

We have decided as a party that... **LUNGU IS ELIGIBLE** ...he'll stand, no matter what happens - Mwila

Story page 4

Zambia's debt situation worrisome to investors - Schultz

Read his message on page 8



Mufulira Deputy Mayor Beatrice Kapansa (c) grabs Mokambo Police Post officer-in-charge Hilary Namunji

D/Mayor manhandles police officer-in-charge

Miriam Chabala
Mufulira Deputy Mayor Beatrice Kapansa yesterday harassed a senior police officer for blocking her from going to beat up a National Democratic Congress Party member at a

police station. Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga confirmed this to News Diggers! in an interview today, adding that 10 PF cadres were arrested for trying to disrupt an NDC meeting. "About the mayor and Mr Hilary Namunji, the mayor became offended because the officer who is in charge of the Mokambo border post in Mufulira stopped her

from entering the Mufulira officer-in-charge's office where Honourable Mwenya Musenge was filing in a case. The mayor wanted to go and beat up a female from the NDC and so she was being stopped but she became offended and she even said the officers sprayed her with pepper spray but officers were spraying the pepper spray because they wanted to stop the commotion that was going on," said Katanga. *To page 4*

Start mobilising the party; anything can happen, HH tells UPND members

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has urged his supporters to start mobilising the party on the ground while he focuses on the dialogue process with the ruling party, saying anything can happen at any time. Speaking during the launch of the UPND card renewal exercise in Mandevu

yesterday, Hichilema told his supporters that everybody was his party's campaign manager.

"We want to restore the rule of law, we want to restore human rights, we want the police to stop brutalising citizens, those guns are ours, they are not for policemen no. We don't want PF cadres to be beating people, we want

an independent Electoral Commission, we want those in prisons to be released, and the list goes on and on, that is what we will be doing in the dialogue process. So we will focus on the dialogue process while you, you must focus on mobilising the party on the ground because anything can happen at any time," HH said. *Story page 2*

Don't force your children to *shipikisha* in marriage and get killed - NGOCC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NGOCC board chairperson Sara Longwe has warned parents against forcing their children to persevere in abusive marriages and end up getting killed.

Zambia has seen a sharp rise in cases of spouses killing each other, in some cases using guns and knives, as a result of domestic

differences.

In an interview, Longwe said relatives are usually given signs when marriages start to fall, but they ignore because "lobola was paid". "Wives are killing their husbands because those men have been abusing those wives, and she has reached a point of no return. She is in self defence. These women are killing their husbands because society has let them down. Many times they have raised a concern [with their parents] and they have been sent back to fend for themselves. Saying 'we [were] paid lobola, you go back'. That's what this marriage means, it's shipikisha'. You are only a human being," she said. *To page 3*

Higher Education Ministry paid K8.5m to non students – AG

Story page 2

British Council reports zambian NGOs to police for stealing UKAid

By Mukosha Funga

Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says the British Council has reported fraud involving one of the UKAid funded programmes called Zambia Accountability Project.

ZAP is a £26 million project, meant to run from 2014-2018, aimed at encouraging and supporting effective collaboration among elected leaders, government officials, civic groups and private businesses on prioritised government reform and development problems.

However, there have been reports of financial impropriety implicating local civil society organisations like SACCORD, YALI and FODEP which the Zambia Police Service and the Drug Enforcement Commission dismissed as mere speculation last week. *To page 4*

9-month pregnant woman dies after bar fight in Central Province

Story page 7

Higher Education Ministry paid K8.5m to non students - AG

By Mukosha Funga

The Auditor General says the Ministry of Higher Education paid tuition and meal allowances to 543 people who were not registered by UNZA and CBU.

Meanwhile, over 8,000 UNZA students have been fighting to get their accommodation and project allowances after being left out last academic year.

According to the Auditor General's report for the year ended 2016, the Ministry of Higher Education spent K8,521,629 on people who were not students.

"There were forty one (41) students with tuition and accommodation fees in amounts totalling K722,465 who were not registered by CBU and not screened by Bursaries Committee but were included on the Universities bill... During the period under review, the Ministry was invoiced amounts totalling K171,582,250 in respect of accommodation and tuition fees for ten thousand seven hundred and seventy eight (10,778) sponsored students at the University of Zambia for the 2015/2016 academic year. Although the University invoiced the Ministry for ten thousand seven hundred and seventy eight (10,778) students, the students' database at the Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board showed that there were ten thousand three hundred and seventy two (10,372) registered students who were eligible for sponsorship," read the Auditor General's report.

"However, the Ministry was not reconciling the invoices

from the University with its database of students eligible for sponsorship

Consequently, the Ministry paid the University amounts totalling K7,799,164 in respect of five hundred and forty (540) students who were not eligible for sponsorship as they were not registered by the University."

Meanwhile, the ministry failed to account for K34,626,882.

"During the period under review, the Ministry was invoiced amounts totalling K130,522,585 in addition to the brought forward amount of K23,028,591 in respect of accommodation and tuition fees for six thousand nine hundred and nine (6,909) sponsored students at the Copperbelt University. According to the Copperbelt University invoice summary, amounts totalling K144,018,381 were paid during the period under review leaving a balance of K9,532,794 from the total accrued amount. However, the IFMS Ledger at the Ministry of Higher Education showed that only amounts totalling K109,391,499 were paid to the Copperbelt University in respect of tuition and accommodation. As at 31st July 2017, the variance of K34,626,882 between the payments showing on the ledger and the receipts reflected from the invoice had not been reconciled," read the report.

Meanwhile, over 8,000 students have not yet received their accommodation and project allowances for the last academic year.

Some of the affected students

who sought anonymity lamented that it seemed Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo was not concerned about their plight.

"We were shocked to hear the minister telling Parliament that

government does not owe any student. About 8,000 of us have been making efforts to get our money for accommodation but up to now nothing is happening. We really need your help to get this information out

there. Some of us depend on this same money to survive. It is not much but at least it pushes us and we are scared that if this is not rectified in good time, then we might be permanently off the payroll,"

said one of the students. "UNZASU is also aware about this but maybe it is because most of them are graduating now or what, but they do not want to speak and push for us. We have a crisis."

Lungu heads to Egypt for 3-day state visit



Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu is tomorrow expected to travel to Egypt for a three-day visit. Zambia's Ambassador to Egypt Major General Toppy Lubaya told ZANIS that President Lungu would, during the visit, hold bilateral

talks with his host President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to discuss matters of bilateral, regional and global interest.

"The President is also expected to, among other engagements, undertake site visits to the Arab Industrial Authority, the Suez Canal

Fisheries Establishment and the Economic Industrial Zone," Maj Gen Lubaya explained.

He said the visit was also expected to result into the signing of some Memoranda of Understanding in tourism, youth and sport, and health

sectors. "Zambia and Egypt enjoy warm bilateral relations dating back from way back when we just got our independence. So we hope this visit will renew the relationship that has existed from time immemorial," he said.

Maj Gen Lubaya added that the President would be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Margaret Mwanakatwe and Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya. He said the Ministers will also be accompanied by some senior government officials.

JCTR notes decrease in monthly cost of living

Miriam Chabala

The Jesuit Center for Theological reflections (JCTR) has observed that child labour is one of the biggest obstacles to achieving universal primary education and sustainable development goals in Zambia. And JCTR has noted that the cost of living decreased by K14.1 in the month of October, as compared to September 2017.

In a statement, JCTR media and information officer Tendai Posiana feared that child labour had a number of devastating implications on communities, and called on government through the Ministry of General Education to address factors that were escalating child labour in the country.

"Child labor is caused by a number of factors which include high poverty levels, huge demand for supply of unskilled labour, high illiteracy levels, high cost of education and early marriages. The ever increasing cost of living especially in urban areas is also at the heart of child labour as children opt to work than to go to school on account of inability to afford high cost of education and other basic needs. Child labor has a number of negative

consequences on the growth of children," she said.

"It deprives them of their childhood, their potential and dignity and it is also harmful to their physical and mental development as it may lead to health complications not just because of the poor working environment children are usually exposed to but also because of undernourishment as their incomes are too low to support a balanced diet. Increased illiteracy levels of children caused by spending a lot of time in their workstations further condemns children to perpetual poverty."

Posiana noted that there was need for the Ministry of General Education to allocate more resources to the education sector to improve literacy levels. "Government should further look at establishing skill-based learning centers, vocational training centers and technical training institutions. This will help in improving literacy as well as skills levels and will contribute to the availability of skilled and trained workers in the job market. High national poverty levels at 54.4 per cent and continued high cost of living are contributing factors to rampant child labour in various

economic sectors. Other government social programmes such as social protection must also be targeted at addressing the problem of child labour if significant impact has to be made. As a country we need a well-coordinated and multi stakeholder response by all stakeholders to the problem of child labor if the scourge is to be addressed," she stated.

Meanwhile, Posiana attributed the reduction in the cost of the Basic Needs Basket for a family of five living in Lusaka in October to reduced costs in some food items due to the bumper harvest which the country recorded last year.

"The October 2017 JCTR Basic Needs Basket for a family of five living in Lusaka stood at K4,869.47 which is K14.1 less than the September BNB which was at K 4,883.57. The decrease in the BNB is attributed to reduced costs in some food items which include; mealie meal from K59.85 per 25 kg bag to K52.57 per 25kg bag, Fish from K132.56 per kg to K124.37 per kg, tomatoes from K9 per kg to K6.5 per kg and Charcoal from K147 per 90 kg bag to K140 per 90 kg bag. Price of other commodities like Kapenta increased from

K184.78 per Kg to K192.75 per kg, onions from K6.57 per kg to K8.14 per kg," stated JCTR/ "The continued decrease in mealie meal prices is attributed to the bumper harvest which was recorded this year. Prices

for fish and tomatoes have also reduced because of the high supply in the market. Prices for kapenta continue rising because of the many costs involved before it reaches the market."

Start mobilising the party; anything can happen, HH tells UPND members

From front page

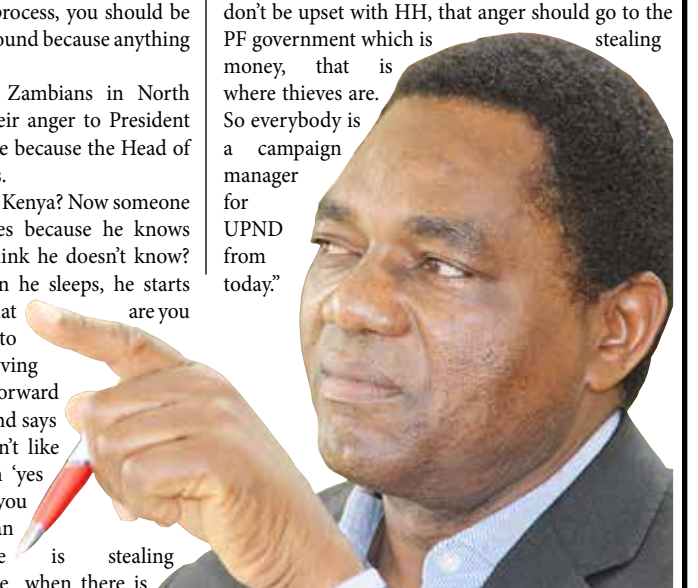
"When you see the man starting to warn judges, he knows what is inside there, it's a known issue. So since the issue is known, if I can be on the Copperbelt for the dialogue process, you should be mobilising the party on the ground because anything can happen anytime."

The opposition leader said Zambians in North Western Province showed their anger to President Lungu on his recent visit there because the Head of State rigged the 2016 elections.

Did you see what happened in Kenya? Now someone is scared and warning judges because he knows what is in the papers, you think he doesn't know? He knows. That is why when he sleeps, he starts dreaming 'you Hakainde what are you doing in state house'. He goes to Solwezi and wants to do a moving coffin, people were shouting forward forward. Then he gets upset and says 'I know you people here don't like me' and the people told him 'yes we don't want you because you store HH's votes'. Even you, can you celebrate when someone is stealing your votes? Can you celebrate when there is

poverty in your homes? asked HH.

"If there is a time when Zambians have suffered, it is under this leadership. There is no money in homes, everything is scarce, there is no food. Now please don't be upset with HH, that anger should go to the PF government which is stealing money, that is where thieves are. So everybody is a campaign manager for UPND from today."



ZNBC must adopt editorial policy independent of political manipulation - Antonio Mwanza

Zondiwe Mbewe

FDD spokesperson Antonio Mwanza says the backward thinking of the people in power is the reason the country can not move forward.

And Mwanza, who is also FDD deputy national secretary says Parliament must review and amend the ZNBC act in the manner that it becomes a public broadcaster whose editorial policy is independent from political manipulation. Lunte PF member of parliament Mutotwe Kafwaya told Parliament on Thursday that ZNBC should only cover government officials and not opposition political parties who do not have policies to talk about.

"Many people when referring to ZNBC say that this institution only shows the President, the vice president, ministers and government officials, to the exclusion of other players; specifically the opposition political players. I do think to some extent this is true. But I ask the question, why should opposition political players want to dominate ZNBC when in fact they don't carry government policy? The purpose of ZNBC is to show the Zambian people what government is doing for them. Mr Chairman, ZNBC is an institution for government and not an institution for the opposition. Those who say we must have a fair share; it is a dream which I don't see being fulfilled," said Kafwaya.

But Mwanza told News Diggers! in an interview that Kafwaya's sentiments only showed the backward thinking of those charged with the responsibility to take care of the affairs of the state.

"The sentiments by the Lunte member of parliament are not only unfortunate but very backward and it shows the level of the people that we have given leadership to. That's the reason why as a country we cannot move forward, because of such type of backward thinking by those that have been charged with the responsibility to take care of the affairs of the state. Mr Kafwaya is a young man, he is a colleague of mine, he is a friend of mine, I talk to him and I didn't expect such kind of backward thinking from him. It also shows that he has not taken time to read the Zambia Nation Broadcasting Act,"



Mwanza said.

"He has not taken time to read the difference between a government owned media and a public media. He has not even taken time to read what the Constitution says with regard to the use of public media. The Republican Constitution is clear that all Zambians must be given equal, fair and balanced coverage to express their views. That is the constitutional right of each and every Zambian," he said.

He said ZNBC needed to further move away from an editorial policy that is vulnerable to political manipulation.

"What the members of parliament should do is to review the Act and amend it in such a manner that ZNBC becomes a public broadcaster whose editorial policy is independent from political manipulation. So to have somebody in 2017 saying that the opposition must not be allowed to express their views on ZNBC and this person is a member of parliament and is a young man, is very very unfortunate. We have leaders who think that leadership is there for them to superintend over the masses instead of realising that leadership is there for them to serve the people. That kind of backward thinking is very unfortunate." "ZNBC is not a PF media. It is a public media for the people of Zambia. This is why all of

us are paying taxes to ZNBC for its operations. We pay TV levy for its operations and ZNBC must serve the people of Zambia and not the ruling party. The challenge that we have is that the editorial policy at ZNBC is tilted towards the ruling party of the day." He urged Kafwaya to be wary that power was temporal and

that he would soon be out of office with no access to public media.

"I will make a phone call to Mr Kafwaya because he is a personal friend and I will tell him that this is totally unacceptable coming from a young person in the year 2017, 53 years after independence. One thing that Mr Kafwaya

has to learn is that power is very temporal. Today they can be in power saying ZNBC must be abused and be used as a propaganda tool for the ruling party but what happens when Mr Kafwaya is not in office? We have seen our colleagues who thought that killing the private media was helping them to entrance

themselves in authority but now they are outside and they are not been covered by the public media which they used to use to kill the private media. Now they are running back to news diggers, to the private media for them to be covered by the same private media that they were trying to kill," observed Mwanza.

"Members of Parliament have to know that when they are making laws they should not be making laws which are partisan or which are there to serve their interests, they are making laws on behalf of the people of Zambia irrespective of the political parties they come from. We demand that a review be done and amendment be done to the act to allow ZNBC to be a truly independent public media as opposed to being government owned and government controlled. Maybe he [Kafwaya] should also suggest that we stop paying the TV levy because we can not be financing the propaganda of PF. We can't. We should scrap off the TV levy so that only those that are covered by ZNBC should be the ones paying ZNBC. If it doesn't serve all of us, then I think we just need to scrap it off."

Civil servants are stealing their hard-to-get pensions before they retire, observes Singogo

Sipilisiwe Ncube

Party of National Unity (PNU) Secretary General Kasote Singogo says the Ministry of General Education employee who stole K2.5 million did not want to be a victim of delayed pensions when he retires.

The latest Auditor General's report singled out Bwalya L Phiri, for paying himself a total of K2,577,055 in the year ended 2016, for unexplained purposes.

According to the Auditor General, Phiri used different initials on nine occasions to draw money from a Ministry of General Education account, in an attempt to conceal the fraud whilst two of his colleagues also paid themselves K871,272 in similar circumstances.

"Inquiries revealed that the funds drawn had been

misappropriated by the said officers as they were not accounted for at the Ministry. In particular, a payment made on Cheque Number 427659 which was purportedly paid to the DEBs offices was actually paid to L Bwalya confirmed through the Bank statements. It was noted that in an effort to conceal the fraud, different names and initials (L Bwalya P, L B Phiri, Bwalya Phiri, B Phiri, L Phiri and L Bwalya) of the same payee were used for different transactions," read the Auditor General's report.

But in an interview, Singogo said Phiri was simply emulating his leaders.

"You can see that this government is just there to destroy, to destroy the very means of development because when tax money

is collected, this money belongs to the people of Zambia and is suppose to be used prudentially. But clearly this is the evidence of a government which does not care because by now, we should be reading about the arrest but you see its just business as usual. This person who has been identified at the Ministry of education, we can safely say that he is probably seeing what the leaders are doing and he himself now takes advantage," Singogo said.

"Secondly, he could be seeing that because this government is in huge arrears on those people who have retired, he is basically saying to himself, if this is what it means that when I retire I will also be like those people who have retired, I might as well help myself. It shows you my dear sister that in this country, all the systems have broken down. And you yourselves know that this is what we do also, so it becomes difficult now to take action against this civil servant whom you have been informed that is taking money using different names. That is why we are saying that this government is incompetent where you have glaring evidence and you don't act."

"There are three things we have said about PF. Firstly we have said that the PF government is incompetent, secondly, the PF government is corrupt, and thirdly, the PF government is violent. Now, the Auditor General's

report confirms that this government is incompetent and corrupt because it does not need anybody to tell you that look this is a police case. This is a sign of incompetence that is why you find that they cannot act because they are incompetent. Secondly this confirms the corruption we have been talking about. On violence I don't need to educate you because you saw what happened in Luampa when the Vice-President went there to commission a sub-station. An honorable member of parliament was almost beaten up by PF thugs in full view of the Vice president," Singogo said.

He charged that senior government officials were slow to act on erring civil servants cited in the Auditor General's report because even they were guilty.

"The reason why you don't act it is because perhaps you yourselves do the same thing and it becomes difficult to act. And for us we want to be on record that PF government, this is the PF government because you can't say Edgar Chagwa, Edgar Chagwa is the head of state. But it is the PF government under him which is showing incompetence, the government is incompetence because of Edgar Chagwa Lungu, here is evidence given and you cannot take action. And this is also a sign that re-enforces our claim that this government is corrupt and on top of being corrupt, they are also violent," said Singogo.

Don't force your children to *shipikisha* in marriage and get killed - NGOCC

From front page

"There is a saying in English that 'the worm has turned'. Normally a worm wouldn't bite you, but there are worms which when pushed will bite you deadly. They have deadly poison but they don't react angrily. It's the same with human beings, you are put into a corner and you need to protect yourself. Its either you or your husband and you look at your children and you defend yourself to the fullest and sure enough somebody loses a life," she explained.

Longwe said communities must also be answerable for allowing spouses to kill

each other without intervening when the couples engaged in confrontational behaviour.

"We really need to interrogate the communities and ask why they are allowing killings. Because usually you will find that it is not the first time that these people are fighting. We wait until things become worse, we don't believe in 'a stitch in time serves nine stitches,'" said Longwe

This year's 2017 third quarter GBV statistics have indicated that spouse killings have rampantly increased from last year.

"The total number of GBV cases reported country wide from the first quarter to the third quarter of 2017 is 16,090 cases compared to 13,092 GBV cases in 2016 during the same period giving an increase of 2,998 cases or 18.6 percent increase. There is an increase in physical type of Gender Based Violence cases such as Assault OABH, unlawful wounding and murder. People should learn to exercise restraint and patience in their marriages or affairs unlike getting physical every time they differ. In a healthy relationship, communication is paramount," stated Police spokesperson Esther Katongo.

From front page

"We received a report yesterday of suspected PF cadres who went to attack members of the NDC who were convening a meeting at the Hindu Hall in Mufulira. 10 people have been arrested and one has been charged with malicious damage to property because he broke a window and then the rest have been charged with behaviour likely to cause breach of peace. We arrested them because the people they went to attack did not hold that meeting illegally, they got permission and were granted a permit."

And NDC National Youth Chairman Charles Kabwita narrated that the fracas began around 15:00 hours when their political consultant Chishimba Kambwili was about to address a huge meeting at Hindu Hall. "First and foremost, our meeting begun at exactly 15:00 hours and the Hindu Hall in Mufulira was fully packed to its capacity. This of course did not send a good message to the PF because when we

D/Mayor manhandles police Chief Inspector

formed the NDC, (Copperbelt Minister) Bowman Lusambo said we were mosquitoes and that we cannot go anywhere with our party so the PF is panicking and cannot appreciate anything that NDC is doing because already this political party is operating on lies. So suffice to say that, we begun our meeting and when Dr Chishimba Kambwili our political consultant started addressing the masses. We experienced a very unfortunate situation where the PF started throwing stones at us and the NDC members could not resist or fight back but instead what we did was to lock ourselves

inside the building and allowed the police to do their work," Kabwita narrated.

"After our meeting, we felt it was prudent for our party Secretary General Mr Mwenya Musenge to go and officially lodge in a complaint to the police. We successfully reported the matter to the police but unfortunately when we went to there we found the Provincial Chairman for PF Mr Stephen Kainga and Mr Mark Manda who is the Provincial Secretary and the madam who sent her naked pictures, you are calling her the deputy mayor also at Mufulira Central Police. Honourable Chiteme

member of parliament for Nkana Constituency also came, Honourable Emmanuel Mulenga also came and our question was 'why have you followed us?' they said 'no we have been told that the police have arrested our cadres but we said honestly, are they law abiding citizens? Why can't they allow the police to investigate the matter and then when the police deem it fit those cadres can be bonded or they can be bailed out."

He said it was at this point that Kapansa arrived at the scene and roughed up an officer. "If you have seen in the picture circulating, I was very close

to the deputy mayor, she was telling the officer to say 'you ba police officer namutumpa sana twalamichita (you have become very stupid, we shall transfer you and some of you twalamichita report kuli ba home affairs minister (Stephen Kampyongo) so that you can be retired in national interest (you police officers have become very silly so we are going to transfer you and then we will report some of you to the home affairs minister so you can be retired in national interest)', and that poor officer you saw being grabbed by the mayor in the neck asked a question 'why?' and the mayor

said 'you are not helping us as PF already we can see that you are supporting PF'. And she even started insulting but I can't tell you the insults because we are on phone but she started insulting the officers who became upset and sprayed chili in her mouth and her face to stop her because she became unruly. I wish to take this opportunity also to appreciate the police for their quick response to come and save us from being hurt by the PF cadres," said Kabwita.

Meanwhile, in a Facebook posting yesterday, Kambwili boasted that NDC was growing faster than the PF in its initial stages.

"As political consultant I can foresee this party growing leaps and bounds because the pressure that they have put on the Patriotic Front is immense. This party led by Mwenya Musenge is bigger than PF was in its first 5 years of formation, the patriotic front structures are in total confusion, complete disarray as the NDC swiftly comes in to provide credible leadership and a lasting solution to the poverty we face in Zambia. After a successful meeting with more than 3000 people the patriotic front members got agitated and sent irate thugs to through stones and break cars at the Hindu Hall in Mufulira. However alert NDC youths combined with professional police officers apprehended the thugs and they locked them up," stated Kambwili.

"As illustrated in the picture, whilst at the police station the deputy mayor and Chiteme were seen verbally abusing the men and women in uniform saying that NDC should not be allowed to hold any meeting because this country belongs to President Lungu. Unfortunately the PF youths that were sent by Lusambo joined the NDC entourage that toured the mining town to a huge huge atmosphere. The Copperbelt is crumbling very fast, although not as fast as it is in some of these other provinces. Can these MPs and senior officials allow Musenge the political mosquito to mobilise for his party?"

Nothing will stop Lungu from standing in 2021 - Mwila



By Mirriam Chabala

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the ruling party has already made a decision that President Edgar Lungu will stand in 2021, and that the decision is final no matter what happens.

He refused to discuss the eligibility case against the Head of State which is before the Constitutional Court, saying while the party will wait for the judges' interpretation of the law, the Central Committee's resolve to field President Lungu would not change. In this question and answer interview which unfortunately turns emotional, I ask Mwila to explain why he says President Lungu would be recontesting the presidency when the Head of State told citizens recently that he would only go upto 2021.

Mwila's Answer: That's what I have said. The President was talking about his term of office, he didn't say that... The President was talking about his term of office, he didn't say that 'I will not stand in

2021'. So, you get the whole statement from ZNBC. That is a small clip... So what do you want me to do madam?

My Question: The reason I am calling you is I want to verify because often times when we quote... (Mwila interrupts)

A: I have given a statement and that's a party position. That is our position as a party and it will not change.

Q: Okay...?

A: So what I have told you, that's the party position. I speak on behalf of the party, what is inside the party not what is in the head of [Chishimba] Kambwili, no!

Q: But I am saying that you have resolved as a party that you have endorsed President Lungu for the 2021 elections. But my question is this, there is a case of his eligibility still in court.

A: What do you mean? So you want me to start debating on the issue that is in Court?

Q: No! I was thinking that, are you not going to wait for... (Mwila interrupts)

A: We have said that, as a party,

he is eligible to stand. We have talked about this matter.

Q: Yes, now what about waiting for the court's decision before you can finally endorse him?

A: We will wait for the Courts to decide [because] we cannot speak for the courts.

Q: No, I am not saying you should speak for the courts but... (Mwila interrupts)

A: So what do you want me to say madam, what do you want me to say?

Q: I was only saying that wouldn't it have been appropriate for the party to wait before they endorse a candidate since... (Mwila interrupts)

A: The party made a decision, we didn't wait. We made this decision before going to court so the decision is still binding.

Q: Okay, how about if the outcome of the court says that the President is not eligible, what happens?

A: What do you mean? We can't speak for the courts, that is a debate. You can't talk about an issue which is in court. We leave it for the courts to decide,

not us.

Q: Yes, I am not saying that you should decide for the courts sir but... (Mwila interrupts)

A: But why are you wishing that the judgment should come negative? No!! Let's wait for the courts to decide, it ends there.

Q: Yes, that's where my question is, now why are you not waiting, you have already endorsed.

A: We endorsed a long time before the matter went to court. We endorsed President Edgar Lungu before the matter went to court.

Q: Yes, now that it is in court you have kept saying that he is your sole candidate, you are just from telling me that you have made a decision... (Mwila interrupts)

A: What do you want me to say?

Q: I want you to say that, are you not going to wait...?

A: I have said it and I have told you that the President will not change.

Q: Alright then

A: President Lungu remains

the candidate in 2021 for PF

Q: Even if the court rules against it?

A: No, I will not respond on that.

Q: Ah!

A: ...because it is now a debate.

Take a listen on www.diggers.news

British Council reports Zambian NGOs to police for stealing UKAid

From front page

But in a statement today, Katongo confirmed that the British Council had on November 9 reported the suspected fraud and it was currently being investigated.

"I wish to confirm that the Zambia Police has finally received a formal report from the British Council on the suspected fraud by one of the UKAid funded projects which is the Zambia Accountability Project (ZAP). The report was made on the 09th November, 2017 to the Zambia Police Anti Fraud Unit," stated Katongo.

"The fraud is said to have occurred between 01st January, 2016 and 01st September, 2017. The revelation follows an internal investigation carried out by the British Council. The Zambia Police has since opened an inquiry file in the matter."

By Sishuwa Sishuwa

Kenya's Supreme Court judges, who in September invalidated the initial re-election of Uhuru Kenyatta on grounds of unconstitutional irregularities, have attracted deserved applause from across Africa for their refusal to bow before presidential power and their willingness to act independently and in accordance with the law. President Edgar Lungu has not joined in with this praise. Instead, the courage of Kenya's judges appears to worry him. On 2 November 2017, Lungu issued a stern warning to the judges on Zambia's Constitutional Court not to follow the example of the Kenyan judges, as doing so would, in his view, lead to chaos. At present, the Constitutional Court (ConCourt), which has the final say on matters relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, is considering a case to determine whether Lungu, first elected in January 2015 following the untimely death in office of incumbent Michael Sata and then re-elected in the controversial August 2016 elections, is eligible to serve a further presidential term in 2021.

Zambia's Constitution has a two-term limit for the presidency, but Lungu's supporters argue that his first term, totalling eighteen months, should not be counted towards the total. Lungu himself, in January this year, declared that he is eligible to stand for another term in the 2021 elections and challenged opposing voices to seek the interpretation of the ConCourt. A few days later, four small opposition parties moved to petition the court, seeking 'a declaration that President Edgar Lungu is eligible to contest the 2021 Presidential election'. The influential Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and the main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND), who argue that the small opposition parties were proxies of Lungu, subsequently joined the case seeking a counter declaration. The case comes up for hearing on 15 November and the timing of Lungu's warning to the ConCourt judges is not coincidental. To avoid misinterpreting what Lungu said, it is worth quoting his remarks at length:

"People are saying Zambian courts should be like Kenyan courts, that they should be brave and make decisions which are in the best interests of the people, but look at what is happening in Kenya now. I am saying the courts of law in Zambia should also see what is happening. They should not behave like they are not part of our African continent. The most important thing I can say now is that, 2021, I am available to stand if my party chooses me. But to my friends in the court system, I say 'don't plunge us into chaos by imitating or emulating Kenya or any other court system for that matter which does not care about the interests of the people'. I am saying this... because I have heard that some judges say 'why don't we emulate the Kenyan courts? They are very brave, look at what they have done'. I don't think that is right. We should preserve peace, listen to the voice of the people [and] reflect the will of the people in the Constitution. Whether I am eligible to stand or not in 2021 should not be dependent on the case in Kenya.

"I am saying this because there are people outside Africa and some within Africa who want to bring confusion in Africa. They have started with South Africa, Kenya and Zambia for a regime change. There are people out there who just want regime change because they want to take over from us as managers...

Explaining Lungu's threats to judges, obsession for a third term

that I will not allow. So to my colleagues in the judiciary, my message is 'just do your work, interpret the law without fear or favour; look at the best interest of this country; do not become a copycat and think that you are a hero if you plunge this country into chaos.' Those people who don't like peace and freedom will say 'President Lungu is intimidating the courts of law'; I am not intimidating my colleagues in the judiciary. I am just warning you that I have information that some of you want to be adventurous. Your adventure should not plunge us into chaos, please! [In English,] there is a saying [that] to be forewarned is to be forearmed. We don't want to plunge this country into chaos because of trying to imitate what is happening elsewhere. We are a beckon of peace and freedom; let us keep it that way. I was on the ballot paper as candidate and I assured that I would protect Zambia, and that I will do."

A number of organisations and prominent individuals have condemned Lungu's remarks. These include LAZ, which called on Lungu to retract the comments; the main opposition UPND, who described them as outright intimidation of judges; and US-based prominent Professor of Law Muna Ndulo, who branded the remarks as irresponsible, another example of Lungu's increasing arrogance, wanton disregard for the rule of law and further evidence of 'the creeping dictatorship in Zambia'. Condemnation is of course necessary, but it is not sufficient. Zambians need to understand why Lungu is making such comments. His contemptuous pronouncements and implied threats against the judges were neither random nor a result of ignorance and incompetence, as some oppositionists have argued. To the contrary, Lungu is very competent and skilled. His record of effectively destroying the remnants of democracy in Zambia, especially by destroying the vestiges of autonomy in all state institutions outside the executive arm of government, indicate a high degree of commitment to well-defined goals for the purposes of establishing – in the space of only three years – an authoritarian regime and a slide into a fearful dictatorship. Lungu has carried out this task with considerable skill and competence, albeit of a lawless variety, employing a line of political rhetoric and well-concealed hypocrisy that went unrecognised until it was far too late. If Zambians wish to reclaim their democratic institutions and space, they will do well not to underestimate Lungu and the lengths to which he is prepared to go in his bid for absolute power. His thinly veiled threats to the judges of the ConCourt should be seen as part of his wider strategy to stay in power beyond 2021 and to reduce the judiciary to carrying out his bidding. By blatantly and publicly threatening judges before they make a final decision on whether or not he is eligible to stand for another presidential term in 2021, Lungu was speaking to different audiences for different objectives.

Lungu's first audience is the judges of the ConCourt. His objective is clearly to intimidate them, especially those who are unsure about the consequences of ruling against the presidency. Lungu's threats that a 'brave' and

'adventurous' judgement would be met with chaos make it less likely that judges who are sitting on the edge would take the risk. After all, the President probably does not need to persuade all the judges on the ConCourt: only a majority. Many Zambians generally view some judges on the ConCourt as already predisposed towards Lungu, citing as evidence their handling of last year's election petition and the fact that he appointed all of them even when none meets the constitutional requirements to serve as a judge on the ConCourt: namely, specialised training in human rights or constitutional law and 15 years' experience as a legal practitioner. In the eyes of such sceptics, therefore, Lungu does not need to do a great deal of work to win over a majority. His comments thus threaten to further erode public respect and confidence in a ConCourt, whose reputation is already low. If the judges find against him on the 2021 issue, he can accuse them – and has already formulated the accusation in advance – of fomenting chaos in the country. If they rule in his favour, the public perception will be that he has successfully leaned on them.

Lungu's argument that the judges should not behave as if they are not part of Africa is rooted in a patronising and self-serving stereotype that implies that delivering a judgement solely in accordance with the law is un-African; that the essential nature of African politics and jurisprudence is conformity. The President's claim that the judges should decide cases before them by 'look[ing] at the best interest of the country' is a euphemism for stating that they should favourably consider the interests of the ruling political elite or other factors external to the law. This thinking reveals Lungu's limited understanding of the law and judicial functions. Whether a court's decision might cause public chaos should be of no concern to the judges, since, as Lungu himself explained, their task is to 'interpret the law without fear or favour'. Chaos is what follows when judicial rulings are not independent or credible. For instance, there could easily be a chaotic response if judges rule Lungu eligible and Zambians feel that this ruling has only been made because of political pressure and threats.

The second audience that Lungu was speaking to are his supporters in the governing Patriotic Front (PF). In promising chaos, presumably if he is disqualified from standing in 2021, Lungu seeks to achieve two objectives. First, he is effectively telling his followers to exert pressure on the judges for a favourable ruling, as he is already doing. Supporters could, for instance, easily mobilise to block the courts or even conduct protests against independent-minded judges perceived to be anti-Lungu, confident that the police would not disrupt such efforts. This strategy has been deployed before. At the height of last year's legal challenge against Lungu's re-election, PF supporters camped outside the ConCourt premises in protest against the court's unanimous decision to extend the hearing of the petition for a week. The next day, the ConCourt, by majority opinion, set aside its earlier judgement even in the absence of a formal appeal and disposed of the matter inconclusively.

Second, Lungu is preparing the minds of his supporters to reject an unfavourable verdict and possibly cause unfathomable chaos that he would then blame on the judges. In other words, should he fail to secure a majority on the ConCourt using political pressure and threats, Lungu is laying the ground for discrediting the judgement. His reference to unspecified foreigners seeking regime change is meant to portray his prospective disqualification as a result of an unholy alliance between judges on the ConCourt, the main opposition in Zambia and the unnamed foreigners. The claim by Lungu that he will not allow 'regime change because they [i.e. his political opponents] want to take over from us as managers' seems to contradict the basic precept of democracy in that it denies the legitimacy of an opposition party seeking to gain power, and instead seems to interpret legitimate democratic process as treason.

Invoking the mantra of regime change also allows Lungu to mute any international criticism of the continued erosion of democratic principles in Zambia. It is possible that the international community could rediscover its principles after recent occurrences in Kenya. By deploying the empty rhetoric of foreign interference, Lungu is seeking to head off that prospect by tainting any potential criticism with the idea of foreign-backed regime change. Again, he is preparing the ground here, a trick he undoubtedly learnt from authoritarian figures elsewhere in Africa. It may be that Lungu has sought advice from the leaders of Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, where the spectre of unspecific foreign intervention is regularly used to justify politically distasteful positions. It is disturbing that Zambia, once rightly regarded as a beacon of democracy on the continent, now finds itself grouped alongside authoritarian regimes. That Robert Mugabe, Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame represent Lungu's most notable political friendships may be an indication of what is in store for Zambia.

Lungu's third audience are his opponents within the governing party, particularly budding successors who are eyeing his position. A ruling from the ConCourt that he is ineligible to stand would strengthen their hand and reduce Lungu to a lame-duck President. By declaring his presidential candidature in 2021 (subject to his party's stamping endorsement of his wishes) even before the ConCourt pronounces itself on the matter, Lungu is effectively warning individuals within the PF that he is going nowhere and that they will face the same fate as Chishimba Kambwili, the former Minister of Information who was recently expelled from the party for campaigning to succeed him. Privately, several prominent PF members are hoping that the ConCourt will rule against Lungu because this opens a way for their own ambitions. His threats were prejudicial to the case before the ConCourt and suggest that he is above the law because he will be on the ballot in 2021 with or without the ConCourt's backing.

In examining Lungu's threats to judges, it is also important to look beyond the motivations of what he said to consider the

reasons behind his fixation on extending his time in power only a year after winning a five-year term. Broadly speaking, there are two reasons why Lungu is unwilling to leave office any time soon, and none of them have to do with national interests.

The first is the fear of possible prosecution after leaving power. His apprehension is reinforced by the fact that all of his predecessors, aside from those who died in office, have faced prosecution after leaving office. Already, Lungu is facing questions about the sources of his newfound wealth. Possible prosecution for corruption, embezzlement or criminal misuse of his powers while president cannot be far from his mind. The solution, then, is to remain in power for as long as possible or until he can find a pliant successor who will not prosecute him. It is even possible that regardless of the outcome of the case relating to his eligibility that is currently before the ConCourt, Lungu might consider staying in power indefinitely by changing the Constitution in order to either extend the number of terms permissible, or abolish presidential term limits altogether. From this point of view, he probably needs to ensure a stay in power until 2026 to consolidate his power even further before pushing through another amendment to the Constitution to further extend his permitted stay in office. Blatantly threatening the ConCourt just before it considers his case is therefore not accidental; it is a calculated strategy that seeks to secure a favourable interpretation of the Constitution before he can embark on the alternative prospect. This causes one to wonder what threats were uttered to the same judges during their consideration of the far more crucial decision on the legitimacy of the previous presidential election. One might fairly assume that the threats were so dire that the judges decided not to even hear the petition, let alone make a judgment. The implication of this scenario is that if a sitting president rigs an election and also controls ConCourt, then he or she can never be voted out of office.

The second possible reason that explains Lungu's unwillingness to leave office is that he is beholden to the business and political interests of individuals who contributed to his rise to power. Fear of what would happen if Lungu left power has created a sense of insecurity in this group, which, according to well-placed PF insiders, is persuading him to remain in power. As News Diggers! argued in a recent opinion editorial entitled 'Lungu vomiting what he ate in the night', Lungu, in seeking another term in office, is not speaking for himself alone. Around him are a number of political and business figures, many of whom were marginalised under the late president Michael Sata but have flourished under Lungu's presidency. This group feels its time in the corridors of power has been too brief: more time is required to accumulate through the state. And they can clearly see how those they replaced now languish out of power. Senior government and ruling party figures reveal that this group has captured virtually all state institutions.

The term 'state capture' – the

control of the executive to allow politicians and politically-connected businesspeople to loot public finances – is topical in South Africa but applies utterly in Zambia. It is not simply the executive of the state that has been captured, as is the case in South Africa, but a whole range of institutions including the police, the security services, the investigative agencies, the media, the Electoral Commission of Zambia, the National Prosecution Authority, arguably the judiciary, parliament and various others. This group, working with Lungu, has successfully closed down the critical free press, almost succeeded in muzzling civil society, and many in Zambia believe that it is also responsible for the arrest of prominent opposition figures. Since the recently amended Constitution allows the President to appoint a Minister of Religion, Lungu's group is, to a certain extent, in charge of the church. With the successful misuse of the police, the violence of PF supporters that is tolerated by the police and the generous use of bogus prosecutions, Lungu and his associates have created a general climate of fear, and are therefore effectively in charge of everybody except those seeking martyrdom. How far this group is willing to go to maintain this grip on power remains to be seen. Could political disappearances and murders that have blighted other African democracies be Zambia's fate?

Lungu's threats against the judiciary represent a watershed moment in Zambia's continuing fall from grace. Previously, Lungu strove to stick to the constitutional and legal position on democracy, constitutionalism and the separation of powers. For instance, when the leader of the opposition was arrested on what appeared to be a trumped-up charge of treason last April, Lungu claimed to have nothing to do with the arrest, and that it would be constitutionally improper for him to interfere with the independent arms of government responsible. Laughable as these claims were, they wrong-footed opponents who were left looking for evidence of how Lungu had influenced these supposedly independent institutions. Now, in the recent case, we see a threat against the ConCourt so thinly veiled that the masquerade of propriety falls away. Suddenly the public words have begun to match the private or secret words that many suspect take place behind the scenes and which would explain some of Lungu's illegal and unconstitutional actions. Here we see the beginning of a new phase, where capture of state institutions and the installation of a climate and culture of fear is now so complete that Lungu feels confident enough to make explicit the structure of his creeping dictatorship – especially in a situation where there are now effectively no state institutions, whether watchdog, investigatory, or judicial – that can challenge or oppose him. Such a new phase would leave the way open to a more overt and frightening assertion of dictatorial power.

Zambia's judges on the ConCourt will surely feel the weight of history on their shoulders. Other countries where judicial independence and presidential term limits have been ignored have slid into disorder, authoritarian rule and dictatorship. Which way for Zambia? This is the decision that the judges will make and it is no exaggeration to say that the fate of Zambia's democracy lies in their hands.



Zambia celebrates World War Heroes

Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

Top right: War veterans move to lay wreaths at the Cenotaph as defence chiefs (r) salute. Below, President Lungu pays his respects to the fallen heroes, as Vice-President Inonge Wina, Speaker Patrick Matibini, his deputy Catherine Namugala, Chief Justice Irene Mambilima join in the commemorations





Top: President Lungu and FAZ president Andrew Kamanga celebrate Zambia's goal against Cameroon on Saturday. Right: President Lungu walks with Angolan Special Envoy Augusto da Silva Tomás at State House on Sunday - Pictures by Salim Henry/State House

Top right: War veteran at the remembrance day parade at the National Cenotaph in Lusaka yesterday. Below Zambia army band entertains attendees at the event - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala



9-month pregnant mother dies in bar fight

Mukosha Funga

Police in Central Province have arrested two women for murdering their nine months pregnant colleague after a scuffle at a bar. Meanwhile, police in Nyimba District of Eastern Province have arrested an 18-year-old man for murdering his 56-year-old uncle over a family garden.

This is contained in a statement issued by police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo.

Katongo stated that the pregnant woman sustained cuts from a broken bottle.

"Police in Central Province have arrested two female adults in connection with the murder of a 21 years old female adult who was nine (09) months pregnant identified as Agnes Daka of Chief Kalindawalo, Petauke District also of Chisamba District. This occurred in Central Province on 11th November, 2017 around 19:45 hours at 22 Miles along Lusaka road in Chisamba

District. The report was received from Mulenga Bwalya aged 23 of 22 Miles who reported that his wife Agnes Daka who was nine (09) months pregnant was allegedly murdered by Catherine Chisenga aged 25 of Chief Muchinka, Serenje District also of Katondo Compound in Kabwe and Female Tangu Mwanza aged 28 of Chief Mbangombe, Chipata District also of Katondo Compound in Kabwe District," Katongo stated.

"The information received is that the deceased who was in a company of one other person had sat opposite the accused persons at one of the local drinking places and that a scuffle started when one of the accused persons offered a beer to the deceased. The deceased sustained a deep cut on her right hand and forehead as a broken bottle is alleged to have been used in the act and she died whilst being attended to at Twalumba Clinic. The accused persons are

detained in police custody while the body of the deceased is lying in Chisamba Rural Health center mortuary."

And Katongo stated that police had also arrested Stephen Daka for murdering his uncle.

"Meanwhile, Police in Nyimba District of Eastern Province have arrested a male adult of Menyani Village, Chief Ndake of Nyimba District identified as Stephen Daka aged 18 years for allegedly murdering his 56 years old uncle identified Jolofani Mumba of the same address over a family vegetable garden. This occurred on 11th November, 2017 around 23:35 hours at Fumba Garden, Chief Ndake, Nyimba District of Eastern Province. The suspect hit the victim with an axe handle and he sustained a swollen head. The accused person is detained in police custody while the body of the deceased is in Nyimba District Hospital mortuary awaiting postmortem," stated Katongo.

We thought he was dull, and we confirmed when he spoke

The Bible in Proverbs chapter 17 verses 28 teaches us the value of knowing when to speak. It says "Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent". Indeed, it is wise to see and hear well, but to say very little. You learn by listening, not by talking. Others will assume your silence indicates careful observation and deep consideration of the topic being discussed. They will assume you are in deep search for the right thoughts and words before speaking.

This teaching is from the realisation that the tongue is dangerous and can easily hurt others. That is why God gave us two ears but only one mouth.

But the Bible also recognizes in Psalms 39 that there is a fire to speak that burns in some people. They cannot quench this fire; they cannot control their infatuation to let out what is on their minds, no matter how senseless it may be. There are some cursed and unruly mouths that find pride in telling everyone within hearing distance that they are foolish and ignorant.

On Thursday November 9, 2017 we tuned-in to Parliament Radio, like many Zambians, to hear lawmakers debate the 2018 budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services. The members of parliament were discussing the operations of the Zambia National

Broadcasting Corporation, its funding and the monthly TV levy charged to viewers.

We heard various wise debates, some were thought provoking while others seemed to lack the basic understanding of what was being discussed. As debates went on, one mouth stood out and left us astounded. It was the voice of Lunte PF member of parliament Honourable Mutotwe Kafwaya.

Mr Kafwaya courageously expressed his views about the mandate of ZNBC and went further to say which news sources the journalists working for the national broadcaster should be allowed to cover.

"Many people when referring to ZNBC say that this institution only shows the President, the Vice-President, ministers and government officials, to the exclusion of other players; specifically the opposition

political players. I do think to some extent this is true. But I ask the question, why should opposition political players want to dominate ZNBC when in fact they don't carry government policy? The purpose of ZNBC is to show the Zambian people what government is doing for them. If we say everyone must have the same share, we will be hearing such things that 'there is a presidential election petition in courts on ZNBC'. This is not what we want to see on ZNBC," said Honourable Kafwaya, proudly.

"Mr Chairman, ZNBC is an institution for government and not an institution for the opposition. Therefore, ZNBC must promote activities for government. Those who say we must have a fair share; it is a dream which I don't see being fulfilled unless the purpose of ZNBC changes. What economic

development will you get from an opposition? If you want to bring those oppositions and line them up on ZNBC then we are not promoting what the actual purpose of ZNBC is!"

Considering that the people of Lunte constituency have downgraded from the likes of Felix Mutati, we can only sympathise with them for relegating to a loud and insensitive man as their representative in Parliament. Frankly, Honourable Kafwaya owns a very dangerous mouth that finds no shame in voicing out ignorance.

These are the kind of people described in Psalms 39. They have a burning sensation to talk for the sake of being heard. They take no consideration into thinking about what they say and they care less about the feelings of those who hear the ignorance in their voice. The

self-conscience that pushes them to quench the lust for senseless talk is usually overridden by a bloated ego of pomposity. They just have to talk and talk and talk, no matter how many people get hurt by their annoying speech.

ZNBC is for government officials only, not members of the opposition who do not carry the policies of the government? Surely, how can anyone accurately describe this MP's reasoning without offending those who elected him into parliamentary office?

We are not surprised that citizens took turns insulting Honourable Kafwaya on social media platforms because, to suggest that taxpayers who support opposition political parties have no right to be covered by the national broadcaster, is outright dullness – which he should not blame

on his laziness to read the ZNBC Act. A little application of common sense would have reminded the Lunte MP that he himself is not a government official, but deserves ZNBC airtime to explain developments taking place in Lunte, just like Gary Nkombo of Mazabuka; for the simple reason that they are both part of the governance system of this country.

But supposing that common sense was not so common in Honourable Kafwaya's head, which is evident, what does he have to say about PF officials and cadres who are lined up on ZNBC to denounce members of the opposition. What policies does Kennedy Kamba talk about when he appears on ZNBC news? How can it be normal in Mr Kafwaya's head that government officials should feature on private radio stations, TVs and newspapers which are solely owned and funded by private individuals, but citizens who oppose government policies must not be allowed to appear on ZNBC which is owned and funded by the public?

This is indeed a very sad state of affairs for, not only the people of Lunte who elected an empty tin, but all ZNBC viewers who pay TV levy every month just to watch the President's travelling policies. It is more painful to all citizens who pay tax to government so that Honourable Kafwaya can eat free food at the National Assembly and belch out ignorance.

News Diggers! Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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Zambia, thanks for the great memories! As I reflect on my three years as U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, I consider what my goals were for U.S.-Zambia relations when I arrived in 2014. I wanted to increase U.S.-Zambia trade and investment. I sought to provide U.S. support for inclusive economic growth. I aspired to see further positive developments in the health and education sectors through U.S. support. And I wanted to increase U.S. support for Zambia to maintain and expand its role as a regional model of peace and democracy. The United States and Zambia – our governments and our people – have worked together to realize many successes towards these goals. When I arrived, I had high hopes for increased trade and investment between the United States and Zambia. Zambia has: the potential to be a regional tourism hub, abundant land and water resources for agricultural growth, a highly skilled but underemployed workforce, extraordinary wildlife, great potential as a producer of electricity, and of course mineral resources. My goal was to see American businesses do well by doing good: to be profitable while helping accelerate Zambia's economic development. Our commercial team worked closely with the American Chamber of Commerce in Zambia to promote trade opportunities under the U.S. African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) and to connect with U.S. and Zambian businesses in search of successful partnerships in Zambia. Countless U.S. business representatives have visited Zambia and many Zambian

My parting thoughts from Zambia

trade delegations have had productive visits to the United States during my time here. And, as I've traveled around Zambia, I have been gratified to see operations of U.S. companies large and small. These are well known entities such as Cargill, the Radisson and Protea hotel chains, and First Quantum Minerals, as well as smaller-scale businesses such as a poultry company I had a chance to visit in Livingstone. U.S. companies bring with them not only financial investment, but also innovative mechanization, transferable managerial talent, and best practices as they develop their Zambian workforce.

While I depart Zambia still believing in this country's economic future and still convinced that it can be an attractive investment destination for U.S. companies, I nonetheless acknowledge that we have not made as much progress as I would have hoped. U.S. and Zambian business people alike have told me that to accelerate economic growth and to attract needed foreign direct investment, there are several things that Zambia must do better. First, the government still plays too big of a role in the economy: constant changes in tax and other regulations have created an uncertain business environment; domestic debt and tight monetary policy have limited lending to the private sector; and agricultural subsidies and impositions of price ceilings and floors have distorted local markets and inhibited private

sector growth. Second, non-transparent tender processes, slow bureaucracy, and a weak judiciary serve to significantly limit Zambia's appeal as an investment destination. Third: Zambia's debt situation is very worrisome to foreign investors. It is for this reason that I have long supported an IMF program for Zambia, one that would out the country's debt on a sustainable path and in the process create greater international confidence in the country's economic policies.

Another goal I had for my assignment to Zambia was to encourage continued U.S. support to accelerate achievements in the health and education sectors. Nothing gave me greater joy than when the U.S. PEPFAR program and the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that HIV incident rates in Zambia have decreased by 50% since U.S. PEPFAR began in 2003. And I am thrilled to be able to say that thanks to our strong partnership and to well over \$3 billion of U.S. government support to combat HIV in Zambia during that time frame, an AIDS-free generation is in sight in this country. In maternal and child health, our partnership through the Saving Mothers, Giving Life Program has also resulted in great progress with maternal deaths decreasing by 55% in facilities where the program operated. And our U.S. Centers for Disease Control Field Epidemiology and Training Program has trained an MOH workforce of more

than 45 "disease detectives" who help identify and stop health threats in a world where the next outbreak is only a plane ride away.

While we are seeing great progress in the health sector, I don't believe the same can be said for education. Zambia's greatest natural resource is its people and I once again urge the Zambian Government to invest more in your workforce, your brain trust, your current and future leaders. To create a modern economy, you need educated workers. Much more needs to be done by the Zambian Government to support children to finish both primary and secondary school. The lack of qualified teachers and crowded classrooms in many areas must also be addressed. Ultimately, the health and education of your people should be the government's top priorities. The United States and other donors have and will – at least in our case – continue to play a supporting role but in the end it will require increased Zambian government budget support and political will to create a healthy, educated populace that can take this country to another level and realize its great potential.

As I prepared to come to Zambia more than three years ago, I was the envy of my colleagues back in Washington. I was traveling to a country that was widely viewed as one of the most democratic on the continent, a country with a tradition of peaceful multi-party politics that results in a stability that is deeper

and more meaningful than the surface tranquility of more authoritarian states. Zambia's leaders across the political spectrum have the capability to continue Zambia's democratic journey and I encourage you to engage in conversations with all voices and perspectives. The United States stands with you as you continue on this path. Moreover, we see Zambia as an important voice in its region for peace and democracy. Your example is far more powerful to your neighbors, many of which lack your democratic stability, than anything the United States might say or do in this regard. It is important, therefore, that Zambia continue to deepen its democracy, to reaffirm its tolerance for tribal differences, to renew its commitment to unity and peace. Zambia and the United States are multi-ethnic societies that share a respect for democratic values – this is the foundation of our strong bilateral ties. It is also important that Zambia continue and even expand its efforts to play a leadership role in promoting peace in the region, not least thru the provision of Zambian peacekeepers to African conflict zones. This has been another accomplishment during my time here of which that both countries can be proud: the strengthening relationship between our two militaries that has contributed so much to African peace.

Finally, a last goal I had for my tour was to enjoy Zambia's beautiful nature and get to know its people. I have traveled in

my three years here to every corner of Zambia. Neither my family nor I will ever forget the spectacular wildlife viewing in Zambia and the privilege of seeing Victoria Falls from Livingstone. I will miss Zambia, most of all the wonderful Zambian people. Whether we are talking about His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his staff, Zambia's hardworking ministers, parliamentarians, and their staffs, Zambia's entrepreneurs – young and old alike, members of civil society making Zambia a better place starting at the grassroots, or that friendly trader at the market, bus driver, or newspaper seller on the street, I have been inspired at every turn by the warmth and industry of Zambians. I can't help but recognize how deeply Zambians are committed to a brighter future for Zambia; it is an objective the United States shares and one my successor will continue to support in his time in this lovely country.



Outgoing US Ambassador to Zambia Eric Schultz

Trump trades 'short and fat' barb with N Korea's Kim

President Donald Trump has again traded barbs with North Korea, shortly before offering to mediate in a heated regional dispute. He took to Twitter to complain he would never call North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "short and fat", after its foreign ministry called him "old".

It was one of a series of remarks he made on social media before volunteering his services over maritime claims in the South China Sea. "I'm a very good mediator," he said. China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei all have competing claims to territory

in the South China Sea. Tensions with China have been high in both Vietnam and the Philippines, inflamed by the formers island-building and naval patrols. A framework for a code of conduct was agreed in August, but this is still only an outline, with more negotiations due to take place before it can be

legally binding. Mr Trump, who has long styled himself as a dealmaker, suggested his expertise could aid the process. "If I can help mediate or arbitrate, please let me know," Mr Trump told his Vietnamese counterpart, Tran Dai Quang, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

summit in Hanoi. Mr Trump's own dispute with North Korea continues to escalate, at least in the insults traded across Twitter and in official statements. On Saturday, North Korea denounced Mr Trump's Asia trip, calling it a "warmonger's visit" and again described the president as a "dotard" -

a centuries-old insult for an elderly person. Mr Trump responded with a passive aggressive tweet, suggesting he would never call Mr Kim was "short and fat", and complaining: "Oh well, I try so hard to be his friend - and maybe someday that will happen!"

As the president took to social media, three US aircraft carriers were taking part in a military exercise in the Western Pacific, in a show of strength aimed at North Korea.

US Pacific Fleet commander Scott Swift said the triple-carrier drill was the first in the region since 2007.

South Korean and Japanese ships were also due to take part in the exercises, which began on Saturday and will continue until Tuesday.

President Trump has not ruled out friendly relations with North Korea.

Asked at a news conference in Vietnam if he could see himself being friends with Mr Kim, the president said: "That might be a strange thing to happen but it's a possibility.

"If it did happen it could be a good thing I can tell you for North Korea, but it could also be good for a lot of other places and be good for the rest of the world.

"It could be something that could happen. I don't know if it will but it would be very, very nice."

The Vietnamese leg of Mr Trump's five-nation Asia tour was met with protests. Mai Khoi, a singer and dissident, said police confined her to her home and threatened her with eviction, after she defied a ban on protests.

Ms Khoi, who was barred from standing for parliament last year, said she was escorted home after she flashed a sign insulting the president as his motorcade passed by.

She said she was protesting against Donald Trump's attitude to women and his failure to meet with human rights activists in Vietnam.

Mr Trump will travel to Manila later on Sunday for the final stop on his Asia tour, before flying back to the US. **BBC**



US President Donald Trump (C) waves next to Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto (R) ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit leaders gala dinner in the central Vietnamese city of Danang

Australian academic claims China book 'censored'

An author has said a publisher withdrew plans to release his book about alleged Chinese influence in Australia due to fears of "retaliation" by Beijing. Prof Clive Hamilton said the Australian publisher, Allen & Unwin, was concerned about potential defamation actions.

Allen & Unwin described the decision as a "delay" based on legal advice.

Allegations of Chinese interference in Australian universities and other aspects of society have caused much discussion in recent months.

Prof Hamilton said the decision not to publish his book, titled *Silent Invasion: How China is Turning Australia into a Puppet State*, was significant.

"This really is a watershed in the debate over China's suppression of free speech," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"[It is] the first instance where a major Western publisher has decided to censor material of the Chinese Community Party

in its home country." China's ambassador to Australia, Cheng Jingye, has previously described allegations of interference as "groundless" and stirring up "China panic".

'Extensive legal advice' Prof Hamilton, who specialises in public ethics at Charles Sturt University, has published several other books through Allen & Unwin.

He said his latest book was critical of China, and that the final manuscript had been revised with legal concerns in mind.

Why Australian universities have upset Chinese students Diplomat's China speech renews 'influence' debate

The Australian Broadcasting Corp and the Sydney Morning Herald quoted an email by Allen & Unwin to Prof Hamilton last week in which it described his book as "extremely significant".

However, the email also raised concerns about "potential threats to the book and the company from possible action by Beijing"

- especially the chance of "vexatious defamation action".

In a statement to the BBC, the publisher said: "After extensive legal advice we decided to delay publication of Clive's book *Silent Invasion* until certain matters currently before the courts have been decided.

"Clive was unwilling to delay publication and requested the return of his rights, as he is entitled to do."

The statement did not elaborate on the other legal matters.

Recent debate Last month, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop urged Chinese students to respect freedom of speech at universities, saying it should not be "curbed in any way".

The comments followed a high-ranking government official's call for universities to maintain their integrity over foreign influence on

campuses.

In four prominent cases in recent months, Chinese students at Australian universities have complained about teaching materials being incorrect or insulting to China.

In June, Australian media outlets reported that Chinese students in Australia were being monitored for dissident behaviour - a claim rejected by the Chinese embassy. **BBC**

Spain's Rajoy urges return of 'democratic and free' Catalonia

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said Sunday he wanted to return to a "democratic and free" Catalonia as he aimed to rally support for a unified Spain on his first visit to the turbulent region since it declared independence.

A day after hundreds of thousands of people marched in Barcelona to demand the release of separatist officials detained over their independence drive, Rajoy called on the "silent majority" of Catalans to back unity.

"We have to recover the sensible, practical, enterprising and dynamic Catalonia... that has contributed so much to the progress of Spain and Europe," Rajoy told members of his Popular Party in Barcelona.

"We want to regain a Catalonia for everyone, democratic and free," he added. "We can do it if the silent majority turn out and vote."

The Catalonia crisis has caused concern in the European Union as the bloc deals

with Brexit and uncertainty over the fate of the region's 7.5 million people. More than 2,400 businesses have moved their legal headquarters elsewhere.

Rajoy on Sunday urged those businesses "not to go".

Separatist lawmakers, who were dismissed by Madrid after declaring their region independence from Spain last month, insist that they were given a mandate for secession by a banned October 1 referendum. **AFP**

Viola Davis is 'done' pretending sexual assault in Hollywood is 'news'

Since the New York Times published a report detailing decades of sexual assault and harassment allegations from countless women in Hollywood against Harvey Weinstein, more women and men have come forward with their own accounts of abuse they've suffered in the entertainment industry.

The list of actresses recounting disturbing experiences with the movie mogul include some of the most powerful and successful individuals in the

business. Academy Award-winning star Lupita Nyong'o is, so far, the only black woman to publicly accuse Weinstein of sexual assault. In a New York Times op-ed, Nyong'o revealed an incident that occurred while she was a student at the Yale School of Drama in 2011.

She wrote, "Harvey led me into a bedroom — his bedroom — and announced that he wanted to give me a massage. I thought he was joking at first. He was not."

Out of 70-plus accusers,

Nyong'o is the only actress whose claim Weinstein has reportedly disputed. The internet certainly hasn't held back on theories that it is because she is a black woman. Fellow actress Viola Davis understands this sentiment all too well.

The *How to Get Away With Murder* star penned a powerful statement for *Variety*, calling out Weinstein for treating bodies like "spoils of war." She wrote, "To the predators.. Weinstein, the stranger, the

relative, the boyfriend.... I say to you, 'You can choose your sin but you don't get to choose the consequences.' To the victims.... I see you. I believe you... and I'm listening."

While many people in the spotlight would be afraid to weigh in on the topic, worrying it could damage their careers, Davis is using her voice without fear.

In a candid interview with *Yahoo Lifestyle* at the L.A. launch for Vaseline's Cocoa Radiant Body Butter, the

brand ambassador said that she's "done" pretending that sexual assault in Hollywood is "news." Davis said, "I'm sorry, sexual assault has affected women since the beginning of time. It just has. We know that. We sit with our girlfriends, we talk, we get something to drink, and everyone shares their story. Most women in my life, almost all of them, have been sexually assaulted. That's just truth. I'm not saying anything that's news." She continued, "So I'm done

with it! I really am. I'm done pretending. Done looking at all these women who lead their lives with body dysmorphic issues, suicide, depression, drug addiction, and everyone's like, 'Oh, what's wrong with them? What's wrong with them?' And it's rooted in that silence of sexual assault and rape."

While expressing immense gratitude for her career and "living out" her "dream," Davis said there's a "difference being A-list, 52-year-old black actress and A-list white actress." Because of this, she feels compelled to "out" predators because she isn't "falling from a really high space."

She explained, "It's not like I'm going to headline the next *Spider-Man* movie. I'm not rolling around in bed with Tom Cruise, so I'm not going to lose a \$20 million endorsement and a \$50 million beauty campaign. That's just not my career."

For Davis, this is an opportunity to make an impact and not live a life in which she chose silence instead. "We gotta throw each other a rope every once in a while," she said. "I understand you're in fear of losing your career and all of that stuff, but at some point there's something that's gotta be bigger than you."

Gadot to leave the Wonder Woman universe unless Brett Ratner is fired

In the midst of multiple women coming forward to accuse director and producer Brett Ratner of sexual harassment, Gal Gadot has offered an ultimatum to Warner Bros.

Pictures: It's either me or Ratner. Per a report in *Page Six*, Gadot is threatening to walk away from portraying Wonder Woman in the DC Comics universe unless Ratner's relationship with

the franchise is completely severed. (Ratner was one of the producers for *Wonder Woman*, and he has already "stepped away" from his development deal with Warner Bros.) "Gadot is

saying she won't sign for the sequel unless Warner Bros. buys Brett out [of his financing deal] and gets rid of him," *Page Six*'s source explained. "She's tough and stands by her principles. She

also knows the best way to hit people like Brett Ratner is in the wallet. She also knows that Warner Bros. has to side with her on this issue as it develops. They can't have a movie rooted in women's empowerment being part-financed by a man accused of sexual misconduct against women." Representatives for Gadot and Ratner didn't respond for comment, although a Warner Bros. rep said Gadot's reported actions were "false."



Lupita 'disappointed' that magazine edited her 'kinky, coily hair'



Lupita Nyong'o is disappointed that *Grazia* magazine edited out her natural hair on the cover of its November 2017 issue. Photographed for the United Kingdom publication, the actress, who next stars in *Marvel's Black Panther*, appears to be sporting a shaved head. However, as the 34-year-old shared in an Instagram featuring original outtakes and the final version, she actually had her hair pulled back into a low ponytail.

Nyong'o expressed in the post that, as she has repeatedly made clear, "I embrace my natural heritage and despite having grown up thinking light skin and straight, silky hair were the standards of beauty, I now know that my dark skin and kinky, coily hair are beautiful too."

The actress, who's graced influential magazines all over the world — including *Vogue* (multiple times!), *Elle*, *Glamour*, and more — noted that she does so because it "fulfills me as it is an opportunity to show other dark, kinky-haired people, and particularly our children, that they are beautiful just the way they are." *Yahoo*



France's Teddy Riner (in white) competes against Cuba's Alex García Mendoza during the Judo World Championships Open in Marrakesh

Simeone is 'untouchable' at Atletico Madrid, insists club president Cerezo

Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo has reaffirmed his total support for Diego Simeone, insisting the Argentine coach is "untouchable" at the club.

While still unbeaten in La Liga ahead of the Madrid derby on November 18, Simeone's Atletico have struggled to score goals in a season that has been dominated by disappointing draws.

Atletico 11/5 to beat Real Madrid

Atletico have found the net just 16 times in 11 league games so far, while their failure to beat Qarabag in back-to-back Champions League meetings leaves the 2016 finalists in serious danger of missing out on the knockout stages of the competition.

Yet Simeone - who was recently linked with the vacant job at Premier League club Everton - continues to have the complete backing of everyone at the club, according to Cerezo.

"I want to say this in a loud voice: Simeone is untouchable at Atletico Madrid, for the players, for the directors and for the supporters," Cerezo announced in an interview with Marca.

"Having doubts about Cholo Simeone is not allowed here." Simeone could have a possible solution to his side's scoring problems arriving soon, as former striker Diego Costa will begin his second spell with the club in January.

The arrival of winger Vitolo - who agreed a five-year

deal to join from Sevilla in July but was loaned to Las Palmas in the first half of the season due to Atleti's transfer ban - should also help ease the burden on Antoine Griezmann.

"This season we were unable to make signings. We have great players and many of those we wanted to sign are performing at a great level in important European leagues," Cerezo said.

"Fortunately, the two who had to be announced will arrive in January and with them we'll have a great second half to the season, with some phenomenal conditions."

While Costa and Vitolo will be coming in, Cerezo admits it is likely there will be departures in the next transfer window to trim down the first-team squad.

"There will be some because there has to be. It'll be good for the player because he wouldn't be playing much and it'll be fantastic for the club because others will come in," he added. **Yahoo**



I'm proud of my boys - Wada

By Nyambe Lubasi

Wedson Nyirenda says he is proud of his charges despite drawing 2-2 at home against Cameroon in both sides final 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier on November 11 in Ndola.

"I think we have a team in place, we have a team that we have just built. A team that wasn't given a chance after the draws were made, but looking at what the team has done I think I am

proud of the boys," Nyirenda said.

But Nyirenda admitted that there was some still some work to do defensively that was evident against Cameroon where injured defensive midfielder Kondwani Mtonga's absence was felt. Cameroon snatched a late equaliser to deny Zambia its first competitive win over The Indomitable Lions since 1990.

However, the result saw Zambia

finish a respectable 2nd in Group B on 8 points, one more than Africa's record holding FIFA World Cup campaigners Cameroon who finished third on 7 points.

Nigeria won the group on 14 points while Algeria finished bottom on 2 points.

Zambia was the only team in Group B never to have qualified to the FIFA World Cup.

Cameroon, Nigeria and Algeria have seven, six and four FIFA World Cup outings respectively.

Zambia won two games in Group B after recording 3-1 and 1-0 away victories against Algeria but lost 2-1 at home and 1-0 against Nigeria.

Chipolopolo drew 1-1 on the road in Cameroon and 2-2 in Ndola against the defending AFCON champions.

Diego Simeone is 'untouchable' at ^{P11} Atletico Madrid - Enrique Cerezo

IT'S MY TIME - MWILA

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zambia striker Brian Mwila is hoping to carry his prolific form into the 2019 AFCON qualifiers.

The striker, from South African PSL club Platinum Stars, finished the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers on three goals, one more than Patson Daka and Collins Mbesuma who were joint second.

"It is also my dream that my country qualifies to 2019 AFCON after failing to qualify to the World Cup that is the promise to the fans," Mwila said.

"Hopefully it is my time. It is my time that God has given me and will continue to push to maintain my scoring form."

And Mwila also lamented his injury absence for the Nigeria game that Zambia

lost 1-0 away on October 7 that ended Chipolopolo's 2018 FIFA World Cup hopes.

The striker is also Chipolopolo's topscorer in 2017 on 8 goals since making his debut in a 0-0 away draw against Zimbabwe in March and has two goals more than Justin Shonga of Orlando Pirates.

Meanwhile, Mwila and Co are expected to resume their Zambia duties in March when they visit Windhoek to play Namibia in a 2019 AFCON Group K qualifier.

Zambia is bottom of Group K on zero points after losing 1-0 at home to Mozambique in June.

Namibia too is winless after losing by the same scoreline away to Guinea Bissau five months ago.



I'm proud of the boys - Wada

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