

## Minister regrets G9 pupils' failure in IT exams

By Mirriam Chabala

Government has observed that girl pupils who sat for the 2017 grade nine external examinations obtained better results than boys in almost all the subjects.

Minister of General Education Dennis Wanchinga announced this in his Ministerial statement to Parliament today.

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## Kapoko gets 2 years for theft, money laundering

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## HH to address the Chatham House in UK

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema will next Tuesday discuss opposition political parties' role in preserving Zambia's democracy at Chatham House in London.

In a Facebook post today, HH announced that Chatham

House, which is The Royal Institute of International Affairs, had invited him to speak.

"We wish to announce to you that we have been invited to speak at The Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, UK, commonly known as The Chatham House

next Tuesday 31st October, 2017. We have been specifically asked to discuss three things i.e. UPND priorities, support required for opposition political parties and the role of the parties in ensuring that Zambia's democracy is preserved," HH stated.

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UPND president Hakainde Hichilema when he visited veteran politician and freedom fighter Daniel Munkombwe in the University Teaching Hospital today - Picture courtesy of UPND media team

## Wynter challenges IG to name owners of the Mukula logs seized in Garden...

# POLICE PROTECTING

By Mirriam Chabala

Wynter Kabimba says the failure by police to disclose the owners of the seized Mukula logs in a container at Garden Police in Lusaka is confirmation that there are ministers involved.

Kabimba who is Rainbow Party General Secretary said, in an interview, that it was no longer a secret that a number of ministers were involved in the illegal cultivation

# THIEVES IN GOVT

and exportation of Mukula, which was making it difficult for police to act against them.

"Well, I don't think it is a secret anymore that the Mukula scandal has got

big government officials involved in it including some of the ministers, that information is in the public domain. They are involved

not just by themselves but are involved together with some foreigners, that is also in the public domain," Kabimba said.

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## Don't take pride in building a bad image for Zambia, warns PF

Patricia Mbeve

PF secretary general Davies Mwila says politicians shouldn't take pride in standing on international podiums to discredit Zambia.

And Mwila claims Zambia's governance system has never been better than it is today.

According to a statement issued by PF media director Sunday Chanda, Mwila said no one could respect a politician who was always painting his country black.

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## JCC undermining ConCourt - Chipimo

Sipilisiwe Ncube

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says the Judicial Complaints Commission is undermining the Constitutional Court by passing judgment on the ruling made in the presidential election petition.

Recently, JCC noted that the ConCourt was inconsistent in the manner it handled the interpretation of the 14 days but ruled that one act of inconsistency could not be viewed as incompetence.

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## Listen to criticism, Lungu tells ACC boss

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Well known freedom fighters like me never get invited to State House for independence functions, but people who were less involved in the struggle are embraced, says Veteran Politician Vernon Johnson Mwaanga.

And VJ says it is unacceptable to have a government that does not want to be accountable to its people.

Speaking when he featured on 'Let the People Talk' on Radio Phoenix today, VJ said Cabinet Office does seem to have an accurate list of freedom fighters.

"I was involved in the struggle of course and there are a lot of people found in every part of Zambia who fought for the independence of this country. A lot of them have been forgotten because record keeping as the country particularly of the struggle has been very, very poor. You will find that even people like myself who are well known as freedom fighters, I never get invited to go to state house for independence functions, instead I see people who were less involved in the struggle who are now being embraced as freedom fighters of the day. So there is a systemic problem in terms of record keeping and keeping people who were involved in the struggle," VJ said.

"In 2014 when Zambia became 50 years, Cabinet Office drew out a list of people who were going to be honoured and when I looked at this list I found that there were a lot of names which were missing. There were also names which were on the list which should not have been there because these truly speaking they were not freedom fighters. And I insisted that they should add some of the other names which we were able to collect in a very short time so that they too could be honoured. It was important not to distort our history but if the problem can start at Cabinet Office were they don't have an accurate list of who fought for the independence of the country you can imagine how confused the born-frees must be and what kind of political history they are being taught now in schools."

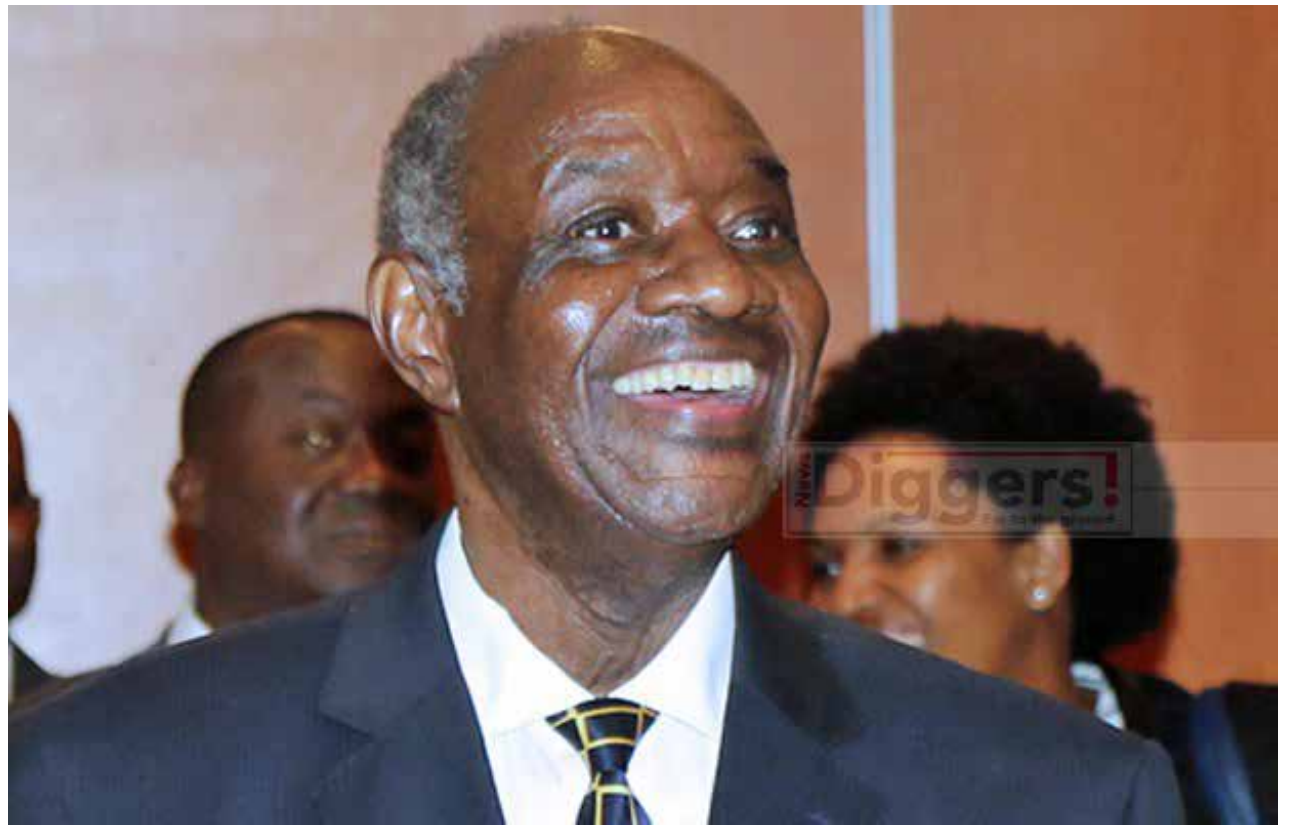
# State House sidelining known freedom fighters like me - VJ

He observed that today's politicians were focused on enriching themselves instead of serving the people.

"Looting of national resources is not acceptable under any circumstances. People who are in politics must be there for service to the people. Not service to themselves but service to the people of Zambia because that's what political leadership is all about. It's not about enriching oneself. A regrettable tendency appears to have emerged in the recent past where people who were using public transport now are owning buildings, fleet of private cars packed in their yards which cannot be justified by their income levels, which is a matter of public interest because they are in the public domain, VJ noted.

"Service to the people appears to have taken a backseat. I do regret this development and I hope that this generation of politicians can re-evaluate themselves and genuinely tell the people of Zambia whether they are there to serve the people or serve themselves. If we don't address this [topic], the problem will go unresolved." He said a selfless leaders listen to the concerns of the people they govern.

"We have to listen to the people when they talk because you know that people have got issues which have to be addressed by the leaders. We cannot



have a leader who does not address the issues that the people raise. And we have to develop a spirit of tolerance towards one another. Listening to each others views not treating each other as enemies even though we belong to different political parties. Democracy is about listening to the will of the people and doing what the people would like their leaders to do," he said. And VJ also urged people not to be afraid of holding the government accountable. "It is not enough just to declare that we are going to do the following. There must

also be an implementation strategy to implement these policies. And people must continue to hold government accountable for promises they make in their manifestos. People in this country have a tendency of not holding government accountable for promises which they make to them. Fear, intimidation are unacceptable in a democratic society. Citizens should not live in fear," he said.

He also observed that the One Zambia One Nation motto had weakened over the years.

"Before independence, the founding fathers of the nation decided that we are going to adopt a policy of 'One Zambia One Nation'. There was a good reason to it. We wanted all the 72, 73 tribes, ethnic groups to be able to live together in peace and harmony after independence but in the last 53 years there has been a weakening of this motto particularly in the last few years," VJ said.

"There has been a general improvement in terms of infrastructure but although a lot has been done, a lot more and I mean a lot

more remains to be done to improve the general condition of life of citizens. A lot needs to be done to improve our road transport, to provide clean water, health services, to improve the manufacturing sector so that we can become less dependant on importation of goods," said VJ

"We the founding fathers laid the foundation and it is up to the generation now to continue from what we left behind. Not by destroying what we left but by improving on what we left behind so that the country can move forward."

## Minister regrets G9 pupils' failure in IT exams

From front page

And Wanchinga said all candidates did not perform well in newly introduced subjects like Information Communication Technology studies.

"Mr Speaker, I would like to place on record that results have been distributed to all districts for the 2017 grade nine external examinations. In fact Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the Examinations Council of Zambia and the

staff at the Ministry of General Education for this speedy processing of results and this is because of the training of teachers as examiners which has enabled the GCE examinations to be marked in the provincial centers and this process has reduced the marking period by about eight days. Mr Speaker, the 2017 external examinations were the first to be written after the separation of external candidates from the internal

candidates under the revised curriculum of 2013, likewise, the 2017 GCE examination was the first to be written under the revised curriculum that begun being implemented in 2014," Wanchinga said.

"Mr Speaker, allow me to highlight the results of the 2017 grade nine external examinations. A total of 12,498 candidates entered the 2017 external grade nine examinations, of whom 5,627 or 45 per cent were male and

6,871 or 55 per cent were female. Of the candidates who entered for the examinations, 11,019 actually sat for the examinations. The breakdown of candidates who sat for exams was 4,895 or 44.4 per cent were and 6,124 or 55.5 per cent were females. When you look at the trend in terms of how candidates have been seating for these exams Mr Speaker, you will note that the grade nine external candidates from 2010 to 2016 there is a trend which showed that about 65,000 to about 84,000 candidates sat for these grade none examinations annually." Wanchinga said about 60 per cent of the candidates who sat for the examinations cleared and obtained certifications while 39.9 per cent of the candidates failed the examinations.

"The number of candidates that obtained the actual certificates was 326, this number represents about 3 per cent of the candidates while a total of 6,330 presenting about 57 per cent of the candidates obtained statements. A total of 4,363 representing about 39.9 per cent of the candidates failed the examinations. It should be noted here Mr Speaker that those we are

talking about who obtained certificates were those who sat for the actual subjects to qualify for a certificate but the majority of candidates were those who only sat for one or two subjects," he said.

Wanchinga further disclosed that candidates did not perform well in ICT studies and other newly introduced subjects with the exception of French.

"I wish to inform the nation that this examination is a make up examination and as such some only entered for one subject which is less than the six subjects required for a complete certificate. The other highlights which the House may wish to know is that of the 11,019 who sat for examinations, there were more girls who obtained certificates than boys. Candidates performed better in practical subjects like Art and Design, Home Economics, Design and Technology and Musical Arts. This performance was much better than was observed in Mathematics, Science and ICT subjects. Performance in newly introduced subjects was much below 40 per cent with the exception of French which we observed was above 50 per cent," said Wanchinga.

## Hakainde to discuss Zambia's democracy at Chatham House

From front page

"You may be aware that The Chatham House was named the top non-U.S. think tank by Foreign Policy Magazine. In the University of Pennsylvania's 2015 Global Think Tanks Report, Chatham House is ranked the second most influential think tank in the world after the Brookings Institution."

And according to an overview of the event posted on <https://www.chathamhouse.org/event/political->

opposition-and-policy-alternatives-zambia, HH will also discuss his party's priorities.

"In Zambia's 2016 national election, the Patriotic Front (PF) was re-elected by a narrow margin. The PF's Edgar Lungu secured 50.35 per cent of the vote according to the Electoral Commission of Zambia, narrowly avoiding a second round, while his main rival, Hakainde Hichilema, won 47.67 per cent. The UPND, led by Mr Hichilema, alleges electoral fraud

and has challenged the result in the courts and through direct protests. Mr Hichilema was imprisoned for 100 days. At this meeting, Hakainde Hichilema will discuss his UPND priorities, how to strengthen opposition parties and their role in Zambia's democratic future," read the overview.

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# Kapoko gets 2 years for theft, money laundering

**By Diggers Reporter**

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has convicted and sentenced former Ministry of Health chief human resources development officer Henry Kapoko to two years imprisonment with hard labour for abuse of authority, theft by public servant and money laundering. But the court has acquitted Kapoko's co accused, Nobert Peleti, who was the acting director of human resources and administration of theft charges amounting to K586,701.00 due to lack of evidence linking him to the offence.

In a seven-hour long judgement today, Lusaka High Court deputy registrar Aridah Chulu, sitting as magistrate, said the court was duty bound to protect the nation and the poor from people like Kapoko who did not live within their means.

She said Kapoko's sentencing would serve as a warning to people who had a habit of siphoning money.

Magistrate Chulu sentenced Kapoko to two years imprisonment on all six charges he was facing which would run concurrently.

She said it was clear that Kapoko benefited from the Ministry of Health funds following the participation of his companies in the bidding process.

She said Kansma Investment Limited, a company which won the tender for the supply of computers and printers, belonged to the convict's cousin and that he was facilitating for the payments for the same.

Magistrate Chulu said the inquiry address used for the company was for Best Home Lodge which was the Kapoko's property and that the quotation for Kansma was found at his residence during a search by investigative wings.

The court said it was clear that Kapoko stole K586,701.00 which money he obtained from Kansma for the items which were not even delivered. "There is no doubt that the convict engaged in a business transaction and money acquired from an illegal activity was used to purchase stand number five Mandahill Road," Magistrate Chulu said.

She said Kapoko acted against the provisions of the law which action was prejudicial to the interests of the Zambian

government.

Earlier in mitigation, the convict asked for leniency saying he regretted his action and he was a family man.

Through his lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube, Kapoko said he had conducted himself properly the last nine years of coming to court for the said

offences.

In count one, Kapoko being a public officer obtained advantage by influencing the awarding of a contract to Kansma Investment Limited to supply and deliver 15 HP desktop computers and 15 laser jet printers to the Ministry of Health between October 2007

and 31 January, 2008.

He influenced the awarding of contract to the same company to supply and deliver 7,200 reams of human resources development forms, a transaction that involved the ministry.

Kapoko was also facing three counts of money laundering

in which he indirectly engaged in a business transaction involving K1,173,402.00, money acquired from an illegal activity.

He was also accused of stealing property of the Government of the Republic of Zambia which came into his possession by virtue of his employment.

## JCC undermining ConCourt - Chipimo

**From front page**

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

But in an interview today, Chipimo said the JCC had over stepped its mandate.

"They can only make a comment about the ruling in so far as they are investigating whether there was competence in how that determination was made but they can't pass a decision on something that is only within the mandate of the Constitutional Court to decide. They cannot turn around and say the ConCourt was wrong in its decision. All they can say is how did they arrive at that decision whether right or wrong. If they arrived at it in a wrong way through misconduct or incompetence, then they have a role to play but they can't say that 'they

decided this, therefore they were wrong' because the court is the final determinant on an issue, the Constitution is quite clear about that. The mandate is not given to the JCC, it is given to the Constitutional Court so if you think that the Constitutional Court has done something wrong, you have to go back to the Constitutional Court and say 'we need you to review because you have made this decision on the basis of this interpretation which we believe is not correct. But they can't be the ones to say 'you are wrong'. That is not their role," Chipimo said.

"Their role is to determine was there misconduct or incompetence, not to make

a final decision on the determination. That's why there is a Constitutional Court otherwise there will be anarchy, everybody will be coming in, a university professor can say, 'you were wrong', this one 'you were wrong'...it is okay for a university professor to say it as a comment on the judgement but for the JCC, your mandate is not to decide whether the judgement is correct or not, your mandate is to decide whether or not there was misconduct or incompetence." He observed that no one had accused the ConCourt judges of getting money to rule a certain way, thereby nullifying any accusations of wrong doing or misconduct.

"What they have done is that they have created the impression that they have overstepped their mark. I understand where they are coming from but when you read the report and you hear the outcome of their findings, it suggests that they are imposing the responsibility and an obligation on the court which I don't think they have the mandate to do. Their mandate is only to determine was there misconduct or incompetence. That is what they are supposed to look at and then make a determination on that basis. There doesn't seem to be misconduct. Nobody has said that they were paid money or there is evidence that they misbehaved but it seems that they are now going to the issue of competence and if you are going to go to the issue of competence, there must be a very clear requirement for the court to do certain things and there is nothing that they have shown which indicates that there was a clear requirement for the court to be the ones to highlight the 14 day issue, that the courts were the ones to insist that the proceedings continue on a Saturday, none of that has come out so it does lead one to conclude that they are going beyond their brief. They can make those comments if they want to say 'the law needs to be amended or there is a lacuna, we need to have clarity or the court should take into account in future petitions these steps need to be taken or the petitioners need to be more aware on the right to demand these issues before the petition starts' but to say that 'this is what the court should have done' means that you are going beyond your mandate," said Chipimo.

## "Chinese Confucius Institutes and the cultural war in Africa"

The first building that one comes across when entering the University of Zambia, which sits on the terraces of a busy motorway to and from Lusaka's main international airport, is an imposing and massive building known as the Chinese Confucius Institute. Still in the offing but under serious consideration are plans to set up a wall (and possibly a statue of Confucius) at the entrance to the university in order to draw attention to the institute. That the institute, named after a major icon of Chinese culture, has been erected so prominently at Zambia's oldest and most prestigious university reveals, on the one hand, the long-term vision of its promoters and, on the other, a nation not yet attuned to how foreign cultural symbols naturalise power and influence, especially in instances where little has been done to create and celebrate local ones.

If Zambia has been singled out in this preface, it is only to give context to the rise of Chinese Confucius schools across Africa. What one encounters in Lusaka - the creation of a Chinese Confucius institute, the strategic location in which it is constructed, and the fact that the institute is set to operate within the premises of the top national educational institution - is seen on a continental scale. Inserted today in many of Africa's most prominent institutional premises is a Chinese Confucius school.

While much ink has been spilled on the effects of China's engagement with Africa on the economic front, very little has been said on its cultural facets. This conspiracy of silence comes against the unmasked aim of the Confucius Institute as a tool of Chinese cultural export and the fact that it will

be twelve years in December 2017 since the University of Nairobi in Kenya became Africa's first official recipient of this 'gift'. That this important subject has been neglected is perhaps unsurprising given that criticism of China's role in Africa has largely been driven from France, Britain and the United States of America, countries that have their own vested interests and equivalent institutions of cultural indoctrination in nearly all African nations. What this demonstrates are several issues: the question of who sets the continental agenda, the paucity of forward-thinking African intellectual opinion on key debates bordering on the continent's fate, and the stifling of African agency on these matters. The result is that within the highly problematic dominant discourse of development, Africa continues to be relegated to the bottom. Duty therefore falls on all Africans fed up with being treated as if they are at the nether ends of the civilisation scale to discuss the aims of the Chinese Confucius Institute and the threats it poses to African culture. Culture matters because it is the invisible thread that ties people together or separates them. Life as we know and live it, its day-to-day mundaneness, is in fact culture.

The Confucius Institute program was founded in 2004 to promote Chinese culture on the international scene. It draws its leadership from the Communist Party of China and has seen its presence throughout the world surge to nearly 500 schools as of October 2017 representing half of its target of 1,000 institutes by the year 2020. This rapid expansion within a short period has coincided with the steady rise of China as an emerging

global super power and reflects a long-term strategy aimed at securing the country's growing influence abroad and fashioning the world order under its cultural imprint. The founding of the school also represents an admission, perhaps learnt from the West, that economic and nuclear power can only go so far in terms of effective control of the world; that to truly control a people, one must influence the cultural habits, the language and belief systems of a people - referred to as soft power. This strategy of conquest has been previously deployed in Africa by France, Britain and the United States - expressed through the creation of enduring institutions of cultural dominance like Alliance Francaise, the British Council and the American Cultural Centre - to considerable success and devastating effect on the African psyche akin to what the continent's renowned writers like Okot Bitek and Chinua Achebe wrote on the colonial condition.

It is quite telling that the Confucius institutes have been presented as 'gifts' to Africa and as a way of 'strengthening' Sino-Africa relations by making the latter understand China 'better'. What this means in effect is that by giving the 'gift', in particular a very visible one, the Chinese are creating the obligation to reciprocate, much in the same way that the 'development aid' gift has done for the British, French and Americans. It is not surprising that development aid arose in Africa just after the formal end of colonialism. In the short term, the Chinese use these institutes to mark their territory on the African landscape and this becomes a visible, symbolic marker of their power and presence on

the continent in a way that is not as politically or socially sensitive as the creation of, say, military barracks or Africom. A school also becomes a medium of shifting ways of seeing the world and it is an exceedingly effective way for a state to build and extend its cultural capital internationally. In the long term, these 'gifts' soften the general populace into paying 'tribute' to those who become perceived as powerful benefactors. That they are being constructed on sites of national significance or in ways that dominate the landscape speaks to this long-term vision.

In other words, Chinese imperialism, like all imperialisms, including its Western precursors, recognises that it must empty Africans of their independent human essence if it is to thrive and defeat existing patterns of social practices that inform locals' knowledge and understanding of the world, how they engage in that environment, and how they re-create and interact with it, be it through customs, moral norms, laws, beliefs, tastes, art or other forms of cultural expressions.

Confucius schools are therefore and effectively nothing but China's vehicles for global dominance effected in the cultural sphere through the promotion of the Chinese language, tastes, education, architecture, music, food, movies, beliefs, banks, dressing, art, history and lifestyle, to be continued until such a time that these would have supplanted existing cultural precepts and raised local agents who would become the defenders of the new imposed order themselves.

Culture is dynamic; it evolves at every epoch and with every generation, and therein lies its

creativity but also its vulnerability. It is creative because it is not static and, like life, it renews itself amidst changing socio-economic and political contexts. It is vulnerable because some cultures are being eroded and replaced with others, usually those that are more dominant. Whether or not Africa's new imperial suitor succeeds in its aims depends, in large part, on the resilience of the host cultures, the strength of the host economies, and the consciousness and agency of the host populations, exemplified by the local leadership. It is probably easy for cultures like that of the United States and others to resist or at least manage external influences. For African cultures, already beleaguered by centuries of Western domination and operating within the imperial supremacist economic and social structures which make Africa fertile ground for neo-colonialism, the rise of Chinese Confucius schools poses several threats. *Continues on page 8*



**Sishuwa Sishuwa is the last Zambian nationalist. He is obsessed with all things Zambian, particularly politics and history which he teaches when UNZA is not closed. Sishuwa is a cadre of Nkana Football Club and has a PhD in History from Oxford.**



# Don't take pride in denting Zambia's image - PF

*From front page*

"We must repeatedly remind ourselves that Zambia's Independence was not free and guarding it is therefore not free. 24th October is more about those who risked and sacrificed their lives and shed their blood to win us this freedom we enjoy today. If you can contest in an election and get elected to public office, or contest an election, lose and petition the results in Court, if you can hold government accountable and demand for answers - then you have reason to celebrate 24th October and the freedom it brought 53 years ago. At 53, there must be no room for

politics that seek to divide Zambians on the basis of tribe, religion, gender or social status. At 53, no Zambian politician should stand on an international platform to speak ill of their Country. No one respects

you for painting your country black, especially on international forums. Let's have mature political discourse," Mwila said. And Mwila claimed that Zambia's governance profile had never been better than

today.

"Our governance profile has never been any better than it is today. Our constitution is what the people demanded for. Our institutions are strong. The fundamentals of our economy are strong,

supported by consistent fiscal and monetary policies in place. We are diversifying the economy, building roads, schools, hospitals, bridges, investing in alternative sources of energy and focusing on

human development, among others. Our international relations have never been any better than they are today. We have immense success stories to celebrate and improve upon," said Mwila.

## Listen to criticism, Lungu tells new ACC boss

*By Mukosha Funga*

President Edgar Lungu has advised new ACC Director General Zachariah Phiri and Clerk of the National

Assembly Cecilia Mbewe to listen to criticism as they carry out their duties. Speaking during their swearing in ceremony

at State House today, President Lungu said they would go astray if they didn't listen to criticism.

"Listen to the voice of

criticism. If you don't listen, you will go astray. When people talk about you as Clerk of the National Assembly or as the man in

charge of anti corruption, I think, listen, there is no harm in listening to what people are saying against you. Me I am criticized on a daily basis and I take it people have got the right to criticize," President Lungu said.

And President Lungu said he would not interfere in their jobs.

"You will be criticized but I know...that you can seek in the spirit of discerning so that you are able to appreciate this criticism, take it but don't let criticism put you off. Focus on your calling. Ba clerk, you are boss in ACC, these are the big jobs. Some people may convince you to do the wrong thing but I will not interfere in your jobs," said President Lungu.

Meanwhile, Phiri advised people to take evidence of corruption to the ACC instead of rushing to the media saying such conduct jeopardized investigations. "You are entitled to report to the media but the same jeopardise our investigations because the corruption issue is a complex issue. So when you alert people by going to the media first, you mean them destroying evidence but what is important is that when you come first to us and then later on we have the channels to inform the public through the media," said Phiri.

## Police protecting criminals behind Mukula smuggling, says Wynter

*From front page*

"For the police to move away a truck which was a subject of press inquiry and leaving a container their goes to confirm what what the public has been saying that this Mukula thing is a big scandal which has spread into government and involves ministers and other officials, is certainly true. And that's why the scourge can not come to an end because some government ministers are involved in it," Kabimba said.

He challenged the top police command to announce to the public the names of the people behind the Mukula logs which journalists have been asking about.

Kabimba observed that police were covering up criminals behind the illegal trade of Mukula.

"We are also investigating this matter as a party. We want to get to the bottom of it because Police are covering up the criminality because there are some big fish involved. So for you [the media], you should be putting pressure on the police [because] if the police can hide criminality then it means that the integrity of the police itself is being called into question. How can they impound a truck without disclosing the owner? he wondered.

Kabimba blamed the PF government for all the problems the country was facing.

"Everything going on in this country just tells you that this is a government of selfish leaders, we know for example that even when this ban was



*Wynter Kabimba listens to President Michael Sata address Cabinet on June 2, 2014 - Picture by Joseph Mwenda*

announced, in place there were some small Zambian businessmen that were issued with licenses to deal in Mukula tree export and when they were found with consignments of Mukula tree, those consignments were confiscated from

them only to end up being sold by some government ministers. So you are dealing with a government that is not representing the people that elected it, if they so elected. We have some ministers that are self serving instead of serving

the people," Kabimba said. He urged Zambians to vote out the PF in 2021.

"We are going towards 2021 so that the people can make a decision again, a proper decision this time around. People must vote properly in 2021 and make sure that

the PF government is out of power, that's what they should do if they want to redeem themselves out of poverty and eradicate corruption. They must make sure that the PF is voted out of power," said Kabimba.

## Lungu must announce dialogue date - UPND

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

UPND National Chairperson Mutale Nalumango says President Edgar Lungu who holds the instruments of power should set a date for the national dialogue between political parties.

Nalumango was reacting to a statement from PF secretary General Davies Mwila who said UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema was not committed to dialogue because he stayed away from the National Day of Prayer and Reconciliation.

She said, in an interview, that her party was committed to dialogue, but added that the onus to set the date was on the Head of State.

"As UPND we are extremely serious about the dialogue, we want them to come to the table. We want us to go to the table. Hopefully they could create an environment, they are the creators of the environment, they are the policy makers. They are the ones who have the militias, therefore they cannot give an excuse about our seriousness. We are waiting and we will go to the dialogue," she said.

"Unless he is saying truly he is not the President, but if he really believes he is the President, whether legitimate or not, the man holds the instruments of power and therefore should act as such. Where on earth do you see an opposition setting a

date for a national theme and say we want the President here to come and talk to us?"

Nalumango wondered why people were looking to the UPND to spearhead the dialogue process.

"We have done nothing so far towards dialogue and yet people are looking at us like we hold the solution in our hands with the way we approach this date that we show seriousness. I think that it is those that are questioning us that don't seem to show seriousness. We are divided that's why we need the dialogue," she said.

Nalumango also said UPND officials were not invited to the Independence celebrations at State House.

"I believe if I went to state house, I was probably going to be asked for an invitation. I thought that's the way it happens when events are at state house. The event was very clear that it would be by invitation, I personally have not seen those invitations. So why should we be the ones to be blamed?" wondered Nalumango. "So I don't know why anybody else would say are they serious? we are very serious than anybody else may want to put it. We are extremely serious, we need this dialogue because if this dialogue is to go on, to us it should start resolving issues of concern that have taken away our democratic values and principles."



By Joseph Mwenda

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed Dr Boileau Loko as the New IMF Mission Chief for Zambia, replacing Tchidi Tsikata.

This is according to a statement released by Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta.

He said Finance Minister Felix Mutati welcomed the appointment of Dr Loko and pledged continued support and cooperation with all the missions to Zambia which will be led by Dr Loko in order to ensure that Zambia ascends to an IMF supported programme as soon as possible.

Mutati also paid tribute to the previous Mission Chief, Tsikata, for his dedication to duty.

Meanwhile, Kandeta said IMF Director for the Africa Department, Dr Abebe Selassie accompanied by Dr Loko would soon conduct a short outreach mission to Zambia to meet with the authorities and discuss recent economic developments and policies.

“The Government, led by Mr Mutati, and the IMF, had a number of meetings on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings which were recently held in Washington DC, USA. During these meetings, discussions were held on the way forward following the completion of the Article IV REVIEW by the IMF Board,” Kandeta stated.

“On conclusion of the Washington circuit of talks, both the IMF and the Zambian Government Authorities were generally in agreement with the outcome of the Article IV Consultations, particularly the concerns raised with respect to the rising debt risks and the recommendations made on fiscal consolidation and the need to lower debt risks.”

He said the two sides discussed the importance of redefining Zambia’s borrowing plans going forward in view of the risks associated with high levels of debt, the need to continue fiscal

# IMF names new envoy to Zambia



IMF leader of delegation Tsidi Tsikata and secretary to Treasury Fedson Yamba shortly after press briefing in Lusaka-picture by Tenson Mkhala

consolidation, and the need for reassessment of the priorities of the 2018 budget.

“The two sides also agreed

on the inevitability of reviewing and redefining the macroeconomic framework in order to anchor the path towards

debt sustainability,” said Kandeta.

“The Zambian Government delegation agreed to provide data on

recent developments in the economy, on the 2018 budget, and on borrowing plans. Once this data has been reviewed and

validated, the IMF will field a staff visit to Zambia with the objective of redefining the macroeconomic framework.”

By Zondiwe Mbewe

People’s Alliance for Change leader Andyford Banda says he does not attend government events because they all feel like a PF camp.

Explaining why he did not attend Independence Day celebrations in an interview, Banda complained that government events did not have a national appeal.

“Yesterday was independence and there is need for people to celebrate independence day. There is a history that we need to appreciate about the fight that

## Every govt event feels like a PF camp - PAC

our forefathers got into and eventually became victorious. The objective of the independence struggle was to ensure that we move from colonial rule to our own sovereign rule as a country and resources managed by the Zambian people themselves. That

history is something that needs to be celebrated because no matter how bad the situation is right now, that cannot be changed. Independence must not be attached to the PF government. Independence is a national issue,” Banda said.

“It is about the pride we have that we are no longer under colonialism. However, as PAC we are not attending national events organized by the government because they do not symbolize a national character. You will find that when you go to such events it feels like a PF camp. So until that time when every person will be embraced as a Zambian on national events and not as a politician from another political party, is when we shall consider to start attending such events. It is not that we are shunning the celebration itself, we are shunning the gathering and not the celebration. The celebration is still worth celebrating but any gathering organized by the government is not worth it.”

well known freedom fighters like him were never invited to State House for independence functions, Banda said it was only logical to honour those who were involved in the struggle.

“Those that did not participate in the struggle, its logical that they should not have been honoured. They should have honoured people who were actually involved. You know there is a difference between being a Zambian who has contributed so much and being a freedom fighter. So independence is actually about the freedom fighters and the independence struggle and those that contributed to the struggle in whatever way possible must be honoured instead of just honouring people for the sake of just putting badges on their chest,” said Banda.

## PAYE is too high - Haabazoka

By Mukosha Funga

Economist Dr Lubinda Haabazoka says Zambia’s income taxes are too high for a country that calls itself pro poor.

In a statement yesterday, Dr Haabazoka, who is also a lecturer, asked government to feel for the workers who had too many responsibilities.

“Our income taxes are too high for a country that calls itself pro poor!!! The 2011 revolution was based on “More money in the pocket through lower taxes”!!! This government has increased MMD taxes from 35% for the highest tax band to 37.5%!!! Please feel for us the workers!!! Our taxes are too high!!!

When government taxes companies, they go for net profit meaning they would have removed expenses. But when you tax individuals, you don’t care if we have an extended family, paying highly through school fees, had a bereavement in the family etc,” Dr Haabazoka stated.

He stated that government could still collect enough revenue if PAYE was at 15 per cent.

“If we want to develop, our PAYE should drop to 15% like in Mauritius!!! Why is it that the Mauritian government is able to meet its obligations before its citizens even better than our

government but still collects only 15% tax? Mind you Mauritius has no Copper or wild life. They even import things like beef because they don’t have enough land for cattle. But they still do better than us!!!! Let us cut down tenders and reduce taxes!!!! Taxes must fall!!!! Why are we so mean to each other??? If you think my pleas are unattainable, I can sit down with you and show you where we can tap revenue and also reduce government waste so as to accommodate 15% PAYE!!!!

Happy independence fellow citizens!” stated Dr Haabazoka.

And commenting on veteran politician Vernon Mwaanga’s remarks that





**Ufulu celebrations**  
*By Tenson Mkhala*



*Lusaka residents celebrate Zambia's 53rd Independence at the Lusaka Showgrounds. The Zambia Army performed drills and a fire works display at the event which was graced by vice-president Inonge Wina*







# 53th Independence Day



*(Top left) Bastwana President Ian Khama, (top) President Edgar Lungu. (Above left) Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Guidance Rev Godfridah Sumaili talks to an army officer. (Above) Diplomats honour fallen heroes at the Freedom Statue. (Below) Home Affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo and PP president Mike Mulongoti share a light moment - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala*





The Zambia Police Command in Lusaka has distanced itself from a criminal case involving the illegal cultivation and smuggling of Mukula logs. A month ago, officers at Garden Police in Lusaka seized a contraband of about 200 Mukula logs, but somewhere along the way, the case became too hot for them to handle. They realised that criminals, more powerful than them are involved. They are trying to find means of quickly disposing off this case before the powers that be, get dragged into the mud.

We have taken particular interest in this case because our whistleblowers want to see justice prevail in the matter; and so far, our findings are that the police are not willing to take the culprits to court for fear of opening a Pandora's box. They have been harassing 'small boys' who were sent to transact in this Mukula, leaving the big businessmen and government officials involved.

In the past three weeks, we have been chasing after the public relations office at Zambia Police headquarters to get answers. We have been sending press queries on the matter, demanding to know the owners of the Mukula logs, which are in police custody at Garden Police post. We have been asking the police to share the findings of their investigations so far. But the police press office, which normally responds to political inquiries within minutes, has suddenly developed mumps. This highly contagious mumps has spread to other offices in the police command and they all can't talk.

On Monday, we miraculously succeeded to put Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo on the spotlight, and we simply asked her to explain who was behind the confiscated logs. Her answer was as we predicted: "I have been receiving so many queries on that same Mukula, but I don't have any information myself. Call Mr Phiri."

The Mr [Nelson] Phiri whom Katongo was referring to is the Lusaka Province Police Commissioner, but again like

# Police protecting Mukula smugglers

**News Diggers!**  
Ear to the ground

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we expected, the commissioner expressed ignorance: "If 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. It's not each and every little thing that comes here. Sometimes they go to court minus coming to my office."

Our assessment is that both Mr Phiri and Ms Katongo were lying through their teeth. To begin with, if the police spokesperson realises that the Mukula case at Garden Police post has drawn so much media attention – as she admits – why hasn't she taken interest to get facts for the journalists? How can Ms Katongo manage to get detailed information on the Mukula logs seized at Chief Chizela's palace in North Western Province, and announced facts the same day, but claim ignorance on the Mukula logs seized from her door-step, kept in police custody for almost a month?

Something is fishy here.

We know that every police officer under Lusaka Province, operates under the supervision of the police commissioner. Therefore it is illogical for Mr Phiri to express ignorance on this matter. In fact, expressing this level of ignorance on a serious criminal matter such as this one, would be exposing his incompetence and how unfit he is for the office of police commissioner. But we know that Mr Phiri is not ignorant. He is fully aware of what lies behind this Garden Mukula case, but the owners of the logs have infected him with mumps so that he doesn't talk.

We understand the police hierarchy. We also know that what can't be announced by the provincial commissioner can be disclosed by the Inspector General of police. Therefore, we challenge the IG to explain this case. If he

can't confirm anything for fear of victimization, at least let him tell the nation which part of our investigation is not correct.

In September, a businessman identified as Alex Tembo was hired to transport 'timber' from Serenje to Lusaka by two other businessmen, Joseph Simwanza and Emmanuel Simangolwa. After realising that the 'timber' in question was actually illegally cultivated Mukula, Tembo instructed his driver to dump the container from his truck. Along the way, police got involved and seized the container, which was strangely transported on Simangolwa's truck from Industrial area to Garden Police post. After a story was published concerning this seizure, with a picture of the container, Simangolwa's truck was released, leaving the Mukula logs at the police station.

This is the summary of the matrix surrounding the case which

police are distancing themselves from. These are the simple details which the police spokesperson and the commissioner of police don't want to have. So can the IG show his willingness to fight crime with impartiality, by disclosing the findings of the police investigations into this matter? Who cultivated the Mukula trees in Serenje? If the man who transported the logs to Lusaka says he was hired by Simangolwa, why is Simangolwa walking freely and who hired him? Who ordered the release of Simangolwa's truck from the police station?

Surely the Inspector General of police should be able to explain to the nation because a crime is a crime, regardless of who is involved. If the IG, the spokesperson and the commissioner can't talk, it means they have all been compromised by someone more powerful than them. And who is more powerful than the IG? It's a minister, a presidential

advisor or the President himself.

This is exactly what former justice minister Wynter Kabimba meant when he said ministers are involved in the illegal trade of Mukula timber. This is what former information minister Chishimba Kambwili was talking about when he said the ban on the exportation of Mukula was done in bad faith, to benefit senior government officials who are enriching themselves from smuggling.

We agree with Mr Kabimba and Mr Kambwili. The ban on the exportation of Mukula was not done to preserve our valuable natural resource. If that was the case, they would have allowed exportation and charged a premium on its tax to increase the revenue base of the country. The ban on the exportation of Mukula was not done to curb smuggling. If that was the idea, the Ministry of Lands would have ordered ZAFICO to periodically publish its earnings from the sale of the seized logs. The truth is that the exportation of Mukula has been left as a preserve for the political elite. If you are not in power and you involve yourself in Mukula, *ungena!*

That is why our police officers have found themselves in an awkward position. They have found themselves on the same side with the lawbreakers. The criminals involved in the Mukula, which was seized by Garden Police, are hiding behind the instruments of power. Police cannot afford to open fire without committing treason.

## Chinese Confucius Institutes and the cultural war in Africa

From page page 3

On a continent where the major cultural industries – film, television, music and food chains – are already dominated by Europe and America, the establishment and spread of Chinese Confucius schools threaten to frustrate the continuing efforts to resuscitate Africans' sense of self-belief and identity, their confidence in themselves and the world around them, and to unify the continent in a way that is perhaps best captured by the vision of the African Renaissance. Most importantly, a new, more subtle and dangerous form of colonialism, which, unlike the Western interventionism of the past, enjoys the consent of those on which it is preying, is quietly underway, and with deleterious consequences that will only become clear with time. The imperialism of the 21st century is cultural, soft, digital, less conflictual and effected in spheres where the imperial West lacks the moral high ground to disparage China's actions. By infusing the institutes into existing national educational institutions, the Chinese are investing and securing the spread of their culture into the minds of Africa's would-be leaders in industry, academia and politics.

Language allows the consumption, internalisation and articulation of foreign ideas through various media (radio, television, books etc.) and the possibility of expanding relations across many places. (It is both enlightening and incriminating that the

establishment of the Confucius Institute in Africa has gone hand in hand with the establishment of a Chinese International School. Learning Chinese language is mandatory in both outlets since it the medium of instruction. Language is a symbol of identity. But it is also an effective tool of cultural domination and control. To illustrate: when I impose my own language on another, and succeed in replacing that person's language with my own, I am effectively removing the very symbol of their essence, and replacing their identity with mine. The "you" becomes "I", the "yours," "mine," and in most instances "I" am the judge of how you are applying that "I". You cannot be, unless I confirm it or find it acceptable.) Education, acquired through scholarships to China and through Confucius schools, captures the promising youth of Africa, implicates them in Chinese philosophies, material and ideological exchanges, and creates a moral indebtedness that is difficult to totally unpick. One possible outcome for this scenario is the production of a national leadership with a sense of alienation from its own settings and which may look East, seeking to imitate the increasingly assertive and emboldened position as well as the values of the Chinese Communist Party, which recently held a congress where the leadership of Xi Jinping was given almost unassailable status.

Other possible threats include the continued marginalisation of African languages, symbols and heroes and

the resultant self-emasculation of the African identity and other worst forms of enslavement that have never before been experienced; the increased subservience of African cultures to foreign ones; the rise of China Towns on the African landscape, expressed through new export growth centres; and the preservation of position at the bottom of the global value chain. Combined with the already entrenched devastating effects of American, British and French imperial presences on African culture, winning the ongoing cultural war that the Chinese have joined will be tough for Africa, requiring an ideological mind shift, a strong and enlightened national leadership and significant consensus. People would need to be willing to endure a period of upheaval.

Africa has many needs, but Chinese Confucius institutes, Alliances Francaise, America Cultural Centres, the British Council or any other foreign institution of cultural control are not among them. What Africa needs and lacks are its own ideological schools for building capacity in so many areas where it has a deficit. What Africa needs is a serious discourse initiated and led by Africans themselves on what explains the continent's current position on the world scale of progress, what it can do internally to develop, defining its own priorities and engaging with the rest of the world on its own terms. African countries need to question the suitability of the neo-liberal economic agenda or

the existing approaches to economic and political development; they need to create narratives of nationhood through available media that resonate on a very phenomenological level with the masses and which would need to be hopeful and tempered by a hard realism of all needing to pull together; they need to establish political organisations which represent wider social and national considerations, not narrow sectional, class and ethnic interests, and which have clear ideological visions, policies that are inward looking and visionary leaders who effect strategies for broad-based societal change and plan beyond their constitutionally-prescribed (presidential) mandates; and they need educational systems that are anchored in the national values and which ground learners in the national values, culture and way of thinking and prepare them on how to engage with the outside world. And if Africans must write their own history, it must be both in practice (defeating the forces that dehumanise them and destroying their symbols) and in the realm of ideas – capturing the centre stage as the subjects of history themselves – by writing and singing about their cultures, victories and how they destroyed foreign cultural symbols. In short, what Africans need is to reject what they have become, fight to rediscover their full humanity, and be willing to pay the full price for their complete liberation. In practice, this means evolving and beginning a

new praxis - living their belief that they are human, in everything they do, and rejecting all that dehumanises them. This involves a fight, a revolution, sacrifices, pain, defeats and starting all over again until they get it right.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o once wrote that, "our lives are a battlefield on which is fought a continuous war between the forces that are pledged to confirm our humanity and those determined to dismantle it; those who strive to build a protective wall around it, and those who wish to pull it down; those who seek to mould it and those committed to breaking it up; those who aim to open our eyes, to make us see the light and look to tomorrow and those who wish to lull us into closing our eyes". The question is: when will Africa wake up and free itself from clinging on to the adopted and false consciousness of an ideological world view which legitimises the power and privilege of the very forces that are committed to dismantling it, pulling down the emerging protective wall around it and lulling its inhabitants into closing their eyes so that, as they did before, they sleep again and condemn themselves further into the abyss? It is ironic that the more Africans' eyes are opened, the more they refuse to see with those eyes that which presses them down. Africans have not fully realised the power that comes from knowledge and knowing beyond the narrow confines of imperial knowledge and from building relationship and ties. Wake up, Zambia! Woza, Africa!



# No heir apparent as Xi cements his power

China has revealed its new senior leadership committee, breaking with tradition by not including a clear successor to President Xi Jinping.

The omission cements Mr Xi's grip on China for the next five years and possibly beyond, a day after his name was written into the constitution.

Five new appointments were made to the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee, China's most powerful body.

The absence of an heir raises questions over how long Mr Xi intends to rule. Apart from 64-year-old Mr Xi, premier Li Keqiang, 62, was the only committee member to retain his position.

Chinese leaders have in recent decades hinted at one or more possible heirs to the Standing Committee at the beginning of their final term, indicating a clear line of succession.

There had been speculation that Mr Xi would elevate his protégé Chen Miner and Guangdong party secretary Hu Chunhua, both of whom are in their 50s - young enough to be credible successors.

But the six dark-suited men who walked out on stage on Wednesday were all in their 60s and are all likely to retire at the end of this five-year term.

The absence of any younger members will fuel speculation about Mr Xi's long-term intentions and his eventual successor.

There had been rumours that Mr Xi would reduce the size of the Standing Committee from seven to five, further tightening his control, but they proved unfounded.

Several international news organisations, including the BBC, Financial Times and The New York Times were denied access to the announcement, at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The Foreign Correspondent's Club of China said in a statement

it was "gross violation of the principles of press freedom".

What does this mean for China's leader?

The apparent absence of potential successors in the Standing Committee consolidates power with Mr Xi for the next five years, and points to a continued role for him after 2022.

The party voted on Tuesday to enshrine Mr Xi's name

and ideology into its constitution, elevating him to the level of the party's founding father, Mao Zedong.

The unanimous vote by delegates to incorporate "Xi Jinping Thought" into the constitution significantly strengthens Mr Xi's political control of the country, making him essentially unassailable. It is also likely to ensure

him continued power and influence long after his eventual retirement.

Elected president in 2012, Mr Xi began his second five-year term as of this year's congress.

In recent history, Chinese leaders have served 10-year terms, but Mr Xi could technically stay on after 2022 as party chief and head of the military, allowing him to wield

influence over the country's leadership beyond the end of his presidency.

Mr Xi's has assumed an unprecedented number of positions since coming to power in 2012, including the title of a "core" leader of China.

His first term has been marked by significant development, a push for modernisation and increasing assertiveness on

the world stage.

It has also seen growing authoritarianism, censorship and a crackdown on human rights.

He has spearheaded a sweeping anti-corruption campaign which has seen more than a million officials disciplined. It has been seen by some as a massive internal purge of opponents. *BBC News*



Intelligence committee chairman Devin Nunes (c) is a prominent Trump supporter

## Republicans investigate Obama, Clinton

Congressional Republicans have announced parallel inquiries into a uranium deal under President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton's emails.

One committee will investigate how the Obama administration approved a 2010 acquisition that gave Russia control of 20% of the US uranium supply.

Two other panels will scrutinise the FBI decision not to charge Mrs Clinton over her private email server.

Democrats pilloried the inquiries as "a massive diversion".

Both issues to be placed

under the spotlight by the committees are longstanding political grievances of President Donald Trump.

His campaign aides are currently the subject of congressional investigations into whether they colluded with alleged Kremlin attempts to sway last year's US presidential election.

On Tuesday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte and House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy announced inquiries into the previous administration.

They said there were "outstanding questions" about the FBI's investigation into former Democratic presidential candidate Mrs Clinton's emails.

The congressmen said they wished to know why former FBI director James Comey chose to divulge the inquiry into Mrs Clinton, but not the one about Trump aides and Russia.

Also on Tuesday, Devin Nunes, the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, announced his panel's inquiry into the sale of a Canadian mining firm that had mines in the American

West. Uranium One - which owned a fifth of US uranium supplies - was acquired seven years ago by Russian state-owned company Rosatom.

The US Department of State, under former Secretary of State Mrs Clinton, helped approve the deal.

The Hill reported last week that at the time of the sale the FBI was investigating alleged attempts by Moscow to gain influence in the US nuclear industry through bribery and extortion.

The Hill and New York Times have reported that Russian nuclear officials and Uranium One's chairman donated millions of dollars to the Clinton charitable foundation.

Mr Nunes told reporters at Capitol Hill on Tuesday: "One of the things we are concerned about is whether or not there was an FBI investigation, was

there a DOJ [Department of Justice] investigation and if so, why was Congress not informed of this matter?"

President Trump has sought to draw attention to the story, tweeting last week: "Uranium deal to Russia, with Clinton help and Obama Administration knowledge, is the biggest story that Fake Media doesn't want to follow!"

But Democratic congressmen accused Republicans on Tuesday of creating a distraction.

"This new investigation is a massive diversion to distract from the lack of Republican oversight of the Trump administration and the national security threat that Russia poses," said Elijah Cummings and John Conyers in a statement.

Mrs Clinton said in an interview with cable network C-SPAN on Monday that the Uranium One allegations are "baloney". *BBC News*

## Kenya's Supreme Court fails to hear election bid

Kenya's Supreme Court has been hit by a shortage of judges to hear a petition calling for the cancellation of the repeat election planned for Thursday.

Chief Justice David Maraga said not enough of the

court's seven judges were available to hear the case.

The deputy chief justice's bodyguard was shot by gunmen on Tuesday.

Mr Maraga said that Philomena Mwilu "was not in a position to come

court". Her bodyguard is receiving treatment at a hospital in the capital, Nairobi.

He said another colleague was unwell and was out of the country receiving treatment.

Two others were "unable to come to court" and another who is out of the capital "has been unable to get a flight" to be present for the court hearing.

Mr Maraga apologised to all parties. *BBC News*



A South Sudanese student has accidentally gone viral. Anok Yai was enjoying Howard University's homecoming over the weekend, when a photographer noticed her and snapped some pics. Before she knew it, strangers were begging the modeling gods to give her a contract. Yai is a 19-year-old sophomore studying biochemistry at Plymouth State University. "A friend of mine and I decided to travel to Washington, D.C., to attend Howard University's

# South Sudanese beauty goes viral

Homecoming," Yai, who grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, tells Yahoo Lifestyle.

They attended Yardfest, Howard's homecoming concert, featuring performers like Rick Ross

and Doug E. Fresh. "After Yardfest ended, I began walking toward the dorms, when a photographer that

goes by the name Steve 'theSUNK' Hall randomly started taking photos of me," she recalls. "While he was taking down my information, he said, 'Today was a good day, and a couple of these photos have the potential to go viral. I didn't really think much of it, so I just smiled and went on about my day.' Little did she know that her photo would indeed go viral. TheSunk shared her photo with his 13k Instagram followers yesterday. The rest is history. "It wasn't until later that evening that I picked up my phone and found hundreds of Instagram notifications piling in," Yai says. "Before all this happened, I had around 150 followers and was getting about 20 to 30 likes on each photo, and then suddenly, these numbers skyrocketed in a matter of hours."

The first three comments on the photo say it all: "She's a beaut!" "She's perfect," "She's amazing." Then there were comments from those hoping that Yai is a model, "Please tell me she's modeling," one follower wrote. "Oh my lord! Look at God's work, wow!! She is runway ready. I feel bad for the dude who was nervous to talk to her. She's a gem." "We need @anookyai to model merchandise for Oceanairs Republic. #wordup," gushed another. "An agency needs to sign her ASAP," demanded a third. "Give her a contract." While most wanted her to start modeling, others

assumed the beauty had already graced catwalks and magazine covers. "Yeah I def thought this was some famous model!" someone said.

Believe it or not, Yai, who moved to the United States in 2000, has never modeled. "I've always thought about modeling," Yai says. "It's a dream that I've wanted for a long time, but always pushed to the side because of self-doubt and distractions from school. Now I see this dream as something a lot more obtainable."

The sudden notoriety has been a lot for Yai to process. "All this attention and praise is definitely hard to wrap my head around. These comments took me by surprise."

Of course, people are already knocking on Yai's door. "I've had a few offers here and there, but I'm keeping my options open for now, before I make a decision on who I want to commit to," she says. When she does make the big decision, she isn't going to ditch school. "I definitely want to finish getting my bachelor's in science, so I would probably finish school online while modeling at the same time; just have something to fall back on."

She says the best part has been seeing people appreciate her very dark skin, characteristic of Sudanese people. "It makes me feel honored to be a South Sudanese woman. It shows that the standards of beauty are slowly evolving."

Yahoo



## Gym bans man for reporting sexual misconduct

When 33-year-old Colin Heilbut moved from Toronto to San Francisco a year and a half ago, one of the very first things he did was transfer his Canadian Equinox gym membership to one in his new American hometown. Heilbut considered himself nothing short of an Equinox enthusiast.

"I've spent close to \$10,000 there over the past two years," Heilbut, a tech support worker, tells Yahoo Lifestyle. "I've had a very positive experience. I love Equinox."

That's taken a sharp turn, though, as Heilbut has just filed a lawsuit against the luxury gym brand, alleging sexual assault by a yoga teacher, as well as the stinging kicker of retaliation: being banned from Equinox for life.

His suit, filed Oct. 12, outlines nine complaints against the gym, ranging from discrimination, gender- and/or sex-motivated violence, sexual battery, emotional

distress, assault and battery — and, perhaps most confusingly, retaliation.

"Why did [Equinox] take negative action against Heilbut because he complained? They wouldn't state specifically when he asked them point-blank why his membership was being revoked," Heilbut's lawyer, Lawrence Organ, tells Yahoo Lifestyle. "They wouldn't say the particular reasons why, but there was sort of an implication that it was his complaint about the abuse and the assault."

The purpose of Heilbut's lawsuit, Organ continues, "is really to try to change company behavior and company thinking. Men and women who are sexually assaulted in any business establishment in California have rights, and that includes not being discriminated against — and that includes not being discriminated against if you complain."

Organ says that the recent

headlines surrounding Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein only confirm why Heilbut's case is necessary.

"It's gratifying that when these initial accounts about Harvey Weinstein were published, what we saw was other people who were emboldened to come forward and felt empowered to tell their stories. That's what we want," he notes. "We want women and men who are the victims of inappropriate sexual conduct, including sexual assault, to feel free to come forward."

Heilbut spoke out about his experience on San Francisco's KPIX on Monday and further detailed his story in an Oct. 13 Medium post, in which he claims it was his filing a complaint about sexual assault and harassment that led to his being banned from the gym he loved. He has also launched a Change.org petition (currently with more than 675

signatures), asking Equinox to publicly commit to not retaliating against members who come forward with sexual harassment complaints.

Equinox tells Yahoo Lifestyle through a spokesperson, "Both the San Francisco Police Department and our internal team investigated these allegations and found them to be unfounded. These investigations both included access to extensive video footage. We intend to defend vigorously against the claims in the lawsuit." Heilbut tells Yahoo Lifestyle that he had studied yoga off and on over the past four years, around the world, when in late July he decided to try an Equinox SF class with a teacher he'd never worked with before. He said he found the instructor — named as Kevin Nguyen in the lawsuit — "friendly and knowledgeable," and returned for more.

During his third class with this

instructor, Heilbut's lawsuit claims, the male instructor did an adjustment on Heilbut in which he "cupped [his] genitals under the pretense of providing assistance with a yoga pose."

But, Heilbut tells Yahoo, "I just thought it was a stupid mistake. Most yoga teachers are more careful about those things, but I brushed it off as an accident."

On Aug. 3, Heilbut says, "class went normally," but that at the end of class a number of students stayed behind to work on inversions. As Heilbut was walking out, the complaint alleges, the teacher asked him if he would like to stay behind for some private instruction.

"It seemed unusual," Heilbut says. "Most teachers charge \$100 an hour for private lessons. But I thought, 'OK, extra help for free from someone really good.' I thought, 'OK, this is weird, but I don't have much to lose.'" Yahoo



# Roger Federer dominates in Swiss opener



Roger Federer began the search for his eighth Swiss Indoors title with a dominant straight sets victory over Frances Tiafoe.

The 19-time Grand Slam winner -- playing his first match since defeating Rafael Nadal in the final of the Shanghai Masters

earlier this month -- cruised past the American wildcard 6-1, 6-3 and will now face Frenchman Benoit Paire for a place in the quarterfinals.

Paire defeated Steve Johnson 6-3, 7-6 (4) in his first round matchup, while 3rd seed David Goffin continued his good

form going into the ATP World Tour Finals with a convincing 6-2, 7-5 win over Peter Gojowczyk. Defending champion

Marin Cilic is also through after he needed just 30 minutes to book his place in the second round.

The No. 2 seed took the first set 6-3 before his opponent Florian Mayer -- a late replacement for Fernando Verdasco -- retired hurt at the start of the second.

There was a surprise for fans as world No. 30 Mischa Zverev failed to advance to the Round of 16, falling 7-5, 7-5 at the hands of Leonardo Mayer.

Elsewhere Jack Sock -- seeded fifth in Basel -- narrowly avoided a similar fate as he recovered from a set down to scrape past Canada's Vasek Pospisil 3-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5.

Fellow American Ryan Harrison had an easier time of things as he beat Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-4, 6-1. *ESPN*

# Emery demands Ligue 1 refs do more to protect Neymar

Unai Emery has called on Ligue 1 referees to do more to protect Neymar after the Paris Saint-Germain star appeared to be targeted before his sending off against Marseille on Sunday. Neymar was shown a second yellow card the space of two minutes in Le Classique for appearing to headbutt Lucas Ocampos after the Argentine hacked him down by the halfway line.

It was by no means the first time the Brazilian had been on the end of a rash tackle from a Marseille player, with Marco Verratti saying after the game he would have snapped long before his team-mate.

Neymar will miss PSG's home match with Nice on Friday through suspension, but that has not stopped Emery sending a clear message to Ligue 1 referees, despite speaking to the world-record signing about being provoked.

"He has to adapt to the league, to the team, to the referees," Emery told reporters. "He is intelligent and he is aware that he will learn from Sunday's game."

"Other players are aggressive with him, but it's important that the referees handle that. I talked with him about it, not responding to provocations, but players are people. They can react if there is too much aggression."

Emery has an

embarrassment of riches in terms of attacking players at PSG this season, more so following the return to fitness of Javier Pastore.

But the Spanish coach reminded Pastore he will not find it easy to get back into the team.

"I'm happy with Javier," he said. "I want him to maintain this consistency

without injury, that's important.

"I want him to be ready to play when the team needs him. There is more competition in the team at for his position now. By working every day, he will perform well when he plays with his qualities."

Emery also had a similar warning to Angel Di Maria,

who is reportedly frustrated at being considered a rotation option.

The former Manchester United man has also suffered with injuries, including a thigh strain earlier this season, but Emery hinted at a potential starting role for him against Nice.

"He [Di Maria] is very

competitive," Emery added. "When he doesn't play, he is not happy."

"He works to help the team. He wants to play every game, he always wants to start, but there is competition."

"He is ready to play, to enter the 11. I'm happy with his work. Friday may be a good opportunity for him. I'm sure he's ready." *Yahoo*



Cristiano Ronaldo takes his son to meet arcviral Messi at the 2017 FIFA Best award ceremony held in London. Ronaldo scooped the top award for the men's category ahead of Messi and Neymar who came second and third respectively



# WHERE IS ZESCO COACH?



*By Nyambe Lubasi*

There is loud silence from Zesco United on the whereabouts of head coach Zlatko Krmpotic. Krmpotic was absent at Tuesday's Copperbelt derby clash between Team Ya Ziko and Power Dynamos that ended 1-1 in Ndola. Krmpotic's name was struck off the official match returns list for Tuesday's game, first by ink, before a revised copy was retyped with deputy trainer Tenant Chembo

appearing as head coach. Zesco officials have declined to comment on Krmpotic's absence prompting speculation over his future barely nine months after his appointment. "I would have loved to say a word or two but that is an administrative issue," Chembo said in a post-match interview at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium. Zesco laboured to reach the quarterfinals of the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup where they were

eliminated by this year's finalists SuperSport United. Zesco, who are currently 3rd on the league table with six games left, even failed to defend the Barclays Cup where they were ejected at the semifinal stage by Napsa Stars. However, Krmpotic began his tenure on a promising note when Zesco won the season-opening Samuel 'Zoom' Ndhlovu Memorial Charity Shield on April 1.

## CCPC clears City of Lusaka to host games at rebranded stadium

*By Mirriam Chabala*

CCPC has directed FAZ and MTN Zambia to allow City of Lusaka Football Club to use Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka for its fixtures until the Commission concludes investigations against the club. In a statement issued today by CCPC Public Relations Officer Namukolo Kasumpa, the commission imposed interim measures against MTN Zambia and FAZ for engaging into restrictive business practices. "The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has in the interim directed Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and MTN Zambia to allow City of Lusaka Football Club to use the Woodlands Stadium

until investigations commenced by the Commission have been concluded. Further the Commission has allowed Woodlands Stadium to be used for other football fixtures such as cup tournaments with immediate effect. The decision to place interim measures allowing the use of the stadium was made by the Technical Committee of the Board on 20th October 2017 in Lusaka," Kasumpa stated. Kasumpa stated that the commission received conflicting statements from FAZ and MTN and the two parties were written to questioning their authority to suspend City of Lusaka F.C from conducting matches in the stadium. "It was also reported that FAZ advised City

of Lusaka F.C. to find an alternative venue for their remaining home fixtures for the season as the branding by Vodafone was allegedly in violation of the sponsorship agreement between FAZ and MTN. The Commission instituted investigations and wrote to FAZ and MTN on the above allegations on 6th September 2017, and to-date has not received any response from FAZ, while MTN responded stating that they did not make the decision to stop Vodafone from branding the stadium and evicting the club from the stadium as the decision was entirely made by FAZ," she stated. Kasumpa regretted that the club would lose sponsorship if the status quo continued.

"Investigations thus far have revealed that City of Lusaka and other sponsors have from the 24th of August 2017 to the 4th of October 2017 incurred an estimated total loss of K3,713,000 and are likely to lose sponsorship if the status quo continues. Therefore, based on these facts, the Technical Committee of Board put in place interim measures allowing the use of the stadium with immediate effect, until such time as full investigations are completed by the Commission. The Commission will continue to get necessary information regarding this matter to enable a thorough investigation and the Media will continue to be updated on the findings and course of action," stated Kasumpa.

