

By Zondiwe Mbewe

LAZ president Linda Kasonde says Zambians have become second class citizens in their own country because of threats from the State when they demand accountability.

And Kasonde, who is also OASIS Forum chairperson, has condemned the arrest and harassment of Laura Miti and others who have been protesting against the acquisition of 42 fire tenders at US\$42 million.

Responding to a press query, Kasonde said in a democracy, it was the fundamental right of citizens to demand accountability for the use of public resources.

"In a democracy, it is the fundamental right of any citizen to demand accountability for the use of public resources. It is the right and responsibility of every citizen to question how public resources are spent. In doing so, the citizen must be able to rely on the right to freedom of expression

as provided by the Bill of Rights in the Zambian Constitution. Indeed, it is equally the duty of all public servants to listen to the voice of the people. Greater accountability can only improve good governance, constitutionalism and social justice in Zambia," Kasonde stated.

"We urge all public servants to allow space for citizens to ask legitimate questions of the people that govern the country without fear of victimisation in order to enhance transparency and democracy in the country for the benefit of all citizens. This is in line with the 1997 UNDP principles on good governance which advocate for participation of citizens in governance; the rule of law; transparency in processes, institutions and information flow; effectiveness and efficiency of the use of public resources and; accountability of government decision-makers to the public."

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LAZ BACKS

LAURA MITI

...fire tender protesters deserve answers, we all do - Kasonde



File picture: HH and GBM outside the Lusaka Magistrates' Court earlier this year - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

DPP abusing nolle - HH

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says the Director of Public Prosecutions is abusing nolle prosequis.

This morning, the state entered a nolle prosequi in a case in which HH and his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba were individually charged with seditious practices

and jointly charged with unlawful assembly.

When the case came up for continued trial in Luanshya, one of the state prosecutors announced that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided to discontinue the case by way of a nolle prosequi.

Ndola principal resident magistrate John Mbuzi,

who was sitting in Luanshya then told the accused persons that they were free and the three charges had been discontinued. To page 2

IMF presses Zambia to redefine its borrowing

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Kambwili tones down: I'm off politicking for now

By Mirriam Chabala

Roan PF rebel member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says he is off politics of attacks for now, so that he concentrates on praying for the prosperity of the country.

And Kambwili says State House hackers have once again gained access to his Facebook page and deleted the exposé he made on President Edgar Lungu's press aide Amos Chanda. To page 3

UNZA Tuition fee increment tantamount to theft - ZANASU

By Mirriam Chabala

ZANASU President Joseph Busenga has decried the University of Zambia (UNZA)'s decision to hike accommodation and tuition fees for the 2017/18 academic year by over 100 per cent as theft.

In an interview today, Busenga said it was illegal for the institution to hike fees for all programmes across the board by more than 100 per cent.

"As [Zambia National Students Union] ZANASU, we don't welcome increments that go up to 100 per cent like what the University of Zambia has done because that becomes a challenge to parents. Even

before the increments, I think we have all seen a lot of students being affected [by fees being charged at UNZA]. Then in the recent past, over 8,000 students could not pay their tuition fees and those have not graduated. So when you increase tuition fees by K5,000, what is it that you are communicating out there?" Busenga wondered. To page 4

Lungu heads to Congo Brazzaville, then Ivory Coast

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu is on Wednesday expected in Congo Brazzaville to attend the Great Lakes Region Summit, Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba has revealed.

This is according to first secretary for press at the Zambian Embassy in Ethiopia Inutu Mwanza. Page 7



LAZ backs Laura: fire tender protesters deserve answers

From front page

And in another statement from OASIS Forum, Kasonde saluted the fire tender protesters.

“Several days ago, Laura Miti and several others were arrested for demonstrating outside the Zambian Parliament, demanding accountability for the US\$42 million spent on forty-two fire trucks. To the Oasis Forum, Laura Miti embodies the spirit of patriotism envisioned by the Constitution in every respect. She reminds us that our national leaders are servants of the people and as such they are answerable to them. As Laura Miti often points out in her own work, how public resources are spent is much like how members of an ordinary household would budget their money. Rule number one of any budget is to spend within your means. Public resources belong not to the government but to each and every citizen who must pay school fees, visit the hospital, pay rent and pay for utilities,” stated Kasonde.

“Contrary to accusations that Laura Miti is unpatriotic and is being foreign sponsored, no foreigner needs to tell you that. As Charles B. Rangel once said: ‘Full participation in government and society has been a basic right of the country symbolising the full citizenship and equal protection of all. Laura Miti is asking legitimate questions of the government: how did we end up spending US\$42 million on forty-two fire engines? Ndani aziba (who knows)? She wants answers. We all do.’ She said it was unfair to treat people as second class citizens in their own country.

A brave act, some would

say foolhardy in the face of a request from the police not to go ahead with the protest. “Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity”. These words have been attributed to an American psychiatrist who medically examined Alice Paul, an obscure suffragette who was imprisoned in 1917 after demonstrating for women’s right to vote... In that sense, we the Zambian people are second class citizens in our own country. Laura Miti, a well-renowned, well respected and patriotic Zambian civil rights activist is trying to remind all Zambians of that fact. Demanding for the accountability of public resources is not only a right, it is a civic duty,” Kasonde stated.

“Article 8 of the Zambian Constitution outlines the national values and principles that underpin the fabric of Zambian society:



Kasonde

Morality and ethics; Patriotism and national unity; Democracy and constitutionalism; Human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination; Good governance and integrity; and Sustainable

development.” She quoted President Edgar Lungu in his address to Parliament in March 2017 on national values and principles.

“Patriotism and national unity should speak to the heart and soul of every

Zambian in our quest to sustain our sovereignty and build a better country for ourselves and future generations. Patriotism invokes an emotional attachment to one’s country. This attachment is not only based on a

sense of belonging and national pride, but also a readiness to sacrifice for the country. We need to build a culture, which puts Zambia first in all we do,” Kasonde quoted President Lungu as saying.

DPP abusing nolles – HH

From front page

But speaking to journalists at his house upon arrival from Luanshya, HH said he was disappointed that the DPP had entered a nolle when he knew that the case would end up in an acquittal.

“The naked truth of the matter is that an average Zambian understands that these are politically motivated charges, there’s no question about that. These are not charges based on genuine crime but based on political victimisation and oppressive maneuvers. There is an abuse of the criminal justice system. In particular, situations where police arrest citizens before they carry

out investigations. And when citizens are arrested in that manner, it is clear that those citizens will be acquitted along the way by any decent magistrate or judge in any court. So because it is clear that an acquittal would come, what the state has tended to do is to enter nolles,” HH said.

He advised the DPP to beware of unprofessionalism among police before allowing prosecutions.

“Prosecution side of the criminal justice system is falling in this situation where they should not actually prosecute once the police arrest before investigations and we expect that

the DPP, especially in criminal matters, would immediately advise the police not to continue with the prosecution which means individuals must be released once it is clear that there is no evidence but what happens is that the DPP allows these things to continue and when it is clear that there will be an acquittal as our case was going to be, the DPP decides to enter a nolle. It stems from the unprofessional conduct of the police arresting innocent citizens on tramped up political charges. That’s where the crisis begins,” said HH.

“One of the crimes we were alleged to have committed was stopping by the

roadside to greet people. And today we were meant to have continued trial and we were looking forward to a trial but unfortunately or surprisingly the state has entered a nolle prosequi in the matter. We would have preferred an outright acquittal because we do believe that there was not crime we committed, we simply exercised our human rights and freedoms, freedom of association, assembly and movement because we were on our way to see our colleagues who were incarcerated at Kamfisa then.”

Meanwhile, GBM said the party would now focus on party mobilisation. In count one, Hichilema was charged with seditious practices contrary to the Laws of Zambia.

It was alleged that Hichilema on September 20, in Mpongwe, conspired with other unknown people to bring into hatred, incite violence, resistance and disobedience to the administration of the elected government of Zambia by uttering words, “Nga taba mufumishe Matambo, epo ulubuli lwalatampila (If they haven’t released [Copperbelt UPND

chairperson Elisha Matambo], that’s how the fight will start).”

In count two, GBM was charged with seditious practices.

It was alleged that on September 26, in Mpongwe, GBM conspired with other unknown people to bring into hatred, incite violence, resistance and disobedience to the administration of the elected government of Zambia by uttering words, “Ifwe pano ngaba UPND tulwile twakana iyi government yakwa Lungu; ngabamyeba ati kuli ama meeting yaba Lungu mulekana, pantu president wesu ni HH (As UPND, we should not recognise the government of Lungu because our president is HH).”

In count three, the two UPND leaders were charged with unlawful assembly contrary to the Laws of Zambia.

It was alleged that on September 26 in Mpongwe, the duo jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown convened, assembled unlawfully with intent to carry out some common purpose without notifying the regulating officer.

PF claims 70 UPND defections to the ruling party

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Patriotic Front claims that 70 opposition UPND members in Sioma district of Western Province yesterday defected to the ruling party. In a statement, PF media director Sunday Chanda stated that the defectors joined the ruling party because it was serious about bringing development even in areas where it was not voted for.

“Patriotic Front Secretary General Hon Davies Mwila has welcomed 70 defectors from the opposition UPND in Sioma District, Western province. The defectors said they have come to see that the ruling party was serious about development and have hailed His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu as a leader who is committed to taking development to all parts of the country,

including areas where he received the minimum of votes,” stated Chanda.

“And speaking on behalf of the defectors, Mrs Kakumbo Imbola, former UPND Nawashi Ward Secretary said they had resolved to join the PF because they were interested in politics of development, unity and visionary leadership as demonstrated by President Lungu.

And Chanda stated that Mwila instructed structures to recruit more members because PF had the best manifesto.

“Hon Mwila in welcoming the defectors said that as secretary general, he was interested in the party’s numerical growth. He has since instructed the structures to go flat out and recruit new members,” said Chanda.

Kambwili tones down: "I'm off politicking for now"

From front page

In an interview with News Diggers! Kambwili said he was not going to respond to President Lungu's punching threats because it was a week of national prayer, fasting and reconciliation. "I think from my own point of view this is a week of national prayer, reconciliation, forgiveness and repentance and I think in this week, every person should concentrate on this co-business of prayer and national building. I don't want to make a comment on what other people say about themselves or others. I think in the next one or two weeks my concentration will be on this and I don't think I have any time to comment on such issues as the President saying he has got a big punch or he can knock out someone," Kambwili said. He urged Zambians to pray for the country's leadership.

"I mean, it will be unChristian for me to start talking about those issues when we have a big responsibility of praying for our leaders in order for them to prioritise making the lives of the poor people bearable or indeed putting the poor people as a priority. So for this week I am off such kind of comments and my preoccupation is to ask every reasonable Zambian that let's put our heads together to fast and pray for Zambia. To pray for the prosperity of this country and pray even for the leadership that they may focus on the improvement of the lifestyle or living standards of the poor people," Kambwili said.

"My expectation is that people will go to the national prayer day genuinely, and I am using the word 'genuinely', to pray for national building, reconciliation and fostering development by putting the poor people



Former Information minister Chishimba Kambwili speaks to journalists at his house in Lusaka September 4, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

first. Looking at suffering of the people on the Copperbelt more especially the miners who have lost their jobs, those miners who are very badly treated in terms of salaries and all that. Then also looking at the civil servants who have been marginalised by being given a paltry nine per cent salary increment

when other taxes have been increased in the budget. After the national day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation, I expect that the government of the day must relook the salary increment for the teachers and all the civil servants. Meanwhile, Kambwili said he did not delete the exposé against Chanda which he

reposted on his Facebook page, after it was earlier deleted.

When asked why the exposé was no longer on his Facebook page, Kambwili said it he was not aware that it was deleted again.

"Like I said, can we concentrate on national prayers, fasting and reconciliation and putting

the poor people first. This is the week I am in. Please, I am concentrating on the core issue of this week which is prayer, fasting and repentance," said Kambwili. "In a nutshell, I have not spoken to Amos and neither has anybody spoken to me about Amos. As far as I am concerned, we have not removed any

posting relating to Amos Chanda. The other day it was hacked, and I am sure, the same hackers must have hacked it again. I will check it. There is no way... I told you even the other day that we didn't remove it. Again if it has been removed, we will check if it has been hacked and we will take remedial measures."

Persons with disabilities lack legal protection - HRC

By Joseph Mwenya

The Human Rights Commission says inadequate implementation of the statutes that seek to protect rights of persons with disabilities is hindering them from enjoying their fundamental human rights. Speaking when HRC officials met persons with disabilities at Senady lodge in Kabwe today, HRC spokesperson Mwelwa Muleya said the Commission was deeply concerned about the inadequate implementation

of legal provisions relating to persons with disabilities.

"We have a constitutional mandate to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the country, including or especially persons with disabilities. As a Commission we are keenly following the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. We are very concerned with the inadequate implementation of legal provisions relating to persons with disabilities," Muleya said.

He acknowledged positive developments that had been made to actualise the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities.

The HRC spokesperson said having an institutional and legal framework for persons with disabilities was not enough as there was still much that needed to be done through implementation.

"There are some positive developments that have been made. The government in 2010 ratified the UN Convention on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities and later domesticated the convention by enacting the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012. In 2015 government went further to develop a National Policy on Disability. So there is this legal and institutional framework that has been put in place, but if there is no concerted efforts toward implementing them, then the plight of persons with disabilities will continue, if not worsen," he said.

He reiterated that the Commission was engaging several stakeholders including duty bearers to ensure that persons with disabilities could fully enjoy their rights.

"As HRC we have been engaging various stakeholders and duty bearers and policy makers in government departments so that working together, persons with disabilities can claim and enjoy their rights," Muleya said.

And Zambia Association for the Blind president Lazarus Chipenge thanked the

Commission for responding positively to their request of meeting their members who desired to air their grievances.

Chipenge complained that they were usually discriminated against on the basis of disability.

He lamented that well deserving persons with disabilities were sidelined for promotions in government departments.

"Government does not consider us for promotions even when we have attained higher academic papers. We have members who have remained as switch board operators even when they have upgraded themselves academically. And yet those who are deemed able bodied, may begin work as office orderlies, and will rise to being government executives. This is unacceptable. We want to appeal to the commission to address some of these issues that have been lingering over our heads for 53 years now since independence," lamented Chipenge.

Amnesty International SG to discuss human rights challenges with Lungu, others

By Mukosha Funga

Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty says he will remind President Edgar Lungu of his human rights obligations during his visit to Zambia.

According to a statement issued by Amnesty International Zambia media manager Robert Shivambu today, Shetty will visit the country between October 15 and 18 and will

hold discussions with President Edgar Lungu on human rights, as well as meet lawyers, civil society leaders and communities affected by human rights violations.

Amnesty International noted that Zambia was still recovering from last August's election, which left the country polarised.

"Historically, Zambia has been known for its political tolerance and respect

for human rights. It was home to former liberation fighters, including South Africa's under apartheid," said Shetty.

"Just like with any country facing human rights challenges, during my visit I will remind authorities, including President Edgar Lungu, of their human rights obligations."

Salil Shetty will conclude his visit with a press conference tomorrow.

IMF presses govt to redefine its future borrowing

By Mukosha Funga

The International Monetary Fund has pressed Zambia to redefine its borrowing plans going forward in view of the risks associated with high levels of debt.

And Zambia has agreed to furnish the IMF with its borrowing plans for 2018.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Finance

permanent secretary economic management Mukuli Chikuba, government and IMF also discussed the need to continue fiscal consolidation and reassessment of the priorities of the 2018 budget. "The Zambian Government, led by the Minister of Finance Felix Mutati, and the IMF had a number of

meetings on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington DC, USA, at which discussions were held on the way forward following the completion of

the Article IV *REVIEW* by the IMF Board. Both the IMF team and Government Authorities are generally in agreement with the outcome of the Article IV consultations,

particularly the concerns raised with respect to the rising debt risks and the recommendations made on fiscal consolidation and the need to lower debt risks," Chikuba stated.

"The two sides discussed the need to redefine Zambia's borrowing plans going forward in view of the risks associated with high levels of debt, the need to continue fiscal consolidation and reassessment of the priorities of the 2018 budget."

And Zambia agreed to furnish the IMF with its borrowing plans for 2018.

"In view of the above, the two sides agreed on the need to review and redefine the macroeconomic framework that anchors a path towards debt sustainability. The Government agreed to provide data on recent developments in the economy, the 2018 budget and the borrowing plans. Once this data had been reviewed and validated, the IMF would field a staff visit to Zambia with the objective of redefining the macroeconomic framework," stated Chikuba.

"The IMF Director - Africa Department Abebe Selassie and the newly appointed Mission Chief to Zambia Brileau Loko will soon conduct a short outreach mission to Zambia to meet with country authorities to discuss recent economic developments and policies."

Chama reiterates govt's support for aviation industry

By Tenson Mkhala

Minister of Defense Davies Chama says government is tirelessly investing in the aviation industry in the country so as to ensure a safe air space.

Speaking when he officiated at this year's Zambia Air Force (ZAF) open day and aviation expo at City Airport on October 14, 2017, Chama said government attached great importance to having a professional and efficient defense force.

"As you may be aware, the government of the Republic of Zambia is tirelessly investing in the aviation industry in Zambia. To a great extent, the Zambia Air Force will have a big role to play in this effect by ensuring the existence of a safe Zambian sky," Chama said.

Chama urged ZAF personnel to remain vigilant and guard their assets jealously.

"I therefore urge all ZAF personnel to always remain vigilant and guard their assets jealously. You should remember that this equipment was acquired at the expense of many other equally important demands," said Chama.

Chama pledged to support all the services under his ministry in order to attain operational efficiency and a state of combat readiness. And ZAF commander Lieutenant General Eric Chimese said the event would help the aviation



A military vehicle displayed during ZAF Open Day at City Airport in Lusaka on October 14, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

industry in Zambia reach a level where it was capable of hosting a full-fledged international air shows to attract guests from all over the world.

"Today is a special day for the ZAF. Our hope,

honorable minister and invited guests, is for us in the aviation industry in Zambia to quickly get to a level where we will be capable of hosting a full-fledged international air show in the country in order

to attract guest from all over the continent and the entire world," he said.

He thanked the Zimbabwean government for taking part in the ZAF open day.

"May I take this opportunity

to thank the government of Zimbabwe for accepting our invitation to be the first ever sister and allied country to take part in this open day and aviation expo, we thank you very much," said Lieut Gen Chimese.

National Day of Prayer has divided the nation - Kabimba

By Mirriam Chabala

Rainbow Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba says the National Day of Prayer has done nothing but divide the country from the time it was pronounced. In an interview, Kabimba said the National Day of Prayer, which falls on October 18, had polarised the country.

"We have never participated in the

National Day of Prayer since it was introduced and our position is simple and clear, as far as we are concerned, the National Day of Prayer is not a unifying day from the day when it was pronounced. The National Day of Prayer has not been accepted by all the religious organisations that it was a necessary step for government to take or the necessary policy

pronouncement to make and because of that it has divided the nation, it has polarised the nation because there are some people even amongst the clergy, there are some Church organisations that do not attend the National Day of Prayer and we know that very well," Kabimba said.

"And one of the biggest organisations is the

Catholic Church and there are other Church organisations that do not agree that we need a National Day of Prayer and because they don't agree, so they have not participated in the National Day of Prayer. Just like there are many organisations amongst religious organisations that do not agree with the policy of establishing the Ministry

of Religious Affairs and National Guidance."

He however said members of this party were free to attend the prayers in their individual capacities because it was their right as Christians.

"So for us as Rainbow Party, as long as the National Day of Prayer is not accepted by everybody, for as long it polarises and divide the country, we do not think that our participation is necessary. We want to participate in an event that unifies the country not an event that deepens division in our country. But we have told our members that they can attend in their individual capacity but not representing the party because we realise that our members belong to different denominations so the party position is different from individual members of the party. As individual members, those who think that they can go and attend, they are at liberty to go and attend and those that think that they should attend they should also exercise their freedom of not attending," said Kabimba.

UNZA's huge tuition fee increment is theft - ZANASU

From front page

"You are simply telling the nation that you don't want people to get educated. Moreover, increments should not affect those who are already pursuing their programmes. Unless if it is an increment that is affecting only those who are about to start. Then a minimal increment would be welcome because it will be something that the reporting students can prepare for before starting. They can decide whether to go to UNZA or not. But

increasing across the board by 100 per cent like that is unfair to the returning students."

He said it was unfair that the university was trying to milk the students after struggling to get its grants from government.

"The ministry of education and the government at large has failed to direct investment in terms of education because if proper resources were channelled into the education sector, I think such increments would not be there.

This is a third world economy where most of the parents and other citizens of Zambia are into informal employment and the economy itself is not doing well. So when you increase fees where do you expect the students and their parents to get the money from? Government must move in so that the decision by management at the University is reviewed. I think it should be nullified because it is theft to make such an increments. I would simply call it

theft because there is no reason for an increase of [over] 100 per cent when the University of Zambia is always asking for grants from government," said Busenga.

"I think this time around Edgar Chagwa Lungu, His Excellency the President of Zambia must look into these issues himself. We can't even appeal to the ministry of higher education because this is not the first time that such calamitous decisions are being made at the University of Zambia.

Our fire tenders look like wheelbarrows – Minister

By Joseph Mwenda

Minister of National Planning Development Lucky Mulusa mocks the 42 fire tenders which government recently acquired at a cost of US\$42 million, saying they look like wheelbarrows compared to the high-end fire truck which Liverpool City bought at the same price.

Mulusa who is a nominated member of parliament also laughed at how his fellow ministers were struggling to justify the cost of the fire trucks to the public. “Perhaps we should have given better explanations than the explanations which seem contradictory, which seem not to be making sense to members of the public. We should

have probably done an appraisal on fire tenders,” Mulusa said while laughing.

“I see my colleagues struggling to justify [the purchase]. Now we know

Liverpool has this one million dollar machine. When you see it on social

media, and you look at ours, it looks like a wheelbarrow..”

As President, *naine kuti naposa amakofi* - Lungu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

President Edgar Lungu today told Ndola residents that his tolerance of attacks does not mean that he doesn't know how to throw punches. And President Lungu has warned that once he declares war against one particular individual, Zambians will not like it. Speaking on arrival at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport in Ndola today, the Head of State warned those who were frustrating the national process or prayer, forgiveness and reconciliation, that he was also capable of punching back when pushed too far. He said it was not true that he was asking for forgiveness from those he had offended in past, because he wanted to fulfil the October 18 National Day of Prayer and Fasting.

“...But what I want to make very clear is that when I say *nshilefwaya ulubulu* (I don't want fighting), it doesn't mean I can't fight. *Akanyebele ngawakapimpila kalasuma* (even an ant can bite if you provoke it). I want to make this clear, when I say my heart is big enough it can accommodate all sorts of trouble including nonsense, it doesn't mean I can not fight back... Me as President *tekweba ati ngandesulafye amakofi teti mpose, kuti naposa* It doesn't mean that when I am ducking punches, I cannot punch back. I also know how to punch.” The President warned the “individual” who was attacking him that he would declare war if pushed too far. “If I declare war against one individual you will not like it and it will not help this country. I'm saying that as we go towards the Day of National Prayer and Forgiveness, let us open our hearts so that God can see how to work with us, how he can work with us. One person or two people are nothing,” he said.

“Let me appeal to those of you who believe like I do, that [we should] do some introspection. Look into your heart and say ‘if I have offended my friend let me go and see him and say ‘I'm sorry.’ Don't be too proud. I know there are some people who want to politicise the process and want to play drama and politics and say I have come to seek forgiveness because its October. No, forgiveness, reconciliation and repentance should be ongoing all the time,” President Lungu said.

“*Twalelanda kubwaiche ati umuntu umo kamuti ka matches* (during our childhood, we used to say ‘one person is like a matchstick’) he can't do anything. But together *fino tuli ebuntu* (the way we are here is unity). So *bane mukwate ubwililo ukweba ati amaka yaba muli ifwe bonse twabombela chapamo* (So colleague, have

forgiveness so that with our combined energy, we can work together). *Umuntu ngalikutukile kumwelela nokumubika mupepi. Nao nga alikutukile afwile abwela mupepi ati unjeleleko nalikolwa nakantu kapwa* (If someone insulted you, forgive and bring them close. And the person who insulted you should also say

sorry I was drunk, and the case will be closed).” And President Lungu said it was not true that the PF had lost its appeal to the people. “I'm humbled by the fact that you have come in numbers to welcome me. This is contrary to what some people are saying that ‘this party has lost its appeal, this party is no longer

together’ because of one or two things going wrong. Let me tell you that were people are together, there will always be differences and difficulties but you have to believe in yourselves to move forward. I want to say this because I know this is the week of reconciliation, repentance, prayer and forgiveness. And I will be

coming back here on the 18th so that we can worship together,” said President Lungu. “Let's do some soul searching. Non of us is perfect all of us have fallen short with God. But please be praying for us *tuleiluka* (we should remember) that we are nothing but servants of the Almighty.”



UKULYA BWINO: PF Lusaka Province youth chairman Kennedy Kamba posted this photo on Facebook after a sumptuous meal with his aunts whom he said were taking care of his ailing mother in UTH

Transparency International elects Lifuka vice-chairperson

By Mirriam Chabala

TIZ president Rueben Lifuka has been elevated to the position of vice-chairperson for the global Transparency International Board of the Transparency International Movement after an election held on October 15, 2017 in Germany.

In a congratulatory statement yesterday, TIZ executive director Wesley Chibamba expressed

confidence that the appointment of Lifuka as vice-chairperson for the entire TIZ movement would have good implications on the fight against corruption in Zambia.

“It is with a sense of great pride and honour that Transparency International Zambia wishes to congratulate its Chapter President Mr Rueben Lifuka for being elected to the

position of Vice Chairperson on the International Board for the entire Transparency International Movement. Mr Lifuka became vice-chairperson on the 15th of October 2017 at the elective Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) in Berlin, Germany,” Chibamba stated.

Chibamba also noted that the appointment of Lifuka to his new position put Zambia's governance and fight against corruption on a global spotlight.

“Transparency International held its elections for the International board for the global movement after the expiry of a three year mandate of its previous board, as is customary and consistent with the movement's good corporate governance values. This development has very good implications to the fight against corruption in Zambia. It puts a global spotlight on

Zambia's governance and fight against corruption, considering that the vice chair of the global movement hails from there,” he stated.

Chibamba congratulated Lifuka with all the deserved emphasis and called on Zambians to share and feel proud of Lifuka and TIZ's achievement as their own.

“Every well-meaning Zambian should be filled with a sense of pride and joy for the milestone that Mr Lifuka and indeed the entire TIZ Chapter has achieved. The Transparency International movement has exhibited the same confidence that TIZ exhibited in the leadership of Mr Lifuka. This is indeed a historical moment for Transparency International Zambia. The fight against corruption in Zambia just got bolder with a global insignia. Congratulations TI Zambia Chapter President!” stated Chibamba.

UPND notifies police of HH rally in Kanyama

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The UPND has notified the police that it will hold a public rally on October 22, 2017 at Twashuka grounds in Lusaka's Kanyama compound. This is according to a letter of notice addressed to Lusaka Province police commissioner Nelson Phiri, signed by UPND provincial chairman Bob Sakahilu.

“We write to notify you that

as a party, we will on 22nd October, 2017 be holding a rally at Twashuka grounds in Kanyama of Lusaka Province. Our planned rally will start at 14 hours and will be addressed by our party president, Mr Hakainde Hichilema and his vice, Dr Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba,” Sakahile stated.

He stated that the rally would go ahead even if police did not had already

mobilised it's own security. Sakahilu hoped that the police would allow the opposition party to hold its meeting like they had permitted similar meetings for other political parties.

“We wish to inform you that if your office has no enough officers to police our event, we will go ahead as we already mobilised our own at our own expense. We are also aware that in the recent past including during the

state of emergency period, your office allowed other political parties to hold such meetings, and therefore, it is our sincere hope that the same will be applied on us,” stated Sakahile.

“By this notification to your office, we therefore confirm to the public and relevant stakeholders promoting democracy both within and outside our country that as a party (UPND), we will be holding this rally.”

Lungu's violence jokes can bring harm, says Chipimo

By Zondiwe Mbewe

National Restoration Party leader Elias Chipimo says President Edgar Lungu's And Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says it is not

surprising that the President Lungu was warning of throwing punches because "his ministers exhibited the same behaviour when they got into a fight at Parliament few weeks ago".

On Saturday, President Lungu told Ndola residents that his tolerance of attacks was not an indication that he didn't know how to throw punches. "What I want to make very clear is that when i say

nshilefwaya ulubulu (I don't want fighting), it doesn't mean I can't fight. I want to make this clear, when I say my heart is big enough it can accommodate all sorts of trouble including nonsense,

it doesn't mean i can not fight back... Me as President tekweba ati ngandesulafye amakofi teti mpose, kuti naposa It doesn't mean that when I am ducking punches, I cannot punch back. I also know how to punch," he said. But Chipimo said the President's 'joke' was unnecessary.

"As NAREP, we are a little bit disappointed in statements that do not help bring healing in the nation. A Head of State must at times be aware that even if he is joking, comments that promote violent reactions to dispute between individuals in society, especially coming from the leader of the nation can only bring harm. Therefore, we would urge the President to retract such a statement. It is not enough for him to say that it was just a joke. That is not acceptable and we should not tolerate such things especially when we are heading into a period were the government would like to commemorate a day of national prayer," said.

"We cannot have a situation where the mouth is producing both spring water and salt water as it says in the bible. There is no mouth that can do that. We need wisdom in these times, we need reconciliation as a nation and comments

like that undermine any significance reconciliation that can take place."

And Nkombo questioned President Lungu's sincerity in his call for reconciliation when he was preaching forgiveness on one hand and threatening punches on the other hand.

"It is not surprising that he [President Lungu] could say such things. Why I'm saying this is that if you recall few weeks ago, his ministers exhibited just what he was demonstrating that if he declares war against one individual, we will not like it. You can not have a President actually speaking proudly about that. The advice that one can give to the head of state is that in this, life human beings come and go but the institution of presidency remains. It is not made for one person alone. So he needs to exercise restraint on the statements that he gives because you can't say one thing in a breath and in the same breath say the other" said Nkombo.

"So probably its the President who needs forgiveness and not vice-versa. So really, I think it was a little bit beneath the Head of State for him to say what he said. But I'm sure that's the definition of the man we are talking about."

ConCourt misinterpreted "14 days", rules Complaints Commission

By Mukosha Funga

Green Party leader Peter Sinkamba says the Judicial Complaints Commission has ruled that Constitutional Court judges failed to properly interpret provisions of the Constitution which relate to the timeframe for hearing a presidential petition.

But the JCC has ruled that Sinkamba failed to establish a prima facie case against the judges to warrant their removal from office.

On September 6, 2016, Sinkamba filed a complaint with the JCC seeking the removal of five ConCourt judges, Hilda Chibomba, Annie Sitali, Mungeni Mulenga, Margret Munalula and Palan Mulonda from office on grounds of incompetence and gross misconduct pursuant to Articles 143 and 144 of the Constitution.

According to a statement issued by the Green Party media team yesterday, Sinkamba told journalists in Kitwe on Saturday that the JCC had finally ruled on his complaint. "The Judicial Complaints Commission on Friday last week made a finding of fact that the five Constitutional Court Judges who presided over the 2016 Presidential Petition filed by UPND Presidential Candidate Hakainde Hichilema, and his Vice President Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba, failed to properly interpret Articles 101(5) and 103(2) of the Constitution in relation to the time-frame for hearing of Presidential Petitions. Green Party President Peter Sinkamba said this at a press briefing held in Kitwe yesterday," read the statement.

"According to Sinkamba, the Commission also found that the bench made contradictory or flip-flop decisions on at least three occasions in relation to the lapse of the 14-day period provided under Articles 101 (5) and 103 (2) for hearing of presidential election petition. Furthermore, the Green Party leader said the Commission also found that the bench abruptly terminated the hearing of the Petition thereby contradicting its earlier commitments that it would not do so. Sinkamba said that the Commission established further that from three possible scenarios on the interpretation of 14-day timeframe for hearing of presidential petitions, the abrupt termination of the proceedings, as the bench did on 5 September, 2016 was

wrong because only 10 days lapsed instead of 14."

But Sinkamba revealed that the JCC ruled that he had failed to establish a prima facie case against the judges to warrant their removal.

"Sinkamba complained to the Commission that the bench issued contradictory orders on the timeframe to hear the petition, which bordered on breaching Rules of Constitutional Court and the Constitution of Zambia. According to Sinkamba, the flip-flop orders were not only clear manifestation of incompetence but also prejudicial or inimical to the economy of the country as well as threatened the security of the State. He feared, as a consequence, the President was likely to invoke Emergency Provisions and thereby declare the State of Emergency. Sinkamba also complained that probably in the history of Zambia, it was the first time that the entire teams of very senior lawyers representing a petitioner or petitioners walked out in protest due to the behaviour of the bench... He tendered evidence to the Commission of commentaries featured in public and private print and electronic media, where the Constitutional Court was ridiculed and contemptuously written or talked about," the statement read.

"Despite most of his allegations being ascertained in its findings as stated above, the Commission nonetheless ruled that Sinkamba did not establish a prima facie case against the judges to warrant their removal from office. Briefing the press yesterday, Sinkamba wondered why multiple contradictory decisions which were actually proven by Commission cannot be prima facie."

"I thought a prima facie case of professional misconduct is based on the first impression accepted as correct until proved otherwise. Now in this case, the allegations went beyond first impression stage but were actually proven correct by the Commission after a series of hearings," the Green Party leader charged and added "I therefore cannot surmise what the Commission means by prima facie case."

Sinkamba also wondered why the Commission appeared to be reluctant to consider multiple proven evidence of flip-flopping as proof of incompetence.

Additionally, Sinkamba

wondered why the Commission held that behaviour which brings the Constitutional Court into disrepute, ridicule or contempt is not one of the grounds provided under Article 143 for the removal of judge from office when Article 266(a) of the Constitution defines "gross misconduct" as "behaviour which brings a public office into disrepute, ridicule or contempt".

"According to Article 266 of the Constitution, the office of the judge is a public office since emoluments and expenses of that office are a charge on the Consolidated Fund. This being the case, any behaviour that brings the office of the judge into disrepute, ridicule or contempt is gross misconduct," Sinkamba said.

The Green Party leader however commended the Commission for giving the complainants a hearing adding that "the decision was clearly a win-win kind of a decision."

He said the State benefitted from the decision in the sense that the State "was going to be very embarrassed had the entire bench been removed from office. On-going cases before the Constitutional Court would have been thrown into disarray, and it is no wonder that the Attorney General sided with the judges throughout the proceedings," said Sinkamba. Sinkamba also said the judges benefitted greatly from the decision in the sense that "it would have been extremely embarrassing on their part to be removed from office for incompetence and gross misconduct," adding "it does not auger well for the future when one is removed from office on such grounds."

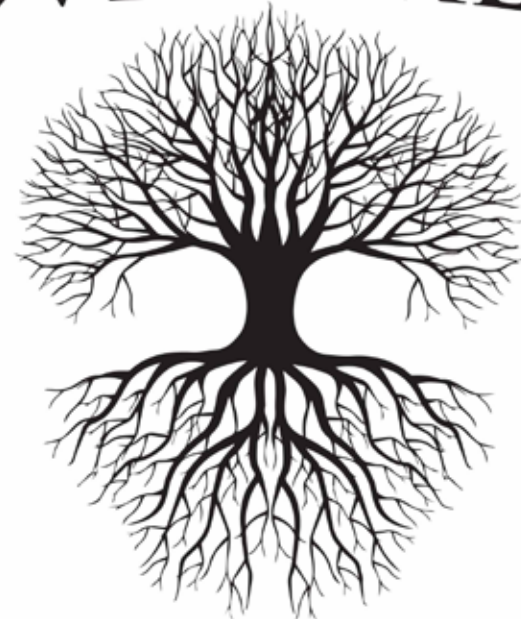
Sinkamba wondered why the judges were not suspended during the time they were being probed.

"Ethically and morally, it does not auger well for a Commissioner who is supposed to preside over the discipline of judges to be appearing before the same judges. This has potential to compromise the decisions. Also, we need to address the aspect of procedure. The Commission should not be at liberty to choose which procedure to adopt. For example, the procedure adopted by the Commission in the determination of the case of ConCourt judges was rather queer. How on earth can one prosecute a person who is not suspended? All over the world, when one is facing disciplinary charges, they are supposed

to be suspended from work to facilitate unencumbered investigations. However in this case, in the morning the judges were appearing before the Commission on allegations of incompetence and gross misconduct, and in the afternoon, the judges were presiding over the other cases in court. Where then are ethics and morality?" asked Sinkamba.

"If, for example, a judge is dissatisfied with the outcome of the Commission's decision on points of law, and wishes to appeal, the question is: appeal before which forum? How can a serving judge appear before another serving judge in judicial review proceedings and expect fair play, especially so if the litigant judge is from a superior court? We need to thoroughly think through these issues before we find ourselves cocoon at the end of the day."

GOVERNMENT



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ACC must publish findings on Kambwili - Mwila

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the Anti Corruption Commission must publish their findings on Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili.

Speaking when he featured on the ZNBC TV's Sunday Interview programme, Mwila said the party was aware that the ACC had concluded its investigations on Kambwili.

"They are there, they are listening. Am talking and they are listening. You will recall that during the swearing in ceremony of the ambassadors and high commissioners, the President did express disappointment over the Anti Corruption Commission because they have been carrying out investigations without taking any action. You will recall that honorable Chishimba Kambwili is being investigated over the issues of corruption. We have been told that they have concluded investigations," Mwila said.

"Me, as an individual, I am not satisfied, if they start an investigation, they have to complete and inform the public on the outcome. I think that is my position, that's my concern. Us as a party we have said that anyone who shall be found in the issues of corruption, we shall deal with them, that commitment is still there. That's the more reason honorable Chishimba Kambwili was dropped, because of the issues of corruption and the ACC started their investigations, they told us that they have completed the investigations...they are using public funds to investigate these individuals and as people we have to know the outcomes."

And Mwila said party officials were not in panic mode over

allegations of corruption.

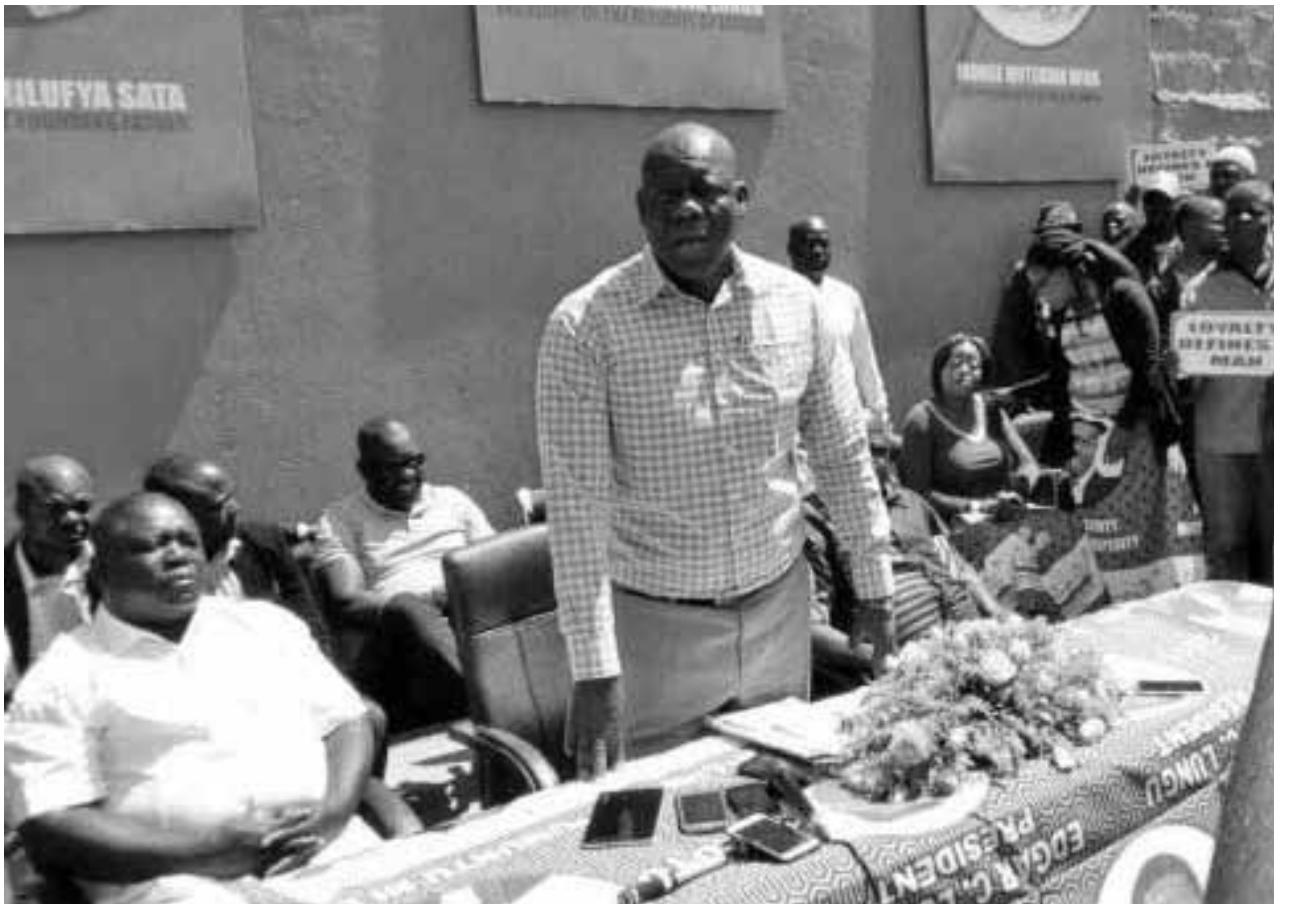
"We are not in the panic over these allegations. They are not only talking about the issues of corruption, they have gone astray. Mr Kambwili was talking about him buying my deputy some tissues, someone sleeping in the garage, and I said those are arguments against man, they are not following the issues that are on the table. If they have any evidence against what they are saying, let them go to the Anti-Corruption Commission, and I am not defending anyone," he said.

Asked how true it was that a lot of ruling party officials were getting good deals from government, Mwila said he was not a businessman to benefit from government contracts.

"I am not aware because me am not a businessman so I don't even follow what people say. So I just concentrated on what I am doing because am not a businessman to follow or go for contracts, no! Me I am a farmer, I just keep animals, it ends there," Mwila said.

When asked if the party took corruption allegations seriously, Mwila said it was the duty of the commission to arrest those found wanting.

"Okay Grevazio what do you want us to do? We don't arrest people ourselves, we don't. Even if they provide evidence to ACC, it is not us who are going to arrest those, it is the Anti Corruption Commission. And we are saying that the Anti Corruption Commission must jack up their standards, they have to work and ensure that the public is satisfied with their work. I want the Zambian people to judge us whether we are telling the truth or not," said Mwila.



PF Secretary General Davies Mwila addressing cadres

Police arrest 17 for burning Mufumbwe police station

By Joseph Mwenda

Police in North Western Province have arrested 17 people in connection to the burning down of Mufumbwe Police Station yesterday.

Giving an update on the development, provincial police commissioner Auxencio Daka said several suspected criminals ran away during the fracas that left more than six vehicles burnt and all police documents destroyed.

"The background to this is that, the residents requested for permission from Chief Chizela to hold the 'Chikondo' procession, so that the coffin would lead them to the person who caused the death of the the grade 11 pupil [who died on October 13]. The chief refused to grant them permission but they went ahead with the 'Chikondo,'" Daka said.

He said after police attempted to stop he

procession, the residents ran amok, pursued the officers up to the police station where they set the building ablaze.

"The property damaged and burnt includes a Mitsubishi Canter belonging to a police officer, a Toyota Noah which was left at the station by bailiffs, a Toyota Land Cruiser ambulance, a Toyota hilux for traffic department, a Tata vanner for Zambezi District Commissioner, an Audi car which was exhibit

for the Drug Enforcement Commission and other vehicles which were non runners," he said.

"Further, all exhibits in the office like TVs, fridges etc were all damaged. An officer had K12,000 personal money, it was all stolen, plus all files and dockets have been burnt or destroyed."

He added that the residents further freed the suspects who were in police custody. "Further 12 suspects in the cells were freed but one has freely come back while others who included 6 convicted felons waiting to be conveyed to prison have escaped. So far police have arrested 17 suspects, two females and 15 males and many more will be arrested," said Daka.

"We are cooperating well with eye witnesses and community leaders to bring all suspects to book. I want to warn all people who destroy public or private property as a show of anger against any thing, to desist from such conduct. We shall arrest them and ensure they are imprisoned."

Chiefs must help heal Zambia, not aggravate division - Shakumbila

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Senior Chief Shakumbila of the Sala people of Mumbwa District in Central province says traditional leaders should act as middlemen to restore peace in the country before 2020.

Speaking in an interview with News Diggers today, Chief Shakumbila said it was also not helpful for President Edgar Lungu to boycott traditional ceremonies.

The traditional leader said President Lungu was forced to make the decision to shun traditional ceremonies because some chiefs had taken political sides in their leadership.

"Some of the traditional leaders have decided to take sides in terms of political affiliation. A traditional leader is a unifying factor. Where two political parties are crushing each other, a traditional leader should always find a way to come in as a middleman to

bring peace between the two groups of people. So that really, if we live it to continue, its endangering the position of our peace in this country. We must find a way to harmonize it, to bring it to an end before 2020. because if we allow it to continue as it is now, then 2020 we will have no peace because that is the year when everybody will be getting ready for 2021 elections," Chief Shakumbila said.

He said there was need for traditional leaders to unite and speak with one voice for peace to prevail.

"We have to organise ourselves as traditional leaders and find a better solution to this problem. We should not be scared because these people, the political leaders have a fixed period of time and these are our children, we are the fathers of the nation. So it is our duty to bring unity and to make sure that every politician has no fear to enter

any area. President Lungu is the President of the country whether one likes it or not, he was given a mandate by Zambians to rule Zambia for a period of five years. So he must be a free man to enter any area," Chief Shakumbila said.

"And anybody holding a traditional ceremony should extend the invitation to the leader of the country, the

leader of the nation. Because everybody, young or old look up to him. So there is no way we can ignore him. Whether he is a bad man or a good man, we should always accommodate him in whatever we do. As traditional leaders, we are the key, the traditional leaders are the owners of the country, we are the owners of the people. You know the traditional leader

has no fixed period of time to rule unless death comes on the way, that is when a traditional leader can come out of office. There are those who have ruled Zambia as traditional leaders from the time of independence and they are still there. So it is really unfortunate that as traditional leaders, we start dividing our nation, its really bad," said Chief Shakumbila.

Lungu heads to Congo Brazzaville, then Ivory Coast

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu is on Wednesday expected in Congo Brazzaville to attend the Great Lakes Region Summit, Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba has revealed.

According to first secretary for press at the Zambian Embassy in Ethiopia Inutu Mwanza, Kalaba said this in Addis Ababa when he was transiting to that country ahead of the President. Kalaba said it was imperative

for the Head of State to attend the summit which he said was expected to table the Congo DR crisis.

He said President Lungu was deeply concerned that the political turmoil in the Democratic Republic of Congo had a direct effect on the Zambian people, and was eager to take part in the crisis resolution summit, being hosted by Congo Brazzaville.

Mwanza said the minister

regretted that the instability in Congo DR had forced over 5,000 Congolese to seek asylum in Zambia.

"There comes a time in the life of a nation that we need to put politics aside and just push a national agenda. We need to go beyond the political divide to ensure that Zambia moves as one," Mwanza quoted Kalaba as saying.

And the Minister Revealed that in November, President Lungu

would be amongst other Heads of States and governments at the European Union Africa Summit which will take place in Ivory Coast, to discuss peace and security matters among other things.

"We know that the summit is coming at a time when the youth demographic is one which is being articulated on, we know that investment in the youth is investment in the future," said Kalaba.

Finally after three months, the Minister of Justice announced the end of the declared Threatened State of Public Emergency last week. To many, including Mr Given Lubinda himself, this announcement was nothing special but a mere notice to the National Assembly and the general public, that the extra powers which President Edgar Lungu gave the police had expired. But there was something suspiciously missing from Mr Lubinda's announcement.

"Madam Speaker, in line with the requirements of the Constitution, the proclamation relating to Threatened State of Public Emergency which was signed by the President on 5th July, 2017 and has been in force for a period of 90 days from 11th July, 2017, the date of its approval by this House, expires at midnight tonight. The preservation of Public Emergency Statutory Instrument number 55 of 2017 shall be suspended. Madam Speaker, the declaration of this public emergency will dully expire tonight," Mr Lubinda told Parliament.

He went further to warn the public not to misconstrue the expiration of the Threatened State of Emergency as an invitation for people to break the law, as other laws were still in force. But the Minister of Justice did not tell the House what the invocation of Article 31 of the Constitution had achieved. He was quick to warn that police remained with

The State was never threatened, Lungu was

sufficient powers to continue arresting law-breakers, but showed no interest to announce how many arrests had been made in relation to "sabotage" – which we were told, necessitated the invocation of Article 31. Why?

If this Threatened State of Public Emergency was necessary, why did the minister avoid sharing with the nation how useful it was? Why didn't Mr Lubinda tell the nation how many cases of sabotage had been taken to court as a result of the extra powers given to the police? Is it because these cases were too many for the minister to itemise in Parliament? The answer is no! Was the minister afraid that giving such details would jeopardise on-going investigations in relation to sabotage? Again the answer is no!

The truth is that the declared Threatened State of Public Emergency was useless and unnecessary. It was nonsense! It was an invocation of unjustified powers to justify police brutality on political rivals of the ruling party. The President felt intimidated by the fact that after the arrest and detention of UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema, the public was

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Ear to the ground

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turning against him. He wanted to kill the euphoria that was created by the treason case. It was, in fact, Mr Edgar Lungu himself who was threatened, not the State nor the Presidency. The State was safe before the 90 days and it remains safe today. Therefore, the invocation of Article 31 was an unreasonable act by an egoistic President trying to flex his muscles.

That is why the Minister of Justice went to Parliament to warn that "police have remained with enough powers", without explaining what they achieved with the extra powers. But we can help the Minister of Justice itemise what the invocation of Article 31 achieved.

The declaration of a Threatened State of

Emergency achieved hatred from the general public. It exposed intolerance on the part of the President. It exposed his insecurity and thirst to govern with an iron hand. The invocation of Article 31 created room for abuse of power. Illegalities were committed by those in government while the law enforcement wings were focusing on the public conduct. The police used the period to settle political scores on behalf of those who hold political power. Ultimately, the declaration of the Threatened State of Public Emergency succeeded in defining Zambia as a falling democracy. The invocation of article 31 confirmed to the whole world that Zambia was and still remains under

a dictatorship.

But of course, we do not expect the Minister of Justice to realise this. To him, as long as the period has passed, citizens must wipe their tears and move on; no questions must be asked. If anyone stands up to the President to tell him that he made a silly and irrational decision, the PF attacks dogs will be on their neck.

But that is not a good way of governing. The President and his minister must do self-introspection. They need to sit down as Cabinet and ask themselves "what did we achieve as government and what did we lose as a country?" Good leaders are not ashamed to regret bad decisions. They use past mistakes to assure the people they govern that they are not

immune to accountability. Bad leaders consider regret as a weakness. They blame past mistakes on others and arrogantly justify their brutal actions as a will of the people.

This is the kind of leaders we have in Zambia. Bad leaders. They never own up. They never admit their wrongs. They can justify every mistake they made in the past with arrogance. The President, his minister and the PF leadership are swimming in the deep pool of injustice while holding on to impunity as their lifeguard. But soon, the PF will jump in this swimming pull without realising that there is no water. All the water will have been sucked out by the 42 fire tenders.

Investing in Food Security and Rural Development

Motivation to take up agriculture

Of late, we have seen a number of prominent people triggering interest in the agriculture sector. Just recently, we heard the President of the African Development Bank, Mr Akinwumi A. Adesina saying farming will soon be producing more millionaires and billionaires than any other sector in Africa.

I believe him, when I reflect on the anticipated global population increase to 9 billion by 2050, with youth (aged 15–24) accounting for about 14 percent of this total. I am also cognisant of the fact that while the world's youths are to grow in numbers, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth – especially those in economically stagnant rural areas remain limited and unattractive.

Recently, Hivos' Sustainable Diets Program

partnered with Dr Tamara Kaunda, who has done the unusual, a medical doctor turned into a farmer. She is supporting us to advance our calls for food diversity both in production and consumption. We are working with her to trigger youth involvement in agriculture.

Dr. Kaunda, once told me that if young people want money and employment, let them take up agriculture. She however, says we have to do more to make agriculture attractive to young people. She is concerned that most of the adverts on agriculture use old people and not the young.

"Even during advertising we are better off using the young and attractive. This would go a long way in changing the perception that agriculture is for the old and probably tired," she said. She recalls someone telling her 'as intelligent as you are you can go into farming?' This kind of

mind-set is what Dr Kaunda is destined to change.

I would not agree more with her, farming must be perceived as 'sexy', and no more must we perceive farming as dirty and for the poor and failures.

Dr Kaunda is very confident to say there is money in agriculture if you are a farmer. Though she is cautious to say, 'it's not easy to start– once you settle in and pass the stage of development, there is plenty of money in agriculture.'

Plenty of hurdles

Entering the agriculture sector is not easy. It is never without enormous challenges in the quest to earn a livelihood. We cannot afford to ignore.

Firstly, inadequate access to financial services is a prominent challenge. Most financial service providers are reluctant to provide their services to the youth due to their lack of collateral and financial literacy, among

other reasons. In Zambia we often hear of this bank and that bank investing so much in agriculture – the question is; who is accessing these funds? Promoting financial products catered to youth, mentoring programmes and start-up funding opportunities can all help remedy this issue.

The other challenge is limited access to markets. In the Hivos latest film entitled 'Life Beyond Maize' a must watch I must say – a farmer in the film appeals 'give us the market and we shall produce'.

As a consequence, without such access to markets, we will not be able to engage in viable and sustainable agricultural ventures. Access to markets for the youth is becoming even more difficult due to the growing international influence of supermarkets and the rigorous standards of their supply chains.

Improving access to

education, training and market information can all facilitate youth's access to markets, with niche markets offering particularly significant opportunities for young farmers. Facilitating their involvement in (youth) producers' groups can be similarly beneficial in this respect.

World Food Day 2017

World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. Held annually on October 16, people from around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. This year's theme is 'Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development'.

Hivos Zambia joins other stakeholders in promoting awareness and action for those suffering from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and sustainable diets for all. We draw the

attention of the government and stakeholders on the need to centre investments in the food system on the need of the youth in agriculture.

Sustainable Diets for all program in Zambia believes investment in sustainable food systems means addressing some of Zambia's major challenges – from feeding the growing population to protecting the climate, ending mono cropping for diverse diets and tackling some of the root causes of migration and displacement.



William Chilufya
Hivos Southern Africa –
Regional Advocacy Manager
for Sustainable Diets

Independence deadline approaches for Catalonia

The leader of the Spanish region of Catalonia is just hours away from a deadline set by the central government to clarify whether or not he has declared independence. If he confirms that he has, he will have until Thursday to withdraw the declaration or Catalonia, which has substantial autonomy, faces the prospect of direct rule from Madrid.

The deadline given to Carles Puigdemont is 10:00 local time (08:00 GMT).

It is not yet clear what he will say.

Catalan crisis in 300 words
The man who wants to break up Spain

After an independence referendum two weeks ago which was declared invalid by the country's Constitutional Court, Mr Puigdemont signed a declaration of independence but immediately suspended its implementation.

He said he wanted to negotiate with the government in Madrid but that has not happened.

Mr Puigdemont is under pressure from coalition partners to go ahead with independence, while Spanish and international politicians have tried to dissuade him from it.

The European Union has made clear that should Catalonia split from Spain, the region will cease to be part of the EU.

Yes or no?

Analysis by the BBC's James Reynolds in Barcelona

The Spanish government has asked Carles Puigdemont what it considers to be an extremely simple question: Has he declared independence or not?

Yes, or no?

If Mr Puigdemont says that he has declared independence, Spain may move towards the dramatic step of dissolving the

regional government in Catalonia and calling new local elections.

By contrast, if Mr Puigdemont says that he hasn't declared independence, the Spanish authorities may decide that he is no longer breaking the law.

But such a step may anger the Catalan leader's coalition partners who are campaigning for a clear

break with Spain.

It may be that Carles Puigdemont tries to find a way round a simple yes/no answer in order to win himself more time.

What is Catalonia?

Catalonia is a region in north-east Spain. It has its own language, parliament, flag and anthem. It even has its own police force and controls some of its own public services, such as

schools and healthcare.

It is one of Spain's wealthiest and most productive regions and has a distinct history dating back almost 1,000 years.

Would Catalonia be a viable country?

Spain Catalan crisis: Six things you need to know

What happened in the referendum?

The Catalan parliament approved an independence

referendum which went ahead on 1 October despite being suspended by Spain's Constitutional Court.

National police were sent to the region to try and stop voting at polling stations. Hundreds of people were hurt, including some police officers.

Turnout in the referendum was less than 50%. Of those who voted, the Catalan authorities said nearly 90%

opted for independence.

What happens next?

If Madrid invokes Article 155 of its constitution and imposes direct rule, Catalonia will no longer have the power to make decisions on public services such as healthcare and education.

The central government can also take control of the police and call for a snap election. **BBC News**

Austria set to elect world's youngest leader



Austria's conservative People's Party, led by 31-year-old Sebastian Kurz, is set to win the country's general election, projections suggest.

Mr Kurz is on course to become the world's youngest national leader.

The People's Party was set to win more than 31%. It is so far unclear whether the Social Democrats or the far-right Freedom Party will finish

second.

Short of a majority, Mr Kurz's party could seek an alliance with the anti-immigration Freedom Party.

Addressing his supporters, Mr Kurz said: "It is time for change in this country. Today is a strong order for us, to change this country, and I say thank you to you all who made this possible."

"I'm overwhelmed, I am happy,

and I look forward to working for Austria."

Who is Sebastian Kurz?

Before the election, Mr Kurz served as Europe's youngest-ever foreign minister, after he was appointed in 2013 aged just 27.

In May 2017 he became the leader of the People's Party. He began his political career in the youth wing of the party, which he chaired before moving on to

serve on Vienna's city council.

Nicknamed "Wunderwuzzi" (roughly translated - someone who can walk on water), he has been compared to the young leaders of France and Canada, Emmanuel Macron and Justin Trudeau.

Much like Mr Macron, Mr Kurz has created a movement around himself, rebranding the People's Party - which has been in power for more than

30 years - as "The New People's Party".

What were the main issues?

Immigration was the dominant issue in the run-up to the vote, and Mr Kurz moved his party to the right in the wake of Europe's 2015 refugee crisis.

He appealed to conservative and right-wing voters with pledges to shut down migrant routes to Europe, cap benefit payments to refugees, and bar immigrants from receiving benefits until they have lived in Austria for five years.

The rightward shift was seen as a response to the success of the Freedom Party, which narrowly missed out on the presidency in December when Norbert Hofer was defeated by Alexander Van der Bellen, head of the Greens.

The stance proved popular with Austrian voters after a huge influx of undocumented migrants and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa.

The Freedom Party accused Mr Kurz of stealing their policies. Their candidate, Heinz-Christian Strache, has called him an "imposter". **BBC News**

Weah and Boakai headed for presidential run-off

Former football star George Weah and Vice-President Joseph Boakai are headed for a run-off in Liberia's presidential election.

Nearly all the results from Tuesday's poll have been counted, the election commission says.

Mr Weah, the first African to win the Ballon D'Or football award, is leading with 39%, while Mr Boakai is in second place with 29%.

A second round between the pair is expected next month.

They lead the field of 20 candidates who competed to succeed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first female elected president and a

winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Fewer than 5% of polling stations have yet to declare results, and lawyer Charles Brumskine is in third place with 9.8%.

Both Mr Weah and Mr Boakai had predicted they would win the first round of voting.

Mr Weah's former manager on the football field, Arsene Wenger, was earlier this week apparently duped by false reports that he had already been elected president.

He told reporters: "It's not often you have a former player who becomes president of a country. So well done, Georgie."

Meet the frontrunners

George Weah, 51:

Former Fifa World Footballer of the Year

Arsene Wenger, now at Arsenal, was his coach at Monaco in the 1990s

Has the political backing of jailed warlord and former president Charles Taylor

Taylor's ex-wife, Jewel Howard Taylor, is his running mate

Joseph Boakai, 73:

Nicknamed "Sleepy Joe"

Denies it is because he is often caught napping at public events, says it is because he is a dreamer

Vice-president under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf since 2005

Has distanced herself from her record, saying "a lot more needs to be achieved"

Liberia, which was founded by freed US slaves in the 19th Century, has not had a smooth transfer of power in 73 years.

Ms Sirleaf took office in 2006, after her predecessor, Charles Taylor, was forced out of office by rebels in 2003, ending a long civil war.

Taylor is currently serving a 50-year prison sentence in the UK for war crimes related to the conflict in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Mr Weah, 51, has chosen Taylor's ex-wife Jewel Howard Taylor as his running mate. **BBC News**



Zambia Air Force personnel display their artillery at the Air Force Headquarters in Lusaka for public viewing on October 14, 2017.

Below, Zambia Air Force Commander Lt General Eric Chimese talks to Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo as Defence Minister Davies Chama watches - *Pictures by Tenson Mkhala*

Air Force Day



Ozil will leave Arsenal in January - Keown



The Germany international continues to run down his deal at Emirates Stadium, amid talk of interest from Premier League rivals Manchester United. Mesut Ozil "will be gone" in January, says Martin Keown, with there "only one outcome" awaiting the Arsenal contract rebel.

The Germany international has entered the final year of his current deal at Emirates Stadium and is yet to commit to fresh terms.

Uncertainty surrounding his future has sparked talk of an imminent exit, with Manchester United among those credited with holding an interest in the World Cup winner.

Keown sees no reason for the 29-year-old to be retained, having questioned his attitude on a regular basis this season, with his latest appearance in a 2-1 defeat to Watford further highlighting how ineffective he is for the Gunners at present.

After seeing Ozil spurn a gilt-edged chance at Vicarage Road, the former Arsenal defender told BT Sport: "The top players are ruthless and they don't play for fun. I don't know if he's got that ruthlessness in his makeup.

"That ball has got to be in the back of the net. That should be game over, Arsenal have won the game.

"People might think I'm gunning for him, but you've got to be clinical in those

situations.

"Is he really bothered? He's just missed a chance to win a game for Arsenal.

"Everything that happens afterwards wouldn't have happened. I don't know if he cares enough or not but he's certainly not ruthless enough.

"He had a gilt-edged opportunity to wrap up proceedings today and he didn't take it.

"There's only one outcome here. When it comes to January surely Mesut Ozil will be gone.

"I'd keep [Alexis] Sanchez through to the end of the season because surely he is their best chance of getting into the Champions League."

Sanchez is also set to become a free agent in 2018, with Arsenal having passed up the opportunity to cash in on him over the summer – amid intense interest from Manchester City.

The Chilean was retained as he is considered to be an important part of Arsene Wenger's plans, but Keown believes Ozil no longer fits into that category.

He added on a man who has not started a game for the Gunners since September 9: "He's a great talent, there is no doubt, but where is his head right now? Does he want to play for Arsenal?"

"Wenger will start to plan without him if he doesn't see the encouraging signs in training." *Goal.com*

Zanaco confident of first Barclays Cup trophy



Ziyo Tembo of Zanaco tries to beat his opponent Yankenile Tembo of City of Lusaka during MTN/FAZ week 10 rescheduled at Lusaka's Woodlands Stadium. Zanaco won 3-1 picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zanaco believe the 2017 Barclays Cup title is within their cusp after beating Lusaka Dynamos to reach the final.

The Bankers beat Dynamos 1-0 in the semifinals on October 14 at Nkoloma Stadium in Lusaka to reach their third Barclays Cup final.

However, Zanaco have yet to lift the title despite taking part in each of the last ten editions since the tournament was introduced in 2007.

"I think it is good we won, we just want to get this Cup because we have never won it and we finished runner-up last season," Zanaco assistant coach Dabid

Chilufya said.

Zanaco lost 1-0 in last year's final to Zesco United who will not be defending the Barclays Cup after losing 4-2 on post-match penalties against Napsa Stars following a 0-0 fulltime result in the other semifinal doubleheader at Nkoloma. The Bankers are still on course for the double was

they also battle to retain the FAZ Super Division title they won last season and are currently 2nd on the table on 53 points, three behind Green Buffaloes with less than nine matches to go.

"We are not far with the push for league title plus this Cup game. I believe we are going to get a double," said Chilufya.

Kaka moved to tears in farewell MLS game

Kaka's final game for Orlando City ended in disappointment as the MLS club lost 1-0 to Columbus Crew in an emotional encounter on Sunday evening.

The former AC Milan midfielder was moved to tears during the American national anthem as he lined up alongside his team-mates for the final time.

The 35-year-old one-time Ballon D'Or winner later thanked Orlando City fans for all their support during his three-year stay at the club.

"Today was a special day for me because the whole day kept reminding me of these past three years, everything that happened, in this city, with this club, everything. Today is just about [saying] thank you," Kaka said in an address to his home fans.

"I'm going to miss you guys. I'll be a Lion forever."

"I asked our players for a little extra; I asked them for a favor," Orlando City

coach Jason Kreis said. "We all wanted to send [Kaká] out the right way. This was just another piece of disappointment."

Kaka announced he would not be renewing his contract earlier this month and is now expected to return to Brazil.

He stopped short of announcing his retirement.

"As you all know, my contract with Orlando City ends this year. My final decision is not to renew," said Kaka.

The former AC Milan playmaker revealed living apart from his children was a big motivating factor in his decision.

"Family is very important for me. Living in a country different from my kids, this is something I have to put on the balance as well," he added.

"But I think what I need right now is a new challenge and new motivation, so this is the most important thing for me, and what I am basing my final decision [on]." *Yahoo*

PA CHILATA TO HOST U-20 COSAFA CUP

By Nyambe Lubasi

Kitwe has been named as the proposed host venue for the 2017 COSAFA Under-20 Cup where Zambia will stage their title defence of the regional youth tournament crown this December.

Football Association of Zambia Desmond Katongo said in an interview that the eight-nation regional tournament will play at Kitwe's two major football venues.

"The tournament will be held in Kitwe at Arthur Davies Stadium and Nkana Stadium (Pa Chilata). The preliminary inspection of the venues and facilities will be done this week," Katongo said.

Arthur Davies is home of six-time league champions Power Dynamos while Nkana Stadium, located just across the Kitwe-Ndola Dual Carriageway, is home of the record 12-time champions Nkana. Both stadiums have separate training pitches within their facilities.

Zambia beat 2016 hosts South Africa 2-1 in the final on December 16 played at Moruleng Stadium in Rustenberg to collect an unprecedented 11th Cosafa U20 Cup title.

The news comes after Copperbelt fans missed a chance to watch the Zambia Under-20 during the 2017 U20 AFCON when the eventual African champions raced to victory after playing all their matches at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

Meanwhile, Katongo also revealed that the formality 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier against Cameroon will also be played on the Copperbelt.

"The match will be played at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on November 11," said Katongo.

The match will see Zambia and Cameroon battle for an honourable second place finish in Group B.

UNBEATEN boxer Jermell Charlo showed why he's one of the hottest prospects in the sport with a knockout of the year candidate against Erickson Lubin.

The WBC light middleweight champion went into the fight with a staggering 29-0 record and it wasn't long before he showed just why he has held the title since 2016.

Late in the first round, the 27-year-old unleashed a barrage of punches towards his 18-0 opponent.

Lubin, 22, managed to duck the first two punches but as he bent down his face felt the full force of a devastating right uppercut from the champion.

Jermell Charlo produced a devastating uppercut to KO Erickson Lubin.

The youngster's legs instantly crumpled beneath him and he crashed to the canvas.

It took what seemed like an eternity for him to get back to his feet after which referee Harvey Dock took the sensible



KO of the year? Champ breaks opponent's jaw with uppercut

decision to end the fight Fans were quick to comment on the brutal knockout after watching Lubin extend his record

to 30-0 on Saturday (October 14) at the Barclays Centre, in New York, US. Lubin struggled to get

back to his feet "This was a nasty KO," one wrote. Another added: "Surely KO of the year

candidate?" And a third commented: "Lubin's eyes were rolling to the back of his head while standing up."

News Diggers : The Face of Evidence Based Digital Journalism

