



LUNGU MOCKS SOUTH CHIEFS

By Mirriam Chabala

As much as you may not like me, I am still your President, President Edgar Lungu told Southern Province chiefs during a meeting at David Livingstone Hotel yesterday. President Lungu, who is in Livingstone to officiate at the on-going International Conference on Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Quarrying, met traditional leaders in the Province shortly after he landed at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula Airport. During the meeting, a representative of the chiefs assured him that not all traditional leaders in the south hated him.

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Even if you don't like me, I am your President

Theft of cocaine exhibit shows how rotten our society is - Chipimo

By Mukosha Funga

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says the trend of missing evidence is a reflection of how rotten our society has become whereby corruption is tolerated at the top. And Chipimo says it is illegal

to hold suspects for more than 48 hours without any charge. Last Thursday, the Drug Enforcement Commission in Lusaka arrested about 10 Lusaka Magistrates' Court officials in connection with 24kg of cocaine which went

missing last month. The cocaine was an exhibit in a matter in which Sydney Mwansa, Shaibu Likuta and Teddy Matanda are jointly charged with trafficking and are appearing before chief resident magistrate Kenneth Mulife.

According to sources, the cocaine was reported missing after DEC had already called 11 witnesses to the stand. The state told the court that the exhibits had gone missing in August 2018 and investigations were launched although the state proceeded to call other witnesses.

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NDC attacking China to get funding from Hong Kong, claims PF

Story page 4

By Mukosha Funga

University of Zambia lecturers have downed tools in protest against management's delays in paying them their longstanding gratuities, among other things. UNZALARU publicity secretary Moffat Moyo asked lecturers to suspend all classes after a meeting with management this morning. "We have gone on go slow

UNZA lecturers on go slow over low wages

with immediate effect. All classes should be suspended immediately. More information will be given shortly," stated Moyo in a WhatsApp group. And in a memo to notify Vice-

Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba, UNZALARU secretary general Dr Kelvin Mambwe outlined the reasons why the union had resolved to go-slow.

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Ndola Police surround Democratic Party leader and 2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba when he arrived for questioning at C/Belt Force headquarters yesterday

Police warn, caution Kalaba

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

Police on the Copperbelt have warned and cautioned Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba for holding 'illegal meetings' in the province. But Kalaba has told police that he is a free citizen who is at liberty to move, visit relatives and pray at any church of his choice. Kalaba arrived at Copperbelt police headquarters

at 10:05 hours with a number of supporters among them Chipili member of Parliament Jewis Chabi. Kalaba was also accompanied by his lawyer Musa Mwenye. After he was ushered into the police station, officers chased journalists and sympathizers from the premises and cordoned off Buteko Avenue which leads to Ndola Central Police. To page 6



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By Mukosha Funga

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says the trend of missing evidence is a reflection of how rotten our society has become whereby corruption is tolerated at the top.

And Chipimo says it is illegal to hold suspects for more than 48 hours without any charge. Last Thursday, the Drug Enforcement Commission in Lusaka arrested about 10 Lusaka Magistrates' Court officials in connection with 24kg of cocaine which went missing last month.

The cocaine was an exhibit in a matter in which Sydney Mwansa, Shaibu Likuta and Teddy Matanda are jointly charged with trafficking and are appearing before chief resident magistrate Kenneth Mulife.

According to sources, the cocaine was reported missing after DEC had already called 11 witnesses to the stand.

The state told the court that the exhibits had gone missing in August 2018 and investigations were launched although the state proceeded

Theft of cocaine exhibit shows how rotten our society is, says Chipimo

to call other witnesses.

However, a combined team of law enforcement agencies arrested about 10 court officials last Thursday and began to search their houses. Sources at the Drug Enforcement Commission told News Diggers that among those being investigated in connection with the same case were four DEC officers and a magistrate.

And Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia president Peter Mwale alleged that his colleagues were being tortured in detention and wondered why they had not

been charged.

Commenting on the matter, Chipimo observed that the trend of missing evidence in the Judiciary could not be stopped because corruption had become entrenched in society.

"It is going to be very difficult to prevent such things from happening when at the very core of our society, there is no morality. Corruption has become widely accepted as a reality that nobody seems to care much about and you are seeing that the leadership at the very top, having turned a blind eye to blatant and very

clear corruption, and having demonstrated no leadership whatsoever for punishing offenders of daylight robbery, we are seeing it with the 42 fire trucks issue, with the information that has come from the Financial Intelligence Centre report. Now where there has been no action, even where information is available to law enforcement agencies, that leads to a wider sense of impunity because now, at every level, people will feel as if they can get away with doing anything. And so this is not a surprising development, it is not the first time this has

happened, we have to wait and get the full facts, because everybody is innocent until proven guilty, but if in fact something is there to this story, just know that this is only the tip of the iceberg," Chipimo said.

"There is so much that has been going on over many years, you will hear stories of individuals that have been either framed, or where evidence has gone missing, or where samples and exhibits and material that should be used as evidence is sold by officers within these same institutions. There is nothing new about this, the only thing that is new is that now more of this is coming to the surface and it is just a reflection of how rotten to the core this society has become and how we are now widely accepting of corruption because it has been tolerated at the highest levels."

And Chipimo observed that the whole system of administration of justice was damaged at the moment.

"The whole system of the administration of justice is very damaged at the moment. And it's unfortunate but frankly speaking, as soon as somebody is arrested, they should be charged within 24 hours and if they are not charged within 24 to 48 hours, they must be brought before court at the earliest opportunity so that the court can determine whether or not they should be granted bail, their freedom is subject to whatever conditions the court is going to provide. But justice is not really available to the ordinary Zambian...nobody should be held for more than 48 hours before they can be brought, within the shortest possible time, to a court so that the court can determine whether that person can be granted freedom or be charged so that they can be clear about what their legal rights and responsibilities are. So it is unfortunate, we are highlighting a case which is in the public eye, imagine how many young people, how many individuals are being subjected to these very same illegal restrictions and are not being given an opportunity to have their matter heard," said Chipimo.

Meanwhile, on allegations of torture, Chipimo appealed to the Ministry of Home Affairs to look into the matter.

"These are allegations, they need to be looked into, we can't comment exactly on the allegation until we get some facts and that's why it is important that these people are brought before the court so that the court can make a determination as to whether rights have been violated through torture. But if these allegations are true, something must be done, we expect the human rights commission, we expect the senior officials within the law enforcement infrastructure to look into this matter, we expect the Minister of Home Affairs, under whose jurisdiction the police service falls to look into this matter and we also expect there to be a serious review if in fact this is true by the Ministry of Justice," said Chipimo.

And in a statement issued by DEC deputy public relations officer Kamufisa Manchishi, Tuesday, the law enforcement agency asked JAWUZ president Peter Mwale to substantiate his torture allegations.

"The Drug Enforcement Commission has received with concern the allegations by the Judiciary and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) president Peter Mwale regarding investigations into the disappearance of 24 Kg of cocaine which was part of other exhibits in an active case. It should be noted that the case involving theft of the drugs was actually reported by the Judiciary to the Zambia Police and DEC's involvement is to the extent of the resultant offense of drug trafficking arising from the theft. In that regard, it is the Commission's mandate to investigate such a case without fear or favour, including summoning any officers connected to the alleged theft in order for them to be cleared or eventually arrested and presented to court for the due process of the law to take its course. As such, the Commission will only issue full information in conjunction with the relevant security wings involved once investigations are completed in order to avoid jeopardising the case," stated Kamufisa.

"We call on Mr Mwale to exercise restraint and portray behaviour befitting a leader of judicial officers by avoiding to peddle such unfounded allegations. The Drug Enforcement Commission operates on an open-door policy and members of the public, including the JAWUZ president, are free to come forward with any information they might have regarding the disappearance of the drugs in question or the people involved in the crime. We therefore urge Mr Mwale to lodge a formal complaint to substantiate the torture allegations as opposed to making personal attacks on innocent security officers performing their mandate in a professional manner."



Bahati PF MP Harry Kalaba (c) arrives for questioning at Copperbelt police headquarters in the company of Chipili independent MP Jewis Chabi (l) and other sympathisers yesterday

Raised minimum wage poses job security risk to domestic workers, warns CAPIZ

By Mirriam Chabala

Christians Against Poverty in Zambia (CAPIZ) president Gregory Chileshe has warned that a 100 per cent increment in minimum wage for domestic workers will pose a job security risk, as their employers' salaries have remained stagnant.

Government has increased by almost double the minimum wages for workers not represented by trade unions, implying that wages for domestic workers have been revised from K522.4 to K993.60 per month with transport allowance inclusive.

Labour and Social Security Minister Joyce Nonde Simukoko also announced last week that following a consultative process, the highest grade earner under this category would be getting K3, 558.9 effect September 10, 2018.

But in a statement availed to News Diggers, Tuesday, Evangelist Chileshe feared some employers of domestic

worker, like lowly paid civil servants, may not afford to keep domestic workers.

"A 100 per cent increment of minimum wage for domestic workers known as house servants is a very good move, but do not risk the jobs of these servants and maid servants or house cleaners or house keepers; whatever you may call them, by indirectly increasing their salaries or wages when you have not increased your civil servants' salaries first. You also have your servants known as civil servants. How can you jump to other people's servants you did not employ? You have your own servants; increase their salaries and allowances first before you go down to help their servants you did not even employ in the name of protecting them. Does government even know that rentals have gone up due to withholding tax?" Evangelist Chileshe wondered.

"Secondly, you also have ignored helping workers outside government, the private

sector. Have you carried out a survey to ascertain if their companies or employers have increased their salaries and allowances? Have you applied the sector minimum wage across the board? Make sure no servant or domestic worker is fired as a result, otherwise this will backfire, protect them."

Evangelist Chileshe further feared that some domestic workers would face harsher treatment from their employers on account of increased wages.

"And the Labour Minister should not even celebrate that there is any achievement; there is danger there. Domestic Workers will be punished, and maybe treated harshly and used like dogs due to frustration of current economic conditions, like a 50,50 affair now. Will government be there? So increase your people's salaries also to cushion, they are facing a lot of taxes," said Evangelist Chileshe.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Greenwich Institute of Technology Limited has sued the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) in the Lusaka High Court for defamation after accusing them of being a masquerader. Greenwich Institute of Technology Limited is claiming damages for loss of profit, business, defamation, mental strain and anguish, as well as a public retraction and apology. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Monday, Greenwich Institute stated that they dealt in, among other things, the facilitation of trainings for professionals in the form of workshops, seminars and conferences. They stated that in 2015, they came up with the

Greenwich Institute sues EIZ for branding them 'masqueraders'

idea of holding the first-ever Zambia Women in Engineering Conference. Greenwich Institute stated that they approached EIZ, being a statutory body with a mandate to promote the advancement of engineering profession in Zambia, for purposes of inviting it to form a partnership ahead of the Zambia Women in Engineering Conference. They stated that EIZ was thrilled with the prospects of the same and assured them that they would get

all necessary approvals in respect of the same. Greenwich Institute further stated that they went ahead and printed brochures, which were well-received, but they had to be withdrawn at EIZ's instance. "The defendant was thrilled with the prospects of the same and assured the plaintiff that they would get all the necessary approvals in respect of the same. The plaintiff went ahead and printed brochures for the said conference and distributed the same among

institutions. The said brochure was printed in both parties' names. The brochures were very well received, but the same had to be withdrawn at the defendant's instance. This is because the defendant had still not obtained the approvals they had assured the plaintiff they would obtain," the read the statement of claim. Greenwich Institute stated that they decided to host the said conference on their own without EIZ and duly informed them of this position

and further printed new brochures that excluded EIZ. "In fact the defendant helped the plaintiff in distributing the same by sending the said brochures to all female engineers on its mailing list. The plaintiff then sent out invitations to a number of high profile female engineers within the country to speak at the said conference and these invitations were duly accepted with enthusiasm," read the statement of claim. They disclosed that they were

surprised when a number of the said speakers called to verify its legitimacy as EIZ had strongly discouraged them from participating in the said conference. Greenwich Institute stated that despite assuring all the people who made enquiries that it was legitimate, some of the speakers withdrew from the conference due to EIZ's actions. They stated that despite that, they successfully held the conference after replacing the speakers, of which EIZ never attended despite being invited. Greenwich Institute stated that when they sent out invitations for this year's conference, EIZ sent a memo to its members discouraging them from attending the event accusing the conveners of being masqueraders. "All participants withdrew from attending the conference on account of the said defamatory brochure. All monies expended on arranging for the said conference went to waste and did not yield any profit as the result of the same," the statement of claim read further. They now claim for damages for loss of profit, business, defamation, mental strain and anguish, a public retraction and apology in respect of the defamatory memo, compensation for monies expended, interest, costs and any other reliefs.

Brace for El Niño weather, ensure food security, HH urges govt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has urged the government to take seriously the warning from the World Meteorological Organisation, which had forecast a 70 per cent chance of an El Niño recurrence. El Niño is part of a routine climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean rise to above-normal levels for an extended period of time, thereby impacting crop production in affected areas. In a statement, Hichilema who is one the biggest farmers and businessman in the country, said there was need for government to start preparing food security. "The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has forecast a 70 per cent chances of recurrence of the EL Nino weather conditions for 2018 and 2019 season. The purpose of such forecasts is not necessarily to scare people, but to warn World communities especially those with vulnerable and poor economies like ourselves, to brace for eventualities so that we make adequate mitigatory measures to counter the effects of the whether. As we may know, EL Nino causes severe weather conditions that can gravely affect food security in the country and at households," Hichilema said. "It is in view of [the] foregoing that we would like to urge those in-charge of the national resources and the citizens at large to take practical steps in case of the recurrence of the EL Nino conditions. For those controlling national resources, it is important that: 1. They mop up all excess and uncollected maize and other crops around the country at attractive prices to the farmers and place them as strategic reserves. 2. They must avoid at all cost the temptation of exporting maize and other crops as this may affect the strategic food security reserves. 3. We must invest in

better weather monitoring technology and improve our collaboration with experts in the field in order to improve our preparedness for uncertain times. This will also advantage our farming communities and empower them with well informed decisions pro actively. 4. There's need to actively and continuously engage the citizens and equip them in advance with the knowledge and consequences of such adverse weather conditions." He said Zambians must also not relax and rely on government plans, stressing that the PF thrived on last minute fire fighting solutions. "For our citizens, we must: 1. Consider stocking up enough food especially maize at household levels and only sell that which is really in excess. 2. We must consider venturing into drought resistance crops like millet, sorghum and cassava. 3. We must consider diversification programmes at personal level into say livestock. We all know that we have a regime that thrives in dealing in fire fighting and knee jerk measures with the ultimate

purpose of benefiting through corruption. Highly reputable World weather forecast organisations have sounded the warning and like Joseph

of the Old Testament did, we in the UPND have now done our part in warning citizens and those controlling national resources on the

practical measures that must be undertaken to achieve the intended objectives for the benefit of all our people," warned Hichilema.



Religious Affairs and National Guidance Minister Rev Godfridah Sumaili greets visiting vice chairperson of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Archbishop Fridolin Ambango Besungu at State House when he paid a Courtesy call on President Edgar Lungu on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Ndola fire brigade laments water crisis

By Daniel Chansa

The Ndola Fire Brigade says putting out fires has been a challenge the past two months due to no water at the facility. In an interview, Ndola City Fire Brigade chief fire officer Wellington Mulambo said lack of water had seriously affected operations because fire fighters had to first look for a water source before proceeding to where they are needed.

"Yes, there is a challenge of water. We work with water so if there are any emergencies of fire outbreaks, it is a challenge to stop the fire without water," said Mulambo. "So the big challenge is that if there is a fire in the city, we need to go through traffic in order for us to find water in the outskirts of town. We have tried everything but to no avail." He said his office had engaged Kafubu Water and Sewerage

company over the situation but nothing had changed. Mulambo said the situation was dangerous because if nothing changed, the institution would fail to quench serious fires. But Ndola city council town clerk Wisdom Bwalya expressed ignorance over the matter whilst Kafubu Water and Sewerage Company was not available for comment.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza has accused the National Democratic Congress (NDC) of relentlessly fighting China's assistance to Zambia in order to please Hong Kong where they expect to get party funding. And Mwanza says it is unacceptable and irresponsible for any political party to start a xenophobic campaign against the good people of China.

Mwanza was reacting to NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge's statement to News Diggers! in which he said it was clear that Zambia had been sold to China, judging from the Chinese loan projects that were riddled with corruption.

He told News Diggers! in an interview that the relationship between Zambia and China has

NDC fighting China to get funding from Hong Kong - Antonio

been very good, adding that remarks to the effect that the country had been sold to the Asian economic super power only showed the extent of ignorance on the NDC official.

"Mr Mwenya Musenge's statement that Zambia has been sold to the Chinese shows a deep gap of lack of information on the part of Mr Musenge and its a

desperate attempt by Mr Musenge and his NDC so scandalise China in a bid to win kudos from Hong-Kong where they want to be collecting some few coins for party mobilisation," Mwanza said.

"We are aware that Mr Musenge and the NDC have been fighting China in order to please Hong Kong so that they can start

getting financial support from Hong Kong to use to mobilize NDC. Mr Musenge knows very well the relationship between China and Zambia and before I got to those details, I just want to put on record that it is irresponsible and a waste form of desperation for any political leader to start a xenophobic campaign against China

in a bid to get some coins from Hong Kong. It is unacceptable that he wants to raise xenophobic sentiments against the good people of China and to create a wage between Zambians and the Chinese." He observed that Zambia that Zambia was the third largest partner of China in Southern Africa.

"It is not that Mr Musenge even cares about Zambia, he wants to use the fight against China in order to collect some coins from Hong Kong. That I want to tell you that it has got nothing to do with Zambia, it has got everything to do with his personal selfish agenda and the agenda of NDC to antagonize China so that they can get favours from Hong Kong. And that will not work. It also shows that Mr Musenge does not read hence he does not understand things. If you look at Zambia China relationship, you will realize that Zambia was the first country in the Southern region to establish diplomatic ties with China and the good people of China have contributed massively to the development of this country. Zambia is currently the third largest partner with China in Southern Africa and China is Zambia's second largest source of imports," he argued.

"Since July 2014, China has exempted up to 97 per cent of all exports from Zambia. They have been exempted from taxation. 97 percent of all export products from Zambia have been exempted from taxation which goes to China. And if you look at China's non-financial direct investment in Zambia, it is over \$3 billion. Now he talks about the focus which is the China-African Forum which His Excellency President Edgar Lungu attended. Mr Musenge must know that it was 53 African states who are members of China-African Forum who attended this forum and he cannot tell

me that the entire Africa went to China because they are corrupt. China is the second largest economy in the world and everybody is doing business with China, from America to Syria, they are all doing business with China."

He said Chinese debt was the most affordable debt one would ever get.

"In case Mr Musenge doesn't know, America owes China a debt of \$1.1 trillion. And for his own information, the Chinese debt is the most flexible debt that you can get. Not even the debt which you can get from the multi-nationals such as IMF and World Bank, because the Chinese will not give you punitive conditionalities for you to access. They will not ask you for structural adjustment programmes, they will not ask you to reduce your expenditure in the public sector such as education, health and others. Their laws are based on mutual understanding and there are no punitive measures that you get for collecting a loan from China. Secondly, the Chinese loans are the most flexible in terms of payment because these are financial loans which you can go and negotiate in terms of refinancing the debt. And they will be able to give you those conditions which are favourable. And then thirdly, in terms of repayment, the Chinese loans have been very flexible," he said.

Mwanza said there was no corruption involved in the contraction of loans because Zambians were always involved through their representatives in parliament.

"Mr Musenge says that Zambia is being sold to China, I fail to understand how Zambia is being sold to China because the entire world has been doing business with China, they have been getting loans from China and there is no corruption involved when you want to get loans. These are transparent engagements. If Mr Musenge was able to read the Constitution of Zambia, he would have understood how loans are being contracted. The people of Zambia are represented through representation by parliament in the contraction of any loan. And the loans that Zambia has contracted from China have been used prudently to improve the lives of people of Zambia in various projects that Zambia has engaged itself in," said Mwanza.





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President Lungu's relatives must vacate ministerial houses, insists Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu's private secretary Daniel Siwo must vacate the ministerial house allocated to him based on his relationship with the Head of State, National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili has demanded. And Kambwili says Parliament will reject the 30 ngwee Internet tariff because it is an illegal tax which is meant to punish innocent Zambians.

Meanwhile, Kambwili says he will never attend any parliamentary address by President Edgar Lungu on national values because the Head of State is an immoral person who has failed to tame his press aide, Amos Chanda. In an interview with News Diggers! Kambwili urged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and other relevant authorities to see to it that President Lungu's relatives were removed from ministerial houses which

they were occupying illegally. "Recently, I raised a concern over that private secretary (Daniel Siwo) to the President who lives in a ministerial house. I was hoping that the Ministry of Works and Supply would take it up from there. But they can never speak to us over that issue because it's a fact. That boy who lives there is just a private secretary, but because he's related to Lungu, he has been given a ministerial house, and how he was

employed, nobody knows. I still insist that, that boy must vacate that house or Anti-Corruption must take interest to find out who allocated him that house, because that's pure abuse of authority! I am calling on whoever is responsible for his illegal stay in that house to be brought to book as soon as possible. It cannot be business as usual when people are breaking the laws of this country with impunity," Kambwili insisted. "But again, reporting

these matters to the Anti-Corruption Commission is just a sheer waste of time. Just look at what happened when I reported the President and PF for money laundering; what has been done about that? Nothing! So, for now, you can't report such matters because they will not go anywhere. Financial Intelligence Centre Trends Report; what has happened to the culprits mentioned in that Report? Nothing! So, it's just a sheer waste of time reporting these things for now. The only thing we can do for now is just to tell the people of Zambia so that they know how their money is being misused by PF." He charged that President Lungu had become big-headed after acquiring so much power as Head of State. "I want to advise President Lungu; he should know that he will not be in power forever, President Lungu should stop abusing his authority with impunity. Let him take those relatives of his out of the ministerial houses they have been allocated because they are not supposed to be there! That is abuse of authority! I have never heard of any President in the history of Zambia who has held two houses; State House and another house because the President is only entitled to State House and State Lodge. But how he has given himself a third house and leave his relative there and everybody is quiet, nobody understands. That's why I am saying this man (President Lungu) is a danger to this country; he has no respect for the rule of law; he has no respect for anybody! He thinks by being President, he's a small 'god' who should be worshiped. But for some of us, we will never worship criminals," Kambwili vowed. Efforts to get a comment from the Minister of Works and Supply Felix Mutati proved futile as his personal secretary told this reporter that he had meetings. Meanwhile, Kambwili said that the newly introduced 30 ngwee tariff on all Internet calls would be rejected by Parliament. "Anything which is a levy or a tax can only be introduced through the budget, not middle way; that would be illegal. But that man (President Lungu) thinks he's above the law and he thinks by being President he can

abrogate the provisions of the law with impunity. But the day for reckoning will come for him because all what he's doing is being taken note of and when the right time comes, wina azalila (one will cry)! You cannot bring in a tax without adjusting the budget, that thing can only be brought through the budget. Only Parliament has the right to approve levies and taxes. So, we don't know if this tax will be in this year's budget or in the 2019 budget, we don't know because he said, 'it's with immediate effect,' according to what Lungu said, 'it is with immediate effect.' But if it is with immediate effect, then it's illegal! And when it comes in the 2019 budget, we will reject it! We will see what happens after the presentation of the budget, and if it is part of the budget speech or not. If not, then we can look at other avenues to resolve the issue," Kambwili said. Meanwhile, Kambwili, who is also Roan PF member of parliament, said he would not be part of President Lungu's address in parliament as long as the Head of State keeps Chanda as his Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations. "What can you expect from that man? That's a finished politician! It will just be business as usual even this time when he comes to address Parliament, what can change? It will just be all rhetoric! What can he even tell us about national values when his own Press Aide can insult with impunity, but the President still keeps him in the job. I will never attend an address of Parliament by Lungu when it comes to that period of addressing national values. Immediately he comes into Parliament, I will walk out because there is no way he can be talking about national values when his Minister of Religion [Rev Godfridah Sumaili] is quiet about a press aide insulting citizens and castigating people living with HIV, and the President comes to talk about morals, really? State House currently is immoral! State House is just an institution where there is immorality; both in terms of corruption and just national morals," said Kambwili.

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Police warn, caution Kalaba for holding 'illegal meetings'

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

Police on the Copperbelt have warned and cautioned Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba for holding 'illegal meetings' in the province. But Kalaba has told police that he is a free citizen who is at liberty to move, visit relatives and pray at any church of his choice. Kalaba arrived at Copperbelt police headquarters at 10:05 hours with a number of supporters among them Chipili member of Parliament Jewis Chabi. Kalaba was also accompanied by his lawyer Musa Mwenye. After was ushered into the police station, police chased journalists and sympathizers from the police premises and cordoned off Buteko

Avenue which leads to Ndola Central Police station.

Addressing journalists after Kalaba left the police station, Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga revealed that the former Foreign Affairs Minister had been warned and cautioned for holding illegal meetings in the province.

"We called the former Minister of Foreign Affairs honorable Harry Kalaba member of parliament for Bahati in connection with several illegal meetings that he has been holding on the Copperbelt and to the best of our knowledge, there has been no notification of those meetings as per requirement of the public order act. Some of the meetings have been in public and others, indoor meetings and he

has been doing this with impunity so we thought it was important that he be called, and he has been warned and cautioned for the several meetings that he has been holding," Katanga said.

"For example, on 31st August 2018, in Chingola, he held an illegal meeting without notification of police in Luano area of Chingola. Then on 31st August again between 15:30 and 18:00 hours at Park Lodge in Kansenshi residential area, he held a meeting comprising of over 25 people. In Kitwe district on 2nd July, between 17:00 hours and 18:00 hours at the residence of a Mr Patrick Chibeshi, who is his supporter in Luangwa township in Kitwe, he addressed a meeting comprising of 20 supporters. All this, there

was no notification over the intended meetings as per law required. On 20th March around 15:00 hours at the residence of Mr Maleta Kasonde, a former NDC Copperbelt provincial secretary in Riverside, Kitwe, he addressed a meeting which was attended by over 15 people as he made a stop over in Kitwe enroute to Mansa. On 20th July between 16:00 hours and 17:00 hours at plot number 1710, Kalukanya township in Mufulira, honorable Kalaba held a meeting of over 30 people, all these are on record and on 4th February 2018 between 13 and 17:00 hours, honorable Kalaba held a meeting at St Mary's Mission hall of a Catholic Church in Kabundia ward attended by over 50 people. All this, there has

been no notification. And he has been mobilizing the so called Kalaba movement where they have been attending all these various meetings. All these have not followed the law as per requirement."

Katanga said Kalaba had also been attending several church meetings to mobilize his movement. "Equally, this Kalaba movement is not even registered with the societies. It is in this vein that we thought it was important that the MP abides by the law otherwise, they would face the wrath of the law itself. So he has been warned and cautioned, that we are aware about these secret meetings that he has been holding with impunity without following the law. So he is warned that we are

going to arrest him if he continues with the same meetings without following the law. We are aware that it is the citizen's right to hold meetings but these should be done within the confines of the law. Sometimes, under the guise of having attended to some of the meetings at the churches, he mobilizes his team and then thereafter holds illegal meetings without notifying the police," said Katanga.

"During the time that he was summoned this morning, some of his supporters almost caused confusion here which has resulted into two being picked by police and are charged with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace. I will not allow lawlessness in my division as anyone who is going to do so will do so at his own peril. And Honorable Kalaba is no exception. He is expected, irrespective of his political affiliation or standing, to abide by the law. And we expect nothing short of a person of his standing who has held one of the highest offices in the land, that of being a minister of foreign affairs."

But Kalaba told police that he is a free citizen who is at liberty to move, visit relatives and pray at any church of his choice. "I am a citizen and I have a Constitutional right to move, visit relatives and friends and to pray where I wish to pray and these charges are predetermined, I am not saying anything more," said Kalaba after police read out the charges to him.

Even if you don't like me, I am your President, Lungu tells South chiefs

By Mirriam Chabala

As much as you may not like me, I am your President, President Edgar Lungu told Southern Province chiefs during a meeting at David Livingstone Hotel yesterday. President Lungu, who is in Livingstone to officiate at the on-going International Conference on Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Quarrying, met traditional leaders in the Province shortly after he landed at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula Airport. During the meeting, a representative of the chiefs assured him that not all traditional leaders in the south hated him. "Your Excellency, we just want to let you know that in Southern Province, it is not every Chiefs who doesn't like you. We are here to support you and we are here to support the government of the day. We want to work with you, we don't want to be left behind. We appreciate the works that you are doing in this country. We have a lot in our chest your Excellency, but because of time, we would like to

you Your excellency that maybe you can give us time to come and visit you at State House. With these few words, I say thank you," said the Chiefs' representative.

But President Lungu said he did not mind whether or not some traditional leaders hated him because his core mandate was to fulfill the promises his party made to the people of Zambia.

"All I can say is that I am happy you have welcomed here and you are willing to work with me, I am your child. Even as much as you may not like me, I am your President," President Lungu said.

"So really we have to work together and I recognise your authority. Those who don't like me and don't want to work with me... what can I do? We have a duty to provide services to the people of this Republic in North, South, East, West and wherever they may be. That's our duty, so I don't take to heart the fact that some people accept me, some traditional leaders don't want to work with me. I have a duty to reach

out to reach out to the people. If I can reach out to the people through the chiefs, well and good. But if the chiefs ignore me, I will still find a way to get to the people because the people are the ultimate and that's why we are there."

President Lungu told the traditional leaders that not everyone liked them as well.

"So don't worry, we will also take time with the minister so that we go through the tabulations of the issues you would have

loved to us discuss but we are not able to due to time. Then as we get to the future we can arrange a meeting in Lusaka. You can come through quietly, we chat so that we see where we are in terms of service delivery. Even yourselves Royal Highnesses, it's not everyone in the village who accepts that you should be there. But you still provide service to them and attend to their needs because that's what it is and I am not alone in terms of being liked or

not liked, we are all in the same footing 'no that's not the right chief, he's not a good chief' and so on. But you are there, you just put all these things behind you and attend to the needs of the people, and that's what I have learnt to do. So don't worry about me, don't worry about all this. I am your son and I am here to do what the Zambian people appointed me to do, which is providing leadership. So thank you very much," said President Lungu.

UNZA lecturers on go slow

By Mukosha Funga
University of Zambia lecturers have downed tools in protest against management's delays in paying them their longstanding gratuities, among other things. UNZALARU publicity secretary Moffat Moyo asked lecturers to suspend all classes after a meeting with management this morning. "We have gone on go slow with immediate effect. All classes should be suspended immediately. More information will be given shortly,"

stated Moyo in a WhatsApp group. And in a memo to notify Vice-Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba, UNZALARU secretary general Dr Kelvin Mambwe outlined the reasons why the union had resolved to go-slow. "At a special meeting of the University of Zambia Lecturer's and Researcher's Union (UNZALARU), the membership unanimously agreed to go-slow with immediate effect until the following demands are met: 1.

The delayed 2018 negotiations for improved salaries and other conditions of service begin this week; 2. the academic promotions for the year 2018 uses the original template as approved by Council for all academic promotions; 3. that the liquidation of debt as agreed with other stakeholders begins. The union takes great exception with the casual attitude demonstrated by management in handling the above issues," stated Mumba.



Mushrooms, Snakes and Roofs

It was finally Christmas day yet almost everyone in my neighborhood was indoors. It was a rainy morning in one of the Zambia's North-most Towns formerly called Abercorn, now Mbala. It only stopped raining by mid-morning and being bored, I wondered away from home and found myself walking alone between the football field and the basketball court of the nearby Secondary School where my father was the Head teacher, Mbala Secondary school. It was December and school was on recess and thus empty. As I walked along a narrow path avoiding the dew at all costs, my eyes caught sight of a huge white umbrella shaped figure propped between the short grasses. Though startled, I was curious so I got closer only to realize that the white umbrella like figure was actually a huge mushroom. It was literary the size of an umbrella. The largest mushroom I have ever seen to date. Naively excited, I knelt down and pushed my hand underneath until I caught the mushroom trunk. With all my might I pulled and before long I was on my way home with a huge mushroom for an umbrella over my head. It was not raining but I can remember how heroic and important I felt as I walked back home while people looked at me in amazement. My mother was the first I met when I entered our yard, I can still remember her surprised look when she saw me with that mushroom but before my feet grew cold she smiled and asked me where I got that mushroom from. Later that afternoon sneaked out and returned to the place I had picked the mushroom but found nothing, I guess some passersby had helped themselves with what had remained. It was only until the following day that, I learnt that my mother and father were not amused by 'heroic' act of mushroom picking. Being parents, they had restrained themselves from spoiling my Christmas so they waited until the following day before they sat me down and warned me against picking mushrooms. I was told that dangerous snakes and creatures shelter under those mushrooms and when one pushes his hand beneath like I did, it was likely that they would get bite and die. Of course their warning was heeded but for a while.

More than eight years later, my first year of Architecture lecture raced me back in the memory lane to that Christmas day of 1995. Finally I understood why my parents warned me against picking mushrooms. In that class I learnt that those cozy mushroom domes are exquisite homes of creature in the wild. Architecturally, mushrooms are the original inspiration of the concept of our modern day house roof design. All roofs regardless of their appearance have borrowed their functionality from the mushroom. Although the direct adaptation of the mushroom-like roof structure can be seen in African traditional grass roofed huts (insaka), even the sophisticated roofs we see on fancy houses operate under the same mushroom concept. Functionally, a good roof works like a mushroom. Thus a good roof just like the mushroom should be well supported, light weight and should shield things beneath it from weather elements such as rain and heat from the sun, more like the way mushrooms do in the wild. In a country like Zambia where we experience a lot of rain and heat (resulting in high humidity) it is not uncommon to find roofs that fail to perform their functions properly. The three most common problems associated with roofs are leaking, instability and overheating. If these three vices are not properly worked against, they are capable of destroying a beautiful building and everyday millions of kwachas are lost. This is happening simply because people are making roofs that are leaking in the rainy season thus making either the ceiling boards collapse and destroy property or unstable roofs being blown away in the storm resulting in huge costs and losses on the building owners or worse roofs collapsing and killing occupants. Apart from helping enhance the beauty of the house, roofs should function in ways that makes the inhabitants comfortable by not allowing in too much heat in the hot season or too much cold in the cold season. Here are a few tips and lessons on the common types of roof and how they should and should not be applied. MONO-PITCH (Commonly called Flat Roof): this

roof type is comparatively cheap and much easier to construct. It is cheaper compared to other roof types because it uses less quantities of roofing materials and other structural members such as timber or steel trusses or channels. Because of its simplicity, it can be built in a short time and does not required sophisticated skill to mount. Its disadvantages are that since it just slopes on one side the pitch (falling slope) is usually low hence water does not run off easily. This results in making this type of roof prone to leaks. The other disadvantage is that since the angle is usually small, the roof material is closer to the ceiling and thus heats up easily and allows heat into the inside of the building resulting in overheating. That however can be prevented by lining the roof with insulation material. HIPPED ROOF (Commonly called Nigeria Style): this type is generally considered the most stylish, beautiful and less prone to leaking compared to mono-pitch roofs. It has the disadvantages of being comparatively expensive because it uses more roofing sheets and structural members such as timber or steel trusses or channels. Since the building process is more sophisticated, this style requires a more skilled person to build and takes more time to finish. GABLE ROOF: this is the type of roof that is generally moderate in costs as it is generally less expensive than a hipped roof since it uses less materials but a bit more expensive than a Mono-pitch roof in most instances. Its common and strongest advantage is its excellent drainage capacity (when the pitch is high) that makes it more resistant to leaks. It is also relatively easier to build than a hipped roof. Its capacity to have ample space between the roof and the ceiling creates an opportunity for extra storage space. It is essential to understand roofs and know the appropriate roof type for a particular building before it is built. A good roof should be beautiful in appearance, functionally sound and should be durable. Avoid cheap weak roofing materials that will cost you too much in the long run. Building is great investment, do it right. "Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there."

By Stuart Lisulo
Government should increase the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) exemption threshold from the current K3,300 to K4,000 to provide relief to workers, says the Federation of Free Trade Unions of Zambia (FFTUZ). Ahead of the 2019 national budget presentation, FFTUZ president Chingati Msiska has asked government to consider increasing the PAYE exemption threshold to K4,000 to provide much-needed relief to low-income earners. He also asked for revisions in the PAYE rate for the higher income brackets that are currently faced with various taxes on incomes to participate meaningfully in the economy. "FFTUZ is expecting a

PAYE exemption threshold should be increased to K4,000 – FFTUZ

budget that should not only realistically translate into uplifting the living standards of workers and the poor, but also spur transformative growth in the economy. FFTUZ, therefore, proposes an increase in the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) exempt threshold from the current K3,300 to K4,000. The Union feels that the K3,300 exempt threshold is too low in view of the high cost of living as well as weakening purchasing power of the kwacha," Chingati stated in a press statement issued in Lusaka, Tuesday.

"It is, therefore, very important for government to consider providing relief to workers. In addition, whilst acknowledging the economic difficulties the country is in, FFTUZ is concerned that government has continued relying on workers to fund the Treasury by overtaxing them. The Union, therefore, proposes that PAYE rate on those earning between K4,001 to K7,000 should be 18 per cent; from K7,001 to K10,000 to be paying 25 per cent; while those earning beyond K10,000 to be taxed

at 30 per cent." Chingati added that the 2019 national budget should promote local small-scale industries through creation of manufacturing and export processing ones at provincial levels, which could be modelled around the concept of MFEZes. "We propose that the budget should encourage creation of manufacturing zones at provincial level where small-scale industries operating in these zones can be given tax incentives. This would encourage value-addition of produce

at provincial level as well as create employment. For instance, there would be no need for a farmer in Chipata to transport raw soy beans to Lusaka. Government, therefore, needs to make available land and other infrastructure in these zones. Once this is done, farmers would have ready and easily accessible markets, and a lot of youth would be employed as well," stated Msiska. "In this regard, FFTUZ expects the budget to be tailored towards promoting value-addition

in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors." Government has projected to roll out a K84.6 billion national budget next year expected to be supported by increased tax revenues amounting to around K7.4 billion more than last year's budget. According to the government's Green Paper released last week ahead of the 2019 national budget, a total amount of K84.6 billion is expected to be spent in next year's budget, up from 2018's K71.6 billion.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza has accused the National Democratic Congress (NDC) of scandalising China and condemning Chinese debt in order to please Hong Kong so that the opposition party can receive political funding from it.

Whether the PF publicist can prove this allegation or not, is for the NDC to iron out with him, but we are amazed with Mr Mwanza's desire to hoodwink Zambians into accepting the limitless debt contraction from China.

We acknowledge that Mr Mwanza is a great orator. His eloquent debating skills put him at the apex of Zambia's young emerging political think tanks. In fact, currently, there are very few politicians in his generation that can match up to his abilities.

But this is not the same as saying Mr Mwanza is the most honest politician we have in town. Unfortunately, his fluent, articulate efficiency does not translate into sincerity, and, thereby, means nothing more than cheap propaganda.

What mesmerizes us is his ability to speak convincingly about things that he personally doesn't believe in. This is a gentleman whom you can give any topic and instruct to either defend or disagree – whatever the directive, he will argue with his soul.

Listening to Mr Mwanza defending the debt crisis that Zambia is in, you might think that you are listening to a professor of economics. When he goes on radio to defend the exorbitant cost of Chinese projects, like the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway, you may think he is as knowledgeable on the

Antonio is dangerously talented to defend lies

topic as the president of the Engineering Institute of Zambia. Ask him to talk about Zambia's democratic state of affairs, breakdown of rule of law, Mr Mwanza will elaborate better than an average veteran politician you know. Now, that's a dangerously talented human being.

We want to emphasize that Mr Mwanza is very intelligent; we know this for a fact because we have dealt with him when he was still jobless and on the streets with us. We started interviewing him since his days as UNZASU president when he was representing the interests of his fellow students. So, we can testify that the PF are definitely getting value for their money on this young man. It was a good purchase.

But we are concerned about the future of this young man as a politician. We are worried that with every governance debate that comes up, he seems to be sharpening his lying skills. If Mr Mwanza was about to expire soon, we wouldn't be wasting time

writing about him, but he is full of energy and zeal.

In fact, at the pace he is going, we wouldn't rule out a possibility of Mr Mwanza being president of this country one day in future, after his pay masters' influence has faded into extinction. This is what pains us because we seem to be building a lying potential future president.

Even if he doesn't make it that high in his political career, the position he currently holds in the governing party is big enough to influence younger citizens. Mr Mwanza needs to start being truthful now before he turns into a destructive asset at the disposal of a brutal regime.

The good news for him is that he has us; and we will proudly work with him to ensure that together, we identify the lies from his eloquent propaganda. We are committed to this cause because our future leaders need to know now that the generation they will be leading will not tolerate the nonsense that is being tolerated by the elders of

today.

Mr Antonio says Zambians are consulted through Parliament on every debt that government contracts. Which Parliament approved the contraction of a US \$30 million loan obtained from China last week for the rehabilitation of Mulungushi Conference Centre? We are very reliably informed that the Ministry of Finance is hoping to raise as much as US \$8 billion in new loans and financing agreements from Chinese lenders; when did the National Assembly of Zambia sit to approve these loans?

Mr Mwanza knows that the loans government is contracting are not sanctioned by Parliament. He also knows that these loans are putting Zambia in a very weak and vulnerable position, a situation which would lead to loss of valuable national assets should we fail to repay them. But he is arguing in favour of China because that is what his current job demands.

To appreciate Mr

Mwanza's ingenuity in defending things that he doesn't believe in, one just has to rewind the clock a little bit and sit him next to president Edith Nawakwi of FDD, then press play. Each and every topic that he is eloquently defending, he totally disagreed with less than eight months ago.

In September last year, it emerged through Mr Antonio Mwanza that government had defaulted on its commitment to pay LapGreenN Network an excess of US \$382 million in compensation, following a consent judgment order entered into between the Libyan firm and the Republic of Zambia. LapGreenN further threatened that it would soon seize Zambia's assets abroad over the debt, which was overdue.

Below is what Mr Mwanza said, three months before he got a job in the PF to start defending Zambia's debt position:

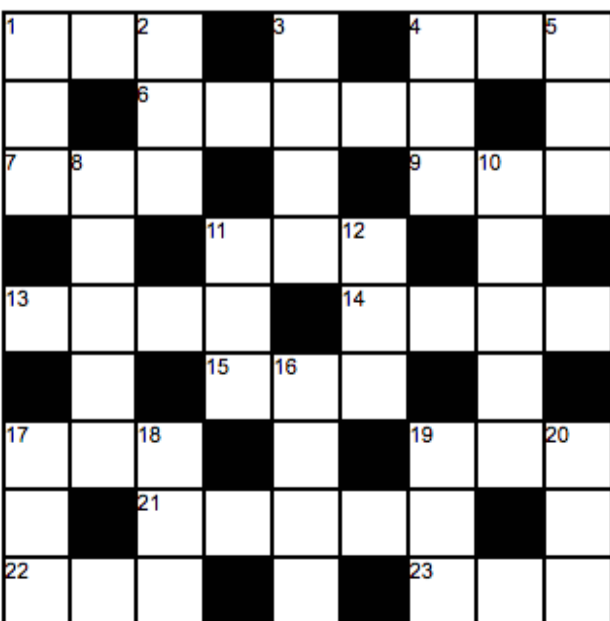
"This issue raises serious questions with regards to Zambia's capacity to repay the ballooning debt that our country finds itself in and

the claims by government that Zambia's economy is recovering. How can one claim that Zambia's economy is recovering when government is failing to meet its statutory financial obligations? The implications of the actions that LapGreenN is about to undertake have far-reaching consequences with regards to Zambia's standing on the global financial market. Eurobonds and other debts are also approaching their maturity repayment dates, and we have a widening fiscal deficit as a country. Does Zambia have the capacity to service the ever-increasing public debt when it is failing to pay such financial obligations as compensation?" Mr Mwanza asked.

"The consequences that we, as a country, are likely to suffer if this matter and the general public debt management problems escalates are too ghastly to contemplate. As punishment for default, capital markets will either impose punitive borrowing rates or refuse to lend at all. And credit-rating agencies will no doubt warn against investing in the country. This issue may appear minute, but it is a serious time bomb that if left unresolved will have serious ramifications on the country's international standing."

That was the voice of 'economist' Antonio Mwanza, before he turned green. Zambians must, therefore, be careful when this man is sweet-talking them into accepting more debt from China; he is dangerously talented to defend lies. It's what he does for a living.

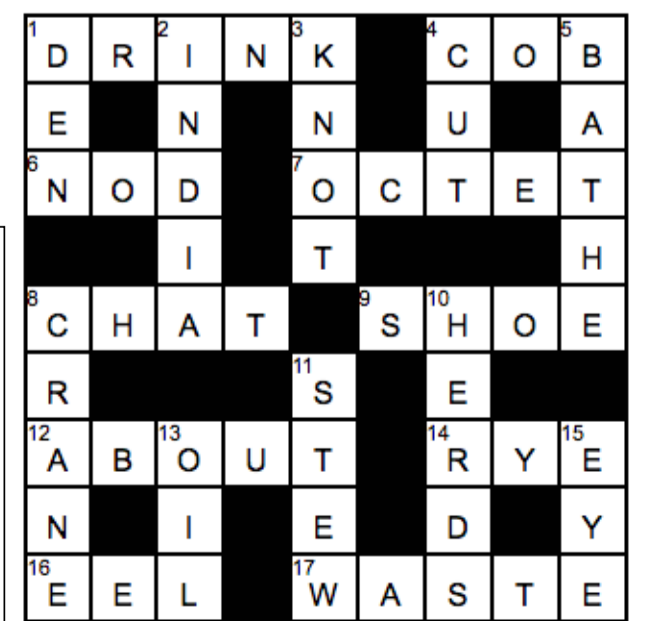
Crossword puzzle 185



"People can do horrible things when faced with difficult financial decisions."
- James Morris Robinson

- | Across | Down |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fake hair | 1. Made by a spider |
| 4. Not in | 2. Practical joke |
| 6. Not just once | 3. Story spanning generations |
| 7. Spongy ground | 4. Single number |
| 9. Indefinitely long time | 5. Malleable metal |
| 11. Blubber | 8. Buyer's proposal |
| 13. Way off yonder | 10. Cream-filled cookies |
| 14. Time to beware | 11. Bushy hairdo |
| 15. Be in the red | 12. Worn around the neck |
| 17. Swimsuit top | 16. Stand in shallow water |
| 19. Letter add-ons, for short | 17. Stern's opposite |
| 21. South Asian country | 18. What we breathe |
| 22. Military conflict | 19. Chum |
| 23. Part of UCLA | 20. Bro's counterpart |

Solutions to puzzle 184



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

CK's declaration on paying back salary, but billing govt

Editor,

"Bill Lungu, not GRZ. We did not assign you to stay in that office illegally, you know who told you to stay in office, you know the

right person." - Banda Brighton

"Just deal with Lungu and not the government!!! Because if you say the government, which means you will deal with the all entire Zambia." - Toriah Sarcky

"Ba CK, this is just political semantics. You know full well that you don't need to pay as long as your corrupt friends remain in office. This issue is almost a non-starter." - John Mufichani

"This is the way to go; mama Nkandu Luo...etc, please follow suit. But the truth be told, this is pure politics. This case is in courts of law, which I know will only be disposed of in 2021 after elections and CK knows that nothing will be done. He's just trying to advance his political strategies to Zambian voters who are easily hoodwinked and manipulated to believe things." - Timothy Mwali

"I will also sue the PF government for misleading me and my family that we will have lower taxes, more money in our pockets on two occasions. Not forgetting the Wi-Fi issue." - Aggrey K Mutakwa

"I remember Hon. Kalaba had prior to his resignation from government also offered to pay back the same monies. So, it can even explain the theories around his resignation that he opted to quit than to give the President the pleasure of sacking him. Today, it's CK going the same route, but my concern and surprise how these two 'PF rebel MPs' harmonise their integrity by clinging to a party they are in bitter rivalry with." - Steven Mazyopa



Sunday's argument defending 30 ngwee Internet tariff

Editor, "Sunday Chanda, this guy will defend anything. Does he know that right now, people can't even afford to buy airtime, just airtime? Most people in this country are already over-taxed and Sunday should know that unless he is from Jupiter, but if he is from Earth, surely, he will get back to us on the 30 ngwee issue with a better explanation. We know Sunday Chanda that, as long he wants to eat, its okay to defend the matter even when it's been imposed on us." - Emmy Kanyembo

"Sunday Chanda is one of the few people I know with bald head who don't make sense." - Chrissy Chuma

"Sunday Chanda! Can't wait to see his fall. He behaves as if there's no tomorrow." - Arthur M Sekute

"I am also flabbergasted as to who accepted this on my behalf; I am afraid these guys will sell us one day." - Gratton Mainza Sinjabu

"This guy, Sunday Chanda, is just good at talking and not action. These are the guys who used to criticize Michael Sata's policies when he was in opposition, while him Chanda his friends like Dora Siliya, they were enjoying MMD's money; today they have changed colours...? Zambians are been over-taxed like I don't know. People are tired of your type of leadership!!!" - Collins Bishop Mwansa

Prof Ndulo's analysis on Deputy Chief Justice breaching judicial code of conduct

Editor,

"Great, Prof. At least I am learning crucial things; a renowned author and lecturer at Cornell University." - John Hankwanga

"What a tutorial. Thanks, Prof. All the books you have written are recommended in law class, but awfully not available in our bookshops. Can you kindly see to it that they are readily available?" - Haggai Gondwe

"Good lecture from the intellectual of law." - Kelly Kay Kalaba

"This is why the late president Sata suspended those judges whom he found wanting. Political expediency is a dangerous cocktail that can even poison our democracy." - Joseph Chisenga

"Clear indication that people in charge of Judiciary are unable to understand the law. This means justice cannot be delivered accordingly if those charged with responsibilities to ensure law is applied fairly are in front to breach the law like in a case of a legally-filed petition against the election Edgar Lungu as President. During that time, as required by law, he was to step aside until the case was disposed of by the competent court, which he failed to abide. On the other hand, the Speaker also failed to perform his duty during the proceedings of the legally-filed petition." - Ceteris Paribus

Russia launches biggest ever war games

Russia on Tuesday launched what it has called its largest ever military drills, with hundreds of thousands of Russian troops taking part along with Chinese soldiers in a massive show of force that has rattled the West.

The week-long war games dubbed "Vostok-2018" (East-2018), "have kicked off" in far eastern Russia and on the Pacific Ocean, the defence ministry said in a statement.

It released video footage of military vehicles, planes, helicopters and ships getting into position for the initial stage of the drills.

The drills, which include the Chinese and Mongolian armies, have been condemned by NATO as a rehearsal for "large-scale conflict".

President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend Vostok-2018 after hosting an economic forum in Russia's far eastern city Vladivostok where his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping is one of the prominent guests.

The military exercises come at a time of escalating tensions between Moscow and the West over accusations of Russian

interference in western affairs and ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

The Russian army has compared the show of force to the USSR's 1981 war games that saw between 100,000 and

150,000 Warsaw Pact soldiers take part in "Zapad-81" (West-81) -- the largest military exercises of the Soviet era.

But Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said these exercises are even larger, with 300,000

soldiers, 36,000 military vehicles, 1,000 planes and 80 warships taking part in the drills.

"Imagine 36,000 military vehicles moving at the same time: tanks, armoured

personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles -- and all of this, of course, in conditions as close to a combat situation as possible," Shoigu said.

The Russian army is rolling out all of its latest additions for the

event: Iskander missiles that can carry nuclear warheads, T-80 and T-90 tanks and its recent Su-34 and Su-35 fighter planes.

At sea, the Russian fleet is deploying several frigates equipped with Kalibr missiles that have been used in Syria.

Wednesday will see games featuring anti-aircraft technology, while the main event will be on Thursday, the defence ministry told journalists covering the event in eastern Siberia.

NATO said that Vostok-2018 "demonstrates Russia's focus on exercising large-scale conflict".

"It fits into a pattern we have seen over some time -- a more assertive Russia, significantly increasing its defence budget and its military presence," the alliance's spokesman Dylan White said late August.

Last month, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia's "ability to defend itself in the current international situation which is often aggressive and unfriendly to our country is justified, essential and without alternative".

Relations between Russia and the West declined sharply in 2014 with Moscow's annexation of Crimea and the subsequent conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The Kremlin has also accused NATO of expanding westwards and threatening Russian national security.

Moscow has increased the number of its large-scale military exercises in the Caucasus, the Baltic and the Arctic in recent years.

Russia's previous military exercise in the region, Vostok-2014, was almost half the size, with 155,000 soldiers participating.

The country's war games in Eastern Europe last year, Zapad-2017, saw 12,700 troops take part according to Moscow. Ukraine and the Baltic states said the true number was far bigger. **AFP**



China's textiles factories are among those looking to relocate abroad to avoid US tariffs. **AFP**

Nigeria gas tanker explosion kills dozens

At least 35 people were killed and hundreds injured when a gas tanker exploded in northern Nigerian state of Nasarawa and started a blaze, the state emergency agency said.

The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) official said on Monday the accident happened at a petrol station along the Lafia-Makurdi road linking the capital city of Abuja with northern and southern Nigeria.

Usman Ahmed, acting director at SEMA, said the truck exploded at the point of discharging

the gas, citing a witness account. The agency was investigating the incident, he said.

"We have confirmed 35 dead and over a hundred injured. Most of those that died rushed to the accident spot to see what was happening," Ahmed told Reuters news agency.

Nigeria's Senate president, Bukola Saraki, in a Twitter post called the explosion "horrific" and said he met with survivors.

He offered prayers for families who lost relatives.

Traffic accidents are common in Nigeria, where roads are bad and safety standards poor. Many gas dealers operate mini-depots in Nigerian cities with no strong measures to regulate their activities, leading to frequent explosions.

At least nine people were killed in the country's commercial capital of Lagos in June when a petrol tanker caught fire and burnt 53 other vehicles.

In January, 10 people died in a blast in Magodo in Lagos state. **ALJAZEERA**

Extreme weather events were a leading cause of global hunger rising last year, with women, babies, and old people particularly vulnerable to the worsening trend, a UN report said Tuesday.

Increasingly frequent shocks such as extreme rainfall or temperatures, as well as droughts, storms, and floods, helped push the number of undernourished people to 821 million in 2017, it said.

That figure, equivalent to about one in nine people globally, was up from 804 million in 2016, according to the annual report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World".

"The number of people who

Climate extremes 'key driver' behind rising global hunger - UN

suffer from hunger has been growing over the past three years, returning to levels that prevailed almost a decade ago. Equally of concern is that 22.2 percent of children under five are affected by stunting in 2017," said the document.

Low- and middle-income countries, in particular, were harshly impacted by ever-more frequent climate extremes.

"Africa is the region where

climate shocks and stressors had the biggest impact on acute food insecurity and malnutrition, affecting 59 million people in 24 countries and requiring urgent humanitarian action," the report said.

Trends were also worsening in South America.

"If we are to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, it is imperative that we accelerate and scale

up actions to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods in response to climate variability and extremes," it added.

While floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events have always occurred, scientists say global warming is boosting the frequency and severity of such events. In countries where conflict and climate shocks coincide,

the impact on food insecurity was even more relentless, the report said. Nearly 66 million people worldwide required urgent humanitarian assistance last year.

Syria, where agriculture is one of the few sectors to have survived the seven-year war, saw its harvest hit by rising temperatures and drought. Already down 40 percent from pre-conflict levels -- from 4 million tonnes to

around 2.5 million tonnes --, Syria's cereal production "will suffer a new reduction" this year, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's director of emergencies Dominique Burgeon said.

"Syria has seen a problem of seasonality, quantity and distribution of rainfall, and these factors combined have led to the overall weakening of the agricultural sector," he told AFP by phone.

Yemen has suffered an even worse fate, with 35 percent of the population undernourished, Burgeon said, making the war-torn nation home to the world's "most acute food crisis today".

AFP

Sven to experiment in Gabon friendly

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandebroek says he is more interested in seeing every player playing than in the final result of the friendly game against Gabon. Sven justified the need to give each player game time and said he wanted to see if the players had picked principles and tactics he inculcated in them. "I want to use this friendly to see if players picked up new principles from last week's training sessions. It is also a game where I will try new faces and see whether they fit well or not so every new face will be given game time. Maybe not 60 minutes or more but around 30 minutes. I would also want to see if the new faces that got introduced late in the game against Namibia can be part of the long term development plan for the team," Sven said. Coach Sven also applauded the players' ability of responding quickly to what he directs them to do both on and off the pitch. He also made a subtle comparison with his former team, Cameroon, that he coached. "The players have good discipline and do things just as instructed. For example, after this long flight from Ethiopia, they gave me 100% commitment to our one hour long training without complaining. Also on the comparison with Cameroon, Zambian players are more tactical and intelligent while the Indomitable lions are more physical and use a lot of power," Sven noted. Querried on team discipline and the release of Emmanuel Mbola from the squad, Sven said team discipline was more important than one individual. "The disciplinary action in the team is not my sole responsibility but everyone's. Mbola was impressive in the training sessions we had but one needs more than that to be a team

player so we let him go. There are other faces you will not see during the friendly because their clubs requested they are excused early because they will be playing Champions League games on Saturday, the TP Mazembe players. The other one, Mulenga was excused because he became a father and needed to be home," said Sven.



EDEN UNIVERSITY

Public Announcement

6 TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Council and management of Eden University is pleased to announce to the general public that our 6th Graduation Ceremony will take place from Friday, 28th September to Sunday, 30th September 2018 at the University in Barlastone Park- Lusaka.

Guest of Honor



This year's graduation ceremony will be graced by Prof. Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, who is an Advocate of the High Courts of Kenya and Tanzania. He is One of Africa's most eloquent and finest legal minds. Prof. Lumumba is recognized as one of the best orator and public speakers in Africa, He is a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jnr award and a recognized leading litigator in constitutional law and judicial Review Cases.

- The Graduation rehearsal involving the Graduating class, Faculty and Administration will be on 28th September.
- Graduands are encouraged to clear with all departments before the dates set for graduation proceedings (28th September to 30th September) to avoid inconveniences.

Registration of photographers and individuals wishing to sell snacks and non-alcoholic drinks will be undertaken at the Public Relations Office between 24th to 26th September, 2018



For further details:
 Registrar's Office:
 211 843535/ 0979 362646, 0977 794995, 0955 710812

NAPSA BEATING RELEGATION

By Alex Chilumbwe

Three consecutive wins including a 2-0 away victory against Monze Swallows on Sunday have seen a change of fortunes for NAPSA Stars who were battling relation a few weeks ago. Sunday's win saw the team elevated to 15th position on the league standings with 31 points, a feat that has put NAPSA's coach Mohammad Fathy in a boastful mood. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Fathy could not hold back his excitement at the improvements that he had made to the team which he described as tremendous. "I have made tremendous improvements to the team and they are evident in the way they are playing now. When I first joined the team, I found a very relaxed spirit among them as if they were not struggling. Even in instances where they were scored, they changed the tempo of the game almost too late. But now you can see their hunger to score and win games, their defence has improved

and also the shame of being relegated is giving them more hunger for maximum points. Their performance in the past three games has been great," Fathy said. NAPSA's ascension has condemned National Assembly football club to the relegation zone, also with 31 points but with an inferior goal difference. Asked about his general overview of the Zambian super league in comparison to the South African one, Fathy applauded the Zambian talent and added it simply lacked proper organisation. "Zambian teams are far much more talented than the players in the South African super league or cups. Take the ABSA challenge for example,

every Zambian player in there is doing great. We are just lagging on

proper organisation in Zambia and it could be because sponsorship does

not come easy. There is a lot talent here and am sure even neighbouring

countries can say the same about Zambian football," said Fathy.



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