

COME IN NUMBERS, RALLY IS ON - GBM

By Mukosha Funga
and Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba says the planned public rally scheduled for Sunday in Kanyama will go ahead despite a warning from the Ministry of Health over the cholera outbreak. But Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya says police have been informed that it would be illegal for the opposition party to hold a rally against the Public Health Act. In an interview, GBM said UPND president Hakainde Hichilema was eager to address citizens after being released from prison.

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...but Minister warns of consequences: “There will be no rally in Kanyama”

Amos, Kaizer are de facto Presidents, - Kambwili

By Anastasia Kasongo

Amos Chanda and Kaizer Zulu must be fired because they have become untouchable, says Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili.

And Kambwili says there is need to enact a law which will compel presidential aides to declare their assets upon appointment because it does not make sense for “paupers” to amass so much wealth within a year.

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Cop blacks out after being called to testify in Longwe’s theft case

Story on P5



Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya speaks to journalists at his office today
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Until Jesus comes, UPND will never produce a President -Mwila

Mukosha Funga

UPND will never produce a President until Jesus comes, says PF secretary general Davies Mwila.

And Mwila has warned non functioning party officials that they will lose their positions if they fail to perform.

Addressing party officials in Kalomo district of Western Province today, Mwila wondered why voters in that area insisted on voting for a party which was constantly losing elections.

“UPND will never produce a President until Jesus comes!”

2001, it was Anderson Kambela Mazoka who tried, after that, when he died, HH took over, he lost in 2006 to Levy Mwanawasa, in 2008, he lost to Rupiah Banda. In 2011, he lost to Michael Sata, in 2015, he lost

to Edgar Lungu, in 2016, he lost to Edgar Lungu,” Mwila said. “Even if you have confidence in him, how can you be voting for him for more than five times?” Mwila charged that the UPND manifesto was full of lies, saying

it was not possible for anyone from grade one to grade 12. to introduce free education

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Govt will discipline Mulusa for likening fire tenders to wheelbarrows - Wina

Story on P3

ConCourt was inconsistent in handling of petition - Complaints Commission

The Constitutional Court was inconsistent in its handling of the presidential petition, says the Judicial Complaints Commission.

Full story on P5

Luo must resign, she is destroying UNZA - Antonio

Zondiwe Mbewe

Former UNZASU president Antonio Mwanza says the Minister of Higher Education Nkandu Luo will do well to go back to Tasintha because she is tired of carrying out her government duties.

And Mwanza said it was wrong for the University of Zambia public relations manager Damaseke Chibale to say that ‘UNZA is not for the poor’ when he himself got educated on free education. To Page 2





Mazhandu travelers to buy tickets via Ecobank online

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Ecobank Zambia in partnership with the Mazhandu family bus service has introduced a digital payment system where travelers will be able to purchase bus

tickets online.

Speaking at the launch of the new online payment system, Ecobank Head of Consumer Banking James Chona said that the online payment system would enable

travelers to scan and pay for their tickets using their Ecobank mobile application on their phones.

"In our effort to promote Digital Payment systems and Cashless

payment, we have partnered with Mazhandu Family Bus for the purchase of tickets using our Ecobank Mobile App. Travelers will be able to scan and pay for their tickets using their Mobile App or dialing *324#. As Ecobank, we believe our products promote cost effective domestic and international trade that contribute to the economic development and financial integration of Africa," said Chona.

Meanwhile Mazhandu Family Bus Director Justine Mazhandu said his company was proud to be associated with the new product which he said was the first of its kind among bus operators.

NCZ to demolish over 200 Kafue houses

By Oswald Sichone
in Kafue

Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia has announced that it will soon demolish over 200 houses in Kafue's Flash Butt area which have allegedly been built on its land.

NCZ Chief Executive Officer Zuze Banda revealed this when UPND Kafue Member of Parliament Miriam Chonya and District Commissioner Joseph Kamana toured the fertilizer manufacturing company.

He said NCZ had on several occasions warned the developers to stop building on the land but that the warning was ignored.

"Honourable MP, NCZ has in the recent past recorded high cases of thefts, we used to have a security wire fence but it was brought down and people from Zambia Compound would get into the bagging area and steal bags of fertilizer. At times they would even throw stones at the guard until the guard runs away and then they start grabbing bags of fertilizer. This is why we have decided to erect this wall fence to prevent thefts. One other thing I want to bring to your attention is that NCZ will soon demolish all houses in this area (Flash Butt) which have been built on our land." Banda said

He added that the land where the illegal developers had built houses was classified as dangerous, as it was an area where pipes carrying hazardous chemicals to the lagoons were passing.

"By law no one should build two kilometers near a pipe carrying dangerous chemicals, and we wonder why these people were allowed to build permanent structures in such a dangerous area. Also it will be very difficult for our cranes to access the area where pipes are in case we want to work on them because people have built houses less than two

metres from pipes. This leaves us with no option but to demolish the structures," said Banda.

But Chonya urged NCZ to engage the developers and to find an amicable way of resolving the matter.

"CEO, I hope this demolition won't be too soon, hopefully it should be in the next generation. Anyway this is sad news and

I pray that you can engage all stakeholders and come up with a win-win situation through amicable means," said Chonya. Some Flash Butt residents talked to wondered why NCZ was claiming that they were encroaching on the company land when they bought their plots from Kafue District Council.

James Ngambi who spoke on behalf of the other developers said they would not allow any one to demolish any building in Flash Butt because they legally acquired the plots from the council.

"We will not tolerate these threats from NCZ of demolishing our houses because these plots were bought from the council. This is

a planned settlement which is serviced by Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company and Zesco. NCZ should go to the council where we bought these plots" said Ngambi.

When contacted, Kafue District Council Secretary Aaron Kamalonda said he was not aware of the planned demolition exercise by NCZ.

Luo must resign, she is destroying UNZA - Antonio

From front page

Mwanza who is Forum for Democracy and Development spokesperson said this when he featured on the 'Podium' on Radio Maria (Yatsani) today.

"The dissolution of union activities at the University of Zambia is totally illegal because if you look at the university act as revised in 1992, the minister of education has no legal right whatsoever to dissolve union activities. So what the minister has done is unilateral, bilaterally, illegal and unacceptable. I'm happy that the Zambia National Students Union has taken this matter to court because there is need to put the minister in the right perspective. Last year, when 8,000 students were initially banned from writing their exams because they had not completed paying their fees, the minister's response on this issue, was that 'she is not the minister of UNZA, she is the minister of higher education,'" he observed.

"I want to make a very passionate appeal to his excellency President Edgar Lungu that the minister of higher education is not serving her duty. If she cannot be concerned with what is going on at the University of Zambia then she doesn't deserve to be the minister of higher education because UNZA is the highest education institution in the land. She can do well to go back to Tasintha, she did a fantastic job there and that is where she belongs.

She is tired."

And Mwanza said he couldn't believe his ears when he heard the UNZA public relations manager saying the institution was not meant for poor people.

"I couldn't believe that the public relations manager for UNZA could say that the university is not for the poor. This is the guy who got educated on free education. lomba apunzila, ali nama degrees, ayanza vima motoka vikulu (he has been educated, has degrees, driving big cars) and he comes back and says 'we should stop this thinking that the University of Zambia is for poor people, this is the university for everyone'. He doesn't even understand why the university was built. It was not built for rich people. We have private universities and the rich people take their rich kids to those universities. UNZA is a public university. How many people in Bauleni can afford to take their child to UNZA if the fees are K40,000 per year? The numbers are very low," Mwanza observed.

He said that it is unfortunate that government only listened to the plight of students when they demonstrated.

"I can tell you that riots must be condemned in the strongest form because damage of property is criminal and should not be accepted. But demonstrations at the University of Zambia is the only language that works. The only

time that government responds to students plight is when they go to the road side which is very unfortunate. The students needs to be paid their meal allowances but the question is why is government failing to pay them? Are they waiting for them to demonstrate before they pay them. The students will never riot if they are paid their meal allowances. And I tell you that because I have made a lot of demonstrations at UNZA. I used to be in the fore front of the protests. We do not need riots, we want government to simply pay the students what they owe," Mwanza said.

He said from the cost of one fire tender, government would have educated 1,000 students.

"Education cannot be a preserve of only the rich, it should be for everybody. If you get just one wheelbarrow (fire tender) which cost \$1million, as honourable [Lucky] Mulusa calls them, you will be able to sponsor not less than 1,000 students from grade one up to university level. So the money is there, the challenge is where the money is put. There is a lot of wasteful expenditure. We have the budget to which 52 percent of it will go towards administrative costs and only 48 percent will go to issues of development. In short what we have is a budget to pay salaries for people, we don't have a budget for development. What is development if the majority of the working people are classified as the

working poor? What is development if every building in Zambia is about shopping malls selling South African clothes and potatoes? When you have a family of people who are uneducated, you reduce the ability to have income generating activities therefore creating more problems for the family. So the entire generation will have uneducated people. So as we are now, we are creating a society of uneducated people which is a danger as no country has ever developed by having a majority citizens who have been denied education," Mwanza said.

"The quality of education at UNZA has been compromised because there is a critical shortfall of human resources. The only time lectures are paid is when they riot. We need to remove this corruption that is going on. The University of Zambia used to be a university for the 'Crème de la crème'. Those students with the best points could go to the University of Zambia. But its no longer the case. Its now 'Chipante panté'. Because the university needs the fees to operate, they are collecting almost everyone including those with 28 points as long as long as they are able to pay for themselves. We can not have the kind of arrangement were quality does not matter but quantity. Management is also siphoning money from students and parents by deliberately over enrolling students and then finding ways and means to fail as many students as possible."

Mulusa will be disciplined - Inonge

By Mukosha Funga

Vice-President Inonge Wina says Minister of National Planning and Development Lucky Mulusa will be disciplined for likening the recently procured fire tenders to wheelbarrows.

And Vice-President Wina says only those who work with President Edgar Lungu everyday can appreciate how serious the Head of State is in the fight against corruption.

Vice-President Wina was responding to questions from members of parliament during Vice-President's question time in the House today.

Chimwemwe Independent member of parliament Elias Mwila wanted to know whether government was considering asking Mulusa to resign for breaching Cabinet collective responsibility.

"During the CIMA meeting in Lusaka last week, the Minister of National Planning and Development Lucky Mulusa is quoted to have disparaged the procurement of 42 fire tenders by likening them to wheelbarrows in his own words compared to the ones Liverpool city purchased at the same price. It is the belief of the people of Chimwemwe that Cabinet sat and approved this purchase which we have since welcomed and the minister is bound by the principle of collective responsibility. Now my question is, is the government considering asking the honourable minister to resign for going against the principle of collective responsibility?" asked Mwila.

In response, Vice-President Wina said Mulusa's case would be considered under the ministerial code of conduct.

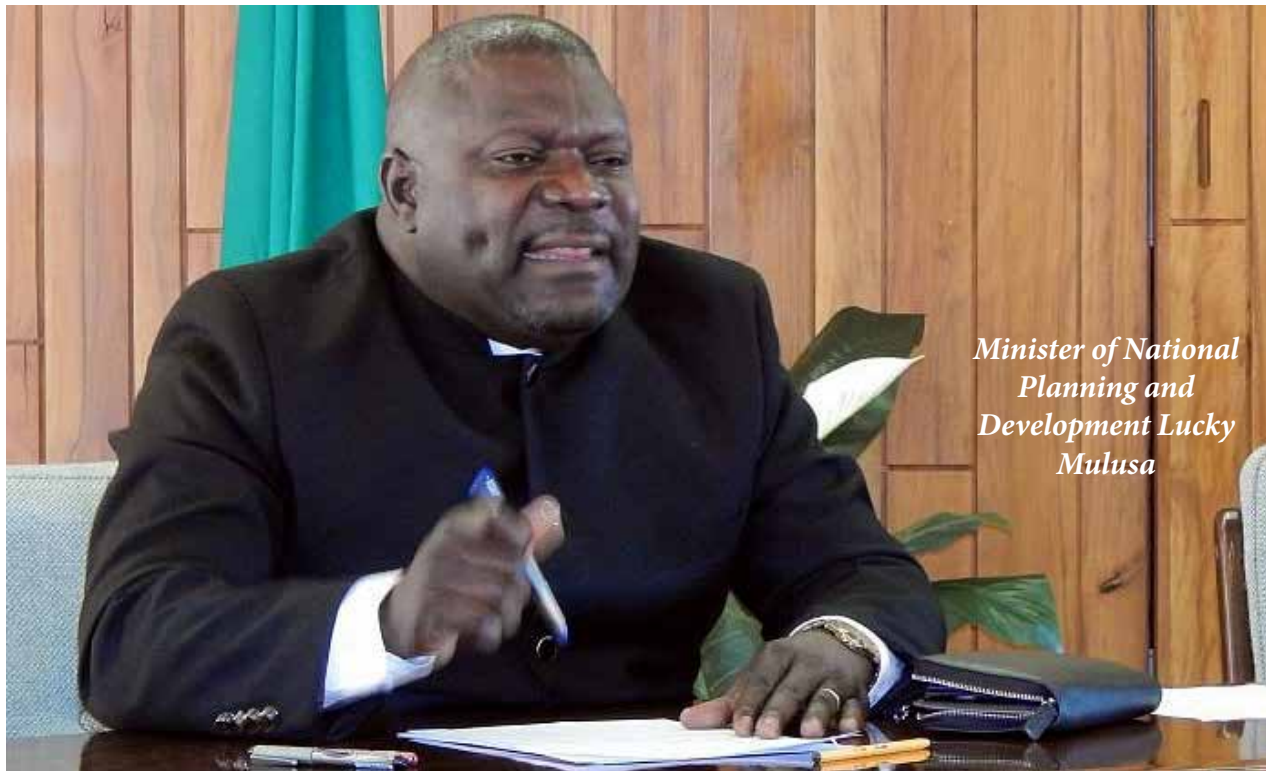
"Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not privy to the statement that was made by honourable Mulusa but being what it is and having received some reports regarding the statement that the minister has made, there are certain channels that we use in this government and in the party to discipline our erring ministers or members of parliament. Under the ministerial code of conduct, this matter will be considered [with] disciplinary measures that government will deem fit to apply in this particular situation, I thank you," Vice-President Wina said.

And Vice-President Wina said people were discrediting the presidency by doubting President Lungu's ability to fight graft.

She was responding to a question from Mafinga PF member of parliament Jacob Siwale who wanted to know her position on those making corruption allegations without providing evidence.

"The way we are handling the matter [of corruption] is that we are actually undermining the presidency itself because you seem to think that the President is not taking measure to curb some of these matters. The President is at the forefront to instigate..." Vice-President Wina said but she was interrupted by opposition MPs who shouted "Question!"

Vice-President Wina continued; "You can question because you are not near him every day but some of us who work with the President and



Minister of National Planning and Development Lucky Mulusa

know the way he is doing things, will agree with me that he is the biggest fighter of corruption. So honorable members, let us be truthful, let us not be in the House to champion causes that may not benefit us. If an individual is aggrieved simply because a contract was not fulfilled, don't agree to be used to champion the cause. We are here to fight corruption at any level. So Madam Speaker, we need to be serious about the fight against corruption. Let us not use it as a scapegoat for political acrimony and political finger pointing."

She said President Lungu had tasked the ACC to investigate the purchase of fire trucks further.

"The fight against corruption is a fight that we should not trivialize as political players. Corruption eats at the fabric of our society or any society for that matter. Corruption impoverishes the poor and benefits the rich. That's why it is very important for this

country and the people of Zambia to know that fighting corruption, we should fight corruption together, all of us, whenever we see the head of corruption coming to the surface, let's fight together. As for the fire fighting tenders, the president of this country has implored the ACC to investigate the matter further so that if there are any issues, if there is any evidence that can be brought to the fore, this evidence should be

brought to the fore so that it is reexamined, so that those that are found wrong, should be punished," Vice-President Wina said.

"But what we are doing is to use certain cases to target our perceived political enemies. This is trivializing the fight against corruption because if we continue on this road, it means that we are undermining the institutions of governance such as the ACC and other investigative wings

of government that should probe these matters and bring the culprits to book. Again, the way we are handling this matter is as though we just want to discredit the administration, [but] that defeats the fight against corruption because when you have evidence, take it to the rightful wings of government that will investigate and prosecute the offenders."

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina revealed that many

children trekking to Zambia from the Democratic Republic of Congo were unaccompanied by their parents.

She was responding to a question from Kaputa PF member of parliament Maxas Ng'onga who wanted to know what preparations government had put in place for refugees flocking to Zambia from the DRC.

"The influx of people from DRC has been continuous. Among the asylum seekers is a large number of children who walk all the way from wherever they come from in Congo into Zambia, unaccompanied by their parents. We also have a large number of pregnant women as of last week, the total number was 192 pregnant women who have walked to Zambia to seek asylum. Madam Speaker, this trend of affairs has definitely created a humanitarian crisis in our country. But luckily, the Zambian government through its agencies has mobilised resources to tackle the problem and also the UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and others, together with our Red Cross, DMMU, Ministry of Health, Home Affairs, Defence and others have come together to tackle the situation and I must say that as of now, the situation is under control," said Vice-President Wina.

Simbyakula distances himself from election violence document

By Diggers Reporter

Former justice minister Ngosa Simbyakula has disowned an alleged Patriotic Front document detailing how the ruling party planned to use violence, tribal division among other things to win the 2016 elections.

This is in a matter in which UPND lawyer Martha Mushipe

was charged with seditious practices for being found in possession of the said document which is entitled 'Strategy of domination by the Patriotic Front against the opposition United Party for National Development 2015 to 2016 and beyond, UPND at crossroads transition or conflict, PF's use

of ethnic divide and rule as a means of maintaining political control in Zambia 2015 to 2016 and beyond.'

When the matter came up before Lusaka magistrate Felix Kaoma today, Dr Simbyakula, who is listed as one of the authors of the said document, said it is fake and it was posted by unknown people

on the Zambian Watchdog. "The document is definitely fake. I didn't author the document I don't even know the names of other authors," said Dr Simbyakula.

He testified that two journalists from Bulletin and Record Magazine, Charles Mafa and David Julian Wightman, had called him over the same document but he told them that it was fake.

Dr Simbyakula said the two journalists told him that that they downloaded the document from the Zambian Watchdog. And in cross examination, the witness insisted that the document was fake.

Asked as to whether or not what was happening during last year's general election was not collaborative with the strategy outlined in the document, Dr Simbyakula said that it might have been a coincidence.

He however confirmed to the court that the two journalists had in their possession the document as they downloaded it from internet.

Dr Simbyakula said that he didn't manage to check the site where the document was as he is not a fan of online publications that propagated false stories as they could end up stressing him. He said the phenomenon of false news was a danger to society.

Dr Simbyakula also said he was not sure whether the Public Order Act was applied fairly during the last election.

Mushipe is alleged to have been in possession of seditious material between July 1, 2015 and April 11, 2016 in Lusaka jointly and whilst acting together with other unknown persons and without lawful excuse.

The document was authored by Tendai Muduli, Dr Simbyakula and Dymus Mutasa.

Court acquits man accused of defaming Mumbi Phiri

By Mukosha Funga

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has acquitted a 45-year-old man who was accused of defaming PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri in a WhatsApp group.

In this matter, Asher Hakantu was accused of posting defamatory words against Phiri in a WhatsApp group called "We need a better Zambia" on unknown dates but between May 6, 2017 and May 8, 2017 in Lusaka.

"With intent to defame Mumbi Phiri, unlawfully did publish a defamatory matter concerning the said person on a WhatsApp bloc namely 'We need a better Zambia', to which you wrote, 'Are you sure she didn't sacrifice the innocent boy for her to come into a political limelight, who knew this finished scrap cargo before she lost her son in Kawambwa School accident. Apusa maningi Mumbi Phiri,'" read the indictment.

But when the matter came up for ruling on case to answer today, magistrate Nchimunya Simaubi set Hakantu free saying the prosecution team had failed to prove a case against him.

"It is alleged that the accused published defamatory matter via a whatsapp bloc against one Josephine Chilufya Mumbi Phiri. The evidence on record shows that

the mobile number for the complainant was neither taken for digital forensics nor did Chief Ins Nyama tender it in evidence. However, the court was told that the alleged defamatory message was apparently deleted from the phone while it was in the custody of Chief Ins Nyama as per her evidence in cross examination. Two mobile phones, 12A and 12B belonging to the accused were produced. However, no defamatory messages were shown to the court from the two phones neither were they subjected to digital forensics. Chief Ins Nyama told the court that the phone allegedly used is said to have been destroyed," magistrate Simaubi said.

"PW3, Joel Nawa told the court in cross examination that his report or findings are useless without digital forensics being subjected on the sending and receiving devices. He was categorical that anyone could have made the Facebook account for Asher Hakantu and not necessarily himself."

Magistrate Simaubi said it would not be right to place Hakantu on his defence so that he could fill in the blanks for the prosecution team which conducted incomplete investigations.

"Therefore, it was critical to the prosecution for the digital devices to

be subjected to digital forensic analysis to determine if at all the accused had originated the message complained of and published it on the whatsapp bloc. In this regard, it was the duty of the investigating officer, in this case, Chief Ins Nyama to provide the digital devices for the accused and complainant to be subjected to digital forensic analysis as advised by Nawa. By neglecting to do so, there was a dereliction of duty. This court cannot now be used to remedy this deficiency by placing the accused on his defence so that he fills in the gaps," said magistrate Simaubi.

"Therefore, it becomes apparent that investigations into the matter were incomplete in that one essential element that the accused published the matter complained of has not been proved. The consequence being that the prosecution evidence has been so discredited that I, as a reasonable tribunal properly directing myself, cannot convict on it where the accused to remain silent. Further, this court cannot attempt to remedy this failure of the prosecution by placing the accused on his defence so that he supplies what the prosecution could not provide...therefore, I find that a case is not made out against the accused person sufficiently to require him to make a defense and I dismiss the case and acquit him forthwith."

From front page

He was reacting to a statement released earlier in which Lusaka province youth chairperson Bob Sakahilu announced that the rally had been postponed due to a cholera outbreak in Kanyama.

"There is only cholera when the UPND wants to hold a rally, but when PF wants to hold a rally there is no cholera. What are they scared of?" GBM asked. "They should just let us go and tell the people what they want to hear. We are ready and geared and our supporters are ready to see our president, especially after being released from

Come in numbers, Kanyama rally is on - GBM

that illegal incarceration." He said people should ignore the statement from Sakahilu because he did not consult the party leadership. "What is Bob Sakahilu saying? How can he announce that the rally has been postponed without asking the top leadership? Right now as I talk to you, I am with the president and he is not aware of that statement. That is news to us. So forget about that statement, tell the people that the rally is going ahead," said GBM. "We are urging all our

supporters to come in numbers. Let them come and see their president who was illegally incarcerated. He will speak out on a lot of national issues. So ignore Sakahilu's statement. I am with the chairperson of the party here, she is not aware, the SG is not aware, the President is not aware. We are ready and geared for the rally." But Chilufya told journalists at a press briefing today that it would be illegal for the UPND leadership to go ahead with the rally. "The Ministry of Health has

noted with great concern that there is a scheduled rally on Sunday 22nd October for the UPND in Kanyama. We have engaged the United Party for national development through the secretary general, we have written correspondence to them advising that Lusaka has a confirmed cholera outbreak in selected parts; including Kanyama," he said. "Kanyama is the epicentre of the cholera outbreak and it has recorded 90 cases out of the accumulative 125 cases. Now, the ministry of

health in alignment with the Public Health Act, and the International Health regulations, has placed a moratorium on mass gatherings, such as crusades, rallies and funerals in affected places, to forestall the spread of the highly contagious disease."

He said the police had been informed about the decision by the Ministry.

"This is the reason why we have sought the indulgence of our colleagues in the UPND to postpone the meeting, until such a time when we will declare that the outbreak has been contained and the place is safe for mass gathering. This is for public health reasons. Rallies attracts attendees from all parts of the country, they will come from Kafue, from Kabwe from all over Lusaka and other parts of the country which are disease free. These would be the careers of the disease to the places where they would come from," Chilufya said.

"So we have invoked the Public Health Act to stop any public gathering in Kanyama for public health reasons and the Ministry of Home Affairs has been advised accordingly. Cholera is a none partisan issue, this

is not a time to look at who belongs to which party. That is why we have not told the UPND that 'you are banned', ...but we are saying it is none negotiable. There shall be no mass gathering in Kanyama" When asked if he would advise Independence Day celebrations not to go ahead at the Lusaka Freedom statue considering that some members of the public would be coming from Kanyama, Chilufya said there was no cholera at the Freedom Statue.

"Let me emphasise that mass gatherings have been banned in places that are infected with cholera and Kanyama is the epicentre, so the Freedom Statue is not part of Kanyama... we have not seen it as an immediate need to close schools. If we see any disposing factors, we are going to act accordingly. And we must distinguish a mass public rally that brings people from outside Kanyama. We must distinguish congregate meetings within Kanyama and in what quantum and we must distinguish a mass crowd that we would be expecting at a rally of that stature. We cannot put the whole country at risk," said Chilufya.

MP pins Mabumba on low fuel prices during elections

By Linda Jere

Senanga Central UPND member of parliament Mukumbuta Mulowa this morning asked Minister of Energy David Mabumba to tell the nation what magic he used to keep fuel prices low during elections.

Mabumba then struggled to address the question, going into technicalities of why subsidies were removed but Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly told him not to stress himself too much but to answer the simple question of whether there was magic involved.

"Honourable minister, I appreciate your statement. There are a number of factors attributed to the fuel adjustments whether downwards or upwards. Now Madam Speaker, through you, I have observed with deep sorrow, pain and humiliation that when we are heading towards the elections, these factors, they seem not to come at play. What magic does this government use when we are heading towards elections to reduce fuel prices which cannot come into play now when we are four years towards the elections?" Mulowa asked Mabumba after he justified the fuel increment in a ministerial statement.

In response, Mabumba began to explain why fuel subsidies were removed.

"Madam Speaker, I want to refer my colleague to the same report which was submitted on the floor of this August House by your committee on estimates. The committee, Madam Speaker in the report also noted that extensive consultations and discussions were undertaken in 2012 with a review of removing the fuel subsidies, and last Madam Speaker, the decision was not made. In 2014 also, there were consultations also held unfortunately there was no decision that was taken and this is why Madam Speaker, after the elections of 2016 government took a bold decision going forward that we need to gradually migrate our pricing of our

petroleum products to costly reflectivity, which means having to adjust them within 60 days depending on the performance of our kwacha as well as the global oil market prices and Madam Speaker from my report if my honourable colleague heard I have here, on page three in my report where I showed the movement in terms of petroleum product..."

Mabumba said before Namugala interrupted him. "Honourable minister you are stressing yourself unnecessarily. The question is what magic? It was very straight forward, what magic the government uses, if there is no magic say so, if there is magic, let the honourable members know," said Namugala. Mabumba then told the

House that there was no magic involved.

"Madam Speaker, in terms of my summary there is no magic because in terms of what I have provided from last year, we have reviewed fuel by six times according to the performance of the kwacha as well as the international market of prices. Thank you Madam Speaker," said Mabumba.

Amos, Kaizer are de facto Presidents, says Kambwili

From front page

Debating the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018 for State House, Kambwili said he was sick and tired of Chanda and Zulu's behaviours, noting that Zulu had become a de facto president.

"Mr Speaker, today the integrity of State House is at stake and unless we do something about it Zambia will not be taken seriously, today the integrity of State House is at stake. It is at stake in that certain behaviors and conduct of some of the people that work at State House is unacceptable, people who work at State House must be exemplary in their conduct inside and outside State House but what we see today is a very unbecoming behavior of some of the people that work at State House, they do certain things with impunity. I seem not to understand why some people have become untouchable at State House, we have certain people that have done certain acts that even a little kid can know that this is wrong but they get away with it and continue behaving in a manner that brings State House into disrepute," Kambwili said.

"I am beginning to wonder these days to whether this is the first administration since independence that we have certain positions at State House because some of the positions at State House, we never even used to hear about them because these are people that operate in the background to support the President but today, people who work at State House want to be involved in everything in the country from political rallies to procurements, mention it! I mean how would we be appropriating money to State House when a political adviser to the

President is always seen at meetings for a particular political party?...Let those people that are working in the office of the president do their job at State House. You know sometimes I tend to wonder wherever the president goes, all the advisers to the president are the ones who are even taking the front roll seats even at public rallies, I don't remember when I saw Dr [Kenneth] Kaunda's adviser. In any case, I never even knew who Dr Kaunda's political adviser was because I was a very strong UNIP general secretary for student affairs on the Copperbelt. I did not know who Dr Kaunda's political adviser was. Today the political adviser to the President has become like a de facto president, this is unacceptable!" He said it was embarrassing to have Zulu as the Head of State's political adviser.

"Sometimes people seem to wonder whether he has even got more authority than the Vice-President because you see more of a political adviser than the Vice-President, I mean if this particular individual does not keep the integrity of State House the best we can do is get rid of him. 'tulsebana' as a nation, we are losing it everywhere we hear even in some foreign countries he was involved in a scuffle, foreign people come at independence stadium, his involved in pushing police officers, I mean why should we accept this kind of treatment?" Kambwili asked.

And Kambwili said there was need to enact a law which compelled presidential aides to declare their assets. "By the way it has become a norm that people who work at State House particularly the civil servants are becoming so rich. Is there business at State House that we don't know?

Probably what we should suggest is that everybody who is appointed at State House must be declaring their assets and liabilities because it is unacceptable that people we knew as paupers as it were, today can drive all the posh vehicles that you can ever think of just after working for State House for one year. We are losing it as a country, people who we knew as nobodys driving corollas, smoke coming out as if its 'ichimbimbi chamalasha' meaning the process of making charcoal, you know the smoke of charcoal (charcoal furnace)," he said.

"Today when you go on their Facebooks, they advertise their riches, they are running 12-15 companies and when we say we suspect corruption here, we are told give us evidence, what more evidence do you want...some of us have been insulted on Facebook just by actually questioning why a person we knew as a journalist not too long ago can have five to six properties in Lusaka, expensive properties we have been insulted and we are asked to bring evidence. We can only advise that let us clean up some of these issues because these are issues that will bring the integrity of a government, the integrity of a President is at stake."

Kambwili said it was unacceptable to have a press aide who wanted to overstretch his mandate by performing ministerial duties as well.

"The other issue Mr Chairman is, the press aide for the president is not a minister and he should stick to his job of being a communication officer on behalf of the President, I have never seen in this country, never! Since independence where the press aid to the President can go all over on international media, on Sunday

interviews explaining the policy of government from agriculture, mining everywhere, where on earth? It's never done like that, only in Zambia. It is a duty of the Minister of Information, chief government spokesperson to undertake those errands and not the presidential aide. The presidential aide's job is when the President has meeting with State House to inform the country on what is going on at State House, but today you will find Sunday Interview, press aide to the President speaking about PF issues, government issues, it's never done, that's an abrogation of a Constitution with impunity," he said. "Those civil servants at State House who have gone there to make their own money, to misbehave in the name of protection of State House must be removed from State House we are tired of these people! I am PF, I am member of parliament for Roan PF, I feel ashamed to be associated with such kind of people working at State House whose behavior has always made the people think twice to whether State House has integrity or not why should people become untouchable? Why? If a civil servant commits an offence is fired, if anybody an MP commits an offence is taken to privileges and is sanctioned why not those presidential aides? Have they got immunity maybe I have never read the constitution properly, I need to go and read this afternoon maybe they have immunity. We are sick and tired of their behavior, if they are not ready to serve the people of Zambia let them resign so that people with integrity can do those jobs at State House...So Mr Chairman I support the estimates of revenue and expenditure to state house but please may the issues that I have raised be dealt with."

By Mukosha Funga

The Constitutional Court was inconsistent in its handling of the presidential petition, says the Judicial Complaints Commission.

But the JCC says one act of inconsistency cannot amount to incompetence.

According to the full JCC ruling obtained by News Diggers! and signed by Justice Christopher Mushabati and Justice Geoffrey Simukoko, the ConCourt judges contradicted one another in their decisions.

The JCC ruled that the ConCourt never sat on weekends but counted Saturdays and Sundays when counting 14 days, thereby depriving the petitioners four days within which to be heard.

"In considering this petition the court was duty bound to look at all the provisions of these articles. Sub-Article 101(5) of the Constitution was not outside the Articles under which the petition was brought, that is, it was not a stand alone article from which the presidential election petition was based. So why should the question of filing a formal application to have sub-article 101(5) interpreted arise? We feel the court should have just invited the parties to address it on this issue and so it is our view that there was no need. In fact, the single judge on two occasions or so stated that the court would pronounce itself on the matter," the JCC observed.

"The main issue that attracted a number of complaints is on whether the weekends were to be included or excluded... the court never sat on any of the weekends that fell within

ConCourt was inconsistent in handling Presidential Petition - JCC



UPND Leader Hakainde Hichilema with his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba at the Lusaka High Court -picture by Tenson Mkhala

that period. These were 20th, 21st, 27th of August, 2016 thus the 14 days period was reduced by four days... the court must have settled for the first scenario where all excluded days were counted. The court did not however, sit on weekends - Saturdays and Sundays thus denying the parties four days from the time stipulated for the petition, as already observed above."

JCC also stated that the

ConCourt should have given a proper guideline on the 14 days from the very beginning to avoid abruptly ending proceedings.

"We now come to the issue of the court's failure to properly guide the parties on the time frame. The split decisions, made by the court, were rendered without hearing the parties. Admittedly, the majority ruling did state that the court had not considered the concerns raised by the

Attorney-General regarding the time frame under Article 101(5) of the Constitution. One of the rules of natural justice demand that both sides must be heard before a decision is made. The parties in this case ought to have been invited to be heard on the "stand" the court had taken... Consistency in decision making is very cardinal especially by superior courts whose decisions will need to be followed by subordinate or

lower courts," the JCC stated. "The court ought to have given clear guidelines on the time frame. It did not do so despite the interpretation of the Article 101(5) of the Constitution. We have already said elsewhere that it was not necessary for a formal application to have that Article interpreted because the 14 day time line was fundamental to the hearing of the presidential petition. Further, we note that from the

way the computation of time was done by the court, the parties did not have full use of the 14 days. The court did not sit during weekends but those days were counted within the 14 days. Court proceedings being court driven the court should have given clear directions of what ought to have been done, especially that the court on more than two occasions stated that 'it had a job to do.'"

The JCC observed that by the time ConCourt president Hildah Chibomba addressed the issue of 14 days, it was like shutting a stable door when the horse had already bolted. "All in all on the complaint that the court had failed to interpret Article 101(5) of the Constitution, we must say that from the various pronouncements of the court on the subject the court must have done so though it did not come out clearly, in that it failed to pronounce itself formally as to when the time frame began running and when it was to end. The Judge President in her response to the complaint on the interpretation of Article 101(5) said that this was addressed in the majority ruling. The majority ruling may have addressed that issue but it is our view that this was done late in the day. It was like shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted. The court should have addressed the issue at the very beginning," the JCC stated.

But the JCC stated that one act of inconsistency did not count as incompetence.

"It shall be noted that from the rulings quoted above, the court kept on changing its own decisions. This change or reversal of decisions amounted to inconsistencies on the part of the court. It was these inconsistencies which prompted the complainant to say the Constitutional Court and the Judiciary were brought into disrepute, ridicule or contempt and that this amounted to incompetence and gross misconduct. We however wish to state that one incidence of inconsistency cannot amount to incompetence let alone an act of gross misconduct by them," stated JCC.

Until Jesus comes, UPND will never produce a President, says Mwila

By Mukosha Funga

UPND will never produce a President until Jesus comes, says PF secretary general Davies Mwila.

And Mwila has warned non functioning party officials that they will lose their positions if they fail to perform.

Addressing party officials in Kalomo district of Western Province today, Mwila wondered why voters in that area insisted on voting for a party which was constantly losing elections.

"UPND will never produce a President until Jesus comes! 2001, it was Anderson Kambela Mazoka who tried, after that, when he died, HH took over, he lost in 2006 to Levy Mwanawasa, in 2008, he lost to Rupiah Banda. In 2011, he lost to Michael Sata, in 2015, he lost to Edgar Lungu, in 2016, he lost to Edgar Lungu," Mwila said.

"Even if you have confidence in him, how can you be voting for him for more than five times?"

Mwila charged that the UPND manifesto was full of lies, saying it was not possible for anyone to introduce free education from grade one to grade 12.

"You will have to see development with your own eyes, that is the only basis for voting for us, what else? What else? It is not possible that someone can introduce free education from grade one to the university, it is a lie! And the constituency chairman, you even listen to them, they are liars! Why is it that Zambia has got 10 provinces, they have failed to convince other provinces, why? Because they are liars!" Mwila exclaimed.

"I want a woman then I start telling her that 'I will give you four children at one time, is that possible? You should know, this man is a liar! So colleagues, let's stand up, let's not act as if we don't have a President, you have a President from PF, you can sit like people who are at a funeral when you don't have a president, you have ministers, permanent secretaries, what else do people want to see?"

And Mwila warned that non functioning party officials would be dropped.

"So colleagues, our job is to mobilize the party that is the reason why you are in these positions, you are not there for prestige, it is to work. We have come with party

registers, they are there. If you fail three times like HH, how can you continue as chairman?" Mwila asked.

"You have to get ready because all these people who you are seeing from the wards, they also want to come to the constituency. The ones from the constituency they want to come to the district. So these positions as at now they look useless but when we reach that time, that's when you will see that these positions are very important. Because a chairman in a ruling party is very important, you can knock anywhere."

He said it was their duty to explain government policies to the people.

"The party is there to explain government policies and programmes, you have to tell the people of Kalabo that it is PF government which is doing the Kalabo-Congo road. We have done a lot in Western Province as a party, I can mention, Father Bwalya spoke about Mongu-Kalabo road, that is the most expensive road here in Zambia. We are doing Kalabo-Sikongo road, we are doing Sioma-Shang'ombo road, what else do people want? Do they

want development or do they just want that people can just come and tell them lies?" asked Mwila.

Meanwhile, according to a statement issued by PF media director Sunday Chanda, Kalabo District Commissioner Fredah Luhila applauded President Edgar Lungu for the development taking place in the district, citing the Kalabo-Sikongo road.

"Kalabo is happy that the

government attained 4.17 growth rate. A stronger economy coupled with good infrastructure on Kalabo-Mongu road reduced prices of commodities, for example, 50kg bag of maize price dropped from K160 to K80/ K85/K110. Mealie Meal dropped from K120 to K65 and K70 for Roller Meal and Breakfast meal," said Luhila. "The Kalabo -Sikongo road construction will boost trade in Kalabo and Sikongo."

Arresting officer blacks out after being called to testify against Precious Longwe

By Diggers Reporter

An arresting officer this morning almost fainted when he was called to the witness stand to testify against murder convict Precious Longwe.

This is in a matter in which Longwe is accused of stealing K200,000 from her former employer, BancABC.

When the case came up before Lusaka magistrate Nthandose Chabala today, Sunday Bwalya, who is a chief inspector at Ngwerere Police Station,

fell ill immediately he began to testify forcing the state to adjourn the matter. When he took the witness stand, he appeared dizzy, almost fainting and he had to be aided out of the

courtroom by a prosecutor. In April, High Court Judge Sharon Newa convicted and sentenced Longwe to death for the murder of her husband Akakanda Litebele.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Finance Minister Felix Mutati says Zambia needs to reduce its appetite for contracting debts.

And Mutati says the IMF bailout request has not failed, as negotiations were still ongoing.

Speaking in parliament on Thursday when he wined up debate on the 2018 national budget, Mutati said because of the high levels of debt, there was need to focus all the efforts on domestic resource mobilisation.

“On the issue of fiscal consolidation Mr Speaker, we have said and committed that we are going to support measures with legislation in particular. Our commitment is that the public finance Act, the Loans and guarantees Act, and the budget Act should be able to be passed by the end of 2017. We have said, Mr Speaker, that this is our determination to support fiscal consolidation which is important in dealing with the whole issue of debt. Beyond that Mr Speaker, we have also put in measures to tackle the

We need to reduce our appetite for borrowing - Felix Mutati

debt issues. We published the medium term strategy which is basically focusing on the whole framework of debt. We must focus on finishing ongoing projects before we embark on new ones. And we must reduce our appetite to contract debt. We must also look at other innovative ways of raising finance,” Mutati said. “Mr Speaker, we were quiet clear in our presentation of the budget 2018 that the debt levels have elevated and in that budget, we said the answer to curing debt is (I) to focus our efforts on domestic resource mobilisation. In focusing on that Mr Speaker, we have said that we are going to modernise the Zambia Revenue Authority, ensuring that we improve tax collection methods. Bringing in the automation and ICT and also benchmarking them to the very best...,” Mutati said. He said government would

create a sinking fund that would assist in dealing with maturities of the Euro Bond. “But also important Mr Speaker, we have said in 2018, we are going to commence the process of creating a sinking fund that is going to assist in parts, to deal with the maturities of the Euro bond when they do mature. We have at the Ministry of Finance, continued to increase the capacity of personnel, particularly in the debt department including raising our ability for the quality of data which is critically important for us to undertake critical debt sustainability analysis. We have said the anchor for any new debt shall be based, Mr Speaker, on debt sustainability. We do not want to lamb-debt to future generation. We think by doing those things Mr speaker, we will begin to address the

critical issue of debt. And as you do that Mr Speaker, you are also answering to the issue of fiscal deficit because they do go hand-in-hand,” Mutati said. He argued that the IMF bailout package was still in the offing.

“Mr Speaker, let me just borrow a common phrase, and this common phrase is called bailout. And let me just make it clear to this August house that this phrase called the bailout has not failed. The IMF bailout has not failed because our program has not yet been taken to the IMF board, that's number one. Number two Mr Speaker, what was taken to the board is called Article 4 surveillance. This is where the staff from IMF carryout an assessment on the economy on its performance, its financial policies, engage with government, engage with parliamentarians etc,” Mutati

said.

“Its a routine exercise that is done typically every year. And the outcomes of Article 4, Mr Speaker, we re very very clear. (I) Article 4 recognised that the economic outlook for Zambia is positive; (ii) it also commended the government of Zambia that it has been able to conclude and publish the 7th NDP including the economic stabilisation and growth program; (iii) it also commended the government for taking decisive and bold decision with regard to policy and reforms in particular in agriculture and energy; it also commended (iv) that the social protection has been elevated in 2017. the sticking point was that the debt had elevated.”

He said the IMF team would return to Zambia to help his ministry make a debt profile to support growth and avoid

shocking the economy.

“So when we engage with IMF, they said we needed to determine the new path for the debt and in order to determine a new path, we need information and data which we are working together with them (IMF) and they will be back in a few weeks time so that we can have a debt profile that is based on debt sustainability going forward. We can have a debt profile that not only supports growth but also ensures that we do not shock the economy. Once we have done that Mr Speaker, then we will be able to move forward on this particular issue. Mr Speaker, this, we are determined to do because at the end of the dividends for stability and growth, we will accrue to the ordinary person, the ordinary people of Zambia,” Mutati said.

“It is within our responsibility to ensure that we keep the economy in the right direction , ensuring not only stability but growth that is inclusive. And that is why we have emphasised, Mr Speaker, that the theme for 2018 will be ‘accelerating fiscal fitness’. Fiscal fitness means that we are going to focus on your domestic revenue collection, fiscal consolidation and ensuring that your fiscal deficit is in check including ensuring that we achieve debt sustainability. That is the direction that we are taking Mr Speaker and we owe it to the people of Zambia to ensure that the economy performs for them.”

The Minister said that the 2018 budget credibility would be assisted by passing key legislations that would minimise misappropriation and diversion of funds.

“Mr Speaker, an issue of budget credibility has been raised. Mr Speaker, government remains concerned with the issue of budget credibility and that is why Mr Speaker we are saying in 2018, that this credibility will be assisted by passing key legislation that minimises issues around misappropriation of funds and also diversion of funds. So we will be bringing this legislation to assist us so that we are tighter and tighter in the use of public funds. Mr Speaker, this will also include the public procurement Act,” said Mutati. “Mr Speaker as you know, the current Act, the public procurement Act is a compliance based law and simply put it means you have to tick the boxes (I) have you advertised? The answer is either yeas or no, you tick (ii) have people responded? You tick, (iii) have people sat and been able to make a decision? You tick. For the sake of clarity so that we don't bit about the bush, Have you advertised for fire tenders? The answer is yes or no, you tick. The change in the legislation Mr Speaker will focus on the value for money, which means that we are going to benchmark the prices for similar items so that if I buy a ream of stationary in the Ministry of Finance, it should be within 10 percent in the Ministry of Community Development. Otherwise the system rejects. And that is what is called value for money. So all these things that have taken us back will be answered in parts with the revision of the Public Procurement Act.”

Wasteful govt expenditure angers CSOs

By Mukosha Funga

Thirteen civil society organisations today expressed disgust at the manner in which the PF government has continued to waste public resources on dubious contracts.

And the Civil Society Organisations have demanded that government publishes tender documents for all public projects starting with the fire tender and the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway.

Speaking at a joint press briefing today, chief executive officers and representatives from ActionAid, CTPD, Caritas Zambia, JCTR, NGOCC, TIZ, Oxfam, Alliance for Community Action, ZCSD, CSPR, CUTS, SACCORD and EAZ, said Zambia must wake up and demand accountability in the use of public resources.

CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano, who read the statement on behalf of the CSOs, observed that Zambians had remained docile, while government leaders were abusing public resources.

“The problem of rampant abuse of public resources has been worsened by the attitude of not demanding for explanations and justifications on the use of public resources exhibited by most Zambians. This has allowed many leaders to take advantage and abuse public resources,” he observed. “Government has defended the purchase claiming the trucks are custom made and deserves the \$1 million per truck tag... Further to this, the construction of the 321km Lusaka-Ndola duo carriageway at the cost of \$1.2 billion has also been disputed by a cross section of society as being too costly, it is suggested that on average, a high standard bituminous road in Zambia costs up to \$1 million per kilometre which translates in \$642 million. At the announced cost of \$1.2 million, the Lusaka Ndola duo carriageway will cost on average \$2 million per kilometre, double the normal cost.”

Nshindano said it was it was



(l-r) SACCORD executive director Boniface Cheembe, Zambia Council for Social Development Lewis Mwape and CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano

not far fetched to suggest that corruption was involved in the awarding of the two contracts. “As civil society, we believe there are two aspects to this public spending, the first aspect is whether corruption was involved or not, which of course government has dismissed as unfounded including that ACC. The second issue is whether this was the optimum way of spending public resources at a time when the country is just recovering from a very weak economic performance. We are quite convinced that public resources on the two projects have not been prudently and optimally utilised. Was the fire trucks the most priority for Zambia to allow such a huge expenditure to quench fires whose sources we do not even know yet? US\$42 million (approximately K420 million) is more than twice the allocation to Markets and Bus Station (K18 million) in the 2018 budget for the whole year,” he said. Nshindano observed that the PF government had continued on a destructive path.

“As civil society we are further concerned by the fact that we never seem to learn as a country and successive governments continue on this destructive path. A similar expenditure was made on hearses and mobile hospitals against public protests. Some of these vehicles have already broken down irrevocably and yet a lot of money was spent that could possibly have been spent in a more prudent and sustainable way. Speed boats that were bought for Chavuma Districts to be used as mobile hospitals to serve communities along the Zambezi River have all broken down parked at the banks of the Zambezi River and no one even talks about them,” he said.

The CSOs challenged government to publish the tender documents. “We demand the publication of the tender documents for all public projects especially the ones under public outcry which include the fire tenders and the construction of the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriage way as prescribed by law under the Public Procurement

Act, to promote transparency and accountability. If the procurement was done in public interest its within the rights of citizens to see how the institutions involved arrived at the decision and their considerations,” said Nshindano.

We further urge government through the ministry of finance to quicken the process of reforms meant to enhance public financial management such as the enactment of the planning and budgeting bill, the revision of the public finance act, the loans and guarantees bill, and the public procurement bill... Lastly, we demand that members of parliament to take more interest in public affairs as representatives of the citizens and provide the necessary oversight as per their mandate and avoid politicking at the expense of the Zambian people.

During the question and answer session, ZCSD executive director Lewis Mwape called on Zambians to show their anger over the mismanagement of public

resources.

“The role to demand for accountability must not just be the role of civil society, I think it should be the role of all Zambian people. As civil society organisations, we are appealing to the Zambian people is not to sleep whilst the rats and the monkeys are busy feasting on our produce in the fields. So the Zambian people have a duty. It is also the duty of a citizen to hold the elected leaders accountable,” said Mwape.

“We want to see the Zambian people beginning to become angry because when the money that you have contributed has been abused, you need to be angry as a people. We must all be angry when we see the people that we have put in place as stewards begin to act otherwise, for lack of a better term, maybe this is the word that I can find, to become thieves, robbers, daylight robbers of our resources, it will be very unZambian for people to keep quiet. Let us all demand for accountability and demand for priorities for expenditure.”

A top Chinese official has claimed several high-ranking members of the Communist Party had plotted to seize power from President Xi Jinping. These party members have since been arrested or jailed in a wide-reaching corruption crackdown launched by Mr Xi.

Some observers have said the crackdown was used to conduct a political purge of Mr Xi's opponents.

Chinese officials 'plotted to overthrow Xi Jinping'

The latest claim of a power struggle appears to contradict the Communist Party's unified image.

On Thursday, the chief of China's securities commissions, Liu Shiyu, listed names of six "high-ranking and powerful

officials, who were hugely greedy and hugely corrupt, and who plotted to usurp the party's leadership and seize state

power".

Mr Liu's list included top names whose downfalls have attracted intense scrutiny, such as former

security chief Zhou Yongkang, prominent politician Bo Xilai, and Sun Zhengcai, a member of the decision-making Politburo body who was only recently expelled.

The other names were former presidential aide Ling Jihua, the late army general Xu Caihou, and former top military officer Guo Boxiong.

"These cases were definitely shocking," said Mr Liu, who was speaking at a panel for the ongoing Communist Party congress in Beijing.

It was unclear whether he was referring to one co-ordinated plot or separate attempts at a coup.

Mr Liu said that Mr Xi had "addressed these problems, and eliminated a huge and hidden danger to the party and the country".

More than one million officials have been jailed or arrested in the corruption crackdown which began shortly after Mr Xi took power in 2012.

The depth of the crackdown has led many to speculate that some arrests were politically motivated and that part of Mr Xi's overall strategy was to consolidate power.

Mr Xi had previously denied claims there was a "power struggle" within the party.

But the comments appear to corroborate what has long been suspected - that there are intense power struggles going on behind the party's image of unity, says the BBC's Michael Bristow.

The claim comes as Mr Xi created his own political ideology, in the latest move to entrench his position in the Communist Party.

The party is widely expected to rewrite its constitution to enshrine this theory before congress ends next week.



Former top politician Sun Zhengcai (right) was among several named as having plotted against Xi Jinping (left)

SA football boss 'raped singer'

South African singer and ex-MP Jennifer Ferguson has accused the country's football boss Danny Jordaan, 66, of raping her nearly 24 years ago.

He "overpowered" her and "painfully" raped her in a hotel in Port Elizabeth city, she has alleged in a blog.

Mr Jordaan, who organised the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, has not yet responded to a request for comment.

Now living in Sweden, Ms Ferguson said she had been moved by the #MeToo campaign on social media to speak out.

She said the attack took place when she was "high and happy" following her unexpected nomination by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) party to serve in South Africa's first democratically elected parliament in 1994. Mr Jordaan, a prominent member of the ANC and president of the South African Football Association, came to her hotel suite after she had given a performance at a dinner.

"He overpowered me and

painfully raped me. It must have been over in about 20 seconds although it felt like a lifetime," she alleged.

"He left immediately without saying a word."

Ms Ferguson said she had been "bewildered" and in a state of "complete shock".

"Not sure what to do, I washed and left the hotel and began to walk. I reached the beach and sat there a very long time trying to process what had happened," she said.

"The thought of going to the police felt intolerable. What would I say? Should I have screamed louder? Fought him off harder? Had I been complicit in some way? All these questions raged in my mind. I wept."

She accused the football boss of using her as "an object for his sad need for power and twisted gratification".

"I am not speaking out to get revenge on Danny Jordaan or a million South African men like him. I am doing this so we can help each other be courageous, speak out and begin to heal as we find we are not alone," she added.

Ms Ferguson campaigned

against military conscription during white-minority rule in South Africa.

State radio banned her songs, including Letters For Dickie, sung in the form of letters from a girl to her boyfriend who was a conscripted soldier on the border.

Mr Jordaan was widely praised for spearheading South Africa's 2010 football World Cup bid. It was the first time that the tournament was played in Africa.

In 2015, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) alleged that South Africa had paid a \$10m (£6.5m) bribe



Danny Jordaan

to host the tournament. Mr Jordaan and the government strongly denied the allegation.

Mr Jordaan was mayor of

Nelson Mandela Bay, which includes Port Elizabeth, until 2016, when the opposition took control of it in elections.

BBC News

Malawi cracks down on 'vampire' lynch mobs

Police in the south-east African state of Malawi say they have arrested 140 members of lynch mobs who attacked people suspected of being vampires. At least eight people are believed to have been killed, including two men on Thursday in the second city, Blantyre.

One was set on fire and the other stoned, according to police.

Two others were arrested for threatening to suck people's blood but police say have no medical reports of

any actual bloodsucking.

Vigilante mobs started attacking people suspected of drinking human blood as part of magic rituals in September.

James Kaledzera, Malawi's national police spokesperson, told BBC News that police patrols had been stepped up in areas affected.

A curfew has been imposed in parts of the south.

President Peter Mutharika has been visiting parts of the country and has

vowed to investigate the killings.

Earlier this month, the UN instructed all staff in parts of the south to move to safer areas.

Many aid agencies and non-governmental organisations work in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries.

Educational standards are low, with belief in witchcraft widespread.

Vigilante violence linked to vampire rumours also erupted there in 2002.

BBC News

Mpezeni, the Paramount chief of the Ngoni people of Eastern Province says he is very angry with President Edgar Lungu and State House staff. In his complaint, the traditional leader says he has attempted to meet the President on four occasions but he was blocked.

That is not all. The Nkosi yama Nkosi says he is particularly angered by the treatment he received at State House, where they made him feel like a beggar.

"Chanili okalipa maningi, nayendako four times, okungo ninama boza. Kapena oganiza kuti tufuna kupempha Ndalama, situpempha ndalama seo yai. Tufuna kukamba chilungamo. Seo mafumu ndiye tusunga banthu, so ngati sofuna kuonana na seo ndiye kuti tionane naye bwanji. Mailo m'mawa akati yai mwenzolabila lini, koma ofuna lini kuonana naye. (What I am really angry about is that I have gone there four times, they keep telling me lies. Maybe they think I go there to beg for money. I don't beg for money myself. We just want to say the truth. It's us the chiefs who keep people, so if he doesn't want to talk to us how will he (the President) discuss issues? Tomorrow he should not say we never told him because he doesn't want to meet us," Mpezeni warned.

For this reason, the paramount chief has vowed never to set foot at State House, saying he doesn't care about the leadership anymore.

"Manje sinizayendako futi. Kuchokela lombwa, sinizayendako futi kusogolo kuja chifukwa chuoneka monga nunyengelela... nizao izo, neo niliye nao na nchito! Ndine okalipa maningi. (But now I have decided that I will never go there, no matter what happens because it appears as though I am going there to plead. It's their fault; I don't care about them now. I am very upset," said Mpezeni.

Mpezeni drinks, but is very wise

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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We cannot immediately verify if indeed State House has, on four occasions, prevented His Royal Highness from meeting the President, but we also can't fathom why the Ngoni King can fabricate such a lie to dent the image of the Head of State. What is clear though, is that this claim from the paramount chief fits in the narrative of our Republican President not wanting to interact with our traditional leaders.

According to Mpezeni, his agenda with the President was to discuss concerns in the Agriculture sector, as raised by farmers in his chieftom. This was a justifiable reason for a chief to demand access to the President, especially that State House promised farmers that the Head of State was going to intervene and announce a

better floor price for maize.

We appreciate that our President is traversing the world in search of investments and to woo tourists. Therefore, it is highly possible that State House staff was very honest when they told Mpezeni that the Head of State was not around. But was the message passed on to the President when he returned? If yes, why didn't the Head of State call the traditional leader to give him a fresh appointment? If not, what is the Presidential Affairs minister getting paid for? How broken is the system at State House? Something is fishy here.

Ordinarily, Mpezeni would be expected to have a soft spot for President Lungu, considering that the President graced the N'wala ceremony this year. Therefore, when we hear the traditional leader

saying "I don't care about the President anymore", it should not only raise our eyebrows, but our political alertness too.

Mpezeni may sound like a drunkard when he speaks. And to be honest, he is indeed a fish when it comes to swallowing happy juice, but he is among the most intelligent traditional leaders we have in Zambia. Mpezeni is politically awake and his complaint should not be perceived as a mere ranting from a disgruntled traditional leader. There is something about our government leadership that Mpezeni has observed, which we must take interest in. We must ask ourselves; if the President can snub Mpezeni, a paramount chief, what about those retirees who picket State House every month? Can our President 'waste' his time hearing their

concerns and helping them get their hard earned pensions? We don't think so.

We believe that the Nkosi yama Nkosi could not have opened his mouth to rebuke State House in the manner he did, if he still had hope and confidence in the PF government. We say this because, just like a member of parliament, a chief is a representative of the people and he also has to deliver on his promises to his subjects. Mpezeni is part of the governance system and it is his duty to demand answers from government leaders when his farmers complain.

On the other hand, it does not surprise us that Mpezeni has failed to have access to the President. The simple explanation is that the traditional leader didn't go to

State House to buy a contract. He did not have US\$200,000 to give the President's advisor in order to secure a presidential appointment.

We can bet anyone on the fact that the CEO of the company that was chosen to procure 42 fire tenders, and the CEO of the company that was selected to construct the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway cannot fail to access the president of Zambia on four attempts.

Those officers who provide security at the entrance to State House know what we are talking about. When a Chinese investor arrives at the gate, they don't even search them for fear of being rebuked by the bosses inside. Instead, they even greet the investor in Chinese "N h o ma", just to make them understand how welcome they are.

But Mpezeni doesn't own a road construction company. He has no money to procure vehicles for the government, so what is the fastest way in which he can meet his President to discuss governance issues?

Maybe Mpezeni should go to Swaziland, then invite President Lungu to go and see how the King there is settling in with his latest wife. We are sure that the paramount chief will not only receive the President, but buffaloes and several other gifts from the president's advisors who can't wait for the next Reed Dance.

The Curious Case of Zambia, its Budget and Challenges

Zambia's financing model of its life needs to change. This change must ever be inspired by its pursuit of national self-reliance. There is no two ways about it, Zambia just must grow its resource envelope. And the case for fiscal discipline has never been greater.

And, at a glance, the recent purchase of fire tenders does not pass the cost-benefit test which must always precede such an undertaking, and every government project. The budget presented by Minister of Finance Felix MUTATI is a curious one.

What is clear about it, and which forms the basis of its praise, is his desire to raise government revenue in the midst of the myriad of expenditure demands that he and the country are faced with.

Felix MUTATI cannot spend without money regardless of how much pressure is exerted on him by his supervisor, President LUNGU. Felix MUTATI is in a bind. He has less money than he is expected/required to spend. And what knots his abdomen is that some of the money, 30% of his budget, is NOT in his hands. To address this predicament of his he contrived this budget, which for its dire austerity nature, is a dangerous one.

Felix MUTATI has started to over-fish. The pool from which he

is expected to raise the requisite revenue is way too small. He is now in danger of killing the same people he is employed to keep alive.

Here is why:

- The cost of fuel is likely to rise following the removal of VAT refunds.

- he cost of production which is already high, comparatively higher than some SADC states, will rise further, worsening Zambia's competitiveness.

- In turn, the price of essential commodities, especially the non-seasonal ones, will also rise.

- Remember that the cost of money in Zambia is already high

- Further, the increase in PAYE reduces the purchasing power of the affected citizens in the midst of a depreciating currency and fluctuating inflation

- The cost of air-time and Internet will increase further

- The price of spare parts will rise [...parts' shops will see a decline in business and the number of not-roadworthy vehicles and dangerous machines will increase]

- And you and me know that the high price of electricity is already causing small solace meetings in the compounds

In a nutshell, the Zambian will get poorer. You see, there are limits to taxation. Taxation only

makes sense when you tax people that are doing well. And Zambians, according to President Lungu himself, are not doing well [...over 60% live in abject poverty].

When you tax citizens beyond a certain limit, beyond what is technically called their carrying capacity, the burden you place on them will break their backs. But as is usual, before the backs of citizens break, anywhere in the world, they tend to make noise and become unruly.

It follows then that Felix MUTATI should have an antidote ready for the social unrest that might ensue from his passion and desire to right Zambia's economic boat. What complicates his work further is the current behaviour of donors, the so-called Cooperating Partners, who are now not cooperating at all. They have begun to wean themselves off supporting Zambia.

To put it bluntly, they have begun to withhold their aid, which aid includes the vital budget support that we need. Donors can be evil. Aid can fool. But for now let us leave it at that.

Angatitape mkamwa. Aid refocusing is what donors, for power and governance reasons, do not want and perennially resist, but that is what its recipients like Zambia must insist upon. Aid

must not be consumed. It must be invested.

A country that cannot fully finance its budget cannot be said to be sovereign. This lesson has taken way too long for Zambia to learn. What is sad and even somewhat scandalous, and is a veritable matter of national security, is that a significant fraction of our social services are funded by foreigners.

Take the social cash transfer and ARVs for example [...note that nearly 1 million Zambians are on ARVs]. These safety nets for citizens are consumptive and must never be funded by foreigners.

What is even worse is that there has been unrelenting donor pressure to increase the consumption base of these services which has the resultant effect of having a large proportion of citizens being dependent. And then suddenly the same donor comes and pulls the financing rug under our feet, claiming we are now a lower middle income country, and can manage by ourselves.

Careful management of the withdrawal of their support is required, or else their conduct will undermine the integrity of the State.

It borders on treason.

Zambia still owes the world a lot of money, and these loans have to be paid.

With a depreciated currency, an economy that remains small and is import-dependent, the challenge of servicing these loans is even greater. And now they are due. Zambia, like a certain poor Reverend I lent money to, now runs the risk of defaulting and incurring penalties, for the wrath of the money-lender is always in black and white.

Dr Caleb FUNDANGA is right. Zambia cannot survive without borrowing [...only 69% of our budget is serviced from domestic sources]. Nonetheless, it is domestic borrowing that we must be wary of because it has the tendency of keeping the cost of money high and prohibitive for the citizen and SME. Zambia must continue to borrow, and with the marginal improvement in its credit-worthiness, we must borrow less expensive money.

China remains an easy cushion. And when we borrow we must borrow only to generate profit out of the borrowed money [...through inspired investment in agriculture, energy, human resource exports, arts, tourism and mining].

Clearly, as we pursue fiscal discipline, Felix MUTATI will have to avoid buying motor vehicles at USD 1 million each to put out fires that often die by themselves, and whose total damage is less

than the cost of one such car. For now, there is need for citizens to brace themselves. Tough times are coming.

Yes, it is not uncommon, when a pond is small and the hunger is extreme and the eating reckless, to over-fish. In the end, one ends up with no fish, an empty pond and still dying of hunger. Khale maso folo. Stuck.

For a resource-limited country like ours, surely its income-generating and expenditure behaviour is a source of concern for the discerning, and many black people the world over.

We must pray.
PILGRIM



Dr Canisius Banda

Obama and Bush decry deep US divisions without naming Trump



Former Presidents Barack Obama and George W Bush have voiced concern about the current political climate in the US, in comments seen as a veiled rebuke of Donald Trump's leadership.

Mr Obama urged Americans to reject the politics of "division" and "fear", while Mr Bush criticised "bullying and prejudice" in public life. They were speaking separately. Neither mentioned President Trump by name.

Mr Trump, who has been critical of his two predecessors, is yet to

comment.

Ex-presidents traditionally shy away from commenting publicly on their successors, and Mr Obama said on leaving office he would extend that courtesy for a time to Mr Trump, as George W Bush had to him.

He has broken his silence since to issue statements on Mr Trump's efforts to dismantle Obamacare, as well as his controversial "Muslim ban" and decision to abandon the Paris climate accord.

Speaking at a Democratic campaign event in Newark,

New Jersey, Mr Obama said Americans should "send a message to the world that we are rejecting a politics of division, we are rejecting a politics of fear".

He added: "What we can't have is the same old politics of division that we have seen so many times before that dates back centuries."

"Some of the politics we see now, we thought we put that to bed. That's folks looking 50 years back. It's the 21st Century, not the 19th Century. Come on!"

He touched on similar themes at another event

later in Richmond, Virginia, saying: "We've got folks who are deliberately trying to make folks angry, to demonise people who have different ideas, to get the base all riled up because it provides a short-term tactical advantage."

Speaking just hours earlier in New York, Mr Bush said: "Bigotry seems emboldened. Our politics seems more vulnerable to conspiracy theories and outright fabrication."

"There are some signs that the intensity of support for democracy itself has waned -

especially among the young" Americans, he said, have "seen our discourse degraded by casual cruelty".

"At times it can seem like the forces pulling us apart are stronger than the forces binding us together."

"We've seen nationalism distorted into nativism, forgotten the dynamism that immigration has always brought to America."

Both former presidents have until now largely avoided commenting publicly on Mr Trump's policies.

Before his election last year, Mr Trump was highly critical

of both Mr Obama and Mr Bush, describing each of them at one time or another as "perhaps the worst president in the history" of the US.

Since his inauguration in January, Mr Trump's combative style and direct public comments on a number of key issues have caused controversy both among Democrats and Republicans.

He has regularly blamed the media, which he says do not focus on his achievements and instead choose to concentrate on what he describes as "fake news".

Shared concerns
Analysis by Gary O'Donoghue in Richmond, Virginia

President Barack Obama still knows how to draw a crowd - and they queued round the block for hours to see him speak.

If they were hoping for head-on attacks on Donald Trump, they were to be disappointed. However, the criticisms when they came were scarcely veiled - with talk of pandering to the extremes and sowing divisiveness.

The speech followed a much more full-frontal attack on the current political situation by former Republican President George W Bush.

He talked about bigotry and falsehood threatening American democracy - while celebrating immigration and arguing for a more open trade policy.

These attacks certainly aren't co-ordinated - but they do demonstrate just how widely concerns about the current president are shared. **BBC News**

EU rules out involvement in Catalonia crisis

European Council President Donald Tusk has explicitly ruled out any EU action over Catalonia, despite the "concerning" situation.

"There is no room, no space for any kind of mediation or international initiative or action," he said.

He was speaking at a joint news conference with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Catalans voted to secede in a 1 October referendum, which was outlawed by Spain and has prompted mass demonstrations.

Mr Tusk's remarks came hours after Spain said it was beginning the process of imposing direct rule on the autonomous region.

"I am of course for many reasons in permanent contact with (Spain's) Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy," Mr Tusk said.

"There is no hiding that the situation in Spain is concerning, but our position... is clear."

He was speaking ahead of an EU Council summit, but said the issue of Catalonia was "not in our agenda".

Other European leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel and France's

Emmanuel Macron, also threw their support behind Madrid.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the crisis exposed Western hypocrisy, which backs some separatist movements but not others.

He argued that Western nations had supported the independence of Kosovo from Serbia - a Russian ally - but not Catalonia or for Iraqi Kurdistan.

He also raised the opposition of many nations to Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, which resulted in international sanctions against Russia.

What's happening in Catalonia?

Spain said it would begin the process of imposing direct rule on Saturday by activating article 155 of the country's constitution.

But Catalonia's leader said the region's parliament would vote to formally declare its independence if Spain continued "repression".

Some fear the latest moves could spark further unrest after mass demonstrations before and since the ballot on 1 October.

Spain's supreme court declared the vote illegal and said it violated the

constitution, which describes the country as indivisible.

Article 155 of the constitution, which cemented democratic rule three years after the death of dictator General Francisco Franco in 1975, allows Madrid to impose direct rule in a crisis but it has never been invoked.

But the Spanish government now says it will begin the procedure on Saturday. "No-one doubts that the Spanish government will do all it can to restore the constitutional order," a government statement said.

What happens now?

On Saturday, the government is due to decide a list of specific measures to transfer powers from Catalonia to Madrid.

The extent of those measures is not yet clear - but could include taking control of the regional police, or even calling a snap election.

Xavier Arbós, a constitutional expert at the University of Barcelona, said: "We simply do not know what measures the Spanish government could enact."

"We do not know how the powers of the Catalan government could be affected."

Spain's Senate, controlled by Mr Rajoy's conservative Popular Party (PP) and its allies, would then have to approve the list.

Analysts say Article 155 does not give the government the power to fully suspend autonomy, and it will not be able to deviate from the list of measures.

Where does this leave the Catalan leader?

After the 1 October vote, Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont signed a declaration of independence, but immediately suspended it to allow for talks.

He has warned the suspended status could change.

"The Catalan parliament could proceed, if it is considered opportune, to vote on a formal declaration of independence," he said.

But if Madrid takes control of the region's finances or police force, or dissolves the Catalan regional parliament, such a vote would be a challenge.

The constitution does not put any time limit on the process, however. **BBC News**

Lupita Nyong'o details Weinstein's advances toward her in Op-Ed

Lupita Nyong'o has come forward about her encounters with Harvey Weinstein in an op-ed in the New York Times, writing that not only did Weinstein attempt to ply her with alcohol when she met with him at a restaurant, but after they moved the meeting to his home to watch a film screening, tried to give her a massage. At a later meeting, the Oscar-winning actress wrote Weinstein propositioned her in a hotel restaurant.

According to Nyong'o, she met with Weinstein for the second time — after having initially met him in 2011 at an awards ceremony in Berlin while she was still in school at Yale — when he asked her to attend a screening at his home after sharing lunch at a restaurant. When she arrived at the restaurant in Westport, Conn., where Weinstein lived, Nyong'o described Weinstein ordering her a vodka soda and insisting that she drink it.

"Harvey told me that I needed to drink the vodka and diet soda. I informed him that I would not," she wrote. "Why not?" I remember him asking. "Because I don't like vodka, and I don't like diet soda, and I don't like them together," I said. "You are going to drink that," he insisted. I smiled again and said that I wouldn't. He gave up and called me stubborn. I said, 'I know.'"

After finishing their meal, she and Weinstein relocated to his home, where Nyong'o was introduced to his domestic staff and children. Nyong'o wrote that she, Weinstein, and his children all began watching the film together. About 15 minutes into the film, however, Weinstein asked her to accompany him outside the room.

"I protested that I wanted to finish the film first, but he insisted I go with him, laying down the law as though I too was one of his children. I did not want another back-and-forth in front of his kids, so I complied and left the room with him. I explained that I really wanted to see the film. He said we'd go back shortly.

"Harvey led me into a bedroom — his bedroom — and announced that he wanted to give me a massage. I thought he was joking at first. He was not. For the first time since I met him, I felt unsafe. I panicked a little and thought quickly to offer to give him one instead: It would allow me to be in control physically, to know exactly where his hands were at all times."

Nyong'o wrote that after he removed his shirt and she began giving him a massage, he asked if he could remove his pants. She said she would prefer that he didn't and that it would make her extremely uncomfortable if he did so. Despite her protests, Weinstein got up to remove them, at which point Nyong'o moved toward the door.

"I opened the door and stood by the frame. He put his shirt on and again mentioned how stubborn I was," she wrote. "I agreed with an easy laugh, trying to get myself out of the situation safely. I was after all on his premises, and the members of his household, the potential

witnesses, were all (strategically, it seems to me now) in a soundproof room."

Nyong'o wrote that she "didn't quite know" how to process the massage incident, and rationalized it. "I reasoned that it had been inappropriate and uncalled-for, but not overtly sexual. I was entering into a business where the intimate is often professional and so the lines are blurred."

Nyong'o continued that after the encounter, she met up with Weinstein once more, this time accompanied by friends as well as some of Weinstein's colleagues, for dinner and a staged reading of his new Broadway show "Finding Neverland." During this meeting, Nyong'o experienced no untoward attention, and the fact that Weinstein was accompanied by other female actresses made her even more inclined to brush off the previous incident as an awkward encounter.

A couple of months later, Nyong'o wrote, Weinstein invited her to have drinks with him after a screening of "W.E." According to Nyong'o, a male assistant arranged her transportation from the reading to the Tribeca Grill, where she would meet Weinstein for drinks. Although she assumed it would be a group of people, as it had been for the reading, when she arrived at the restaurant, she was informed by a female assistant that it would just be her and Weinstein. The assistant waited with her until Weinstein appeared, at which time she left. "Again he was offended by my nonalcoholic beverage choice but he didn't fight me on it as hard," Nyong'o detailed.

"Before the starters arrived, he announced: 'Let's cut to the chase. I have a private room upstairs where we can have the rest of our meal.' I was stunned. I told him I preferred to eat in the restaurant. He told me not to be so naïve. If I wanted to be an actress, then I had to be willing to do this sort of thing. He said he had dated Famous Actress X and Y and look where that had gotten them."

Nyong'o said she was silent as she tried to think of something to say, and eventually declined politely, to which he responded: "You have no idea what you are passing up." Nyong'o replied, "With all due respect, I would not be able to sleep at night if I did what you are asking, so I must pass."

At that point, Weinstein's demeanor changed and he said, "Then I guess we are two ships passing in the night." Nyong'o, not having heard the phrase before, asked him what it meant. He explained, and then said, "So we are done here. You can leave." Weinstein and Nyong'o left the restaurant, and Weinstein insisted on paying her cab fare. "Before I got in, I needed to make sure that I had not awakened a beast that would go on to ruin my name and destroy my chances in the business even before I got there," she wrote. "I just want to know that we are good," I said. "I don't know about your career, but you'll be fine," he said. It felt like both a threat and a reassurance at the same time; of what, I couldn't be sure."



The next time she saw him, Nyong'o said, was in 2013 at an after-party for the premiere of "12 Years a Slave." Weinstein found her and commended her for her rapid progress in the industry. "He said he couldn't believe how fast I had gotten to where I was, and that he had treated me so badly in the past. He was ashamed of his actions and he promised to respect me

moving forward. I said thank you and left it at that. But I made a quiet promise to myself to never ever work with Harvey Weinstein."

Nyong'o finished by explaining that she had no idea at the time that this behavior from Weinstein was something other women were dealing with as well. The fact that he was one of the first people she'd met in

the industry also prevented her from coming forward sooner, and the fact that no one else seemed to be challenging him. "I wish I had known that there were women in the business I could have talked to. I wish I had known that there were ears to hear me. That justice could be served. There is clearly power in numbers. I thank the women who have spoken up and given

me the strength to revisit this unfortunate moment in my past."

She also issued a call to action: "Now that we are speaking, let us never shut up about this kind of thing. I speak up to make certain that this is not the kind of misconduct that deserves a second chance. I speak up to contribute to the end of the conspiracy of silence." **Yahoo**

Obama's intimate letters to college girlfriend made public

Nine introspective letters former President Barack Obama wrote to his college girlfriend offer a closer look at the former president's formative years as he struggled with identity, loneliness and hopes for the future.

"It seems we will ever want what we cannot have," Obama wrote to Alexandra McNear during a trip to Indonesia in the summer of 1983, when he was confused about his feelings and the nature of their relationship, the New York Times reports. "That's what binds us. That's what keeps us apart."

The letters were obtained by Emory University's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. The notes were written by Obama to McNear from 1982 to 1984, and document some of Obama's time at Columbia University, his travels to Indonesia, and the early months of his employment at Business International, according to the university.

Obama began dating McNear while they were both students at Occidental College in Los Angeles, and the long-distance relationship continued after Obama transferred to Columbia University in New York City as a junior. The pair continued to date after they both graduated, but the letters reveal the complexity of their bond. "Their relationship, at the point that we're reading it, is very intellectual and they're clearly struggling with each other," Andra Gillespie, an associate professor of political science at Emory University,

told the Times. "They're both trying to find themselves and they're having tough intellectual conversations with each other." For example, in one letter Obama responds point by point to a previous letter from McNear, who is sorting out complicated emotions.

"I trust you know that I miss you, that my concern for you is as wide as the air, my confidence in you as deep as the sea, my love rich and plentiful," he writes, before signing the note "Love, Barack."

Obama's last letter in Emory's collection is dated April 14, 1984, while he worked at Business International, which assists American companies operating abroad.

"Your call gave me a boost," he wrote then. "Somehow a clutter of numbers and appointments and bills had grown over your last letter. Hearing your voice was like discovering a passage in a book I had read a while ago."

Portions of the letters have been published in a 2012 biography, but the notes will now be made public to researchers through the university. The school has had the letters since 2014.

Along with the romantic lines written to McNear, Obama lamented the salaries of community organizing and wrote of his desire to make a difference in the world. "My ideas aren't as crystallized as they were while in school, but they have an immediacy and weight that may be more useful if and when I'm less observer and more participant," he wrote in 1984,

according to the AP.

In another letter, Obama admits he's a bit adrift as he sees friends pursue their paths — one college friend preparing to marry and take over the family business, while a high school pal manages a supermarket and splurges on items including TVs and new cars.

"I must admit large dollops of envy for both groups, my American friends consuming their life in the comfortable mainstream, the foreign friends in the international business world," Obama told McNear. "Caught without a class, a structure, or a tradition to support me, in a sense the choice to take a different path is made for me."

"The only way to assuage my feelings of isolation are to absorb all the traditions, classes, make them mine, me theirs. Taken separately, they're unacceptable and untenable."

Obama went on to marry wife Michelle in 1992. The pair share two children, Sasha, 16, and 19-year-old Malia.

Rosemary Magee, director of the university's library, told the Associated Press that the 30 pages give an in-depth look at the internal battles that shaped Obama.

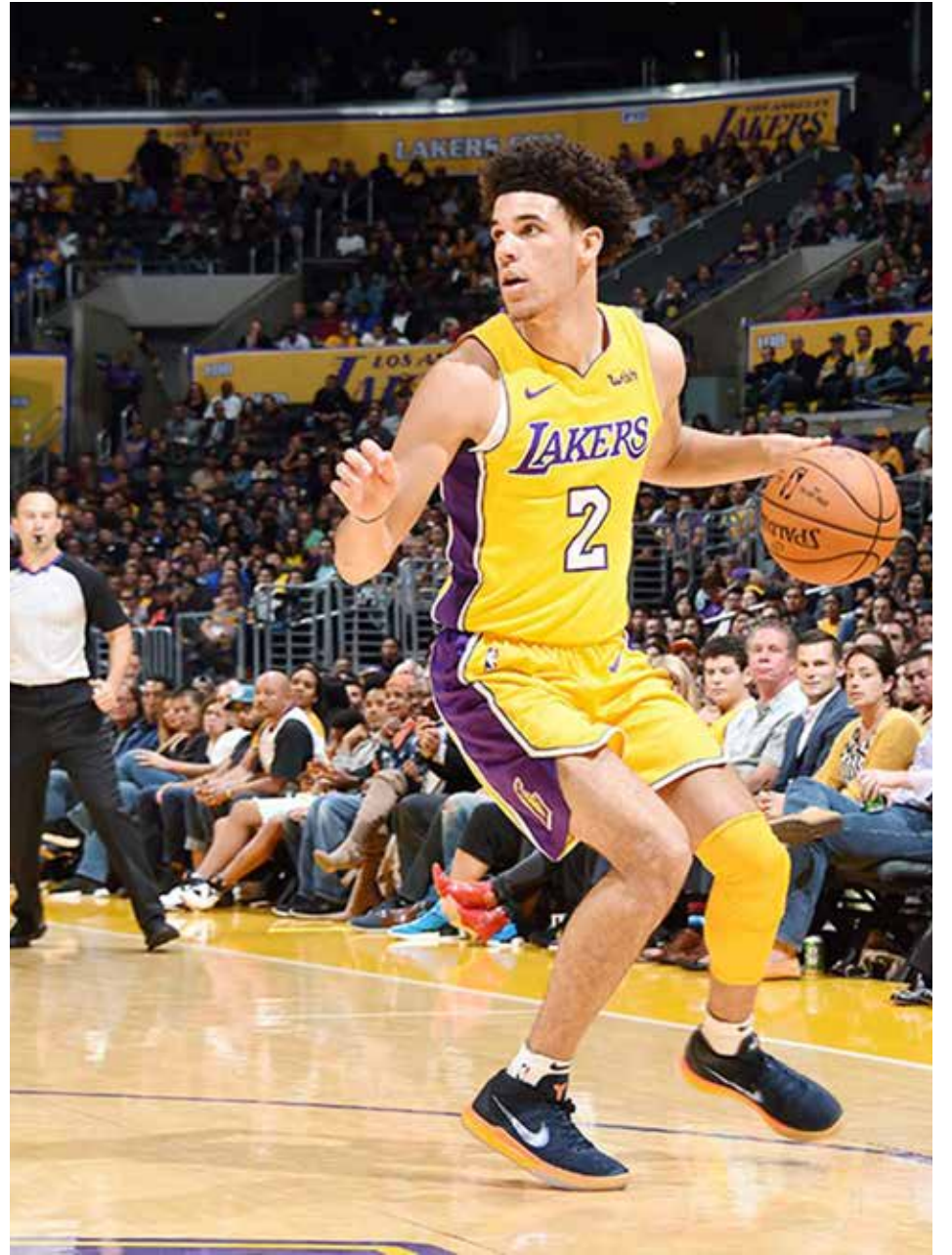
"They tell the journey of a young man who is seeking meaning and purpose in life and direction," she said. "[Obama is] trying to find what his distinctive place would be both in and that time and going forward." **Yahoo**

Lonzo not backing down from task of revitalizing Lakers

Everyone had come to Staples Center for a celebrated young star in his own Hollywood fairytale, Lonzo Ball's rookie hometown debut. Ball had been tested everywhere, the hounding and physical Patrick Beverley chasing him end-to-end behind an overpowering Los Angeles Clippers team. On this night, it was Beverley limiting Ball to nine rebounds, four assists and three points on 1-of-6 shooting in 29 minutes in the Los Angeles Lakers' 108-92 season-opening loss. So Ball walked into an empty hallway inside Staples Center, cameras approaching his moment of quiet. Ball knows what's on his shoulders now. He looked up and nodded late Thursday night. "I'll be ready," Ball told The Vertical. "I have to show it in my game, because when we win, people won't talk. But if we lose, people will think it affects me. It's wins and losses for me. We know it's a process." The Lakers' young talent was evident during the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, an MVP award for Ball and a coming-out tournament for fellow first-round draft pick Kyle Kuzma. The team had left forward Brandon Ingram out of trade discussions in June, and Ingram's summer training showed promise for a strong second season. And yet, Ball understands: This is a process. These Lakers still must gather the team play and

continuity that had become contagious in summer league, and strategically must place shooters and pick-and-roll sets around Ball. In the weeks leading up to the NBA draft, Ball told The Vertical his utmost priorities were his midrange shots - and, most critically, his pick-and-roll scheming. He had worked to master his pick-and-roll game in July, and these Lakers must find ways to utilize his playmaking when the defensive stops go away and they must score in the half court. For as much as the Lakers will target major free agents in 2017, the franchise's young core is under thorough inspection. For Lakers coach Luke Walton, the development of Ingram and Ball, Kuzma and Larry Nance Jr. must entail more flashes of brilliance than faint efforts. The Clippers are far more polished and prepared to contend in the Western Conference. Blake Griffin had 29 points, 12 rebounds and three assists and appears primed for his best season yet, without Chris Paul; DeAndre Jordan, Beverley and Milos Teodosic fill every element their roles entail; and the bench has a more confident Wesley Johnson, whom Clippers officials raved about in training camp. Beverley had come to defend Ball for 94 feet Thursday night and vowed he made it clear to Ball postgame: We are coming.

"I told him after the game, man, due to the riff raff ... he's going to get a lot of people coming at him," Beverley said. "He has to be ready for that." For Ball's introduction to the NBA and its elite class of defenders, there is no one better suited than Beverley, who strutted his first-team All-Defense honor to Ball and to the crowd, and used his arms and legs to elevate the game's physical nature. At times, Beverley tugged on Ball. Other times, he gave him slight shoves and staredowns. Ball's calming presence never allows him to show a mentality shift, but he knows Beverley's tactics had placed his mind to the individual matchup at times. For the Lakers to flourish, they need his pinpoint management of the offense, and Ball knows it. "I don't want to get into one-on-one battles," Ball told The Vertical. "It's five on five, not me versus him." "He's going to do what he can, but I have to do what I can to get us wins." Ball took a side tunnel to meet his family on the Staples Center floor late Thursday, one game down in a rookie season of outside noise and critiques. One of 81, Ball said. This was his introduction to the NBA, and the realization to his hometown that, yes, Showtime will be a process. Next time, Lonzo Ball vowed: I'll be ready. **Yahoo**



With seven wins from eight games and 29 goals scored, Manchester City top the Premier League table by two points going into the next round of fixtures. And while Kevin De Bruyne has been the focal point of conversation in recent weeks, Gabriel Jesus' exceptional form for the Etihad club has not gone unnoticed. The Brazil international has a return of six Premier League goals so far this season, joint-second in the rankings with Chelsea's Alvaro Morata,



Gabriel Jesus: deadlier than Lukaku

the way in regards to goals scored in the English top flight with seven, though Jesus has proved deadlier than the Belgium international in front of goal. Jesus has so far averaged a goal every 80 minutes in the league, with Lukaku's average on 102.9, while converting 31.6 per cent of his attempts compared to the United forward's 21.9%. Leicester forward Vardy currently has a higher conversion rate from those in the top 10

scorers, while only teammates Aguero (77.8) and Sterling (79.5) have a better goals-to-minute ratio. Jesus has had 19 shots at goal in 480 minutes of Premier League action this term, hitting the target 62.5% of the time - Vardy's shot accuracy is the highest from the top 10 scorers with 72.7% of his efforts testing opposition goalkeepers, with Lukaku, Alexandre Lacazette and Tammy Abraham second with 66.7% of their shots on target.

In all, Jesus has been directly involved in 21 goals in 20 starts in all competitions for City (15 goals, 6 assists) and has scored 13 goals in his 15 starts in the Premier League - only Mick Quinn (14) and Andrew Cole (15) have scored more goals in their first 15 starts in English top-tier history. The 20-year-old also struck seven times in his 10 international appearances for Brazil in their World Cup qualification campaign. Jesus is also yet to taste defeat

in the league with City, going 17 games without losing (W13 D4 L0), a run which stretches to 26 when taking his Palmeiras playing days into consideration. And he is only going to get better, if you are to believe City manager Pep Guardiola. "Even with the top striker that he is - he's the No 9 for Brazil - and I promise you that is not easy, I think he has a lot of gap to improve," he previously said of Jesus. "There are a lot of things he can be better at in the future

because he is young enough. I am excited to try to help him to do that. Especially the simple things that he can improve to become a better player." Guardiola may opt to rest Jesus on Saturday when his City side take on Burnley with Aguero back in the fold after a rib injury, though the Catalan coach will almost certainly rely on the Brazilian to lead his attack for the remainder of the season as he chases the Premier League Golden Boot.

Thomas fires 63, takes early lead at CJ Cup in South Korea

Justin Thomas had two eagles on his front nine and finished with a 9-under 63 to take a three-stroke lead Thursday after the first round of the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges, the first official PGA Tour tournament staged in South Korea. Thomas started with a bogey at 10 but made amends with eagles on the par-5 12th and 18th holes around four straight birdies from No. 14-17 to turn in 29. He added three more birdies and a bogey to hold his margin. "It was kind of a weird day," Thomas

said. "It started off with a really, really bad bogey. And then I had a seven-hole stretch there where I basically kind of went unconscious. That was pretty much most of my round." Thomas has won the CIMB Classic in Malaysia twice - in 2015 and 2016 - and says he is comfortable playing overseas. "It's still golf," Thomas said. "It doesn't matter where you are and I know that it is very cliché and easier said than done but you just have to take advantage of the rest and time you have off the course."

Chez Reavie, Gavin Kyle Green, Scott Brown, Patrick Reed and Marc Leishman all opened with 66s and were in a five-way share of second at 6 under. Jhonattan Vegas and Charles Howell III were among five players a shot further back at 5 under. Jason Day and fellow Australian Rod Pampling were at 4 under, one stroke ahead of Pat Perez, who was coming off a victory at last week's CIMB Classic in Malaysia. Adam Scott had a 72 in opening round containing four birdies and four bogeys. **Yahoo**

Tottenham's Harry Kane, City teammates Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling, Manchester United record-signing Romelu Lukaku leads

REF WAS RIGHT

FIFA closes Zambia's case against Nigeria...

By Nyambe Lubasi
FIFA says it has found no evidence of any poor officiating by referee Joshua Bondo of Botswana in Zambia's 1-0 away loss against Nigeria in their penultimate 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier on October 7.

That result ended Zambia's 2018 qualification hopes and handed Nigeria its ticket to the Russia finals with a match to spare.

Bondo's offside call for Augustine Mulenga's 23rd minute disallowed goal has caused uproar and prompted FAZ to ask FIFA to have the issue analysed by an independent FIFA body.

"In this context, we refer your association to article 15 paragraph 6 of the regulations of the 2018 FIFA World Cup which clearly stipulates that no protests may be made about referees' decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal," Julien Deux, secretary of FIFA's disciplinary committee, said in response to FAZ's letter to Zurich.

"Having said that, and for the sake of good order, we would like to emphasise that on the basis of the documentation

and information currently in our possession, there is no evidence of any infringement of the applicable regulation by the referees of the match in question.

"In light of the above, please be informed that the disciplinary committee will refrain from reviewing the decisions taken by the match officials of the above referenced match."



Ng'onga back in action as Power hosts Nkana

By Nyambe Lubasi
Vilified striker Alex Ng'onga is back in the spotlight this Saturday when Power Dynamos host their arch rivals Nkana in the big Kitwe derby at Arthur Davies Stadium.

Maligned for his greatest misses show against Nigeria in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier that Zambia lost 1-0 away on October 7, Ng'onga will be seeking home comforts when Power face

Nkana. This will be Ng'onga's first derby back in a Power shirt since 2014 before he joined CS Mounana of Gabon in 2015. Ng'onga returned to Power in

January 2017 but was only cleared to return to Arthur Davies in July when Mounana agreed to his transfer. Between July to date, Ng'onga's six goals and numerous assists been the catalyst of Power's top five placing as he lightened the void left by Fwayo Tembo for Lusaka Dynamos in July and led to his now contentious Chipolopolo recall.

Ng'onga returns in search of his first derby goal since June, 2014 that ended 1-1 away before Power lost 2-1 at home in October that term. And Ng'onga is also expected to carry Power's burden this weekend after they struggled in a 1-1 away draw at Nchanga Rangers that they secured through an 82nd minute Michael Banda equalizer on October 8 while he was away in Nigeria.

Power is also under-pressure to maintain their four-derby unbeaten run against Nkana in which they have collected three wins and a draw.

This season's first leg meeting saw Power rally from one-down to beat

Nkana 2-1 away across the road in Wusakile.

But the man who scored both goals for Power in that match, Martin Phiri, will miss final leg due to a family bereavement in Lusaka.

However, Nkana too have their own concerns in attack.

Walter Bwalya has been blowing hot and cold since his hat-trick four games ago in a 4-0 home win over defending champions Zanaco on September 3.

Some comforting news is that Ronald Kampamba returns after a two-month lay-off due to a hamstring injury sustained in a 1-0 away win over City of Lusaka on August 27.

Meanwhile, victory for Nkana or Power is essential with eight games left.

Power and Nkana are 5th and 6th on the on 52 and 49 points respectively. Ahead of them are Zesco United (4th), Lusaka Dynamos (3rd), Zanaco (2nd) and leaders Green Buffaloes who have 52, 53, 54 and 56 points respectively.



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