

Govt, church exchange vows to improve public health services

Patricia Mbewe

Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the church remains the key ally of government in the provision of health services.

Speaking after a private meeting with the Catholic bishops at Kapingila House in Lusaka on Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said government would continue to build a relationship with the Catholic Church in order to strengthen the health systems and improve access to service delivery.

"The church remains the key ally of government in the provision of health services. So we will continue building the relationship with the Catholic Church and with all faith based organisations to strengthen our health systems and improve access to service delivery for our people," he said.

Dr Chitalu said government would work with the church in order to attain the epidemic control of HIV/AIDS by the year 2021.

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Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya (c) shortly after meeting Catholic Bishops at Kapingila House in Lusaka on November 7, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Auditor General says govt spent \$6.2m on engineering equipment that was never delivered...

MORE THEFT

By Joseph Mwenda

The latest Auditor General's report has revealed that the government through the Ministry of Transport and Communication wasted US\$6,271,420 (about K62,714,200) on the procurement of engineering equipment that was never delivered.

And the Auditor General has further disclosed that government was not using the engineering

equipment that was previously procured, as it was lying idle in provinces where it was distributed. "In paragraph 40 of the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended 31st December 2015, mention was made of the total amount of US\$9,240,370 (about K92,403,700) paid to MCD Civil and Mechanical Engineering as of November 2015 for the supply of 12 dredging machines at the total

contract price of US\$11,875,800 (about K118,758,000) and a delivery period of eight months from the date of advance payment," read the Auditor General report. To page 2

Ministry of Information doesn't deserve govt funding, it's a PF wing - Mwiimbu

Zondiwe Mbewe

Monze central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu says the Ministry of Information has been fomenting chaos and tension in the country because it has turned itself into a propaganda wing of the PF.

And Mwiimbu said taxpayers' money should not be spent on a ministry that only promotes ruling party agendas.

He was speaking in Parliament on Tuesday when he debated the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

"Mr Chairman, this particular ministry has been fomenting chaos, it has been fomenting

tension in this country as a result of misinformation and propaganda. This ministry, Mr Chairman does not deserve any ngwee of the public funds. This ministry is a disservice to this country.

This ministry reminds me of the ministry of propaganda in Iraqi under Comical Ali (Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf former Iraqi diplomat and politician)," Mwiimbu said. To page 4

Court finds Mukata with case to answer

Lusaka High Court judge Susan Wanjelani has found Chilanga UPND member of parliament Keith Mukata and his lover Charmaine Musonda with a case to answer.

This is a case in which the duo is charged for the murder of Namakabwa Kwenda, who was a security guard at Mukata's law firm. In her ruling on case to answer, judge Wanjelani said the prosecution had established a prema facie case against the accused and placed them on defence. Defence lawyer Eric Silwamba then informed the court that Mukata and Charmaine would remain silent but would call witnesses. He said their decision to remain silent was to avoid incriminating themselves in the matter.

As the court delivered its ruling, Mukata and his lover looked

distressed. A number of relatives and friends thronged judge Wanjelani's court room with a perception that the accused would walk to freedom, but were later dismayed with outcome of the court's ruling. The matter comes up on November 14 for production of evidence.

Luampa MP narrates how he survived PF lynching

Sipilisiwe Ncube

If I had known that the [government] event was going to be a PF gathering, I would have stayed away, says Luampa UPND member of parliament Makozi Chikote who was manhandled by ruling party cadres during the commissioning of Luampa electricity sub-station in his constituency yesterday. Narrating the ordeal in an interview with *News Diggers!* Chikote said he almost lost his temper when the cadres harassed him. To page 3

Kambwili gets acquittal in traffic offence, slams Lungu

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Some civil servants with fake G12 have genuine degrees - CSAWUZ

Zondiwe Mbewe

CSAWUZ says it is illogical for government to throw out civil servants with fake grade 12 results, but have acquired genuine degrees and worked for over 15 years in the civil service.

Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union of Zambia president Davy Chiyobe, said in an interview that civil servants who may have served for more than 15-20 years with fake results could not be prosecuted because of the life span of the offence. To page 5

There can also be chaos if ConCourt allows Lungu a third term, says TIZ

By Mukosha Funga

Transparency International Zambia president Rueben Lifuka has asked President Edgar Lungu to consider the fact that if the courts allow him to stand for a third term, there might be chaos.

And Lifuka says it was wrong for President Lungu to ridicule Kenyan Supreme Court judges because that country is a sovereign state.

In a written response to a press query, Lifuka stated that it was amazing that President Lungu thought chaos could only arise if he was stopped from standing.

“President Lungu – in one breath, he rightly calls on the Judiciary to do its work without fear or favour, and yet in another breath, he warns them not to be adventurous and copy what their colleagues in Kenya did. Two issues that are of concern to us – firstly, it would seem as if the only time the judiciary and the Constitutional Court in particular, will be deemed to have done their work without fear or favour, is when they determine matters before them in favour of the ruling party or its supporters. Surely, President Lungu, as a lawyer, is fully aware that decisions of the court could go against a party and they should be willing and ready to accept such decisions. In this particular case, the groups that have petitioned the Constitutional Court, should be ready to accept the determination of the court. They went to Court to seek an interpretation of the constitution and they should allow the courts to make that interpretation without undue influence. Secondly, it is amazing how President Lungu only considers one side of the coin – namely, that there will be potential chaos in the country if the courts do not determine in the affirmative on the position whether he is eligible to stand in 2021. What about the potential chaos that may follow if an opposite decision of the courts is made?” Lifuka asked.

“So from what is being said – if the courts rule in favour of the petitioners who support President Lungu’s eligibility to run in 2021, all Zambians should accept such a decision and respect the courts of law for the work they do. However,

if the courts rule against President Lungu’s interest, then the ruling party and its supporters will not accept this decision and there will be chaos in this country. We challenge President Lungu to categorically state what he meant by his remarks made in Solwezi.”

Lifuka said TIZ was not shocked by President Lungu’s attacks because attacking judges had become a norm in the PF.

“As Transparency International Zambia, we are not surprised by the veiled attacks on the Judiciary by President Edgar Lungu through his uncalled for statements made in Solwezi recently. What we find unfortunate is that such attacks have become a settled pattern for the Patriotic Front government, which seems intent on unfairly condemning the Judiciary every time the men and women in robes pass judgments or make determinations which are unfavourable to the ruling party. We do recall that in March 2015, the then Secretary General for the PF – Mr Davies Chama, castigated Honourable Mr. Justice Mwila Chitabo SC for his ruling overturning the decision of President Edgar Lungu to set up a Tribunal to probe the Director of Public Prosecutions who had been suspended by the President. Again in recent times, a Presidential aide took aim at the Judiciary for decisions made in nullifying seats held by Members of Parliament from the ruling party. President Lungu did not condemn his Press aide and instead came to his support,” he stated.

“Therefore, this latest episode should not shock us as Zambians but this should serve as a confirmation of a systematic attempt to undermine the credibility of the judiciary. We want to appeal to Zambians not to permit these political maneuvers – yes, while we all recognise some inadequacies in the Judiciary, this should not be a cause to undermine this important arm of government. We find President Lungu’s recent statement inflammatory and one that does little to protect the judiciary as claimed by his party. There is an apparent doublespeak on the part of the It is a pity that President Lungu-



Transparency International Zambia president Rueben Lifuka

as Head of State and a Lawyer, seems to cast aspersions on the intelligence and credibility of judges of the Constitutional Court. He insinuates that these Judges will not make their decisions independently and on the merits of the case before them, but will seemingly be influenced by the brave and courageous stance taken by the Judges of the Supreme Court in Kenya. It is surprising that this is the same government that condemned and rightly so, the attacks levelled against the Judiciary by the opposition political party leader – Mr. Hakainde Hichilema while on a trip to South Africa in September 2017.”

Lifuka advised President Lungu to take the lead in

protecting the Judiciary.

“So, it is right for Government to condemn others for attacking the Judiciary and it is also right for the Government and the ruling party to attack the Judiciary and we should all just keep quiet as these attacks are a form of protecting the Judiciary, as we are made to believe by both party and government operatives. The bottomline is that we live in a constitutional democracy – one that has separation of powers and the rule of law as its bedrock and this should be respected by all. The judiciary should be independent and operate without any undue influence from politicians and stakeholders alike. President Lungu should take the lead in

protecting the judiciary- and ensure that this body receive all the support it needs to serve as the glue that holds our democratic tenets together. Yes, there will be times when the courts rule against stakeholders or politicians but this should not be the justification for such spurious attacks,” he stated.

And observed that it was not in President Lungu’s place to discuss the competency of the Kenyan courts.

“We are amazed that President Lungu decided to ridicule judges of the Supreme Court of Kenya for the decisions they made in the recent Presidential election petition. President Lungu does not need any reminding that Kenya is a

sovereign nation and that it is not his place or any of the Zambians to go and discuss the competency of a court in Kenya or elsewhere. We are sure that President Lungu and his ministers, will be the first ones to complain if the Kenyan Head of State went public to ridicule the decisions of the Zambian Courts of Law and urging his judiciary not to follow suit. We therefore want to urge President Lungu, opposition political party leaders and all stakeholders, to protect the judiciary from these unwarranted and ill timed attacks on the judiciary. In the meantime, we urge the Judiciary to stand firm and do their work, truly without fear or favour,” stated Lifuka.

Mayor unveils plans to open council radio

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka mayor Wilson Kalumba says the council has plans to open a radio station where it can be disseminating information to residents.

Meanwhile, Kalumba says in the future, council officials would be passing door to door to verify if everyone has registered for garbage

collection and those found in breach would be penalized.

At a media briefing today, Kalumba also said uprooting Zoono, MTN and Airtel kiosks would be the order of the day if people don’t pay levies to the council.

“What you saw when we went physically to uproot booths and lock up businesses will

be the order of the day. If you are going to demand accountability also ensure that you are paying. We will set up a radio station where we will be disseminating this information to the residents,” Kalumba said.

“Us we have the responsibility to provide the services. Local authorities run just as

government do. They run on taxes from the citizens. If citizens are not paying authorities, government will have no money to provide the services. Ensure that rates are paid on your properties. Don’t wait for the council. If you know that you have an account running with the local authorities, every year just ensure that you pay.”

And Kalumba said it was mandatory for people to register for garbage collection. “We have increased the number of zones so that we can increase the number of garbage collectors to make it easier for us to pick garbage in Lusaka. The laws about garbage and waste require citizens to register to garbage collection systems approved by the local authority,” said Kalumba.

“I think in the near future, we will be passing from house to house to see proof that people are registering for garbage collection. If you are not, you will be totally in breach of the standing rules and you will be penalized for that.”

Govt spent \$6.2m on engineering equipment that was never delivered

From front page

“It was further mentioned that as of July 2016, the supplier had not delivered any of the dredging machines. In their Report for the First Session of the Twelfth National Assembly, the Public Accounts Committee strongly recommended that the Ministry must give the contractor a deadline by which date all the dredgers must be delivered failure to which the Ministry must

fully enforce its contractual rights.”

The Auditor General observed that the supply contract had misleading information.

“A scrutiny of the contract document in 2017 revealed that specifications for the machinery to be delivered were six cutter dredgers and six excavators, not twelve dredgers as indicated on the face of the contract document. A review of the situation during the audit of 2016 accounts

revealed that the contractor had only supplied three amphibious excavators valued at US\$2,968,950 leaving a balance of three amphibious excavators and six cutter suction dredgers costing US\$6,271,420,” stated the Auditor General.

“It could not be ascertained as to when the three undelivered excavators and six cutter dredgers would be delivered and no security guarantee was availed for the balance

of US\$6,271,420 being held by the supplier.

And the Auditor General disclosed that the previously procured dredgers were not being used.

“Fifteen dredgers that were delivered during the period from 2014 to 2016, were not being utilised. In this regard, 11 were at the ministry headquarters, awaiting distribution, and four though distributed were idle,” stated the Auditor General.

Auditor General's report an indictment on PF - JCTR

By Zondiwe Mbewe

JCTR says the 2016 Auditor General's report is a serious indictment on the PF as it reflects a deteriorating culture of wastefulness by those managing public finances. And JCTR there is no doubt that those with the responsibility of managing public funds have terribly failed the country. In a statement issued today, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection media and information officer Tendai Posiana noted the sharp rise in misapplied resources. "The irregularities that the report highlights to be of grave concern includes misapplication of funds which increased by more than five

times the misapplication level of 2015, from K28 million to K162 million. Unaccountable for revenue, unaccounted for funds, unretired imprest as well as unaccounted for stores all showed significant increases from their 2015 level. The 2016 Auditor General's report is a serious indictment on the PF government's credibility on public resource management as it reflects an ever deteriorating culture of wastefulness by those entrusted to manage public finances," Posiana stated. "The total number of audit queries in Auditor General's reports under the PF government have been increasing from 719 in 2012 to 867 in 2013 and 1215 in 2014.

It is without doubt that those with the responsibility of managing public funds have terribly failed the Zambians and quick measures need to be put in place to avoid this wastefulness. Zambia has so many developmental challenges where abused resources could have been used. University of Zambia for instance has postponed its opening date to 2018 on account of lack of funds and yet the country is wasting resources." She regretted lack of action by law enforcement agencies. "JCTR is concerned with the current public financial mismanagement in Zambia which keeps getting worse every year without corrective

measures. While seven out of 12 categories of irregularities showed some reduction, irregularity such as untouched expenditure remained the highest ranking irregularity at K170 million, an amount that could have doubled 2018 budgetary allocation to Skills Development and enabled hundreds of young school leavers acquire some skills. We have been studying the auditor general's reports and it's saddening to note that the misuse of tax payers money keeps worsening. With the current national poverty levels at 54.4 percent and rural poverty levels at 76.6 percent, high unemployment and high cost of living; Zambia cannot afford to continue on this path

of imprudent use of public resources," Posiana stated. She observed that while the economy had shown signs of recovery, government fiscal space was still under serious strain. "In the last few years, government has struggled to balance its incomes with expenditure partly due to reduced economic growth which has been caused by reduced copper prices on the international market and low electricity supply among others. This has resulted in government recording huge budget deficits of over 6 percent of GDP per annum way above the projected annual deficit of 3 percent of GDP. Government has thus

been courting the IMF for a US\$1.3 billion for balance of payment support. While the economy has shown signs of recovery with projected growth of 4 percent for 2017 from 3.4 percent of 2016, government fiscal space is still under serious strain. Seeing that we are on a route to economic recovery stringent public financial management policies should be instituted in our country to ensure that funds are used for the intended purpose in order to uplift lives of the poor," Posiana stated. She urged the ACC to prosecute officers found wanting. "The goals of the Seventh National Development Plan risks not being realized with this kind of un-targeting and wasteful spending. The JCTR therefore demands that the Anti-Corruption Commission prosecutes all erring officers cited in the report for abusing public resources. JCTR further demands that government implements all recommendation in the audit report without fail. Further there is need for the Secretary to the Treasury being the Chief Controlling Officer to see how financial management systems can be strengthened in Ministries to help curb the abuses. Publicity of treasury minutes on the Parliament or Auditor General's websites which provide details of commitments and works of different Permanent Secretaries to address Auditor General's and Public Accounts Committees comments. There is also urgent need for the revision of the Public Finance Act to strengthen punitive measures so as to ensure adherence to laid down financial regulations," stated Posiana.

Msiska regrets negative public perceptions about nuclear energy

Miriam Chabala

Secretary to the Cabinet Roland Msiska says it is regrettable that many people still consider nuclear science as something dangerous which is associated with atrocities and environmental disasters. In a speech read for him by Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary for administration Owen Mugemzulu at the Rosatom-Zambia public awareness workshop today, Dr Msiska regretted that people still regarded nuclear science as a dangerous undertaking even though empirical data suggested that very few people died directly from nuclear power applications. "The mention of nuclear science generally provokes negative reactions from many people, surprisingly, even the most enlightened people in Zambia today view nuclear science and technology as something dangerous which is only associated with atrocities and environmental disasters. Many of our people we have asked about their feelings on nuclear science respond with expressions and impulsive responses. One of the issues that needs urgent attention within Zambia's nuclear energy and technology will be to deal with the perception of nuclear energy by the population. Although empirical data suggests that very few people have died directly from nuclear power applications, most people still view nuclear power as something dangerous," Dr Msiska said. He said a nuclear power plant in Zambia would create the much needed jobs. "The operation of a nuclear plant in Zambia will support large numbers of high paying jobs and will contribute greatly to the tax base of this country. Nuclear power is environmentally friendly because there are no green

house emissions that come from that source of energy. It is because of these reasons that Zambia is moving in the direction of developing its capacity to eventually operate a nuclear power plant of at least 2000 mega watts within the next 10 to 15 years. The decision to pursue nuclear power and its applications came after wide consultations and research regarding the benefits. Further, apart from electricity generation we need nuclear energy offers Zambians unique and exciting opportunity to begin to actualise the smart Zambia mantra by using nuclear science and technology in the non power sector in areas such as medicine, agriculture and industry," said Msiska. "Studies have revealed that with the current rate of economic growth and the national rate of population growth, the demand for electricity is estimated to be rising by 4.5 per cent per annum. On the supply side it is estimated that growth is around 3.9 per cent per annum. With these figures, it is estimated that demand will sharply outstrip production by the year 2030, thereby posing a threat to sustainable growth. In order to sustain growth and economic development in Zambia, there is need for a long term plan to ensure and assure a reliable, environmentally free source of energy in Zambia. Meanwhile, Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Zambia Konstantin Kozhanov said the development of a nuclear plant in Zambia would contribute to the improvement of the country's socio-economic situation. "Russia has been developing nuclear power for 70 years. Russian scientists who have extensive expertise in the field of nuclear technology and they give lectures on this subject around the world. Construction



of a nuclear plant is almost the only effective solution for the country today. The Zambia - Russia ambitious nuclear

project which was initiated in 2015 thanks to his Excellency President Edgar Lungu, is fundamentally in line with the

general context of powerful and dynamic development of friendly relations between our countries.

Luampa MP narrates how he survived PF lynching

From front page

"On Sunday I received letters of invitation to the function of commissioning power to Luampa by Her Honour the Vice-President. One invitation was coming from the Rural Electrification Authority, the other one was coming from the District Commissioner's office. So on Monday, the DC called me and I went to her office and they told me about the program. They said 'we want you to also be there and give a few remarks before the guest of Honour commissions the sub station,' Chikote explained. "So on the actual day now as we were waiting for the Vice president to arrive in Luampa on Tuesday, some officials looked at the program and saw that I was expected to deliver a speech. Then they started protesting. They first called the permanent Secretary for Western province saying that 'there is no way you

can put this member of the opposition on the program because these are not HH's programmes'. That is what I was told in the face, 'these are not HH's programs, so you Permanent Secretary you are trying to favour this UPND MP and we don't know what your interest is. Us as members of the PF we have refused, we don't want to see him around here.'" He narrated that when the cadres approached to harass him, police were watching. "When the Vice-president arrived in Luampa, right at the airport, I was pushed away from the queue so that I don't welcome the Vice-President with a greeting. I tried to hold my heart. Then we went to the office of the DC where the Vice-President was now in the holding room. That is how a [named] diplomat from Malaysia told the PF cadres to chase me from the event. So the cadres started

insulting us, they were also insulting the council Chairperson. Police were there watching. So I almost lost my temper and I told them 'I didn't come here for PF function, if you had told me that it was a PF function I wouldn't have come here and I wouldn't have even donated my money towards this function,' Chikote lamented. "At that time, that is when the provincial Minister for Western province Nathaniel Mubukwanu and Energy Minister David Mabumba came out and they found the fracas outside. I tried to talk to them, I said 'can you make it clear, if it is a PF function, Minister let me leave.' They said 'no, let us first talk to these people' but they never came back to me. We were roughed up here and there. Then the police commissioner for Western Province Mr Zulu came to me and said 'Mr Chikote, just leave' that is how I left the venue against my will and against my duties as a member of parliament."



Ndola City Council demolishes illegal structures in Mishishi area - Picture by William Chileshe. Story page 6

Zambia failing to protect forest reserves, says Auditor General

By Anastasia Katongo

Acting auditor general Ron Mwambwa says the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has failed to put in place proper management plans

in 483 forest reserves.

In a report on sustainable forest management released this month, the Auditor General noted that there were no management plans put in place to protect forest reserves.

"There are 483 forest

reserves in Zambia which need to have management plans. However, according to the Forestry Department (FD) annual report for 2012 to 2015, the FD did not prepare and implement forest management plans in any of the 483 forest reserve

areas. A verification of the responses from the FD was also conducted in 2016. As of July 2016, the FD had not yet implemented the Forest Management Plans," Mwambwa stated.

"Interviews carried out with FD management revealed

that the reason for not having FMPs (Forest Management Plans) is due to lack of basic information such as size of forest, harvestable stock and boundaries of forests. Interviews revealed that the national forest inventory had not been

carried out neither at local nor national levels due to limited resources such as funds, human resource and equipment to conduct the exercise."

He said in the absence of forest management mechanisms, the FD had been using local forest operation plans.

"The FD stated during interviews that they would start developing detailed forest management plans for forest reserves and forests outside protected areas once they had complete forest inventory data. Inventory data was to be collected nationally with the assistance of FAO under the integrated Land Use Assessment project II (ILUA II)," stated Mwambwa.

Ministry of Information doesn't deserve govt funding, its a PF wing – Mwiimbu

From front page

"Mr chairman, this particular ministry instead of propagating unity in the country, it has been used to propagate disunity and dislocation of the once One Zambia One Nation. This ministry is one ministry that has been abused by the PF government. It's no longer a ministry of government as far as we are concerned, it's a propaganda wing of the PF. Mr Chairman, for those who don't know Comical Ali, Comical Ali was the minister of misinformation in Iraqi during the war. There was Chemical Ali and Comical Ali. Comical Ali was the one who was in charge of information in Iraqi."

Mwiimbu further observed that the ministry of information had

continued to abrogate the Constitution by ensuring that opposition parties had no access to the public media, during and after elections.

"Mr chairman sir, this ministry has abused the Times of Zambia, the Daily Mail and Dead NBC (ZNBC). We used to call it Zambia Nation Broadcasting Corporation but now its called Dead National Broadcasting Corporation. It has seized to live to the mandate that was given to the broadcasting authority by the people of this country. Mr chairman, you are all aware that under article 50, which I'm going to read to this house for those who have not read the Constitution, reads 'a political party and a candidate contesting an

election shall have access to the media especially during election campaigns," said Mwiimbu.

"This particular ministry ensured that any opposition party had no access to the public media

during election and have continued abrogating the constitution by not allowing any other member of the public and the political party to appear on ZNBC to propagate their views apart from

PF. So why should we, the tax payers in this country be funding an institution that does not serve our interests? Why should we and other Zambians pay tax for PF to manage their affairs? The answer is no!"

Kambwili asks Munir to apologise, pay K1m or be sued for libel

By Mukosha Funga

Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili's lawyers have written to ruling party cadre Munir Zulu asking him to publicly apologise and pay one million Kwacha compensation for labeling their client corrupt.

In a demand letter dated October 27, 2017, lawyers from C.L Mundia and Company asked Zulu to comply within seven days or be dragged to the High Court for libel. "Our client instructs that on the 2nd of October 2017, you addressed a highly publicized press conference at Chrisma

Hotel in Lusaka where you published the following defamatory words in the said press conference knowing fully well that the said words were untrue, malicious and whose intention was simply to defame our client's character...in that press conference you called our client a thief and a criminal who was freely roaming society knowing fully well that our client has never been charged and more importantly convicted of any crime let alone theft of public funds through Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services Ltd and in his personal capacity," the lawyers stated.

"Our client demands as we now do that unless we have a public retraction and apology to our client's satisfaction in respect of the defamatory publications attributed to you as against our client in the recent past and a monetary compensation of K1,000,000 within seven days of receipt of this notice, we have our client's firm instructions to commence legal proceedings against you for libel and slander in the High Court where our client will undoubtedly put you to strict proof in so far as the herein contained allegations."

Govt, Catholic Church exchange vows to improve public health services

By Patricia Mbewe
Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the church

remains the key ally of government in the provision of health services.

Speaking after a private meeting with the catholic bishops at Kapingila house in Lusaka

on Tuesday, Dr Chilufya said government would continue to build a relationship with the

Catholic Church in order to strengthen the health systems and improve access to service

delivery. "The church remains the key ally of government in the provision of health services. So we will continue building the relationship with the Catholic Church and with all faith based organisations to strengthen our health systems and improve access to service delivery for our people," he said.



PeP president Sean Tembo and others hold the fourth protest against the purchase of 42 fire tenders for \$42 million today

Dr Chitalu said government would work with the church in order to attain the epidemic control of HIV/AIDS by the year 2021.

"As you may be aware that President Edgar Chagwa Lungu announced to the nation that Zambia has shifted policy to routine testing and treating, this information needs to get to the people. And the church is a platform for this information," said Dr Chilufya.

"So we are working together under the stewardship of president Lungu with the church and ensuring that by the year 2021 we attain epidemic control of HIV/AIDS."

And conference for Catholic Bishops secretary general Fr Cleophas Lungu noted that the Catholic Church had been a key partner of government in the delivery of health services in the country.

"we welcomed the idea of this dialogue of this engagement because as a church we believed that we have a role to play in the promotion of the wellbeing of the nation, the wellness of our people. When Jesus Christ commissioned his disciple, he told them go and proclaim the Gospel but within that proclamation of the gospel there is a commission to go and heal. We believe that we need to constantly engage government in order to strengthen our partnership in order to improve the levels of collaboration at different levels in the system of delivery of health services," said Fr Lungu.

LAZ clears Hichilema's lawyer Gilbert Phiri

By Mukosha Funga
The Law Association of Zambia has exonerated Lusaka lawyer Gilbert Phiri from the Judiciary's complaints regarding Facebook postings attributed to him in which he commented on the treason trial.

And LAZ says Phiri can now appear before any court of law. On April 11, the Judiciary barred Phiri, who was one of the lawyers representing opposition UPND president Hakainde Hichilema in the treason case, from having an audience with any court over his alleged postings on social media.

Judiciary chief registrar Charles Kafunda asked LAZ president Linda Kasonde to deal with Phiri.

"The attention of the Judiciary has been drawn to a number of articles... The said articles have been running under various headings as follow: 'plans by court to stop journalists from using phones during HH trial is totally unlawful and won't be tolerated - HH's lawyers.' And 'HH Court updates warming up for Monday - HH's lawyer Gilbert Phiri writes,'" wrote Kafunda.

"Arising from the foregoing, the Judiciary thereby lodges a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the named practitioner and expect your association to take the necessary steps against the practitioner. In the meantime, I have been directed to inform you that until the complaint against the practitioner in question is concluded, he will not be allowed audience before any court. By copy of this letter, the practitioner in question is advised accordingly."

But LAZ has ruled today that it cannot take any action on Phiri because the Judiciary failed to prove that he indeed authored the said postings.

"We have shown hereinbefore that the complainant (Judiciary) told the committee that it did not have evidence to confirm that the excerpts or publications on Facebook and the Zambia Eagle were authored by the Respondent. By the Complainant's own admission, the complaint against the Respondent was only because of the proximity of the circumstances as hereinbefore explained. In the circumstances of this case and on the complainant's own position as stated, the Committee finds that whilst the statements, excerpts and or publications complained of by the Complainant were

clearly in violation of the Legal Practitioner's Practice rules, thereby warranting a serious punishment, we find as we have done hereinbefore, that there is no evidence to warrant a finding that he did so. To the extent that the Respondent was not the author of the publications aforesaid, he is exonerated from the complaint accordingly," read the ruling.

And LAZ further ruled that since Phiri had been cleared, he could now appear before any court of law.

"We note that since the Respondent's restriction to have audience before any court was premised on our

decision, he will now be at liberty to have audience accordingly. The complaint is accordingly dismissed for the reasons sufficiently stated hereinbefore," read the ruling. "Before we vacate, we wish to comment on the Complainant's anxieties regarding the Associations purported lukewarm and cavalier disposition, over matters in which the Associations' members are alleged to have attacked and abused adjudicators in the discharge of their official functions. To its knowledge and belief, all matters that have involved its members' acts or omissions as complained of

and have been duly brought before the Legal Practitioners Committee have been dealt with and some are awaiting hearing. Unless complaints are brought before the Association, duly complaint to the procedures of lodging complaints, the same may not be heard...it is the committees humble view that all matters that hinge on the violations of rules as complained of herein have been or, are being dealt with."

Phiri was being represented by his colleagues Keith Mweemba, Christopher Munda, Precious Mukweemba and Martha Mushipe.

Some civil servants with fake G12 have genuine degrees - CSAWUZ

From front page

On Friday, Vice-President Inonge Wina told Parliament that government would roll out the scrutiny exercise of fake certifications amongst all civil servants to all public service institutions in order to bring sanity in the system.

"Mr Speaker, forging of certificates is really undermining the development of the country because the people who use forged certificates may not really qualify to do the work they are given and this is a danger to both the security of the country as well as its development. So this is why government has introduced quality assurance in the civil service so that we detect this anomaly and deal with it. So this [scrutiny] will go in all the government ministries and departments to ensure that those that are recruited in the government or public service have got the relevant qualifications that are commensurate to the work that they are given," said

Vice-President Wina.

But Chiyobe said government needed to carry out a research into what the law provides regarding the dismissal of civil servants who have served a certain period in the civil service.

"This situation is not new. It happened three, five years ago and a lot of civil servants like nurses, clinical officers and other professionals lost employment due to the forged grade 12 results. To some extent you will find that these people have had higher qualifications, some of them up to a degree level. But we just need to do a critical analysis and do a research on what the law provides especially on criminal offences. But for civil offences, some of them may have what we call statutory barred, in the sense that if a certain period of time has elapsed and no action has been taken, that case fails in the court of law. Some of the civil cases have a period where they still have life. If you don't litigate within

that period then the law stops you from initiating that case in court, which means its statutory barred," he said.

"If a criminal offence has not been prosecuted for some time, you can not begin a prosecution over it. That is why we need to do a research and find out the provisions of some of the criminal offences and be able to state whether due to lack of time they can still stand. But otherwise you may find that some of the members who are affected may have served for 20 or 15 years using the same fake results. Where was government all this time to raise up those issues? So when we do that maybe government itself will need to review whether to take action on these people or the issues would have been statutory barred as the law says you can not prosecute because of the life span of that offence."

Chiyobe further said that the matter of forged certificates would not be underrated even though the people

involved would be sent into disrepute as they depended on their jobs for their livelihood.

"Some of these qualifications are manufactured in Matero and are quite similar to the originals from ECZ, and people normally accept them without any query because of the resemblance. But for sure people will be affected. So many people are involved. Really this is when people should sit and think that which direction should we go," said Chiyobe.

"Most of these people who have been affected have higher qualifications up to degree level and those degrees and higher qualifications are authentic and real because they would have come from the university. Most of these are family men and family women who depend on their jobs for their livelihood so definitely it will send them into disrepute. But we are not saying we are underrating the offence."

Court acquits journalist of drug trafficking

By Diggers Reporter

Lusaka Magistrates' Court has acquitted Zambian Canadian journalist David Julian Wightman of trafficking, manufacturing and using psychotropic substances among other charges.

In this matter, Julian Wightman was charged with seven counts; in count one, Julian Wightman is alleged to have trafficked in 1.336 Kg of Marijuana whilst in count two, he is accused of trafficking in 26.62 grams of Marijuana on July 8 without lawful authority. In charge three and six, Julian Wightman was accused of carrying out a process used in the manufacture of psychotropic substances namely grinding cannabis and mixing with coconut oil to make it into fine form without lawful authority.

In charge three, Julian Wightman was alleged to have advertised for sale psychotropic substances namely 6.8 grams of Marijuana.

In the fourth charge, he was alleged to have been in possession of instruments or utensils for administering psychotropic substances namely syringes.

In charge five, Julian Wightman was accused of using 6.8 grams of Marijuana.

Julian Wightman was in the seventh and final charge accused of inciting members of the public to use narcotic drugs through a Facebook Page called NORML ZAMBIA. When the case came up for ruling on case to answer yesterday, Magistrate Greenwell Malumani acquitted Julian Whigtman, who was being represented by Keith Mweemba, saying the defense had failed to prove their case against him beyond reasonable doubt.

The court said Julian Wightman could not be



convicted because he was not even at the house when officers from the Drug Enforcement

Commission raided it. Magistrate Malumani also noted that the state did

not conduct a medical examination to prove that Julian Whigtman had drugs in

his system. He also said there was no documentary evidence to

prove that Julian Whigtman manufactured or trafficked in drugs.

UPND member in court for same charges Mwaliteta was acquitted of

By Diggers Reporter

UPND member Fred Hamamba has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court on two counts of aggravated robbery in

relation to theft of 2016 election materials.

Hamamba was on the Zambia Police wanted list after he allegedly fled while his fellow

assailants Obvious Mwaliteta and five others were arrested.

When the matter came up magistrate Austin Mubita today, Hamamba said he understood

the charge.

Magistrate Mubita has told the accused the case was beyond his jurisdiction and as such, he would be appearing in the

subordinate court for mention until the Director of Public Prosecutions issues instructions to have the case committed to the High Court.

It is alleged that on August 14, 2016 in Lusaka whilst acting together with other persons unknown, Hamamba did steal from Elina Nyirenda a handbag valued at K400.00, K350.00 cash and an envelope containing GEN form 12 altogether valued at K750.00 and immediately before or after the time of such stealing did use or threatened to use actual violence to the said Elina in order to obtain or retain the said property or prevent or overcome resistance to its being stolen.

In the second count, it is alleged that Hamamba on August 14, 2016 in Lusaka whilst acting with other persons unknown did steal from Emmanuel Simbeye, a Blackberry cellphone valued at K4,000 and threatened to use violence to the said victim in order to obtain the said property or prevent resistance to it being stolen.

But on August 8, 2017, the Lusaka High Court acquitted Mwaliteta and others of similar charges saying the prosecution failed to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt.

Meanwhile, Fanwell Siandenge is still on on the police wanted list.

Chishimba Kambwili gets acquittal in traffic offense

By Diggers Reporter

Lusaka magistrate Brian Simachela has acquitted Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili of three traffic offenses leveled against him by RTSA.

And Kambwili has warned President Edgar Lungu to be prepared to face the same court when he is voted out of office because he is a thief who has amassed so much wealth within a short period of time.

Magistrate Simachela found Kambwili with no case to answer saying the prosecution had failed to prove its case.

The court said the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses were full of lies and malice and as such, they were not credible.

"The prosecution failed to investigate the matter thoroughly thereby abrogating the rules of natural justice," said magistrate Simachela.

The court also said the witnesses' evidence was destroyed in cross examination by Kambwili's lawyers Keith Mweemba and Christopher Munda.

And Kambwili charged that President Lungu is a thief.

"You are all aware that I have got a house in Luanshya, my main house and my house in Lusaka I only live in it when Parliament is in session and this boy Chileshe Chileshe went and took my vehicle without my knowledge. But they decided to charge me and show people that I am a criminal. Justice has prevailed in this matter and I hope and trust that as they are trying to bring in more matters that they cannot justify, we shall be ready for them. The same way that they have brought me to court on tramped up charges, will be the same way

they will also go to court but for them it will be unfortunate because they are kabwalalas (thieves). Lungu is a kabwalala and when he is brought to court you will see what will happen to him, they must prepare to answer the same way we are answering," charged Kambwili.

"They are taking innocent people to court and yet they are thieves but the day of reckoning is coming. my appeal to the people of Zambia is just to vote Lungu out so that we can remove his immunity and he can come and appear in court to tell us where

he is getting the money to build all over Lusaka. We all knew who Lungu was, he was just a chakolwa in Chawama, he had no money because his licence was revoked for stealing K36,000 belonging to a client and today, he is the richest man in Zambia. An ambulance, Toyota has confirmed today, it is K74,000 but they buy at \$288,000. What a way of running a country?"

In this matter, Kambwili was facing three traffic offence charges among them being in charge of jaguar bearing a false registration mark CK 900 whose

real number plate was AOB 2949. The said vehicle was being driven by Chileshe Chileshe on Dedan Kimathi road on August 13, 2017 in Lusaka.

The second count states that Kambwili permitted Chileshe to drive the said motor vehicle without a driving license contrary to the road traffic act No 11 of 2002 of the laws of Zambia. Particulars in third count allege that on August 13, 2017 Kambwili failed to display a certificate of insurance on the Jaguar in respect of which the disc was issued.

Ndola plot owners stand up against council demolition team

By William Chileshe

A combined team of armed police and Ndola council officers this morning demolished illegally built houses in Mishishi area.

However, the demolition exercise turned violent when owners of the plots turned up.

The police and council officers led by Ndola town clerk Wisdom Bwalya arrived at location to demolish the illegal structures

structure around 10:30 hours.

The council demolished five houses and razed the foundations.

The demolition came barely 24 hours after the council issued a notice for all plot owners in the area to take documents for approval.

The structures are said to be on a 200 hectares piece of land

belonging to ZAFFICO.

As the council was demolishing some structures, the owners started arriving in protest to the action.

One of the plot owners, Sam Bwali challenged the police with a court order restraining them from continuing with the exercise.

But Ndola town clerk Wisdom Bwalya refused to get the court

orders.

"I have an office. Don't give me these papers here. Bring those things to the office, said Bwalya said.

Moments later, police arrested Bwali and two of his colleagues.

By 13:00 hours, the three were being taken to Ndola Central Police.

TIZ questions suspension of mining licenses in Eastern Province

By Mukosha Funga

Transparency International Zambia has wondered why government is calling those mining gold in Eastern Province “illegal miners” when they were granted licenses.

Yesterday, Mines Minister Christopher Yaluma told the Times of Zambia that government had suspended mining licenses in five districts: Nyimba, Vubwi, Petauke, Rufunsa and Luano, in order to curb illegal gold mining in the country.

But in a statement today, TIZ executive director Wesley Chibamba stated that lack of transparency in the mining sector was an issue of concern.

“We agree with the Minister that the mining sector needs sanitizing, illegal mining needs to be curbed so that the government can be benefitting through taxation. Our concern however is the transparency of the process. We would like to know what has changed between now and the time these small scale mines were given mining and exploration licenses, considering that it is the same ministry that vetted them and granted them the same licenses on the basis that they meet the criteria set forth. If these people were not given the said licenses, the minister would not be suspending them. It is feared by many that this could be a ploy by the ‘big boys’ to muscle out small mining companies and take over the

sector where these small mining firms are operating. Also, for the sake of transparency, can Government publish all the names of the companies – small scale or large scale that have been given mining license and mining exploration licenses,” Chibamba stated.

“Can Government also indicate how these companies were selected to hold these licenses, was there an open invitation and if not – why? Section 6 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act of 2015, provides for a Mining Licensing Committee which considers applications for mining rights including Large Scale Mining exploration licenses. The question is did this Committee sit to consider applications for gold mining exploration in Petauke and other parts of Eastern Province? If so, how many applications were received and how many licenses – exploration or mining have been received and how many were successful? The government needs to move towards open data systems to improve transparency and so that they are not accused of wrong doing.”

He also stated that government should not use the suspension of licenses to victimize small scale miners.



Mines Minister Christopher Yaluma

“Transparency International Zambia, while welcoming the decision of the Minister of Mines to suspend mining licenses for Gold and other minerals in Eastern Province, have a number of concerns which require immediate attention by Government. We

have noted that a number of large scale mining exploration licenses have been granted by government and this unfortunately has not been done in a transparent manner. We also note with concern that companies that have no mining experience have been given

multiple exploration licenses especially in Petauke in what can only be described as a Gold Rush,” Chibamba stated.

“We demand that there is a full investigation into this matter and Government should not use this suspension of mining licenses to victimize small

scale mining outfits just to benefit some of the companies that hold large scale mining licenses. We demand for an open and transparent system of granting these licenses and the Minister of Mines should brief the nation on measures that his Ministry is taking to clean up the sector.”

Chibamba observed that government had been talking about illegal mining for too long without coming up with a solution.

“It is interesting that this is not the first time that Government is talking about illegal mining activities in Eastern Province and on a number of occasions, several individuals have been arrested and foreign nationals deported. In May 2017, Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo raised concerns about illegal mining. In 2014- the Minister of Mines – Hon. Christopher Yaluma again expressed concerns about illegal mining activities in Eastern Province and he alleged that his Ministry was investigating the matter. So we are wondering why the Minister is issuing the same statement 3 years later and again promising to investigate this matter. What is it that government has done about this illegal mining and who is behind this activity? Why are we calling it ‘illegal mining’ when some of these people have mining and exploration licenses which are only being suspended now?” asked Chibamba.

“From the Minister of Mines’ statement, nothing much has been done and there is apparent impunity which these illegal miners are exhibiting and unless something is done- mere statements won’t help. The big question is WHO IS BEHIND THE GOLD MINING IN EASTERN PROVINCE? We would be very grateful if the honorable minister could shade light on the issues raised above. TIZ has done a study on the corruption risks in the awards process of permits and licenses. This report will be launched on Friday 10th November 2017. It would be great for the ministry to consult this report, it would inform the ministry on the vulnerabilities and some strategies they can employ to manage the process.”

HH explains Paradise Papers: There’s nothing illegal

By Mirriam Chabala

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he is happy with the Paradise Papers because they show that Zambians can be entrepreneurial by investing abroad and bringing the money back home.

And HH says he has only contested two proper elections since he took over the UPND.

HH has been named in the latest exposé dubbed “The Paradise Papers”, but with a huge disclaimer about some of the people named in the offshore leaks.

HH became a director of a Bermuda company, AfNat Resources Ltd., in March 2006, and he resigned that August, according to Appleby’s records. AfNat Resources was incorporated in 2005 and explored for nickel and other metals in Zambia and other African countries. It was listed on London’s alternative investment market until 2010 when it was purchased by Canadian mining company Axmin for about \$14 million.

HH declined to answer questions from ICIJ, including about his roles as director. There is nothing illegal about a company registered in Bermuda, HH told ICIJ by phone.

When Let the People Talk host brought up the Paradise Papers today, HH insisted that there was nothing illegal about his dealings with AfNat Resources Ltd.

He said he was actually pleased with the Paradise Papers because they showed how Zambians can be entrepreneurial by investing in countries were doing business was cheaper.

“I was reading through that

document myself, it is basically very clear saying there is nothing illegal about that and it links so many people like the queen of England, the Canadian Prime Minister and several other people including the current Secretary of State of the United States of America. People decide to invest here and there legally not illegally, there is no tax dodging,” HH said.

“You can read the document again. I am actually very pleased with that document because it outlines clearly that there is no illegality [but] they are just revealing information which may be held and that information is not a secret.”

He said there was nothing secret about his offshore investments.

“AfNat is a Canadian company that bought the company from the London stock exchange. The London stock exchange has various windows, one of them is what you may call the main window another one is where small businesses go to list their interests called alternative investment market, it is part of the London Stock Exchange. How can the London stock exchange be a secret? It cannot be a secret, you just open any website and you will find it. The fact that is has been printed now and it is called Paradise Papers by ICIJ doesn’t mean it is new information, it is on the London Stock Exchange through a window called alternative investment market. So this why I am saying that there is no issue, this is a non issue at all,” he said.

HH said he was only director for the company in question for four months without explaining his role in it.

“No illegality at all, no tax



evasion and if you check, I was a director only for four months, there is no illegality there and this is what we do, we try and raise money outside of the country,

“HH said.

He said when he formed government, he would encourage people to make money in countries where doing business was easier and bring it back home to invest.

“This is what I want to do when we form government, raise money out in the London stock exchange where the cost of money is lower. The cost of money is cheaper on that market and bring it to Zambia and invest in a ranch so that we can produce beef and help to improve the nutrition value of citizens and also help create jobs so that we can invest some of that money through our credibility internationally be able to help citizens get a job from an investment made here but money sourced outside

which is cheaper. That is what you do when you start running the country, raise cheaper money, bring it and invest in Zambia and create jobs so that people can be employed. This is what we do out there instead of raising money from fire tenders and then go and invest in a casino, you are encouraging people to gamble and drink more beer instead of producing, they are just consuming. That is the difference between HH and those in office today,” HH said. And HH said he has only run for two proper elections from the time he took over the UPND presidency.

“You did comment about us running in 2006, I hope you understand that I ran only 45 days after taking office after the death of [Anderson] Mazoka then in 2008 I am trying to organise myself the late [Patrick] Mwanawasa died and we had a by-election, that’s two years, in two years we had literally two elections. Then

2010 we tried and settled down but unfortunately this country has just been unfortunate, Mr [Michael] Sata died in 2014 and in 2015 we had a by-election. So it’s been two elections that we have contested properly which you know is fraud,” he said.

Meanwhile, HH said Mutati was lying to Zambians and the IMF about the country’s real debt.

“Zambia cannot borrow anymore at commercial rate because the PF went and borrowed Kaloba (euro bond) and basically left what we call in the financial world ‘no head room’. There is no more space for Zambia to borrow given the size of the economy, given the size of the budget it is impossible for Zambia to borrow. That is why the IMF has said [Felix] Mutati you can say good words to us but we are not giving you money because you borrowed too much money which you are not disclosing to the people of Zambia,” said HH.

If there is one government institution in Zambia that is performing to the satisfaction of almost every citizen, it is the office of the Auditor General. While the performance of the Anti Corruption Commission is condemned by all, including the President, the office of the Auditor General has been above board.

Elsewhere, Zambians have had difficulties appreciating the accomplishments of the Judiciary. If it's the police, we can't even repeat the things citizens say about them without getting arrested ourselves; but all are full of praise for this office of the Auditor General.

For many years now, the office of the Auditor General has been publishing in its annual reports, millions of kwacha stolen by public servants; millions of kwacha misapplied and millions of dollars paid to contractors without any work being done. Unfortunately, these revelations and audit queries have achieved nothing other than being a treasured accumulation of government stationery.

There will be a few headlines in a few newspapers once the Auditor General's report is out, but after that, everybody moves on. Just like that, taxpayers' money, donor aid is gone and life continues. Meanwhile, the criminals in the public service are getting fatter as they wait to reap some more in the next reaper year!

We have seen controlling officers summoned to Parliament, queried and rebuked for wasting public resources, but their answer is always "sorry for the irregularities, we promise to do better next time". The following year, the Auditor General reveals double the misappropriation of funds in the same ministry and the new controlling officer throws the blame on the previous guy. The circle of plunder goes on

Plunderers getting fatter, awaiting another reaper year

and on without culprits being brought to book.

Meanwhile, we have the police, Drug Enforcement Commission and the Anti Corruption Commission looking on and taking no interest in the crimes.

Others have argued that the Auditor General's office makes it easy for plunderers to escape the net of accountability because by nature, the reports are too generalized for any public servant to feel pressurised or exposed. Perhaps they are right.

That is why today we have taken the pleasure of applauding Auditor General Ron Mwambwa and his team of hard working auditors, for giving a detailed insight into

how taxpayers' money is stolen by our brothers and sisters who are privileged to work in government.

According to the Auditor General's investigations, one civil servant in the Ministry of General Education paid himself K2,577,055 in 2016, and there is no explanation as to why he was paid. How did this happen?

According to bank statement dates, a named Lawrence Bwalya Phiri paid himself K240,600 on January 29, 2016 using initials "L Phiri". On April 4th the same employee swapped initials to "L Bwalya P" and got paid K290,500. To conceal his fraud in the third transaction, Bwalya changed his initials to "LB Phiri" and got 320,000 on

the 14th of the same month. This went on and on throughout the year. Meanwhile, Bwalya's workmates Moses Thole and Sibajene followed the same strategy and together they got K3,448,572 in total from government coffers.

To put this into perspective, this amount of money would pay salaries for about 100 basic school teachers for a year. It was enough to build an entire school and sponsor all the pupils from grade one to university. K3,448,572 is more than the pension of the three culprits combined.

We demand answers! First of all, there is no civil servant who can open a government account alone, and once opened, there

is no single accountant who can withdraw money from it. There are procedures involved. A government account is not like a personal account where you can Xapit some cash to your self. It's not like you can just wake up and eWallet your girlfriend some money.

There has to be a backing sheet explaining details of the payment to be made; there has to be approval from the Permanent Secretary as controlling officer, there has to be at least two authorised signatures for the cheque to clear and most importantly, the Ministry of Finance has to facilitate these payments.

So, who was monitoring this account and why did they not

sound the alarm after seeing this mysterious movement of funds throughout the year? For instance, M. Thole and I. Sibajene used facing leafs of the cheque book, thus number 428138 and 428139 to draw K308,250 and K296,472 respectively on the same date; January 14, 2016. No explanation was given to the auditors regarding the purpose of these two payments.

How could it be that K3.4 million disappeared from a government account and no one complained? This doesn't happen by accident. Yes, there is serious looting of public funds, especially in this particular government, but no one person can access this amount of money from a ministry account without someone bigger involved in the hierarchy to cover up the fraud.

It is not usual for the Auditor General to name individuals in their audit reports, but we strongly believe that this was done on purpose. We believe that the auditors found this completely outrageous and too huge a fraud to conceal.

We feel the Auditor General is trying to help the police, Drug Enforcement Commission and other law enforcers in pursuing this matter. The full names of the culprits are clearly indicated in the 2016 report. The dates are there, and so are the cheque numbers and amounts. Surely, even a constable with no special training in financial crimes investigations wouldn't take a day to locate LP Bwalya and his accomplices at the Ministry of General Education.

But do we see this happening? No! This crime is too complicated and too sensitive for our police to get involved. They fear for their jobs. LP Bwalya will walk away scot-free with an unexplained K2.5 million.

But if he had posted on Facebook "Lungu is a thief", he would have been behind bars by now.

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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Mukushi DEBS' bad work culture

Dear Editor,

Kindly withhold my ID and allow me to expose the working culture of the District Education Board Secretariat (DEBS) in Mkushi District.

In Mkushi we have well-organized community schools which are run by individuals, organizations, and some by churches. These community schools have been in existence for more than 10 years and they have really helped a lot in delivering free education to the orphans, disabled and vulnerable children in the community.

These schools recognise the office of the DEBS but the DEBS does not recognize them, hence frustrating the works of community schools.

What the DEBS has done is that they;

1. Don't invite teachers from these schools to attend any workshops.
2. They have withdrawn food meant for these schools under the feeding program.
3. Teaching materials meant for these schools are not given, where they take them we don't know.
4. Organizations such as UNICEF, JICA and other NGOs that come to help these schools are blocked by DEBS and funds are diverted somewhere else.
5. The office of the DEBS is forcing the school owners and organization to register the school's as private and start levying orphans, disabled and vulnerable children huge sums of money when they can't afford they

don't want the schools to be grant aided.

6. The DEBS have lied to the Ministry of General Education that some of these schools are already in government when not.
7. The DEBS are blocking some of these schools from getting examination center numbers despite the schools meeting the requirements and having good

infrastructures, teaching resources and equipment. They don't want the schools to develop.

8. The staff at DEBS want to be bribed in order for them to assist. Imagine, during the feeding program the staff would even ask for bags of mealie meal and cooking oil to be given back to them as a token of appreciation for putting the schools on the

feeding program.

10. The working culture of some offices at DEBS towards these small schools is bad. Some of the affected schools are

1. DONATA SPECIAL SCHOOL
2. AGAPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
3. MALCOLM COMMUNITY SCHOOL
4. ITALA FOUNDATION

SCHOOL.

Please help these schools for they have the potential to grow but DEBS is frustrating and persecuting the owners and donors. If these schools transform into private learning institutions, thousands of children will not enjoy their right to free education.

Thank you

Concerned Mkushi resident

Bad Sesheke-Kazungula road

Dear Editor,

The Sesheke-Kazungula road is in a very bad condition. Our fear is, how will this road be when rainy season comes? This road is one of the main roads going

outside the country but we don't know what these PF leaders think over this road.

Here in Sesheke, we are using only one bus SHALOM and they are charging us k250 from

Sesheke to Lusaka.

Thank you.

Kenneth Mukendwa M,
Mbaene village

Euro Bus services

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my disappointment with Euro Bus services. The company needs new busses. Last week, I was coming from Kitwe to Lusaka; we had a break down near Kapiri Mponshi. We stayed for over an hour.

Today again from Lusaka to Kitwe, we had a break down in Ndola around 20 hours. Don't take your customers for granted.

You may have a lot of customers but you will start losing them one by one. I hear rumors that this has been happening of late. If there is any Euro Bus service representative reading this, communicate to your management about this complaint.

Concerned Citizen

Nshitendwa police brutalising Lubuto residents

Dear Editor,

I stay in Ndola and in a place called Lubuto West. There is a police post in Lubuto West and there is a place called Nshitendwa which also has a police post.

Now the police from Nshitendwa are

moving up and down around Lubuto West around 22:00 hours. They are catching and beating people and saying, "it's curfew time". Now we were not told that there will be curfew, they just started doing that and at times they grab things from your pockets

especially cash.

Please News Diggers, help us investigate this issue because twachula. Can the government or minister come in and tell us if there is a curfew.

Thank you.

Concerned Citizen



US President Donald Trump (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) feed koi fish during a welcoming ceremony in Tokyo

Do not try us, Trump to N/Korea

US President Donald Trump has issued a blunt warning to North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un in an address to South Korea's parliament. "Do not underestimate us. Do not try us," he said, while also condemning the "dark fantasy" of life in the North. He addressed Mr Kim saying "the weapons you are acquiring are not making you safer", and urged other nations to join forces to stop Pyongyang. The US leader is in South Korea as part of a five-nation tour of Asia. Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions have been high on Mr Trump's agenda throughout this trip. Over the past year North Korea has carried out missile tests in defiance of UN sanctions and in September conducted its sixth and biggest nuclear test. Mr Trump's words to South Korean lawmakers were

being closely watched and while his rhetoric was stark, he did not repeat his previous bombast towards the North. These are the most striking points from his speech: Trump made a personal address to Kim Jong-un In an unexpected move, Mr Trump chose to directly address North Korea's leader in his speech, urging him to discard his nuclear programme and weapons. "They are putting your regime in grave danger," warned Mr Trump. "Every step you take down this dark path increases the peril you face." He also made reference to North Korea's founder and Mr Kim's grandfather, Kim Il-sung, in words likely to inflame Pyongyang. "North Korea is not the paradise your grandfather envisioned. It is a hell that no person deserves." But Mr Trump also appeared to reiterate Tuesday's offer to reach a deal, saying that "despite every crime you've committed... we will offer you a path for a better future". He warned the North against 'fatal miscalculation' He said that to interpret past US restraint as weakness "would be a fatal miscalculation", as there was now a different US administration in place. "Today, I hope I speak not only for our countries but for all civilised nations, when I say to the North: 'Do not underestimate us. Do not try us.'" **BBC**

John Magufuli sacks officials after TV row

Tanzanian President John Magufuli has sacked two public officials after scolding one of them on live TV. He had asked the two municipal directors what their budget was for road construction in their districts. Neither could recall on the spot, and a few hours later both officials were sacked. No reason was given. President Magufuli's critics say he is becoming increasingly authoritarian. But many have praised the president for his no-nonsense style. His nickname is "the Bulldozer". The president was attending a ceremony in the northern town of Bukoba when the incident happened on Monday. A 30-second clip of the exchange - all in Swahili - shows him asking Mwantum Kitwana Dau to state how much money had been set aside for a road fund. When she couldn't remember, the president scolded her. According to one account, Ms Dau said that she oversees many departments and could not immediately recall the exact budget allocated for road projects. Mr Magufuli replied: "You can't talk to me like that." **Stamping out corruption** The president is known to make spot visits at government offices and

berating officials who he believes are not doing their work. Tanzania's 'Bulldozer' President

Thousands fired over fake certificates **More Africa stories** When he came to office two years ago, he promised to

stamp out corruption. In April Mr Magufuli sacked around 10,000 civil servants for having fake education certificates. And since he

has been in power Tanzania has removed thousands of so-called ghost workers from its public sector payroll. **BBC**

Malaria breath test shows promise



People with malaria give off a distinctive "breath-print" that could be used as a test for the disease, according to American scientists. They had already tried out a crude prototype breathalyser in Africa, a tropical medicine conference heard. The test was reasonably good at detecting cases in children, but needs developing to become a routine device. One of the odours it sniffs out is identical to a natural smell that attracts insects that spread malaria. Pine trees and conifers emit these terpenes to summon mosquitoes and other pollinating insects, say the researchers, from Washington University in St Louis. man with a mosquito on his hand **Image copyright GETTY IMAGES** They believe people with malaria who have this odour in their breath may also attract mosquitoes and infect more of the biting insects, which can then spread the disease to other people that they bite. Although the test needs

perfecting, it could offer a new cheap and easy way to help diagnose malaria, Prof Audrey Odom John and colleagues say. Distinct odour The prototype breath test detects six different odours or volatile organic compounds to spot cases of malaria. The researchers tried it on breath samples from 35 feverish children in Malawi, some with and some without malaria. It gave an accurate result in 29 of the children, meaning it had a success rate of 83%. This is still too low for the test to be used routinely, but the researchers hope they can improve its reliability and develop it into an off-the-shelf product. Simple, rapid blood tests for malaria are already available, but they have limits, say the Washington University researchers. Testing blood can be expensive and technically challenging in rural settings. A non-invasive method of detection that does not require blood samples or technical expertise could be of great benefit. **BBC**

Japan's 'Black Widow' to hang for murder

A one-time millionairess dubbed the "Black Widow", who tricked elderly lovers into drinking cyanide and then pocketed millions in insurance payouts and inheritance, was sentenced to death in Japan on Tuesday. Kyoto District Court condemned Chisako Kakehi, 70, to the gallows for the murder of three men -- including a husband -- and for the attempted murder of another, ending a high-profile case that has gripped the country.

Kakehi became notorious after using poison to dispatch a number of elderly men she was involved with, drawing comparisons with the spider that kills its mate after copulation.

"The accused made the victims drink a cyanide compound with a murderous intention in all four cases," Judge Ayako Nakagawa told the court, according to public broadcaster NHK.

"The cases were well prepared in advance. They were cunning and malicious. I have no choice but to impose the ultimate penalty."

Nakagawa rejected defence lawyers' arguments that Kakehi was not criminally liable because she was suffering from dementia.

More than 560 people queued for 51 seats in the courtroom to witness the outcome of the marathon trial, which lasted 135 days.

It was the second-longest court case involving a jury since Japan introduced a joint judge-jury system in

2009.

- 'Love of money' -

Gray-haired Kakehi, wearing a hearing aid headphone, asked the judge to speak loudly. She showed no emotion when the judge handed down the sentence.

The court said she killed the men after they made her the beneficiary of life assurance policies that reportedly ran into millions of dollars.

"For the love of money," the accused poisoned the victims who fully

trusted her, the judge said.

Kakehi reportedly amassed one billion yen (\$8.8 million) in payouts over 10 years but subsequently lost most of the fortune through unsuccessful financial trading.

She had relationships with many men, mostly elderly or ill, meeting some through dating agencies, where she reportedly stipulated that prospective partners should be wealthy and childless.

Kakehi, also known as "The Poison Lady", is said to have stashed some

of her cyanide in a plant pot she later threw out.

The poison was found in the body of at least two of the men she was involved with and police reportedly found traces of cyanide in the rubbish at her Kyoto home.

They also found paraphernalia for administering drugs and medical books at an apartment she kept south of Kyoto.

Kakehi initially refused to speak when her trial began in June but later stunned the court by admitting

killing her fourth husband in 2013.

"I killed him... because he gave other women tens of millions of yen but did not give me even a penny," she told the court, according to Jiji Press. She had earlier told judges she was ready to hang.

"Even if I were executed tomorrow, I would die smiling," Kakehi told judges.

After Tuesday's ruling, her lawyers immediately appealed to a higher court, suggesting the high-profile trial could yet drag on. **AFP**

Sia takes on paparazzi by posting her own naked photo



sia
@Sia

Follow

Someone is apparently trying to sell naked photos of me to my fans. Save your money, here it is for free. Everyday is Christmas!



Weinstein had 'army of spies' to thwart complaints

Harvey Weinstein hired journalists and highly trained ex-spies and military personnel who used fake identities to try to stop accusers from going public with sexual misconduct claims against him, *The New Yorker* reported Monday.

The news came as the Television Academy, which hands out Emmy Awards, was said to have expelled Weinstein "for life," following a similar move by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gives out the Oscars.

Among the private security agencies hired by Weinstein starting around fall 2016, the magazine said, was Black Cube,



which is largely run by former officers of Israeli intelligence agencies, including Mossad. Another was corporate intelligence giant Krill.

Two Black Cube private eyes met with actress Rose McGowan before she publicly accused Weinstein of raping her to obtain information.

One of the investigators secretly recorded at least four meetings with McGowan while pretending to be a women's rights advocate, said the magazine, citing dozens of pages of documents and seven people directly involved in Weinstein's efforts.

The spy used a different fake identity to meet with a journalist while claiming to have an accusation against Weinstein, in order to learn which women were talking to the media.

Weinstein and the private eyes also used journalists themselves to extract details from women who were making claims against Weinstein.

During his yearlong effort,

Weinstein and his team would collect information on dozens of people, compiling psychological profiles with their personal or sexual histories in order to contradict, discredit or intimidate his targets.

The *New Yorker* said Weinstein sought the assistance of ex-employees from his movie enterprises to help in his efforts collecting names and placing calls.

Investigations also sometimes went through Weinstein's lawyers, according to the magazine. Among them was David Boies, who represented Al Gore in his 2000 presidential election dispute with George W. Bush. **AFP**

Sia Furler has responded to an apparent attempt by paparazzi to sell naked pictures of her by posting one of them herself on Twitter.

The Australian singer-songwriter is known for being secretive about her life, including what she looks like. She regularly hides her face under masks and wigs.

Sia tweeted a blurry photo of the back of a naked woman, accompanied by the words: "Save your money, here it is for free. Every day is Christmas!"

The picture has a watermark from a photo agency and a message saying there were an additional 14 photos of the singer.

The tweet also refers to her festive album called *Everyday is Christmas*.

Sia has had a string of solo hits and has collaborated with the likes of David Guetta and The Weeknd. **BBC**

I have a new perspective of what really matters in life - CR7

The Portugal captain has struggled for form this season, but his personal life away from the game is better than ever. Things might not be great for Cristiano Ronaldo on the pitch at the moment, with the Real Madrid star struggling to find the net in something of an uncharacteristic goal drought, but the Portuguese says that away from football things have never been better.

Already a father of three with Cristiano Jr, twins Eva and Mateo, and another little girl, Alana Martina, with girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez on the way, Ronaldo is enjoying expanding his businesses alongside his family. One such business is his clothing line, with the most recent release being the CR7 Junior Collection, which the 32-year-old has been promoting alongside his first born. Speaking with Spanish magazine ¡Hola! to promote the release, Ronaldo took time to speak about his family life and admits that he doesn't think he will have another child once baby number four is born.

"I don't see me having the time to have another child," he said, "But seeing my family grow is honestly the greatest privilege I've ever had. I enjoy every second.

"Fatherhood has taught me things of love that I never knew existed - it has softened me up and given me a new perspective on what really matters in life."

Ronaldo often posts videos of himself and his son having fun, and the attacker said putting together the new clothing line gave the pair another opportunity to enjoy each other's company.

"Cristiano Jr. and me really enjoy dressing the same way and we like to go out with the same clothes - the new collection will allow many more parents and sons to do the same thing.

"My son was enthusiastic in the photo shoot. He posed very naturally and I was impressed to see him show off his collection and what he liked." *Goal.com*



Selling Matic was a 'disgrace' - Wilkins

The former Blues assistant cannot wrap his head around some decisions made at his old club, especially selling the Serbian to a title rival. Former Chelsea assistant Ray Wilkins has slammed some of the Blues' recent transfer dealings, particularly the club's sale of Nemanja Matic to Manchester United.

Matic was reunited with former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho at Old Trafford in the off-season, and has made a strong start to life with the Red Devils.

"The selling of Matic to Manchester United as far as I'm concerned was an absolute disgrace, because that should never have happened," Wilkins said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

"He [Matic] is going to be the difference between Manchester United winning and Manchester United not winning this year."

Wilkins was also unimpressed with Chelsea's decision to break the bank on a replacement for Matic, rather than promoting one of the club's homegrown talents. Chelsea signed Tiemoue Bakayoko for £40 million from Monaco in July, two days after allowing

Nathaniel Chalobah to join Watford for £34m less.

Goal.com

Cavaliers overpower Antetokounmpo-driven Bucks

Wrap-up—So far this season, it's been hard to know which Cavaliers team will show up on any given night. What we do know, however, is that the Wine & Gold definitely bring it for the Bucks.

For the second time this season, the fifth straight occasion and 10th time in 13 meetings, the Cavaliers took care of Milwaukee - turning in another total team effort against the Bucks en route to the 124-

119 win on Tuesday night at The Q.

Attempting to avoid the slow starts that've plagued them over recent weeks, the Cavaliers tallied 39 points in the first quarter - leading by as many as 13 early in the

second period. The Bucks would eventually knot the affair - and take the lead at half - but Tyronn Lue's squad wasn't forced to rally late just to stay in the game. Shaking off a two-game funk - including a Sunday-

afternoon illness that sent him to hospital - posting his best offensive game of the season, going off for 32 points on 9-for-14 shooting. Love didn't attempt a single 3-pointer, but went 14-of-16 from the stripe, adding a game-high 16 boards - half of those off the offensive glass - to go with three assists and a pair of steals.

LeBron James notched 10 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter - going 10-for-20 from the floor overall, including 2-of-4 from long range, and was 8-of-10 from the line, adding a team-high nine assists, eight boards and three steals.

James and Love combined for 26 of Cleveland's 38 free-throw attempts - to Milwaukee's 16 - on the night.

The Wine & Gold weathered a withering barrage by Giannis Antetokounmpo - who led both squads with 40 points, going 16-for-21 from the floor to go with 11 assists, seven boards and three steals. *kwesports.com*

Serie A standings 2017/2018

Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Napoli	12	10	2	0	32	8	24	32
2 Juventus	12	10	1	1	35	11	24	31
3 Inter Milan	12	9	3	0	23	9	14	30
4 Lazio	11	9	1	1	31	12	19	28
5 Roma	11	9	0	2	21	7	14	27
6 Sampdoria	11	7	2	2	24	13	11	23
7 Milan	12	6	1	5	18	16	2	19
8 Torino	12	4	5	3	17	19	-2	17
9 Fiorentina	12	5	1	6	21	17	4	16
10 Atalanta	12	4	4	4	19	16	3	16

WE MEAN BUSINESS

...Cameroon is not coming here to 'play' - Wada

By Nyambe Lubasi

Wedson Nyirenda says it would be demeaning to his job to field a second-string team or experiment in their formality 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against defending African champions Cameroon. Cameroon have named their regular line-up that includes 13 players who featured in the 1-1 first leg draw on November 12, 2016 in Limbe. Furthermore, nine of Cameroon's starting XI from their 2017 AFCON winning team that beat Egypt 2-1 in the finals in February in Gabon is in the travelling

party. Both second placed Zambia (7 points) and 3rd positioned Cameroon (6 points) are battling for the pride of finishing runners-up in Group B after Nigeria qualified on an unassailable 13 points with a game in hand. "We are playing a World Cup qualifier and not the CHAN. Cameroon released their team after I released mine and you think they are here to play? They mean serious business so we must

be serious in football every time," Nyirenda said. Nyirenda added that a favourable result against Cameroon will see Zambia continue with their current two-month rebound on the FIFA charts after jumping 18 places to 78 in September and are currently 77 as of October. Cameroon are 42nd in the

World. "The players themselves must win bonuses, the rankings are there to be maintained because we have climbed in ways Zambia has never climbed before," Nyirenda said. Nyirenda added that all Grade A matches during his tenure will not be used for trials regardless of the magnitude

as he tries to solidify the rebuilding process. The home-based Zambia team has qualified for the 2018 CHAN to be held in Morocco in January. "This team is on the verge of being consolidated and we are playing the World Cup and this is for our continental guys so we cannot alter that," said Nyirenda.

"So when you have a plan for a big team, you don't alter the team. A few (local) boys will be given a chance to play, but those that will, will only be the custodians of the CHAN team. Just because it is a formality game you cannot just pick any Jim and Jack just for trials. This is a big game and not for trials and all eyes are on us."

Coach explains call-up of irregular players

By Nyambe Lubasi

The Zambia bench has defended its continued call-up of bench-warming Under-20 stars for international duty. The Nkana duo of defender Moses Nyondo and midfielder Boston Muchindu in particular have become standard call-ups despite seeing very little club action since returning from the 2017 FIFA U20 World Cup in South Korea in June. Zambia assistant coach Aggrey Chiyangi said in an interview in Ndola that the duo was not being favoured but were part of the bench's long-term junior player developmental programme. "When I say that we are choosing a team on merit, you have to look at so many things and we have so many teams in the league," Chiyangi said. "For instance if I say we want to pick a left-back we always look at the teams that are available, we look at what they can offer, how they are playing and commitment." He said it would not help the players to sideline them. "So, for Boston Muchindu and Moses Nyondo, I think if we leave them out now it's like we have killed them because these boys played well at the Under-20's and then if we leave them out because they are not playing at their club then we will lose them at some point," Chiyangi. "We know that competition is high at Nkana for them to feature so we cannot just leave them out just like that. We just have to build them up because we know their potential. Very soon they will start playing at Nkana. It's no to going to take long."



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