

We are not a university for the poor - UNZA

By Zondiwe Mbewe
University of Zambia public relations manager Damaseke Chibale says the institution was not established for the vulnerable. And Chibale says the allocation of part of the 'Ruins' to female students is a good decision aimed at training and bringing up morally responsible

students. Justifying management's decision to hike accommodation and other fees when he featured on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star programme yesterday, Chibale said people needed to remove the misconception that UNZA was pro-poor.
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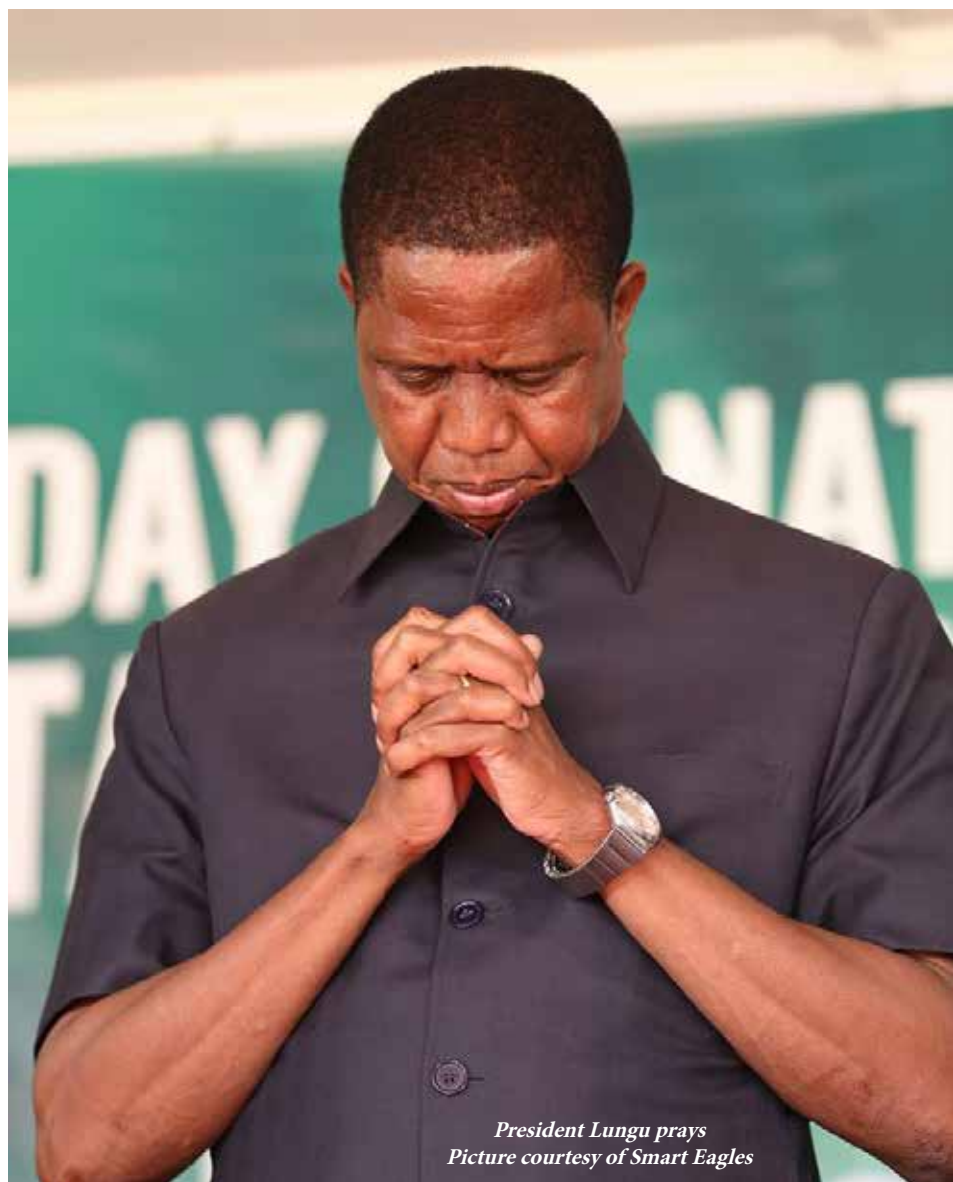
Opposition leaders shun prayer day

Story P2



Children suspend their vending business to join the National Day of Prayer of and Fasting - Picture by Tenson Mkhala.

LUNGU SHOULDN'T DIE ...bishop changes President's name from Chagwa to Chaima



President Lungu prays
Picture courtesy of Smart Eagles

Chagwa to Chaima

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
The mandate which the Zambian people gave you is still going on, so I will not call you Chagwa but Chaima because you will not fall, Bishop Chali Kasonde told President Edgar Lungu in Kitwe today during the National Day of Prayer and Fasting. And Pastor Sunday Sinyangwe prayed against diseases in State House, saying President Lungu should not die while in office. Meanwhile, the Head of State said he was a political animal, but stressed that before he became a political animal, he was a Christian. Speaking at Nkana Stadium where the national prayer event was held, Bishop Kasonde said President Lungu should not fall as his name suggests. "The mandate is still going on, we

have a current President, we have a jubilee President. In the East, they call him Edgar Chagwa Lungu, but I will call him Edgar 'Chaima', chifukwa sazagwa iyayi (because he will not fall). Atate simuzagwa iyayi, muzaimilila nji! (father, you will not fall, you will stand firm)," said Bishop Kasonde.
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ERB too quick on fuel hikes - CUTS

By Mirriam Chabala
The Consumer Unity and Trust Society says ERB is too quick to hike fuel prices, but slow to announce the price reduction of the commodity whenever factors that determine oil prices on the international market change. Commenting on the recently announced K1 increment in fuel pump prices by ERB in a statement

today, CUTS centre coordinator Chenai Mukumba noted that the Energy Regulation Board was not as enthusiastic when implementing downward shifts in fuel prices. "As CUTS, we would like to note that the ERB has been quick to adjust upwards when the two factors that determine the fuel prices (international oil prices and the exchange rate) are not performing well. However, downward shifts in fuel prices are not implemented as enthusiastically as upward shifts. This is based on some calculations made for the period March to August. During this period, the kwacha appreciated against the dollar by 7% from K9.7 to K9.0 and the average cost of crude oil per barrel reduced from \$56.63 in March to \$47.86 as of 31st June based on data obtained from the ERB press statements," Mukumba stated.
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ZICTA confiscates Macha Radio Station transmitter

By Mirriam Chabala
ZICTA has confiscated a transmitter from Vision Community Radio Macha in Choma district of Southern province for operating the station without a frequency license. Radio Macha station manager Beston Mudenda confirmed the development in an interview today.
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From front page

"We have to remove this perception that the University of Zambia is a unique university full of vulnerable students. It is not a pro poor. When this university was established, it was established for all Zambians irrespective of whether you are poor or rich, you must have an equal right and access to study at the university. So it was not established for the vulnerable," Chibale said.

He said management could not continue subsidising students' accommodation costs.

"To run accommodation here at UNZA, we are looking at water bills, electricity bills, maintenance and repair costs, solid waste, cleaning services, these are always going up and when we look at the cost per month, it is about K1.27 million which means that per annum, we are spending about K15 million and previously, you were paying about K1,200 per annum. This translates into about K4.6 million, that is the contribution that the students were making towards accommodation. So if you compare K4.6 million to K15.2 million, it means the University of Zambia was subsidising for your accommodation cost for about K10.2 million. So how's going to pay that difference of K10.2 million? The money that we were supposed to do other things, we had to channel it to doing that but that is not sustainable so we have to look at the real cost of accommodation...even this increment is so low," he said.

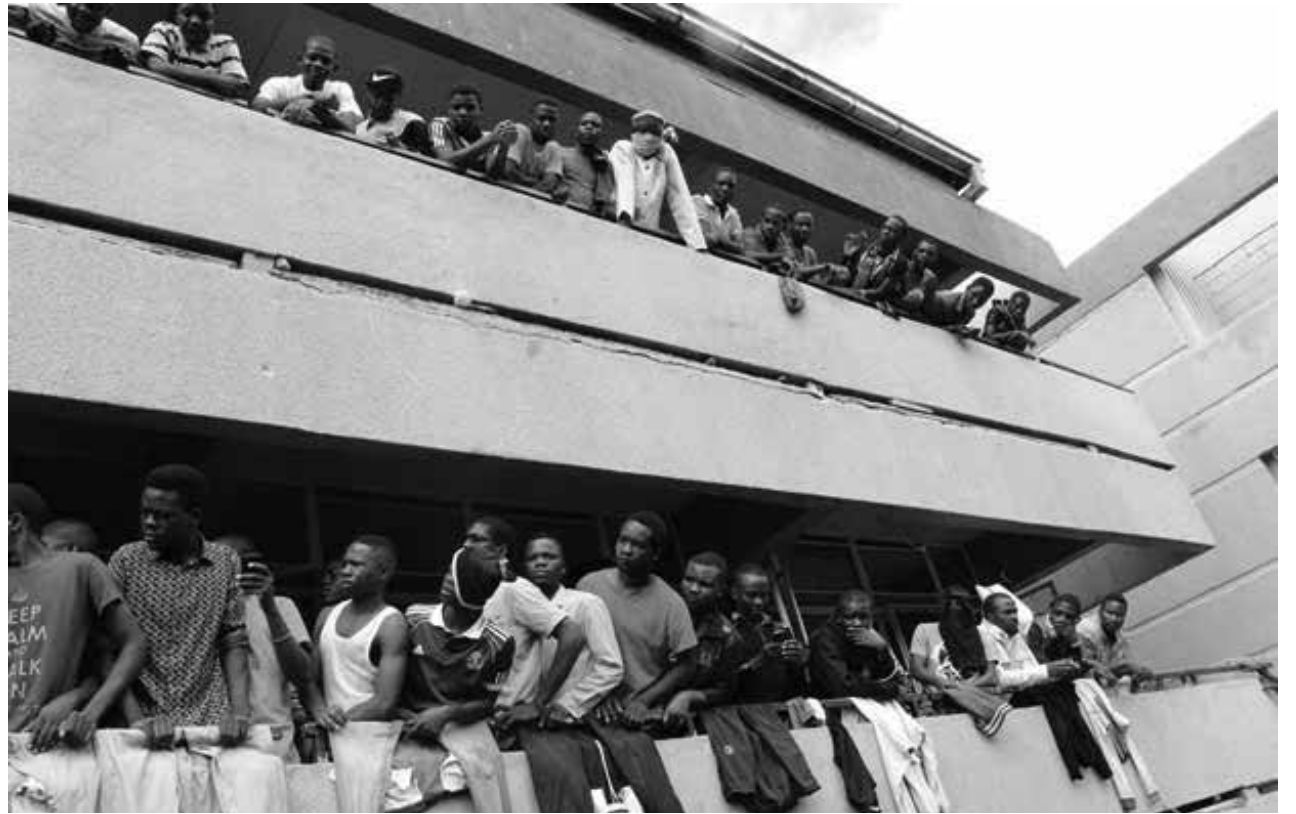
Chibale further justified the increase in fees saying UNZA needed the funds to survive.

"We are looking at the cost of how we can provide services that the university offers to the students like accommodation, Internet, examinations and many others in a realistic sense and meet the operation costs of

We're not a university for the poor – UNZA

such services. If these services are disputed, the life of a student at UNZA will not be the same, it will be difficult. UNZA has three sources of income: government grant which is 24 or 28 per cent, then about 65 per cent is what we get from the tuition, then just about three percent is what we get from other businesses that the university has. That shows that our business portfolio is very low. We are a public institution, we cannot aggressively get involved in business because our core business is teaching, research and community service. Other universities in the world run their universities based on tuition fees because that is their only source of revenue," he said. "In private universities, 90 per cent of their source of income is tuition fees and the other per cent is what they can do from business activities. At the end of the day, students are the ones who benefit from the money which they pay because it is the same money that we use for accommodation, teaching services, researches, paying lecturers, bringing in outside examiners, pay for electricity, water and medical services to buy drugs and pay staff that are working in the clinic. It is from this perspective that we cannot continue to remain at the rates that we were 10 years ago because it will not make businesses."

He however said UNZA was



alive to the fact that some students were vulnerable.

"We as the University of Zambia are very much alive to the fact that there are some students who are indeed vulnerable and the university has put in place measures to ensure that the vulnerable students are taken care of. For example we have the so called rural affirmative policy which allows children coming from poor rural areas without

access to modern facilities that the urban areas have. Some of these students are accepted at the university even if they have the lowest points because we want to live up to our name as a national university. We also have a gender policy which allows 30 percent of the spaces available at the university to be given to the female applicants and then the 70 percent is competed [for] by both the female and male

applicants," Chibale said.

"All these aspects show that as the university, we are very much alive to some of the challenges our people are facing. Government also has put in place facilities and departments that are looking at vulnerable children. You and me are not qualified to call someone vulnerable. We have people at government departments that are qualified to say this

person is indeed vulnerable and they give us such reports. So to give a blanket label that UNZA is a pro poor institution is a misconception and a misunderstanding which must be corrected."

Meanwhile, Chibale said letting female students share the formerly exclusively male hostels commonly known as Ruins would train male students to be gentlemen.

"The rearrangement of the accommodation, I don't know what pictures people have? This is not strange. We have a good example of a new residence. What happens at the new residence? Are you telling us that there is so much immorality in the new residence? No. We have respectable students there, morally responsible students and what about the old residence? What is so special about that? You are the same students so what is so different? So for us, as far as we are concerned, this is a right decision and those misconception and mental pictures that people have is not there. So the most important thing is that we are looking at training and bringing up morally responsible students that will contribute to the well being of our society. We must also realize that females will be part of us, we have our mothers, sisters, we stay with them in the same homes which is the same as what is going to happen to the old residence," said Chibale.

"It is not that you are going to share rooms with them. They will have their own rooms and demarcated blocks. The male students will also have their own demarcated areas. We are trying to balance and ensure that our students realize that in society they will live with women. They must realize that they are actually partners with the females in everything that they do as they grow up. They should learn from here how to take care of our female friends because they will work with them...you should learn from here how to take care of our female friends and how to be a gentleman that you should be and not to develop certain behaviours that are unbecoming and not suitable for a student that is studying at this level, university education."

Opposition shuns National Day of Prayer

By Sipilisiwe Ncube, Zondiwe Mbewe and Mirriam Chabala

The major opposition political parties today shunned the National day of Prayer, Fasting, and Reconciliation saying the prayers were not genuine. National Restoration Party president Elias Chipimo told News Diggers in an interview that he feared God but could not be part of a team that sought to mock him.

"We are definitely not going. If you read the book of James, it makes it very clear, you cannot have both saltwater and spring water coming out of the same mouth. You know, we suddenly don't expect that prayers can be used to cover up all the ills that are going on in society. God expect us to do our parts first before we turn to him in prayer. And if you look at all the allegations of corruption, all the things that are going on wrong that are hurting and harming the Zambians in this country, if you look at the threats that are uttered by our very own Head of State, claiming that if he was to punch back, people wouldn't stand, and really to make a mockery about people's concerns about expenditure on fire trucks which were not worth one million dollars and then to now think that we can turn to God and pray then everything will be okay. I think it's just not right, we will pray in our own homes, we will pray in our own communities. We will not be part of team that seeks to mock God. You know I fear God but I can't be part of a process which is really designed to mock him," said Chipimo.

And speaking when he featured on Sun FM this morning, UPND president Hakainde Hichilema said the PF were abusing prayer.

"Prayer is not for a day. October 18, does not necessarily make itself special for prayer. We pray every day as families, individuals and as communities in our party. But we are believers that the

PF is actually abusing prayer and the word of God because they are doing a lot of things that are against the people of Zambia. For example, look at the corruption, the smell of corruption while people are suffering. I don't think this is what people who believe in God, Christians who believe in prayer should be doing. And also there is violence in our country driven by the PF...Before they ask us to go to the altar with them, they must reconcile with the media, stop stealing from the people, brutalizing people and harassing citizens. PF is not clean to call for prayers," said HH. Meanwhile, 4th Revolution Party leader Eric Chanda said his party would only attend the national prayers once the spirit of hypocrisy in President Edgar Lungu and his government was removed.

"What we are seeing now is one hand talking about reconciliation while the other hand is hurting the opposition. That is total hypocrisy and let everyone participating in the prayers today call upon Jehovah God that he removes hypocrisy in this government, in comrade Edgar Lungu. We want to see things happen on this planet earth especially in our country Zambia. And not where you say you want to reconcile when your heart is somewhere else. We cannot condone hypocrisy in this country and that is why we are not, as Fourth Revolution [party], participating until this spirit of hypocrisy is removed from comrade Edgar Lungu and his government," said Chanda.

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda said the national day of prayer was an event only attended by PF aligned political parties adding that the event itself had been politicized by the ruling party.

"We know that, that event of national day of prayer and many other national events have been politicized by the PF. If you attend those events, you will find

that they look like PF organized events. Only PF aligned political parties attend most of the events. When it comes to the national day of prayer, we believe that the body of the house of prayer who are the organizers have not done enough to condemn the wrongs that have happened in the last one year. They were quiet when a lot of things were going wrong. They have not decided to stand for the people," said Banda.

And Alliance for Democracy and Development president Charles Milupi said he was against the state's mission to infiltrate the church.

"I think I am very alert on who leads me in what to do in life. Human life is a bit segregated and each section has its own leaders so you will find that in traditional or customary life, we have our leaders and those of us who belong to some traditions we follow such and we respect these leaders like our headmen. Then we also have Church leaders because we all belong to different denominations. We also have political leaders who when they invite us to a rally we go, so that political leader has no competence whatsoever to tell anybody to go to a religious meeting or to go for prayers. So the interference of the state in Church matters is further manifestation of their desire to infiltrate, control and take over all institutions in the land," said Milupi. Meanwhile, MMD faction leader Nevers Mumba said the National Day of Prayer was more of a curse than a blessing.

"The day of national prayer, as it is in its current form stands more like a curse for Zambia than a blessing. And it remains for us to ensure that it does not continue to be a curse but becomes a blessing. The problem is not in the declaration of the day of prayer and fasting, the problem is in its execution. Every time we come towards this day of fasting, political parties in the opposition, civil societies continue to release statements that they are not going to be part of it and they

give their own reasons. I think we can cure this. The reason is that the system that they are trying to use to implement this day is worldly, ungodly and can actually be a curse instead of a blessing," said Mumba.

However, Green Party leader Peter Sinkamba, United Progressive People leader Saviour Chishimba and EPP leader Chilufya Tayali attended the event.

Chishimba told ZNBC TV that shunning prayers was from the "pits of hell".

"Why should someone shin prayers? That is from the pits of hell. As UPP we will never shun this day, said Chishimba. But Tayali wondered why the organizers of the event put President Lungu's portrait on the first page of the programmes and not Jesus.

"The program was distributed like ecstatic drugs, I only managed to get one through a police officer who appreciates what some of you think is lunacy. On the program, the first page has the Portrait of President Lungu, and am asking myself, why? Why not Jesus? Isn't this what HH was talking about? HH said these prayers are all about President Lungu trying to disguise as a Godly person. The next page has Godfridah Sumaili like a goddess, what message are you sending to the people? What will a child who picks up such a program booklet deduce out of this layout," Tayali posted on his Facebook page.

"Then the program runs from 08:00 to 15:00hrs with the Vice President coming at 12:00hrs. Well, I appreciate it is prayer and fasting but why is the Veep coming at 12:00hrs? I am told the President is also cutting short the prayers to fly put to Congo Brazzaville, leaving other people praying. This attitude relates to situations when leaders declare austerity measures but the let ordinary citizens suffer while they continue enjoying."

Pastors pray for Lungu: "The President shouldn't die"

From front page

"Mzinda wayehova uli pamutu panu. Simungagwe! Simuzagwa (Heaven is upon you, will not fall, you cannot fall). Sindiwe Chagwa, ndiwe

Chaima (you are not 'it has fallen' you are 'it has risen'). Uzaimilila mpaka udindo wako uzapitiliza muzina la Yesu. (you will stand until your mandate is fulfilled in the

name of Jesus). The mandate of Zambians is still going on." And Pastor Sinyangwe prayed that there shall be no more deaths of a sitting Head of State in Zambia.

"We come against every disease in State House. We pray for protection of our President. We pray against the spirit of death in our country. There shall be no more deaths of a President..." prayed Sinyangwe.

Pastor Peter Matafwali prayed for unity among political leaders.

"Father God, we refuse every manner of speech, every manner of action that may bring disunity, that may lead people to confusion. We pray, father God, that after the manner of unity in the book of Genesis that there will be so much unity among our political leaders, there will be so much unity among each one of them on knowing, all God, that they have a responsibility, they have a mandate to lead this nation to a place where God wants it to be," he prayed.

Minister of Religious Affairs Rev Godfridah Sumaili said Zambians should love one another as commanded by God.

"May peace continue to dwell within the boundaries of Zambia as the Lord has declared that 'peace be within you.' The commandment that

God has given us is love. Loving God, loving ourselves, loving our neighbors with our pure hearts, regardless of our differences. We are One Zambia, One Nation. We are one land and one nation," said Rev Sumaili before calling upon President Lungu to address the congregants. Meanwhile, President Lungu started by announcing that he had vowed not to make a statement at the event, but changed his mind at the last minute.

"Let me start by making a confession. I had decided that I was not going to speak today because I did not want to make this event look political. I had a serious discussion with my advisors at State House, and I prevailed over them that I was not going to speak. But here I am... They must be surprised to see me speaking," President Lungu said.

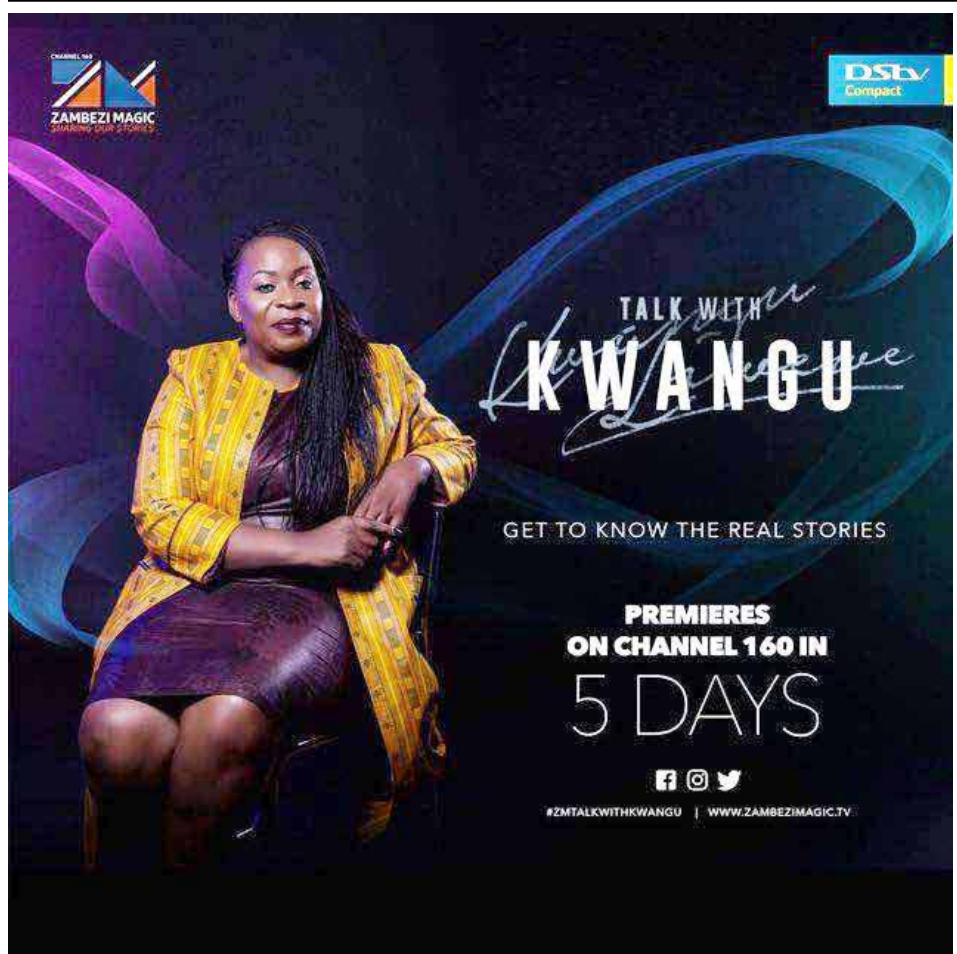
"I think I was convicted by the power of the Almighty God that I should make a statement, there is nothing to fear. I am a political animal but before I became a political animal, I was a Christian and am still a Christian. So I am consoled by the fact that even politicians can be

Christians. So if I say because I am a politician I should not participate in the work of God, I will be defeating the whole purpose why I am in politics."

He said there was joy in reconciliation.

"If the word of God will be assisted by my being in politics, I will freely use my political office to follow the course of God. And I am not ashamed to say so. That is why yesterday I said 'politicians come and pray with us because you might find peace in reconciliation, you might find joy in reconciliation, you might find a lot of love in reconciling with your friend,'" said President Lungu.

"Indeed our souls may be weary and the spirit of oneness that holds our nation together may weaken from time to time, but our God remains faithful to those who seek him. In Genesis 1 vs 1, the Bible says and I quote 'in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' that Word remains the true source of all nourishments that heal our broken bodies and transgressions of this world. My dear brethren, this day reminds us to always recognize God's supremacy to the affairs of our nation and express our gratitude to him and him alone through prayer, fasting, repentance, and reconciliation.



ZICTA confiscates transmitter for a Choma community radio station

By Mirriam Chabala
ZICTA has confiscated a transmitter from Vision Community Radio Macha in Choma district of Southern province for operating the station

without a frequency license. Radio Macha station manager Beston Mudenda confirmed the development in an interview today.

He said some Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority officers confiscated the transmitter from the station yesterday after failing to pay a K3,000 penalty which was demanded.

"The issue is that we have not paid for the frequency license to ZICTA because we didn't know to say that there is also a license from ZICTA that we have to pay for, we only know that we have to pay for the license from IBA. So when they came yesterday, they said we have to pay for the license and also the frequency from ZICTA. The license is K300 because they told us that if we had a K3,000 [penalty fee] we could pay right away so that we could be included in their data system but since we did not have the money pay them yesterday that's how they got the transmitter," said Mudenda.

Vision Community Radio Macha has been operating since 2011.

Woman denies stealing baby

By Diggers Reporter

A 26-year-old Lusaka woman has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing a five months old baby identified as Anold Mukombola.

Monica Mutale of John Laing compound has pleaded not guilty to a charge of child stealing.

When the matter came up before Lusaka magistrate Felix Kaoma, Mutale said she understood the charge but denied the allegations.

The matter comes up on November 1 for trial.

According to facts before court, Monica stole the said child from its mother, Lydia, who was selling chips to patrons at a bar on September 7, 2017.

The facts also indicate that Monica presented herself as a good Samaritan who offered to baby sit as the mother prepared food for sale.

Monica's neighbours reported her to police when they noticed that the child was crying uncontrollably which made them the events to news item they had watched of a stolen baby.

The neighbours also told police that they were also suspicious because Monica lied that the baby two weeks old when his looks proved otherwise.



President Lungu's daughter Tasila at the Show Grounds during the Nation Day of Prayer in Lusaka today

Mwila withholds party position on calls for Mulusa's dismissal

By Mirriam Chabala
PF secretary general Davies Mwila says he will not comment on calls for Lucky Mulusa's dismissal over his statement on fire tenders because he has not yet seen the petition by some party members. Recently, Mulusa, who is Minister of National Planning and Development, was captured in a video by CBC TV, mocking the 42 fire tenders which were procured at \$42 million, saying they looked like wheelbarrows. "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..." But in a petition to President Edgar Lungu prepared by Celestin Mukandila, who is a member of the PF information committee;

on behalf of four others, the youths asked President Lungu to dismiss Mulusa alleging that the minister had become "trigger happy". "We the petitioners, having being endowed by the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia with a responsibility of protecting the ideals and objectives of our Constitution as stated under Article 43(2)(a) which states 'A citizen shall endeavour to - (a) acquire basic understanding of this Constitution and promote its ideals and objectives'; wish to condemn in the highest order the statement that was made by our Minister at a CIMA function circulating in video format on social media. It seems that our minister has become so trigger happy in terms of issuing Statements," Mukandila stated. "We do hereby request that the Minister of National Planning and Development be dismissed with immediate effect for the breach of Cabinet collective responsibility and section 9 (A) and (B) of the Parliamentary and Ministerial code of conduct - Cap 16 of the laws of Zambia which states that 'a person holding Ministerial office shall not do anything that is inconsistent with



the principle of the collective responsibility of Ministers for the policy of the government and the conduct of its affairs, and in particular shall not publicly contradict or disassociate himself from any policy adopted by Cabinet or issue public statements criticising another person holding Ministerial office." Mukandila insisted that the country could not continue considering Mulusa a minister after he had made a mockery of government

by questioning the credibility of the purchase of fire tenders. "The petitioner also wish to remind Zambians that a fortnight ago, the Minister of Local government, hon Vincent Mwale presented a Ministerial statement in Parliament concerning the acquisition of fire tenders as was requested by the House. It is with this background that we cannot have a Cabinet minister continue to be as such after mocking the credibility of fellow Ministers as well as

the leader of government business in Parliament Mama Inonge Wina," he stated. "Furthermore, the Minister was in breach of Article 114 of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) [No. 2 of 2016 which states: 'the functions of Cabinet are as follows; Cabinet shall take collective responsibility for Cabinet decisions'. The petitioner further wish to remind our Ministers that basic principles of public administration ought to

be exemplary for they are a reflection of the confidence that we the citizens of this country have in the administrative institutions of this country as well as that of cabinet." And Mukandila requested that government institutes a commission of inquiry to establish whether or not Mulusa should be prosecuted for his actions. "The Petitioner also wish to request that a commission of inquiry be instituted in order to establish whether the statement or action by the Minister of Planning and National Development could be prosecuted. A further term of reference be included to establish whether the Minister's contradicting statement vis a vis the Ministerial statement that was made by Hon Nkandu Luo - Minister of Higher Education concerning [University of Zambia] UNZA state of affairs on non payment of fees amounted to an abrogation of Cabinet collective responsibility," stated Mukandila.

Meanwhile, when asked for an official party position, PF secretary general Davies Mwila told News Diggers! that he was not aware of the petition by the four youths as he was out in Western Province on a party mobilisation tour. "I will not be able to comment because I haven't seen the petition. Right now I am in Western Province where I am conducting party mobilization tours in preparation for 2021. However, I will investigate the matter when I come back to Lusaka and then I will give a comment," said Mwila.

ERB too quick at hiking fuel prices, slow at reducing - CUTS

From front page
"When calculated, a barrel of crude oil cost K549 in March and was at approximately at K431 in August, this represented a 21.5% change in oil price per barrel, all other factors held constant, which far exceeded the 2.5% threshold set by the ERB. Despite this, the effected price changes only amounted to a reduction in petrol, diesel and kerosene by only 7.1%, 8.6% and 4.8% respectively. As CUTS, we would like to acknowledge the need for a bimonthly review of fuel prices but we would also like to recommend that when there is a drop in the international price of oil and/or an appreciation of the Kwacha against the dollar, it should be passed on to the consumers." And Mukumba expressed concern that Zambians had reduced their spending on basic needs in order for them to cope and catch up with the increase in fuel prices and other essential commodities.

"CUTS is deeply concerned for the consumers as the last increase in fuel prices in October 2016 brought about a hike in prices of other commodities. In a study done by CUTS and ZIPAR aimed at informing public debate and potential policy responses on the implications of the increasing cost of transportation, it was found that there were major changes in consumption as well as the coping mechanisms that individuals sought following the removal of the fuel subsidy. It was shown that consumers reduced spending on basic needs to cope with the increase in fuel prices," stated Mukumba. "Because fuel is a driver of economic activity, various sectors of the economy are adversely affected by price hikes and these effects eventually trickle down to consumers. One of the sectors we are particularly concerned about is the cost of transportation.

This is because when there was a downward adjustment in the fuel pump prices, there was no reduction in the public transportation costs, we are hoping that this would be enough to ensure that the cost of transportation remains the same after this upward adjustment of fuel pump prices. According to the study by CUTS and ZIPAR, it was found that 75% of the population use some form of public transport. Therefore, we would not want to see another situation where people are having to sacrifice spending on basic needs just to cope with the costs of transportation." Yesterday, ERB announced adjustments in fuel prices from K11.6, K9.87, K6.50 and K12.16 to K12.97, K11.09, K7.82 and K13.38 for petrol, diesel, kerosene and LSG respectively. And ERB Vice Chairperson Ng'ande Mwananjiti disclosed that "the decision to review prices was consistent with the policy guidance that

fuel price adjustments will be made every 60 days, as fundamentals that determine them change. Since the last adjustment on 7th August 2017, West Taxes Intermediate

(WTI) crude increased by 2.23% from US\$48.04/bbl to US\$49.11 while the kwacha has depreciated by about 8% from K9.02/US\$ to the current level of around K9.75/US\$."

Woman in court for burning daughter over K7

By Diggers Reporter

A 29-year-old woman of Lusaka's Kanyama compound has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court for setting ablaze her 12-year-old daughter over a K7. Prudence Phiri allegedly poured a five litre container of kerosene on her daughter and set her ablaze for allegedly stealing a K7. When the matter came up yesterday, chief resident magistrate Kenneth Mulife explained the murder charge to Phiri and told her that would be appearing before him for mention until her case was committed to the High Court for trial. Magistrate Mulife directed the public prosecutor to ensure that the issuance of a certificate of committal was not delayed looking at Phiri's status as she was breastfeeding her baby in the dock. Details before the court are that Phiri burnt her daughter as an act of discipline after she allegedly stole money from her. After she failed to put out the fire, she called for help from her neighbours who rescued the girl and rushed her to the hospital. The victim died at the University Teaching Hospital on September 5, 2017.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty has asked President Edgar Lungu to stop using the criminal justice system to selectively target his critics and independent voices.

And Shetty has observed that freedoms of expression, assembly and association have been deteriorating in Zambia in the past two years.

But President Lungu's press aide Amos Chanda says State House is concerned that Amnesty International may lose credibility if it continues attacking government in a similar manner opposition political party leaders are doing.

Speaking at a press conference in Lusaka yesterday which marked the conclusion of his visit to Zambia, Shetty revealed that he had asked President Lungu to stop using the criminal justice system to silence critics.

"When we met the President, our calls to him were very clear (i) stop using the criminal justice system to selectively target your critics, independent voices, (ii) please urgently amend for repeal the Public Order Act which is being abused again and again both in terms of the act itself and in terms of the way it is being implemented and interpreted, (iii) and ultimately the government must respect and protect the freedom of association, expression, and assembly which is not the case as it is right now," Shetty said.

He said President Lungu had committed himself to consider their suggestions on the Public Order Act among other things.

"The meeting with President Lungu was long and we appreciated his openness. He committed himself to studying our proposals on the amendments that we suggested on the Public Order Act. He also expressed full commitment to look into the cases of unlawful land acquisition which we are raising, particularly the freedoms that are required for the participation of these poor communities," Shetty said.

"While we appreciate his commitment and his openness in the meeting yesterday, we had a similar meeting with the leader of the opposition just today who also expressed strong commitment to human rights and freedoms respect for human rights. But the Amnesty international doesn't go by words, we appreciate the words and the spoken commitments but at the end of the day we are going to live by actions. From our sides, we are going to take these commitments, and track the delivery of what they actually do in their promises and we will hold them to account."

He noted that "two big elephants" in Zambia were clashing with each other.

"The other thing is that my own sense that we have a situation in the country now where the two big elephants are clashing with each other, the President and the leader of the opposition UPND political party. And ordinary citizens are suffering the consequences political battle. We met many many people from far flung areas, we are doing a piece of research on the unlawful occupation,

Stop using criminal justice system to target critics, Amnesty International tells Lungu



Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

acquisition of customary land in many parts of the country. We met the leaders from these communities, so many of these people have been displaced from their land, the chiefs, the councils, businessmen and without their consent, the land is being taken over. Food security has been put at risk.

And my appeal when we met the President yesterday was that the government should be focused on the rights of these people, ordinary people who are suffering because of the political deadlock," Shetty said.

And Shetty observed that freedoms of expression, assembly and association have been deteriorating in Zambia in the past two years.

"The message that we want to communicate to the Zambian public and the Zambian government is that the world is watching Zambia.

For decades, Zambia has been an island of peace and a supporter of progressive causes of government within the Southern African region but also across Africa. It has also been reputed as a country that has respected freedom of association, freedom of assembly and these freedoms have been enjoyed by civil societies, by many Zambians and by opposition political parties for a long time. I am not suggesting that Zambia has not had challenges in the past. It has challenges but despite all the challenges, it is a country which is seen as a country with respected basic freedom," Shetty said.

"Now what we have seen in the last 18 months to two years is a varying set of challenges on the issue of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association. We know from experience internationally that curbing freedoms is a recipe for destabilizing peace and feeding conflict. And we have to know that the curbing of freedom in this country comes on top of high levels of poverty and growing inequality. Civil and political rights and the rule of law are critical for achieving economic

growth for achieving the sustainable development goals and for achieving any kind of development."

Shetty said Amnesty International would work closely with the Human Rights Commission to track commitments made by both President Lungu and HH.

"So we will track the commitments made and we will hold this government to account as we work very closely with the national Human Rights Commission, the civil society communities and the Zambian members. Ultimately, the government has to be accountable to its own people. And we also said to the President and we also say this in every occasion that we appreciate some of the positives things for example the issue of the refugee crisis, the Great Lakes Region.

Zambia historically has been very open to accepting refugees and treating them with dignity," he said.

"So what we have seen in the last two years and what concerns us the most is the curbs on independent media, the restrictions on the rights to peaceful protests including by civil societies, and of course the attacks on key opposition leaders and parties. This has been done by both the abuse on the criminal justice system particularly the Public Order Act culminating in the declaration of the threatened emergency situation but also by allowing political cadres to run riots almost by being above the law."

He recalled the chilling effects on several media houses which had faced intimidation. "So let me give specific points on each one of these, let me

start with the media. Of course the most visibly and celebrated space which has gotten a lot of publicity has been the closure of the post newspapers. But this is not the only case. We know a lot of radio stations where their licenses have been suspended, we know what has happened to the Muvi TV which is the country's largest private television network, we know what happened with the online network the Zambian Watchdog which has also been shut down, so there many many instances that I can go on and on. I think the consequences of the actions taken on these specific media houses is that this has led to a chilling effect on several other media houses who are very cautious now, individual journalists are also self sensing themselves, a person getting phone calls from highest

authorities asking them not to report on issues which are critical of the government," Shetty said.

Shetty said it was unfortunate that some people were arrested for protesting against fire tenders.

"Civil society leaders and human rights defenders are also facing that, they are seeing a lot of abuse on the Public Order Act, as you know the most recent incident happened on the 29th of September is that six prominent civil society leaders including Laura Miti, Lewis Mwape, and singer Pilato were arrested simply for demanding peacefully accountability from the government on potential corruption scandal related to the fire trucks. So that's in relation to the CSOs, the human rights defenders," Shetty said, who also noted attacks on opposition political parties.

And Shetty said Amnesty International was a people's movement which was free to speak the truth as it had no agenda with any country's economic or political ideologies.

"Am sure most of you are aware that Amnesty international is a people's movement, we are not a classic NGO. We have seven million active members across the world, we take no money from governments or from companies for our research and campaigns. We are completely independent. We have no agenda of any country, we have no agenda of any economic ideologies or political ideologies. Our only ideology is international human rights law, every person in this country, that is what we are interested in," said Shetty.

But according to Zambia Daily Mail, Chanda told journalists at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport yesterday that it was not right for a highly respected international organisation to start raising unjustified accusations against government.

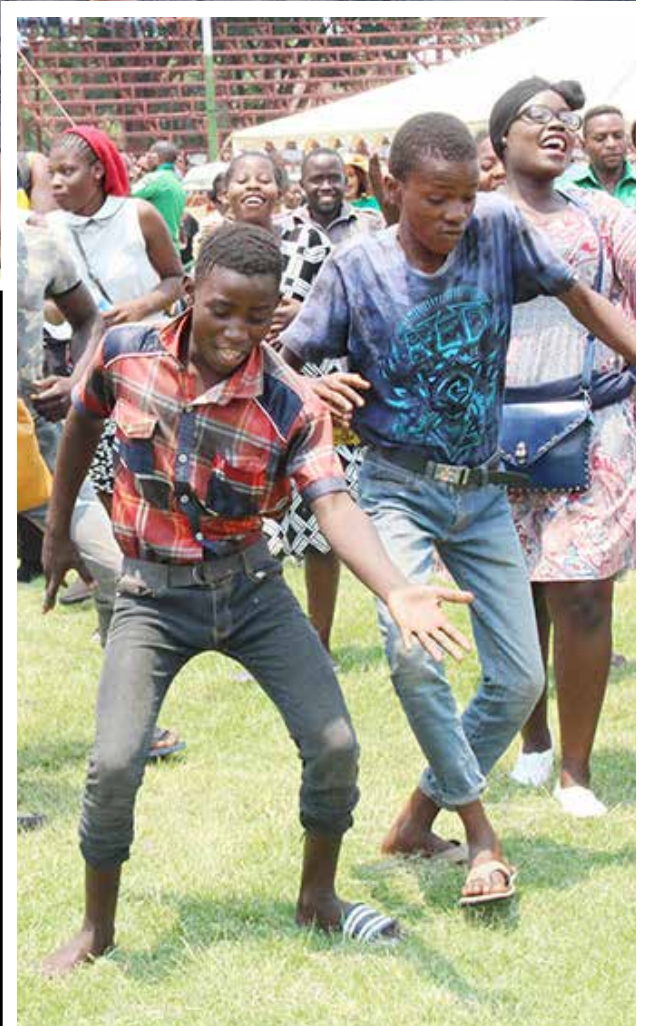
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National Day of Prayer and Fasting



Vice-President Inonge Wina (top right), First Lady Esther Lungu (left), opposition UPP leader Saviour Chishimba, Lands Minister Jean Kapata, her Commerce counterpart Margaret Mwanakatwe (bottom), join Zambians at the National Day of Prayer, Fasting and Reconciliation - Pictures by Tenson Mkhalaria



UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba last weekend hosted a plush wedding for his last-born son Muma, who married late Ben Mwila's daughter Chisanga.

Right are the bride's maids at the wedding reception held at GBM's New Kasama residence.

Below is former first lady Dr Christine Kaseba and GBM's wife Chama.

Below right is the couple after arriving aboard a helicopter for the wedding ceremony at Mary Immaculate Church.

Pictures courtesy of Chellah Tukuta Rancen



GBM hosts plush wedding for last born son



Justice Minister Given Lubinda's daughter Mwangala with her newly wedded husband Seith Katoka over the weekend.

Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty (c) speaks to journalists, as Amnesty Southern Africa regional director Deprose Muchena (r) and his deputy Muleya Mwananyanda looks on at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka on October 17, 2017. Picture by - Tenson Mkhala

Dear God,

Citizens of many nations across the world are devastated by wars, famine and various natural disasters. They seek your face everyday praying for your intervention, praying for survival. Some have lost their land and possessions while others have lost all their beloved ones. Their nations have been fighting war and terror for centuries and decades, yet they still have hope that one day you will hear their cries and restore peace.

In Zambia, Heavenly Father, our challenges are different. We have never known war, we have never experienced terrorism. We were born in a beautiful, peaceful country full of copper, fertile land, wildlife, abundant water and numerous other natural resources which you blessed us with. But we are not the happiest nation on earth.

Our country is complicated. We have a governance system that gives power to the people, but the people have no power to govern. Periodically, we are called, as citizens, to democratically elect our political leaders. These political leaders we vote for make decisions on our behalf. They decide the course for our country and our fate as citizens. They choose for us when we can assemble to discuss governance issues, and they decide how much we can question their abuse of the political power we gave them.

Dear God, two years ago, the President of our Republic, Mr Edgar

Let us pray!

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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Chagwa Lungu, decided a day when the whole nation should kneel down in prayer to you. He decided that on this day, Zambians should abstain from eating, as they pray for reconciliation and national building. He decided that October 18th every year should be a holiday; Zambians should not do any work, but dedicate their time to worshipping you. This was regardless of the fact that you Father, in your infinite wisdom, had already declared the seventh day, a Sabbath – a day when we should rest and acknowledge your presence amongst us. That is what brings us before you on this unusual worshipping day.

Lord, it is not for us to claim that our President sinned when he made this decision; after all, he told us that you spoke through him to invoke his Presidential powers and make this declaration. Our governance system could not stop him

because the powers we gave him through a democratic election, permits him to do so. If he wanted, he would have declared all the seven days of the week a holiday. Our President and his fellow political leaders have the authority to make these decisions on our behalf. That is why on the Copperbelt, the Kitwe City Council has resolved to punish every employee who will not take part in this national event, but they don't mind if the workers don't go to Church on your chosen Sabbath.

Heavenly Father, we seek your face now because we need direction as a country, not political direction but spiritual direction. We, your people are confused. Distinguishing what is of Christ from what is of mankind in Zambia is not as easy as your apostles explained it in your Holy Book. In Mathew chapter 7 vs 16, you teach us that, "By

their fruits you will recognise them. Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit should be cut down and thrown into the fire."

But how can we know a bad fruit when it has your name written all over it? We would love to follow your teaching and cut down the trees that bear bad fruits at the next election. But how can we know that this tree is bad if it bears the shape of your cross? Hear us oh Lord! It is complicated. Without you lending us your spiritual eyes to see what you see, we are doomed as a country. Our leaders have embedded your name in all their political decisions, virtually making it a sin for us to question their deeds. Our political leaders have given themselves the mandate to decide who can enter Zambia to spread your word, to spread the good news. They have usurped

your power to decide who is holy enough to preach to your people, and which prophet we should believe.

We have nowhere else to run, Mighty God, because our politicians have commingled with your manservants. The bishops, reverends and evangelists whom you chose and tasked to speak your tongue, have chosen to speak the language of our politicians. From the body of Christ, they have formed Christians for Lungu (our President). From the Church of God, they have formed the 'Government Church of Prayer Tabernacle'. They dine and wine with our elected leaders, but they don't discuss, injustice, corruption, violence, tribalism and unemployment. Instead, they discuss how abundantly you have blessed them.

That is why today as we gather and watch our politicians and church leaders sit in front of us, preaching

about love for one another; when they tell us to forgive and reconcile, we can only wonder why your servants are failing to challenge our President to meet with his number one political arch rival and reconcile on a special day such as this one. But we cannot rebuke these men and women of the collar, because then, we will be judged as evil and unpatriotic.

Forgive us because we, your children have become apathetic towards your calling. We have been alienated from the political governance system and the church leadership has drawn closer to the corridors of power, leaving us in the corridors of hope – looking heavenwards, expectant of the return of your Son Jesus Christ.

Finally, Heavenly Father, we pray for our friends who have completely lost hope for our country. They have been left devastated by the levels of theft of public resources in our land, and don't believe that our prayers today are genuine. They are mocking us with jokes crafted from the rampant corruption, to remind us about the nature of leaders they are watching on television today. They believe that our preachers are hypocrites because they failed to stand up to the government leaders when our country spent extravagantly on the fire brigade.

If the preacher today shouts "FIRE!" They say we must respond: "TENDER!"

Forgive us, Mighty God, because we have all fallen short of your glory. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen!

The unfair case of Gods fighting hippos

'By and large, I am PF' so says Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI.

He is right. Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI is PF. He is the Roan Constituency member of parliament of the Patriotic Front, Zambia's ruling party.

I have been a doctor longer than Chishimba KAMBWILI. Me, for over 20 years, and he, for only about one year.

Therefore, what I say counts for something. He should listen. Through my short life I have been to hell and back. I make for interesting company, you see.

I could tell you useful tales from the crypt.

I may not have been Minister of Information but I have information. I know things.

Besides, I am an unsung authority on matters to do with forgiveness, love and God.

You see, though I remain a sinner, if it counts for something, you might wish to know that I have six or seven advanced certificates on religious knowledge.

I know God quite well. I am in his presence. Always.

So if you don't see me at the National Day of Prayers, it will be because I pray everyday for myself, President LUNGU and everyone else, and on that particular day, I might be committing another sin somewhere near the Showgrounds.

I also pray for Donald TRUMP. That he doesn't do anything stupid on North Korea.

I love Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI. I first met the man on a plane

years back. We were both on foreign soil, flying back home.

At the time, I was deputy president of a political party whose name I often forget.

I cheerfully pumped his hand. With a broad smile and mirth in his eyes, he pumped mine back.

'Calo ca bonse ici, mukwai,' my eyes lit with truth and passion, I told him.

'Cacine be Banda, cacine,' He responded.

Nice chap, Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI.

Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI is a mortal man, a man who is not immune from error and wrong.

It is easy to forget that.

Like you and me, he is just a man, warts and all.

His behaviour right now is very exciting, but utterly unethical.

He cannot be calling his colleagues thieves when he is [still] one of them.

Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI is a prodigal son of the PF. The PF gave birth to him.

Presently, like all errant children, he is in the wilderness, seeking shelter from the very people he once insulted, poured scorn on and denigrated.

The UPND might give Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI water to drink but they will never forget.

And never will he drink their water without suspicion.

The girl he wanted has been had by somebody else. This has now hurt Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI. But there is no need to over react.

Something could be done. Without the PF, Dr Chishimba

KAMBWILI is lost.

His political journey will be very long, arduous, painful and unnecessarily dangerous.

It will be fraught with trials and tribulations.

But then perhaps his plan and personal role in Zambia's governance is a long term one. If that is the case, let us all wish him well.

In the short term, he will not achieve much success, any victories.

Yes, since we are in the punch-for-punch Mayweather season, he might land some hurtful blows on President LUNGU but the harm won't last, and Lungu won't hit the canvass.

Lungu's corner is a special one. Ominously, Lungu says he is ducking Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI's punches for now.

He has put the nation on notice that, capable of hitting back, he might soon land his own blows.

Tsono mutu ukakula sulewa nkhonya.

And his warning was chilling to the bone. He said that when he hits the man, the man might not rise again.

Ah!

Such is the dangerous nature of State House upper cuts

I don't know whether the rules of boxing provide for such lethal blows.

You see, this is not a fair fight at all.

For how can it be when Lungu is in the Heavyweight category and Imbwili, despite his weight, is in the Mosquitoweight division?

It is like Muhammed Ali fighting Charm Chiteule. Not fair at all.

Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI cannot today seek to destroy his own brothers and sisters without destroying himself.

He smells of the same shit he is now offended by and talking about when he seeks to embarrass his own family members.

Clearly, he is on a suicidal path.

The ones that are rejoicing the most from his loud drama and, prancing about, are strangers, professional boxing fans, non-members of his family, and enemies of the PF.

Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI, whether anyone likes it or not, has some wisdom in him. I see that.

I like his use of amapinda ne nsonselo.

And when he is moving his reading glasses on the bridge of his nose with his finger he looks quite the doctor.

That he is only human is not in dispute.

Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI must show humility and go back home, go back to his father, the PF.

His genes are PF.

In his family, like all families, yes, there are goats and sheep.

But with love, he must help President LUNGU to convert the goats to sheep, or caringly and collectively get rid of the goats altogether.

The whole PF-Chishimba KAMBWILI debacle was not handled very well. It was laden with malice and acrimony.

And where these emotions are found you will never find reason and rationality.

The PF must receive this lost son back to his home.

They must hold a feast for this prodigal son upon his return.

Of course, some family members will not be happy about the feast but that is the nature of things. Even good isn't always followed by all.

It is for the sake of the wellbeing and prosperity of his family that unity, above all, is the operative principle that must be respected in this family.

Washing dirty linen in public always makes strangers laugh and rejoice, drink and dance, but it will for ever remain a bad practice.

It is schadenfreude.

Pillow talk always helps.

The PF must not destroy Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI. And Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI must not destroy the PF.

Such conduct of both is foolishness.

No one will win in the end.

The two still need each other.

And the best way forward is reconciliation.

Barring, this Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI will lose the most.

Perhaps I should do a tin of Chibuku with him.

I could show him some books by Sun Tzu [The Art of War], Robert Greene [Laws of this and that], Myles Munroe [On Leadership] whilst we swallow the damn stuff.

It's 40 degrees Celsius in the shade.

Damn hot.

That he is not with his father, the PF, will always negatively haunt Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI.

And like all dejected sons, his behaviour might become erratic and disorderly, and his end will only cause shame to himself, his family, and his PF.

But then I might be forgetting Zambia's own political history.

Yes, the curious case of MMD is instructive. Vernon MWAANGA might have an opinion on exoduses.

For now Dr Chishimba KAMBWILI please let us not mention toilets, tissue paper and women in the same sentence.

It makes the country nauseous. And voting difficult.

Godspeed, Chishimba KAMBWILI, fellow pilgrim and doctor!

PILGRIM

Kenya election official quits before poll

A senior member of Kenya's electoral commission (IEBC) has resigned, saying the country is unable to hold credible elections next week.

Roselyn Akombe said the IEBC was under political "siege", unable to reach consensus or take any decisions.

Now in the US, she told the BBC she had feared for her safety while in Kenya after receiving numerous threats. Last week, opposition leader Raila Odinga pulled out of the 26 October presidential run-off.

The Supreme Court annulled the result of the original 8 August poll, which saw current President Uhuru Kenyatta declared winner, after finding irregularities.

In a statement, Ms Akombe said she had "agonised over the decision to leave the IEBC (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission).

"My decision to leave the IEBC will disappoint some of you, but it is not for lack of trying.

"I have tried the best I could do given the circumstances. Sometimes, you walk away, especially when potentially lives are at stake. The commission has become a party to the current crisis. The commission is under siege.

"The commission in its current state can surely not guarantee a credible election on 26 October 2017."

And in an interview with the BBC's Newsday programme, she said: "Would it be a credible election? Absolutely not.

"There is a very high

likelihood that the mistakes that some of the presiding officers made during the last election will be repeated."

Speaking from New York, she said IEBC members had been voting along partisan lines, without discussing different issues on merit.

Commissioners and other IEBC personnel were facing intimidation by political actors and protesters, Ms Akombe said.

She also revealed that she herself had received a number of anonymous threats, and had been put under pressure to resign.

"I have never felt the kind of fear that I felt in my own country."

She said she did not "feel safe enough to be able to go home" in the foreseeable future.

The IEBC has so far made no public comments on the issue.

Election positions

Mr Odinga, who leads the opposition - the National Super Alliance (Nasa) - said last week: "We have come to the conclusion that there is no intention on the part of the IEBC to undertake any changes to its operations and personnel.

"All indications are that the election scheduled for 26 October will be worse than the previous one."

Mr Odinga has organised a series of protests against the IEBC in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Mr Kenyatta says he is ready to proceed with the new vote as planned.

"We have no problem going back to elections. We are sure we will get more votes than the last time."

"We are also telling him it is

quits before poll



the people's right to choose their leader. It is their sovereign right to choose

their leader of choice," Mr Kenyatta said. The country's electoral

commission said Mr Kenyatta had won the August vote by a margin of

1.4 million votes - or 54% of the total, compared to Mr Odinga's 45%. **BBC News**

Protests after Spain detains separatists

Tens of thousands have gathered in Barcelona for a candlelit protest after two leaders of the Catalan separatist movement were jailed.

Jordi Sánchez and Jordi Cuixart are being held

without bail while they are under investigation for sedition.

The men were leading figures in the disputed 1 October independence vote, which Madrid has branded illegal. Spain's Constitutional Court

appeared to back central government's position on Tuesday, ruling the vote void.

It had initially suspended the law used by Catalan authorities to call the referendum.

However,

Catalan government spokesman Jordi Turull suggested neither the court decision nor the imprisonment of Mr Sánchez and Mr Cuixart was going to stop the drive for independence, telling reporters "surrender is not something this government is considering".

The air of defiance carried into Tuesday evening, when separatists carrying candles and chanting "We're all Jordis" gathered in Barcelona's Plaza Constitució protesting Mr Sánchez and Mr Cuixart's imprisonment - a move which many on the pro-independence side see as politically motivated.

The city's municipal police estimated the number of people in Barcelona to be around 200,000, while protests also took place in other Catalan cities, including Girona and Reus. Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont has already signed a declaration of independence, but halted

its implementation to allow negotiations as he called for talks to take place over the next two months.

The position still stands, Mr Turull said.

But the Spanish government has warned that Catalonia must revoke the declaration or face direct rule from Madrid.

Mr Puigdemont has also angered Madrid by refusing to clarify whether or not he declared independence last week. He has until Thursday to clarify his position.

Catalan independence: A waiting game

By James Reynolds, BBC News, Barcelona

"I don't know what will happen," one pro-independence campaigner told me during a small demonstration at midday.

"Perhaps Spain will send in tanks," he said, only half-jokingly.

No-one here seriously expects that to happen. But many are unsure as to what comes next.

Pro-independence groups have been angered by the Spanish High Court's decision to remand into custody two prominent campaigners, Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart. **BBC News**

IS defeated in 'capital' Raqqa

A US-backed alliance of Syrian fighters says it has taken full control of Raqqa, ending three years of rule in the city by so-called Islamic State.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) spokesman Talal Sello said the fighting was over after a four-month assault.

Clearing operations were now under way to uncover any jihadist sleeper cells and remove landmines, he added.

However, a US military spokesman later said he could only confirm that about 90% of the city had been cleared.

Islamic State (IS) made Raqqa the headquarters of its self-styled "caliphate" in early 2014, implementing an extreme interpretation of Islamic law and using beheadings, crucifixions and torture to terrorise residents who opposed its rule. The city also became home to thousands of jihadists from around the world who heeded a call to migrate there by IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

How did the Raqqa offensive unfold?

The SDF was formed by the Kurdish Popular Protection Units (YPG) militia two years ago along with a number of smaller, Arab factions. It says it is not aligned with Syrian President Bashar al-

Assad or the rebels seeking to overthrow him.

With the help of US-led coalition air strikes, weapons and special forces, SDF fighters have driven IS out of more than 8,000 sq km (3,100 sq miles) of territory. Last November, they began a major operation to capture Raqqa. They slowly encircled the city before breaking through IS defences on the outskirts in June.

On Tuesday morning, the SDF cleared the last two major IS positions in Raqqa - the municipal stadium and the National Hospital.

Reuters news agency reported that fighters raised the YPG flag inside the stadium, celebrated in the streets and chanted slogans from their vehicles.

Dozens of foreign militants were believed to have made their last stand in the stadium, while 22 were reportedly killed in the final attack on the hospital.

Up to 300 militants were thought to be holding out on Sunday, after Syrian jihadists and their families were evacuated along with 3,500 civilians under a deal negotiated by the Raqqa Civil Council and local Arab tribal

elders.

"Everything is finished in Raqqa, our forces have taken full control of Raqqa," Mr Sello told AFP news agency on Tuesday afternoon.

"The military operations in Raqqa have finished, but there are clearing operations now under way to uncover any sleeper cells there might be and remove mines."

Mr Sello said an official statement declaring victory in the city would be made soon.

However, the coalition would only say that the battle was "near its end", with spokesman Col Ryan Dillon estimating that about 100 militants were left in Raqqa.

What has been the human cost? There has been a "staggering loss of civilian life" in Raqqa, according to UN war crimes investigators.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group, reported on Tuesday that at least 3,250 people had been killed in the past five months, among them 1,130 civilians. Hundreds more were missing and might be buried under destroyed buildings, it said. **BBC News**

Two teens, one amazing business

Two high school students are helping to create the ultimate birthday celebration for girls in Indianapolis. Peja Jordan recently shared a

tweet with snaps of her aunt's party bus, designed just for girls. Jordan and her friend Shamari Whitfield work as party hosts on the bus.

The simple tweet showed pictures of some of the bus's successful events, along with the words, "Indy's Lil Girls' Glam Party Buss!!"

A Black-Owned party bus designated for little girls ages 4-12." The tweet went viral, with nearly 25,000 likes and 11,000 retweets. The Lil Girls

Glam Party Bus promises an experience any girl onboard will not forget. The owner of Lil Girls Glam Party Bus, Peja's aunt, Jenise

Stowers Dunn, tells Yahoo Lifestyle, "I always wanted to own my own business." The 35-year-old says she was inspired by other party services, so she got creative. "We did spa parties out of clients' homes until I finally invested in a bus," she said. "With family assistance on cosmetics and two paint jobs later, I was ready to roll my bus out to the community." On the party bus, girls can get a manicure and pedicure, play with makeup, sing their favorite tunes in karaoke, watch movies, dress up, and participate in a fashion show. Since going viral, the demand for a fun-filled time in the party bus has skyrocketed. Stowers Dunn says the response to her party bus has been overwhelmingly positive, and she has plans to expand. "The children love it, and the parents do as well. It is very convenient — we can pull up anywhere," she says. "My favorite part is the encouragement that we give to the girls and telling them how adorable they look." **Yahoo**



Peja Jordan and Shamari Whitfield, both 17, host the ultimate party-bus experience for little girls.



Rockets stun defending champs on opening night

The Golden State Warriors kicked off the 2017-18 NBA season with a huge celebration of their 2017 NBA championship, and eager to start their pursuit of a third title in four years. Come the end of opening night, though, it'd be the Houston Rockets celebrating, thanks to the slimmest of margins and the length of Kevin Durant's fingertips:

With 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter of a wild season opener, the Warriors inbounded from half-court trailing the Rockets by one point. Golden State guard Shaun Livingston dribbled into the frontcourt and got the ball to star Stephen Curry, who peeled away from the defense of Houston wing Luc Richard Mbah a Moute and hoisted a 3-pointer. His potential game-winner went long off the back rim, but Livingston was able to win the loose ball and tap it over to Durant, who corralled it, avoided a swiping closeout from Houston star James Harden, rose up, fired and splashed down a baseline jumper.

And there you had it: a buzzer-beating game-winner by the reigning NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, handing Golden State a 123-122 victory. What a thrilling way to end opening night, right?

Wrong: The clock hit all zeroes and the red light flashed on with the ball still in Durant's hand, meaning the shot didn't count, allowing the Rockets to escape Oracle Arena with a 122-121 victory.

Houston earned every ounce of this one, withstanding a monster start that saw the defending champs come out blazing to the tune of 71 first-half points, including 20 in just under 14 minutes of floor time from new addition Nick Young.

The Warriors led by as many as 17 points in the first half and by double figures for most

of the third, and looked to be well on their way to kicking off the season with a victory. But just before the end of the third quarter, reigning Defensive Player of the Year Draymond Green pulled up lame after taking contact on a drive to the basket:

Green had been brilliant to that point, putting up nine points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in 28 minutes of work. But after he headed back to the locker room, the Warriors' medical staff ruled him out for the remainder of the game with a left knee strain, removing the linchpin of Golden State's defensive attack.

Combine the absence of Green (and veteran defensive ace Andre Iguodala) with a generally laissez-faire approach to the proceedings — before the start of the fourth quarter, Warriors coach Steve Kerr told TNT's David Aldridge that his team wasn't executing especially well, and was just getting by on shot-making and talent — and it seemed like the champs had left the door open for Houston to work its way back into the game. And that's exactly what happened midway through the fourth. *Yahoo*



Liverpool exorcise ghosts of misses past

For centuries, the area around Stadion Ljudski vrt was used as a burial ground but, on Tuesday, it represented Liverpool's attacking rebirth as they exorcised the ghosts of misses past.

Having registered 29 more shots than Sevilla and Spartak Moscow in their opening Champions League games only to infuriatingly draw both, a first Group E win arrived at Maribor wrapped in swagger and authority.

Jürgen Klopp's side had been stuck in a cycle of creating much but converting little, leading to weeks of frustration, what ifs, and calls for the club to recruit a genuine No.9.

Against the Slovenian champions, the man wearing that shirt swatted away such shouts with a performance packed with verve, characteristic intelligence and a ruthless edge.

Mohamed Salah, his partner in torturing Maribor's rearguard, was equally

relentless in ensuring this was the night it finally went 'click, click, bang!' in the final third for Liverpool.

The pair shared a laugh as they both pounced for the club's fourth goal of the evening, but there will also have been a great sense of relief too, given both have been guilty of wasting good opportunities recently.

Klopp had been convinced that the displays he witnessed during a run of just one victory in eight across all competitions meant that the

Merseysiders would soon see reward for what they'd been "investing" in the fixtures.

Robbie Fowler had predicted as much too, telling Goal: "Going forward, the finishing hasn't been what the club would've liked, but I'd be way more concerned if they weren't creating chances because that tells me a lot more."

"Eventually, it will click for Liverpool and they will be converting more. It will definitely turn and a few goals will be struck against an opponent because there's definitely the players capable of doing that and the qualities of pace, guile and intelligence."

That happened here in the 12,702-seater arena, where the noise from the home ultras - Viole Maribor - and those swirling scarves in the away end was incessant. By the 19th minute, the Reds were already 3-0 to the good before adding another ahead of the interval to become the first English club to score that many away from home in the tournament.

The first was created by Salah's pace and persistence as he beat Marko Suler to a loose ball and sped into the box before supplying Firmino, who sidefooted in. The pair combined again

with the Egypt international being fed by the Brazilian and then sliding a pass through to James Milner, who was marking his first Champions League start of the season. The midfielder crossed towards Philippe Coutinho, who didn't need to take a touch to smash in from 15 yards.

It was the fourth consecutive game on the road the playmaker has scored in, rendering him the only player to achieve that feat for Liverpool since Steven Gerrard in March 2014.

The Firmino-Salah combination struck again with the former turning provider after winning possession and playing in the winger. He closed down goalkeeper Jasmin Handanovic and curved the ball around him and in with his left foot.

Coutinho then slipped in Alberto Moreno and his low cross was attacked by Liverpool's livewires-in-chief, with Salah getting a touch before Firmino for the fourth.

The 26-year-old wouldn't be denied his second of the night, though, heading in Coutinho's free-kick on 54 minutes to exacerbate Maribor's nightmare. *Goal.com*

Real Madrid 1 - 1 Tottenham

Tottenham held Real Madrid to a 1-1 draw at the Santiago Bernabeu in an enthralling encounter between the top two of Champions League Group H. Cristiano Ronaldo cancelled out Raphael Varane's own goal in the first half in the Spanish capital, but the holders could not find a way past the inspired Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris in their pursuit of a second.

Both these teams had won their opening two group games and suitably delivered a match of high quality on Tuesday, in which both goalkeepers were forced into some stunning saves to keep the scores level.

It was Spurs who struck first, with Varane inadvertently turning Serge Aurier's cross into his own net, before Ronaldo drew Madrid level with his fifth Champions League goal of the

season. Madrid enjoyed more possession and the better of the chances but Lloris was in inspired form, producing athletic stops to deny Karim Benzema and Ronaldo and earn his side a share of the spoils, while it required a brilliant save from Keylor Navas to prevent Harry Kane snatching the win for Tottenham.

The result means the teams are level on seven points and identical goal difference ahead of the return fixture at Wembley on November 1.

Spurs lined up with Fernando Llorente alongside Kane in attack and a five-man defence, but the reinforced back line was exposed inside the first five minutes as Ronaldo rattled the post with a header before Karim Benzema side-footed wide on the rebound.

Spurs grew in confidence as they settled into proceedings, with fit-again Navas making a fine reaction save to deny Kane, and the Bernabeu was silenced in the 28th minute thanks to a clinical counter-attack.

Aurier raced into space down the right and sent a low cross towards Kane, and although the England striker missed his attempted backheel, the ball clipped Varane and looped beyond Navas.

Isco and Marcelo were each denied by good near-post saves from Lloris as Madrid pushed for a leveller before the break and they managed just that with two minutes of the half to play, Ronaldo blasting home from the penalty spot after Aurier had brought down Toni Kroos at the end of a flowing move. *Goal.com*

Boxer kisses her opponent



Mikaela Lauren will be looking to land a string of punches on opponent Cecilia Braekhus when they meet on Saturday night.

But she has fired an early shot by landing a kiss on her opponent when they met at Monday's press conference.

The two women stared down ahead of their world welterweight title contest in Stokke, Norway, with Lauren breaking the gaze to kiss her opponent on the lips as the mind games continued.

It came much to the surprise of Braekhus, who gave her opponent a slap on the face before she quickly moved away. She was, however, able to see the funny side as she struggled to control her laughter.

'I haven't got that in a while,' Braekhus joked, as she shouted across the room.

It's not the first time Lauren, 42, has tried such

a stunt, having done so when she faced Christina Hammer in 2013.

This weekend she challenges for Braekhus's WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO titles and will be hoping her mind games can help her to victory over a women who possesses a 31-0 professional record.

Lauren is 29-4 from here 33 contests, with the pair having met before when Braekhus knocked Lauren out during their bout in Rostok, Germany in 2010.

It's not the first time such an act has been tried ahead of a big fight, with Gary 'Spike' O'Sullivan attempting to plant a kiss on Chris Eubank Jr ahead of their 2015 contest.

That kiss provoked a different reaction, with a scrap breaking out between both camps as Eubank reacted badly to O'Sullivan's gesture.

Daily Mail UK

By Nyambe Lubasi
Chipolopolo striker Brian Mwila is back in full training after a one-and-half month injury layoff. Mwila has missed Zambia's last two games due to a knee injury he sustained on September 2 in a 3-1 home win over Algeria during a 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier in Lusaka. "He is showing good improvement," his coach at South African club

Platinum Stars, Roger De Sa, said. "He played 20 minutes in a friendly match this week." De Sa did not say whether Mwila could make the trip to Johannesburg to face Orlando Pirates on Wednesday night. Mwila has yet play a competitive game for Platinum since joining them in August from FAZ Super Division leaders Green Buffaloes. And news of his recovery is

BRIAN MWILA RECOVERS

good news for Chipolopolo coach Wedson Nyirenda ahead of the November 11 home game against Cameroon in the two sides final Group B qualifier. Mwila is Zambia's top scorer in 2017 with seven goals from eight games played.

