



President's interference in Judiciary angers governance stakeholders

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ELECT - LAZ

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LAZ president Eddie Mwitwa speaks during the OSISA/News Diggers Public Discussion Forum at Southern Sun Hotel on Tuesday evening - Picture by Tenson Mukhala

UPND throws weight behind Kalaba, condemns intimidation

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka has

condemned Zambia police's warn and caution statement to Bahati PF member of

parliament Harry Kalaba saying he is a free citizen who is at liberty to engage his supporters.

We love Lungu, clarifies Southern Province Chiefs

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And Mucheleka says his party will soon be hitting the ground to familiarize itself with its party structures and that no one should intimidate them. To page 2

Lungu fires Police Criminal Investigations Director Shula

By Mukosha Funga
President Edgar Lungu has forcibly retired Zambia Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID)

Director Webby Shula. Shula who also once served as late president Michael Sata's aide-de-camp (ADC) was retired in

national interest this week and replaced by Senior Assistant Commissioner Michael Nsofwa, who has since been promoted to the rank of deputy commissioner of police.

Katanga threatens to lock-up Chieftainess Lesa

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News Diggers! has learnt that Shula had a tiff with Director of Public Prosecutions Lillian Siyunyi over some criminal investigations which he was superintending over. To page 5

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Low compliance levels on borehole registration worries WARMA

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The compliance levels on borehole registration has been very low since the Statutory Instrument (SI) on ground water regulation was introduced, says Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) compliance and regulations manager Alexander Chomba. And Chomba has clarified that the K250 borehole tax is a one-off fee. Chomba told News Diggers! in an interview that since the SI was introduced in March, 2018, only 3,451 boreholes had been registered so far. "The compliance level in terms of borehole registration is still very low. You can imagine, if we are to go maybe, Chalala, we have maybe, 5,000 households there, meaning we have more than 5,000 boreholes in just Chalala alone. And if we were to go to Meanwood Kwamwena, Meanwood Ndeke, Meanwood valley, all those have boreholes there, and they are in thousands. So, in terms of compliance, I think it's very low at the moment, but maybe, you know how [we] Zambians behave, maybe people have been waiting for last minute to come and start registering their boreholes. And that last minute is just 30th of September. We cannot say for now [that there will be any extension of the deadline] maybe when we reach 30th that is when maybe we can think and try to maybe extend, but for now there is no extension," Chomba said. "So far, from the time that the SI was signed on the 7th of March, we have registered boreholes of 3, 451. These are already existing boreholes. Now, you know that the SI talks about individuals like yourself to apply when you are drilling a new borehole since we have this SI in place.

So, the applications that we have [for someone] to drill a borehole are 2,349 and the rejected applications, these are applications to drill a borehole. From all the applications that we have received, we have rejected about 20 applications due to various reasons, sometimes not fulfilling the WARMA conditions; sometimes, you go to an area where someone wants to drill a borehole and we discover that maybe it's near the grave yard or near the septic tank or so many various reasons. So, we have rejected about 20 of those." He explained the acceptable parameters required for drilling boreholes. "And the pending applications to-date is 60, those are the

ones that we are processing, which are yet to be approved because normally what happens is when you apply to drill a borehole, then we will send our inspectors to go out there in the field to make sure that where you are drilling a borehole there is maximum adherence to the parameters that we've set, like maybe 30 metres from the pit latrine or septic tank; 500 metres away from the grave yard; 30 metres away from any garage

or any filling station or fuel storage, so all those are the parameters," he narrated. Chomba also said 84 out of 88 applications borehole drillers had been licensed. "Now, when it comes to licensing of drillers, we have received so far 88 applications. Out of the 88 applications we have received, we have granted 84 [and] these other four have not yet fulfilled the conditions to be granted a license to go and do business. So, sometimes,

we will send the papers back to them and give them enough time to make sure that they fulfil the conditions then they can still come back. So far, they are only four," he added. And Chomba clarified that the K250 borehole tax was a one-off fee. "The fee is a one-off payment. When you come to WARMA and you have a borehole and register that borehole, you will only pay K250 for the lifetime of your borehole. It's

not a monthly charge; it's not a yearly charge, no. It's just a one-off. In the SI, it is talking about units, and in those units that's where people have been making mistakes because in units it's 833.333. Now, you remember there is also an SI that translates those units into kwacha. One unit is equal to 0.30 ngwee [and] so if you multiply 833.333X 0.30 ngwee it gives you about K249, which we are just rounding off to K250," explained Chomba.

Allow Kalaba to mingle freely with supporters, UPND tells police

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka has condemned Zambia police's warn and caution statement to Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba saying he is a free citizen who is at liberty to engage his supporters. And Mucheleka says his party will soon be hitting the ground to familiarize itself with its party structures and that no one should intimidate them. On Tuesday, Copperbelt Police recorded a warn and caution statement from Kalaba for holding what they termed as illegal meetings in the province.

But in a statement, Wednesday, Mucheleka described the action by police as harassment. "The UPND wishes to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the harassment of Harry Kalaba by Zambia Police on the Copperbelt for simply exercising his rights of movement, association, assembly and free speech. We also deplore the police action of summoning and issuing of a warn and caution statement on Hon. Harry Kalaba, who's a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bahati MP, and a respected member of our community. We understand Hon. Kalaba was being

warned and cautioned for merely peacefully engaging his supporters, something we believe is within his rights," Mucheleka stated. He stated that the action by police demonstrated the PF's continued intimidation and police harassment on the rights of innocent citizens. "This incident, like many others before, demonstrates, once again, what we have been saying that, the PF leadership does not believe in democratic co-existence where citizens can freely, peacefully and openly enjoy their rights and freedoms without political intimidation and police harassment. It is

these issues that the PF are running away from fully engaging in the dialogue process, which would have gone a long way in addressing and ironing out all the thorny issues that are denting the democratic credentials of our country," Mucheleka stated. He also questioned the silence of the Zambia Centre for Interparty Dialogue (ZCID) as well as the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on the matter. "The deafening silence by organizations like the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue (ZCID) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is not unexpected

and surprising. It shows and confirms how toothless, ineffective and compromised they are in handling common matters affecting our country. Why should it honestly require police notifications, which is now treated and qualifies as police permits, for political leaders to merely interact with their supporters and mobilise their structures on the ground? On the other hand, the PF leadership, at various levels, are busy traversing the breadth and length of our country, buying UPND councillors and engaging their structures on the ground without any police notifications," Mucheleka complained. And he stated that his party would continue holding meetings and visiting its structures because it was their constitutional right. "As UPND, we shall not accept this injustice in our country and by virtue of this statement; we want to inform the nation that, our party president Hakainde Hichilema and other senior party officials will be immediately hitting the ground to visit our structures and engage our citizens as a way to fully appreciate the suffering they are going through under the corrupt PF leadership. Hon. Harry Kalaba committed no offence and we shall not be committing any offence by visiting our party structures and peacefully engage our citizens around the country," stated Mucheleka.

We all love Lungu – South Chiefs

By Abraham Kalito

Southern Province chiefs' spokesperson Chief Chikanta says there is no traditional leader in the area who does not like President Edgar Lungu, insisting that all are committed to work with his government to enhance development. And Chief Chikanta says cases of child marriages in his chieftom have declined tremendously following sensitization campaigns that were targeted, mainly on perpetrators. On Tuesday, President Lungu said that even though the chiefs did not like him, he was President. "All I can say is that, I am happy you have welcomed me 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," the Head of State said in Livingstone when he met Southern Province chiefs. Commenting on the statement, Chief Chikanta laughed it off saying all the chiefs actually love President Lungu.

"(Laughs). No, I don't think there are any chiefs in the province who do not like the President. We all love President Lungu. It's not true. No, it's not true that there is a chief here who does not like the President, (laughs). Whether one likes him or not, he is the President of the Republic of Zambia, but the point is that, there is no chief here who does not like the President. And as chiefs, we are actually obliged to work with the government of the day. And we will work with the Patriotic Front government to deliver [their] developmental agenda that the country needs," Chief Chikanta told News Diggers! in an interview. And he said child marriage cases in his chieftom have declined tremendously following sensitization campaigns that were targeted mainly on perpetrators. "The fight against child marriages is on-going. We have made tremendous improvement. We actually still have a programme where we are sensitizing people on the dangers on early marriages. We are

sensitizing people, both in the villages and in schools, about child marriages, gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS, all those are on-going programmes. And, yes, child marriage [cases] have improved tremendously following these sensitization campaigns. Sometimes, it's a question of lack of awareness. When people are actually aware that this is a crime so to say," observed Chief Chikanta. "So, when they are told of the bad or the wickedness of the vice of child marriage or gender-based violence, they start to stay away from such issues. We are seeing people themselves creating awareness about the vices and the message has spread. A lot of people are aware and do not want their child to be married at an early age. The target, mainly, was the people who had the tendency to marry children who are of a tender age, and because we have the message delivered to them, child marriage has reduced tremendously."

Revised minimum wage may lead to job losses, warns CSPR

By Mirriam Chabala

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says the revised minimum wage might lead to job losses and undermine its objective of increasing people's disposal income because it was not done in line with economic fundamentals. On September 10, 2018, government's revised upward minimum wage for domestic, shop and general workers in the country took effect, following the issuance

of statutory instruments No. 69 of 2018 covering domestic workers; statutory No. 70 of 2018 covering shop workers and statutory No. 71 of 2018 provides for general application of all protected workers. Minister of Labour and Social Security Joyce Simukoko, who announced the revision of the minimum wage, disclosed that domestic workers would now receive a gross salary of K993.60 from K522.40, while minimum wage for

grade one shop workers and general workers has risen from K1,132 to K1,698.60. Simukoko warned that employers would face the wrath of the law if they failed to pay the new structure of remuneration, saying the revision of the minimum wage was long-overdue as the last revision was only done in 2012. But commenting on the matter with News Diggers!, CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano noted that the minimum wage revision

did not take into account robust economic simulations and was rather arbitrary. He argued that the revision was not done in line with economic fundamentals and might lead to job losses, while undermining its objective of increasing people's disposal incomes and reduce poverty. "CSPR fully supports the need to revise the minimum wage upwards as a measure to tackle the increasing cost of living. But we are concerned that the current revision was not

done in line with economic fundamentals and might lead to job losses and undermine its objective of increasing people's disposal incomes and reduce poverty. It's not arguable that the cost of living in Zambia has drastically increased since the last minimum wage revision in 2012, whilst incomes remained static or grew at a sluggish rate, hence eroding disposal incomes and making standards of living of most Zambians, especially those on the lower income brackets,

unbearable. It is, therefore, justified that government revises the minimum wages to be able to deal with inflation over the years. CSPR is, however, concerned that this revision did not take into account robust economic simulations and was rather arbitrary," Nshindano said. "The best way to deal with inflation is to ensure that there is match or higher wage growth, which should be supported by growth in national productivity. Of biggest concern to CSPR is that the Zambian economy has not fully recovered from the 2015 slump and continues to grow at a sluggish pace and any growth in wages should be supported by economic productivity; failure to do this would result in a shift in the structure of labour characterised by retrenchments in a bid to maintain lean structures that match to output. This could undermine efforts to create jobs and fight poverty." Nshindano called on government to ensure that it put in place domestic economy stimulating measures, which could range from fiscal to market-oriented incentives to support enhanced productivity and growth in wages. "As CSPR, we had categorically submitted to government that they needed to ensure that due diligence was done before setting the minimum wages informed by robust economic simulations in terms of impact, which we doubt was undertaken. However, given that the revision has been undertaken, we call on government to ensure that they put in place domestic economy stimulating measures, which could range from fiscal to market-oriented incentives that will support enhanced productivity to support growth in wages," said Nshindano. "Further to this, we note with concern that Zambia continues to have one of the lowest labour per capita productivity, which undermines economic growth and also discourages the setting up of industries due to high labour costs in comparison to other countries. This may lead to businesses moving labour intensive industries to other regions and use Zambia as a mere trading centre, hence exporting the much-needed jobs. In this vein, we call on Zambians to also adopt a positive attitude towards work and ensure they match per-capita productivity to wages. Job creation is one of the key measures towards poverty reduction and government needs to ensure that it focuses on the broad fundamentals of stimulating domestic private sector growth to support both the numbers, but also the quality of the jobs, which includes, among other things, level of wages."



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The British High Commission will be holding Chevening roadshows in Mansa and Kasama on 11 and 13 September respectively. More details will be published on the High Commission's Facebook page, UKinZambia.

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Please note that the Chevening scholarships have no age limit and female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

For more information, please visit the Chevening website: www.chevening.org/apply or contact the British High Commission in Lusaka on +260 211 423200 or email MwilaMipango at Mwila.Mipango@fco.gov.uk
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Exhibits, files will keep missing from court until Judiciary challenges are addressed - WK

By Mukosha Funga

Former Justice Minister Wynter Kabimba has warned that if Zambia does not deal with the root causes of problems in the Judiciary and police, very soon it won't just be exhibits going missing, but complete files. In an interview, Kabimba, who is now Rainbow Party leader, lamented that the Commission of Inquiry on Judicial Reforms had gone into oblivion since he was fired as Justice Minister. He observed that the said commission was very important as it would have helped to identify and solve some of the challenges that were building a crisis in the Judiciary. "You know, there was a judicial and legal reforms commission which was set up during the time I was Minister of Justice by the President headed by former Supreme Court judge Honorable Mr Justice Fredrick Chomba. The idea of that commission of inquiry was to recommend reforms in the judiciary, the prisons service and the police because these three institutions work in tandem, they coordinate. And we saw these problems, one of the things that I came across, sadly, which broke one's heart was how appeals for inmates pending for as long as 10 years from the time that somebody is convicted in the High Court and they appeal to the Supreme Court. And I wrote several letters to the former Chief Justice saying that we can't have a criminal justice system in this state. So we set up that commission of inquiry so that things like what you are talking about now could be dealt with so that people can come forward and say this is what is wrong, and this is how this can be fixed," Kabimba said. "I am saddened to note that since I was dismissed from government, since the demise of Michael Sata on the 28th of October 2014, I have hardly heard about that commission of inquiry. I don't know whether it has continued, I don't know whether the appointments were revoked by the sitting president now, nothing has happened. In fact, what was heard more was that useless commission of inquiry that dealt with electoral violence when we all knew the genesis of political violence during elections. And the Fredrick Chomba Commission of Inquiry was completely ignored. This is the problem in our country is that programs are attached to those that initiated them without looking at the underlying principle and the benefit that such a program would bring about. So if the Fredrick Chomba Commission of Inquiry had proceeded to conclude its findings and submit the report

to the president, then what you are talking about would not have happened. Because there are a lot of problems in the Judiciary, there are a lot of problems in the police, there are a lot of problems in the prisons service but you will find that the projects that have to do with reforms in all these departments are bring driven by donors and not by us the owners of the country and the people that run government." He observed that there was too much pettiness among leaders such that progressive projects were halted on account of being engineered by someone who had fallen out of favour with the state. "There is need to render support to the Fredrick Chomba commission of inquiry to enable it to conclude its work. I have no idea what happened to that commission, maybe you can raise it with the current Minister of Justice. I have completely no idea... We can't ignore these problems or wish them away and we can't continue to attach programs to individuals, which programs are national and they are intended to serve this country and the generations to come. This level of pettiness is what is killing our country," Kabimba said. "This culture of exclusion, that those of us that are not part of government are totally irrelevant, is what is throwing us into this dungeon of confusion and where we are just looking like jokers to outsiders because there is no continuity. You must cultivate a culture of continuity, that is how all countries have development." He warned that soon, whole files would go missing from the courts if these issues were not addressed. "So the issue of motivation of workers in the judiciary, in the police, in the prisons service is paramount. Issues of corruption in all these institutions and these other institutions is paramount. Once you have exhibits missing from the Judiciary, it tells stories about the state where we are and how do we fix that problem, you don't fix it only by making arrests, you fix the problem only by looking at the causes, not the symptoms of that problem, then we shall be making problems otherwise now we shall move from exhibits to complete files going missing. And the consequence of that, people will lose confidence in the judiciary, they will lose confidence in the police, they will lose confidence in the National Prosecutions Authority and we will become an empty society," Kabimba warned. He said it was high time Zambia started implementing locally-driven,

meaningful judicial reforms. "When I worked as Minister of Justice, I found there was a project there within the Ministry of Justice, something to do with judicial reforms, there was also a parallel project going on within the police and the prison service which ended up with a change of name to correctional facilities, which is nonsense! You can't change the name and call it correctional service when

the whole department is still running as a prison service. What is it that has changed in our prison service system other than a change of name? You still have inmates that are clammed in small spaces like animals, you still have sanitation facilities that are deplorable, you still have an environment of contagious diseases flying through the roof, you still have people contracting STIs within the prison, you

still have prisoners being fed on food that must be given to dogs, to animals when they are in that place," said Kabimba. "But because the donors have given you the money, you change. That is where the problem is as I see it and I can speak from a position of privilege having served in government. We as Zambians do not take up a third of this country in our hands and stand

up to solve our problems even with the little resources that we have. For as long as we don't originate programs ourselves and tell the donors, 'this is what we want', for as long as cabinet meetings are just about peripheral issues and not issues of substance, and this is what I saw myself, all these issues of governance will be collapsing one after another if they haven't yet done so."

NIPA student gets 5 days for marijuana possession

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a 24-year-old male student of the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) to five days imprisonment with hard labour for unlawful possession of psychotropic substances, namely 0.4 grammes of marijuana. And Magistrate Judy Chiyaika has warned the convict, Chiza Chilanga, to change his ways, saying if found with drugs in future, he would be sent to the High Court where the offence carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. Particulars of the offence in this matter were that Chiza Chilanga, on August 27, 2018, in Lusaka, did possess psychotropic substances namely 0.4 grammes of marijuana, a herbal product of cannabis sativa, without lawful authority. Chilanga had last week admitted to the charge, saying the drugs were meant for smoking. He had, however, admitted that he had no lawful authority to possess the said drugs. When the matter came up for sentencing before Magistrate Chiyaika's court, Wednesday, Chilanga said in mitigation, through his lawyer, that he had faced a lot of stigma and marginalisation, especially from his fellow students, which had been torturous. He added that if given a chance, he would grow into a better citizen. "He is in his early twenties; if given a chance he can be rehabilitated to grow into a youthful citizen. As a mark of his remorse, he pleaded guilty to the charge without wasting the court's time. The 0.4 grammes found on the convict was meant for his use, though unlawful, and not meant to be trafficked to another person. He has faced a lot of stigma and marginalisation, especially from his fellow students. This has been torturous," Chilanga, through his lawyer, said. And passing judgement, Magistrate Chiyaika sentenced

Chilanga to five days imprisonment with hard labour. She warned him to change his ways, saying if found with drugs in future, he would be sent to the High Court where the offence carried a maximum sentence of 10 years.

"I have taken note of the guilty plea and you deserve leniency. However, the offence is on the increase, especially among students, and there is need to deter would-be offenders. I sentence you to five days imprisonment with hard labour

with effect from today. This should be your turning point because in future if you are found with drugs you will be sent to the High Court where this offence carries a maximum of 10 years," ruled Magistrate Chiyaika.



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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Chieftainess Mwape of the Nsenga people of Eastern Province has dragged 12 subjects to court for conspiring to remove her as the duly-gazetted and recognized chief.

Chieftainess Mwape is demanding for a declaration that she is duly elected saying her subjects' actions have caused her considerable grief, stress and had brought her name into disrepute.

She has sued Gerald Mulowa as first defendant; Grace Phiri; Catherine Mulowa-Tembo; Abelina Njobvu; Belia Mulowa-Daka; Falesi Phiri-Tembo; Charles Sakala; David Mulowa; Diana Njobvu; Naomi Phiri-Simfukwe; Malita Zulu; Dinah Zulu and Vainess Zulu-Daka.

In statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court,

Chieftainess Mwape sues 12 subjects for conspiring to remove her

Tuesday, Chieftainess Mwape stated that she was a corporate sole and duly-gazetted Chieftainess of the Nsenga people of Nyimba District in Eastern Province, having been recognized under Statutory Instrument No. 124 of 2003, on October 17, 2003, by the late President Levy Mwanawasa. She stated that the first defendant, Gerald Mulowa, was a subject of her chiefdom though not resident in the chiefdom, who was now holding himself out as Chief Mwape. Chieftainess Mwape stated that the defendants were subjects of her chiefdom

though the third, fifth, eighth and tenth defendants were not residents in the chiefdom and had purported to constitute themselves as the Mwape Royal Establishment.

She disclosed that on July 24, 2018, the defendants met and conspired to remove her as duly-gazetted and recognized chief of the Nsenga people.

Chieftainess Mwape stated that the defendants purported to appoint the first defendant to act in her position and proceeded to inform her that she neither had the backing of the community nor the

so-called Mwape Royal Chieftainess Establishment. She further stated that defendants further informed the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, among other relevant government institutions, of their purported decision to remove her as Chieftainess. Chieftainess Mwape stated that the defendants had been frequenting her palace to demand for meetings with her, without notice or agenda, and had sought to cause confusion in her chiefdom.

"The defendants have been frequenting the plaintiff's official palace to demand

to hold meetings with her, without notice nor agenda, and have generally sought to cause confusion and strife within the chiefdom and to destabilise her. The first defendant threatens and intends, unless restrained by the court, to continue to hold himself out as Chief Mwape, while the rest of the defendants, together with the first defendant, continue to illegally hold themselves as the Mwape Royal Establishment," read the statement of claim.

She further stated that the actions of the defendants do not even have the blessing nor support of the

headmen and indunas of the chiefdom.

Chieftainess Mwape lamented that the actions of the defendants had caused her considerable grief and stress and had brought her name into disrepute.

She now claims for a declaration that she the duly-constituted and gazetted Chieftainess of the Nsenga people, a declaration that the actions of the defendants to appoint the first defendant as Chief Mwape are null and void, an order of interim injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with her duties as Chieftainess Mwape, damages, costs, and any other reliefs the court may deem fit.

Mumba's conviction shows weakness in systems to fight corruption – TIZ

By Joseph Mwenda

Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) says the conviction of MMD president Nevers Mumba is a clear demonstration of

how weak the systems of governance and internal controls are in the country.

Dr Mumba was convicted by the Lusaka Magistrates Court, Monday, on three

counts of abuse of authority of office but has been granted an absolute discharge on mitigation

In a statement, TIZ Chapter president Rueben Lifuka

said Mumba's conviction would not necessarily act as a deterrent but instead demonstrates how public officials are abusing the authority entrusted to them

by virtue of their offices.

"Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) wishes to express its deep concern about the continued abuse of entrusted authority by public officials. The conviction of Dr Nevers Mumba is a case in point. This should not be looked at as an isolated case, it speaks to the weakness of the systems we have in place as a country to address the issue of corruption, especially in the form of abuse of authority at the highest levels. Even now, we have public officials abusing the authority entrusted to them by virtue of the offices they occupy. We have a very weak sanctioning environment as a country that can deter abuse of authority. This is not the first we have seen someone being convicted for abuse of office and we feel that cases such as Dr Mumba's may not necessarily act as a deterrent," he said.

"The delays in the investigations, prosecution and final disposal of such cases do not serve well at all to stop this vice. We have been categorical on such cases and our take is that there should be a systemic process that will help us fight corruption and abuse of office and not going by it selectively. A holistic systemic approach to fighting the abuse of office existing in many public institutions will be more meaningful and will yield better results than individual arrests which in most cases don't even result in convictions. As TIZ, we do

not take pleasure in seeing people going to jail, but on matters involving abuse of one's office for private gain, we strongly condemn and feel our society needs to have leaders who demonstrate good leadership and plant good seeds of integrity, accountability and transparency and also lead by example."

Lifuka wondered why Mumba was convicted without a befitting sentence that could not deter would be offenders.

"Therefore, in welcoming the conviction and judgement passed on Dr Mumba, we would like to echo the sentiments passed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that even when we welcome the court ruling, we are worried by the sentence handed to him which we strongly believe will have little or no impact on would be offenders serving in various capacities including those serving in similar positions that were once held by Dr Mumba. We further urge the media to not always wait for such convictions to write stories on abuse of office, but research and bring out the bigger picture of the plundering of public resources happening in various public institutions. This is not a story in itself; the issue is about the weakness of our systems which allows for such abuse of office. This should be the topic that we should be addressing and which we are challenging the government to address."

Lungu fires police criminal investigations director



By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu has forcibly retired Zambia Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID) director Webby Shula.

Shula who also once served as late president Michael Sata's aide-de-camp (ADC) was retired in national interest this week and replaced by Senior Assistant Commissioner Michael Nsomfwa, who has since been promoted to the rank of deputy commissioner of police.

Although his retirement letter did

not state reasons for his unsolicited retirement, News Diggers! has learnt that Shula had a tiff with Director of Public Prosecutions Lillian Siyunyi over some criminal investigations which he was superintending over.

"CID director is in charge of all criminal investigations the whole country. So his retirement, or rather dismissal sends a shock wave in the [police] service because this could mean more than what is just on the surface. Already, there is the aspect of the issues between him and the DPP which are suspected

to have triggered this decision," sources told News Diggers.

"There seems to have been some disagreement over a matter that Shula and his team was investigating, which the DPP took interest in because it involved some dirty police officers within the system who apparently were accused of stealing exhibits in form of money from an Indian businessman. So you can't say that his handling of this case is the reason for him being retired, but that is the only matter that one can reasonably connect to his dropping."

By Mirriam Chabala

Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president Eddie Mwitwa has warned Zambians to be careful with the people they elect as their representatives to the National Assembly if they want to have good laws in place.

Meanwhile, emotions flew high during the public discussion forum organised by News Diggers! in partnership with OSISA when some members of the audience expressed displeasure over PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza's presence at the high table.

Responding to questions after delivering a keynote speech, Mwitwa observed that problematic laws could only be amended by the National Assembly, hence the need for citizens to be careful whom they voted for.

"As Zambians, we must constantly recall and act on our resolve to uphold the principle of democracy and good governance, that will ensure our values relating to family, morality, patriotism and justice are maintained and that all functions of the state are performed in our common interest. As a people, we also have the power to provide checks and balances over our government and elected representatives through the ballot. That is why it is important for us to choose representatives that are able to selflessly protect our interests as members of parliament and that is one of the greatest powers and privileges the constitution has given to the citizens of this great nation. As citizens, we need to do our part in promoting separation of powers by claiming our rights and demanding good governance. In Article two, the constitution stipulates that every person has the right and duty to defend the constitution, this duty is not a preserve of the lawyers or the judges, it is a duty of every citizen through our representatives as inhabitants of our God-given nation," Mwitwa said.

Be careful who you elect - LAZ

Siwale questions legality of the ConCourt

New Labour Party (NLP) leader Fresher Siwale was among those who rose to add his voice to the discussion, charging that the Constitutional Court bench was in breach of the constitution on account that they did not qualify to be in that position.

"Mr President, in your discussion, you have alluded to Article 2 of the Constitution. But it is a duty and right of every citizen to defend the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia. Also, the law states that 'every citizen must resist any manipulation of the law'. Now the question I have for you and the law fraternity is that in its current form, is the Constitutional Court a competent body of jurisdiction? Why I say so is that Article 141 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia is very clear on the qualification of judges and it clearly states '15 years experience in practice of Constitutional Law and Human Rights'. And all the judges on the bench of the Constitutional Court do not meet this minimum requirement of the Constitution. What it means is that all the judges have breached Article 141 of the Constitution. The law is very clear, a person who breaches any Article of the Constitution overthrows the entire Constitution. Now, if all the judges of the Constitutional Court have overthrown the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia, which Constitution are they interpreting?" Siwale asked.

In response, Mwitwa noted that Siwale had accurately quoted the Constitution with regards to the qualification of ConCourt judges but hastened to add that he could neither confirm or disagree with the allegation that the current bench was in breach of the law.

"The qualifications of the judges of the Constitutional Court, unfortunately this is a matter that we were consulted on by Parliament and made our submissions and I am precluded from divulging our position here. But I think you will recall, Mr Siwale, that one of our members, State Counsel John Sangwa did express the same misgivings that you have expressed, he wrote to the Republican President and I think his letter was circulated to the public. But the appointments were done and from what I read in the Constitution, you unfortunately cannot remove the judges of the Constitutional Court on any grounds, other than the ones that have been stated (i.e a judge must either be mentally or physically misfit) and it's not me stating, it's the Constitution. And the other unfortunate part is that when judges are appointed, we are stuck with them until they turn 65 years and choose to retire or they go on up to 70 years. So the judges that were appointed..." Mwitwa explained as Siwale chipped-in, asking the LAZ president; "Mr President, are you confirming that they were appointed outside the law?" But Mwitwa responded in the negative.

"That is not what I am saying

Sir," Mwitwa said.

Siwale was in the process of interjecting when moderator Kwenda Pipe guided him to allow Mwitwa to express his views without interruption.

"Mr Siwale, I have read the Article and I do agree with you that what you said is what it says. But the question of whether or not the judges were appointed outside of the law, that is not for me to say unfortunately. But I agree with the difficulty that you have expressed because... and this is a difficulty we have with our Constitution, we have a Constitutional Court which is a final court. It is a court of original and final jurisdiction. So if you go to the Constitutional Court today and it says something on a matter, you've got nowhere else to go, you cannot appeal and the situation you have alluded to, if you are going to challenge a constitutionality of the appointment of a judge of the Constitutional Court, which court are you going to go to? You probably have to go to the same Constitutional Court. So the only thing I have to say Mr Siwale is that that's a matter the courts have to determine themselves," Mwitwa explained.

Lawyer wonders why LAZ can't challenge Attorney General over U-turn on ministers' stay in office

A Lusaka lawyer, McQueen Zaza asked Mwitwa to explain if he felt there was any integrity in Attorney General Likando Kaluka's position regarding the court case involving the illegal stay of ministers in office after the dissolution of Parliament.

This was a follow-up question to People's Party leader Mike Mulongoti who had asked how important issues to do with integrity, morality and ethics were in the legal profession.

"In the law profession, is the issue of integrity, morality and ethics important? We have seen the chief government advisor, the Attorney General give advice to the government on a position and later on he somersaults to go on the other side to defend. Is integrity and morality important in the legal fraternity? As Chairman of LAZ, I would want you to guide me and help me to understand why you are silent over the conduct of the chief legal advisor to the government who advised the ministers to vacate offices when Parliament was dissolved and then later on when they went to court, he went to defend the same, that's conflict of interest," Mulongoti asked.

But because it appeared Mwitwa did not understand Mulongoti's question from his response, Zaza interjected and challenged Mwitwa to explain why LAZ was scared of taking the matter to court. "The point is not you taking the matter to court, it's the opinion he gave government. That opinion was given to the public and I am part of the public. The Attorney General went and said the ministers were not supposed to continue being office, you cannot now go and start defending the same people, that was wrong. That's just the thing. And I have engaged several lawyers in LAZ that they should take up this

matter but they are scared, I don't know why we are scared. He's just a lawyer, yes he's the leader of the Bar but he's just a lawyer. The thing is that he was wrong, he was supposed to leave that matter to the Solicitor General because he had already given an opinion. We are not saying that he's going to lose or win that's not our point. But him even going to insist that the ministers should not pay when he had given an opinion, that was wrong. That's my personal position, he was wrong," said Zaza.

In response, Mwitwa encouraged Zaza to take up the matter with the courts.

"Wow, I can only say I respect my young brother's view on the matter and I am encouraged that we have courageous young men like him. If he intends to take up that matter to court, the courts will decide but like I said, Mr Mulongi has given us food for thought and I am grateful for that," Mwitwa said.

We're being governed by the PF constitution - Dr Hamalengwa Zambia Open University acting Dean of School of Law Dr Munyonzwe Hamalengwa asked Mwitwa to explain if at all his institution had ever challenged the constitutionality of the country's governance, charging that the PF was ruling the country using the party's constitution instead of the country's.

Dr Hamalengwa also noted that the PF had been dismissing civil servants and retiring others in national interest on tribal lines.

"I have read the Constitution of Zambia, it appears that we are running government by the PF constitution. Mr Mwitwa has LAZ ever decided to challenge the constitutionality of our governance because we are not governed by the Constitution of Zambia?" Dr Hamalengwa asked.

In response, Mwitwa asked Dr Hamalengwa to specify which provisions of the PF constitution he felt were being used to govern the country.

"Thank you Doc, I must confess that I have not read the PF Constitution and because I have not read it, I can neither deny nor confirm what you have said. But what I would request perhaps for you to do Dr is maybe to highlight the provision of the PF constitution that the government is using as opposed to the constitutional provision as contained in Cap one. I think if we are specific, it would be easy to address these concerns. So I would invite you back if you don't mind to specify which provisions of the PF constitution the government is relying upon as opposed to the constitutional provisions of the Republic," Mwitwa requested.

To page 7

Katanga threatens to lock up Chieftainess Lesa

By Daniel Chansa

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga has warned that Chieftainess Lesa of the Lamba speaking people in Mpongwe will be arrested for inciting violence.

Katanga said Chieftainess Lesa should stop using her "criminal ways of doing things" to create anarchy in Mpongwe.

The threat follows a land dispute between Chieftainess Lesa and Chief Mwinuma where it has emerged that

the Chieftainess allegedly instructed her subjects to go and set ablaze a house belonging to the rival chief.

And Katanga revealed that a headman from Chieftainess Lesa is in police custody, charged with arson. Addressing journalists in her office, Katanga said the law would not be used selectively regardless of who was involved.

"Chieftainess Lesa will be warned against threatening violence which is creating anarchy in the area.

She has elected to use the criminal way of doing things. The chief is no exception and she will get the wrath of the police, me and the law," Katanga warned.

She also identified the arrested headman as John Chala, 78, of Mwanga village in Chieftainess Lesa's chiefdom.

"John Chala, 78, a headman of Mwanga village in Chieftainess Lesa's chiefdom on September 9, 2018 in the company of other

unknown persons did allegedly acting on instructions from Chieftainess Lesa burnt to ashes a house and other property in a bid to halt a meeting which was scheduled to be addressed by chief Mwinuna," said Katanga.

Katanga said the police have also identified the vehicle which was used by the assailant in executing the crime.

She said Chala would not be released until he appeared in court.

By Abraham Kalito

UPND secretary general Steven Katuka says his party will ensure that the Patriotic Front government is made to account for their promises to resolve all challenges affecting members of staff and students at the University of Zambia (UNZA).

In a statement to News Diggers! in Lusaka, Wednesday, Katuka demanded that the PF government pays lecturers and researchers all contractual obligations dating as far back as 2010, and negotiate for 2018 conditions of service immediately.

"We find it unfortunate that Edgar Lungu is busy travelling around the world with a big entourage when citizens are suffering. We challenge Lungu to stop being a tourist

Resolve UNZA impasse, pay lecturers' arrears, UPND tells government

and concentrate on the problems facing institutions like the University of Zambia. Lungu has destroyed all the sectors of the economy! The University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers Union (UNZALARU) is making meaningful demands, which

any sane leadership should take seriously. As UPND, we fully support the demands by UNZALARU. What Lungu and his PF do not know is that failure to resolve the UNZA problems facing lecturers and researchers will trickle down to the students whose academic

calendar will be adversely affected. We know that PF does not value education, but they should at least show some sanity in the way they address concerns raised by UNZALARU," appealed Katuka.

"We demand that PF

government pays lecturers and researchers all contractual obligations dating as far back as 2010. We further demand that negotiations for 2018 conditions of service commence with immediate effect. It is our considered view that the tool for promotions

that was earlier developed be used instead of the current one that has been falsified by management. Why is Lungu failing to clear outstanding bills at UNZA when his government is busy buying expensive vehicles and awarding big contracts to some Chinese companies to do high cost road construction? We demand that Lungu explains why he is also failing to finance research at UNZA. We wish to challenge Lungu to show some sanity in the way he is running the country. We know that he has no vision, but some things can easily be done. We further wish to assure UNZALARU that the UPND will ensure PF is made to account for their promises and resolve all challenges affecting members of staff at UNZA, including the students."

President's interference in Judiciary angers governance stakeholders

From page 6

Dr Hamalengwa obliged and gave examples to substantiate his concerns.

"The first example I can give you is the appointment process. The PF constitution specifically says that it will only appoint members of the party. Now it basically means that the judiciary and other members who are appointed to any position must be members of the party, that's a clear violation of the constitution and it's not good governance because the constitution provides for good governance. If you only appoint cadres and party members to the judiciary, then that's not good governance. It's clear violation of the constitution. We know and I can confirm that as we are speaking right now, many people are being displaced from the civil service because of their tribe. That's contrary to the preamble of the Constitution where there should be no discrimination. It's a proven fact that in the civil service, some members of the Zambian community, citizens are being displaced. Whereas the preamble talks about equality, no discrimination on the basis of race, tribe, ethnic origin and other grounds but the displacement of the civil service from the Office of the President is discrimination and it's totally unconstitutional," said Dr Hamalengwa.

In response, Mwitwa encouraged him to challenge the matter in court if he had evidence that the current regime was displacing people based on tribe.

He said it was important for people to exercise their rights to be heard in court as opposed to making

allegations without taking any action.

"I think the issue that Dr Hamalengwa has brought is a serious one and my response to the first question as to whether we as LAZ have challenged the governance of our nation through the PF constitution, my answer is no. That is not something we have done and part of the reason is because, like I said I haven't read the PF constitution, but I have read the Republican Constitution and what I said in my presentation was that we as citizens have a duty to defend and protect this Constitution. So if there is any evidence that we have that this is happening, the Constitutional Court is available to handle such grievances and our appeal as the Law Association of Zambia is that we need to desist from making allegations and leaving them there. We must take these matter up with the courts, it doesn't help for us to complain without exercising our right to be heard by the courts, let's test this constitution and let's test our courts," Mwitwa said.

Antonio's presence at high table causes outrage

News Diggers! invited Mwanza to sit at the high table with Mwitwa in place of Northern Province Minister Brian Mundubile who is also chairperson for legal affairs in the PF Central Committee, who did not make it for the event; but some of the members of the audience did not take kindly to this decision, wondering why a party cadre was also addressing them.

Mulongoti said it was not right that Mwanza was also at the high table.

"With due respect, please understand, I have nothing against Mr Mwanza he is my colleague. But I do not expect him to sit there in front when I was expecting to see the people from the legal fraternity to talk to us. In all fairness, please let's not do this. In PF, there are ministers and all those other positions, but how can you just bring a party cadre here? No thank you!" complained Mulongoti. News Diggers Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda then explained why Mwanza had been invited to take the front seat.

"I would like to state that we are the ones who invited Mr Antonio Mwanza to come, he came as a member of the audience but we had actually passed on an invitation, through him, to the Patriotic Front Chairperson for legal committee (Brain Mundubile), we also extended an invitation to the Minister of Justice and other government officials. However, they were unable to come. But we thought that seeing Mr Mwanza here, he could actually be able to respond to some of the questions, other than having a one-way traffic situation. And please, this an open discussion forum, it's not a press conference for the Law Association of Zambia to give their opinions, we would like to hear the views of other participants as well. The only thing we could appreciate is if honourable Mulongoti would like to also be on the high table, we would be very glad to have him on the high table. We have more chairs here, it really doesn't matter where Mr Mwanza is seated, he was still going to be allowed to express himself even if he had sat in the audience. But he is



Members of public listen to Law Association of Zambia president Eddie Mwitwa as he speaks at a public discussion forum organized by News Diggers! In partnership with the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) AT Southern Sun Hotel on September 11, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

here to represent honourable Brain Mundubile, so please just tolerate him for the evening," said Mwenda.

Felix Mutati's MMD national secretary Raphael Nakacinda also expressed his displeasure, advising News Diggers to be more sensitive on the choice of panelists.

"I would like to first commend News Diggers for having these public discussion forums and giving us an opportunity to discuss national matters. But I think it is important for you to take note of the observations made," said Nakacinda.

Later during the discussion, Lusaka lawyer McQueen Zaza observed that people were only apprehensive about Mwanza's presence because the PF had adopted the PIG (Party and Its Government) model of governance.

"It is very unfair for this forum to remove Antonio Mwanza from being a member of the public, he is also a member of the public.

Therefore, he has the right to air his views. Whether those views are attributed to PF or not, those are his views. The problem I think we are having in this country is that the issue that is called the PIG. That is what is making people apprehensive. You can't be having people like Amos Chanda explaining policy. That guy called, what is his name, the boss to Antonio Mwanza, explaining policy. We can't have that! That is what is making people apprehensive. Otherwise, there is nothing wrong with Antonio Mwanza expressing his views," said Zaza.

Mwanza then thanked News Diggers! for inviting him, ceased the opportunity to defend the PIG concept.

"I want to respond to the issue of the PIG (Party and its Government) because I am one of the people who have been told that we are not supposed to talk about any policy because we are not policy experts, because we

don't belong to government, we belong to the party PF. But I want to remind the audience that the government that you have a PF government made by the PF political party, implementing PF policies as outlined in our 2016-2021 manifesto. We are the ones that make the policies, the people that sit in Cabinet are PF members appointed by a PF President sitting as a Republican Head. All the civil servants, it doesn't matter your degrees, you are there to make sure that you implement the policies of the government of the day, which is the Patriotic Front government. So it must be made very clear that there is no conflict of interest and we have the interest to sit hear and deal with matters to do with government because we are the government of the Republic of Zambia," said Mwanza.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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"Yesterday shocked the whole world, it shocked Zambia that the court overturned the decision of the Registrar of Societies," said former foreign affairs minister Harry Kalaba after his Democratic Party won a deregistration case in the High Court last week.

He added: "They surprised all of us with what they did. For me this is a huge milestone in implementing the confidence in the judiciary. The courts have told us that both the weak and the power are equal before the law. Really for me, I celebrate this judgment because it's a huge milestone not only in our democratic dispensation but also in instilling confidence in the judiciary."

Well, it is time for Mr Kalaba to celebrate because one judge has demonstrated true independence from external influence. But we would like to warn the opposition leader not to be fooled into thinking that the courts will be there for him when it matters the most.

While Mr Kalaba is dancing and singing "Jesus is Lord", we would like to draw his attention and that of other interested Zambians to another judge who has stunned the world with a contrary shocking decision. Today we would like to talk about the letter of complaint against UPND leader Mr Hakainde Hichilema to the Chief Justice, and the subsequent response from Acting Chief Justice Marvin Mwanamwambwa.

A Lufwanyama resident Henry Chilombo complained that while in South Africa, Mr Hichilema accused Constitutional Court judges of being corrupt, a claim which the complainant found contemptuous. But it was the response to this letter that has puzzled legal brains.

"The procedure on contempt of court was that, it is the prerogative of the court or adjudicator attacked or insulted to have the culprit

Justice Mwanamwambwa does not hate HH, but he knows the buttered side

summoned and charged with contempt. In this particular case, it was the Constitutional Court that was attacked and insulted. Thus the Constitutional Court judges are aware of the attacks and insults, but for unexplained reasons, they did not charge the culprit with contempt of court. In essence, it is not for the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice or the Supreme Court, to make an inquiry into the matter. In fact, the matter does not need an inquiry because evidence is already there," responded learned Justice Mwanamwambwa upon receiving the complaint, and on behalf of Chief Justice Irene Mambilima.

American-based Zambian Professor Muna Ndulo could not resist questioning the judge's ethical rectitude and respect for the settled tenets of due process. He noted that justice Mwanamwambwa's response was strange because it gave a verdict without due process of the law, thereby breaching the principles of judicial conduct.

"The task of judging implies a measure of autonomy which

involves the Judge's conscience alone. Therefore, judicial independence requires not only the independence of the judiciary as an institution from other branches of Government; it also requires judges being independent from each other. In other words, judicial independence depends not only on freedom from undue external influence, but also freedom from undue influence which might in some situations come from the actions or attitudes of other judges," commented the Cornell University Law lecturer.

Prof Ndulo could not have put it any better. Judges are not fashioned to hold the same opinion on a given case. That is the basic reason of having more than one judge in the courts of appeal. This is the reason why Constitutional Court and Supreme Court judges sit in odd numbers so that in an event of a split decision, the majority verdict holds. No one deserves to be influenced by the opinion of another judge.

But, there is nothing about all these arguments that justice

Mwanamwamba doesn't know. The learned judge has not come from ZIALE today for anyone to teach him legal ethics; he already knows everything there is to know about professional conduct. He knows that him being a superior judge, his opinion means that if Mr Hichilema was charged with contempt on this matter, the Constitutional Court would be expected to deliver nothing less than a conviction.

Since Prof Ndulo doesn't live in Zambia. We will assume the responsibility of informing him about the political maneuvers happening in his country, to which Justice Mwanamwambwa seems to have subscribed.

Since the 2015 presidential election that ushered in President Edgar Lungu, there has been a relentless desire by the ruling Patriotic Front to rid the opposition. It has been the PF's agenda number one to completely obliterate the UPND, or at least remove Mr Hichilema from the helm of the opposition party.

In 2015, Mr Davies Chama who was PF secretary general

then, said Zambia would be better if it returned to a one party state; and he went further to declare that by 2021 PF would make sure that there would be no opposition. The next thing we saw was a maneuver by ruling party stooges to change the Constitution so that elections would be held every 10 years - arguing that five years was too short a term for any meaningful development. But they ran out of time.

When the PF faced Mr Hichilema in the 2016 elections, they were terrified. They knew that their chances of winning the election were slim, and indeed they had to manipulate, abuse the electoral process to emerge victorious. The PF doesn't want a repeat of that experience. They cannot afford to take that risk again, so they have redeemed the agenda to get rid of competition.

When the treason charges failed to break Mr Hichilema in 2017, the PF moved to the next plan in line - change the Constitution to limit the number of times a person can contest the presidential

elections. That too seems to be a failed scheme, as it seems to have been rejected by the international community that funds Zambia's elections.

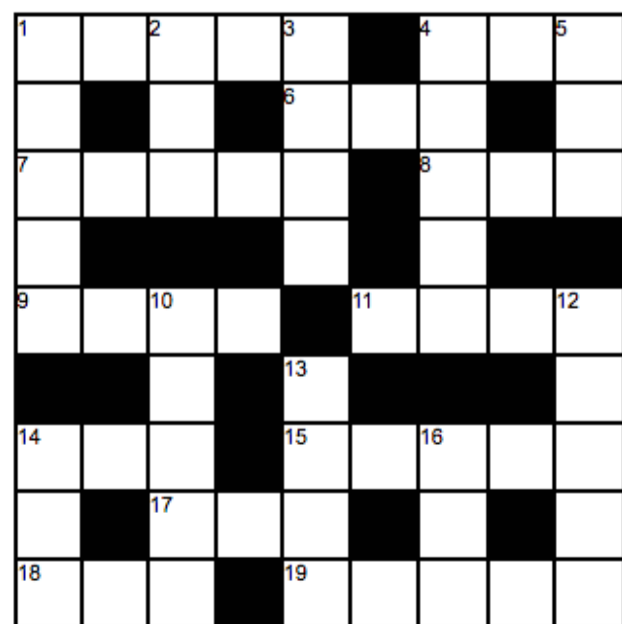
This agenda is what brings Justice Mwanamwambwa into the picture. We can bet our lives in argument that the Lufwanyama resident who wrote the letter of complaint about Mr Hichilema to the Chief Justice is not acting alone. In fact, we doubt that he actually wrote the letter himself.

Our conclusion is that the PF is now looking for an offence which they can use to stop Mr Hichilema from participating in the next general elections. After observing that the UPND tolerated the State to jail their leader on trumped up charges without revolting, the PF want to push it a little further and ensure that Mr Hichilema is locked out of the next electoral process.

We didn't need to be rocket scientists, prophets or even magicians to know that the PF was sponsoring the Lufwanyama resident to initiate a new wave of attack on Mr Hichilema towards this goal. The lightning speed at which the ruling party moved to advertise that complaint in newspapers, together with its favourable response from the Deputy Chief Justice, said it all. Any doubts about this were erased by the immediate supplementary articles in support, written by the leadership of another PF surrogate organization called Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

So, here we are Prof Ndulo. Do not be surprised by the conduct of Justice Mwanamwambwa because he was not expressing his professional ignorance in that unusual response to a complaint from an uninterested political nonentity. Rather, the learned Deputy Chief Justice was simply identifying the buttered side of his bread.

Crossword puzzle 186



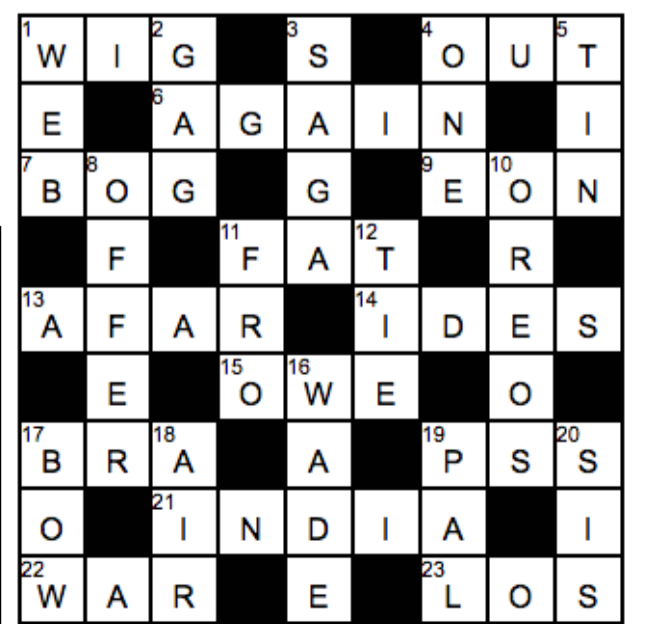
"The premise of the Taker story is 'the world belongs to man'. ...

The premise of the Leaver story is 'man belongs to the world'."

- Daniel Quinn

- | Across | Down |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Billy goat feature | 1. Bat both eyes |
| 4. Stereo component | 2. Become unwell |
| 6. Steal | 3. Bit of rain |
| 7. Snow block house | 4. Residence |
| 8. Not in | 5. Fido or fluffy |
| 9. Go-___ (small racer) | 10. Primed |
| 11. Agreement | 12. Like some gravy |
| 14. Battery size | 13. Froth |
| 15. Render weaponless | 14. Aardvark snack |
| 17. Clunker | 16. What we breathe |
| 18. Plaything | |
| 19. Apologetic | |

Solutions to puzzle 185



Reader's feedback

Antonio's insistence on Zambians accepting Chinese-funded projects

Editor,

"Mr Mwanza, my brother, with due respect, just accept that, the leadership you're in is programmed leadership. By the way, if you say Zambia has no money to do those projects who is going to pay for those debts? Don't insult Zambians for your political mileage. Zambia has money BUT you're failing to manage it." - Sage Mule

doing a job meant to make them earn money will pump in US \$400 million and expect a return that's less than their investment. Stop taking weird drugs, please!" - Clint Sitali

"How can the country have money when: 1. PF and your so-called Lungu are recklessly misappropriating the nation's funds? 2. You are busy buying new vehicles for ministers. 3. Buying opposition to join your useless party. 4. Creating unnecessary by-elections. 5. Buying bicycles for your cadres. 6. Your boss travels every day out and side the country wasting tax payers' money. He has no time to stay in office at least to save some money. 7. You borrow the money in the name of construction when in the actual sense you just pocket in your pockets...." - Urwylor Kalota

"We have no money in Zambia...kikikikiki. Antonio, you think the Chinese can come to a country where there is no money? We have got money. What we are lacking is leaders with a vision. Come on, Antonio..." - Eddie Mwitumwa

"Forgive him he has been poisoned with money, this is not the Antonio we knew..." - Cratian Gaddafi Kapalamoto

"I don't believe that any company that is

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



'Judiciary deserves kudos over Kalaba's DP party de-registration case'

Editor,

"Surprising to have judges who can do right things; well done God bless you, competent judges." - Ceteris Paribus

"Happy to see the Judiciary still functions. That's really encouraging." - Mufuka Theresa

"In no time Madam Nawa will face intimidation for her rightful judgement. Be praised for your judgement, my judge." - Mkacha Hamainda

"1/10 judges with up right morals. She is got the wisdom and fears God and not a human being." - Simon Mutibo

"It's really amazing that we still have judges who think upright." - Keith Moono

"Indeed, it was illegal, unreasonable, irrational and procedurally improper." - Davy Sage Mpundu

"Ours finally is born. What a bouncing baby in the name of DP. We are here to stay." - Kalonde Masembe

KCM's financial challenges and govt's failure to refund VAT

Editor,

Emmanuel Sakala

"KCM, sure!! You're not even ashamed to issue such a statement? How can you budget you wage bill on tax refunds? How about other mines? How are they managing to pay their workers? Is it that they're refunded on time? Moreover, even if you're refunded, are you saying all your financial challenges will come to an end? The truth is; you have failed to run the mine. You have reduced the mine into a skeleton." - Mutengo L Emmy

"It's deliberate so that the delayed VAT refund should affect citizens who will push government and KCM are still selling copper." -

"These KCM people take us for fools. Their chief executive officer was boasting of how easily they made a profit of US \$500 million per year? What VAT refund are they talking about? Let them go." - Stephen Katete

"Give us break. Are you the only mine? How come we don't hear of such nonsense from other mines? This level of nauseating arrogance is because you hold the trump card that gives you leeway to arm-twist." - Roger Ziba

"It's not only the mines; commercial farmers, tobacco farmers are not getting VAT refunds." - Tom Mpyana Schutte

U.N. decries 'shameful' reprisals on rights activists in 38 countries

The United Nations listed 38 "shameful" countries including China and Russia on Wednesday which it said had carried out reprisals or intimidation against people cooperating with it on human rights, through killings, torture and arbitrary arrests.

The annual report from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also included allegations of ill-treatment, surveillance, criminalization, and public stigmatization campaigns targeting victims and human rights defenders. "The world owes it to those brave people standing up for human rights, who have responded to requests to provide information to and engage with the United Nations, to ensure their right to participate is

respected," Guterres wrote. "Punishing individuals for cooperating with the United Nations is a shameful practice that everyone must do more to stamp out."

The 38 countries included 29 countries with new cases, and 19 with ongoing or continuing cases.

The new cases were in Bahrain, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Russian Federation,

Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

Governments frequently charged human rights activists with terrorism or blamed them for cooperating with foreign entities or damaging

the state's reputation or security, it said.

"(There is a) disturbing trend in the use of national security arguments and counter-terrorism strategies by states as justification for blocking access by communities and civil society organisations to the United Nations," the

report said.

Women cooperating with the U.N. had reported threats of rape and being subject to online smear campaigns, and U.N. staff often encountered people who were too afraid to speak to them, even at U.N. headquarters in New York and Geneva. **REUTERS**

Brazil's Lula quits presidential race, Haddad to run instead

Brazil's jailed ex-leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva tapped his runningmate Fernando Haddad on Tuesday to replace him on the ballot in next month's presidential

election, bowing out of the race after he was barred from seeking a new term.

The switch was approved at a meeting of the Workers Party in the southern city of

Curitiba -- where Lula has been held since April for corruption -- as the clock ticked down on a court-ordered deadline for him to name a stand-in.

"The decision has been made," a party official told AFP.

Hundreds of Lula supporters were gathered near the jail where he is being held.

Haddad read a letter there from his mentor anointing him as his political heir.

"It is time to get out on the streets, with heads high, and win this election!" Haddad told supporters.

The decision came less than two weeks after Brazil's Superior Electoral Tribunal ruled that the popular but polarizing former president cannot run while serving his 12-year prison sentence.

Though jailed, the 72-year-old Lula was the frontrunner in polls, and his removal from the race has scrambled the field, catapulting right-wing populist Jair Bolsonaro to the fore.

Bolsonaro, a polarizing figure who has been criticized for outbursts deemed racist, misogynist and homophobic, was stabbed while on the campaign trail last week.

He is not expected to appear at any rallies before the October 7 polls, but remains on the ballot.

Haddad, a former mayor of Sao Paulo who also served as Lula's education minister, faces a race against time with the first round of voting less than a month away.

His ability to hold on to Lula's base will be key if he and his expected runningmate, youthful communist Manuela d'Avila, are to reach the second round, set for October 28.

Haddad's political career put him at the center of the Workers Party, but without ever emerging from Lula's shadow -- and the 55-year-old has displayed little of the star power of his mentor.

A poll released Monday by Datafolha shows Haddad with nine percent support, up five points from a month ago.

That places him in a mix of candidates aspiring to go to a second round of voting against Bolsonaro, who currently is out front at 26 percent.

Lula's supporters have been camped out outside the federal police headquarters in Curitiba since he was incarcerated. **AFP**

Pope Francis to meet US Church leaders after abuse cover-up claim

Pope Francis will meet leaders of the US Catholic Church on Thursday, the Vatican announced, after a high profile accusation that the pontiff covered up sexual abuse allegations against an American cardinal.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, will attend the meeting after saying last month he was eager to

meet the pope following the scandal.

Two other conference officials will be at the meeting, as will Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the head of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said on Tuesday.

Conservative Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano sparked a firestorm last month when he claimed Francis

had personally ignored abuse allegations against prominent US cardinal Theodore McCarrick for five years.

Vigano, a former Vatican envoy to Washington, also called on the pope to step down.

Francis has so far refused to respond to the allegations.

The Vatican did not detail what the topic would be for the Thursday meeting,

however DiNardo said on August 27 that the questions raised by Vigano "deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence".

The affair has exposed a rift in the Church between some ultra-conservative Catholics and a pope they see as a dangerous progressive more interested in social issues than traditional Church matters.

The church was also rocked

in August by a devastating US report into child sex abuse accusing more than 300 "predator" priests of abusing more than 1,000 children over seven decades in the state of Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, O'Malley said the fight against child abuse must be the priority of the Church, otherwise "all of our other activities of evangelisation, works of mercy, education, are all going to suffer". **AFP**

Morocco implements ban on forced marriages

A new law criminalising sexual violence and harassment has come into force in Morocco.

The law - which includes a ban on forced marriage - follows growing concern in recent years about levels of abuse against women.

One survey found that six in 10 Moroccan women had suffered some kind of violence. Recent rape cases have received wide coverage on social media.

BBC Arabic's Mouna Ba says the new law has been widely welcomed, but it has also been criticised because it does not provide a definition of domestic violence or a specific ban on marital rape. **BBC**



Women have campaigned for a law to criminalise sexual violence

France's World Cup-winning captain Hugo Lloris avoided jail but received a 20-month driving ban and a £50,000 (\$65,000) fine on Wednesday for drink-driving in central London.

The Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper had earlier called his behaviour "unacceptable" and received a lighter sentence from a judge who could have locked up the star for six months.

"On 15th of July, he was the proudest man of the planet," attorney David Sonn said in reference to the day Lloris and his France team lifted the World Cup trophy in Moscow.

"Forty days later, he was arrested in central London," said the lawyer. "Today he apologises to the court."

Lloris was one of the heroes of France's commanding march to their second football World Cup in 20 years.

The triumph turned the 31-year-old into a national hero and confirmed his status as one of the most respected goalkeepers in the world.

But Lloris's dream turned into a nightmare when his Porsche was pulled over for a routine stop in central London at 2:20am on August 24.

The Daily Mail tabloid said Lloris registered 100 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath in a police check.

The amount is roughly the equivalent of seven glasses of wine, although alcohol levels depend on multiple factors such as age, gender and metabolism.

The legal driving limit in England in a breathalyser test is 35 microgrammes.

"I wish to apologise wholeheartedly to my family, the club, my teammates, the manager and all of the supporters," Lloris had

France's World Cup keeper Lloris avoids jail over drink-driving

earlier said in a statement. "Drink-driving is completely unacceptable, I take full responsibility for my actions

and it is not the example I wish to set." Police said Lloris nearly hit parked cars and went

through a red light. They found vomit in the car after stopping him. Lloris spent seven hours

in a cell that night before returning home on foot. His lawyer said Lloris knew he should not have been



Liberia president George Weah played in an international friendly for his country on Tuesday - at the age of 51. BBC

driving and had called a cab after a night out.

"He had booked a taxi but unfortunately the taxi cancelled at the last minute," Sonn said. "He made a first mistake -- he decided to drive."

The married father of two looked stoic and dressed impeccably in a dark suit and blue shirt as he made his way in silence through a crush of reporters into the courtroom. Lloris missed France's opening games in the inaugural UEFA Nations League.

France coach Didier Deschamps attributed his 'keeper's absence to a thigh injury and gave Lloris his wholehearted support.

"He knows only too well that it shouldn't happen, but it happened and it's not going to change what I think about him and the Hugo Lloris that I've always known," said Deschamps.

Lloris was spectacular during the World Cup and gave up no goals in either France's tough quarter-final match-up against Uruguay or their semi-final against a dangerous Belgium side. AFP

NAZ appoints new national team assistant coach

By Alex Chilumbwe

Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) has appointed Pauline Nsombo as new Under 20 coach as well as assistant coach to the senior national team. Nsombo is no stranger to both roles as she guided the senior team to a second place finish at the 2015 Africa Cup in Botswana. The team had qualified for the World

Cup in Australia after more than 10 years of not qualifying. Nsombo was however demoted a few weeks before the girls left for Australia and the occurrence brought controversy around the NAZ executive. In an interview with

Goal Diggers! Nsombo expressed gratitude to NAZ for her re-appointment to duty. "I'm grateful NAZ has entrusted me with the two roles and I will work to meet their expectations. I have had experience with both teams and

am familiar with most players and know them on personal level so it will not be starting afresh. After their performance in the African netball tournament that we hosted on 13th August, a lot is expected from coaches because we

did not qualify for 2019 Liverpool World Cup," Nsombo said. Her club NAPSA that she coaches in the netball super league comprises the youngest but most prolific players that have upset the table in ways unexpected.

Morale boosting win delights Sven

By Alex Chilumbwe

Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck was delighted with the teams performance in their 1-0 win against Gabon on Tuesday. Speaking after the match, the coach noted that Zambia had a poor record of holding on to leads but expressed happiness that the players were able to hold on in Gabon and take all three points. "The Zambian national team according to my research has a poor record of holding on to the lead but in this friendly, they managed. Now more than ever, they understood how to build momentum from the back and

breaking opponents' blocks. There is a point we lost dominance in the second half but after a few screaming, they got back to the agreement in the dressing room. At the end of the day, it was a positive result that added on our morale while we wait for the October games," Sven said. Vandenbroeck also explained his decision to use less familiar faces in the game, stating that the team needs more options and those less featured players delivered on the day which gave the whole team a confidence boost. "I started with totally new faces that most fans did not expect and the good

news is they delivered. My whole reasoning was to impart confidence in all of them so that I have more options. Others may think it is risky but to me, not having options is a much bigger risk. They picked it up slow but as soon as they picked it, they held on to the system and taught principles consistently," Sven sounded. Zambia will play another AFCON qualifier game against Mozambique on 10th October, 2018. A win against Mozambique would guarantee Chipolopolo a second place finish in the group and qualify for AFCON next year.

Russian World Cup star Cheryshev in doping probe - media

Russia winger Denis Cheryshev, one of the standout performers at the World Cup, is under investigation for an alleged doping violation, local media reported Wednesday. "This case is currently being investigated by the Spanish Anti-Doping agency," the Russian daily Sport Express quoted a World Anti-Doping Agency press spokesperson as saying. "They will inform WADA about the results of their investigation."

The 27-year-old came under suspicion after his father said in an interview that the footballer had received growth hormone treatment before the World Cup.

The taking of a growth hormone without a therapeutic use exemption can result in a four-year ban.

Cheryshev's father later said he was misquoted by the journalist.

The Villarreal midfielder, on-loan to Valencia this season, meanwhile denied any wrongdoing.

"I think we'd better leave this case in the hands of medics, who have done everything right," he told Sport Express.

AFP



Chipolopolo squad at the Gabon disaster site a few minutes before taking to the airport. Zambia beat Gabon 1-0 in a friendly match on Tuesday

Shepolopolo coach demands focus ahead of COSAFA opener

By Alex Chilumbwe

Shepolopolo coach Beauty Mwamba has demanded focus from the girls ahead of Zambia's COSAFA opener against Lesotho today. Speaking in her prematch interview yesterday, Mwamba warned that complacency could lead to surprises on the pitch, urging the girls to set their eyes on the trophy and win every game.

"Do not concern yourself with how many games they have played and won, lost or drew. Do not even bother about the big teams they have played against but set your eyes on the trophy and the only way to the trophy is winning every game. You may seem them weaker and they may also surprise you on the pitch. We are going to play for everything and win. The worst mistake you

can make is to underrate even though we do not know a lot about them," warned Mwamba. Meanwhile, Shepolopolo vice skipper Barbara Banda had words of solidarity and encouragement towards new faces in the squad. "To all my teammates that are here for the first time, I'm encouraging them to feel at ease and play their game that was taught to us during camp. We are here to play and win

as a team. They should not be intimidated by the venue or name of the tournament. It is still the game of football. We are here not to participate or compete favourably but to win," said Banda. Shepolopolo will play their first game today (Thursday) against Lesotho and the two will be facing each other for the first time in the tournament. Other group members are Mozambique and Cameroon.

EYES ON THE TROPHY

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