



Mulusa speaking on UNZA Radio today - Picture by Thomas Mulenga

## Police in limbo after seizing 'hot' Mukula

By Joseph Mwenda and Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Lusaka are washing their hands and failing to disclose the findings of their investigations into the ownership of the Mukula logs which are in a container at Garden Police Post. Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo has been dodging questions from journalists who have been demanding to know the owners of the illegally cultivated Mukula logs which were intercepted a month ago. When asked who was behind the smuggling of the impounded logs today, Katongo referred all questions to Lusaka Province police commissioner Nelson Phiri, saying she knew nothing about it.

"I have been receiving so many queries on that same Mukula but I don't have any information myself. call Mr Phiri," said Katongo. **Full story on P4**

## I would be President if the courts didn't stop me, says Rupiah

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former president Rupiah Banda says if the court did not stop him from standing against President Edgar Lungu in 2015, he would have won the elections because Zambians loved the peaceful manner in which he handed over power to the late Michael Sata. **To page 7**

## State House apologises to Mpezeni

By Joseph Mwenda

State House press aide Amos Chanda says it is unfortunate that Paramount Chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni people of Eastern Province failed to meet

President Edgar Lungu on four attempts. And Chanda says he will reach out to Mpezeni this week to fix an appointment with the Head of State. **To page 4**

# DON'T BE ARROGANT

By Zondiwe Mbewe

In the audio published on www.diggers.news, Minister of National Planning and Development Lucky Mulusa says people must not be arrogant when they are in power because they will not be there forever. And Mulusa says the PF must not discriminate against members of the opposition when giving marketeers the presidential empowerment funds, saying they would also be discriminated against in future when there is a change of power. Meanwhile, Mulusa today refused to answer questions on how he will handle the pressure being exerted on him to resign after remarking that the recently procured fire tenders looked like wheelbarrows.

# WHEN IN POWER ...Zambians will soon be back in the booths to decide either way - Mulusa

Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star programme, Mulusa who was

dressed in casual and self-driving a personal van, said people must not suffer from

arrogance of incumbency. "We all need to hold our hands together especially those of us

in government. We need to migrate from suffering from arrogance of incumbency. We

are not here forever. We have been given a privilege to rule for five years, after five years,

Zambians will make a decision either way," Mulusa said.

**Continues on P2**

## We can form govt if PF stopped stealing our votes - UPND

Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND Secretary General Steven Katuka says it is irresponsible and childish for PF secretary general Davies Mwila to say until Jesus comes, the opposition party will never form government when his party stole the last election. **Continues on P2**

## There's no easy way out for Mulusa - Amos Chanda

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu's spokesperson Amos Chanda says the options of staying or resigning are in Lucky Mulusa's hands,

but notes that there is no easy way out for him. Chanda said this in an interview when he was asked if it was true that President

Lungu told his National Planning and Development Minister to resign for likening the newly acquired fire trucks to wheelbarrows. **Continues on P5**

## From front page

He said it was important for politicians to remember that voters had the power on Election Day.

"Elections provide the people with that necessary power to participate in the governance of their nation. And for us who have been given that mandate for five years, we must not be blind to the fact that we are only there for five years and after five years the people will hold us accountable. That day, they will have the power which will be in the pen and in that booth. We must always be mindful of that particular day. We must make sure that we work so well that people will give us another

# Let's not be arrogant because we are in power - Mulusa

mandate to continue with development programs."

Mulusa said arrogance of incumbency was very dangerous.

"It is very important that when you promise people to do something, finish it. Don't create situations that disrupts that program because it is very costly. When new people come in, they come in with their own ideas, there

is a learning curve, it takes them time to settle, very very costly to the general public. It is cheaper when there is continuity. So we need to make sure that we respect the mandate of the people and we constantly revisit the promises that we are giving the people and we do not suffer from arrogance of incumbency because arrogance of incumbency is

very very dangerous," he said. And Mulusa stopped a caller called Elvis from asking him about the fire tenders saying he was on the programme to discuss development.

"First of all Mr Mulusa, honorable, we heard some days before that you uttered some statement in the media..." Elvis said but Mulusa interrupted him, "Listen, if you don't want to talk about development please save your airtime, I am not taking that question. We are talking development here."

Meanwhile, Mulusa said the PF must not discriminate the opposition when allocating the marketeers' empowerment funds because they will also be discriminated when there is a change of power.

He was responding to a question from one of the callers who complained that the money being distributed under the Presidential Empowerment Fund was only going to ruling party supporters.

"Discrimination in markets, I would like to engage Mr Chanda Kabwe and find out the criteria being used in terms of our members. We have decided to govern ourselves as a multi party nation and our Constitution gives everybody the right to association. It would not be good that we discriminate those that are not in government. One day someone else will be in government and he will discriminate us. I don't think it is a good practice especially in a Christian nation," Mulusa said.

He also said that government's decision to engage the International Monetary Fund was an investment in perception because the country would be viewed as

having less credit risks.

"This economy was right at the bottom during the period of mid 2015 to mid 2016 which was as a result of the Chinese economy overheating and there was a slow down. They stopped buying our copper, the prices slumped, our mines suspended new projects and we saw massive unemployment from the mines. At that time, we were really in a crisis because our economy was at the bottom. During that time we never devoted on our international obligations, we never. Today, the economy is picking up, our copper production and prices are rising, China is taking more of our copper and ZRA is collecting more money than it collected during that crisis. Why then are we going to the IMF?" Mulusa asked.

"The reason is that we are participants in the international capital and financial markets. Going to the IMF is actually an investment in perception. We would like the global community, international investors to view us as people who do not have the risks of failure to pay. When we do that, our costs of borrowing then goes down. Not that we are going to borrow more but because these bonds we have issued, trade in the secondary market and prices tend to change. When people view you as having less credit risk, your cost of borrowing goes down and that's why we are engaging the IMF."

And Mulusa said that PF was open to dialogue and it was the opposition that needed to be encouraged to work with the ruling party.

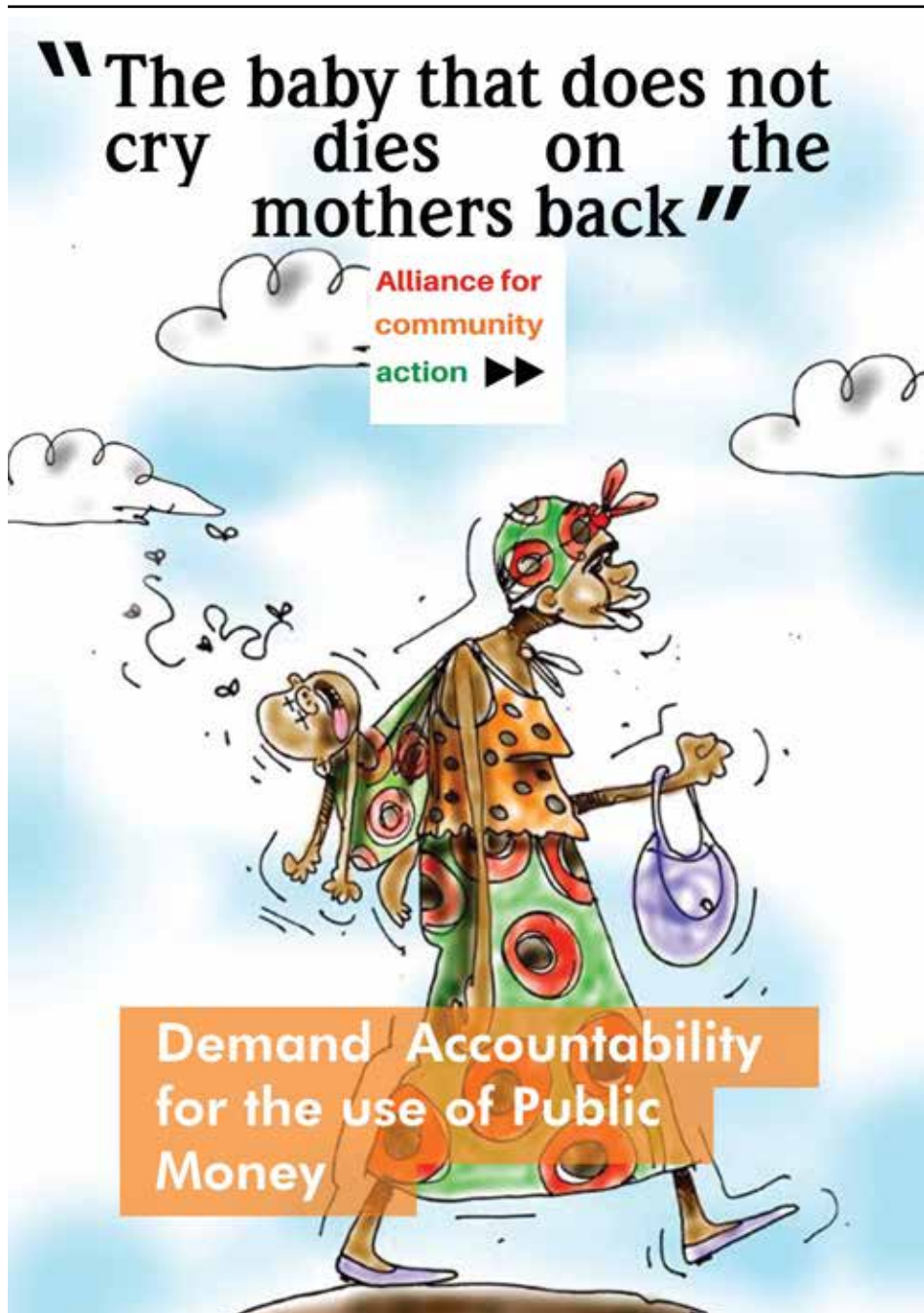
"It is not us who should be encouraged to work with the opposition, it is the opposition that needs to be encouraged to work together

with us. Even when we call for the day for national prayers, why boycott them? If you see that there is something wrong, then go to the national prayers and give a speech that will assist those prayers to have a meaningful disposition that you are looking for. We are open to dialogue and it is the other side that needs to be spoken to."

Mulusa also observed that Lusaka was undergoing a rebirth.

"Lusaka has people who have settled in places where they should never have settled. In fact in terms of planning, UNZA should never have been here, Kalingalinga, Jesmondine, Chadleigh... should never have been there. The way these settlements are coming up, and lack of a sewer system is actually polluting underground water. So we really need to relieve this pressure on Lusaka, hence the need for us to create another place which can pull people out of Lusaka and allow Lusaka to give itself a rebirth," said Mulusa.

"There is a rebirth that is going on in Lusaka. If you see the entire road frontage in Kalingalinga along Alick Nkhata, developers are buying off those plots and putting up commercial areas. Eventually, the entire Kalingalinga will actually disappear. That's a natural rebirth that Lusaka is undergoing but we need a controlled and deliberately planned settlement so let's wait, we will tell you the results of Cabinet deliberations in terms of whether we are being given the permission to undertake feasibility studies for the new city, whether it will be a capital city, administrative capital city or a commercial centre."



# We can form govt if PF stopped stealing our votes - UPND

## From front page

Addressing party officials in Kalabo district of Western Province on Friday, 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. Even if you have confidence in him, how can you be voting for him for more than five

times?" asked Mwila.

But in an interview yesterday, Katuka charged that the PF rigged the last election.

"That is what I would call waffling! No serious person can make such remarks because he has no authority over anybody. He is just an individual, he failed to make it himself in his constituency. That only tells you that the decision is for the people not for him. So even as secretary general, I don't think he has any influence that can make people make a decision like that. How can he say that? Because Hakainde got half of this country even after they rigged. So now a lot of evidence is coming out to show

that the elections were not credible, a lot of evidence has come out. You have heard how the votes were being buried. If they were popular, why didn't they hold a credible, a free, fair, credible election and say we won?" Katuka asked.

"They stole an election and you can't be a proud person if you steal. They also made sure that the petition was not heard, they blocked it so that the evidence doesn't come out and they don't lose power. So let him keep day dreaming, it is okay, it is the people to decide. Let us wait and see. You see you don't speak before you get in the ring, any serious boxer says 'let's get in the ring first'. For him, he is just being childish, irresponsible

and I don't know which other words to use."

He said PF was in a state of confusion because they stole the last election.

"I have been in Parliament where the people said 'over my dead body, pF will never form government'. Where is PF today? What happened? It is the worst expected government that people thought would be in government. But by hood of crooks, they somehow got there, they are in government now. How about a party that has won elections twice? Mazoka won in 2001 you know what happened. Where is the credible loss? Is that what you can call a loss? Right now we can confirm to ourselves that we are confident

that we won the last election. These guys, no wonder they are in a state of confusion now, they don't know what to do," Katuka said.

He said Mwila could not speak on behalf of Zambians.

"So who is he to speak on behalf of the people? I don't think he is the voice of the Zambian people. He may speak for the PF only because he is a PF member but he can't speak on behalf of majority Zambians. It is being irresponsible, being childish and unreasonable because he cannot be the one to decide. It is the Zambian people, they have the authority to decide whoever they want to be their President," said Katuka.

# Minister takes public transport to town

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba today took time to use a public minibus from Chilanga to town and back with his son.

In a brief statement after his bus rides today, Mushimba said there was need for better buses on the roads.

“Two mini bus rides from Chilanga into town for a total of K16 between the two of us. My resolve is to do something about public transportation under the holistic and comprehensive umbrella of improving and uplifting public transportation in our country is reinforced,” stated Mushimba.

“We certainly need better equipment with required leg room, enough spacing, enough head room and good ventilation and most importantly seat belts. We need the drivers and conductors associations that vet appropriately those that transport us on public transportation to ensure they undergo necessary training and provide better services to the general public. The dignity and pride in our public transportation has to be uplifted.”

On October 12, Mushimba revealed that he had made it a habit to use public transport from Lusaka’s Chilanga area to town every weekend in order to observe how the sector

operates. “I actually make it a point on weekends to use public transportation. I live in Chilanga at the moment and I jump on a public minibus, the Hiace buses from

Sandy’s Creation there to come into town. I usually have a hair cut believe it or not, I have some hair cut, I usually cut it on weekends, and then I go back home. So I experience public

transportation almost on a weekly basis. It (public transport sector) needs a lot of work and that is squarely in my domain and I have been thinking through how

we can sanitize public transportation a bit, the behavior of some of our drivers and the conductors, the equipment that is being used, its just abusive to the public,” said Mushimba.



*Transport Minister Brian Mushimba with his son on a public minibus on Saturday October 21, 2017*

# Petitioners engage AG on term limits for MPs

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

Twenty Two citizens who petitioned the National Assembly to limit terms for Councillors and members of parliament have also engaged the Attorney General to consider amending the law.

According to a letter dated October 19, 2017 addressed to the Attorney General and signed by the lead petitioner Isaac Mwanza, the petitioners requested for the deletion of Articles 106 (2) and 154 (2)(b) of the Constitution, so that MPs

can only run for two terms. “We refer you to the letter dated October 13, 2017 from the National Assembly of Zambia, attached, on the above subject matter. The 22 petitioners, who are all citizens of Zambia from diverse background, had

petitioned the National Assembly of Zambia pursuant to Article 88 of the Constitution of Zambia, Chapter 1 of the Laws of Zambia for a motion to have the law on term limits apply to all elective positions of Councillors,

Council Chairpersons, Mayors, Members of Parliament, and President. The petitioners have noted that the law on term limits has, since 24 August, 1991, selectively been applied to target elective offices of President and Mayors or Council Chairpersons to the exclusion of other elective offices. You will note from the Final Report of the Technical Committee that the National Convention adopted provisions that would also allow term limits on offices of Members of Parliament, and Councillors,” Mwanza, who is also YALI governance advisor, stated

house, elect not to adopt the change which we proposed to limit all elected officers whether consecutive or not, our proposal was and still remains that the constitution be amended so that all who aspire to the public office are accorded an equal opportunity to serve as long as they are willing. More importantly serve as long as Zambians are willing to vote for them in their chosen public office. By this measure, all elective positions would open to all aspirants regardless of previous service in elected office. It will leave the choice of elected leaders to the power of the Zambian electorate without being barred by Legislation as the present case,” stated Mwanza.

The petitioners proposed the addition of clauses which would limit terms. “In view of the above, we request your consideration for inclusion of clause 5 in Article 47 that shall read: 47 (5) A person who has twice held office as President, member of parliament, mayor, council chairperson or Councillor is not eligible for election to that office at the expiry of his or her second term, whether consecutive or not. We further request the deletion of Articles 106 (2), 154 (2) (b), and re-wording of the last part of Article 106 (6). To read, “for purposes of Article 47 (5).” In the event that the hounourable

“Last week, the National Assembly referred the petition to the Ministry of Justice who, the Assembly said, are making holistic amendments to the Constitution. The National Assembly acknowledged the petition and met the constitutional requirement for a motion to be debated before the National Assembly but advised that, in order to avoid duplication, the matter must be considered through holistic amendments to the Constitution being initiated by the Ministry of Justice.”

# Kambwili is our consultant - NDC

*By Mukosha Funga*

NDC national youth chairman Charles Kabwita says his party is extremely grateful that its political consultant Chishimba Kambwili graced their mobilization meeting in Kitwe today. In an interview with News Diggers! Kabwita said Kambwili, who is expelled Roan PF member of parliament, encouraged National Democratic Congress members to embark on an aggressive mobilization exercise.

“The event was all about meeting the new structures in the district. And we invited honorable Kambwili to come and be the guest of honour or the guest speaker of that particular function we held today and indeed we are extremely grateful that our political consultant honorable Chishimba Kambwili accepted our invitation,”

Kabwita said. “His message was to tell the residents and the party officials to go wider and spread the message of a new party by the name of NDC and he encouraged us to work extra hard because when PF was founded, it was very difficult to do the structures but for NDC, it is the easiest work we have undertaken.” He said his party was standing strong despite facing resistance from police. “I can confirm to you that we are doing very fine, under difficult circumstances because when we wish to hold our meetings, we are given all sorts of excuses by the police even by Kitwe City Council when we ask to use the facility of Kitwe City Council but by and large, that has not stopped us from going out there and having meetings with our people and I am sure the message is loud and clear, the people

have accepted us on the Copperbelt and I can also confirm to you that all the 11 districts on the Copperbelt are solid and they are standing [with us],” said Kabwita. “And I can confirm to you, and I think through the pictures that you have seen, the NDC is stronger and more popular than PF. If elections were held tomorrow, there would be no PF on the Copperbelt, we have taken over the show on the Copperbelt, PF is no longer the stronghold on the Copperbelt.” Kabwita said the meeting which was held at NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge’s building called ‘Chilas Corner’, attracted over 1,300 people. Musenge recently registered NDC and has not yet announced the party president.

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Paramount chief Mpezeni in Chipata during 2016 Ncwala-picture by Tenson Mkhala

# State House apologises to Mpezeni

## From front page

Last week, the Nkosi yama Nkosi blasted President Lungu's leadership saying the Head of State was not willing to listen to traditional leaders. He also vowed that he would never go to State House again because he had lost interest in the government leadership.

"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," warned Mpezeni. "Manje sinizayendako futi. Kuchokela lombela, 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."

But in an interview, Chanda told News Diggers that the Ngoni chief remained dear to the President, adding that the Head of State was not aware of the efforts by the traditional leader to

meet him.

"On Mpezeni, I will be engaging with him. He may have used channels that did not deliver, that we were not aware of. At least I was not unaware, the President was not unaware, so I will be speaking with His Royal Highness. He is very dear to us and I will personally be speaking with him over that, to understand the circumstances that led to the appointment not being processed properly," Chanda said.

He said State House regretted the fact that Mpezeni was frustrated and forced to make strong remarks against the government leadership. "His Royal Highness has a cordial relationship with State House and we regret what may have caused that and made him say the things he said. But I will be engaging with him in the course of this week," said Chanda.

# Police in limbo after seizing hot Mukula logs

By Joseph Mwenda and Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Lusaka are washing their hands and failing to disclose the findings of the investigations over the ownership of the Mukula logs which are in a container at Garden Police Post.

Police spokesperson Esther

Mwaata Katongo has been dodging questions from journalists who have been demanding to know the owners of the illegally cultivated Mukula logs which were intercepted a month ago.

When asked who was behind the smuggling of the impounded logs,

Katongo referred questions to Lusaka Province police commissioner Nelson Phiri, saying she knew nothing about it.

"I have been receiving so many queries on that same Mukula but i don't have any information myself. call Mr Phiri," said Katongo.



Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo

Phiri also said he had no information on the matter, but said if the container was still at the police station, it meant that investigations were ongoing without his knowledge.

"If it (the container) is at the police station, it means it is a case that the police is investigating. I don't know [how far the investigations have gone. Its not each and every little thing that comes here. Sometimes it reaches...they finish...they go to court minus coming to my office," said Phiri.

But a police sources close to the investigation told News Diggers that the Commissioner was aware of the findings but could not give details because "some senior government officials were involved".

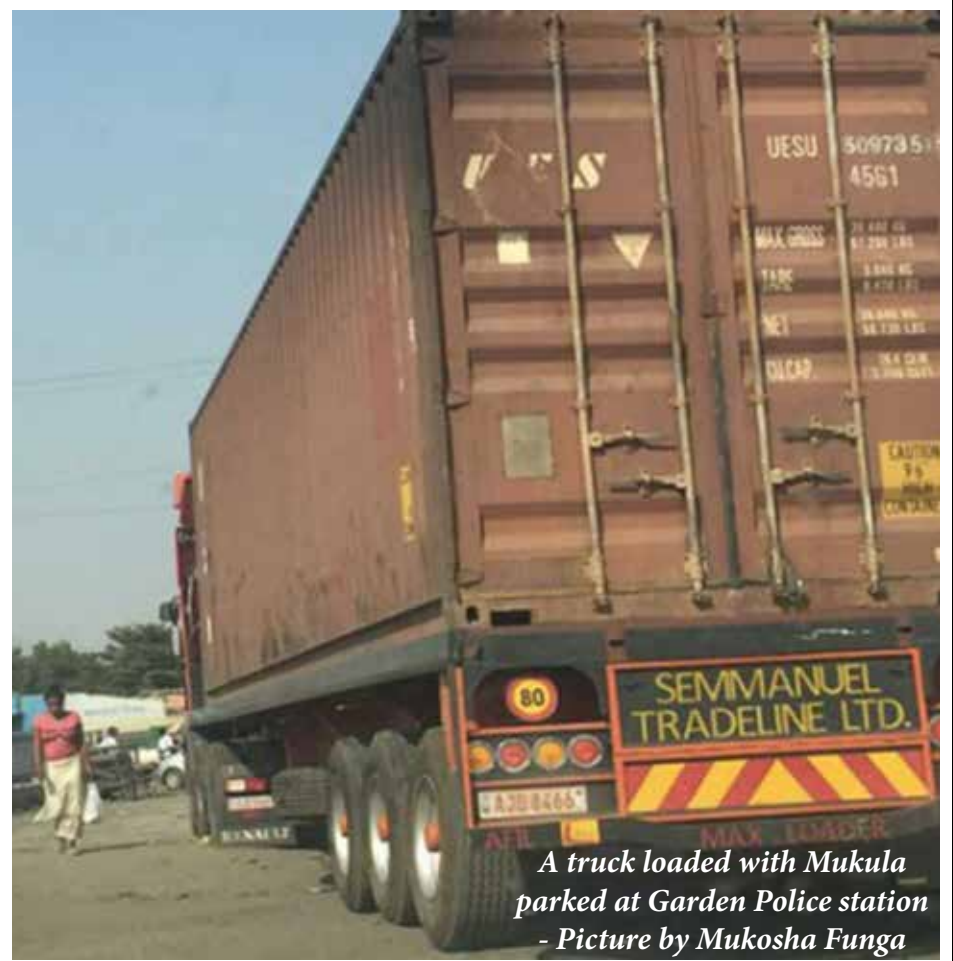
"The Commissioner cannot say he doesn't know about this investigation because it's not a small issue. It's just that he cannot give details without naming the actual senior government officials who are involved. If he has to give details without naming the officials, then he would be lying. That's why he can't talk," the officer said.

The source said the Mukula logs at Garden Police post were too hot for the police to handle.

"The truth is that this case is being investigated under the [Provincial] Commander's instructions. It's being handled by Chief Inspector Muyunda from Scorpion unit at Central Police. That's the officer investigating this matter

and the findings so far indicate that some police officers were involved in that transaction. It goes all the way up. It's a hot issue, that's why it was never announced in the first place, but all the other seizures of Mukula are announced, including the recent one in North Western Province involving a chief," said the officer.

"You should ask questions as journalists why these logs were intercepted in the Industrial area. But all the police stations in that area were bypassed, including Emmasdale which is a supervising police station. It was brought to Garden Police Post, why? They had to go and pick police officers from Garden to handle this issue."



A truck loaded with Mukula parked at Garden Police station - Picture by Mukosha Funga

# Hichilema not serious about dialogue - Mwila



*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is not serious about dialogue otherwise he would have attended the National Prayer Day on October 18.

Speaking when he addressed his party structures in Kaoma district of Western Province yesterday, Mwila said President Edgar Lungu had remained committed and ready for dialogue.

“At national level, people have been calling for dialogue between the top leaders, President Edgar Lungu and Hakainde Hichilema, ‘can you dialogue’. Why? If there is any difference, they can sit and reconcile and move forward for the benefit of the country. You will recall that the Secretary General of the Commonwealth did appoint an envoy to come and discuss with all the leaders from all political parties and see how best they can come together and dialogue. Not only that, the former President of Nigeria Mr [Olusegun] Obasanjo also came over the same mission,” Mwila said.

Mwila said by telling his supporters not to attend prayers, Hichilema proved that he was not committed to dialogue.

“President Edgar Lungu has made a commitment that he is ready to dialogue with any leader of a political party in Zambia. But our friends on the other side, the UPND have not been serious with the dialogue. Our friends, on 18th of October, the day of prayer and reconciliation, we expected our friends from the UPND to come so that we pray together. But the UPND president HH told his supporters not to attend the prayers, what does that mean? It means that he is not serious with the dialogue that is being initiated,” said Mwila.

## There is no easy way out for Mulusa - Amos

*From front page*

“On Honourable Mulusa, I can confirm that he had a meeting with the President. But I do not know the full details of what was discussed. If that matter was discussed and Honourable Mulusa told a newspaper that he was asked to resign, then all options are in his hands. The meeting took place and that matter was discussed, so in the light of what Her Honour the Vice-President said in Parliament, we would not want to make any comments that may be prejudicial to that process if it takes place. The Vice President said the case will be subjected to the ministerial code of conduct,” Chanda explained. He said it was expected for Mulusa to resign if he chose not to recant his statement. “But given what I know about presidential discussions between the President and his ministers, I am just now assuming that that was discussed; if a request was made for him to resign, and he did not resign, I can only presume two issues. Either he regrets what he said, or the matter was resolved amicably, and therefore it may have ended there. But if it goes to the media, Honourable Mulusa has two options; to stick to his words, which makes his position extremely difficult... The burden is on him to do what he was asked to do. All those options are in his hands. He is the one in the video

and he discussed with the President. I do not know the terms under which this issue was discussed; whether it was in confidence, whether he was allowed to speak out in public,” he said.

“So once that discussion has been made [and you are told], ‘you resigns’ that is from the Head of State, you have two options; to tell him that ‘look, I will not be resigning because I have recanted what I said or to go out and say ‘I have been asked to resign’ and you resign.”

Chanda said he felt sorry for Mulusa over the position he found himself in.

“I sympathise with the position that he is in. I can’t see an easy way out of it, especially in light of what the Vice-President said in Parliament. If I were him, I would not discuss it with the media that I was asked to resign. If I were him and the president asked me to resign, immediately I am announcing to you that I was told to resign, I would be resigning actually. I cannot tell you that I have been asked to resign and then stay,” Chanda said.

When asked what collective Cabinet responsibility Mulusa breached when Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale had told parliament that Cabinet was not involved in the procurement process of fire tenders, Chanda said Cabinet approved the decision under late Michael Sata’s reign.

“I can confirm to you that Cabinet approved the procurement of fire tenders under the chairmanship of His Excellency president Michael Sata. It approved the purchase, but what Cabinet does not do, according to what Honourable Vincent Mwale said, is to sit and go through the nitty-gritty. But the procurement was approved in principle and that collectively responsibility still stands. But Cabinet does not say, ‘it’s these five fire tenders’ it does not do that. It approves the principle. President Sata gave a presidential decree on the pronouncement that ‘property is being lost, and I want a fire tender in each of the 102 districts’ at that time. So when that was done, the Secretary to the Cabinet deduced that pronouncement into a CAB (Cabinet) memo and Cabinet approved the purchase of fire tenders,” Chanda said.

“So if Honourable Mulusa is being pinned against collective responsibility, it is that. He may not have been a minister, but its institutional memory that covers all Cabinet ministers. Those Cabinet documents, their lifespan is 25 years, so that decision is within the 25-year-rule of secrecy. So Honourable Mulusa may have breached that decision of Cabinet.”

He went further to explain that former Attorney General Mumba Malila objected to Cabinet’s

proposal to single source the procurement of fire tenders. “I can add that a British company was single sourced, following president Sata’s decision, to provide the same number of fire tenders at US\$66 million. The learned Attorney General then Mumba Malila State Counsel said ‘that figure was too much, it will raise eyebrows’. He said ‘we are better off subjecting this huge procurement to public tender’. And that is how the delay in the procurement of fire tenders was done. So when the company that was bidding for US\$66 million dollars began to revise their figures and it came down to US\$56 million, the learned

Attorney General still was of the view that a tender of this magnitude must be done through competitive bidding,” said Chanda.

“I can tell you that this is Albion Limited of England, which was the second best bidder in the current controversial fire tenders. It was at US\$49.7 million when GrandView was at US\$42 million. So in examining this, you can see that these fire tenders if they were purchased by single sourcing, they would have been at US\$66 million. I must state that what I am giving you are cold facts, I wouldn’t take any risk to give you these facts with figures if I had not seen them.”

## PHI Mall sues *Daily Nation* for libel

*By Mukosha Funga*

PHI Shopping Mall has sued Daily Nation claiming damages for libel over a story which was published on September 26 alleging that it had become an unsafe mall.

In a statement of claim dated October 20, 2017, African Brothers Corporation Limited, which trades as PHI Shopping Mall, stated that the article titled ‘PHI Shopping Mall not safe anymore’ was false.

“The Plaintiff will aver and will contend that

the Article (in particular the title) is false and constitutes grave libel on PHI Shopping Mall and its management, and the said words were published with the knowledge that they were libel or with reckless disregard as to whether or not they were libel,” PHI Mall stated.

“In consequence, the reputation of PHI Shopping Mall has been undoubtedly been disparaged and has been brought into public odium, ridicule and contempt in the estimation

of right-thinking members of society generally causing considerable loss of business.”

PHI Mall stated that Daily Nation had ignored a retraction demand letter which was served on it.

PHI Mall is also seeking an order compelling Daily Nation to retract the defamatory words in two editions, an injunction restraining the newspaper from publishing further derogatory material and any other relief the court might deem fit.

# Irregular fuel pricing denotes instability in economy - ActionAid

By Mukosha Funga

ActionAid Zambia Country Director Nalucha Nganga says government's decision to review fuel prices every 60 days denotes instability in the country's economy. In an interview, Nganga observed that frequent price adjustments affected people's planning. "We would rather they find a long lasting solution other than just putting in a temporal measure because for us, that sounds more of a temporal measure but what is it in terms of the long term for Zambia? We need to know, we need to have stability when it comes to our country's economy because this really has an effect on how we do our planning, it affects all sectors of the country. You will look at things of education costs going up, for children who commute to schools, bus fares will go up, it changes the incomes at household level and at the same time increasing the number of Zambians getting into the poverty

trap," Nanga said.

She said the recently announced fuel hike would increase the cost of living. "The fuel price increment has come as a shocker to many Zambians, I think looking at the current economic challenges that the country is facing, a number of Zambians were really not anticipating this fuel hike, the reasons advanced so far are around depreciation of the kwacha as well as the increment in the local prices for fuel are not really holding water," said Nganga. "There have been times when we have seen the price of fuel drop in the world market but we don't see government reciprocating with the prices of fuel dropping in Zambia so what this will do is that it will contribute to the cost of living for most Zambians, it will also contribute to the cost of commodities going up. So it will really have a spiral effect on most commodities in the country."



ActionAid Zambia Country Director Nalucha Nganga

## UPND media team member sues state for wrongful imprisonment

By Diggers Reporter

A member of the UPND media team has sued the state for false imprisonment over the City Market inferno. Cheelo Katambo, who spent three days in custody without being charged, is demanding damages for wrongful imprisonment.

He stated that the state maliciously framed him of having taken part in the burning of the market in the absence of evidence leading to that.

He claimed he was wrongfully apprehended by the police at levy junction together with his colleague. Katambo said he was only charged with conduct likely to breach peace after which

police released him.

He stated that as a result of the false imprisonment, he had suffered losses and now is claiming for damages and interest on a sum found due as well as other reliefs that the court might deem fit.

## I was honored to host Jerabos at my house - HH

By William Chilesh

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he was honoured to host small scale miners popularly known as Jerabos at his house yesterday. In a Facebook post, HH stated that he was touched by their apologies for attacks on him and his party officials

during the last election.

"We were greatly honoured to host some representatives of Copperbelt small scale miners popularly known as Jerabos at our residence in Lusaka this afternoon. We fully sympathised with their situation at the moment, and more importantly we

were touched with their apologies they offered over the violent and brutal attacks they inflicted in us and our members especially during last year's campaigns," HH stated.

"Their story confirms what we have been saying that our people are greatly

misinformed by those who have the power.

For example, at no time did we ever say we will grab the copper dumping sludge popularly known as the Black Mountain from them. In fact to the contrary, it's the same PF leadership that cheated them that the UPND leadership will repossess the black Mountain that has so far done the same to them and given it to their foreign friends.

Our message has been very consistent in terms of empowering our people with the local resources. Any one who cares can check that we have been advocating that the small scale miners popularly known as Jerabos be given small scale mining licenses." He stated that he would soon visit the Copperbelt to interact with them and assure them under his administration, Jerabos will not be considered copper thieves.

"We have also been saying that with small scale mining licenses to these mainly youths, they can then be assisted with affordable loan facilities for them to acquire proper equipment. We believe with such an initiative, they can even contribute to the national treasury in form of affordable taxes while providing jobs to our people so that they can no longer be regarded as copper thieves. We have insisted that these youths should be assisted by government with market to legally sell their mechanism so that all their activities can fully be recognised.

We have been doing business throughout our lives and if those in leadership wish, we can help them with a whole concept on how this concept can be achieved. We assured them that we shall soon visit the Copperbelt for rallies and personal interactive meetings where we will clearly state our position once," stated HH.

## Kapata asks women in the Diaspora to invest in Zambia

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Patriotic Front Chairperson for Women's League Jean Kapata has asked women in the Diaspora to help Zambia achieve its middle income status by the year 2030 by investing in various sectors of the country.

According to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian High Commission to South Africa Naomi Nyawali, Kapata, who is also

Mandevu PF member of parliament, said this in Pretoria, South Africa during a Fundraising Dinner Dance organized by the party Women's League in that country.

Nyawali stated that Kapata said government attached great importance to women affairs through a policy direction to have 40 percent of women in decision making positions.

She called on women to be actively

involved in bringing economic development to Zambia.

Kapata also said government firmly believed in the power of women to positively contribute to all sectors of Zambia's economy and that the onus was on women to take advantage of the favorable policy directive.

Kapata further commended her team in South Africa for being instrumental in promoting the vision of the party.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former president Rupiah Banda says if the court did not stop him from standing against President Edgar Lungu in 2015, he would have won the elections because Zambians loved the peaceful way in which he handed over power to the late Michael Sata.

And Banda says he was humiliated in court over charges of abuse of authority after leaving office, but he has forgotten those who ganged up against him.

Meanwhile Banda said he is passionate about the fight against cancer because his first wife succumbed to it while his current wife Thandiwe was also diagnosed with the disease.

The former Head of State was speaking on ZNBC's Sunday Interview with Gravazio Zulu.

Below is the verbatim of the interview:

**Gravazio:** Tonight, I have my special guest who once served in the African National Congress (ANC) headed by the late Harry Mwangi Nkumbula as well as in the youth wing of UNIP, way back in the independence days.

He was one of those who became one of Zambia's early diplomats who served in Egypt, the United States, as well as the United Nations as permanent representative. My guest tonight is His Excellency Rupiah Bwezani Banda popularly known as RB. He reflects on Zambia's Independence struggle and how the country can nature its freedom, peace, and unity. Your Excellency, it is good to have you on the show.

**RB:** Thank you, thank very much for the opportunity.

**Gravazio:** Now I want to start, of course everybody is interested in knowing life after the presidency, is it boring?

**RB:** Nobody will believe me when I say that its good life. You get up when you want to get up, do what you want to do, spend more time with your family and friends, you attend to each other's problems with your friends. It is a good life. I would encourage everybody who has been president or wants to be a president to know that life after the presidency, that's when you can start thinking about what to do for your country.

**Gravazio:** What are you doing as a matter of interest?

**RB:** I am farming. I have a very big farm in Chipata, about 500 acres farm. I am not doing much because I am not traveling to the farm very often. It is becoming more and more difficult as I get older but here I have a 60 acre farm and there I am growing tomatoes, cabbages, fruits. I am finding it very exciting. Tomatoes in particular, they are money makers because I

# I would be President if the courts didn't stop me - RB



Rupiah Banda casts his vote as an MMD presidential candidate in 2008 in Chipata - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

sale good quality of tomatoes every week.

**Gravazio:** So you understand the market pretty well, the drop in prices and when they rise?

**RB:** Yes yes, and we have a good data base, we know who is our market. So two, three days before, my people contact all the marketeers from as far as Livingstone, from as far as Chililabombwe and tell them we are selling on such and such a day and they are there by themselves and buy everything.

**Gravazio:** No credit?

**RB:** No credit at all

**Gravazio:** The story you are telling us today is a story of independence, that's basically the reason you are here, and I must take you back to 24th October, that day, 23rd into 24th, you were quite young I guess. How did you feel as a Zambian? What was going on in your mind? Just go back to that day and reflect, what was the mood like?

**RB:** Well, I must say I am one of the few left who were privileged to have been in the stadium itself and to see the British flag come down and you see the Zambian flag go up, and to see Dr Kaunda stand up to become our new president, and to see a number of men stand up in the crowd. I was part of that crowd. A few of my friends I can remember like VJ and so on, it was wonderful and unbelievable. And when we came back from the stadium, almost every house there was a party going on. You know, that time most of the bigger houses like in Kabulonga, Woodlands and so on were owned by white people and many of them opened their houses to parties. You just

go in there and they say 'welcome home' it was a wonderful thing.

**Gravazio:** Many people joined in the celebrations?

**RB:** Yes yes, they did, I guess that's why you see our country is unlike many other African countries. Our brothers who suffered so much post independence, [there was war], our country hasn't had that because from the very beginning, most people were happy. Those who were not happy packed up and left, but they were very few.

**Gravazio:** There was no resistance whatsoever?

**RB:** No, no, because of the manner in which Dr Kaunda and his colleagues handled the struggle. All the time they made it very clear that we were fighting for justice for everyone. That all the people that lived in Zambia in 1964, if they want to be Zambians, they become Zambians. So many of the white kids or Europeans who were working here, who wanted to become Zambians, became Zambians. It was a wonderful thing. We were all fighting for each other, not against each other.

**Gravazio:** There was that rough build-up, the Cha Cha Cha violence, did that dent our struggle, our fight?

**RB:** Yes of course it was very unfortunate. I remember very well the incident on the Copperbelt where an innocent white lady with her children was set on fire and so forth. Most Zambians were sad about that. Those who believed that, be it the white, the Indian, the colored, everyone didn't like this kind of thing. I think even now they still don't like that kind of thing. You know

when you heal, violence, most Zambians don't like that.

**Gravazio:** I know that you were born in Gwanda, Zimbabwe...

**RB:** Yes, there is no secret about that, [laughs] its public.

**Gravazio:** But then you still found yourself in active Zambian politics, how did that happen?

**RB:** Because my parents came from here. My father and mother come from Chipata from a place called Chipalamba and then they went to Harare in Zimbabwe to look for work. They walked, all the way from Fort Jameson now Chipata, with a group of friends, all the way and worked on the way until they ended up on the railway line that goes up to Bulawayo to Beit Bridge on the way to South Africa. There my parents settled and there we were born.

**Gravazio:** Now where did your interest in politics come from? Some stories say that it's probably some people that sponsored you in your education, your education was politically active?

**RB:** No no, it's the other way round. I was sponsored by an Indian family and Zimbabwean family who himself later on became political and ended up at Gonakudzingwe, he was detained by Smith because he supported the rest of the population in the fight for independence. The Joshua Nkhomo and President [Robert] Mugabe's group. So he supported those and he was arrested by the white government there and put in jail for many years. Unfortunately he passed away just a few weeks ago, I think a month ago. But my

brother was working for him.

He was a tailor. You know how the India shops are inside, you have got clothes and other things they sell and outside the veranda you have got a sewing machine where you use your hands and then when a lady buys a dress or a gentleman buys a shirt, he will come outside to the tailor and the tailor measures it, and alters it for you. That was the job of my brother. So I used to go to see my brother and also to collect money for my sister in law and my mother for groceries and so forth. And then we started talking, myself and the owner of the shop. He became very interested, it is the other way round, I converted him.

**Gravazio:** Into politics?

**RB:** Yeah, into politics, because don't forget that much earlier than that, my parents had decided that I should come back and know my country. So they sent me back to Northern Rhodesia, they sent me to Madzimoyo Mission which was owned by the Dutch reformed church. In the little location, Gwanda location, where we lived, there was an old man Mr Zulu, who was a missionary, he was sent from Madzimoyo to wherever their mission station was in Zimbabwe. So he was the one where my parents went to church and he found me a place to study there. I was 14-15 when I came back.

**Gravazio:** Now I know that at some point you belonged to the ANC led by Harry Nkumbula, then you moved on to the youth wing under UNIP

**RB:** Yes, that was ZANC, we moved with most young people who were on the radical side. So when the ANC looked like they were

a bit slow, they were not prepared to confront the British so that we can have our independence soon, Dr Kaunda broke away from that and took with him many of us younger people who went and formed ZANC and came ...Palo who also came with all the other radical young ones who were studying abroad in India, South Africa and so on... Mr Mwanakatwe. We all felt that we wanted to go to the radical side. So that's the side which I wanted which later on became UNIP.

**Gravazio:** Was that a sad moment for you, did you feel sad that you were leaving ANC which was...?

**RB:** Yes, yes ANC has been around for a long time and I am happy that later on we managed to come together. It's what made it easier to get our independence because instead of us fighting each other, our leaders saw that well, what are we fighting for we are fighting for the people why don't we all sit down and agree to...the power and they met in Monze we were too young to participate and they met in Monze and agreed to come together and we got our independence in 1964.

**Gravazio:** Your contribution

**RB:** This is a very important question you are asking I really like it because the people listening out there should understand that we are coming a long way and by we, I mean the Zambian people and that what has happened to the Zambian since 1964 to now is as a result of how we prosecuted house trouble in other words we had leaders who always reminded everybody that what we wanted was unity peace and independence and as a result, we are one of the few countries in Africa who can claim to had not have a civil war. Thank God and I hope we will never come to that.

**Gravazio:** Your role in the struggle is not so much told. Were you so much active? In the youth wing, were you in the background?

**RB:** No, no, no I was quite active inside there as you know there was only one secondary school and then after that there came Chikuni, the one in Monze, and then after that one or two more secondary schools came after that but there was only one secondary school... university so that was hot bird of Zambian or northern Rhodesian nationalism, it was there that I emerged as one of the leaders and... people like Chinkuli and others who agreed that we had to rally behind nationalist movement then I was fortunate to get a scholarship to Ethiopia to study at the university and there.

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Ethiopia was also seaming with nationalism in support of the African countries that were fighting for their independence, Ethiopians had been independent for 3,000 years and the emperor there understood that the rest of Africa needed to be free. When I was there, I was able to penetrate the system there I was able to was able to raise funds for the freedom struggle here and I invited our president then, Kaunda, president of the party to visit and he was received by the emperor government there and gave us some money to proceed with the struggle. From there I got another scholarship to Sweden at the University of Roan...and there I continued to address meetings everywhere and the party was very strong then and they wanted their party to be known internationally and so they appointed me to become the representative of UNIP in northern Europe. I used to travel all the way from Finland to Germany addressing universities, the students, asking them to support our cause.

**Gravazio:** So you were very active on the international network?

**RB:** Yes, yes

**Gravazio:** Now you have spoken highly of the school that was hot bird of the police activities, Munali, was it likely that anybody could have passed [through] that school, could have come out without being politicized in a way?

**RB:** Yes...  
(interruption)

**Gravazio:** names that you remember that come to you mind that you were with at Munali that really impacted on the freedom struggle as well as on your life

**RB:** Yes yes very much some of them have just come back. I think I was telling the Director General that I only arrived back from Eastern Province last weekend that I had gone to bury the elder sister to one of my close close friends who later became the Vice Chancellor at the University of Zambia, become the governor of the bank Dr Jacob Mwanza, as you know he was a twin with his brother Esau, the three of us became very very close then he had friends from the rest of the country who later became key leaders even our teachers. It was at Munali where I met teachers who came from South Africa, they were recruited from teachers who came from Fortier like Mr Masiye and Mr Martin Kaunda, he is late now but he was one of our lecturers at Munali and then we had some English teachers. We had the principal who was...the English type of

head master who used to whip us yes. But it was a wonderful experience... And because we had the highest institution of learning, we decided that we will try and organize the rest of the students in the country.

**Gravazio:** Now taking you back into the struggle. The liberation struggle, was there some point, a point in your life that you felt maybe Zambia was pushing too hard, maybe the country will never be independent?

**RB:** ...I recall purely that the whole country was like on fire. Everybody wanted independence. And we were divided, within the country there were some who didn't want to move too fast and I think that's what caused the split between the ANC and those who played by Kaunda and followed by a lot of these young people who just graduated from South African university and from India. From all parts of the country. It was the first time that we had leaders from everywhere. Mr Matoka, I can remember, he is late now, Dr Matoka, they all had come back and they all wanted independence so we were following them and supporting them.

**Gravazio:** I want you to share with us any moment that you look back and say this was either your happiest moment in the struggle or the lowest moment or lowest point at that time?

**RB:** My highest point was independence in 1964 which was the most exciting and there after it became even more exciting because we were the only young people who had some education so we really got good jobs. Like myself, I became ambassador and immediately after that in 1964, the first crew of ambassadors, I think I'm the most senior. A school was opened here by the British it was called Diplomatic school at NIPA and it was a school to educate us young people to serve our country overseas. And not only in Zambia but Kenyans, Malawians, Tanzanians Lake Tanganyika, so we all met here...Vernon Mwaanga joined us at school and Alinani Simbule...we were all together at school and a few others from Kenya who later on became ambassadors and ministers in their countries. But they were all trained here. And we were the first group of diplomatic staff who were appointed as ambassadors.

**Gravazio:** So at that point you had won your masters, they were not in denial, they were already accepted?

**RB:** No, they were not in denial, they had accepted. Gravazio: They had to train you, especially that the

# I used to work for the post office in Livingstone - RB



Rupiah Banda dances during a campaign rally in Lundazi in 2011 - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

independence was coming?  
**RB:** Yes, and they went out of their way really to help us to prepare so that we can take over properly.

**Gravazio:** Are there any low moments that when you look back during the struggle really you say this was...

**RB:** Yes, when there was a break between the ANC to ZANC, we just felt like it is mad people from, I don't get it, so that's how we radicalized and decided to go a different path. We felt very low when the ANC was unwilling to move in the direction of radicalism and there were some of our leaders who agreed even to sell [to] the British parliament, they joined the federal party and so on. But the majority of the Zambians in all the provinces decided that we were going to go the radical way.

**Gravazio:** Those who had joined the British government, did you consider them as traitors?

**RB:** Only that they were very few, I even know their names and it is not fair to...

**Gravazio:** To mention the  
**RB:** Yes, because their children are still around here but these are some of the difficult things that I would still want to tell you that during my holidays, I used to go to Southern Rhodesia, to Gwanda to see my parents. And my parents would say to me, 'don't you think you are wasting your time to go and fight the white people?' That time, the whites in Zimbabwe, in Southern Rhodesia were in transit, so our people never believed that, that was possible. That time when people like Joshua Nkhomo also were leaving the country

to come North, to look for support to fight them. So my parents would jokingly say 'you can't manage these people, niwazungu abamungabakwanise lini' and we would tell them that 'you will see we will get there.'

**Gravazio:** There were no phone calls then, so you had to go on a train to go and tell them that?

**RB:** [laughs] and it was very hard...When I got my first job, I was training in the civil service. Before I became ambassador, I worked for the post office, went to Livingstone to learn how to send telegraphic messages. You hit on the board and then you type-write and as soon as I got my black pay which was my four months salary, I sent it to my parents and told them to come back home. Because there it was getting rough. So there was a time when we thought that perhaps we would not make it but we made it.

**Gravazio:** Today, one of the challenges that we face is that we are independent quite alright but economically, we are still not very independent.

**RB:** Yes, I think now we have gotten to the point which affects us now, first off all let's go back to history. In 1964 when we got our independence, we were three million people. Only three million people. There were no schools, only one at Olive secondary school. A few primary schools, missionary schools like in the Eastern Province we had the Kamoto, Madzimoyo, Magweru and so on but very very few schools. Most of our people were not educated. So all these challenges came before our new leaders that

led us to independence. So in 1964 with only a population of three million people and our people went straight to work. They realized that challenges were to give adequate education to their people, to improve health care, to build good hospitals and to build new infrastructure, roads to whatever extent we could at that time. And this country, the economy was based on copper only. Unlike now where there are other sums of money but even that is not adequate. So the problem then was to educate and feed three million people and do everything for three million people. And since then, we have grown to 15 million people. So you can see the problem has grown for over the last 50 years. So obviously, we have serious problems. We have to consider how to solve this.

**Gravazio:** The question is how did we go wrong? We are still struggling 50 years?

**RB:** Is there a place where people are not struggling? You have to struggle everywhere; you have to see our politics. You go to South Africa, you go to England. It is the same thing, we have had the Indians, there are people who always want something better and a lot of good things have happened in our country. I am not saying there are no bad things, I realized that I was president, I suffered very hard to try and ameliorate the situation but the fact is that we have achieved quite a lot. Look, how many kilometers of roads do we have in the country? Every province is connected, still not adequate, we have to repair them to move from the main road to the rural parts of the world, etc.

We have more roads that we had before, we have hospitals in every district of our country now, we have secondary schools, primary schools, universities, over 20 universities both private as well as state, we have achieved quite a lot. But most importantly, we have peace. We are the only African country who can claim that we have not had major social upheavals in our country

**Gravazio:** But you are an economist, would you say the public took a wrong economic turn at the start or at some point?

**RB:** Yes, yes but you know, at that time, most African countries had taken the same turn. Don't forget that there was a time when the sovereignty union emerged on the world theme and created this division between the capitalist countries and socialist countries. And for us because of our level of development, we preferred to go the more socialist way but politically we tried to keep normalizing, we tried to stay in-between the Western countries, the Americans, the Australians and so on and the sovereign union tried to stay in the middle but economically, we tried also to try and bring people from Russia, Rumania and all these others. These were difficulties but we all tried. We all tried different methods and so on but the most important thing is that we still have our independence and we still fighting, we still doing better, trying our best to make our country better.

**Gravazio:** Is it possible for the country to be economically independent? Are we able to attain this?

*Continues on page 9*



# Fake news is eroding the morality of our society - RB

From page 8

**RB:** Yes of course. Our country is a huge country with 750 square kilometers of land, lots of waters, mountains, trees, rivers and good soils and a sizable population of 15 million people. We can of course, and that's what we are aiming at. First, we must continue to work together. The thing that has hurt most of Africa is conflict between the people. During our time, the tribe of a person or where he came from was inconsequential. Unfortunately, I have to be honest, unfortunately now it is very important, people are now saying 'no we are left out, none of our people is there' but we are the same people. Our leaders must try and go back to history and understand where we came from and what has kept us together. And in my opinion, it is the belief that all Zambians are the same.

**Gravazio:** We have seen so many people talk about tribalism, regionalism, how big in your view is this cancer, this problem?

**RB:** It is big and I don't think that it is generated by us. I think it is created from outside. Just like during the struggle, immediately after the struggle for independence here in Zambia, there started to be a division between those who wanted state control as in the sovereign union and the socialist countries and those who wanted to run the country in a capitalist way, you create divisions within the country. Now I think we are seeing interest groups from all over the country wanting to come here and take our properties, take our...what we have

underground here, perhaps oil if we don't find it. Not only in Zambia, this is a case in many other African countries. We say that oil is a case, you have seen the countries that have found oil, there are a lot of problems. And here, we haven't found oil yet but we have copper, we have other minerals and unfortunately we cannot do it alone, we made people from outside to come and help us. And they also have interest, they want royal taxes, they don't want you to tax them so much. So there is division amongst ourselves as to how best to manage this. But I think that Zambians should come together and try to manage it together.

**Gravazio:** You were sitting there in State House at one time, did you see this problem coming? Do you think something could be done about it?

**RB:** If you recall, I made no speeches during my presidency without concluding by saying 'I am the president of all Zambians', it was not an accident, it was something thought out so that this division that people are feeling that they are left out because in the last election, perhaps they belong to another political party or another grouping, now that Rupiah Banda is the president and they feel left out and they will not be part of the peace in the country. I fought very hard and believed and still believe that leaders, must be leaders for all. Those who voted for them, those who belong to their party, and those who didn't vote for them.

**Gravazio:** Let's probably get back, in probably some

scenario after independence, tired, how did you manage as a new nation to get over this?

**RB:** Wow, if we had gotten over it, we wouldn't be talking about it.

**Gravazio:** I understand it had gone quiet for a while.

**RB:** Yeah but now it is becoming a little bit louder and I think we have to find a formula and this formula means that people must give up something in their side, in their feelings. We must humble ourselves, we must be generous to each other. We have to find a solution whereby our leaders can sit down together and find a solution. We don't have to blow up this country.

**Gravazio:** Issues of violence...

**RB:** Yes, you know, the only good thing about Zambians, and I believe sincerely that the majority of us really believe in one Zambia one Nation, we believe in this everywhere, you can go anywhere. I can go to any part of this country, I am sure people will come to greet me, they will recognize me as one who was their leader before and treat me nicely regardless of where I go. And I think that is still there and we should nurse it and let it grow.

**Gravazio:** Let me talk about the violence in the last election, it was described by many as unprecedented, never seen before. Is it something that you have never seen before? Was it nothing closer to what happened before a one party state?

**RB:** As you know with violence, you always find violence during the election and so on...people are bitter. When I say people, I am talking about everybody. We are bitter and we shouldn't [be]. I think that we should come together. I read on those what do call them? Blogs? And people write and you don't even know who is writing and they are very rude towards each other, they insult, especially me, I have been a big victim of that. I think they don't understand me. How can I advise that 'you should not concede elections' when I myself conceded? It is not possible. I believed sincerely that after an election, I will have to concede and somebody had to win and after that has happened, I believe the winner had to go out of his own way to embrace the loser so that we can hold the next election which was towards democracy and once you have democracy it means that you and I and all the others can belong to the political party of their choice and choose who they want. You can't say for instance that Rupiah Banda should belong to this side, it is his choice, it is your choice to belong to wherever you belong and it doesn't matter. We are going to meet in the civil service, you will be a civil servant, it doesn't matter, belong to whatever political party you belong but don't bring it to work. Don't start victimizing other people because they are not in your party. But unfortunately now, civil servants start to believe that 'I know I belong to this and everything I do must ensure that those of my party benefit'.

**Gravazio:** How can we heal

from this issue of tribalism, regionalism or violence?

**RB:** All problems that human beings face can only be solved by talking, by dialogue. Even if you chose to go to wall like they did in the first world war, the second world war, all these conflicts we have, they start with saying 'no we can't talk' and they go and kill 20 million people and after killing 20 million people you sit down and agree. Why didn't you agree before? In my opinion, every problem can be solved. We have to give up a little bit to our pride, a little bit of the ego, a little bit of our powers or maybe share. So in my opinion, I do not think there is need to go to the point where we hurt each other.

**Gravazio:** you did speak about being a victim... do you think social media is probably eroding our morals, eroding the way we relate to one another, eroding the sincerity?

**RB:** And it is not only in Zambia, there is this called fake news in America where they will talk about it and say 'Rupiah Banda was here with a bag of money and he was paying some people to support so so'. Meanwhile you find that Rupiah Banda was not even there, Rupiah was at another 1,000 kilometers from the place they are talking about, it is fake news and it is all because of social media has done that. And also we are Africans, we are not Europeans, we are not Chinese, we are not Japanese, we are not Indians, we are Africans. We have our own way of doing things. Like you did as I came in today, the Director General and all the staff they had to receive me as the former president, as a father you see we greeted each other nicely, no bitterness in me. I don't know what you believe in but the one thing you believe in is that we must give respect to each other and I do the same. And whoever I meet, I know that these people allowed me to be their president for three years, allowed me to be their vice-president for three years, allowed me to be their ambassador for 15-20 years. I owe it to every Zambian, to respecting, to thanking [them] for what they gave to me to be what I am today. So that is the way of live. So I am saying we are not Europeans, we are not Indians we are not Chinese, our way is to respect one another. We know how to do it. When you want to get married to somebody's daughter, even if the father is illiterate, no job, he has no shoes, the truth is you love the daughter, he is your father-in-law. What do you do to your father-in-law? You kneel down when you go there, you sit down when you go there 'eh apongozi how are you and so on' you do everything

you can to help them. You should do the same. Where has our Africanism gone to? All our tribes we are same, every Zambian tribe, we have the same custom. Why should we abandon that and instead we want the blog way? To insult people, call people with bad names every day, no sympathy to one another, wishing each other death. I have heard on social media, and that is why I have stopped reading it now because when you read there you hear somebody saying 'yea, let him die'. That's very unAfrican, we have never had that. When there is a funeral in the village, everybody comes in the neighboring village to come and bury the passed. That is the way.

**Gravazio:** there is a group which people call 'the born free' those that probably do not understand what it takes to fight for independence, they will still ask you 'what is there to celebrate' 53 years now?

**RB:** Peace, do you know that you can jump in the car right now, you can decide you will go to Soweto and get whatever you want, you don't have to worry that on the way, I will meet armed people. If you can get up and you know, if you talk... you see, these bad pastures, these people who come from Europe, they have got these trucks and they are about 30 people there and they are touring all Africa. I meet a lot of those people and I would like to talk to them and you know what they tell me? When they enter Zambia, they feel the difference. They feel that this is the best country they have entered, why? They don't know anything about Zambia, because of the peace, the people you meet them nicely, you stop and buy bananas, talk to them, nobody is hostile, yell on the road and so on, there is peace here. And peace is enough to celebrate. So the fact that I am not the president doesn't mean that I have nothing to celebrate. There is a President, when I was leaving, I was leaving my presidency to my worst opponent, to Mr Sata who had fought me for years, not only fought me, they fought the MMD and so on. When they phoned me telling me that he had won, I went and congratulated him. I went even up on the podium. I know it is very difficult to say this but we have to do that. That's the way. If perhaps I had not been stopped by the courts from standing last time, most probably I would have been president again, why? Because the people appreciated the manner in which I vacated, I conceded. We have to teach each other that don't worry even if I am the president, you my opponent is also part of the president. **To page 10**



Rupiah Banda with supporters after filing in his presidential nomination papers at the Supreme Court in 2011 - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

From page 9

**Gravazio:** Co-existence. I want to take you back a bit again, you were among a few Zambians that were educated at Independence, share with us, how difficult was it to deal with a new nation?

**RB:** It is very difficult, you know you can't build a new nation without enough educated people. Yes being the first graduate of course makes you a little bit pompous and a little bit better than the others but we are only few of us and so on, but you need other people to be educated too. You know, to achieve whatever you want, if you want to become an industrialist which I became myself, I owned companies on the Copperbelt, I owned Robert Hot Farm, I owned a number of companies, a shirt factory, you need people who are educated to help you run these factories. Now if you are the president, the head of this establishment called Zambia, you need to have a lot of educated people in your field to assist you to run that country so that, that country can become more efficient and richer.

**Gravazio:** What lesson can Zambia learn from the independence struggle?

**RB:** Unity. We learn that together we can achieve a lot, divided we can fall.

**Gravazio:** I want to take you away a bit from independence, on a personal note away from independence. October is breast cancer month and I know that former first lady had cancer of the breast. Just as a way of encouraging people that are watching and those that are listening, I want you to share the challenge of fighting and winning this battle.

**RB:** The question, this subject comes at the time which is very appropriate to me, my wife, Hope Mwansa Makulu had passed away 17 years ago from breast cancer, two weeks ago, 17 years ago, she died. It was very traumatic. I had to travel long distances. I took her to America where my daughter, Dorica was working for the World Bank she had an insurance policy, she was bringing money here so that she can pay for her. We traveled around. Unfortunately for me, I remarried to Thandiwe and three years ago she was found with cancer as well, breast cancer. So you can imagine what I have gone through. So this subject is the one very close to my heart and I would ask, first of all, I would like to know what led the ministry, especially Ministry of Health and government for the interest that they have taken in fighting this cancer. During my old time as President, I brought in a lot of equipment, country equipment, diagnostic equipment into UTH and all other hospitals. We have got

# “My father, my first wife died of cancer, and Thandiwe had it”



*Rupiah Banda when he officiated at the a pass out parade for Zambia Army personnel in 2009 - Picture by Joseph Mwenda*

X-rays and so on so that we can detect this quickly. Other people, Zambian people, have to realize that it is a good thing to know in good time if you have cancer or not. If you found out, if you catch it early, it can be cured. My current wife, thank God, since we found it early and also I have developed quite a lot from the time I lost my first wife and she has recovered and thankfully we hope that she has recovered for good. So I would advise the country and the people in the country, and it is not only breast cancer but everywhere all over our bodies. Many years ago, we didn't know about it. In the villages, people would say mailo enze bwa? Lelo amwalila (how were they yesterday, today they are dead). It could have been cancer which we didn't know about. So now it is possible to look for it and so for women, they should go for early...I hear there are personal things that they can do. They can feel their breasts and if there is a lump, they should go quickly [for screening]. So and us men we have got our own. We have got prostate cancer which is also devastating a lot of men all over the world. So this year, October being breast cancer [awareness month], I encourage that we should all learn to go for testing so that we can seek help. I have gone through it twice, my father also went with cancer of the throat, it is everywhere.

**Gravazio:** Now in rural development and agriculture. Agriculture for you is a

passion, is a way of life. What message do you have for Zambia?

**RB:** For us here in Zambia, fish is the easiest thing to do because the best things are there. We have got good climate with good rainfall generally. We have good land. Our population is not too big, there is enough land to do what we want to do. So that should draw us Zambians towards agriculture, it doesn't matter whatever you are doing a little bit of piece of land is something which you need. If you go to Zimbabwe, where I was born, every house has a little garden and the wife and the guys who are staying in the house grow their own cabbages and tomatoes and lettuces and onions and so on. That is economy you are saving, that is more money in the pocket. Not more money as we understood it here. More money because you don't have to buy, it is healthy to eat. Your children will grow up healthy because there are vegetables around them. You can grow...like me in my case I especially deal in tomatoes and cabbages but I also have an orchard. I have a lot of fruits. Every day I feel like picking up fruit, I can take a tomato, mango or paw paw. We can grow all this. That is what I believe every Zambian should do, whether he is a director in the ministry, whether he is a minister I think we should spare a little bit of time.

**Gravazio:** ...you have said it all...

**RB:** Because we had copper. From 1964 we relied on copper and most Zambians didn't see any need for it just like you heard about Nigeria. Nigeria before that they used to grow everything. And by the way they stopped everything...it means that they spend a lot of money to buy food to, bring food from outside. I think before we get wealthier, before we find iron, before we find all these things, we should strengthen our agriculture. And from agriculture you can go to industrialization. There are agriculture industries which come from the products of agriculture.

**Gravazio:** You were in charge of rural development, you used to have a passion for rural development...

**RB:** Yes yes...from here as soon as I finish with you...straight I'm going to the farm. Every day when I'm there I don't think no evil. I have no time to think [about] anybody... I worry about my tomato. Like right now as I was speaking there is a bit of diseases in one corner of my farm that worries me a lot. I have no time to think evil. Can you imagine if most of us did that? How would our country be?

**Gravazio:** Stop thinking evil, concentrate on a farm?

**RB:** [Laughs] Imagine.

**Gravazio:** Your messages to the people...any current messages...

**RB:** Well, I would really like to beg Zambian people to look...especially those of us who are privileged to

be able to influence other people like teachers, lectures, historians...what was it like prior 1964 and what is it like now? To say that it is worse now is last. Those of us who lived there that time were like slaves. So it is important that everybody should educate the other on the importance of what we have. We must remain together as Zambia and stop hating each other. I don't know how to tell people this for them to believe me because when I say 'aaargh!' They don't listen to me. 'He is the one encouraging'. I cannot encourage hatred. I have lived through this country, it has been a country of peace. You have done so much for me, I have done so much for you. I have seen you [Gravazio] grow up as a young man here and there is little to do now. Look at the development, how you have developed as an individual...So we need to solve this problem. We need to come together whether it is economical problem, agricultural problem, whether it is health problem, whether its security problem, we should listen to one another. You know, even now when I travel and I meet the chiefs, they always talk to me, they share issues with us and as leaders we should listen to them. Unfortunately these young people think that only himself is right. No, everybody has something to add solutions of our problems. Mine is just to tell you that I believe sincerely that together we can overcome every problem. We just finished a day of prayer

yesterday, I wasn't able to go because I had gone to the funeral but it is so important that we realize that we were created by somebody for one purpose only, to enjoy our existence in life. If we don't pray to him he might not give us the fortune to enjoy ourselves. We are going to end up fighting each other and it is unnecessary. You know very well that after I lost my presidency, something happened to me which has never happened to any leader in this country. I was stripped of my immunity and was accused of all kinds of things that I didn't do. People really believed that once you take away his immunity, you will find...sacks and sacks of money in his account, you find letters in the ministries which proves that I had instructed...nothing of that sort was found because I was innocent but I never held this against anybody else. I have forgiven every one of those people that were part of the campaign, humiliated me, humiliated my family, they shook my children. But if I believe in something, I have to tell other people to try and do it as well. Every day I was humiliated in that little box and the chase was over and now I hate nobody. We should not allow ourselves to be polluted by hatred for one another.

**Gravazio:** It has been a pleasure having you on the program. Thank you for coming.

**RB:** Thank you.

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale says more work needs to be done in order for independence to be meaningful because many citizens are still under economic slavery. In a statement on Zambia's 53rd Independence Day today, Mwale urged citizens to rise up and exercise the highest levels of patriotism and guard the country's sovereignty. "The Non Governmental Organisations' Coordinating

# Zambians are still under economic slavery - NGOCC

Council joins the rest of the country in commemorating 53 years of Zambia's independence this Tuesday, October 24, 2017 under the theme, 'Celebrating our Freedom for continued Peace, Unity, Patriotism and Development'. While the country has made some remarkable progress in a

number of sectors since October 24, 1964, so much still needs to be done to make independence more meaningful to all Zambians. It is sad that 53 years after independence, 54.5 percent of citizens still live in abject poverty. It is clear that the majority of the citizens are not fully independent as they

are still under economic slavery in their own country," Mwale stated. And Mwale called upon leaders of both the ruling and the opposition to address tension in the country. "It is NGOCC's expectation that government, through our leadership, will strive to

create an environment where peace is nurtured and unity of purpose is embraced across Zambia's vast ethnic, ideological and geographical spread. We also call upon all citizens to rise up and exercise the highest levels of patriotism and guard our country's sovereignty. As we reflect on our

independence theme, we also call upon our leaders, both in the ruling and opposition political parties to address the current political tension and refocus the country's priorities on nation building," she stated. She also expressed concern on the low numbers of women representation at local government level and in the National Assembly as the country could only achieve sustainable development if both women and men worked together.

"Further, it is also of great concern that Zambia's legal framework still discriminates against women as evidenced by the low numbers of women representatives at local government level (9 percent) and in the National Assembly (17 percent). As Zambia commemorates this year's independence, it is high time that the country moves towards putting in place measures that will ensure inclusiveness for both women and men to participate and equally benefit from the country's development processes. Zambia will only be on its path to achieving sustainable development if women and men work together," Engwase stated. She stated that there was need for interventions from the leaders that would reduce the inequalities and poverty levels especially in rural areas as the country commemorates this years independence.

"As the country commemorates this year's independence it is critical that our leaders take stock of the country's development deficiencies that must be addressed. While appreciating the positive plans outlined in the Seventh National Development Plan, there is need for more targeted interventions that will help in reducing the existing inequalities and poverty levels in the country, especially in rural areas. It is saddening that half a century through after independence, we can still have majority citizens having challenges with accessing quality medical facilities and clean drinking water and sanitation. This has resulted in increased mortality rates for women and children. It is therefore imperative that these challenges are redressed in a more concerted manner if the country is to realize its development goals," stated Engwase.

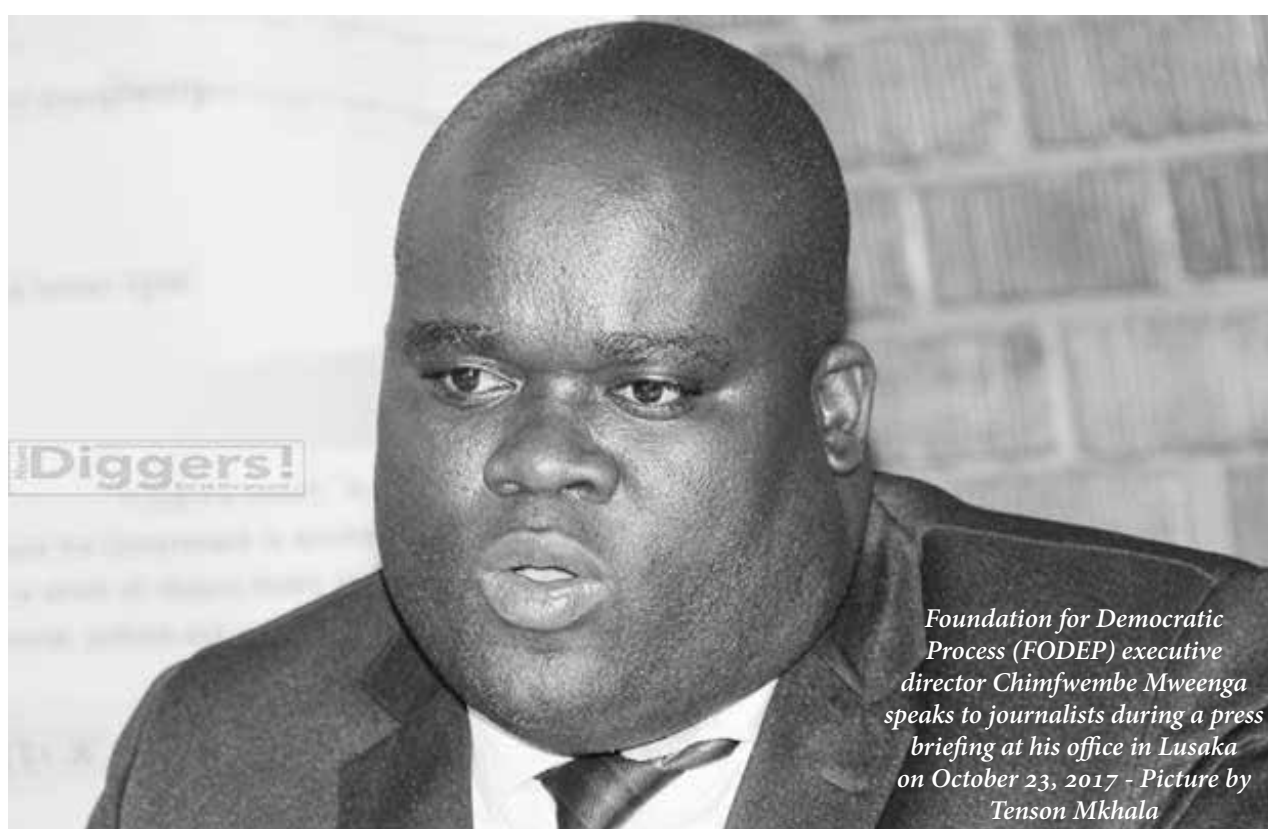
## Celebrating 53 years of Independence without Bill of Rights shameful – FODEP

**By Patricia Mbewe and Anastasia Kasongo**

FODEP executive director Chimfwembe Mweenge says it is shameful that Zambia will celebrate 53 years of independence without a Bill of Rights. And Mweenge says only a governance environment founded on transparency and accountability can make it possible for those in mining areas to benefit from the proceeds. Reflecting on Zambia's economic state of affairs on Independence at a briefing today, Mweenge said having a Bill of Rights would enable citizens to make claims on their social economic rights.

"It is also prudent that if there is to be a progressive realization of service delivery from the proceeds of the extractives, the government should not turn a blind eye to the calls for a judicable bill of rights but should instead give a clear indication on the fate of the Referendum on the Bill of Rights. We observe that 53 years of independence without a judicable bill of rights to enable citizens make claims on their social economic rights is just shameful and inexcusable," Mweenge said. And Mweenge stressed the need for those in mining areas to benefit from the proceeds.

"The organization's objectives have been to ensure that public resources are used in a transparent and accountable manner, and provide for community participation in planning and developmental processes in the targeted districts of North Western Province. As the country celebrates 53 years of independence, Foundation for Democratic Process' main desire is to see stakeholders and particularly the government and the



*Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) executive director Chimfwembe Mweenge speaks to journalists during a press briefing at his office in Lusaka on October 23, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala*

mining corporations in all provinces reflect seriously on the extent to which local communities within the mining towns including regions where explorations are taking place are benefiting from these natural resources especially after so many years of independence," Mweenge stated.

"But we regret to note that today, Zambia stands as one of the most unequal sharing country with rampant poverty levels. Ironically, this is specifically true in the hosting communities of the extractives; there is an immediate need by the government of the day to initiate responsive laws to benefit communities that are hosting the mines. It is public knowledge that mining activities continue to surge in the many districts and provinces. We recognize that the government attempted in 2008 to select a mineral royalty sharing mechanism under section 136 of the Mines and Minerals Act no 7 of 2008 but that was not effected and consequently removed in the 2015 Mines and Minerals Act. We therefore make a clarion

call on parliament to recall minerals royalty sharing mechanisms in the 2015 Mines and Minerals Act to enable the Zambian people to have a direct control of the natural resources."

Mweenge noted that particularly copper alone has accounted for 12 percent of Zambia's Gross Domestic Product.

"Copper alone has accounted for 12 percent of Zambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and an average of 70 percent of the total export value. Given the promising prospects of copper price at international market, by the mid-2017, the price of copper on the international market reached US\$6,791 per ton, however, it is only through a responsive governance environment founded on strict accountability, transparency and good governance principles and values on the part of all actors, that the Zambian people and communities living in the mining areas can be elevated out of poverty and celebrate their independence meaningfully and with dignity," he stated. Mweenge demanded that government should take

measures to ensure that the most important national assets begin to contribute meaningful to the welfare of its citizens.

"1. The government must fully implement the provisions of the Africa Mining Vision, adopted by the African Heads of State in 2009. The vision advocates thinking outside 'the mining box'. It is about improving mining regimes by making sure that tax revenues are optimized, income is well spent and above all mining is integrated much better into development policies at local, national and regional levels. 2. Government must strengthen its capacity to negotiate contracts with mining multinationals that generate fair resource rents and stipulate local inputs for operations. 3. The government must expedite the implementation of the decentralization process and ensure full devolution. The current delays in the setting up of ward development committees in local authorities are denying citizens the right to interact with the mines about community needs. 4. Currently, most of the local

communities especially marginalized women, youths and people with disabilities (PWDs) are not sufficiently benefiting from mining investments in Zambia and the government must quickly review the laws, policies and legal framework," said Mweenge. "5. Zambia has continued to receive a steady rise in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) with the extractive industries accounting for the highest. There is need to raise the bar for accountability for natural resources and revenues so that communities can benefit and the vision of the 7th National Development Plan, whose theme is "leaving no one behind," can be achieved. 6. The government must review and strengthen its economic policies in order to safeguard the long term social economic welfare of communities and Zambians at large so that the mining towns do not become white elephants projects in future. 7. Government must be seen to support citizens who are affected by the effects of mining. A case in point is that of Chingola residents vs. Konkola Copper Mines."

We find it unfair that the whole government and the ruling party has risen against the Minister of National Planning and Development, Lucky Mulusa, over the joke he made about the infamous 42-million-dollar fire tenders. People seem to ignore the fact that Mulusa did not stop at mocking the fire tenders; he went further to explain why the procurement of the fire trucks sparked public outrage.

"I see my colleagues struggling to justify [the purchase]. Probably we should have given better explanations than the explanations which seem contradictory, which seem not to be making sense to members of the public. We should have probably done an appraisal on fires tenders," Mulusa suggested, of course adding that compared to the Liverpool fire truck bought at the same price, ours looked like wheelbarrows.

On October 20, 2017, Vice-President Inonge Wina told Parliament that government was going to discipline the minister for the remark he made. But the leader of government business in the House contradicted government position on the matter. It seems the Vice-President did not pay attention to the question raised by Chimwemwe Independent member of parliament Elias Mwila, but was quick to point a gun at Honourable Mulusa, forgetting what other ministers had told the House about this procurement.

Elias Mwila: "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

# Mulusa is also a taxpayer

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of collective responsibility?"

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

Inonge Wina: "Madam Speaker, 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."

This answer simply exposed how double tongued the PF government is. At the same time, it exonerates those who have accused senior government

officials of benefitting from this procurement. We say this because in his question, Honourable Mwila suggested that Mulusa and other Cabinet ministers sat and approved the procurement of 42 fire trucks, but in her answer, Vice-President Wina did not distance Cabinet from this matter the way the Local Government Minister did on September 20, 2017.

Vincet Mwale: "Procurement is not a function of Ministers, it is not a function of Cabinet, this is a function of people who are employed to do that and we have up to the Permanent Secretary as controlling officers. Beyond them, you have got ZPPA as an authority that deals with procurement. These are the people that procure for government. Even this decision

was made by the officers who were doing the procurement."

So what collective Cabinet responsibility is Vice-President Wina talking about? What ministerial code of conduct did Honourable Mulusa breach? Is the Vice-President suggesting that if a procurement officer in Shangombo (given the resources), purchased a hundred-million-dollar passenger ship to replace the defective pontoon on the Zambezi River, Mulusa would be expected to support that in the name of collective responsibility?

Why is it that all Cabinet ministers are expected to support this particular procurement even though they know nothing about it? How special are these procurement officers behind the fire trucks?

We understand the need for government officers to speak with one voice, but that requirement does not mean stealing with one voice. It cannot be termed as an act of undermining government if a minister criticises a wrong decision made by a junior officer who is not even part of Cabinet.

We must not forget, as a country, that public servants are also tax payers and responsible tax payers in government don't just sit *ndwii*, when they see misuse of public resources. They show their displeasure. Honourable Mulusa, like every other innocent government official, found this 42-million-dollar procurement hard to justify, and he exercised his freedom of speech to make fun of it. This is what concerned

Zambians who can't do anything about it have been doing to vent their frustrations.

But we note that this matter is very sensitive to the powers that be. It seems the fire tender procurement is sacred and no one is allowed to make fun of it. That is why police in Chingola arrested 49-year-old Alex Mwale, accusing him of defaming President Edgar Lungu in a joke about the fire tenders.

In the WhatsApp circulated video clip, Mwale was captured pointing at one of the fire trucks and saying: "Lungu you are the one I am telling, is this where you can spend 9.5 million? A thief is a thief! Lungu you are a thief. This vehicle cannot cost 9.5 billion old currency. You are a criminal bring our money back."

We are shocked that a learned lawyer like Charity Katanga, acting as Copperbelt Province Police commissioner, sanctioned this arrest and was even proud to announce the charge.

How can the police arrest a funny guy on the street, cracking jokes with his friends about a topical governance issues? In any case, there is nowhere in that video clip where Mwale mentioned the words "President" or "Edgar". He simply said "Lungu you are a thief." How can the police be so sure that there was no any other Lungu involved in the procurement of fire tenders apart from our Head of State?

There are many people called "Lungu" in this country and like Mwale pointed out, some are thieves. There are also a lot of citizens called "Edgar", some are drunkards, and many political leaders in Zambia go by the title of "president", some are dictators. Therefore, it is illogical for the police to assume that "Lungu" means "President of the Republic of Zambia".

## What did we promise people before gaining independence?

The struggle for Zambia's independence was not easy. Tribute goes to the many heroes - men, women and youth- who sacrificed so much, including their lives, for our country to be independent 53 years ago, from British colonialism. We have many of our citizens today, who were born after independence - affectionately referred to as born-frees- and who have no idea what it was like to live under an oppressive British colonial regime, which believed in the domination of the indigenous people of people of this country. In 1953, Britain allowed the white minority in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (now Malawi), to impose the infamous Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland on black people of these three countries, which entrenched brutal white rule and caused even more suffering on them.

The born-frees have no idea how much their forefathers and mothers suffered at the hands of colonialism. They have never heard of the African Welfare Society, the fore runner to the African National Congress(ANC), the Zambia African National Congress (ZANC), which split from the ANC, ostensibly to accelerate the struggle for independence; they have never heard of the ordinary men and women who donated cattle, goats, groundnuts, chickens and money to send the first delegation of black leaders to London to lobby the British government, lawmakers, trade unions and ordinary citizens for our independence. It is difficult to explain to them that our residential areas, education and health systems were segregated on racial lines and that is how areas such as Chilenje, Matero (for blacks), Thornpark (for

Coloureds), Madras (for Indians) and Kabulonga, Woodlands, Northmead, Rhodespark (for privileged white minority Brits, who even punished none British whites to areas such as Roma township. The blacks could not enter departmental shops, chemists, hotels such as Ridgeway, Lusaka, Savoy, North Western, Edinburgh etc on account of their colour; blacks had to carry the notorious Chitupas or an identification pass, without which they were arrested; it took enormous sacrifice and selflessness to confront the evils of colonialism with zeal, dedication and commitment. They did not do it for reward. They did it out principle and love for the country and its people.

At independence after a long and bitter struggle, our country only had a handful of black University graduates and holders of today's grade twelve certificates. In recognition

of this, the founding fathers prioritised education as key to whatever the country wanted to achieve in addition to improving health and other services, which were virtually non existent or meagre. They came up with a national motto of "One Zambia, One Nation", because they recognised the need for the over 72 ethnic groups to share responsibility in the construction of every aspect of our national life and receive equal attention. Cabinet, Civil Service, Parastal and Diplomatic appointments were done in a fair and equitable manner and no part of this country felt excluded.

We have come a very long way and from a small population at independence of about 3 million to about 17 million today. We have so many educated zambians and our country has become a net exporter of human expertise to the region and beyond. We have in theory achieved

freedom, which should always go hand in glove with development. Without development, you very soon lose your freedom. What then did we promise our people at the time of independence? We promised them development, education, health-care, better roads, clean water, housing, and also greater freedoms to participate in making decisions which affect their rights, including freedom from arbitrary arrest for saying things which may annoy those in power at any given time. Yes, some progress has been made in the last 53 years, but a lot and I mean a lot more needs to be done to make the lives of our people better. Increased production of maize, soya beans, cassava, sugar, cattle, fish, chickens, goats, beans, coffee, tea, honey etc, is development only it makes our people food secure and makes their nutrition better. The area where we have gone backwards is that of politics,

where our political leaders have been treating each other as enemies and not mere opponents. We want to see a peaceful corrupt free country in government, where all Zambians shall share national wealth and live in peace with one another. This new generation should not let us down.



**Dr. Vernon J Mwaanga is an accomplished diplomat who served as Ambassador of Zambia to Russia and as Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He served twice as Foreign Affairs minister and four times as Information and Broadcasting Minister under various regimes.**

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Monday to work with the US, China and Russia to contain North Korea's nuclear threat with "strong, resolute diplomacy", as he "humbly" accepted his landslide victory in a snap election.

Fresh from clinching a two-thirds "super-majority" that enables the nationalist premier to realise his dream of revising Japan's pacifist constitution, Abe vowed to forge a "national consensus"

# Abe aims at N. Korea after 'super-majority' vote win

on the divisive issue.

Addressing reporters on his election win, Abe said he would "confirm close co-operation" on North Korea

with Donald Trump when the US president visits Japan next month and then discuss the issue with the Chinese and Russian leaders.

"I have renewed my determination to secure people's lives and peaceful living, no matter what," said the 63-year-old.

North Korea, which has threatened to "sink" Japan and fired two missiles over its northern islands, dominated the 12-day election campaign that Abe eventually won comfortably.

"We will solve North Korea's missile, nuclear and abduction issues with strong, resolute diplomacy," he said in reference to the abduction of Japanese by Pyongyang in the 1970s and 1980s.

Abe's conservative coalition was on track to win at least 313 seats with only a handful left to call, according to public broadcaster NHK, giving him the coveted two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament.

He is now on course to become Japan's longest-serving premier, winning a fresh term at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy and key US regional ally.

North Korean belligerence helped the ruling coalition because "people are scared" and voted for Abe's hardline stance, said Gerald Curtis, professor of political science at Columbia University.

"I focused on the national defence issue, because I am concerned about North Korea. So I chose the party that will work firmly on this issue," one voter, 66-year-old pensioner Tsuyoshi Ushijima, told AFP.

## - 'Some concerns' about Abe -

However, while local media acknowledged what was described as a landslide victory, many attributed Abe's win to a weak and ineffective opposition and urged caution. "The voters didn't think the opposition parties were capable of running a government... they chose Prime Minister Abe, who is at least better, even if they had some concerns about

the ruling coalition," said the Nikkei daily.

The Asahi newspaper said: "The Abe brand is not as strong as it was before. There are some signs that voters are seeking a change in the situation whereby Abe is the only decent option."

According to an exit poll by Kyodo News on Sunday, 51 percent of voters said they do not trust Abe with 44 percent saying they did.

Turnout was expected to be only a fraction higher than the all-time low in the 2014 election. It was boosted largely by people voting early to avoid a typhoon, which smashed into Japan on election day.

The opposition Party of Hope, formed only weeks before the election by the popular Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, suffered a drubbing. It won just 49 seats according to the NHK projections.

A chastened Koike, speaking thousands of kilometres away in Paris where she was attending an event in her capacity as leader of the world's biggest city, said it was a "very severe result" for which she took full responsibility.

The new centre-left Constitutional Democratic Party out-performed Koike's new group but still trailed far behind Abe with 55 seats.

"People are reluctant about Prime Minister Abe, but then who would you turn to? There is no one," said Naoto Nonaka, professor at Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

## - 'Deepen constitution debate' -

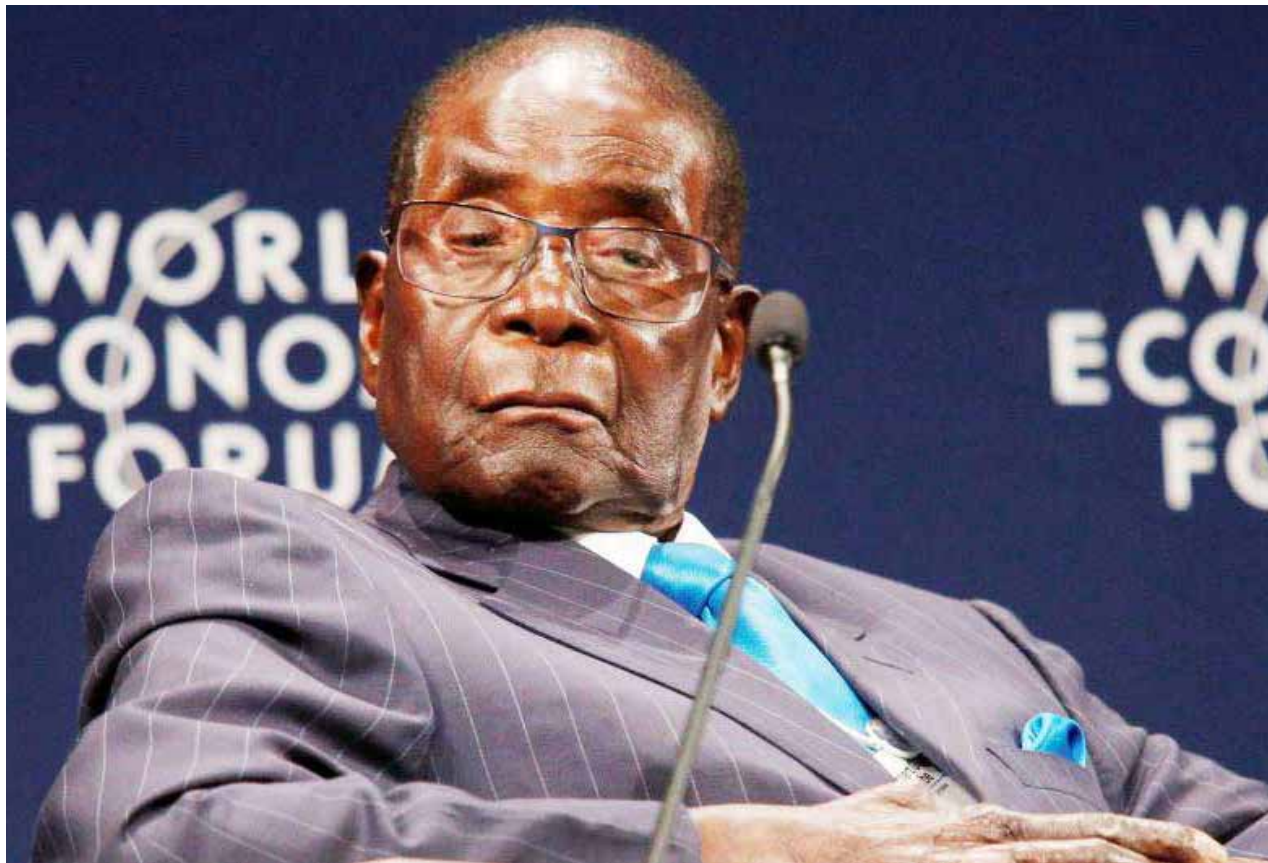
Abe, who has in the past been criticised for arrogance towards voters, vowed to face the challenge posed by the victory "humbly."

He struck a cautious note on possible revisions to the US-imposed constitution, saying he would "deepen" debate in parliament on the divisive issue but not seek to ram anything through.

Any changes to the document must be ratified by both chambers of parliament and then in a referendum, with surveys showing voters are split on the topic.

"Abe would want to see a constitutional revision but we know he is ideologically on the right and he's very pragmatic at the same time. And I think that pragmatism will force him to back off from pushing that issue too hard," said Curtis.

Many voters stressed that the economy is their biggest concern. The prime minister's trademark "Abenomics" strategy of ultra-loose monetary policy and huge government spending has failed to rekindle the former Asian powerhouse. But investors cheered the victory, with the benchmark Tokyo index up 1.11 percent, extending a winning run that has seen 15 straight consecutive gains for the first time in its near 70-year history. *AFP*



## WHO cancels Mugabe goodwill ambassador role

The World Health Organization has revoked the appointment of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe as a goodwill ambassador following a widespread outcry.

"I have listened carefully to all who have expressed their concerns," WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

He had previously praised Zimbabwe for its commitment to public health.

But critics pointed out that Zimbabwe's healthcare system had collapsed in recent years.

During the first 20 years of his 37-year rule, Mr Mugabe widely expanded health care, but the system has badly been affected by the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy since 2000.

Staff often go without pay, medicines are in short supply, and Mr Mugabe, who has outlived the average life expectancy in his country by three decades, travels abroad for medical treatment.

Mr Tedros said he had consulted with the Zimbabwean government and decided that rescinding Mr Mugabe's position was "in the best interests of" the WHO.

He said he remained "firmly committed to working with all countries and their leaders" to build universal health care.

Mr Tedros, elected in May under the slogan "let's prove the impossible is possible" had said he hoped Mr Mugabe would use his

goodwill ambassador role to "influence his peers in the region".

But the appointment was met by a wave of surprise and condemnation. The UK government, the Canadian prime minister, the Wellcome Trust, the NCD Alliance, UN Watch, the World Heart Federation, Action Against Smoking and Zimbabwean lawyers and social media users were among those who criticised the decision.

The BBC's Andrew Harding in Johannesburg reports that Mr Mugabe's supporters are

likely to see this episode as Western meddling in Africa. Presentational grey line Questions follow PR disaster Imogen Foulkes, BBC News, Geneva

Following the storm of criticism from human rights groups and expressions of dismay from many member states, the WHO had little choice but to cancel its plan to make Robert Mugabe a goodwill ambassador.

The about-face will raise questions over the leadership of the WHO's new director general Dr Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus.

The decision to honour Mr Mugabe is likely to have been taken several weeks ago, and at no point did Mr Tedros seem aware that appointing as goodwill ambassador a man who has been accused of human rights abuses, and of neglecting to the point of collapse his own country's health service, might be controversial.

The WHO was supposed to be embarking on a new era of reform. Instead, it is mired in a public relations disaster.

*BBC News*

# US 'wiped Raqqa off earth' - Russia

Russia has accused the US-led coalition of bombing the Syrian city of Raqqa "off the face of the earth" during the fight against so-called Islamic State.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, took Raqqa last week. Pictures suggest much of Raqqa is in ruins, and Moscow compared it to the Allied destruction of the German city of Dresden in World War Two.

The US-led coalition says it tried to minimise risks to civilians.

Russia has itself been accused of committing war crimes for its bombardment of Aleppo last year.

UN war crimes investigators in June that there had been a "staggering loss

of civilian life" in Raqqa.

Syrian activists say between 1,130 and 1,873 civilians were killed and that many of the civilian casualties were the result of the intense US-led air strikes that helped the SDF, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias, advance. A Russian defence ministry spokesman said the ruins evoked the destruction of Dresden.

"Raqqa has inherited the fate of Dresden in 1945, wiped off the face of the earth by Anglo-American bombardments," Maj Gen Igor Konashenkov said.

He said the West now appeared to be hurrying to send financial aid to Raqqa as a way of covering up evidence of its crimes.

The US-led coalition said it had adhered to strict targeting processes and procedures aimed to minimise risks to civilians.

The SDF declared victory in Raqqa last week after a four-month battle to retake the city from IS, which had ruled it for three years.

They say they have since taken the al-Omar oilfield, Syria's largest and a significant source of revenue for IS. The SDF's fight against the militants is now focused on their last stronghold in Syria's eastern province of Deir al-Zour.

The Syrian army, supported by Russian airpower and Iranian-backed militias, is also attacking the extremist group.

*BBC News*

# Not having rich parents was a blessing in disguise - Cassper



Cassper Nyovest has been very open about the fact that he came from nothing and now drives around in fancy cars. Even in his music, he has detailed how he disappointed his mother when he decided to follow his dreams and become a rapper.

So when his best friend said he wanted to buy new clothes because people were asking why he is always in the same gear, Cassper was not impressed.

“Stop allowing the world to tell you how to live your life. Stop validating yourself through compliments. IT’S YOUR LIFE!! GOD SAID SO!”

He said he struggled with his confidence growing up because his parent’s couldn’t afford the things he liked, which put him in a bad space because his friends had everything.

“Not having rich parents was a blessing in disguise ‘cos not only did it make me independent but my self-confidence wasn’t built on material. I’m making this thread cause even a person who is as successful as me gets those “is that your only shoe” comments & I’m like Wanyela? We are all struggling: Some more than others, but we all ouchea trying. The only pressure I will allow is the one that comes from within. I will live my life! With my pace!” *Timeslive.co.za*

## Kim and Kanye’s cars burglarized

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West had unwanted guests on the property of their Bel Air mansion on Friday morning. According to reports, two men burglarized three luxury vehicles at the bottom of their driveway.

While one suspect fled after hiding in bushes, the other man was met by the Wests’ heavily armed security team, according to TMZ. Personal items were taken from a car, including a phone that belonged to a staff member; however, the

suspect dropped it when he saw guns raised. The outlet claims it is standard operating procedure for the Kardashian-West security team to have access to licensed weapons when an intruder invades the gated property.

Clearly the burglars don’t keep up with the Kardashians, as it has been well documented that Kim and Kanye have beefed up security following the reality star’s Paris robbery. It’s been one year since Kardashian, who turns 37 tomorrow, was bound, gagged, and robbed of \$10 million worth of jewelry at gunpoint. Kris Jenner told *The Hollywood Reporter* the incident “changed all of our lives and the way that we live.”

“Not only do we now have an enormous amount of security — everyone is armed and licensed; it’s legit companies that protect all of us — but also the way that we deal with our lives on social media took a huge turn: what we show, what we don’t show,” Jenner explained. “If we go to Disneyland, we’re not snapping pictures with Dumbo; we’ll wait until we leave and then share something we want to share. But it also gave us great pause about what to share.” Judging from Kardashian’s social media, she was unfazed by this morning’s incident. The reality star was Snapchatting as if it’s business as usual, documenting her early-morning workout and posting flashback pics on Twitter. *Yahoo*

## ‘The one’ doesn’t exist and convincing ourselves otherwise leads to trouble

If you want to understand the science of relationships, you need to start with the phrase “cognitive dissonance.”

It’s psychologists’ term for that uncomfortable feeling you get when your behavior doesn’t match up with your beliefs. Usually when this happens, you take steps to realign them. For example, you think accounting is boring; then you get a job as an accountant and decide, before you even start, it’s actually riveting.

But cognitive dissonance also helps explain why so many people think they’ve found their soulmate — The One, if you will. Ask Esther Perel and she’ll tell you that once you’ve picked a partner:

“We come up with all the arguments to justify why that was the right person. But this is the way that we like to have coherence; we can’t agree with the idea that I

chose this person, but it’s not the right one. So we make it fit.”

Perel is a couples therapist as well as the author of “Mating in Captivity” and “The State of Affairs.” When she visited the Business Insider office in September, Perel said a lot of people today feel anxious about choosing the wrong person from a pool of thousands, all just a swipe away.

Yet while it’s probably true that some of those people are better matches for you than others, it’s probably not true — at least in Perel’s view — that one of those people is your absolute best match. Perel told it to us straight:

“There is never ‘The One.’ There is a one that you choose and with whom you decide that you want to build something. But in my opinion, there could also have been others — you just chose this one. And when you choose one,

you renounce others. ... Then you decide that because you’ve chosen that person, you turn that person into ‘The One.’”

Research suggests that believing that two people are meant for each other or not — what psychologists call a “destiny belief” — can in fact be detrimental to a relationship.

One 2007 study, published in the journal *Personality and Social Psychology*, found that people who held destiny beliefs were less likely to forgive their partner for transgressions than people who held “growth beliefs,” meaning they believed that relationships could benefit from work and overcoming obstacles.

Another study, published in 2004 in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, found that a growth belief served as a buffer against negative feelings after fighting with a partner.

Consider a growth belief a version of “job crafting,” or molding your job to become more meaningful by tweaking both your responsibilities and your perceptions of your role in the organization. When you “relationship craft,” you put in effort to make the partnership more perfect for you.

The point here isn’t to settle, and figure you’ll work to improve the relationship later. That sounds like a terrible idea.

Instead look for someone who makes you happy and who you could see yourself spending a long time with. But know that, regardless of who you choose, some conflict and disappointment is inevitable.

Perel said: “There is no one and only. There is the one you pick and what you choose to build with that person.” *Yahoo*

# Wiggins heroics sink Thunder in thriller

The three NBA games on Sunday night going into Monday morning delivered the kind of entertainment that only the NBA can provide. Wins for the Nets, Timberwolves and Pelicans were underpinned by some real player magic.

Wiggins last-second dagger give Wolves win over OKC  
The game between the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Minnesota Timberwolves epitomized the never-say-die grit of both teams. The T-Wolves won the game 115-113 on an Andrew Wiggins buzzer beater from long range. It was the kind of finish to the game that fans love to watch as first the Thunder thought they'd won the game with a Carmelo Anthony last-second 3-pointer before the Wiggins heroics.

Wiggins led the Wolves with 27 points and seven rebounds, his third straight game of 20-plus points. Karl-Anthony Towns weighed in with 27 points of his own and 12 rebounds. Jeff Teague ended the game with 19 points, nine assists and six rebounds. Jimmy Butler had 15 points, six rebounds and six assists, and former Thunder player Taj Gibson finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Oklahoma City guard and reigning MVP Russell Westbrook, top-scored with 31 points and also dished 10 assists. Anthony scored 23 and Steven Adams had 17 points and 13 rebounds. Paul George was solid with 14 points, eight assists and six rebounds, while Jerami Grant and Raymond Felton scored 12 points each.

## Nets stave off comeback to shoot down Hawks

The Brooklyn Nets let a big lead slip away before digging deep and clinching the 116-104 victory over the Atlanta Hawks. The Nets led by as much as 16 points at the end of the third quarter, and that became a Hawks lead in the fourth quarter before a 17-3 run gave the hosts the



win at Barclays Center. For the Nets the standout scorer was Allen Crabbe with 20 points and five rebounds. Crabbe went 4-of-7 from long range to set up the win. D'Angelo Russell finished with a double-double as he scored 16 points and dished 10 assists, falling three rebounds shy of a triple-double by grabbing seven boards. DeMarre Carroll scored 17 points, claimed three rebounds, passed for two assists, stole the ball twice and blocked two shots. Caris LeVert and Trevor Booker both scored in double digits with 16 and 14 points, respectively, for the Nets.

The seemingly ageless Marco Belinelli led the

Hawks in scoring with 19 points. Gambian-German Dennis Schroder finished with 17 points, eight assists, three rebounds and two steals as he fought hard. Kent Bazemore ended the contest with 16 points and rookie John Collins recorded a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds in the loss.

## Pelicans duo Davis,

## Cousins lead Pelicans to win over Lakers

The New Orleans Pelicans beat the Los Angeles Lakers 119-112 in an exciting game in the City of Angels. Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins showed their star qualities as they led their team to the road win by both recording double-doubles to take their season record to 1-2. Davis was his impressive

self with 27 points, 17 rebounds, four steals, three assists and three blocks. Cousins was also near unstoppable with 22 points, 11 rebounds, eight assists and two blocks. E'Twaun Moore scored 19 points and both Jrue Holiday and Ian Clark added 14 points each. Holiday ended the game with six assists, five rebounds and four steals. The Lakers were led in

scoring by Jordan Clarkson, who scored 24 points and passed five assists. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Kyle Kuzma both scored 20 points apiece. Kuzma pulled down six rebounds as well. It was all underpinned by another near triple-double from rookie star Lonzo Ball who scored eight points, grabbed eight rebounds but shone with 13 assists. *NBA*

# Shamujompa to stay at Power

By Nyambe Lubasi

Chipolopolo defender Isaac Shamujompa is defiant and staying put at Power Dynamos and that he will not return to Nchanga

Rangers.

Shamujompa, who has 11 Zambia caps, is entangled in a controversial transfer that has seen five clubs all claiming interest in the

Zambia defender.

FAZ Player Status committee last month ruled that Shamujompa is an Nchanga Rangers player after they bought him from his parent club Intersport on June 30 following an initial loan deal dating back to 2016.

However, Power too claimed they had reached a permanent deal with Shamujompa on July 5, 2017 from Intersport.

The case saw Shamujompa in limbo and out of action since July until FAZ issued a temporal clearance in September for him to feature for Power where he has played two competitive games so far.

"It feels good to be playing again after not playing for three months. I want to be playing for Power Dynamos and the issue will be resolved very soon," Shamujompa

said.

"There will be negotiations between Nchanga Rangers and Power Dynamos."

His first game for Power was on September 30 in a 2-0 home win over Nakambala Leopards at Arthur Davies Stadium in Kitwe and also featured in Saturdays 1-0 loss at the same venue in the Kitwe derby against Nkana. Shamujompa is still training at Arthur Davies and is in line to feature again on Tuesday when Power visits Zesco United in a league game at a Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

Meanwhile, Kalulushi Modern Stars, who were the first club to get him from Intersport in 2014, and Buildcon, who claim to have bought him from Nchanga Rangers on June 28, 2017, are the other clubs in the transfer wrangle.

# Del Potro beats Dimitrov to retain Stockholm title

Fourth seed Juan Martin del Potro put himself in contention for the ATP World Tour Finals when he successfully defended his Stockholm Open title on Sunday, defeating top seed and 2013 champion Grigor Dimitrov 6-4 6-2. The Argentine, who secured his first title since he lifted the trophy in Sweden last year, dominated the final with his serve, notching up nine aces and saving all four break

points he faced.

Fittingly enough, Del Potro ended the championship with a big serve in the deuce court down the middle, eliciting an error from his opponent. When the ball landed in the net, Del Potro's arms rose in celebration.

"I played the best match of the week against Grigor today. Unlucky for that, sorry Grigor," Del Potro said. "It's amazing to come back and hold

this big trophy and hopefully I can come next year as well."

Not only did Del Potro capture his 20th ATP World Tour title but he launched himself into contention for the season-ending finals in London next month. The 29-year-old will move up to 14th in the ATP's Race to London with 2,135 points, 470 behind Pablo Carreno Busta who currently occupies the final qualifying spot. *Yahoo*

# FASHION, MWEPU NET ONE EACH

*By Nyambe Lubasi*

Fashion Sakala scored his seventh goal of the season on Sunday after inspiring Spartak Moscow 2 to a 3-1 home win over second from bottom Tyumen.

The Zambia striker scored the final goal in the 73rd minute after Spartak had taken a 2-0 halftime lead. Fashion played the full 90 minutes in what was his 15th match for the Russian Division 2 side.

Spartak 2 are 8th on the Russian 2nd Division log on 30 points from 19 matches played and are 17 points behind leader Yenisey.

There was also goals from another ex-Zambia Under-20 star this weekend when midfielder Enock Mwepu snatched a point for Liefering on Friday in a 2-2 away draw at FAC at bottom side Wien.

Mwepu struck in stoppage time to net his third goal in two successive matches after scoring a brace in Liefering's 3-1 home win over Hartberg on October 13.

It was Mwepu's fifth goal of the season from 13 matches.

Liefering are 5th after the draw on 24 points six behind leaders Ried.

Meanwhile, Mwepu's fellow Austrian-based compatriot and striker Patson Daka remains sidelined with injury and so too is Belgium-based midfielder Emmanuel Banda of KV Oostende.

The PSG star has flourished at Parc des Princes and now joins a long line of wonderkids to have won the prize

Kylian Mbappe has won the prestigious Golden Boy award for the best player in Europe under the age of 21.

The PSG striker, who has scored four goals and provided four assists in 11 games for the club this season, burst onto the world stage with Monaco last season and is now flourishing in the French capital, having formed a terrifying partnership with Brazilian Neymar.

The 18-year-old, who has already won eight France caps, is currently on loan at Parc des Princes, and will officially join the club on a permanent basis next season, for a fee of €180 million.

Mbappe wins the award ahead of the likes of Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus, Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele and Milan's Gianluigi Donnarumma, and joins a list of illustrious previous winners, including Lionel Messi, Paul Pogba and Isco.

The prize is voted on by journalists from across the world, with Italian newspaper Tuttosport confirming the winner on Monday.

Mbappe won with 291 votes, ahead of second-placed

## Mbappe wins golden boy award



Dembele by some distance - the Barcelona star earned 149 votes. There has been some confusion over third and fourth place, however, with Marcus Rashford seemingly beating Gabriel Jesus into

third. Tuttosport confirmed the top three earlier this week, however, with Jesus joining Mbappe and Dembele and Rashford nowhere to be seen, though Monday's edition

claims the Manchester United striker received 76 votes, with Jesus claiming just 72.

Donnarumma comes in fifth, ahead of Borussia Dortmund's Christian

Pulisic in sixth, Ajax's Kasper Dolberg in seventh and Celta Vigo's Emre Mor in eighth. Federico Chiesa, of Fiorentina, and Juventus' Rodrigo Bentancur round off the top 10. *Goal.com*

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