmers to be sustained.

"What is happening is that, those who are going around buying maize are offering far much less than K50. I have just come from an area called Nkeyema [district] where I have a farm where I produce maize and soya beans. People there are offering to buy maize at K45 per bag. Way, way below what it costs to produce, and many people are trying to keep their maize hoping that this President will come up with a better price," said Milupi. "I think it is very frustrating. ZNFU raised their concern and also opposition political parties like the one I'm heading also raised their concerns. Not for the sake of merely criticising, but because we know how central the agricultural sector is in terms of providing employment and providing wealth for our population.

Lusaka on high cholera alert - Chitalu Chilufya

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya has disclosed that Lusaka Province is on high cholera alert after recording 11 new cases as of yesterday. After inspecting cholera centers in Lusaka yesterday, Dr Chilufya announced that six out of 11 cholera patients had been discharged while five were stable and undergoing treatment but no deaths had been recorded.

"We have a confirmed outbreak of cholera in localized areas in Chipata compound and Mazyopa. So far, we have 11 cases that have been attended to. We have six discharged and five under treatment

but they are stable. There are no deaths. We have had two cases confirmed for vibrio cholera in our UTH laboratory and for now we can confirm the outbreak of cholera in the localized area and we are putting the whole Lusaka on cholera alert. This means that the index of suspicion has gone up," Dr Chilufya said.

He said that water sampling in all areas of Lusaka as well as sensitization on the matter would be intensified. "We will intensify water sampling in all areas of Lusaka and ensure that health education and sensitization of the public is intensified. As you are aware, we set up a National

Public Health Institute which was given the responsibility to respond and prepare for epidemics. We have set up a screening center here in Chipata which is proximal to the zone where the incidence is and at this clinic we are investigating, stabilizing suspects and then moving them to a set up cholera center. So far we have adequate logistics right at this center," Dr Chilufya said.

He added that after investigating the water in the affected areas, it was discovered that the water sources are contaminated but however measures were put in place to control the

situation.

"We have done the investigations and water sampling so far indicates contamination of water sources. We have now started giving our people in the area household chlorine to ensure that their water is safe. We have also started disinfecting the pit latrines. So far we have disinfected 135 pit latrines and we have distributed about 262 bottles of household chlorine. We have gone further and made contacts with more than 2,200 citizens disseminating key health messages on

how to not to contract cholera and the behavioral change to prevent the spread of cholera. We have also sent our team in all congregate setups, in markets and everywhere. We also have combined teams of the World Health Organization, Lusaka Water and Sewerage and the Lusaka City Council to ensure that we are disseminating information, distributing household chlorine and ensuring that we disinfect pit latrines to the localized areas so that the outbreak remains local," said Dr Chilufya.

Zambia too corrupt for IMF package – Msoni

By Mukosha Funga

All People's Congress leader Nason Msoni says under the current administration, Zambia is not ready to receive a loan facility given the clear lack of accountability and corrupt mechanisms of procurement of services.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Msoni stated that it would be irresponsible to bankroll an irresponsible government.

"We believe that the country under the current administration is not ready to receive the loan facility given the clear lack of accountability and corrupt mechanisms of procurement of services.

We think it would be a tragic mistake to bankroll a government that is so wasteful and irresponsible in the management of public funds. The case in point is the recent reckless purchase of 42 fire tenders at 42 million dollars implying on average that each fire engine cost a million dollars. Clearly this is open theft of public funds," Msoni stated. "We quite frankly think that

the IMF loan is another opportunity for a few greedy-characters to share the money through inflated cost price and connivance with known contractors. We do not have strong internal financial controls. The failure by IMF to insist on good governance and accountability might well be the downfall of the Project and the essence of the facility. The easiest part under the current circumstance lies in the deferment of the facility to the future. The most difficult decision should be disbursing money clearly to a dictatorship most likely to squander money on international travels through hiring of private jets at the expense of poor people. Truthfully speaking chances of embezzlement of these funds is higher than the stated reasons of contracting the facility," stated Msoni.

He stated that the "PF leader's grand corruption should worry the IMF.

"PF leader's grand corruption should surly worry IMF. it can't be

business as usual for the IMF with a government whose propriety and integrity has been questioned by its own citizens at home.

The unprecedented rise in corruption levels in Zambia may have reached similar proportions to the corruption witnessed in Nigeria under the military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha. The apparent lack of political will by the political leadership of the country to deal firmly with the vice is apparent for all to see. Corrupt Cabinet Ministers are shielded by the appointing authority. Public Private Partnerships dubbed PPP are the legitimate conduits of money laundering and siphoning of public funds by corrupt individuals in government," stated Msoni.

"No one gives a clear satisfactory answer on how the two Euro-bond funds were used. The truth is that the funds were misapplied and misappropriated by a few people and the burden of repayment is now the liability passed on to poor citizens."

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Silence on PAYE is punishment to poor workers, says CUTS

By Mirriam Chabala

The Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) has expressed disappointment at finance minister Felix Mutati's failure to review the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) band in the 2018 national budget.

And CUTS says government should come up with policies that will compel mining companies to pay significant taxes so that Zambians can start benefiting more from the country's mineral resources. Responding to a press query, CUTS national coordinator Chenai Mukumba told from News Diggers! that she expected the finance minister to address the PAYE issue because it affected the poor workers in the country.

"The Minister of Finance gave the 2018 budget address under the theme 'accelerating fiscal fitness for sustained inclusive growth without leaving anyone behind'. As Consumer Unity and Trust Society, our interest was in looking at what will be some of the implications of the budget on consumers. Regarding PAYE, we were disappointed to see that the Minister of Finance was silent on the PAYE bands. Although inflation has reduced it is not decelerating and as such, the cost of basic goods and services continues to increase," Mukumba stated.

"According to JCTR, the basic needs basket for a family

of five is hovering around K5'000 however the exempt PAYE threshold remains at K3'300. We had expected the Minister of Finance to consider increasing this threshold to at least K4'000 to ease the tax burden on the low income in our society. This issue is further emphasized by the fact that Zambia has one of the highest PAYE tax rates in the region and this has the potential of unfairly burdening the working poor in Zambia's formal sector. We hope that the government will revisit this silence before the budget is approved."

And Mukumba regretted that the proposed K2 excise duty per 50 Kg bag of cement would increase the costs of construction for many Zambians.

"There are certain measures that will directly affect consumers in the year 2018. Firstly is the proposed introduction of an excise duty of K2 per 50 Kg. As a developing country, there is still much construction taking place as we continue to develop our infrastructure. The introduction of this duty will increase the costs of construction as a whole and for many individuals this will increase the cost of building their individual houses. Most significantly this will have the most adverse impact on low-income households that are seeking to build their

houses. It is our hope that the Infrastructure Development Fund to which these resources are being directed will have a meaningful positive benefit for the country," Mukumba stated. "Another increase we noted was that the TV levy is now K5 per month to be paid through a subscriber management service licensing system. Although entertainment

is indeed a luxury, the government should avoid creating hurdles to its access for low-income consumers. Ideally, a more progressive approach to charging TV licenses whereby high-income households paid more than low-income households would be more appropriate." Meanwhile, Mukumba noted that it would be important

for government to introduce mineral royalty taxes to enable Zambians to benefit more from the country's mineral resources.

"As Zambians, at an individual level through our salaries and purchasing of goods and services we contribute over 30 per cent of the budget. Further to this, when compared to how much we are drawing

from our mineral resources, mineral royalties are only contributing K3,5 billion to our national budget. It is important for the government to start thinking about how we can start to benefit more from our mineral resources while easing the burden on the very consumers who are key drivers of economic growth," stated Mukumba.

'Nationalisation' of Intermarket Bank through NAPSA stinks corruption, says Sinkamba

By Mirriam Chabala

Green party president Peter Sinkamba says government's decision to 'nationalise' Intermarket Bank by converting a K50 million NAPSA debt into shares under the new bank name "Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank (ZICB), smells of corruption.

In a statement today, Sinkamba noted that finance minister Felix Mutati's failure to provide details of the ZICB structure and the NAPSA debt-equity conversion was bad corporate governance and likely to bring the presidency into ridicule.

"The Finance Minister was just shy of mentioning the word 'nationalisation' because President Lungu has stated several times in public that he is not a fan of nationalisation.

When Government announced in early 2014 the incorporation of IDC, the nation was informed that IDC would be a domestic development finance institution wholly owned by the Zambian government. We were informed further that its mandate is to play a catalytic role in deepening and supporting Zambia's industrialisation capacity," Sinkamba recalled.

"IDC was also expected to serve as an investment holding company for state-owned enterprises and new investments to ultimately generate earnings for the proposed Zambia Sovereign Wealth Fund. According to an announcement by Government in 2015, all shares in parastatal

companies, which were formerly held by Ministry of Finance were transferred to IDC. We were informed that President Lungu is the Board Chair of IDC. We are however not sure whether the relevant laws have since been amended by parliament to effect this change of Board Chairmanship since most, if not all parastatal companies like NAPSA, were created by Acts of Parliament."

Sinkamba condemned the idea of the Head of State being appointed Chair of a state owned institution.

"While the IDC concept on paper appears good, our point of departure as the Green Party is on the structure adopted by President Lungu to run IDC. We foresee a situation where the structure is likely to bring the Presidency into contempt and ridicule or even accused of State Capture corruption in the long-run. With this litany of governance issues, we shudder to see the President to be the overall

Board Chairman for such institutions. For example, will it be appropriate, or even achievable, for the Auditor General to summon the President to explain the lack of a strategic direction; inadequate checks and balances; disregard of the legislation; poor management of contracts and poor financial performance in IDC companies?," Sinkamba wondered.

"Or indeed, will Parliament be in a position to summon the President to explain these issues? It is very clear in our mind that at one point soon, this Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank scheme of arrangement for NAPSA debt-equity conversion will raise dust of State capture corruption. The Presidency should therefore keep arms-length dealings concerning the scheme of arrangement."

And Sinkamba the accountability of IDC remained unclear.

"Furthermore, the accountability of IDC is not clear: is it accountable to State House or a particular ministry? Additionally, it is also not clear what the role of the CEO for IDC is, considering that projects being financed through PPP are announced by the President and his ministers. We are not even sure when

he or she was recruited or appointed. Moreover, it is not clear when management and staff were recruited where IDC offices are located. However, we know for a fact that IDC is now in business. We also know that IDC and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) did go into negotiations of a formal advisory mandate under which IFC was to be appointed as lead transaction advisor to IDC for the development of projects. We are not sure whether this mandate is now in place, and if so, the role of IFC advisability so far on projects which are now running," he stated.

Sinkamba stated that there was nothing wrong for a bank to convert a debt into shares but that finance minister Felix Mutati's failure to provide details about the newly established Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank was worrying.

"We have no problem with this sort of conversion of debt into equity. In the financial world, debt-to-equity swaps are common transactions that enable a borrower to transform loans into shares of stock, or equity. Most commonly, a financial institution, such as an insurer or bank, holds the new shares after the original debt is transformed to equity shares. Since Inter-market Bank failed to repay its debt to NAPSA, then government as sole shareholder of NAPSA has power to convert its NAPSA-debt into equity. Both public as well as private companies are eligible for such a conversion," stated Sinkamba.

"However, we have a problem with the Finance Minister for being very economical with the details surrounding the newly established Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank. Was this bank created through an Act of Parliament considering that it is a parastatal? Or was it incorporated by NAPSA or Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)? If it is an IDC Bank, when did IDC incorporate it? And when was the Board of the Bank constituted? When were management and staff recruited? Where is it located? Is it the Board of the Bank that made the decision to convert the debt into equity?"

Tanzanians buying Zambian maize at K150 per bag, says Chief Zombe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chief Zombe of the Lungu people in Northern province says the K60 maize price in Zambia has forced farmers in his chiefdom to sell their grains to Tanzanian

dealers who are purchasing the produce at between K150-K160 per 90kg bag.

Speaking in an interview with News Diggers! Chief Zombe said only farmers in areas away from the boarder sold

their maize to the Zambia Food Reserve Agency (FRA). "Farming was nicely done by our farmers in our respective villages, but unfortunately after the maize grew, there was this tendency of

smuggling of maize in the neighbouring Tanzania. Quiet a lot of Tanzanians entered into Zambia and they were offering more money," Chief Zombe noted. "So a number of farmers sold their maize to Tanzanians simply because government didn't increase the number of depots/satellites where FRA could access the maize from. So the Tanzanians entered and they were offering high prices of between K150 and K160 per bag."

He said the difference between the FRA price and the Tanzanian market price was too huge for the farmers in his area to resist.

"Tanzanians offer a lot of money per bag, so all those who are living along the boarder line sold their maize to Tanzanian buyers. You can see the difference between the FRA price and the Tanzanian price," said Chief Zombe.

"Because of the big difference in prices, the farmers opted to sell their maize to Tanzanians. But for areas that are outside the boarder areas, they were selling their maize to FRA because they could not afford to transport their maize to the boarder areas."



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One of the reasons why Presidents have so much power, 'unlimited' privileges and immunity, is because they are expected to have good judgment. Those who draft constitutions and those who enact laws expect that the powers they bestow on a sitting Head of State would be used to the benefit of all citizens.

For example, when the Constitution says all power over land is vested in the hands of the Republican President, it does not mean that the incumbent President owns every plot, farm and bush territory in the country. It simply means that the President is expected to protect all land from abuse, for the benefit of his people. In essence, the President is merely a signatory to its administration, but all land actually belongs to the people. Therefore, it would be immoral for a sitting Head of State to wake up one morning and decide which piece of land to give away and which one to repossesses.

In the same vain, Presidents superintend over the wealth of a country with a huge expectation from citizens that they would commandeer the use of public resources with a great sense of responsibility. A President needs to ensure that all expenditure is of benefit to the people. The fact that a sitting President can order his Cabinet to spend money on a particular project, does not mean that the money belongs to him. He can hold the keys to the treasury, through his Minister of Finance, but the funds belong to the people he governs, including borrowed money. Therefore a President cannot wake up and decide which expenditure should be accounted for and which one should be ignored; that must be

Sacred corruption, for sacred ministers

left to the people who entrusted him with the key to the country's public resources.

Unfortunately, that is not the case in our country. In Zambia, our President decides how public money should be spent and dictates how much of it should be accounted for. That is why President Edgar Lungu is at pains to see so many Zambians demanding accountability and transparency in the fire tender scandal, the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway and the RTSA/Lamise contract. Our President is frustrated because he doesn't want these government deals to be accounted for, since they directly or indirectly, involve people he knows.

"In the last one month there has been this hype about corruption. Especially in the aftermath of the much talked about fire tenders. My ministers and permanent secretaries are now scared of making decisions for fear of being accused of corruption. I cannot take it anymore", President Lungu said.

We found it utterly strange that this statement was coming from our Head of State, but what made it worse was his complaint that the Anti Corruption Commission was delaying to deal with one individual who was linked to corruption.

"I received a report of wrong doing on the part of one minister and I told ACC 'you can go ahead and deal with this

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matter'. Up to now they have not dealt with the matter and I want to find out why," said President Lungu.

In other words, our Head of State wants the ACC to deal with an individual like Chishimba Kambwili who was accused of corruption but not the other names which the Zambians want probed. He wants Kambwili to be investigated expeditiously, but Stephen Kampyongo must not be touched despite being linked to corruption in the fire tender acquisition. Why? This is a careless way of looking after a country's wealth. All the money that is used on government contracts belongs to the People of Zambia; it does not belong to President Lungu or his family and friends. Therefore if Zambians say, 'we want this contract to be

probed or cancelled', giving all the reasons to support their demands, a responsible Head of State must listen. But our President is stubborn. Instead of supporting accountability, he is complaining that his ministers are failing to make decisions because of the numerous corruption allegations. How can they fail to make decisions if those decisions would benefit the citizens? Why are they paralysed if they are innocent?

In fact, it is very strange that our President says he cannot take the accusations any more, when he is the one who started the corruption allegation against his own ministers on October 31, 2016.

"I have seen an increase in corruption among Cabinet Ministers, yet our people are suffering. There are constant

deposits in people's bank accounts of huge sums of money on a daily basis. I would urge you (the new Ministers) to desist, to resist the temptation, not to go that way. Very soon I will be firing some Ministers..."

This is what President Lungu said last year, so why is he complaining now that Zambians have joined him in demanding for the removal of corrupt ministers? If Kambwili was corrupt, it is good that he was fired. But there is no good or bad corruption. There is no such thing as sacred corruption for a good cause; it is all theft. Therefore if Kampyongo is corrupt, he must also go, regardless of how useful he is to the ruling party.

President Lungu must not stop the Zambian people from crying, because it is their money.

He must let them question every decision made by a Minister, Permanent Secretary or indeed himself. It is him who announced to the people of Zambia that his ministers were corrupt; that they were banking huge volumes of money and acquiring unexplained wealth. So how can he go back to the citizens and say, "your accusations are paralysing my government?"

You work with the ministers, you live next to them and you have access to their bank accounts. So if you say they are thieves, we believe you and warn everyone else. When you tell your neighbours that my children are prostitutes, you cannot go back to condemn them when they start spreading the news that bana baba Lungu nima hule.

By Dr Canisius Banda

The President of the Republic of Zambia His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa LUNGU needs help. Someone is misleading him. Someone somewhere is putting sand in President LUNGU's Chibuku, spoiling it; or President LUNGU himself is allowing someone to mislead him. Either way, he requires the presence of God to help him lead. Something seems amiss. At present, some of the decisions he is making are not in his own interest nor in the interest of the Republic of Zambia.

Here is a case in point. In a statement attributed to State House, here is what he is said to have said. The statement was titled 'President LUNGU Takes Time Off Traditional Ceremonies'.

Here is an excerpt: 'President Edgar LUNGU says he will no longer attend traditional ceremonies as they are dividing the country. President LUNGU explained that some tribal groupings get offended when he fails to attend their ceremonies after being invited [...they should]. The Head of State cited the Kulamba traditional ceremony of the Chewa-speaking people as one such ceremony that has raised dust after he failed to attend this year's ceremony. The President disclosed that his failure to attend the 2017 Kalumba ceremony has caused so much annoyance with some people threatening not vote for the PF'.

Whoever advised President LUNGU to adopt this stance is wrong. He doesn't love President LUNGU. He is the sand in the muffin. Chiefs are important. They form an integral part of the governance of Zambians. And in future, in pursuit of national unity, our democracy model might need to change, to afford them more constitutional authority. It is a matter of fact that citizens are more loyal to their chiefs than to a Republican President. Loyalty to a

Republican President is enforced as a Constitutional requirement. On the other hand, loyalty to a chief is natural. It is inseparable. Zambia's voting patterns are illustrative. Chiefs are so important that their collective ire can render a country ungovernable.

You see, the British are an impressive lot. They are gone but we still wear their neckties, drink their tea and speak their language. Come to think of it, I think they are still here. As history will attest, their capacity to read people and govern them has no equal. There was a time when the sun never set on the British Empire. As a gesture of gratitude to them, and as a symbol of admiration for their excellence, I am currently dating a British sexy thing from the House of Windsor that I intend to marry, and mate with repeatedly, quite like that Prince whose name I forget but married to stunning Kate.

In 1929, here are the records from the colonial Office of Northern Rhodesia:

...Awemba [108665]
...Achewa [75058]
...Angoni [51004]
...Awisa [49030]
...Barotse [65250]
...Batonga [94546]
...Balenje [37662]
...Balala [40880]
...Balovale [32672]
...Bakaonde [35397]
...Baila [21486]
...Asenga [62294]
...Alunda [60761]

A careful study of these ethnicities, and their behaviour, by the British led to the creation of the hierarchy of chiefs. Their geopolitical value was carefully analysed and noted.

It is worth noting that despite Zambia having over 70 ethnicities, and having a population of about 16 million people, it has only 4 paramount chiefs, and two of these are in one province, the Eastern [separated only by 80 kilometres]. It is extremely difficult if not impossible, under a framework of functional democracy, for anyone in Zambia to become Republican President without the support of these two paramount chiefs [Eastern Province]. And any leader whose interest it is to unite and govern the people of Zambia must understand why this is so in Eastern Province.

President LUNGU is the Republican President of Zambia. He does not require an invitation to attend a traditional ceremony. His Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs must diarise for him which ceremonies he is to attend in each year clearly explaining to him why he must attend [...national ramifications].

It is more important for President Lungu to go to the Kuomboka or Kusefya Pa Ng'wena ceremonies than for him to go to New York [The UN], Angola or Swaziland [The Reed Dance Ceremony]. President LUNGU's people are to be found at the Mutomboko and Lwinda ceremonies and not in Botswana or Uganda.

The Swazis might be exciting, especially with their bare asses and perky titties, but they will sure not vote for him or keep him in power. It was wrong for President LUNGU to stay away from the Kulamba Ceremony of the Chewa people. And when this ceremony was taking place he was only 101 kilometres away on a boat in Mfuwe in Eastern Province watching 'Chewa' hippos as he 'rested', being served by 'Chewa' waitresses. Yes, you can laugh. It is a joke.

Here is why it was wrong for him to snub this ceremony. First, he had the time. Second, he was in the same Province. Third, you see, truth be told, there is no such ceremony in Zambia as the Kulamba Ceremony. The Kulamba Ceremony is an international event. It is even recognised by the United Nations.

You see, whereas the Secretary General of the United Nations was in attendance through its recognition of the Gule Wa Mkulu as a world heritage, the President of Zambia, the custodian and child of this world heritage, stayed away.

In addition, it is worth noting that the population of the Chewa people altogether is greater than that of Zambians put together. If then as a leader it is in your interest to unite people and govern them surely you cannot ignore such a geopolitical presence in your jurisdiction. Or can you?

Kalunga Gawa Undi may be a Zambian citizen but he is King to people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. The Chewas are the

only tribe that have produced three republican presidents in two different countries. Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia form a unique golden triangle in the SADC region whose political and economic potential and value is priceless. And ignoring a traditional leader who is astride these three countries can at best be described as ill-informed. It is a veritable act of folly.

Further, Kalunga Gawa Undi is the only chief in Zambia who is officially and constitutionally recognised as chief in three countries. Once a year, the Kulamba Ceremony is a national event in the named countries all at the same time and it is not uncommon for the presidents of the three countries to be united in one hut over a cup of Thobwa.

To add an interesting political twist to this narrative, the brazen and controversial Chief Mukuni is a member of the family of Kalunga Gawa Undi. Note that the Chewa in Zambia are found in every part of the Eastern Province, from Nyimba through Chipata to Chama.

Chinyanja, a version of Chichewa is spoken in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, it is a SADC dialect. And as the British will tell you, languages unite people. Further, it is the official traditional language of the capital province of Zambia Lusaka. And it is the medium of instruction of the Zambia Police. This is the language most of the British in Northern Rhodesia were advised to speak

and spoke.

All ethnicities matter. All chiefs matter. In addition to the dubious complexities of general elections, President Rupiah BANDA lost the 2011 elections partly because Eastern Province did not turn up for him. See? The geopolitical value of chiefs and their ceremonies is a timeless lesson which the British knew very well and exploited with admirable and remarkable success.

Theresa MAY may not know. Don't worry, Jeremy CORBYN does. And all successful leaders of people in the world are students and, summa cum laude graduates of history. By staying away from traditional ceremonies President LUNGU is going to achieve the very thing he is seeking to avoid.

He will divide the nation. Of course, he must not attend all ceremonies. But who says he should. He mustn't. The statement from State House sounds like an emotional knee-jerk reaction to a serious matter of national governance. Never should at any one time in his reign should President LUNGU stay away from the people and their ceremonies. Or the people will unceremoniously stay away from him.

We must pray. It is sad that an Easterner is the author of this article and piece of advice. But then I had to do it. I am a global citizen and a patriot, you see.

And it is in defence of President LUNGU himself, a friend of mine, and the Republic. Besides God told me to. Laudate eum.

PILGRIM

The case of governance, tribes and traditional ceremonies

10 children die as boat capsizes off Bangladesh

At least 12 people have died after a boat packed with Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized near Bangladesh, officials say.

Several people are missing after the incident in the Naf river late on Sunday. It is thought up to 100 people - including children - were on board.

A rescue operation is now under way.

Dozens of Rohingya have already died trying to cross into neighbouring Bangladesh amid a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The exact number of people onboard the boat which capsized on Sunday remains unclear, with Bangladesh border guard officials giving estimates varying from 40 to up to 100.

Officials say the bodies of 10 children, a woman and a man have been recovered so far.

It was the latest in a series of deadly incidents involving



boats carrying Rohingya migrants to Bangladesh. About 60 people were believed to have died in a similar incident in late September.

While many have fled via the land border, others have attempted to make the crossing by sea in small and rickety fishing boats. "So many people are still

willing to get onboard boats that are overcrowded, potentially people unable to swim. They're literally putting their lives at risk to make it across to

Bangladesh," said Evan Schuurman, a spokesman with aid agency Save the Children. Speaking from Bangladesh, Mr Schuurman also

told the BBC's Newsday programme that the migrant crisis was "a children's emergency". "One of the things that is very evident from just walking through the [Rohingya] camps is that children are just struggling emotionally, they're traumatised and distressed."

Violence erupted in Rakhine in late August when Rohingya militants attacked security posts, triggering a military response.

More than half a million Rohingya - a mostly Muslim minority who are widely disliked in Myanmar and denied citizenship - have fled to Bangladesh since then.

Those who have fled accuse Myanmar's military, backed by Buddhist mobs, of using a brutal campaign of killings and village burnings to try to drive them out.

The military has been widely accused of conducting ethnic cleansing and genocide, but it has rejected all these allegations, saying it has only targeted Rohingya militants.

Other communities in Rakhine state such as Hindus have also been affected by violence, some allegedly committed by Rohingya militants. But correspondents say that the widespread reports of abuse of Rohingya indicate that they have been disproportionately affected. **BBC News**

Trump ties border wall to Dreamer plan

The White House has tied any new deal on young undocumented immigrants to a clampdown on illegal immigration, including a border wall with Mexico.

US President Donald Trump is asking for funding for the wall, speedier deportations and the hiring of thousands of new immigration officials.

Last month he ended the Obama-era "Dreamer" programme which had protected some 690,000 immigrants. Leading Democrats in Congress have rejected the latest proposals.

They accused Mr Trump of backtracking on a commitment not to include the border wall in negotiations over the status of young immigrants, who are mostly from Mexico and other Latin American countries.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Daca) programme, set up in 2012 under President Barack Obama, is due to expire in March, casting doubt on the future of those protected.

What are Trump's demands?

The list of "principles" delivered by the White House to Congress on Sunday includes:

Constructing the border wall with Mexico

Employing 10,000 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and 1,000 lawyers for the agency

Hiring an extra 370 immigration judges and 300 federal prosecutors

Banning immigrants from bringing their extended family members to the US

Penalising "sanctuary cities" that have resisted the Trump administration's

efforts to crack down on illegal immigrants

Having companies use an E-Verify programme to keep illegal immigrants from getting jobs

"These findings outline reforms that must be included as part of any legislation addressing the status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients," Mr Trump wrote in a letter to Congress accompanying the list.

His legislative affairs director, Marc Short, said the priorities were "essential to mitigate the legal and economic consequences of any grant of status to Daca recipients".

Last month, Mr Trump told Congress, which is dominated by his Republican party, it had six months to agree new legislation to help the Dreamers.

Who are the Dreamers? They are young people who were brought to the US illegally as children and as such faced deportation.

Under Mr Obama's policy, they were able to apply for work and study permits but critics said the scheme amounted to an amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Since the scheme was introduced, about 100,000 recipients have seen their status lapse or change, leaving about 690,000 recipients today.

In order to qualify for Daca, applicants under the age of 30 submitted personal information

to the Department of Homeland Security.

They had to go through an FBI

background check and have a clean criminal background, and either be in education, have recently graduated or have been honourably discharged from the military.

In exchange, the US government agreed to "defer" any action on their immigration status for a period of two years.

What do the Democrats say? "The administration can't be serious about compromise or helping the Dreamers if they begin with a list that is anathema to the Dreamers, to the immigrant community and to the vast majority of Americans," House of Representatives Democratic leader

Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in a joint statement.

"The list includes the wall, which was explicitly ruled out of the negotiations. If the president was serious about protecting the Dreamers, his staff has not made a good faith effort to do so."

Mr Schumer and Ms Pelosi said in a statement after a meeting with Mr Trump last

month that he had told them funding for the wall would not be part of a Daca deal.

However, the next day White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted that "excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to".

Will the wall actually be built? It was one of Mr Trump's most controversial election pledges but debate has raged over how it will be funded.

The US leader insisted Mexico itself should pay but the authorities there have rejected the idea.

Meanwhile, a prototype was erected near San Diego, California, last week.



Nelly released, pending rape investigation

Grammy Award-winning rapper Nelly has been released from jail without charges pending an investigation of rape allegations, police in Washington state said.

Nelly, 42, was arrested early Saturday in Auburn, Washington, after a woman accused him of raping her in his tour bus.

Police said Nelly -- born Cornell Haynes Jr. -- had been booked for investigation of second-degree rape and released from custody.

Nelly has vehemently denied the charges.

"I am beyond shocked that I have been targeted with this false allegation," he said on Twitter. "I am completely innocent. I am confident that once the facts are looked at, it will be very clear that I am the victim of a false allegation." The sexual assault allegedly took place on the tour bus hours after Nelly had performed at the White River Amphitheater just east of Auburn.

Nelly's lawyer also denied the charges.

"(Nelly) is the victim of a completely fabricated allegation," his attorney Scott Rosenblum told AFP in a statement.

"Our initial investigation clearly establishes this allegation is devoid of credibility and is motivated by greed and vindictiveness.

"I am confident, once this scurrilous accusation is thoroughly investigated, there will be no charges," he added.

Nelly has received 12 Grammy nominations and won three Grammy awards, including for best rap solo performance in 2003.

A native of Austin, Texas, he grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. His first three albums, released between 2000 and 2004, were all US number ones. *AFP*



Superman appears in new 'Justice League' trailer



Even though Gal Godot was in town hosting Saturday Night Live last night, Justice League had a surprisingly relatively restrained presence at New York Comic Con this year with a VR Experience and some Times Square promotions.

That all changed today as the November 17 debuting Warner Bros flick went all in, to use the movie's mantra, and dropped what looks to be its final trailer on the last day of the Big Apple confab.

Take a look above and you can see

that starting with a dream of the dead Superman by Amy Adam's Lois Lane, a world in apparent chaos and a cover of David Bowie's "Heroes" playing on the soundtrack, the new trailer heavily mourns the loss of the son of Krypton. Then, as Ben Affleck's Batman says he had a dream about the end of the world, the action kicks up and the misfit heroes go to work. Still no sign if Superman is actually alive, but we certainly see actor Henry Cavill and you just know that there will be more of the big

guy.

And the tentpole trailer arena will fill up even more tomorrow as Disney debuts the Star Wars: The Last Jedi trailer right in the middle of Monday Night Football's Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears match-up on ESPN.

As one last primer, Justice League stars Gadot, Affleck, Cavill, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa and Ezra Miller as DC heroes Wonder Woman, Batman, Superman, Cyborg, Aquaman, and the

Flash respectively.

Directed by Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and Man of Steel helmer Zack Snyder with additional work by Joss Whedon, Justice League is penned by The Avengers director and Chris Terrio from a story by Snyder and Terrio. In May, Whedon stepped in to help finish off the film after Snyder and his producer-wife Deborah Snyder stepped away from the production following a family tragedy. *Yahoo Entertainment*

Italy legend Andrea Pirlo announces retirement

The playmaker announced that he will retire from football in December - he'll go down in history as an all-time great and one of the last of his kind

Italy have produced some magnificent midfielders over the years. Valentino and Sandro Mazzola, Gianni Rivera, Giancarlo Antognoni, Marco Tardelli, Rino Gattuso, Daniele De Rossi - the list goes on and on. But one player trumps all of these stars, the maestro that is Andrea Pirlo.

On Sunday, Pirlo announced that he will retire from football when his contract with New York City FC expires in December.

Italy 18/1 to win World Cup "You realise by yourself that the moment has arrived," the 38-year-old told Gazzetta dello Sport. "Every day you have physical problems. At my age, you have to say: enough. You can't keep on until you are 50."

Since making his Serie A debut for hometown club Brescia at the age of just 16, Pirlo has wowed audiences all over the world.

Football is so tribal, especially in Italy, that it is very rare to find a world-class player who transcends club colours and national boundaries. Along with the likes of Javier Zanetti, Paolo Maldini and Gianluigi Buffon, Pirlo is adored by almost everyone.

Andrea Pirlo Juventus Barcelona Champions League

He is adored because he is so unique. Instantly recognisable - with or without his flowing locks and trademark beard - to watch L'architetto (The Architect) effortlessly glide around the pitch, moving the ball and his team-mates like a chess-master and curling home stylish free-kicks is pure beauty.

For purists of the game, Pirlo is everything that a footballer should be. He is slow, he is weak, he doesn't

head, tackle or sprint, but such is his genius from a technical and mental viewpoint that he is still untouchable.

It is for this reason that Pirlo is particularly worshipped in Brazil - the country where joga bonito was born. Many Brazilians yearn for a return to the days of 1970 and 1982 where free spirits like Rivelino, Tostao, Socrates and Zico revelled in their Bohemian surroundings. Pirlo is the representation of the untainted, carefree, risk-taking football Brazilians wish they still played.

"Andrea Pirlo is the most Brazilian player of all Europeans. He's the first player on the paper if I had to make a dream team," said former Brazil coach Dunga, ironically one of the first figures to signal the Selecao's shift towards athleticism.

Indeed, we now live in the age of the athlete. Rule changes, medical advancements, synthetic footballs and the subsequent tactical evolution and increased speed of the game have pushed most artists of Pirlo's ilk out of the sport. He is more suited to the 1980s when the game was slower, more technical and effective total pressing was still years away.

Andrea Pirlo Italy 2006 "He's the epitome of class; a man who leads the team using all the weapons that some consider antiquated yet, for me, are irreplaceable: deception, the pause, the fake, precision," said ex-Argentina and Real Madrid star Jorge Valdano. "These are all the exact opposite of that word that is so fashionable today and such a disaster for the game: 'intensity'." *Goal.com*



Police arrest fans who raided N'gonga's house

By Betty Mwanza fans in connection N'gonga's family home in Police in Kitwe have with the attacks on Chimwemwe Township. arrested five soccer Chipolopolo striker Alex N'gonga missed several

chances on goal to book Chipolopolo's debut ticket to the World Cup when Zambia played Nigeria away in Uyo last Saturday. This angered football fans back in Kitwe, where the striker plays for Power Dynamos, as they resorted to harass his family. Copperbelt province police commissioner Charity Katanga said the five soccer fans were arrested on Sunday morning. "We have arrested five people for malicious damage to property and they are detained in police custody. We have Jeff Chavula 30, Dickson Chama 24, Peter Mwangi

21, Gift Zulu 18 and a 16 year old all of Kitwe Chimwemwe township," Katanga said. "A white Toyota Landcruiser ACC 5492 that was used has been impounded. The value of the damaged property is K450." Katanga has since warned the members of the public in the habit of harassing people that the long arm of the law will visit them. Nigeria became the first African team to qualify for the global showpiece courtesy with a lone goal from N'gonga's name sake Alex Iwobi in the second half.

Our objective was to rebuild the team - Wada

By Nyambe Lubasi Wedson Nyirenda says Zambia could be AFCON champion again soon despite losing away to Nigeria in Saturday's 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifiers, because "the boys played the best football ever". Zambia took the game to Nigeria but lost 1-0 away in Uyo to end their 2018 FIFA World Cup-Group B qualifying hopes and handed the Super Eagles the ticket to Moscow. "We played a great game today and I must say it was the best game we have played in the qualifying

series," Nyirenda said. Chipolopolo even had the ball in the back of the net in the 22nd minute through midfielder Augustine Mulenga but it was ruled out for an offside while Alex Ngonga missed two great chances in the same period. Alex Iwobi then punished wasteful Zambia with a 73rd minute strike to dash Chipolopolo's hopes. The loss ended Nyirenda's seven-match unbeaten run in which Zambia has picked up five wins and two draws with the major highlight seeing Chipolopolo beat Algeria 3-1 at home and 1-0 away

in their Group B doubleheader qualifiers in September. "Our objective has been to rebuild the team and as you can see within a short period of time we have a nucleus of the team in place," Nyirenda said. "We have a team that we can be proud of and of very determined players, much disciplined young men, very hard working players. I think within the coming one year we will be champions of Africa." Zambia's next assignment will be during the week of November 7 when they hosts Cameroon in a Group B dead rubber.

REF KILLED US - FAZ

...but there's nothing we can do to overturn results

FAZ president Andrew Kamanga says he appreciates the Chipolopolo fans call to petition the disallowed goal against Nigeria but they were not enough grounds to do so.

Augustine Mulenga's 23rd minute goal was disallowed by referee Joshua Bondo of Botswana raising an outcry as Zambia went on to lose the match 1-0 and subsequently end their 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying hope.

"According to article 15.6 of the FIFA constitution, it clearly states the referee's decisions are final," Kamanga said.

"But the rules are very clear you cannot overturn the referee's decision.

"But the only consolation is Fifa will overturn the result of a game if they have reason to believe there was external influence in so far as as that game is concerned.

"So that obviously is not within our space.

But after wide consultations with the

match commissioner and other refereeing officials and our very own referees, the

conclusion was that we were denied a clear goal.

"But the rules being

what they are you cannot overturn the decision of the referee.

"The only basis is when

there was external influence.

"So the referee maybe carpeted for making a

wrong decision but the decision still stands and unfortunately that is where we stand."



Neymar demands Barca be kicked out of CL

The dispute between the Catalan club and their former Brazilian forward over loyalty payments continues to rumble on

Neymar has called on UEFA to expel Barcelona from the Champions League in a dispute over an outstanding loyalty payment.

Goal understands the Brazil international's legal team made the request to European football's governing body as part of the ongoing row with his old club.

It is understood UEFA is yet to respond to the letter from Neymar's camp.

The 25-year-old left Barca for Paris Saint-Germain in August for a world-record fee of €222 million, less than a year after signing a new five-year contract at Camp Nou.

The player's entourage insist he is owed a €26m loyalty bonus stipulated in that contract extension and FIFA confirmed in August that they are investigating an official complaint from the former Santos star against Barca.

The Liga side have refused to pay it on the grounds that the forward breached the terms of his deal by holding talks with PSG over a move to France.

The club launched a separate case in August to demand the return of the "renewal premium" paid to Neymar when he signed his last contract. Barca are asking for the return of €8.5m, plus 10 per cent in arrears, and say PSG must pay the sum if Neymar is unable. **Goal.com**