

PF bosses enjoying while us who beat up UPND are suffering, complains Jerabo commander Toby

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Copperbelt Jerabo Commander Tobias Mwamba (r) has warned the Patriotic Front leadership in the province against lying that the ruling party is intact.

In a message sent to News Diggers! Mwamba complained that the PF youths in the region were suffering while senior party leaders who send them to beat up opposition UPND supporters were enjoying alone.

“You, who likes saying at the airport that ‘Mr President, Copperbelt is intact’, don’t include me. You should be saying that Copperbelt, excluding Toby is intact. You live just near the UPND secretariat but when we were beating the UPND who were holding meetings, no one came out of your house to help us. Not even your relatives. Our youths who were injured were 73 and when we took them to Central [Hospital], the people who paid were the general and chairman. You people in senior positions never removed anything not even a ngwee,” Mwamba said.

To page 6



Govt will guide farmers on how to deal with effects of climate change – Minister

To page 5

LUNGU INFLUENCING CONGCOURT - LAZ

By Joseph Mwenda

The Law Association of Zambia has expressed concern that President Edgar Lungu's ambitious remarks that he will stand in 2021 are capable of influencing the outcome of his eligibility case which is before the Constitutional Court.

To page 4



International Monetary Fund Resident Representative Dr Alfredo Baldini speaks at the Sub-Saharan Regional Economic Outlook at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka today. Right, is Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary Mukuli Chikuba at the event - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

PAC catches, admonishes lying PS for Agriculture

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today caught and admonished Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa for giving conflicting statements. This came to light after officials from the Auditor General's Office observed that the answers which the government controlling officer was giving to members of the committee were different from the responses he gave to the auditors.

To page 3

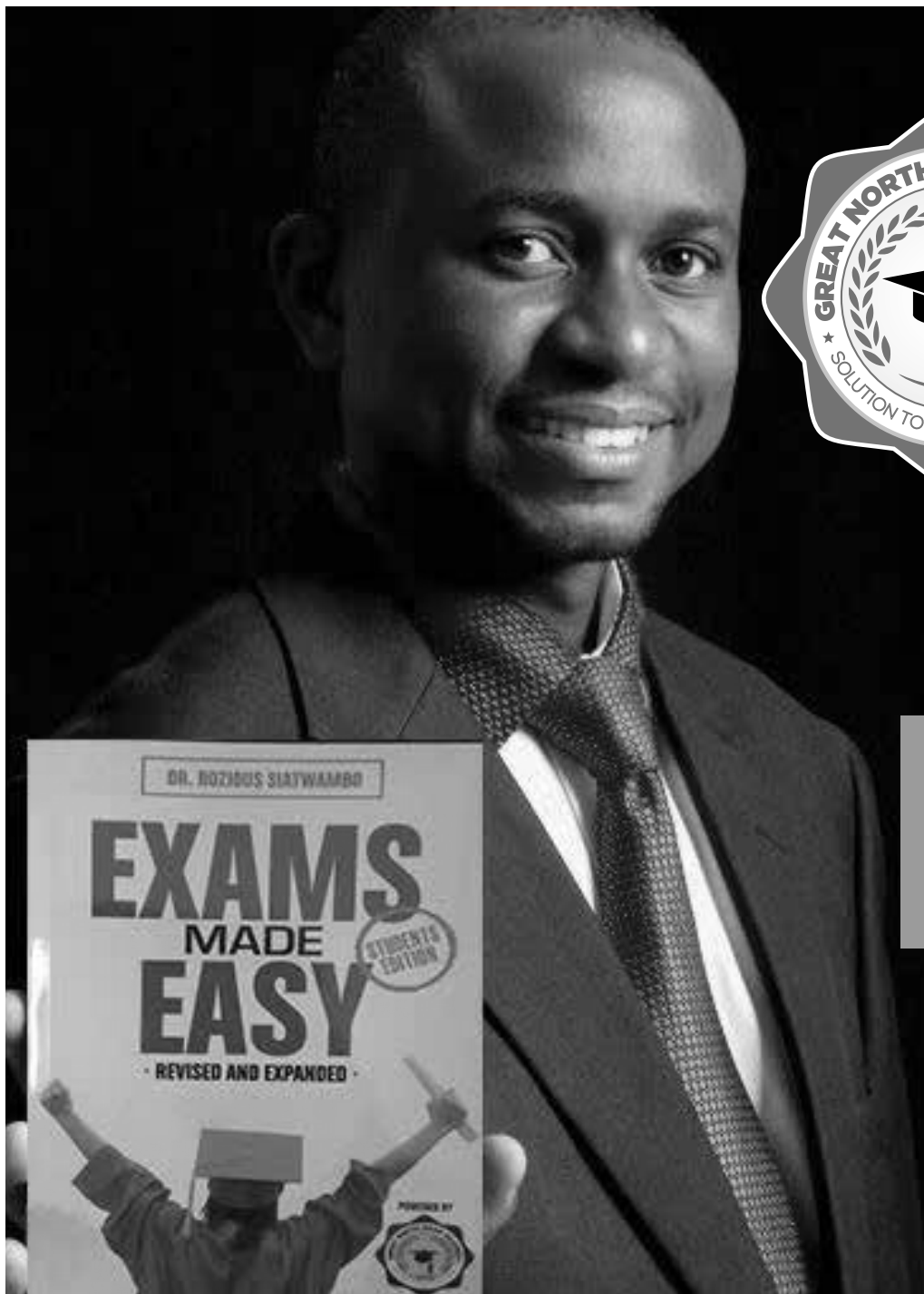
Zambia has highest debt in Sub-Saharan Africa - IMF

Story page 3

7th Heaven

at Orca on the 7th of December

Home • Office • Deco • Outdoor



GREAT NORTH ROAD ACADEMY

Intensive

HOLIDAY TUITION

Day & Boarding School

Enroll now for Holiday Tuition for:

- PRIMARY (G 1-7)
- JUNIOR SECONDARY (G 8 & 9)
- "O" LEVELS (G 10, 11 & 12)

Register and get yourself ...
Exams made easy
FREE COMBO

Our Holiday Tuition services include:

- Intensive revision through past examination papers
- Covering topics and areas where there is need for more attention
- Professional counseling on how to improve your memory, effective study tips, how to concentrate when learning and studying, developing a passing attitude, examination writing techniques and many more by experts among them ROZIOUS SIATWAMBO, the author of EXAMS MADE EASY.

Class time:
08:00 HRS
TO 12:30 HRS
 Monday to Friday

If your child cannot find the road to success, we will find one

Great North Road Academy

Celebrating 12 years of growth and excellence in Education

For further details, visit us at any of the following campuses:

MAIN CAMPUS:
 Day School Great North Road, near ZRA Kabwe Roundabout - Lusaka

LIVINGSTONE CAMPUS:
 Day School
 At former Queen Victoria School Gwembe Road, Nottie Broad

AVONDALE CAMPUS:
 Day School
 At former Kalonde Christian School
 Plot 171, Off Gardenia Road, Avondale

CHILANGA CAMPUS:
 Day & Boarding School
 At former Mukuyu Primary School, Behind Parklands High School Chilanga

Or Call us on
 +260 955 592320
 +260 963 282327
 +260 978 877162
 +260 974 855624

Email: srozious@gmail.com

Zambia has highest debt in Sub-Saharan African - IMF

By Mirriam Chabala

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says Zambia has the highest debt levels in Sub-Saharan Africa.

And the IMF says the relationship between the IMF and Zambian authorities is "almost a saga".

Speaking at the IMF Sub-Saharan Regional Economic outlook in Lusaka today, IMF resident representative Dr Alfredo Baldini disclosed that whilst Zambia's public debt levels had been increasing rapidly over the years, the country's economy was growing at a very low pace.

"Public debt unfortunately has been rising rapidly across the region, this is not just for Zambia only so there is need for African countries to diversify their economies even though this is a complex issue on how to diversify. The growth of the economy in Sub-Sahara Africa has been decreasing from 6-7 per cent to 3-4 per cent with an exclusion of South Africa and Nigeria because these are the two biggest economies of the region. Zambia's public debt has been rising on unsustainable pace and now there is a big risk of debt distress in Zambia which has been driven by the large fiscal deficits. Zambia's public debt is much higher than the rest of the countries in the region and its economic recovery is growing at a very lower pace which is very worrying," Dr Baldini said.

He said there was need for fiscal consolidation as the debt would not just disappear overnight.

"So this is very unfortunate because it means that Zambia needs to tackle fiscal consolidation and of course, with an increasing debt stock, there is an increased servicing and so Zambia has got a lot to pay back in terms of debt. Some of this debt is due to non performing loans contracted by households and individuals from banks and there is need to put up plans for fiscal consolidation because these debts won't just disappear overnight, they will have to be serviced," Dr Baldini said.

And Dr Baldini said Zambia's relationship with the IMF was almost a saga, adding that the country's debt levels were scary.

"I wouldn't like to go into those details but the relationship between IMF and the [Zambian]

authorities is almost a saga now. It's important to keep the background very clear that surely the IMF has been engaging with the authorities over the last year and particularly after the elections. So we did allow for good work to be done by putting the details together but then both of us we realised that the ambitious borrowing policy of government was inconsistent, we think that they need to take that trajectory to a moderate level to basically pave way for the possible fiscal consolidation and on that note what is being done now is to ask the authorities to come back now with a revised plan. You need to reduce on borrowing because as it is now, the levels of debt are very high and that is actually scary and worrying for the Fund because there is a lot that this country has to pay back," he said.

He said the IMF was looking forward to the enactment of laws which would make the loan acquisition more transparent.

"So unfortunately, we are not there yet, we haven't agreed on anything. Government needs to refocus and going forward, we are very much interested in listening. We know that the Minister of Finance has been constantly saying that there is no more concessional borrowing but particularly we want to see the implementation of the legislative process that government and the Ministry of Finance is announcing about the loans and guarantees to be enacted. So we are looking forward to that legislature to be passed in Parliament so that there's going to be more transparent. So I won't say more about the IMF programme for Zambia but we are in contact and we are in dialogue," Dr Baldini said.

"Unfortunately, the challenge in Africa and in Zambia particularly has been the failure to realise the manufacturing of products related to your commodity. You don't do much with your copper

here other than exporting the raw material and it is unfortunate because that would actually increase productivity in the value chain. If you could start producing something out of your commodities then there would be some realisation of revenue through exports and that could contribute to the GDP but that doesn't happen."

And Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary Mukuli Chikuba said government working hard to control its appetite for borrowing.

"Government has come up with a number of measures to ensure that the debt distress is dealt with. As a country, we have had a number of challenges which we faced in the past years and these challenges have been bordered on some external imbalances that came up and Zambia's case was actually worsened by the drought that caused a bit of difficulties in terms of food and that's why you see all those dips about Zambia because they were

further exaggerated by a number of vulnerabilities. So in terms of boosting the economic buffers, government has come up with the economic stabilisation and growth programme which is the basis upon which we have also been engaging with the IMF and other cooperating partners. So that is one of government's fiscal consolidation measures," said Chikuba.

"Then what government has done is that we have done the consolidation process around agriculture and FISP in particular and I am glad to note also that under fuel there are no longer arrears that are building up. Apart from these pronouncements, government has now decided that fiscal consolidation should be embedded in law. So we have embarked on a number of legal reforms and just today, Cabinet is looking at a number of them and some of the regulations that we are looking at to be revised is the loans and guarantees Act to bring in Parliament in terms of

contraction of loans and we are hoping that this could be passed before Parliament closes. We also have a planning and budgeting bill where it will be mandatory to do appraisal of projects before they are rolled out into the budget."

Meanwhile, a research fellow from ZIPAR, Shebo Nalishebo, observed that the country's wage bill still remained high.

"We have seen that the wage bill is in check now but it still remains quite high. At the moment, the wage bill increased from about 38 per cent of domestic revenues in 2014...and it went up to 52 per cent but it is been going down a little bit and now it is around 48 per cent. And so you really wonder what the problem is or the main sources of pressure is in public finances. Internationally or within the COMESA region, it is advised that we need to keep our wage bill around 35 per cent of the domestic revenues. So are still quite a long way in doing this," said Nalishebo.

PAC catches, admonishes lying agriculture PS

From front page

Acting Deputy Auditor General in charge of audits Pharcy Phiri was the first one to note the variation in PS Shawa's responses.

"I have got a concern on the responses we are getting now and the responses we got from the controlling officers on 31st August, 2017, there seem to be some variances. What was responded seem to be different now from what he has given us. I can give an issue of the same issue he has given to do with the overloading of [e-voucher] cards. The response we got on the first one stated that the ministry took note of the observation and they had written to agro-dealers to stop the transactions and the affected farmers had been contacted to repay the money. Now in his response, he is saying, it is not their responsibility, so I am failing to understand," Phiri noted.

Phiri further said Shawa was putting his office in an awkward position by changing responses.

"It is the same as the one to do with...I think under Monze which is page 15, irregular deposits in Monze. The controlling officer says he has noted the findings however the 11 farmers allegedly deposited twice for the same corporative, did not actually deposit twice but once. The response we got before we finalised the report was that the ministry had noted the findings however this was as a result of some insincere farmers and the ministry had since written to the district to leave out these insincere farmers to stop benefiting in this coming season and blacklist them. So here we are being told no, they did not do this but in the earlier response we are being told that they discovered that they were not sincere and they would be left out. So we are having those different responses. Now it is like its putting us in an awkward position which is not correct," Phiri said.

Meanwhile, committee deputy chairperson Brenda Tambatamba wondered

whether the PS was trying to mislead committee.

In his defense, Shawa said the new submission was out of the follow-ups made with district officers after the main response submitted to the auditors.

"Definitely chair, we are not trying to mislead the committee. What we are presenting in the current responses are the buckles after the Auditor General's report came out. I think they were all tasked to really clarify those matters. So this is like the latest picture chair. Maybe since it is about Monze, the PACO for Monze is here, he can also add something," Shawa said.

Phiri again wondered whether the responses given to her office at the time of the audit were made without consultation with provincial officers.

"PS does it mean the responses you gave us earlier you did not involve these provincial heads? Because if they were involved at that time, definitely they should have given the correct answer and not now trying to vary. Unless these were just prepared

from headquarters without involving the people that were visited on the ground," Phiri said.

And Tambatamba concluded that Shawa did not involve his juniors when making the submission.

"Clearly, the auditors have done their job and you have given them a response and as the Auditor General puts it, this committee assumes that you did not consult everyone because you work as a team, are you saying you worked alone to respond to these issues which goes back to the issue of misleading this committee. Now you are bringing in new knowledge, new information contrary to what you had supplied at the earlier time when you were suppose to respond as a whole team?" Tambatamba asked.

In response, Shawa said the responses could have changed at different stages of consultation with provincial officials.

"Once a query arrives chair, we normally makes sure that all the affected districts and provinces are availed those queries and we do ask them 'can you quickly respond because you are on the ground you know exactly what happens in which district and so forth. That is something that is given, now of course we do at various stages, we do get the draft queries from the Auditor General's office and we reply. Even as we reply we are aware that the Auditor General is finalising the Auditor General's report and so forth. I always press my colleagues to say we need to make sure that before the audit is finalising, can we give the correct answers and so forth. That is done chair but of course I believe the PACO can say it that when the Auditor General is finalising, we

again circulate it to say 'look, collectively can we provide the answers,'" Shawa said.

At this point, Solwezi west UPND member of parliament Teddy Kasonso said the committee would not tolerate any new information outside what was originally submitted to the Auditor General.

"PS, this committee is not interested in your new findings, this committee looks at what you provided to the Auditor General. The fresh information which you are giving this committee is unverified. Us here, sitting here, we do not consider information, no matter how truthful it is, which was not verified by the Auditor General. Are you aware about that? Chair, this committee should not be accepting fresh information which has not been verified by the Auditor General," submitted Kasonso. Tambatamba then asked the PS and his team to leave the room for a moment to allow the committee to go on recess.

Soon after a three-minute break, the committee resolved that the controlling officers from the ministry make a new submission to the Auditor General's Office on the two issues in question.

"Regarding the overloading of cards and the irregular deposits for Monze, we will ask you to resubmit these to the Auditor General's office so they can come through that channel again. So please do your resubmission that acknowledges what you submitted earlier and again you make a resubmission of the new submission that has just come through to your attention from the consultations from your team. But of course these are issues that arise from not engaging effectively with the auditor generals' office at the time," said Tambatamba.

I'm not poor, UPND used to borrow campaign money from me - Pilgrim

Zondiwe Mbewe

Former UPND vice-president Canisius Banda says it is not true that Hakainde Hichilema used to pay rentals for him.

Speaking on Joy FM's The Platform program today, Dr Banda also said he could be more educated than HH.

"It is not true at all. I am a medical doctor. I am a public health specialist, perhaps I'm even more educated than him [Hichilema]. He might have an extra buck over me, but I have my money. I can afford to go to Ster Kinekor and watch a movie 'Guardians of the Galaxy', I can afford a holiday in Walvis Bay and sleep on the beach when I want. I have just come from the United Arab Emirates where I was

eating ajwa dates. You should do ajwa dates Kunda Kunda (show host), they will enhance your health. Even your mating business will be enhanced," he said.

"So this scorn that we pour on others, you know mocking them for poverty they are in, we mustn't do that. We must never, never mock the poor. I'm not a poor man Kunda Kunda. I'm one of the wealthy persons and frankly, I can claim to even be richer than some people. Like Bob Marley said, he was such a poor man, all he had was money. I have more than money, I have light, I have gold with me, you understand? So it is not true."

He claimed the UPND used to borrow money from him for campaigns.

"And if he only he knew how we were campaigning for him. The UPND used to borrow money from me for their own campaigns. The SG, may his soul also continue to inspire us, Winston Chibwe, would say 'Dr Banda don't you have money in your account, you can go and officiate at this event and we will be able to pay you back when you come back'. And I would get money from my wife and she would say 'hey you, what the hell is this?' People actually warned me, they said don't use personal resources. But you see, I had my Hilux and it broke down in Feira for the UPND, I had my little money and it ran out, and we were helped by citizens not by the president," said Dr Banda.



Zambia Police gender coordinator Lloyd Mushauko, Musician B Flow and Generation Alive Programmes manager Wombat Wanki pausing for a photo with students from UNZA and Evelyn Hone after an Oxfam-sponsored GBV television programme.

Lungu influencing ConCourt - LAZ

From front page

And LAZ has warned the Patriotic Front government against adding or removing any clauses from the Constitution during the refining process, adding that the exercise must focus on making ambiguous provisions easier to understand. Meanwhile, responding to a press query, Kasonde who is also OASIS Forum chairperson told News Diggers! that Zambia had an international obligation to protect the Financial Intelligence Centre, especially now when it is reported to be under siege from criminal elements. Asked to comment on President Lungu's statement that he would re-contest the presidency

in 2021 because his friends want him to, Kasonde said the Head of State's remarks were undermining the independence of the Judiciary. "The issue of whether President Lungu is eligible to stand in the 2021 presidential election is a matter that is still an active case before the Constitutional Court. There are rules of court that prevent public commentary on matters that are before the courts. This is particularly the case for members of the public that are directly affected by the outcome of a case such as President Lungu in this case. This is to avoid the courts being unduly influenced by public opinion. We therefore

urge President Lungu and all members of the public to let the Judiciary do its work without hindrance and allow the law to take its course," Kasonde said. She said court orders were meant to be obeyed and those arguing with the ruling of the Constitutional Court, ordering former ministers to pay for staying in office illegally, were only fuelling anarchy in the country. "LAZ applauds government officials that are urging respect for court orders as that is how government should operate. The rule of law is underpinned by respect for the Judiciary and adherence to law enforcement. As LAZ has stated on several occasions, in our Zambian democracy

the Judiciary is a separate arm of government that is not controlled by any other arm of government. That separation of powers should be respected by everyone including those in the highest offices in the land. It is not optional. Court orders must be obeyed. The alternative is anarchy and lawlessness. If Zambia truly wants to maintain its reputation as a beacon of democracy on the African continent, we would do well to observe the rule of law and to respect and abide by decisions of the judiciary," Kasonde said. And Kasonde said the refining of the Constitution must not be done with ill intentions by those in power. "LAZ participated in the

advocacy for a people-driven constitution. We did not entirely succeed as the process was eventually taken through parliament. However LAZ still believes, and has submitted as such to the Minister of Justice, that any process to refine the amended Constitution should only serve to clarify areas of the amended Constitution which were unclear in terms of the language and not the substance. The aim is to make the substance of the Constitution that was submitted to the Constitutional Review Commissions and the Technical Committee drafting the constitution easier to understand," she said. "This does not mean adding

or subtracting the substance of what was submitted by the people of Zambia. The will of the people of Zambia, as submitted in the Constitutional Review Commissions should be respected. Ideally, what LAZ had advocated for during the campaign for a people-driven constitution, was to have a committee of constitutional law experts review the draft constitution to make sure that the language used was clear and unambiguous whilst adhering to the will of the people. That was not done. The process undertaken by the Constitutional Review Commissions was one that involved all citizens of Zambia and was therefore very inclusive. LAZ hopes that the process initiated by the Minister of Justice to refine the Constitution does not remove or add anything that was demanded by the people of Zambia and that the will of the people of Zambia should be respected."

Meanwhile, LAZ condemned attempts aimed at weakening the Financial Intelligence Centre.

"LAZ condemns any unwarranted attacks on the Financial Intelligence Centre in the strongest terms. Through its criminal investigations, FIC serves to ensure that our country is safeguarded against criminal elements both locally and internationally. As a signatory to various international agreements on the issue of illicit financial transactions, Zambia has international obligations to ensure that this role is performed effectively," said Kasonde.

Lungu must share his formula for getting rich quick - NDC

By Mirriam Chabala

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has challenged President Edgar Lungu to share with the people his formula for getting rich quick. And NDC says the panic which police and State House are exhibiting when dealing with Chishimba Kambwili is alarming. In a statement to News Diggers! yesterday, NDC national youth chairperson Charles Kabwita asked President Lungu to share his secret formula to amassing wealth within a short period of time. "Why has the president chosen to be mute on his wealth accumulation? This is a source of concern because everyone knew how much the president declared in 2015. So if his wealth can triple in a very short time, he ought to show the citizens how it is done. If it was legitimately acquired, it can motivate all of us to become rich like [Aliko] Dangote. He

can also avail his formula to help our treasury which is under pressure. The President needs to address such issues surrounding his office and personality," Kabwita said. "We all want to be rich and him being a father of the nation although he's an absentee father, he should share the secret formula. We need to know whether indeed he's having miracle money so that we also go on the queue. If he is using miracle water we need to know. He should also tell us how much he makes every time he goes out. The president should tell us why he chose to make hefty allowances at the expense of buying beddings in general hospitals." And Kabwita advised government to focus on serious corruption cases instead of harassing Kambwili. "The level at which the police, State House and sponsored propagandists are operating is

alarming. One wonders whether Kambwili is a fire tender or an ambulance or perhaps an Auditor General's report which needs critical attention by those entrusted with the authority to administer public resources and justice. This country is faced with serious scandals, starting from US\$273m 'Topstargate', US\$42m 'firegate', US\$1.2b 'roadgate', US\$288,000 'ambulancegate' and the Auditor General's report. These are the issues that our men and women in uniform should be addressing rather than concentrating all their efforts on scaring Kambwili," said Kabwita. "Why has the ACC stayed mute when the pieces of evidence by the Auditor General are right before their eyes and noses? Why can't they summon the culprits and all the public officers who have been cited? Why have the police not shown any sign of investigating the white collar thieves?"

ACC probe into fire tenders too late – Milupi

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ADD leader Charles Milupi says the Anti-Corruption Commission's decision to reopen investigations into the infamous \$42 million fire engines is too little too late. In an interview, Milupi observed that the ACC should have moved in immediately people raised alarm on the disparity between the cost and

the delivered fire trucks.

"The story that the Anti Corruption Commission have at long last decided to investigate the issue of the 42 fire tenders which each cost US\$1 million is long overdue. Their silence on the matter was too loud. ACC is there to protect the Zambian people and the Zambian resources. For them now to say that

they are going to investigate whether these fire tenders were really worth US\$1 million is late and shows that they are not serious with their work. This they should have done a long time ago because ever since the story broke out the Zambian people have expressed their views on this matter. Nobody believed that those fire tenders are US\$1

million each. In fact in this country on the Copperbelt itself, the mining companies have bought similar Scania fire tenders and the ones that we know of are in the range of US\$250,000. I think Mopani has Scania fire tenders, Copperbelt energy has Scania fire tenders, in fact better than the ones which were bought," Milupi said.

"The fact that we hear that they have actually been insured for US\$250,000 adds further credence to the fact that something fishy has gone on. Why buy something for US\$1 million and insure it for US\$250,000? It means that insurance companies understand the value of those things. They cannot insure it for more than their worth.

We ask that ACC acts with haste because they are there to protect the resources of Zambia. They should have done this long time ago but obviously they now know that this matter has reached such proportion that they can longer keep quiet if they are supposed to continue calling themselves Anti Corruption Commission for this country."

Milupi said it was time for the ACC to be on its toes as there was too much corruption going on.

"The other issue of the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriage way, a difference of 321 km, government is saying that they are going to issue this at the cost of US\$1.2 billion. Already there is a story that in Kenya a dual carriage way longer than the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriage way, 500 km is costing half of what the Zambian government wants to pay. These are serious matters and we are paying money as a country. The anti corruption really need to be on their toes. If they do their job, they will save this country's fortune. It is not only that, the ambulances that again someone is try to spend US\$288,000 when we know what ambulances look like. They [ACC] should move in quickly and not be used for political purposes," said Milupi.

Don't just sit and dream for more money from PF, work hard - Lungu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

When we say more money in your pockets, we don't mean we shall deliver it to your homes, says President Edgar Lungu.

And President Lungu says people will only feel the impact of lower taxes if they all start paying tax. Commissioning the operation of Marcopolo Tiles Company in Chilanga district yesterday, President Lungu said people should work hard to have more money in these pockets.

"Let me point out that most of you keep complaining about access to finding support. What we need to do is to call on the ministry of commerce and industry and find out what help they are rendering to our people in our quest to have every Zambian involved in production, processing and marketing. You can not stand there or sit there and just complain. When we said more money in your pockets, we did not mean that we will bring money to your home, please. You have the responsibility to work hard, strive and search forward. Only then you will know the benefit. But if you sit there hoping PF will bring more money because we said more money in the pockets, that's not what we meant please," he said.

"One of the policies is to support manufacturing and production through initiatives which encourages secondary processing of raw materials. That's what we are talking about here. More

money in your pocket does not mean you sit at home and dream, you have to work for it. We will give you opportunities and create the environment for you if you need the money. That's what we do and that's what we are doing." President Lungu said people would only feel the impact of lower taxes if they all started paying tax.

"I therefore take this opportunity to urge other private sector companies to emulate Marcopolo Company Limited in taking advantage of the prevailing conducive business environments to venture into value addition. This is the only way we are going to

create wealth, employment and increase foreign exchange avenues. Let me repeat. No one will come and put food on your table please. When we say lower taxes we say we will broaden the production base so that people begin paying lower taxes. If only one company is paying tax certainly the tax burden will be higher. Lower taxes meant that because of the jobs that we will create, people will share the tax burden therefore they will pay less tax," he said.

President Lungu said Michael Sata's vision of lower taxes will only be achieved if everyone became productive.

"Many people condemn

government that Mr Sata said lower taxes, yes lower taxes! But if it's only two people out of 10 paying tax then they will pay more tax but if all us are producing and we are paying tax then the tax will be less. Mr Sata spoke in parables, its up to us his disciples to interpret what he meant. That man had a vision and we knew what he meant. He said lower taxes, more money in your pockets, more food on the table. Yes he meant like that and we can do that but we can only do that if we all get into productivity, if we all start paying tax, if all of us produce, then we can have lower taxes, we can have more money," said President Lungu.

"That is the vision we are working on. So there were so many of us who were his disciples, I'm one of them just like when Jesus Christ had his time on earth he passed on, he chose Peter on whom he said I would build my church. There were others but he said on Peter I will build my church. So I believe that Mr Sata said on Edgar I will build my church. I wish to retaliate that government will continue to promote the private sector as an engine of our economy. As we push for faster industrialisation, I'm confident that through value addition, wealth not poverty will be created. We cannot share poverty we can only share wealth."

Govt will guide farmers on how to deal with climate change - Mushimba

By Mukosha Funga

Communications Minister Brian Mushimba says government will strengthen early warning systems to help farmers prevent and mitigate climate change related hazards.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Transport and Communications head of public relations Maimbolwa Mulikelela today, Mushimba

said early warning of shocks such as floods, extreme temperatures and droughts was a good way of mitigating climate change.

He noted that investing in capacity to generate information and forecasting of climate-related hazards was the way to go.

"This is why my ministry is working with development partners such the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) to strengthen the early warning systems. This will largely be done through improving national capacities of Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications to observe, generate and disseminate climate information," Mushimba said.

"As government we are mainstreaming climate

change adaptation into the country's development plans and strategies. We are addressing these vulnerabilities through the Seventh National Development Pan (7NDP) which is an integrated development approach the under theme 'Accelerating Development Efforts Towards the Vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind'. Through this development

plan, the Government seeks to enhance decentralized climate information services for early warning and long-term projections on the effects of climate change to support sustainable management of the production systems, infrastructure development and public health."

Mushimba revealed that government had developed the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) which highlighted that Zambian communities were vulnerable to climatic hazards which affect the sustainability of rural livelihoods.

He said promoting the agriculture sector through vital weather information was important especially now that government had prioritized diversifying the economy to move it away from over-reliance on its traditional products and export, such as copper.

"The total contribution of agriculture to Zambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) averaged 9.8 per cent in the period 2006 to 2015. The government's partnership with UNDP in this regard is helping the country follow a climate-resilient development path, consistent with our poverty reduction and sustainable development objectives. My Ministry will endeavor to provide sector and location tailored weather and climate products and services and updates to aid in agriculture activities for a good harvest," said Mushimba.



President Edgar Lungu uses his laptop during the 21st Cabinet Meeting at State House in Lusaka today - PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE

PF bosses enjoying while us who beat UPND are suffering - Jerabo Commander

From front page

"Naiwe watemwa lyonse pa airport iwe ati iyo 'Mr President Copperbelt is intact', ine wilambikilako ati intact. Ulelanda ati Copperbelt ukufumishako Toby, ili intact. Wilambikilako ine, nama commanders bonse wilababikilako na chairman na general wilababikilako. Iwe wine watemwa ukubepa lyonse pa airport ati awe Copperbelt is intact, intact inshi? Apo wikala apo iwe napa secretariat yaba UPND nimupepi naapo. Elyo twaleuma ba UPND abaleteka ama meeting apo tapali abafuminepo pa ng'anda apo nangu ni bululu wobe aisa mukutwafwa ulibuli. Abaiche besu balikontoka amolu, twakwete abaiche besu 73 ebo balepwile imitwe twabatwala pa Central. Palya uwafumishe indalama ni general na chairman. Imwe mwaba mu chipani tapali eyo mwafumishepo nangu ni one ngwe. (You, who likes saying at the airport that 'Mr President, Copperbelt is intact', don't include me. You should be saying that Copperbelt excluding Toby is intact. You live just near the UPND secretariat but when we were beating the UPND who were holding meetings, no one came out of your house to help us. Not even your relatives. Our youths who were injured were 73 and when we took them to Central, the person who paid was the general and chairman. You people in senior positions never removed anything not even a ngwee," Mwamba said.

He lamented that the top leadership in the PF was enjoying alone and barring the youths from having audience with President Edgar Lungu. "Kwaisaba futi ati iyo GBM



baleisa muno na Hakainde, mwaikelefy muma yanda namuikomela imwe bonse mwe ba chipani. Twaya pa road block twa blocker, taishile. Ku radio Chengelo twaya. Ifwe tatwakonkele ati pantu tupepa ku Katokolika. Twailiya na pa radio Chengelo palya pene twaya blocker ku radio Chengelo

but nga yafika ati ba President balolekesheko pali ifwe, ati abana bandi, ati 'iyo awe first naifwebene tulechitako benefit', mulechita benefit? Uko mwakana ama plot tulabako ifwe? Nangu ama plot, mwalimonako ama shina yesu pama plot palya? Tapaba! Tatwisako nakuma Civic centre ati

tupeniko plot, fwebene twaishibafye ukuibombela no ku supporter ba boss [ba Edgr Lungu]. (When you told us again that GMB and Hakainde were coming to the Copperbelt, you people in party positions just locked yourselves up in your houses. We went and blocked the road and also

went to radio Chengelo. We still went on and blocked radio Chengelo not minding that we were also Catholics. But when it's time for President Lungu to help us, you say 'no, we also need to benefit'. You want to benefit? Are we present when you are sharing plots? Have you seen our names on list of plots?

We don't even go to Civil Center to request for plots. The only thing we know is working and supporting the boss [President Lungu]," said Mwamba.

"So ifyakwebati mulepunda ati ili intact, taili intact. Abantu balelila insala kuno elyo mulyafye mwaka. [Anyway], Mulelya ifine, twalimimona sana tapaba epo indalama shimifishya. Tulamimona bonse abali mu MMD, abengi ama minister, twalibamona efyo bapwa. Balipwa so mulelya bwino ifine. Umwine boss ngatulanguluka akatupela elo ngatupela boss mukaileisa ukulapita umungulu kuno, mukamona ifo tukamichita. Ifyo tulandila ifwe tusapotafye boss. (So for you to announce that 'Copperbelt is intact', its not intact. People are crying of hunger when you are there enjoying. Continue enjoying, we know you. Money does not take you anywhere. We see those who were in MMD, many ministers have been neutralized. They are finished, so continue enjoying yourself. When our boss thinks of us, he will provide. And when he provides for us and you start coming here aimlessly, you will see how we will deal with you. And that's why we say that we only support our boss."

Lungu extends empowerment fund to churches

Joseph Mwenya

Presidential Empowerment Initiative Fund (PEIF) patron Chanda Kabwe says K100,000 has been released to go toward the empowerment of women in selected churches in the country. Speaking in Kabwe at United Church of Zambia (UCZ) All Saints congregation this

morning during a special service to raise funds for the new church structure, Kabwe said the released funds would help improve the lives of vulnerable women in churches. He said some churches had complained for being left out in the empowerment programme which had

so far only been targeting marketeers.

"I have received reports from some sections of the church community that we are leaving them out in the Presidential Empowerment Programme. Yes, it is true that we have predominantly been empowering women in markets. But I am excited

to mention that we are now getting into the churches to empower the vulnerable women there. A programme has already been drawn to carry out this exercise in the selected churches countrywide. K100,000 has been released to go toward empowering churches and I will be leaving K15,000 here

at All Saints congregation," Kabwe said.

Kabwe reiterated that the move taken to empower women in churches was in line with the government's recognition of the church as a key partner in development.

He said the church had a critical role to play in ensuring that the peace and unity being enjoyed was maintained and this was why the empowerment packages will also be targeting women in various churches to enable it to play this role effectively.

"We shall in the coming weeks be going to other churches in the country to empower vulnerable women. We have on the list the Methodist church in Buchi, Kitwe, which shall receive K15, 000. Others are; the Salvation Army church, in Bbwe Munyama, Siavonga, which will receive K15, 000; Chilubula Mission for the Catholic Church in Kasama with K 20, 000; a Pentecostal church in North Western province will get K 15, 000 and lastly another UCZ church in Chimwemwe with K 20, 000. We are doing this because we know that the church is the backbone of national development. The peace and unity of the country depends on the church. Therefore, as a church we have a critical role to play to ensure that Zambia remains peaceful and united," said Chanda, who is also Central Province permanent secretary.

Ndola City Council confiscates liquor from unlicensed traders

Zondiwe Mbewe

The Ndola City Council has confiscated hundreds of liquor commodities being sold in illegal locations by traders without licences. In a statement today, Ndola

City Council public relations manager Tilyenzi Mwanza stated that the move was aimed at curbing escalating levels of underage drinking in the city. The alcohol confiscated

include; Mosi, Castle, Eagle lager, win WWH, Ginger Sky, Johnneys, Kankoyo, Kantobo, Chibuku Shake Shake, Bols, Right Choice, Officers among other brands. "The Local Authority's department of Public Health with council police moved in and confiscated hundreds of boxes of alcohol being sold in illegal locations by persons without liquor licences. The Local Authority noted that many people have been selling alcohol illegally in areas such as bus stops without trading licences making the beverage easily accessible to persons underage," she stated. "According to the Liquor Licensing Act No. 20 of 2011 Section 27 Regulation of

Sale of Intoxicating Liquor prohibits the sale of liquor without a licence, whilst section 29 prohibits sale and consumption of liquor during unpermitted hours. And section 32 prohibits consumption of liquor in places not licenced whilst 35 prohibits employing children in liquor licenced premises with 36 prohibiting the restriction on sale and delivery of liquor to children." Mwanza warned that people involved in the illegal vice would face the wrath of the law. "The Local Authority is therefore warning those involved in the illegal vice to stop or will face full wrath of the law. The Council has also

received some complaints of underage drinking and drug abuse parties taking place in some locations in the city and would like to warn those involved in organizing and attending them that we will soon catch up with them. The Mayor Mr Chisenga has announced that the Local Authority will be working with police to ensure that those involved are arrested and prosecuted. His worship noted that underage and binge drinking is risky and can lead to car accidents, violent behavior, alcohol poisoning, and other health problems. He said drinking at a young age greatly increases the risk of developing alcohol problems later in life," stated Mwanza.



Students doing RESEARCH PROJECTS DIPLOMA/ DEGREE/MASTERS/PhD
Contact (+260978918920/mwalenelson@yahoo.com)
For EXCELLENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

10-year presidential term will make Heads of State more arrogant - Nevers

Zondiwe Mbewe

MMD president Nevers Mumba says having a 10-year presidential term of office could worsen the arrogance of Heads of State in Africa. On Thursday, President Edgar Lungu said he would be happier if a Presidential tenure was increased to 10 years so that a Head of State does not worry about re-election immediately after assuming office. "Obviously 10 years is the

best time that you can have to deliver and I was sharing with President Uhuru [Kenyatta] over this same one to say 'why don't they just give us 10 years and we go? One term, 10 years, you go. At that point you will not be worried about re-election, you will focus on growth of the economy and serious issues. But what is happening is that immediately you go in there, people begin challenging you and you begin defending yourself and again a

'boxing' match ensues, at the end of the day you don't do much work. But that's food for thought coming from me," said President Lungu.

But in an interview, Mumba advised President Lungu to stop talking about 2021 and focus on delivering campaign promises.

"We have followed the interview between the President and Grevazio Zulu in connection to the term of office for a President. Earlier,

I had indicated that President Lungu needs to concentrate more on the delivery and also on the fulfillment of the promises that he made during the campaign. This desire to constantly talk about 2021 is taking away from him. I think that unlike what he says that after five years he will go back into a boxing match, that's not what democracy is interpreting re-election. Re-election is not for you to go into a boxing ring and start to speak badly about

others, or try to destroy your opponents or try to drag your opponents into court or jail so that they are incapacitated before the election. That's not the intention of democracy," Mumba said.

Mumba also disagreed that a 10-year presidential tenure would solve problems, saying it will only worsen the arrogance of Heads of State in Africa.

"Basically how you perform in the presidency becomes the boxing match for your next election. I think that if he [President Lungu] governs well, if the rule of law is place, if equity is in place, if the citizens are happy with the way that he has handled his term of office of five years, I do not think it will be a problem for him to get re-elected. So we don't agree that a 10 year

straight term of office would solve the problems that Africa is currently facing. To the contrary I think it will aggravate those problems and make the stubbornness and the arrogance of Presidents across the continent unimaginable," he said. The intention of democracy is that a President wins an election, starts to fulfill his campaign promises, makes sure he takes care of the needs of electorate by ensuring that jobs are made available, by ensuring that people are able to take their families to hospitals, are able to take children to school and also to ensure that there is food security in a country," he said.

He said staying in office for longer than five years was

no guarantee that one could deliver their promises.

"We have examples on the continent of Africa. President Kenneth Kaunda lasted 27 years, towards the end Dr Kaunda had actually ended his mission but almost expired and we had to live with it until 27 years, and you saw how the exit was. President Robert Mugabe stayed for 37 years, started off as a war hero, a man who was revered not only in Zimbabwe but across the continent and the world, look at his exit. I think that democracy demands that after five years for us, the President presents himself to the Zambian people to say, 'yes you have done a good job we are going to give you another five years'. I think it is very unfortunate if he thinks that staying for 10 years is going to make him accomplish his entire program," said Mumba. "We do understand that the President infers to the fact that 10 years straight would allow a President to carry out his program and finish his mandate well without interruption of an election. However, we are of the view that democracy demands that after a period of time, preferably not more than seven or five years, that particular leader should go back to the people to seek their further mandate. This is because, unfortunate for the human race, the longer you stay does not necessarily mean the better you become in the execution of the job before you."

Frustrated bus operators accost Transport Permanent Secretary

By William Chileshe

Bus operators today vented their anger at Ministry of Transport and Communications permanent secretary Misheck Lungu because of government's failure to combat pirate taxis and other passenger service vehicles.

This happened in Ndola today where the government officials held a consultative meeting with members of the bus and taxi drivers association to discuss the implementation of Statutory Instrument number 79, which intends to phase out unsafe minibuses.

At the beginning of the meeting, Kitwe Bus and Taxi Drivers Association secretary Jonathan Chileshe introduced himself as a disappointed and frustrated person despite attending the meeting whilst BTDAZ general secretary Daniel Kampilimba said the ministry and RTSA was ignoring concerns raised by operators.

When Lungu was called upon to address the meeting, he demanded that the two withdraw their statements before he could speak.

But the two instead repeated their frustrations.

"The reason is simple. We are disappointed and frustrated in this nation. Pirating has killed the industry. Lots of meetings are called upon, but there are results.

How do we become happy when we are being killed? I am still disappointed and frustrated," maintained Chileshe.

And Kampilimba said, "Our business has suffered and we are frustrated. If you meet with drivers this is the general concern. For as long as the ministry and RTSA don't act on what we ask, I won't withdraw."

At this point, Lungu realized that he had no choice but to address the frustrated transporters.

"I see am attending a meeting of frustrated people. I will address you and work with a team of frustrated

people. It is important that the Copperbelt has a large number of operators, that is the northern region. That is why I have come here to find solutions," Lungu said.

"Every time the ministry calls for meetings, let us come and resolve. The government of President Edgar Lungu is not a confrontational government, and us as his tools will not be confrontational. If we stand and point at fingers, we will not achieve anything."

He said he was equally concerned with the rate of pirating.

"I am equally concerned

that a bus driver is frustrated with pirates. We want to put in regulations that will capture everyone so that they contribute. We should not come in a meeting with frustrated minds. Let us not go into meetings frustrated. My coming here is to discuss SI 79 which requires buses to have seat beats. This is aimed at protecting our people who travel on buses," said Lungu.

"It is good to make money, but we should protect the lives of the people. This SI has not been implemented. This year, we have reduced the number of accidents. This is an achievement."

GBV hampering development - Police

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia Police Service says Gender Based Violence has robbed Zambia of the much needed development because some people who are supposed to develop the country are incarcerated.

And musician Brian Bwembwa alias B-flow has observed that the gender disparities that exist between men and women in Zambia have led to violation of women's rights.

Speaking at an Oxfam Zambia sponsored TV programme dubbed "I care about her" on Muvi Television in Lusaka, Zambia Police gender coordinator Lloyd Mushauko confessed that GBV had taken away the development that Zambia deserved.

"Gender based violence is a crime and we as Zambia police

are here to ensure that the vice is fought and eliminated from our communities because GBV is no longer a family affair, it borders on national interest and it involves all of us. Gender based violence has taken away the development that this country deserves because in our holding cells are all sorts of people and even some of the people who are supposed to develop this country are incarcerated; they are there in prison because of GBV related cases. So I would like to call upon the general public and people in the communities to make sure that they work with the police and ensure that they report these matters that border on gender based violence and together we can eliminate this vice from our communities

and from this country," Mushauko said.

Mushauko also disclosed that police officers were also perpetrators of GBV because in most cases they were quite confrontational with the victims who went to police stations to report cases.

"Sometimes even the police have been perpetrators of violence because there are times when a man is physically assaulted by his wife and he rushes to the police to report the case but then instead of helping him they would start laughing at him and calling him all sorts of names that he is weak and can't defend himself from his woman or put her in place. But then this 'I care about her' campaign from Oxfam has really helped us a lot as

Zambia police because we are also undergoing trainings and after the police become very friendly people because they are made to understand to arrest situations and how to handle victims of GBV regardless of their gender. This time you can go to any police station and you won't find an officer that will abuse you because now we have a more human face and can be talked to in sober manner," said Mushauko.

And B-flow said the gender disparities that exist between men and women had also contributed largely to GBV against women.

"The gender inequalities that exist between men and women in our communities have contributed largely to GBV against women because there are number of things that society generally recognises as something that can only benefit men and not women. So all these are some of the things that I as a musician is trying to bring out in my songs, I am trying to show the world that a woman is as much important as a man in a home, a community and in the country as a whole because there are men up to date who stop there women from working or going to school because they are scared that other men will look at

them, you see? That in itself is GBV because there is no way you are going to stop a woman from going for work just because there are other men out there. So these are things we as musicians are trying to bring out and we are working with everyone, everywhere even in rural areas and come next year, I shall continue with my anti-GBV campaign countrywide," said B-flow.

Meanwhile, Generation Alive programmes manager Womba Wanki noted that the patriarchy system of living had also contributed to the general acceptance that women were a minority in society.

"We live in a patriarchal society where women are generally considered a minority and this promotes violence because there is this thing where men now want to be beating there women anytime they like just to show that they are powerful and in all that, a woman is supposed to be submissive and endure everything. Then the other thing is that women also suffer from economic abuse, they can't be productive or they will be accused of trying to overpower men. Women also suffer from cyber bullying for simply being women and to these are some of the things that this campaign is trying to bring out which is a good thing," said Wanki.

PeP demands refund of teacher recruitment fee

Diggers Reporter

Patriots for Economic Progress president Sean Tembo has asked the Ministry of General Education to refund K520.20 to all those who applied to be teachers in the just ended recruitment exercise.

In a letter dated December 4, 2017 and addressed to General Education Minister Dennis Wanchinga, Tembo said if the ministry failed to comply to his demands within seven days, he would seek legal recourse.

"It has come to our attention that your

ministry through its agents, illegally charged an amount of K520.20 to citizens who were recently applying for jobs as teachers. It is our position as Patriots for Economic Progress that such a charge to unemployed citizens was illegal, fraudulent, immoral and shameful as you knew fully well that more than 95 per cent of applicants from which you obtained this fee would not be employed by your ministry. We therefore demand as we hereby do, that your ministry immediately refunds all the applicants

the said K520.20 that you illegally obtained from them with interest and an apology," read Tembo's letter.

"You are hereby put on notice that should you fail or neglect to effect these refunds of money that you fraudulently obtained from the poor, desperate and innocent citizens of this Republic within 7 working days, we shall proceed to take legal action against your ministry and against yourself and your senior officers in senior officers in your individual capacities."

God has heard your petition Mr Hichilema, now move on!

Many people who are fed up with the Patriotic Front feel 2021 is too far to wait before they can vote again. They want the PF out of government like yesterday. We understand their frustrations because they are barely surviving. An average Zambian today has to sin in order to put food on the table for their family.

Sadly, removing the PF from power means only one thing; voting-in another set of mortal beings. Our governance system entails that for PF to go, it has to lose to another political party, and citizens have only the current crop of opposition political parties to choose from. That is where our concern lies.

In Zambia today, the largest opposition political party capable of unseating the Patriotic Front is the United Party for National Development, led by Hakainde Hichilema. This party has the capacity to cause regime change. But in saying this, we don't mean to suggest that our organisation favours the UPND and its leader; in fact there is no editor, since the establishment of News Diggers! who has ever spoken to Mr Hichilema. We will interview him in future when he decides to be available to us, but so far we are comfortable with the fact that we can, at least, still gather news from him and his party through the UPND press office. This is the same way that we cover President Edgar Lungu and his party through established media channels.

That explained, we would like to state that the election of Mr Hichilema would be a victory for the whole country, including those who detest him so

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+26077122344 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

much. How well or bad he would govern our country is a subject for another day, but if Mr Hichilema became President, Zambia would never be the same again. Easterners and Bembas would have to learn to politically respect other tribes better. It would give courage to so many other disregarded ethnic groupings in the country to rise and be counted. At that time, our national motto "One Zambia One Nation" would earnestly be felt and endorsed by the rest of the citizens.

The UPND leader therefore, has to realise that he is that light at the end of the tunnel for citizens who fear that they may never rule Zambia because they don't belong to either of the two tribes that have recently dominated our politics. He has to be the political game changer. Already, the Bembas are rising again to replace their tribal cousin from the driving seat of this country; which we don't mind because it's within their democratic rights. In fact, we are amused to see what they have achieved within a short period under the National Democratic Congress.

But the UPND has to add velocity to its wheels if they have to remain the most formidable opposition.

Yes, the PF is responsible for the economic and civil challenges that we face as a nation, and our anger and criticisms must be targeted towards the ruling party, rather than the opposition. But if we concentrate on pointing fingers at PF while ignoring those we call "alternative government" then we are fooling ourselves.

That is why we are here to tell Mr Hichilema that, "Sir, you have to up your game. You need to change your style of politics if you really want to lead this country one day. God has heard your presidential election petition, now move on!"

We say this because there are many reasons that have prevented Mr Hichilema from being elected Republican President. His supporters blame it mainly on election rigging and we agree with that notion, but reluctantly so. We believe that if the PF lost the last elections for example (which is a likely possibility), then they managed to rig because the margin was not so huge.

But there are other reasons why Mr Hichilema struggles to win and win convincingly beyond any rigging mathematics. While his support base remains rather intact across the regions where he is popular,

the rest of the 'undecided' Zambians don't quite feel Mr Hichilema. They don't hate him, but they just don't get his political vibe. Something is amiss with the packaging of his political messages.

We are not asking Mr Hichilema to start mesmerizing citizens with vernacular proverbs like Mr Chishimba Kambwili is trying to do. But he has to be effective and relevant in a unique way.

For example, one would expect that as a concerned citizen with due influence, Mr Hichilema would spend his energy calling the Minister of General Education to demand for an explanation over the teacher recruitment that has left applicants duped and their parents crying? You would expect Mr Hichilema, as a renowned farmer in this country, to walk into Dora Siliya's office and demand answers as to why government has not yet distributed inputs to farmers; after which he would hold a press conference to give an update on his efforts to speak for the voiceless. Mr Hichilema doesn't need a police permit to do such things, those are public offices which he can freely pay a surprise visit without carrying steroid-stimulated henchmen to cause havoc

there.

But no, he won't do that.

In his most recent statement, Mr Hichilema was calling on the United Nations and the African Union to intervene in the reported Libya slave trade. Mr Hichilema, with all his years of political experience knows that this was a rhetoric or insignificant message. If the UN or AU resolved to move into Libya and free the slaves, they will not do it because Mr HH from Zambia has said so. Mr HH will not even claim that UN acted because of him. So why waste his time issuing a statement on a matter that gives him no form of political mileage? If the slaves in Libya really matter that much to him than the cholera victims in Kanyama where he holds political rallies from, why not just write a letter to the UN or AU?

The UPND seems to have a strange problem. They have such a strong and loyal grassroots, but with a weak and disoriented leadership. To be very frank, the UPND secretariat is non-existent. They don't seem to have a proper think-tank that can follow political developments and make meaningful contributions to debates. There is *kafwafwa* at the UPND secretariat when it comes to issuing statements.

Everyone wants to impress the boss, but they end up annoying the masses.

Perhaps senior officials don't want to be too vocal for fear of being accused of overshadowing Mr Hichilema. In the end, they are creating a one-man party. A party that is so dependent on its one leader, such that in his absence it has no direction.

We have said it before that it's not a crime to be rich, but Mr Hichilema needs to lower himself a little further so that he can be accepted as an ordinary Zambian facing the same struggles (in some way) as everyone else. We appreciate that Mr Hichilema does not take alcohol and neither does he smoke, but he needs to find a common pastime where common citizens can regularly interact and have a feel of him. Going to Church on the Sabbath is not enough.

When you see President Lungu going to watch soccer every chance he gets, don't think he is completely stupid. He knows that buying tickets for the whole stadium earns him points from soccer-loving voters. He knows that ordinary citizens like a leader who likes the things they like and does the things they do. If it wasn't for State security, President Lungu would be drinking from Mayela bar in Kalingalinga and buying rounds for everyone. He knows he dances like a *chinkubala*, but he is not shy to shake around. He understands the art of socialising.

But if Mr Hichilema went to mingle with the patrons at the same pub, he would be telling them that beer is expensive because the petition was not heard.

By Nathan Muyambago

To all Musicians, Preachers, Poets and admired Leaders I observed with interest the annual Kwacha Music Awards that were held on 30th September 2017 at Mulungushi International Conference centre. With all due respect, some artists who were awarded the best in certain categories do not actually represent the best. I mean, we all know people who know and understand the art and theory of music both from an academic point of view and practical experience. They are talented and creative composers and song writers. But for the reason that their musical prowess is in the house of God they are cut away from such public recognition.

Our gospel icons

If legends like Celine Dione, Robert Kelly, Michael Jackson, Lurthier Vandross, Don Williams and others, were gospel artists rather than secular, they wouldn't have attained the lofty heights in the Hall of fame. And Certainly, they wouldn't have enjoyed the influence and celebration they now enjoy among their fans.

The reasons is one and simple. Obviously the gospel of our Jesus Christ is never popular In the eyes of the world. For this reason, men

and women who excel in secular art appear to be more celebrated and famous as compared to those who have their lot in the Lord's Temple.

This is also the more reason why most talented young Men and women have left their post of service at the Alter of the Lord to go out in the world and consummate their talent at the coveted alter of Mormon and Fame. On the other hand, Some try to serve two masters, money and God. Unfortunately this is like building castles In the Sand. No Man can be true

to the principles of religion and still retain his place among the worldlings. It has to be either of the two, God or Mormon. The Word of God teaches that these two can never go together.

It's reported from the annals of history that once, a renowned protestant preacher confessed, "I would have been popular had It not been for this unpopular gospel I preach."

The words of this preacher re-echo the truth that the things of God can never be popularised to such a Level that gospel workers can be

equated or compared with wordlings.

If you want to be a celebrity, making a name for yourself and money out of your God-given talent, God's Holy church is absolutely a wrong place for you to achieve your ambition. Celebrities and money mongers have no room in the house of God. The rhythm of church life is characterised with humility, sacrifice, reverence and soul- submission to God. No wonder it's effectively impossible to create a personal earthly empire out of such an environment

and still claim to be a true servant of Christ.

Yet it is absolutely true that there're those who faithfully serve God and are highly honored by men because of their talent and exceptional giftedness. These must not lose sight of the fact that their name is only known because of bearing the ark of God's name. They must resist the temptation to labor for wealth or fame. For Those who serve God In humility and sincerity, Paul has this to say, 'while we do not look at the things which are seen , but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary , but the things which are not seen are eternal.'

2 Corinthians 4:18.

Jordan's foreign minister has warned the US of "dangerous consequences" if it recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Ayman Safadi said he had told US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson such a declaration would trigger great anger in the Arab and Muslim world. Speculation is mounting that President Donald Trump will announce the move soon, fulfilling an election pledge. Jared Kushner, Mr Trump's son-in-law, said no decision had yet been made.

In a tweet, Mr Safadi said: "Spoke with #US Secretary of State Tillerson on dangerous consequences of recognising Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

Jordan warns America over Jerusalem issue

Such a decision would trigger anger across #Arab #Muslim worlds, fuel tension & jeopardise peace efforts." There was no public response from the US State Department. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to rally international support to persuade Mr Trump not to

make the announcement. His office said he made phone calls on Sunday to world leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He wanted to "explain the dangers of any decision to move the [US] embassy to Jerusalem or recognise

(Jerusalem) as Israel's capital", Mr Abbas's adviser Majdi al-Khalidi told the AFP news agency. Palestinian leaders have previously warned the move would threaten a two-state solution. Israel has occupied East Jerusalem since the 1967 Middle East war. It annexed

the area in 1980 and sees it as its exclusive domain. Israel is determined that Jerusalem be its eternal, indivisible capital. But Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future state. Successive US administrations since 1948 have maintained that the

status of Jerusalem is to be decided by negotiations and that they would not engage in actions that might be perceived as prejudging the outcome of those negotiations.

During last year's election campaign, Mr Trump expressed strong support for Israel and promised to order the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on his first day in office.

He has since delayed any such decision but speculation has mounted that he may make the declaration in a speech on Wednesday.

Addressing a think-tank in Washington on Sunday, Mr Kushner, a key adviser to Mr Trump, refused to be drawn and said it was up to the president to announce his intention at the appropriate time.

"The president is going to make his decision and he's still looking at a lot of different facts. When he makes his decision he'll be the one to want to tell you, not me," he said. **BBC**

Egyptian lawyer jailed for saying women in ripped jeans should be raped

An Egyptian lawyer has been sentenced to three years in prison for saying that women who wear ripped jeans should be raped in punishment.

Nabih al-Wahsh, a prominent conservative, was also fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds (£839; \$1,130).

The lawyer made the remarks on a TV panel show in October, during a debate on a draft law on prostitution.

"Are you happy when you see a girl walking down the street with half of her behind showing?" he said.

He added: "I say that when a girl walks about like that, it is a patriotic duty to sexually harass her and a national duty to rape her."

Mr Wahsh said that women who wore revealing clothing were "inviting men to harass them", and said "protecting morals is more important than protecting borders".

The prosecutor brought charges against Mr Wahsh after a public outcry.

The National Council for Women's Rights condemned the remarks, saying they were a "flagrant call" for rape, in violation of "everything in the Egyptian constitution".

The council has now filed a complaint about the statement to the Supreme Council for

Media Regulation about the broadcast which aired on 19 October.

Mr Wahsh has previously

called the Holocaust "imaginary" and declared himself a proud anti-Semite.

"If I see any Israeli, I will kill

him," he said during a separate TV panel show.

In October last year, Mr Wahsh was involved in a TV

studio brawl with a cleric, after the cleric suggested women should not necessarily have to wear a headscarf. **BBC**



Prayer for health: Pope Francis (R) meets with sick people and staff members of the Mother Teresa House clinic in Dhaka's Tejgaon neighborhood

India doctors fired for mistakenly declaring newborn dead

A hospital in the Indian capital Delhi has fired two

doctors for mistakenly declaring a newborn dead.

The doctors at the privately run Max Hospital had

pronounced the baby dead hours after his twin

who was stillborn on 30 November.

The parents found that the baby was alive while they were on their way to his funeral.

The incident sparked outrage and a debate over the quality of private healthcare which is often costly.

The privately run Max Hospital said in a statement that "this strict action has been taken on the basis of our initial discussions with experts".

"While the inquiry by the expert group which includes external experts from Indian Medical Association is still in process, we have decided to terminate the services of the two treating doctors," the hospital added.

The government's inquiry into the incident is ongoing.

The incident came to light when the parents noticed one of the babies squirming inside the plastic bag that doctors placed the infants in.

According to the twins' grandfather, the stunned family rushed the newborn to a nearby hospital where they were told that their baby was still alive, local media reported.

This was the second instance in recent months where a private hospital in India has been called out for negligent care. Last month, a girl died of dengue fever in another hospital and the parents allege they were overcharged for her treatment. **BBC**



Face of famine: A malnourished Yemeni child receives treatment at a hospital in Hodeidah

Miss SA conquers pressure and silly stereotypes to take crown

There are many stereotypes associated with beauty pageants. And some of them are accurate, judging by one of the questions Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters was asked during the Miss Universe contest in Las Vegas last week.

Was she scared to walk in the streets in South Africa because of all the giraffes, Miss Belgium Liesbeth Claus asked her in the run-up to the finale.

"[When] I got asked if I was scared to walk in the street, I thought it was about crime because of my hijacking incident. I responded that I don't recommend walking around alone at night but that most areas were safe. Then I was asked: 'But what about the giraffes?' I laughed and said the giraffes are fine, but it was the lions that we needed to look out for."

Since being crowned Miss Universe last Sunday, Nel-Peters has moved into an upmarket apartment in New York where she'll be based during her reign, with Miss USA Kára McCullough as her roommate.

She has been doing back-to-back TV interviews on shows like Good Morning America and Live with Kelly and Ryan. Nel-Peters, who was a fan favourite even before arriving in Las Vegas last month, said the reality of her win and new life still hadn't sunk in.

She said the days leading up to the finale had been tense but she had remained focused and calm. She had told herself she needed to compete "like I was at the bottom of the list". Nel-Peters touched down in the US several weeks ago armed with four suitcases full of cocktail dresses and ballgowns.

Since arriving in New York on Monday, she has only had time to tick off two items on her bucket list: visiting the Empire State Building and eating cheesecake in Times Square. Another "super exciting" moment was meeting US singer Fergie, who performed at the competition during the evening gown section.

In June Nel-Peters was hijacked at gunpoint. She punched one of the assailants in the throat before running away. This ordeal later became the cornerstone of her Unbreakable campaign to empower women. [Timeslive.co.za](http://timeslive.co.za)



'Star Wars' sisters hail girl-powered galaxy

Carrie Fisher's death caused a huge disturbance in the Force, but the women of "The Last Jedi" vowed Sunday to honor her legacy in the latest girl-powered "Star Wars" chapter. The cast came together in a secret location in Los Angeles with director Rian Johnson to build buzz for the latest

chapter in the blockbuster space saga, which hits theaters on December 15.

"You get to see women that are not big and strong just because they're acting like men. They're doing something else," said Gwendoline Christie, 39, who plays stormtrooper commander Captain Phasma.

"And also you're seeing a developed character, or a developing character, that is showing some complex character traits. I'm delighted that something as legendary as 'Star Wars' has decided to reflect our society."

"The Last Jedi" -- filmed on the west coast of Ireland and

at Pinewood Studios near London -- sees the return of the characters introduced in 2015's seventh installment, "The Force Awakens."

Christie, flanked by red-robed Praetorian guards as she took the stage, was joined by returning stars Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, and Luke Skywalker himself, Mark Hamill.

There were new faces too: Kelly Marie Tran as Resistance maintenance worker Rose Tico and Laura Dern, who plays Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo.

Ridley, 25, spoke of growing up in London in a liberal household where sexism wasn't an issue -- and of being overwhelmed by the rapturous response to her appearance as a rare female action star in "The Force Awakens."

"When I got involved, I knew it was a big deal, but the response was so beyond anything I could have imagined, that it was only afterward that I was like 'Oh -- oh yeah,'" she said.

- The girls 'kick butt' - Tran, 28, spoke of the "honor and responsibility" of playing a prominent female character and wanting to do the role justice.

"And the girls in this movie kick some butt. Every single one is so good," she said. Fisher -- who played General Leia Organa when she was known simply as Princess Leia in the original 1977-83 trilogy -- died last December, having already wrapped her scenes for "The Last Jedi."

"I watched TV and film obsessively from such a young age, but [she] stayed with me throughout my formative years," said Christie, who plays warrior Brienne of Tarth on HBO's "Game of Thrones." **AFP**

Met Opera to investigate alleged conductor teen abuse

The Metropolitan Opera announced Saturday it would investigate claims that its music director sexually abused a teenage boy decades ago, as the US avalanche of misconduct allegations spread to classical music.

"We are deeply disturbed by the news articles that are being published online today about James Levine," said the New York house, one of the world's most prestigious opera companies.

"We are working on an investigation with outside resources to determine whether charges of sexual misconduct in the 1980s are true, so that we can take appropriate action."

The probe is based on a 2016 Illinois police report, the Met said. But Levine, now 74, continued to work there until now. He conducted a performance of Verdi's "Requiem" at the Lincoln Center on Saturday.

"At the time, Mr Levine said that the charges were completely false, and we relied upon the further investigation of the police," the Met said, referring to last year's police report.

"We need to determine if these charges are true and, if they are, take appropriate action."

The report indicated Levine's alleged abuse of the unnamed man began in 1985 when he was 15, according to The New

York Times and New York Post.

Levine, who was in his early 40s at the time, was said to have driven him home and stopped the car in his family's driveway.

"He started holding my hand in a prolonged and incredibly sensual way," the alleged victim told the Times, saying the abuse escalated the following summer.

The now 48-year-old man reportedly told police in Lake Forest that Levine would masturbate naked in front of him and kiss his penis.

The alleged victim, who aspired to become a conductor, said the abuse continued until 1993 and pushed him to the brink of suicide.

"He inflicted shame and guilt on me," the Post quoted the alleged victim as having told police. "Emotionally, I have been hurt by this and confused and paralyzed."

A titan in classical music, Levine made his Met debut in 1971, going on to lead more than 2,500 performances of 85 different operas, and working with greats like Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo.

- 'Alone and afraid' -

He was music director at the Met for 40 years before retiring at the end of the 2015-16 season for health reasons -- he has Parkinson's disease -- but has stayed on as music director emeritus.



American conductor James Levine and the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform Hector Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust" in September 2007 during a rehearsal in Paris

The allegations cannot be criminally prosecuted as the state's statute of limitations has expired. No charges have been brought.

The newspapers said the man first met the maestro as a four-year-old at the Ravinia Music Festival in Chicago's posh North Shore suburbs, where Levine was guest conductor for decades.

Over the years, Levine would send him gifts such as conductors' batons.

The man told the Post that Levine first fondled his penis when he was aged around

16 at a luxury hotel in Lake Forest, which he claimed was the scene of "hundreds of incidents" over the years.

The alleged abuse "nearly destroyed my family and almost led me to suicide. I felt alone and afraid. He was trying to seduce me. I couldn't see this. Now I can," the Post quoted him as telling police.

Since a torrent of sexual assault allegations broke against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein in early October, a torrent of misconduct claims have shattered the careers of a growing list of powerful

men, including Oscar winner Kevin Spacey, comedian C.K. Louis and morning television news anchors Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose.

Nominated for 37 Grammy Awards and winner of 10, Levine also conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for Disney's "Fantasia 2000" movie.

The alleged victim said the encounters continued until 1993, some of them taking place in New York, and that Levine gave him \$50,000 in cash over the years, the Post said. **AFP**

Zesco mock Nkana, Power Dynamos

By Nyambe Lubasi
Zesco United have warned their archrivals Nkana and Power

Dynamos to now take them seriously as a Zambian football giant after clinching their six

league title since they were promoted in 2004. Zesco beat demoted nine-time champions

Mufulira Wanderers 4-2 at home in Ndola on Saturday to go level on titles with Power and are

now six behind record holders Nkana. Nkana and Power have each won one league

title each in 2013 and 2011 respectively during a period Zesco and Zanaco have hogged the headlines as league champions.

The champions-elect are also one behind Zanaco whom they dethroned as FAZ Super Division champions this season and who won their first of seven crowns in 2002. "Undoubtedly unless people out there don't believe it. And I want to remind the people of Kitwe (Power and Nkana) and other Copperbelt towns that Zesco have come, and they are a championship team," Zesco CEO Justin Mumba said.

"How many titles have Kitwe teams won since we came back in 2004? The old folks, that are of my age, need to realise that the football of the 1980's and 1990's is gone. We are in the millennium and the teams of the millennium are Zanaco and Zesco. Winning sixth league titles and finishing second five times ever since we came back in 2004; it tells you we are the top team in the country."

Zesco have also set the tone as the first Zambia club to reach the group stage in continental football and the CAF Champions League semifinals in 2016. The Ndola side now the only Zambian club to have made three group stage appearances.



Tiger Woods finishes first tournament back in fine form

Admit it: it's pretty cool seeing Tiger Woods in the Sunday red-and-black again.

Woods closed out his return to professional golf with a 68 to wrap at -8 for the tournament, a strong finish to a week that exceeded everyone's expectations. Woods had spent the last 301 days prior to Thursday away from the game of golf, a surgery-and-rehab-induced absence that made most observers wonder if he'd ever return to the game. But Sunday, before a cheering gallery that included everyone from Rafael Nadal to Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip, Woods put on a strong performance while outplaying many of the strongest players in the game today.

After posting rounds of 69 and 68 the first two days of the tournament, Woods stumbled a bit on Saturday, finishing with a rocky 75 that cooled some of the fervent speculation about Woods' ceiling. As if in response to that, Woods did something he hasn't done in years: proved the world wrong. He rocketed out of the gate on Sunday with a front-nine 31, including three birdies and an eagle. He cooled off a touch on the back nine, double-bogeying the 10th and bogeying the 17th and 18th, but still finished strong and in what appeared to be complete control.

"I knew I was going to play all four rounds, that wasn't the issue," Woods said afterward.

"The issue was, how was my scoring going to be? How's my feel? How would I be with adrenaline in my system for the first time in awhile?"

Before anyone starts fitting Woods for another green jacket, though, it's worth remembering that golf as a sport didn't exactly stand still while Woods got his life back together. The sport got

younger, stronger and much, much better. For evidence, look no further than up the leaderboard at the Hero World Challenge, where Rickie Fowler, who grew up idolizing Woods, reeled off 10 birdies in his first 13 holes. The game's changed, and Woods is trying to catch up to sprinters from a standing start.

But victory isn't Woods' goal, not yet. He cleared by a mile his first hurdle: four days without his back detonating. He'll figure out from here what needs improvement, but he's got a foundation now that he didn't have before.

As for where Woods will tee it up next: a good bet is the Farmers Insurance Open in late January; that course is

held at Torrey Pines, one of Woods' favorites. After that comes the Genesis Open in mid-February, which benefits Woods' own foundation, and then we're getting into the Big Names. Mid-March brings the Arnold Palmer Invitational, and then there's that little tournament in that small town in east Georgia in April. **Yahoo**



Latching on: Kalione Nasoko of Fiji (L) tackles Wales' Luke Morgan (R) during a match between Fiji and Wales in the Men's Sevens World Rugby Dubai Series in Dubai

CHILUFYA JOINS COSAFA

SQUAD

By Nyambe Lubasi

Edward Chilufya, the 2017 U20 AFCON winner and FIFA U20 World Cup quarterfinalist has declared the Under-20 team ready to defend the COSAFA U20 Cup on home soil.

Chilufya received a last minute recall to the team to replace fellow midfielder Niza Simutenda who sustained a fractured arm during the teams' three-week training camp in Lusaka.

The midfielder from Swedish club Djurgardens trained with Zambia for the first time on Sunday in Kitwe after the team switched camp from Lusaka on the same date. Zambia will face Uganda in their opening Group A match on Wednesday in a 17:30 hours kickoff at Arthur Davies Stadium in Kitwe.

Swaziland and Malawi are the other Group sides and will play in the tournaments opening game at 11h30 at the same venue.

"We are ready, we have



Mehran Derakhshan of Iran tackles Edward Chilufya during the Under-20 World Cup in South Korea

prepared well for the tournament and we need to win our opening game because the result will set the tone and determine whether we will reach the final and retain our title,"Chilufya said after Monday morning

training at KPF in Kitwe. Chilufya is the only 2017 U20 AFCON star eligible for COSAFA U20 Cup and the team's battle next year to qualify and defend their African title that they won on home soil last March.

"Each and every player looks ready and from what I have seen they have put in a lot of effort in training," Chilufya said. "I have confidence in this team, they are looking very united and the spirit looks great in camp.

Moreover, the players look motivated to emulate what we archived with my other Under-20 team mates this year." Zambia is hosting the COSAFA U20 Cup from December 6-16 on the Copperbelt.

All group matches and the semi-finals will be played in Kitwe at Nkana and Arthur Davies Stadium's. The final and 3rd and 4th playoff will be played at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on December 16.

News Diggers! Changing the face of digital media

Home of investigative journalism in Zambia



International Press Institute

WAN

Home of investigative journalism in Zambia