



Mines Minister Christopher Yaluma examines an emerald during a gemstone auction by Gemcanton Mine at Pamodzi Hotel today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

More youths demand Mwila's removal as Kamba defends PF boss

By Joseph Mwenda
Intense divisions have emerged in the Patriotic Front as youths across the country call for the removal of Secretary General Davies Mwila on

grounds that he has failed to work with the grassroots. But Lusaka Province youth chairman Kennedy Kamba has warned cadres who are trying to influence confusion in the party, singling out Ephraim Shakafuswa as a divisive youth who must go back to UPND or face retaliation. Copperbelt mine dealers commonly known as Jerabos have flooded social media with voice notes in which they are complaining that PF leaders in Lusaka were enriching themselves while ignoring the plight of the "foot soldiers" who mobilise people during campaigns. **To page 7**

UPND lawyers 'grill' Fr Bwalya

By Diggers Reporter
UPND lawyers yesterday 'grilled' PF deputy spokesperson Frank Bwalya, getting him to admit that idioms were commonly used by politicians. **To page 5**

Don't cry over 'failed' IMF deal, it was just more debt - Haabazoka

By Mirriam Chabala
Zambian Economist Dr Lubinda Habaazoka says failing to clinch an IMF bailout package is not something to cry about because it is also debt. In an interview, Dr Habaazoka said the only solution to

Zambia's debt problems was to reduce government expenditure. **To page 7**

CBU riots, as lecturers down tools

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Copperbelt University Students last night rioted over delayed term-two meal allowances. And the CBU lecturers have downed tools

over delayed November salaries. Meanwhile, Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga says only one student was arrested. The students gathered at the famous 'monk

square' around 22:00hours before closing Jambo drive. Copperbelt University Students Union (COBUSU) president Njikho Musuku explained why they rioted. **To page 4**

PAC salutes Mines PS for showing good accountability

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
After weeks of dealing with lying controlling officers, the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee finally saluted accountability levels at the Ministry of Mines. And Permanent Secretary Paul Chanda appealed to PAC to help him engage the Treasury on speedy release of funds meant for the ministry. **To page 7**

THEFT IN GOVT

IRKS MUTATI

Some officers have a DNA for consuming money meant for the poor - Finance Minister

By Mirriam Chabala
Finance Minister Felix Mutati says it is regrettable that there are some clever Zambians in government whose DNA is to consume public resources meant for the poor. **To page 6**

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Ministerial statement on IMF deal

By Felix Mutati

Mr Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for according me this opportunity to brief the House on where we are with respect to our discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This follows not only the point of order raised by the Honourable Member of Parliament from Chiengi Constituency, but also from the need for Government to keep the nation informed with respect to the discussions with the Fund.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by putting our engagement with the IMF in perspective. In March, 2017, Cabinet approved that Government should engage the International Monetary Fund on a possible programme, under the Extended Credit Facility. The engagement was on the basis of the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme.

Mr. Speaker, the engagement was aimed at leveraging international support for attaining Government's key objectives of restoring fiscal fitness, debt sustainability, addressing external sector vulnerabilities, job creation, sustained inclusive growth and development.

Mr. Speaker, this engagement does not mean that the IMF is here to bailout Zambia as Her Honour the Vice President rightly pointed out following the point of order by the Honourable Member of Parliament from Chiengi Constituency. We have as a nation defined the Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme that is required to move the economy forward. IMF is being engaged to provide Balance of Payments (BoP) support as well as to provide an independent policy assessment. Sir, significant progress has so far been made in undertaking policy and structural reforms under the ESGP, which the IMF has also acknowledged and commended Government. These reforms are in such areas as agriculture, energy and financial management.

Mr. Speaker, the major outstanding issues under discussions with the IMF are the need to take measures to slow down the pace of debt accumulation and return Zambia's debt risk from high risk of debt distress to low risk and scaling up fiscal consolidation measures, particularly expenditure restraint. Both these aspects are part of our key reform measures and are clearly outlined in the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Strategy. What the IMF has asked is to have these measures accelerated.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet on November 6, 2017 discussed these issues and gave a clear policy directive. These include: 1) Developing a new financing profile that will ensure reduction in debt distress from high to moderate over the medium-term, and ensure that the debt remains sustainable thereafter;

2) Re-prioritising projects by concentrating on ongoing before embarking on new ones; 3) Re-scoping projects to be implemented in stages to ensure fiscal sustainability. An example is the implementation of the Lusaka - Ndola dual carriage way in stages as announced in the budget; and 4) Hasten the implementation of revenue mobilisation measures such as automation, appointment of tax agents, and establishment of single windows at border posts, land

titling and tolling.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, Cabinet resolved the following:

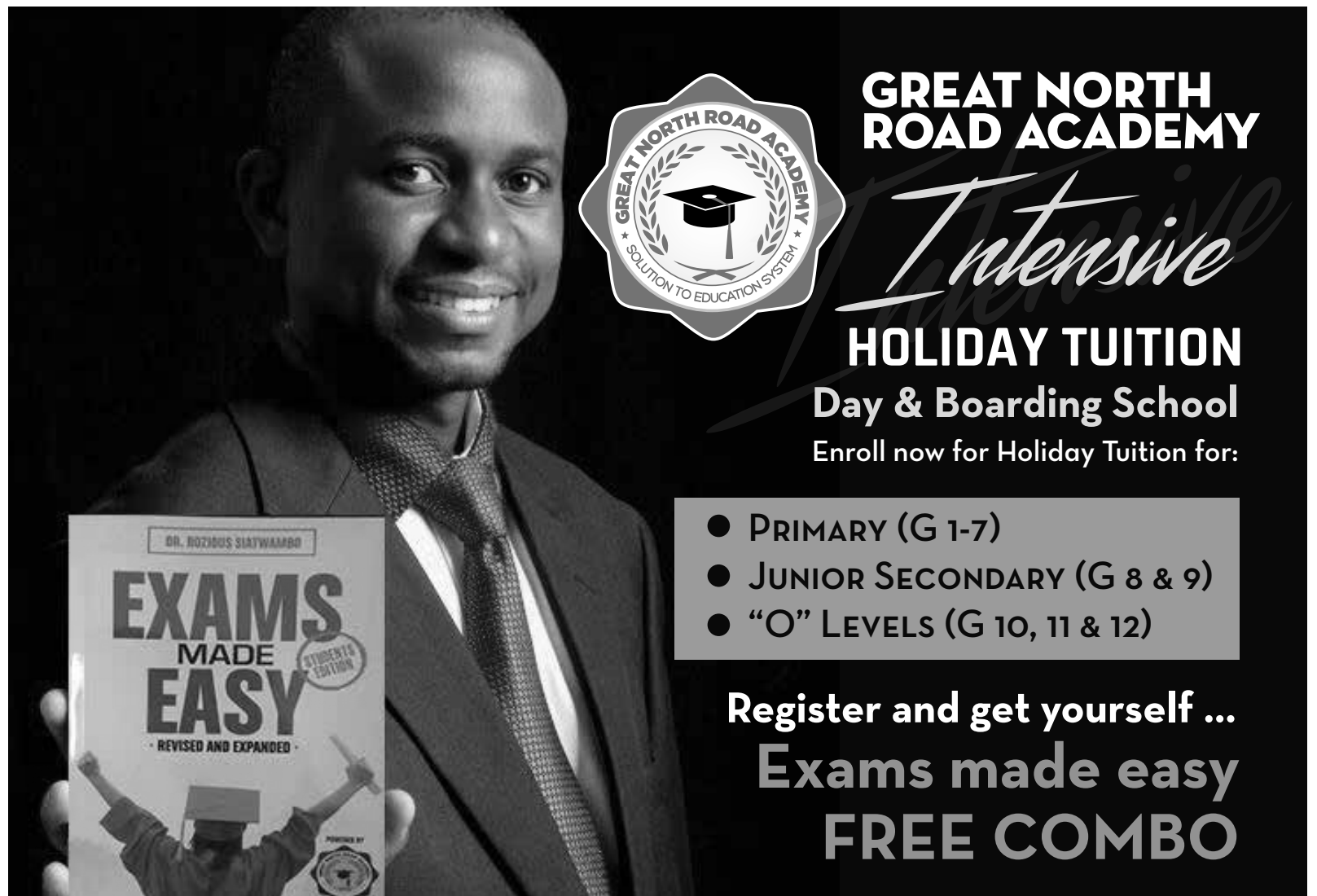
1) Suspension of new non-concessional borrowing; 2) No commercial contracts that require debt financing should be signed without Treasury Authority; and 3) Tender and legal approvals should not be given where funds are not available. Sir, our task as a nation is to ensure that we borrow within our capacity to pay and to refocus expenditures while

enhancing domestic resource mobilisation. Of critical importance is to focus on completing ongoing projects before embarking on new ones. With these measures, Government has continued to engage the IMF. As part of the engagement, we recently had a visit by the Director of the African Department, the New Mission Chief and the Executive Director in charge of Zambia. During the visit, the mission met His Excellency the President Mr. Edgar Chagwa

Lungu and Her Honour the Vice President Mrs. Inonge M. Wina.

Sir, as a member of the IMF, we must utilize a key mandate of the IMF of providing Balance of Payments Support to members experiencing balance of payments problems as has been the case for Zambia since 2015. Mr. Speaker, in addition to the provision of Balance of Payments Support, the IMF is also a catalyst to access budget support and other flows from multilateral and

bilateral cooperating partners. Furthermore, having a programme will enhance flows from private sector investors and reduce negative sentiments on the investment climate in the country. This is because many investors mainly rely on the IMF for the assessment of the country's investment climate. Mr. Speaker, let me assure the nation through this House that, Government is resolved to have an IMF-supported programme and the nation will be updated on a regular basis.



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President Lungu greets a child during the Cheshire Homes Kabulonga Concert at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on Friday December 1, 2017 - PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE

DEC nabs 6 farmers for cultivating cannabis

By Mukosha Funga

The Drug Enforcement Commission has arrested six farmers for cultivation of cannabis contrary to the laws of Zambia.

According to a statement issued by DEC public relations officer Kamufisa Manchishi today, five of the arrested farmers are from Mulobezi district whilst one is from Sibanze village.

“The Drug Enforcement Commission in Southern Province has arrested five (5) small scale farmers of Matako Chiefdom in Mulobezi District for unlawful cultivation of cannabis plants weighing over six (6) tonnes, contrary to the laws of Zambia. The five arrested are Sibanda Ntunta, 29, of Kamwatomwata Village for cultivation of cannabis plants weighing 3.9 tonnes, Kapupa Eric, 37, also of Kamwatomwata Village for cultivation of cannabis plants weighing 600 Kilograms. Others include Madao Janita, a female of unknown age in Kazuzi Village for cultivation of cannabis plants weighing 600 kilograms and Kapupa Limbama, 41, also of Kazuzi Village, for cultivation of 495 kilograms of cannabis plants,” Manchishi stated.

“Also arrested is Kapeto Ostern, 36, a small scale farmer of Sibanze Village for cultivation of cannabis plants weighing 790 kilograms. The suspects are expected to appear in court today.”

Meanwhile, he stated that the DEC had also arrested an export controller for money laundering.

“Meanwhile, the Commission through the Anti-Money Laundering Investigations Unit (AMLIU) in Lusaka has arrested an export controller of a named transport company for money laundering and being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime, contrary to the laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offences are that on dates unknown but between 1st February, 2014 and 30th April, 2015, whilst acting together with other persons unknown, Chomba Mwansa, 30, an export controller of Chazanga Township in Lusaka District did deposit cash into a known bank account amounting to K 1,333, 400.00, monies suspected to be proceeds of crime. The suspect did further launder the funds by remitting a total of K480, 372.03 by way of swift transfer to various overseas companies and acquired seven (7) motor vehicles as well as properties amounting to K459, 420. The suspect has been released on Police bond and is expected to appear in court soon,” stated Manchishi.

We warned PF against excessive borrowing - HH

By Mirriam Chabala

United Party for National Development (UPND) president Hakainde Hichilema says Zambia’s public debt has become a time bomb that will consign the country’s future generations to perpetual poverty.

And Hichilema has challenged the Patriotic Front leadership to explain to Zambians how they had utilised borrowed resources as well as provide a clear plan they would be repaid.

In a statement today, the UPND leader stated that the IMF’s remarks about Zambia’s debt stock in the Sub-Saharan region had vindicated what opposition had been saying all along.

“The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has confirmed what we have always said, that Zambia is one of the countries with the largest debt stock in sub-Saharan Africa. When we raised alarm on excessive borrowing by the PF and the reckless manner in which they were using the borrowed resources, we were called all



sorts names. Zambia’s debt has now reached unsustainable levels,” Hichilema stated. “This was despite the fact that we did not only advise against

borrowing from expensive sources, but we also offered alternative financing solutions which included, prudence and investing in productive sectors.

This is a tragedy and a time bomb for the country. What the PF has done is to consign future generations to perpetual debt and poverty. All the

money that will be used to pay back this debt could have been deployed to education, health and agriculture.”

Hichilema challenged government to explain how and where it spent the resources it borrowed.

“To date, an army of our people, especially youths and women are struggling without decent jobs, while others are desperately being engaged in occupations that amount to slavery within our country. We challenge the PF leadership to tell the nation where the borrowed resources were applied and also give us a clear plan for repaying the money. We know that while they looted the treasury, it’s the Zambian taxpayers who will have to bear the whole burden of repaying the loans through increased in taxes. Chipantepante [lack of coordination] is now in full gear! Let us brace ourselves,” stated Hichilema.

Puma denies any involvement in fuel smuggling activities

By Mirriam Chabala

Puma Energy Zambia PLC has refuted allegations that the oil company is involved in fuel smuggling activities.

On Friday last week, the Zambia Revenue Authority disclosed that it had discovered an organized fuel smuggling syndicate through the Chirundu One-Stop Boarder Post worth over K2.8 million in unpaid duty and taxes.

And it was revealed that the smuggling was being done through an agent Chombe Gondwe, who was importing the fuel on behalf of Puma Energy PLC.

But in statement today, Puma Energy PLC explained that some fraudulent people had been using the company name to conduct smuggling activities and that the fuel service station had been enjoying cordial relations with ZRA.

“Puma Energy Zambia is aware of the media articles about fuel smuggling activities in Zambia following the publication of a press release by the ZRA on Friday, 1st December 2017. Any suggestion that Puma Energy is involved in fuel smuggling is simply incorrect. Since this issue first came to our

attention in September this year, we have worked and fully cooperated with the ZRA’s investigation, and undertook our own investigations, which revealed the fraudulent use of Puma Energy’s identity in fuel smuggling activities,” Stated Puma Energy Zambia PLC.

“Puma Energy, the market leader in the retail business in Zambia, remains steadfast and committed to the best practice locally and internationally in all its business transactions, and to give the best service possible to its esteemed customers.”

Govt releases K19m for cholera response

By Zondiwe Mbeve

Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary administration Kennedy Malama says government has released K19 million for cholera response.

And Dr Malama says cholera cases have reached 515 in Lusaka district as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, Dr Malama says government will start procuring HIV self-testing kits in 2018 but has encouraged people to go for routine tests.

At a press briefing today, Dr Malama said the K19 million had been channelled to the Lusaka City Council, Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company and the Ministry of Health across all levels.

"As you are aware as a country, from 6th October we declared a cholera outbreak in Lusaka district. As at yesterday night, cumulatively a total of 515 cholera cases had been recorded. As at yesterday, we had a total of 57 under treatment and in the last 24 hours we had 14 new cases. What is key with cholera is that it requires multi sectoral response. We have DMMU involved, Lusaka Water and Sewerage, Lusaka City Council, the private sector and other line ministries. It is not just the Ministry of Health involved. We are emphasizing on the need to ensure sanitation in our areas is improved. We should not expect government or the local authority to do everything, we all have roles," he said.

"I would like to mention that government through the Ministry of Finance released a total K19 million so far towards this cholera

response. And those resources were channelled to Lusaka City Council, Lusaka Water and Sewerage, the Ministry of Health across levels especially provincial level and district levels. What has that money been used for? LCC has the mandate of collecting garbage, clearing places and making sure that pit latrines are attended to and also solid waste management. So that portion was given to them. When you look at Lusaka Water and Sewerage, they have been able to use those monies to provide free water in our vulnerable communities. They have been able to put water tanks and provide free water. So our appeal to our people is to adhere to the key practices of hygiene. Cholera has no boundaries it can affect anyone," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Malama announced that HIV self-testing kits would be procured in 2018 but urged people to still go for testing.

"HIV self-testing kit is good and we will ensure that they are readily available. But don't wait for an HIV self-testing kit, go to the outlets where you can go and have the HIV test done. It should not be once but every three months. As long as you are having sexual relationships you are at risk. As government we have agreed the HIV self testing has to be flooded and there will be options were you can access them from. So coming in 2018, you will be seeing us do some procurement of the HIV self testing but we are also finalizing the operational framework. We need make sure that we are systematic in terms of the delivery



Ministry of Health
Permanent Secretary Dr
Kennedy Malama - picture
by Tenson Mkhala

mode. But the key message is that don't wait for the HIV self kit, there is already the routine test which we used. We can only eliminate HIV by 2030 if every Zambian knew their status," Dr Malama said.

He further said there was no crisis of ARVs in the country but the shortage at some hospitals was caused by failure to request for the drugs by the people in charge.

"At the moment we have ARV drugs. We have a system called supply chain system. As Ministry of Health, we procure drugs including ARVs and these drugs are taken to medical stores for

storage and distribution. And then the hospitals, districts, provinces do orders through the medical stores. So if a hospital delays to report an order, that may sometimes cause a change on the stock. So when you see that a district has low stocks, it may not always mean that a country has no drugs, it's because that particular institution did not place an order on time. I would like to warn all provincial health directors, medical superintendents in the country to up their game and ensure they pay particular attention to their stock status and make sure that they submit their

reports and orders on time. We are not going to accept a situation where we have the medicines at medical stores and they fail to have the commodity just because of logistical management issues," Dr Malama said.

He also disclosed that 39 cases of human anthrax had been recorded in Western province though the situation had been contained.

"As you are aware as a country, to date this year we recorded a total of 39 cases of human anthrax. Normally anthrax is a disease of animals. So in Western Province a total of 39 cases have been reported and this has affected

Nalolo district, Nsenanga, Shangombo, Sioma and Kalabo. What is good is that our response was swift. Ministry of Health worked very closely with other stakeholders, more importantly the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture including traditional leadership. We have continued with active surveillance in Western Province and it is good that in the recent past we haven't recorded any new case," he said.

"The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock have also continued vaccinating animals so that we don't have any more cases of anthrax in animals especially cattle and in human beings. As you may be aware, anthrax is passed from animal to a human being. Normally, it is after handling a sick animal suffering from anthrax or you consume meat which is contaminated with anthrax then a human being can get this disease. We want to assure the nation that as government through Ministry of Health and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, we are working with various stakeholders to insure that the anthrax situation is contained as it is showing so far. We are also aware that in Muchinga, especially in Chama district, over the past few years we had cases of anthrax. It is good that this year we have not recorded any cases of anthrax. We have continued doing sensitization, a sick animal should not be consumed because you are likely to get the same disease that animal is suffering from," said Dr Malama.

CBU students riot, as lecturers down tools

From front page

"Yes there was riots by the students last night, though no arrests or damage to property. The students want to be paid their meal allowances. Today is now 6 (December) and we are not paid. How will the students survive. So I will address the students shortly to discuss which way we go," Musuku said.

And Copperbelt University Academics Union (CBAU) General Secretary Willie Ngosa said the lecturers have withdrawn labour.

In an interview, Ngosa said the situation at CBU was pathetic.

"I can describe the situation at CBU as total chaos. This is chaos! This is not the manner a higher institution should be run. This trend of delaying salaries seems to be going out of hand. So we have withdrawn labour. Until we are paid, we won't report for work. No lectures," Ngosa said.

"It is not new for an institution like CBU to be ran like this. Every month its the same story, why? We have withdrawn the labour so we can only be back if salaries are in."

And in press statement, Ngosa said lecturers were frustrated by CBU management's failure to address their concerns for over four years.

"The Copperbelt University Academics Union is very disappointed with the failure by CBU Management and government to pay salaries to workers at CBU for the

month of November 2017. This trend of delayed salaries at the Copperbelt University has been going on for close to 4 years now, a situation which can best be described as chaotic, disappointing and very unacceptable. CBAU shall therefore, not entertain this anymore! We want to urge the government to be serious when it comes to funding Higher Institutions of learning," he said.

"As a Union, we wonder why the government is failing to fund CBU on time. This shows a serious lack of concern for CBU employees. The Auditor General's report for, example, shows massive financial misapplication of tax payers' money. These monies could have gone to critical sectors such as education but it ended up in the pockets of a few selfish human beings and consequently employees are paying the price of these thefts. This is painful especially for CBU employees who have to go on perpetual monthly salary delays. This shows a serious lack of priority in the Higher Education sector by the government. Why should we be reduced to beggars?"

He said CUB had abrogated the law by failing to pay CBU workers on time.

"According to the Employment Act Chapter 268 section 48 subsection (2), the law is very clear on payment of employee wages and it states as follows "The wages of an employee shall be paid at regular intervals

not being later than the 5th day following the date upon which they fall". In this case, workers should have been paid on the 28th of November 2017. Therefore, Management has abrogated the law by not paying the workers on time," said Ngosa. "We therefore demand that November 2017 salaries be paid immediately. As academic members of staff, we have resolved to withdraw our labour effective today, 6th December 2017 until such a time when all our members are paid their delayed November 2017 salaries. This measure is meant to enable our members go out of their way to look for money to pay bank loans, monthly

rentals, pay their workers and provide for their families. Do we always have to go on a go slow in order for us to get paid?"

CBU employees are very hardworking even though they work under very difficult conditions and must never be subjected to more tormenting experiences of non payment of salaries after having worked for their money."

Meanwhile, Copperbelt police commissioner Charity Katanga said in an interview that only one student had been

"The riots started at 21:00 hours last evening. At 21:00 hours they went to the road and blocked the road which

is Jambo drive. That's when the police moved in and they apprehended one student. They have been keeping vigil of the situation which had normalized in the early hours of today. But as at now, they are still making some noises within the premises and police are monitoring. The information that we are getting is that they have not received their meal allowance and the lecturers are not paid. That's the information we are getting but I'm not able to confirm unless the university authorities. That is just a rumour. The university authorities themselves or the students themselves can explain what really the reason is," said Katanga.

Sinkamba fears Zambia will fail to pay \$3bn Eurobond

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Green party leader Peter Sinkamba has warned of severe consequences if Zambia fails to repay the \$3 billion euro bond loan it procured.

Speaking when he featured on the Let the People Talk programme on radio phoenix today, Sinkamba also said the country was already in the defaulting mode in terms of loan repayment.

He further said that when he becomes president, he will delegate most of his international trips to avoid huge costs to the nation.

"The implication is quiet dire. You know we have borrowed Eurobond worth about \$3 billion and that money is due for repayment I think by 2022. I think the first lot, the \$750 million is due that time and then a couple of year later, \$1 billion and another two

years, a remaining \$1.25 million. The problem is that if we do not have that money when it is due, the implication for the nation is extremely severe. Already we are in the defaulting mode in terms of some of these loans and when you start defaulting, it becomes difficult for you to access more money on the market," Sinkamba said.

"So the implications are that if we fail to strike a deal with IMF on the \$1.3 billion dollars that we are looking for to cushion the impact of loan repayment, we may face a serious problem come 2021, 2022. so we really need someone to structure a program which is going to assist us and you see the trouble is, you cannot access any other Euro bond related monies when you don't have an IMF package," he said.

And Sinkamba said once he becomes president of Zambia, he would not make a lot of international trips but rather delegate.

"Even when I become president, unless it is very important that I must travel, otherwise I will just delegate our ambassadors, our High Commissioners where ever they are to push that. We used to have that in the time of president [Michael Sata] and also president Banda. I remember there were times I would be at the UN or maybe I am at the AU in Addis Ababa where that time we had [Susan] Sikaneta representing the Zambian government instead of delegations traveling from here. So its possible that you can have representations from the AU, the UN without necessarily traveling," said Sinkamba.

UPND lawyers 'grill' Fr Frank Bwalya

From front page

In this matter, Bwalya dragged UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba to court for threatening violence against the Head of State when he said "I'll go for Edgar Lungu's throat".

When the matter came up for continued trial before magistrate Ntandose Chabala yesterday, Bwalya narrated that on March 2, 2016, Celestin Mukandila called to inform him about what GBM had said.

"I was at home in the evening and at around 18:00 and 21:00 hours, I got a call from Celestin Mukandila, who asked me to monitor news so that I could respond in form of rebuttals. Celestine Mukandila alerted me of a news item which aired on Hot FM. He explained that a news story was being aired on the said radio station which he thought needed a reaction because it borders on threatening violence against the Head of State who is our party President Edgar Lungu. I went straight to Hot FM and demanded to listen to what was aired in order for me to issue a relevant response. I was made to listen to the audio recording and as a journalist myself, I came to conclude the following things, it was a recording of a meeting, political in nature," Bwalya narrated.

"The speakers and some people mentioned to be in the meeting were some politicians. Those who attended included GBM and Dr Canisius Banda. I also concluded that it was a highly charged meeting. I heard Mr Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba saying he will go for the throat of Edgar Lungu referring to then and still president of the republic of Zambia. When I heard that, I was gripped with fear and anxiety. I still managed to offer a reaction. I requested the recording of the same and I was given a CD. I took it at home and listened to it again and confirmed it was the same one I listened to."

He said as a law abiding citizen, he reported the matter to police.

"On the 3rd of March, I decided to report the matter to police, Lusaka Central Police. Police interviewed me and made a report and I left them a CD. I decided to report the matter to police because as an adult, I know the job of the police is to maintain law and order in dealing with offenders. I thought an offense was committed and that is why I reported to the police. That is what you do in a civilized community," Bwalya said before identifying GBM in court.

In cross examination, UPND legal counsel Jack Mwiimbu was first to 'grill' Bwalya, asking him if he was once a leader of an opposition political party called Alliance for Better Zambia to which he responded in the affirmative.

When asked if he recalled branding the ruling PF corrupt when he formed ABZ, Bwalya also replied in

the affirmative.

"So you joined a corrupt PF?" Mwiimbu asked and Bwalya responded; "I joined PF".

"You had a chicken with you at one of your rallies. That slaughtering symbol which you made, can you be accused of being a Satanist or threatening violence?" Mwiimbu prodded.

Bwalya said, "Let me explain why I went with a chicken. I slaughtered a chicken prior to the 2011 elections because [Michael] Sata made attempts to win elections but failed due to apathy in his strongholds. Therefore, I sensitized the people to vote in masses. On the material day, I bought a chicken from Luanshya and over 60 eggs. The chicken was laying a lot of eggs but only three hatched. One was eaten by a dog, one fell into the fire. So I asked the audience that 'what should I do with the chicken?' and they told me 'kill it and eat it'."

Mwiimbu insisted; "can they accuse you of being violent or being a Satanist through your actions?"

Bwalya responded; "it depends on their motive. It will depend on someone's motive on why they would accuse me of being violent or being a Satanist."

Mwiimbu then brought in Bwalya's case when he was alleged to have defamed Sata for referring to him as a Chuumbu Mushololwa.

Asked if it literally meant Sata was a sweet potato, Bwalya said,

"He couldn't have become president."

But when asked for a yes or no response, Bwalya said no.

Bwalya further explained that Chuumbu Munsholowa was a Bemba idiom which could be used in different contexts and told the court that he was acquitted in the same case.

Asked if he could be referred to as Father Frank Bwalya, he said he was comfortable being called Frank Bwalya.

When asked if he was still a priest, Bwalya refused to answer the question until the court told him to respond and he reluctantly said, "I am still a priest."

Mwiimbu asked Bwalya if he was aware that President Lungu loved to use idioms in his speech.

"I have heard him use statements like 'I will fall on them like a ton of bricks,'" Mwiimbu said.

But Bwalya claimed he had never heard Lungu say such words.

"I have never heard him use such idioms but I have heard him say 'ninenankoko ufukatila bonse (I am a chicken which embraces everyone)," Bwalya claimed. Asked if President Lungu was a chicken, Bwalya said, "No, he is not."

Mwiimbu asked Bwalya if he had ever heard of a saying "I'll go for your throat" to which he replied in the affirmative.

"Was there an attempt by GBM to go for Lungu's throat?" Mwiimbu asked.

Bwalya responded, "He has never done that. We prevented that when we reported the matter to the police."



PeP president Sean Tembo protesting against the purchase of 42 fire tenders for \$42 million

"Are you aware that GBM and Lungu hugged in a church?" Mwiimbu asked.

Bwalya responded; "Even Jesus hugged Judas Iscariot, the man who sold him", sending the courtroom into pangs of laughter. "I don't remember that incident. GBM hugged me this morning and it was a good feeling."

Asked if he attended the meeting where GBM allegedly made those remarks, Bwalya said he just heard about it from a reporter.

Martha Mushipe then took over from Mwiimbu, asking Bwalya whether he issued a reaction to GBM's statement and he replied in the affirmative.

"So this statement, going for the throat, is it an offense?" Mushipe asked.

"It depends on the context. If I say whilst smiling that 'Martha, I will go for your throat', it cannot be an offense. But if I say 'Martha! I will go for your throat!' (Demonstrates aggression as people laugh)"

Mweemba took over the cross examination and asked Bwalya if he witnessed any meeting where GBM was.

"No, I didn't witness any meeting. I can't know how many people attended," Bwalya said.

Asked if he was aware that for the offense to take place, there must be three or more people, Bwalya replied in the negative.

"Do we have any independent witness apart from you and Mukandila who testified that GBM said this?" Mweemba asked.

"No, only me and Mukandila are the only ones who have testified so far," Bwalya said.

"Are Catholic fathers allowed to have children?" Mweemba asked.

"It comes as a consequence of observing celibacy," Bwalya said.

Asked where he got the CD containing the recording, Bwalya said it was given to him by a reporter.

"Is GBM entitled to the fundamental human rights like freedom of expression?" Mweemba asked.

"Yes, he has the right to freedom of expression," Bwalya said.

"Do you have a recording which states that he will go for the throat of the President or His Excellency?" Mweemba asked.

"No, I only have a recording where he is saying 'I will go for Edgar Lungu's throat,'" Bwalya said.

"You can feel free to sit, you have been standing for some

time," Mweemba told Bwalya but he declined saying, "No, I am okay."

Mweemba then jokingly offered Bwalya some water but he responded, "No, I am okay, if you want some water yourself you can take some," as people in the courtroom laughed.

Mweemba then offered to have a drink with Bwalya after the court session to which the later jokingly responded, "Yes, some Gin and Tonic could do after this."

Asked if he came across a permit which allowed GBM to hold an assembly on the material day, Bwalya said he had not seen any permit.

"If there was no permit, they could have been arrested in line with the Public Order Act not so?" Keith asked.

"I don't have video footage that GBM held an assembly, I heard it from a reporter," said Bwalya.

Gilbert Phiri then took over from Mweemba and asked Bwalya if there was any proof that President Lungu expressed apprehension that his throat could be plunged.

"No," said Bwalya before Phiri continued, "In fact, he has got some throat problems not so?" (laughter in court)

Bwalya smiled widely and responded, "I don't know. I

don't even know whether the President heard it."

Last to cross examine Bwalya was Christopher Mundia who asked, "Edgar Lungu has used several idioms like 'HH will see if he doesn't accept the results, 'I carry a big stick, do you remember this?'"

"No, I don't remember," Bwalya said.

"You claim to be a law abiding citizen who takes it upon himself to report law breakers. Did you report Jean Kapata and Bowman Lusambo for beating Kambwili at parliament?" Mundia asked. "No, I didn't report," Bwalya said.

"HH was called a Satanist by Bishop Edward Chomba, did you investigate that issue and report it?" Mundia asked.

"No, I didn't investigate or report it," Bwalya said. After several examples of President Lungu's idioms, Mundia closed Bwalya's cross examination.

Hot FM reporter Logic Lukwanda, who was the state's key witness as he recorded the statement, said he could not recall the actual words which GBM said.

"I cannot remember the actual words unless I see the statement or listen to the recording," said Lukwanda. Trial continues.

Court throws out Mukata's application to cite UPND media team for contempt

By Diggers Reporter

The Lusaka High Court has thrown out Chilanga member of Parliament Keith Mukata's application to cite the UPND Media Team for contempt saying he failed to identify the members of the team.

Meanwhile, a witness has told the court that Namakamba Kwenda was shot at close range. This is in a case in which Mukata and his lover Charmine Musonda are jointly charged with murder.

At the last sitting, Mukata's lawyer Miller Katolo told the court that the UPND Media Team had caused to be published misleading information which labeled his client a murderer.

The defense lawyer said after Mukata gave his testimony on November 30, there had been screaming headlines on online media namely the Zambian Observer, Zambia Direct News, and Zambezi Post which read "I killed my company guard together with Kampyongo, says Mukata".

Katolo prayed that a warrant be issued to the UPND media team so that they could explain why they shouldn't be cited for contempt for misrepresenting proceedings and undermining the authority of the court.

But when the matter came up for continued defense yesterday, justice Susan Wanjelani ruled that any person who uses any speech or publication to misrepresent proceedings is liable to six months imprisonment or a fine of 50 units penalty fee.

She however said that Katolo had not identified who the UPND Media Team was or whether it was a person or an entity.

"There is insufficient information to invite the court to make a decision to

order individuals unknown as counsel has not said whether the UPND Media Team is a person or an entity. In view of that I have dismissed the application," said judge Wanjelani.

Meanwhile, Thomas Wolmarans, a South African ballistic expert who was a defense expert witness in the Oscar Pistorious trial, claimed that the bullet hole on the gate of Mukata's law firm might have been caused by a reversing vehicle that had a pipe behind and not a gun because the hole had a shape like that of the spoon.

"When I look at the gate, the shape looks like a spoon and the mark on the hole might not have been caused by a bullet it has a triangular shape, maybe someone made a hole," Wolmarans said.

The private ballistics expert who has been hired by Mukata to explain how he reconstructed the crime scene told Justice Wanjelani that Kwenda's wound had a flame burn and the distance between the muzzle of the gun and his skin cannot be more than 1cm. The South African national further testified that the dents on the gate and the wall did not

have similar characteristics.

He said according to postmortem results, Kwenda might have been shot whilst seated contrary to what the ballistic officer who testified for the state indicated in his report that the shooter and the deceased were face to face.

"I don't know where he got such information in relation to the wound," said Wolmarans. He said a ballistic officer should always examine the diameter of the wound in the presence of a pathologist in order to have similar measurements.

And Boniface Bwalya, an assistant registrar at the Health

Professions Council of Zambia said only a certified medical practitioner was allowed to conduct postmortem.

Bwalya said according to Zambian laws, only medical practitioners were allowed to certify the cause of death and not other professions.

"It is difficult for me to comment about the ballistics because I do not know what they do or what their profession is all about because they are not medical practitioners," said Bwalya.

The assistant registrar expressed ignorance about forensic pathologists attached

to the police service, when asked by deputy chief state advocate Miriam bah Matandala if at all he was aware that some forensic pathologists were attached to the police service.

At this point, Katolo told the court that Bwalya's testimony marked the close of Mukata's defense and made an application to file in submissions on December 8.

In their response the state asked for two weeks in which to respond.

Justice Wanjelani granted the application and set February 28 2018 as date for judgment.

Theft among govt officers annoys Mutati

From front page

And Mutati says it is embarrassing to note that 50 per cent of the financial mismanagement cited in the 2016 Auditor General's report involves officers from the Ministry of General Education.

Speaking during the launch of the Public Expenditure and Assessment report in Lusaka today, Mutati observed that public officers had continued to squander donor funds.

"Even as we read the Auditor General's report for 2016, the narrative is constant. The narrative of misuse, misappropriation, wastage of expenditure. Whilst we are trying to do the reforms in order to deliver effective services, there is a ransom for those of us whose constitution is to work against the efforts that we make. It's very embarrassing to see that in the Auditor General's report,

50 per cent of a disease that was highlighted in that report is in the ministry of general education. How can you have a solid foundation of education as a path to future prosperity when you are counting financial mismanagement in that key ministry? I know accountant general (present at the launch) that you have suspended four accountants at education and at finance. That is only the beginning, we must do more in order to address the situation," Mutati said.

"It a lot more embarrassing for cooperating partners that they continue to give us resource and this resource which is supposed to help the poor particularly in the social sector is wasted, just two to three days ago we got a cheque from the Germany government, supporting us in sanitation. Yet, clever Zambians whose DNA is to perfect the research in

how they can consume that resource that is meant for the poor because they are allergic to deliver. So when they get to their offices everyday, there main purpose is how can we reverse policy? So unless we begin to address these issues aggressively, the [Auditor General's] report will just be in the shelves."

The minister further accused government officers of not serving the interests of the Zambian people.

"We take this particular issue very seriously and I see controlling officers all of them from government, the controlling officers who are charged with the responsibility to ensure the resource is properly used and yet our biggest weakness is budget execution, Whilst we are remaining within the framework of the expenditure in total, when you see the quantity of that expenditure, its lopsided,

and these are effective, educated controlling officers, some of them with PHDs, we have to find an answer now," said Mutati. He said there was need for government to fight the wastage of public resources with aggression.

"We met last year and we all agreed that the bedrock of transparency was key to undertaking any transformable efforts in public expenditure management. Today we have got a report that has outlined a number of areas that do not only require attention but require to be addressed in a very aggressive manner. Of critical concern is how do we arrest the disease surrounding commitment controls? In particular as they impact on the accumulation of arrears. The other thing is how do we deal with the financing component in particular public investment? The

management of investments and liabilities, the creation of value for money as a critical deal and so on which we must also address," he said.

"So implementation is critical, we need to know the disease perhaps it is easier to carry out an assessment because it's only after you have known the disease that you can be able to prescribe the correct medicine. Reading this report has told us that a cure must be found. The question now is how do we have an effective, efficient public service delivery that translates in creating jobs, growing the economy and reducing poverty? Difficult as things are, the answer to our problems lies within ourselves, the cooperating partners are important including IMF but at the end of the day the responsibility to take prudent and effective decisions lies with the people of Zambia. We are the ones that can decide the path for our destiny, no body else is going to define that path for our destiny."

And World Bank Country Manager Ina-Marlene Ruthenberg encouraged government to address the challenge of public finance management by putting relevant interventions in place.

"There are several bills that are going forward; the Public Finance and Planning budget bill, that the minister just announced that it was taken to parliament yesterday is a critical bill. Another bill that is forth coming is procurement, so there is a whole sort of bills that are under preparation that will implement this agenda, so I think the government is on the right track. But then yes you may have bills and laws but then you need to implement them because having laws and bills is one thing while implementing them is another. Coming up with bills has been one of Zambia's speeches you know but implementation and sticking to that which has been implemented is very critical" said Ruthenberg.

2,000 people die in road accidents every year - RTSA

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) Chief Executive Officer Zindaba Soko says approximately 2,000 people die in road accidents on average every year in Zambia.

And Soko says all goods vehicle operators who wish to operate at night should apply to the agency for scrutiny.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka today, Soko said road accidents still claim many lives despite the agency putting in place measures put improve road safety.

"Road traffic accidents have continued to be the leading challenged for the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) despite the many

interventions we are putting in place in an effort to improve the country's road safety profile. Statistics that we are recording are of great concern not only to the agency but the country at large," Soko said.

"Road traffic crashes kill approximately 2,000 people on average every year in Zambia and injure or disable more. The agency has recorded a reduction of 20 percent in road traffic crashes from January to September 2017, compared to the same period last year."

And Soko said not all transporters of goods will be allowed to operate at night, as RTSA will only grant passage to the fright operators who will meet the set conditions.

"Just to explain that as much as SI 76 has been revised and I think now it has gone for gazetting, until the gazette period is over then it comes into effect. Definitely when

you look at that particular SI, there is a clause where actually all operators of fright or goods vehicles will have to meet certain conditions that are set out by ourselves as RTSA. One of these conditions is the work place road safety policy. In this work place road safety policy, there are also conditions that have to do with the fitting of the global positioning system or GPS, there issues to do with driver tagging that will be able to control issues to do with driver fatigue and driver hours," Soko said.

"Further to that, we have trucks that will be now moving in the night. What that means is that passengers will now be trying to hike those trucks so that they can go to their points of destination. Having such a scenario, we have already analysed the situation and we will be able to enforce that these trucks do not carry passengers

because they were not meant to carry passengers. And what we are saying is that there will be a zero tolerance. RTSA will be left with no option but to revoke such a license and prevent them from killing people."

Meanwhile Soko said government has been denied the much needed revenue and taxes from pirate transporters. "other areas we intend to go after are illegal passenger and goods operators commonly known as pirates. As we are aware these have continued to deny government the much needed revenue in taxes as well as giving the registered operators unfair competition," he said.

At the same event, the agency received a contribution of K100 000 and six breathalysers worth about 60,000 Rands from the Zambia Breweries company for the purposes of drink driving testing.



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Do not cry over 'failed' IMF deal, it was also debt - Lubinda

From front page

"The failure to acquire a bailout from IMF is not something to cry about because that also is a debt in itself but the only advantage of an IMF package is that it forces government to be prudent in the way it spends its resources but the package comes with a lot of conditions which might end up pushing the population into poverty through cost cutting measures which are going to be very brutal to the population and yet it is not even general citizens

that use these resources," Dr Habaazoka said. He however noted that the country would suffer liquidity problems without an IMF package. "So if we get an IMF package, we are going to experience high austerity measures on the party of government and if we don't we are going to have liquidity problems going in the future. But government announced that they are going to borrow money so they think that they have found a solution to

that but unfortunately the only solution to Zambia's problems is a reduction of government expenditure and reduction in the prices at which we procure public tenders. Our tender systems need to be improved," Dr Haabazoka said. He said that it was unfortunate that government was planning to borrow more money. "It's quite sad that government has announced despite being told that we have the highest debt in our region, to again borrow

more debt to pay the euro bond and that they want to borrow more debt in 2019 to pay debts on the euro bond. I don't know how they are going to refinance them because you cannot pay a bond before it matures in this particular case, you can only repay it when it matures but you can't recall it. So if we get debt in 2019, then we need to pay it in 2021 and by then we would have finished all that money so the only time we can refinance is in years in which they fall due, so that

decision by government to borrow money in order to repay the euro bond is just another way of actually acquiring even more debt," Dr Haabazoka said. "So my advice to government and other related institutions is that we need to live through the pain and see how we can reduce government expenditure and amounts said to be going into debt servicing not over milking the public and also not borrowing more debt because that is just pushing

the country into huge debts in the future which is very sad." He observed that public debt had increased tremendously during the PF's stay in office. "I think it's very unfortunate that we actually had to wait for the international community to tell us that our debt was very huge. When you look at the genesis of our debt, it all started with the issuing of euro bonds that everybody was told was oversubscribed and everybody was very happy with the first issue where we were told that we only needed \$500 million but we were oversubscribed by \$9 billion and despite our worrying and fears at that particular time that it was going to run us into a ditch, the government went ahead and issued three euro bonds totaling close to \$3 billion. Government also acquired a lot of sovereign loans on the international debt market and also got bilateral loans from cooperating partners and of course our debt has grown from 2011," said Dr Haabazoka.

Mines PS shines at PAC

From front page

This was when Chanda appeared before the committee to respond to audit queries cited in the 2016 Auditor General's report.

PAC member Mwansa Mbulakulima was ecstatic about how the PS responded to most of the questions and commended the ministry for the respect it showed to the controllers.

"I think it is the only ministry that I have seen that has got respect to controllers. I hope this spirit should continue," said Mbulakulima.

And PAC deputy chairperson Brenda Tambatamba noted that the ministry was lucky to be commended by the committee. Immediately after commendations, however, the committee noted that the ministry did not attach appendix number two to the document it submitted to the auditors.

This was a document that was supposed to respond to the non collection of revenue from some mining companies.

Senga Hill member of parliament Kapembwa Simbao was the first one to note the omission of the document on appendix two.

In response to that, PS Chanda joked that he did not want to burden the committee with a huge document and that the ministry was also struggling with stationary but later produced it.

"Honorable to be honest we thought maybe were going to burden this committee with a huge document and of course at the moment we are struggling with paper, and cash so..." responded Chanda.

But Lukasha constituency member of parliament Mwenya Munkonge urged the PS to admit his shortcomings and to always check his documents properly before submitting.

"I think the oversight is on their part. It is not really on the paper. There is appendix two here but it just doesn't have anything to do with the issue at hand. It has got a fuel analysis attached to it and not the issue at hand. So I think we should just admit our shortcomings perhaps that is the way forward. We should check the information that we give

each other and it is not even in the correct sequence, its going from appendix two to appendix five, already there is that filing disorder because if it had been in correct order, perhaps somebody would have already seen that the information is not relating to the document given to us," Munkonge advised. Tambatamba also chipped in, saying it was clear that the PS had not attached great importance to his task.

"PS we have got a problem here. Clearly the members are not happy in the sense that you have not attached any importance to this task at all. In the first place this documentation was supposed to go to the AG. Some of the documentation that you were pointing to in your submission were coming late and we have got evidence here where you have actually tried to mislead this committee by putting different appendix yet you know that you are keeping the right documentation. We are very unhappy with this. You do not attach importance

to a matter which the Zambian public want to hear and understand why and what is happening in the sector. When we talk about production return, that is an area where the bread and butter come from and everyone pays attention to this sector. And here we are. When will you be serious with audits? It is not the first time PS that you are having to deal with an audit. You are an experienced civil servant," Tambatamba said. In response, Chanda admitted the mistake and assured the committee that the mistake would not recur.

"We can promise you chair that this thing will never occur again, we will be in control and we will make sure that no misapplication takes place again," responded Chanda.

Chanda asked PAC to help him deal with the delays by the Treasury to release funds meant for the ministry.

He further requested the committee to summon his counterpart in charge of budgets so that she could explain why

she had been tricking him in terms of fund release.

"We have a work plan amongst ourselves the directors, their chiefs and their senior officers and of course the accompanying budget. We are always writing to the Treasury. I am happy that the Accountant General is here. I think honorable chairperson you can help us to deal with the Treasury so that these monies, especially for us in mining, are consistent with the season and at the time we want this money. We work according to the season, we work according to the availability of staff, we work according to the mining schedule sometimes because you can't go and disturb them. You always have to give them enough notice to say we are coming this month so we want the following to be in place. But the monies don't come like that from the Treasury. I think chair, one day, the PS budget should be brought here also to explain why she tricks us like this," Chanda requested.

And acting Auditor General

Roy Mwambwa emphasized on the need for controlling officers to always submit all the necessary documents at the time of the audits saying that it was difficult for him to verify new documents at gun point.

"Just to emphasize to the controlling officer, you have noted that the responses you gave us was dated 6th October 2017. This was way after we had completed the report. Now if we do things like this, it will not help us because you will find that you will keep on appearing if you respond like this, the response to the queries on paragraph 25. It was done on 6th October 2017. By this time, the report was already done. Now even if you want me to verify this I would not. So all I am trying to say is that let us try to keep the time frame which we are given because if you respond like this, you will find that you will still appear and I will not be able to verify it," said Mwambwa.

the country into huge debts in the future which is very sad." He observed that public debt had increased tremendously during the PF's stay in office. "I think it's very unfortunate that we actually had to wait for the international community to tell us that our debt was very huge. When you look at the genesis of our debt, it all started with the issuing of euro bonds that everybody was told was oversubscribed and everybody was very happy with the first issue where we were told that we only needed \$500 million but we were oversubscribed by \$9 billion and despite our worrying and fears at that particular time that it was going to run us into a ditch, the government went ahead and issued three euro bonds totaling close to \$3 billion. Government also acquired a lot of sovereign loans on the international debt market and also got bilateral loans from cooperating partners and of course our debt has grown from 2011," said Dr Haabazoka. "In 2011, our debt stood at \$1.2 billion and now we are talking about over \$10 billion foreign debt with other estimates putting it at \$17 billion dollars because of other guarantees and debts that have been acquired by government, so I think the figure that might be given might even be far much higher than what we think we owe because of misrecordings and miscalculations."

More youths demand Mwila's removal

From front page

Jerabo leader Tobias Mwamba is heard in one of the voice notes explaining how hard the youths on the Copperbelt worked to help PF win.

"When they gave us the black mounted, we did not use it for personal benefit, we used the money to mobilise the youths. We fought hard to mobilise the community on the Copperbelt. We were not selfish, we mobilised university students, former prisoners, marketeers, miners and ex-miners. Over 6,000 came to those campaign meetings so that we have have enough votes. That little money we were given helped to produce votes," Mwamba said.

"But now the people are the secretariat are just saying go and mobilise people, but they are not producing money. How are we going to mobilise the party like that? If you don't buy food for your children at home, they run away and you cannot blame them. For me to mobilise I need to first

make sure that my family has eaten first, then I can go to mobilise people. But I cannot mobilise for you and when we say tupenikofye iyaka meda, you say I will come tomorrow, now what kind of mobilisation is that?

He said President Lungu was a good man, but was surrounded by bakandile (opportunists). Other youths are also heard in other voice notes, saying the PF was falling apart on the Copperbelt.

"Ifilimba twalepitana bonse nokushana twaleshanafye bonse (we used to play and dance to campaign songs together) but now you have forgotten us. It's us and people like Eddie Gowa and Ba Shimumbi, General and others, who came to help us mobilise the party. Sometimes you never sent us money, we used our own resources to ferry people to campaign rallies," complained the youths.

"And this Minister (Bowman Lusambo) who says 'I am a bootlicker and when the President says 'jump' I jump', why can't he

tell the President to order him to jump onto our problem here? Let them open black mountain so that people can sort out some problems. They have sold the party. Me I am just like a campus, I will just go where I want to go, I don't want foolishness," said another youth.

In Lusaka, renowned cadre Maxwell Chongu who has received support from his Copperbelt compatriotic, is warning the PF secretariat that if youths are not taken care of, the party will fall apart. However he discouraged his fellow youths from defecting.

"Yes, we might be having economic turbulence mostly among the grassroots, but I am convinced that our able listening leader President Edgar Lungu will soon address the issues," Max said.

He expressed concern that some senior district and constituency officials were attending NDC meetings in the name of getting information from the opposition. Meanwhile, Kamba held a meeting with cadres at the PF secretariat to

warn Shakafuswa against calling for Mwila's removal.

"Shakafuswa should go back to the UPND, he is less than a year in the party and he wants to bring UPND confusion to PF. My fellow youths of the party, you are the security of the party. We are going to defend the President and the Secretary General of the party," said Kamba before leading the cadres into chanting some threatening slogans. But Shakafuswa said there was no need for the PF to send out cadres to harm him. He insisted that Mwila was failing to steer the party in the right direction.

"The party Secretary General Mr Davies Mwila is a good man, something no one can take away from him. But he is overwhelmed with the job in the face of the threats that PF faces both internal and external. He needs extra help to stay clear from steering the boat into an iceberg. My voice is only meant as a wake up call which can be taken serious or discarded," said Shakafuswa.

We have noted with growing concern the manner in which State House officials express themselves when responding to criticism thrown at the Head of State. Although it is their obligation to defend actions and decisions made by the President, presidential advisors need to watch their mouths.

It is obvious that in and around State House, those who eat and dine with President Edgar Lungu find critics very annoying. When a member of the public or indeed an opposition leader like Chishimba Kambwili rebukes the Head of State, what they hear is rubbish from his noisy mouth. In their ears, it is all nonsense.

Presidential advisors do have the option of viewing political rivals that way. They have the privilege of mocking hungry critics and calling them all sorts of names during their sumptuous three-course dinners and buffets as they laugh and joke with each other at State House. But taking that same language to the public is dangerous. It is not good for the individual aides and most importantly, for the appointing authority.

Mr Amos Chanda, the Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations needs to tone down on his language, especially when he is on television responding to governance questions from the public. Unless he has changed religion while at State House, we know Mr Chanda as a Christian raised by a devoted Christian family in Chingola. The Bible in 1 Peter 5:5 orders Christians like Mr Chanda to clothe themselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble". It

Defending "rubbish" with "rubbish"

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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also says in the book of Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction; and an arrogant spirit comes before a fall."

The language Mr Chanda used on Diamond Television last Friday strays from these biblical teachings. His defence for President Lungu was laced with arrogance as he punctuated his sentences with words like "rubbish", "nonsense" and "pedestrian noise".

In explaining how much a tolerant leader President Lungu was, Mr Chanda had this to say, "Some of the nonsense that you are hearing today, in a state that is led by an intolerant president, an intolerant government, some of that rubbish you cannot hear it. So that is an expression of an existence of democratic space available to even those who want to exercise their right to talk nonsense."

We agree with Mr Chanda that criticism and fault-finding is the easiest thing to do in the world. Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain – and most fools do; but to tell such people that they are foolish takes away all modicum of dignity from a leader. Words such as those used by Mr Chanda demonstrate that ego always hinders ones ability to influence and inspire the demotivated public.

This is the trouble we have with our leaders in PF, especially those who occupy State House positions; they would rather be ruined with loud praises than be saved by sharp criticism.

As for Mr Chanda, that was not all he said, when asked to respond to critics who say Zambia's bailout negotiations with the IMF have fallen off, Mr Chanda's reaction was "Between

those pedestrians who are making noise and those who are making points, I will choose to believe Minister Mutati who says that the IMF program and engagement is intact."

Now, by definition, a pedestrian is a person who doesn't drive but walks to get to a particular destination. Therefore, to regard comments coming from such people as "noise" is demeaning and disrespectful. By his own admission, Mr Chanda comes from that same background, he had no job at some point and he was a pedestrian. However, God lifted him to the level he is today because all mankind is equal in the eyes of the Creator. Mr Chanda could have simply said, "I believe what the Minister of Finance says on the IMF deal because he has certain information which critics

outside government don't have".

In criticising Mr Chanda, we are not demanding that he loses all his pride, because again, the total failure of recognising who he is in society can lead to low self-esteem, which is also not a good attribute for a leader. But we are asking that he finds some form of reasonable equilibrium between humility and confidence.

We fear for Mr Chanda because he is making the same mistakes made by people who occupied his office before. Mr Chanda seems to forget that after leaving State House, Mr Richard Sakala who was Frederick Chiluba's press aide was sent to prison for the things he did while in that office. Chiluba was not there to protect Mr Sakala because he was fighting for his own survival, and the people of Zambia, the pedestrians who

sounded like they were making noise, talking "rubbish" and "nonsense" against Chiluba, used the law to punish the former State House press aide.

If Mr Chanda recalls that Bowman Lusambo was nothing more than a pedestrian in MMD during Rupiah Banda's reign, then he should not have difficulties appreciating the agony that has befallen RB's former spokesperson Dickson Jere. With all the power and influence that he had at State House, Mr Dickson today has to go and humble himself before HONOURABLE Lusambo, to plead for intervention for his Israeli client who was recently deported from Zambia.

We encourage Mr Chanda to reach out to Michael Sata's spokesperson George Chellah and ask him how he is being repaid by 'his own' party. Let him ask if those he used to defend have the time to call him today to find out how he is doing. At least Jere was removed from State House by another political party, but for Chellah, it was the same PF that he sacrificed for, sleeping in the bush, that tossed him aside. Despite taking care of ailing Sata, Chellah has been reduced to a 'pedestrian' whose voice cannot even be covered by the public media he once controlled, that is the ingratitude of politicians.

In fact, you will be lucky if they will leave you alone, Mr Chanda, like they have left your immediate predecessor. But if, apart from insulting back at the critics, you are also preying on public resources; *nga muleiba ba shimpundu*, you better start pushing for improved prison conditions now, because the trial that awaits you is still in the gym!

My views on the breakdown in talks between Zambia and IMF

I have received many enquiries from colleagues about what I make of the 'breakdown' in talks between the Government and the International Monetary Fund. My views are as follows: 1. Both parties, the Zambian Government and the IMF want the Program. On the part of the IMF, lending for balance of payments support is one of its three co-mandates. When Zambia requested for a program this year, the IMF expectedly went into motion, preparing ground for lending to one of its member states; in part to support economic stability and second, to contain spill-over effects. As things stand, Zambia is at high risk of debt distress and all efforts must be made to bring the risks down, moderate as the target. IMF responds professionally and aggressively to requests for lending for a three-year package that attracts the barest of interest rates (presumed to be below 1 percent).

On the part of Government, the economic fundamentals have been very weak since

2015 and if not fully arrested, the country can slide back to what we just experienced despite a rebound in copper prices, an end to power outages (certainly at huge cost) and an end to election-induced spending. Both the Minister of Finance Felix Mutati and Bank of Zambia Governor Denny Kalyalya are aware of the potential risks and the best response is to build economic buffers the IMF route. Creditors to Zambia, particularly sovereign bondholders, are fully aware of this risk and that is the reason the ongoing talks are international news. Any indication of breakdown in talks has an immediate impact on the exchange rate. Just recently, the government securities were undersubscribed hence (in part) the scarcity in dollar supply.

2. The real problem leading to what we may term 'breakdown in talks' is Zambia's true debt position. IMF has in the past three years (learning from Mozambique and, in part Greece) placed substantial

weight on Debt Sustainability Assessment (known as DSA). I have privately shared with government officials in the past one year to take time to understand how the IMF operates because any mishap in negotiations will trigger reputational problems. IMF is a 'data' organisation. You can lobby, talk and persuade it on a position using qualitative information. They will just look at you. Dealing with IMF requires authentic quantitative information. It appears the data government has provided the IMF is not speaking to the data IMF has about Zambia's debt profile. IMF wants government to come clean on this issue.

Let me use an analogy to drive the point home (this analogy is grossly misstated but helpful for purposes of this communication): You are planning to marry a king's daughter, all is going well in terms of wedding preparations except for the setting of the date for exchanging rings and vows. Suddenly, information emerges that the 'groom' is seeing someone else, who is

already pregnant. The king's daughter will not call off the wedding but may ask you to come clean before you proceed with the marriage! Were there loans contracted in 2017 while program negotiations were in place? This appears to be the case.

3. Way forward: Government has done a lot so far to ensure the program succeeds. The level of commitment on the part of the Minister of Finance and his team cannot be underestimated. Sufficient ground has been made for an IMF program such as subsidy reforms and many more reforms associated with debt contraction underway. President Edgar Lungu has personally made announcements in support of an IMF program, an assurance that sits well with IMF. However, a few things ought to be done:

a. Dedicate a fully commitment team of technocrats to skim through the mountains of data and provide that which sits well with IMF expectations. Having chatted with the

IMF Zambia team on several occasions over lunch when I served at the Fund, I would urge Mr. Mutati to rehire the former permanent secretary Felix Nkulukusa to support the current Permanent Secretary Mukuli Chikuba. Nkulukusa is highly respected in the IMF ranks and can fully support the Zambian team as a consultant for speedy and authentic execution of the project. The duo, plus other negotiation team members, cannot fail to deliver.

b. There must be a definite buy-in by the Cabinet. I have raised concerns before that Cabinet does not appear to be in full agreement on an IMF program and that's why it seems, in the eyes of the investors, the program is pushed by only two people, Mutati and Kalyalya.

c. Communication around the programme should be in simple clear language for all stakeholders. However, given the presumed stalemate, I propose the IMF engagement be withdrawn from the public eye. It is either you disclose the whole truth or you say nothing at all. The latter is the

best option as things stand. d. Let us not give up. The IMF program is good for Zambia. There are no more conditionalities to come following what Government has already done. The benefits will be fiscal discipline, beefing up of reserves, unlocking of budget support from concessional lenders and the closing of the Chapter so that energies of technocrats are redirected elsewhere.



Chibamba Kanyama recently served as Front Office Communications Advisor at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC and currently serves as Managing Consultant for Bridges Limited, specialising in Leadership and Management Training.

The Swiss government has announced that it will return \$320m (£240m) of the money allegedly stolen by Nigeria's late military ruler Sani Abacha.

The money was frozen in 2014 by a Swiss court after a legal procedure against his son, Abba Abacha.

Originally deposited in Luxembourg, it is a fraction of the billions of dollars allegedly looted during his rule from 1993 to 1998.

Recovering the "Abacha loot" has been a major priority for Nigeria.

President Muhammadu Buhari made the recovery of stolen assets a major part of his 2015 election campaign and this will be the largest yet.

Although an agreement to repatriate the money was signed in March, the Nigerian Ministry of Justice, the World Bank and Switzerland have been grappling with legal complications surrounding the return of the money, says the BBC's Stephanie Hegarty in Abuja.

However an agreement setting out how the money would be repaid was signed on Monday by the three parties at the Global Forum on Asset Recovery GFAR in Washington, which means the funds will finally be sent back to Nigeria.

How much 'Abacha loot' is

Switzerland to return \$320m to Nigeria

outstanding?

The Swiss government has paid \$700m of the "Abacha loot" to the Nigerian government in the last 10 years and the outstanding \$320m is the last of the money on Swiss soil and will be remitted in the next two to three years, ambassador Roberto Balzaretto, head of the

Swiss delegation to GFAR told BBC's Gbolahan Macjob in a telephone interview.

"The money will be transferred to the Bank for International Settlements in Basel into the Nigerian government account," he said.

"It will be used to finance projects that will strengthen

social security for the poorest sections of the Nigerian population."

What are the conditions of the agreement?

The money will be paid in instalments and in small amounts, specifically to finance the National Social Safety Net projects, which

would be agreed with the Nigerian government under the supervision of the World Bank with regular audits.

If the first instalment is not properly accounted for, subsequent payment will be halted. This is to prevent the funds from being stolen again, Mr Balzaretto said.

"It is the first time we are having this sort of trilateral agreement and we feel confident that it will work, plus we signed it in the spirit of trust that the money will be put to good use," he said.

Switzerland said the agreement was in line with its policy on returning illegally acquired assets and would set a good example for future cases, according to a statement from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The fight against corruption is one of Switzerland's priorities" Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter said, adding that the move should "strengthen social security for the poorest Nigerians", AFP reports. **BBC**

Who will challenge China's 'open' internet?

Sometimes you can gauge how proud someone is about being at an event by the extent to which they want to talk about it. When that event is China's annual global internet get-together in Wuzhen there are plenty who turn up, but fewer who want to advertise their attendance.

China has been smart and ruthless in its control of the internet within its borders. It blocks some foreign sites all together and it censors - heavily - what Chinese are allowed to see. Nonetheless the big idea at this

gathering is openness.

There wasn't much openness about the "great firewall" that keeps out Twitter, Facebook, Google and the New York Times to name a few.

Not from the government minister I hastily followed down a corridor. Not from a senior Facebook executive. Not from one of the co-founders of LinkedIn.

Chen Zhaoxiong's minders tried to push me away and the familiar hand went up over the camera as the vice minister for industry and

information technology ignored my questions at the same time as saying "no problem, no problem" to me.

This was a rare chance for me to talk to - or rather at - a China government minister. He's partly responsible for maintaining that firewall that keeps the social networks so familiar to many outside of China barred from most within it.

In the end he told me: "The question you raised is very interesting. We will consider your advice."

Winning on the web China doesn't need advice, because the truth is it's winning on the web.

It's embracing innovation as it moves towards a digital economy, at the same time as using it as a tool of persistent oppression. It's online self promotion, at home and abroad, becomes slicker by the day.

China is ramping up its investment in how the web works; artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing. All while it presents the world

with the fastest growing online market.

I've gotten used to hearing this phrase; the next billion Facebook users are coming from one place. Which is why the social network is pushing very hard to try to get into China, legally.

Facebook is banned here. Unlike LinkedIn and Microsoft's Bing search engine, it is yet to sign up to the conditions of doing business here.

But when will that happen? Will they censor their content in China? Will they explain how important China is to the company's future?

All those questions were met with a forced smile and a "no comment" from Vaughan Smith, a Facebook senior executive I spoke to as he left a packed session at the conference.

Censorship and control over the internet have only increased under President Xi Jinping. The machine went into overdrive earlier this year, to help him, as his second term at the top of the Communist Party approached.

Increasing censorship

Apple agreed to remove dozens of VPN apps that allow free access to the web. It's chief executive Tim Cook said they had to comply with the rules and regulations.

He was "optimistic" the decision would be reversed. There's no sign that's going to happen.

Then some WhatsApp services were blocked. Unflattering pictures comparing Mr Xi to Winnie the Pooh were among the images that suddenly couldn't be exchanged on the messaging app. But none of that has deterred the big foreign names from coming to this conference.

RJ Pittman, chief product officer of eBay did talk to the BBC. He told me "What needs to happen is more dialogue".

He said the auction and retail website has learned a lot in over a decade of doing business in China.

"We've been continuing to push the conversation, push the dialogue with the Chinese government," he explained. As for what they're pushing on he cited "a few things" they agree on, among them cyber security.

Sovereignty and control

This gathering is now in its fourth year. The serene and ancient water town that hosts it underpins the sense that it is China's bid to show the world a distinctly Chinese vision of the internet.

A vision that's centred on sovereignty and control. The proponents aren't just politicians. The last person I spoke to, a slim and very animated figure, is an apostle. **BBC**

Ramaphosa takes lead in ANC battle



Jacob Zuma (L) will be replaced as ANC leader by either Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (C) or Cyril Ramaphosa (R) this month

South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, 65, has a strong lead in the race to become the new leader of the governing African National Congress.

He emerged as frontrunner after ANC party branches chose between him and his rival Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

She is a prominent politician and the ex-wife of scandal-prone President Jacob Zuma, who steps down this month. The winner of the party race will be well placed to become the country's new president in 2019.

But the BBC's Andrew Harding in Johannesburg says the final vote is likely to be close.

The ANC party branches will account for 90% of the 5,240 voting delegates at the ANC's party conference which starts on 16 December, South Africa's News24 reports.

However, some branches get more than one vote as the bigger the branch, the more delegates it can send to the conference.

Presentational grey line

Still all to play for

Analysis by Lebo Dizeko, BBC News, Johannesburg

Whilst this is good news for Mr Ramaphosa's camp, he is not home-free just yet.

He currently has a lead of around 500 branches on his main rival for the ANC presidency.

The catch is that some branches get to send more than one delegate to the elective conference, because of their

size.

KwaZulu-Natal is one of the larger provinces and here, in her home province, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's region got 454 branch nominations to Mr Ramaphosa's 191.

The ANC Women's League and the ANC Youth League are yet to give their nominations. Each of the party's leagues gets 60 nominations each, and both the Youth and Women's league have publicly endorsed Ms Dlamini-Zuma thus far.

And then there is the issue of "unity" nominations - where the word "unity" was written on the form instead of selecting a candidate.

There were 233 of these in Mpumalanga province, and they are being counted as abstentions. But no-one knows which way these will swing once it comes to the conference.

The vote at the conference is a secret ballot, so no-one will know who voted which way. And equally, it makes it difficult to predict just which way delegates will go when it comes to the crunch.

Mr Ramaphosa, who has been highly critical of state corruption and is backed by the business community and unions, took the lead in five of the country's nine provinces.

But Mrs Dlamini-Zuma, a former African Union Commission chairwoman with the endorsement of her ex-husband to succeed him as ANC president, has the lead in the two provinces with the most ANC delegates

- KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

Some in the ANC are warning of legal challenges and even vote rigging, as a deeply divided party tries to find a new path, and new energy, after 23 years in power, our reporter says.

The leader of the ANC automatically becomes the party's candidate for president of the country.

Presentational grey line

Tight race for the ANC:

Cyril Ramaphosa - backed by 1,861 ANC branches

Detained for two years for anti-apartheid activities; launched mineworkers' union in 1982

Headed committee that prepared for Nelson Mandela's release from prison

Left politics to become one of South Africa's richest businessmen - on Lonmin board during 2012 Marikana massacre

Became South Africa's deputy president in 2014.

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma - backed by 1,309 ANC branches

A leading anti-apartheid activist, fled South Africa to complete medical training in UK

Met Jacob Zuma while working as a doctor in Swaziland, divorcing him after 16 years of marriage in 1998

Declined offer to take place of her ex-husband as deputy president in 2005 after he was sacked

Chair of the African Union commission from 2012 to 2016. **BBC**



Why it's important for young black girls to see dolls that look like them

Thanks to actresses such as Yara Shahidi and Amandla Stenberg, seeing young women of color on the small and big screen is more common than it used to be. When it comes to diversity in the toy world, though, there is a way to go.

Growing up frustrated about the lack of diverse dolls she saw on store shelves, founder and creative director of Healthy Roots Dolls, Yelitsa Jean-Charles, decided to help fill this void.

Reflecting on her own experience, the 23-year-old shared with Yahoo Lifestyle that she has had to deal with her own issues related to internalized racism, which helped inspire her to create Healthy Roots Dolls. "I remember once, I went to Florida and when I got back, my family didn't ask for pictures or about my trip to Disney," she shares with Yahoo Lifestyle. "They turned to my mother and said, 'Why did you let her get so dark?' It

was the way they said it that made me start to think that there was something wrong with having dark skin." As a result of occurrences like this, Jean-Charles admits that she actively began to reject anything associated with her "blackness."

"It wasn't until college that I started to unpack these issues, put the flat iron down, learned to do my own hair, and stopped seeking validation from those who upheld mainstream Eurocentric

standards of beauty," Jean-Charles says. "I didn't learn to do my own hair until I was 20."

"It took over six months of trial and error from sketch to clay sculpt, and then iteration after iteration of 3D renderings," Jean-Charles says of the early stages of creating her dolls. "We then printed the 3D renderings to get a feel for how the actual doll will look and then have working prototypes made for a more finished look."

The first of four dolls was named Zoe, and the next three were Gaiana, Dara, and Marinda. Each of the dolls has a different skin tone, facial features, and hair texture, with the aim of representing the full range of African ancestry. "I want kids of color to be excited about the different cultures of the African diaspora."

Entering the world of toys was a smart and influential move. In the 1940s' Kenneth and Mamie Clark doll experiment, children between the ages of

3 and 7 were asked to select the doll they preferred. Nearly all of the participants were attracted to white dolls and associated them with positive characteristics. Similar studies since have had similar findings.

In a 2009 study, Professor Sam Pierstorff of Modesto Junior College surveyed young children on dolls representing different ethnic groups. Only one child selected the doll with the darkest skin as pretty. Along with the Healthy Roots team, Jean-Charles recently did her own research to see how many dolls could be found at a local toy store. A Twitter post sharing this experience revealed that only 22 dolls of color were found, out of 300 in the entire store, and commented, "This is why #representationmatters. Black girls deserve dolls too!"

Young girls of color have been very receptive to and appreciative of Jean-Charles' efforts, and are obsessed with Healthy Roots Dolls. "Little girls have been known to snatch the dolls right out of my hands at photo shoots, because they are just so excited," she says. "I'll never forget how one little girl's eyes lit up as she said, 'Wow. She looks just like me.' Those are the moments I live for."

Jean-Charles is an Ohio-based graphic designer with a BFA in illustration and a concentration in gender, race, and sexuality from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has no plans to slow down and is passionate about changing the narrative, saying she believes "seeing is believing." "If I could play and interact with a doll whose hair looks like mine, I would not have had insecurities about my appearance," Jean-Charles says. "Self-esteem has a huge effect on the actions kids take, and understanding that different hair is enough should be embraced, not diminished. No one should feel less than, because of the kink of their curl or the color of their skin. We are all beautiful." **Yahoo**

Meet the 6-year-old who has been hailed the 'most beautiful girl in the world'

While most 6-year-olds are playing with slime, racking up points on Candy Crush, or swapping Pokémon cards, Anastasia Knyazeva is busy building a high-profile modeling career that has seen her hailed as the "most beautiful girl in the world."

Having starred in a number of ad campaigns in her native Russia, Anastasia, who is represented by President Kids Management, has also amassed over 529,000 followers on her Instagram account, which is run by her mother.

Anastasia's mom regularly posts snaps of her daughter on shoots and fronting campaigns, as well as an occasional behind-the-scenes peek at their lives.

And each photo receives hundreds of comments about the youngster's doll-like features and striking blue eyes.

Anastasia, known as Anna, is following in the footsteps of French model Thylane Blondeau, now 16 years old, who was famously named the world's most beautiful girl at age 6 — and went on to become the youngest model to be featured in French Vogue.

Another young Russian model, Kristina Pimenova, was also described as the most beautiful girl in world at just 8 years old. The mother of the young model, who is now 11, was forced to hit

back after she was accused of sharing provocative pictures of her daughter on social media.

Despite the enormous support on Anastasia's Instagram page, some followers have criticized the child's mother for allowing her daughter to have a social media account at such a young age.

So how young is too young for children to be exposed to social media? While Instagram accounts for babies and young children are undeniably cute, some experts believe introducing little ones to a world of "likes" could be opening them up to a digital world they didn't sign up for.

"The problem with baby branding is that firstly you are sharing information about them without their permission, and secondly you are creating a voice which isn't actually theirs, and this means that people are getting to know you and not your child," explains psychologist Emma Kenny.

The most obvious danger is that of security. Kenny says, "Sharing pictures, media, and social content online isn't very safe statistically, and with recent figures suggesting that grooming online is at pandemic levels, protecting your child needs to be a parent's priority."

The issue of consent also needs consideration. Though it's



tempting to share every single moment of your child's life, it is worth thinking ahead to when they become a teenager and

might not be so fond of that shot in the bath.

The fact is that young children can't give their consent to having

every detail of their life posted to social media, so it's impossible to know what they will think about it when they get older. **Yahoo**

The Golden State Warriors are the 'wokest' team

The Golden State Warriors are trendsetters. They're the reason why everybody, from Saturday morning leagues to the NBA, has fallen in love with shooting 3-pointers. They've also embraced position-less basketball and have made passing cool again, as one of the annual leaders in

team assists every season. But, if you've been paying attention, then you've probably realized that the Warriors are progressive in another way too. They're woke. Woke is slang for being socially aware of things that are happening in your community, country, and across the world. Examples of racism and sexism

take place all the time. Don't get caught sleeping, stay woke. Draymond Green, Steph Curry, Kevin Durant and Warriors head coach Steve Kerr have all have made headlines recently for giving their opinion on things that are important to them. While athletes using their platforms to address racism

and other social inequalities isn't anything new, we've never seen a team with such a high profile be so unafraid to tackle such dense subject matters in the media without fear of the public's disapproval. "It also starts with the area that the Warriors are playing in," said Logan Murdock, a Warriors reporter for The Mercury News/Bay Area News Group. "They're playing in Oakland which is the birthplace of the Black Panther Party, and across the bridge was the Peace Movement and Harvey Milk (the first openly gay elected official in the state of California), and then Colin Kaepernick started his protest in Santa Clara with the 49ers. It's really a hotbed, and the birthplace of a lot of revolutions." For the Warriors, location has always been key. Marcus Thompson is an Oakland native and is in the midst of his 14th season covering the team, and he believes things started to change within the organization when the team announced that they were leaving Oakland, a majority black city, and moving to the more upscale area of San Francisco. "It wasn't like they had to choose a side, but the awareness of the cultural and social implications hit home," Thompson said. There has been tension between local residents and the team for decades as some in the African-American community who felt slighted because the team was named "Golden State" instead of Oakland. They feel the team didn't want to be tied to the negative stereotypes that have been associated with a community that's historically been listed as one of the most dangerous cities in the country. ...Yahoo



Pogba breaks silence over Arsenal red card

The France international has admitted that he was caught out by Bellerin's unusual body position in

last weekend's clash Manchester United star Paul Pogba has spoken for the first time of the

red card incident that saw him ruled out of Sunday's Manchester derby. Late in last weekend's

match against Arsenal, a fixture the Red Devils won 3-1, the former Juventus man was dismissed for a

challenge that saw him connect with Hector Bellerin's leg with his studs up.

It was a moment that provoked controversy, as the France international midfielder seemed to be caught out by the unusual body position of the Gunners defender. Pogba has protested that the incident was an accident and said he had misread the situation. "I didn't really speak after the game - I didn't have time - but I think Hector, I know him as well, and I would never give him a tackle like this," he said. "Unfortunately for me I thought he would put his feet and he was in a position that was a disadvantage for me so I have done it. "It looks very bad, but the intention wasn't like that. They had the decision, the referee got the red card and that's football." Pogba played the full 90 minutes in Tuesday's Champions League match against CSKA Moscow, with Jose Mourinho's side coming from behind to claim a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Romelu Lukaku and Marcus Rashford. Goal.com



ZESCO UNDECIDED ON KRMPOTIC

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zesco United have indicated that the future of coach Zlatko Krmpotic will be decided before January 1, 2018.

Zlatko has been sidelined since October 24 and the reins were handed to long-serving assistant coach Tenant Chembo who went on a nine-game unbeaten run to guide Zesco to the 2017 FAZ Super Division title.

Zlatko was appointed head coach in February following George Lwandamina's departure for Young Africans of Tanzania a year ago.

His reign started off brightly after winning the season-opening Charity Shield but Zesco later struggled to produce convincing results both in the league and the CAF Confederation Cup.

The highlight came in October with Zesco's failure to defend the Barclays Cup after Napsa Stars eliminated them in the semifinals.

"I can't give you the status now we are going for the break so let people celebrate, but when we have our final year executive meeting, I am sure from that meeting we will decide the way forward," Zesco CEO Justin Mumba said.

"What is important is that Tenant has proved he can do it and he has done it and I must say I am happy for him and I must say congratulations to him."

Chembo had previously finished second twice in charge of Zesco in 2016, when he was in interim charge after Lwandamina's departure, and in 2013 as head coach.

"Tenant is the stand-in head coach and together with the technical committee they now need to look at the squad if we need to reinforce that's their job now and I think they have enough time now in the off-season," Mumba said.

"For Zlatko he played his part his contributed his part and maybe his philosophy didn't just work."



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